



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — Lorne Calvert

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Calvert, Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serge	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Cumberland

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the members of this House, I would like to introduce some special guests in your gallery today. I'd like to introduce my wife, Dr. Martha Smith-Norris, who's joining us today. Jacqueline Smith-Norris is sitting beside her, one of the key reasons I'm involved here trying to help make sure that the children of this province — as all of us do — work to make sure that our children have a brighter future. Next to her is Katie Konkin; we're delighted to have her join us in the gallery today. My grandmother is Sheila Norris. Then Anne Smith is joining us from Gananoque, Ontario. And the distinguished gentleman, my grandfather, Bill Norris, after a distinguished career in the air force, managed to keep an eye on his grandson standing here before you. If you would all join me in welcoming to our Assembly and yours.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you it is my honour today to introduce a class of grade 4 and 5's from within my constituency, Regina Rosemont Community School, Rosemont Community School that is. They're seated in the east gallery here today, and they're joined by some parents, their teachers: Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Langford, and their vice-principal, Mrs. Frei.

It's certainly my pleasure to have constituent students and parents join us in the Assembly here today. I look forward to meeting with them a little bit later here today. I hope you enjoy your proceedings, and I ask all members of this Assembly to join in extending a welcome.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Yes. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, sitting in the west gallery, two grade 4 classes, I understand, from Jack MacKenzie School, with teachers Joanne Patron and Karen Marchuk. The chaperones are Cheri Wilkins and Nicole Krasiun and Raelynn Popadyne. I'd like to welcome you all to our Assembly here this afternoon. I ask all members to join me in welcoming them. And we will be having drinks and a little chat afterwards. Thanks for coming today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 50 students from the school at Gull Lake. We've got a number of grade 4 and grade 10 students together, and they're in the west gallery. They're accompanied today by Theresa Eppich, who's the lead teacher here; Neal Boutin and Norrine Torwalt-Downey. And chaperones accompanying the students today are Shaun Couch, Chris Hall, Amber McPhee, Marjie Kirwan, Kim Holizki, and Arlene Clendening.

Mr. Speaker, I think this visit may become a regular feature over the years, but I know that Ms. Eppich was a member of the Social Sciences Teachers' Institute just a few weeks ago. I think she really enjoyed her time here and I think she wanted to share that experience with some of the students in the Gull Lake School. So I ask all members to make this group of 50 welcome to their legislature.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the Assembly I would like to introduce our youngest son, the baby of the family, Kelly, sitting in the west gallery in the centre. Give a wave. Kelly is back for the summer. Yes, he should stand up. He's 6 foot 7. Everybody would notice him. And he's back for the summer from attending Medicine Hat College, where he plays on the volleyball team there. So I'd like everyone in the Assembly to welcome him to his Assembly today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Thunder Creek.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you're aware, May 4 to 10 is Women Entrepreneurs Week in Saskatchewan, a time when we recognize the significant contributions of business and professional women to the province's economy. And accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I wish to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Hon. Assembly, four distinguished guests in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

Karen Van Duyvendyk, who with her husband Tim owns Dutch Growers Garden Centre, recent recipient of the Regina Chamber of Commerce Paragon Award for Business of the Year. Linda Langelier, owner of Employment Network Canada Inc., recent recipient of the Regina chamber Paragon Award for diversity. Donna Bially, owner of The Next Stage, finalist in the entrepreneurship category at the Regina YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Women of Distinction Awards. And finally, Debra Needham, representing Women Entrepreneurs Inc.

I hope that all members will give these women a warm welcome.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to present a petition on behalf of my constituents in Moose Jaw, and it has to do with improving health care in the Five Hills Region and within Moose Jaw itself. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to provide funding for the expansion and renovation of the Moose Jaw Union Hospital.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions in support of Station 20 project in Saskatoon. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately restore funding to Station 20 project.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And the petitions are from people in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to present petitions in support of affordable housing in Saskatchewan. People are concerned. They want to make sure their voice is heard on this issue. I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to ensure that the task force on housing affordability holds open, public consultations for all Saskatchewan citizens.

I do so present. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise

today to present a petition on behalf of good folks in Saskatchewan who are concerned over the government's proposed Bills 5 and 6. And the prayer goes:

We respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the new government to hold broad public hearings on the proposed Bills before proceeding any further with these sweeping legislative changes.

And, Mr. Speaker, the petition's signed by good folks from Meadow Lake, Rapid View, and North Battleford. I so submit.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition signed by residents of The Battlefords and the city of Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners call upon the Assembly to:

... cause the provincial government to commit to the continuance of maintaining the lowest-cost utility bundle in Canada for citizens of Saskatchewan.

I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

## March of the Living

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The March of the Living is an international educational program that brings Jewish teens from all over the world to Poland on Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. They march from Auschwitz to Birkenau, then to Israel to observe Yom HaZikaron, Israel Memorial Day, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. The March of the Living is for young people to learn the lessons of the Holocaust and to lead us into the future, vowing never again.

Nearly 8,000 people gathered in Auschwitz May 1 to remember the victims of the Holocaust. Most of them were teens. Among them was my niece, Andrea Scharfstein. She is on the March of the Living and will be the living voice of the victims of the Holocaust. Next year on Yom Hashoah, the teens will tell their stories at the synagogue. Their moving stories from this journey leave not a dry eye in the house.

They see the Dome of Ashes, a huge mound of ashes from the victims. They walk in the gas chambers and see the desperate fingernail scratches on the walls and see the hair braids taken from women — mothers, daughters, and grandmothers — as well as rooms full of suitcases and shoes.

One young man said on viewing these moving sights that something shifted inside of him. Many teens sit and simply weep on the floor of the gas chambers. The pledge of all teens

on the journey is on their return to extend to all mankind the lessons that they learned so we can all vow, keep the vow of never again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

#### Women of Distinction Awards

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to rise and speak about the 2008 Regina Women of Distinction Awards Banquet which I attended last Thursday. This was the 27th year of the awards, and it serves as one of the largest fundraisers by the YWCA to raise money for their programs for women and children such as Big Sisters and the shelters for families fleeing domestic violence.

It is crucial that we recognize exceptional women for their contributions, not only for them but also for the young women who can see what amazing things are being done by women in their own community.

I had the honour of presenting the 2008 Science, Technology & Environment Award which was sponsored by SaskPower, and this award was given to Kim Dohms who is also a student of my husband's at the U of R [University of Regina]. It was my pleasure to present this award to such a hard-working young woman who has such a bright future ahead of her. While we have made incredible strides, it is important that we work together to encourage more young women to consider careers in science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all members to join with me in thanking the YWCA for their continual commitment to our community and congratulations to all the incredible women who were nominated for this year's Women of Distinction Awards.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Female Vocalist of the Year from Prince Albert

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert was host to the 19th annual Saskatchewan Country Music Association Awards on April 11 and 12. Jessica Robinson was nominated in five categories, Mr. Speaker. She won the award for Album of the Year for her album *Whirl, Swirl, Twirl* and also won Female Vocalist of the Year. Both the female and male vocalist of the year were from Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, Jessica grew up in P.A. [Prince Albert]. She began playing violin at age six and as a teenager won a talent search and has never looked back. She continues to tour and begins work on her third album. Her music will be featured on a soundtrack to Lifetime Television movie, *Between Truth and Lies*, which stars the Academy Award nominee, Mariel Hemingway.

Mr. Speaker, if her music career doesn't keep her busy enough, Jessica goes into Canadian schools and shares her music and life story with students. She inspires children of all ages to pursue their dreams, also devotes some of her time to the Kinsmen Foundation and the United Way. She's involved in a fundraising CD [compact disc] for the Saskatoon Food Bank. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that Jessica believes in giving to her community as she does so at every opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in acknowledging Jessica's generosity and accomplishments and in congratulating her on winning two awards at the SCMA [Saskatchewan Country Music Association] Awards. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

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

#### Labour Legislation

**Mr. McMillan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday the *Leader-Post* released a new poll showing there is overwhelming support for our government's new labour legislation. Seventy per cent of Saskatchewan people support essential services legislation, compared to just 13 opposed. Seventy-four per cent support secret ballots on union votes, compared to just 15 opposed.

Mr. Speaker, there is something even more significant. These measures also had strong support in union households. So while union leaders may oppose essential services legislation, union members support it. Union members want to know that cancer care will be provided in the event of a strike. Union members want to know that their families will be safe on the highways during a strike.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is fair, it's balanced, and it's reasonable — just like the people of Saskatchewan. So it really comes as no surprise that a huge majority of Saskatchewan people support our government's common sense changes to the labour legislation in this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, why has the NDP [New Democratic Party] made this fight their focus in the last six months? Mr. Speaker, are they that out of touch? This is just one more example of the NDP looking in the rear-view mirror. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Before I recognize the next speaker, I would ask members to give the member on their feet the opportunity to make their statement without a lot of undue interruption. I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

#### International Day of Midwives

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today around the world people are recognizing the valuable contributions of midwives on this International Day of Midwives. Midwives play an important role in providing a

positive environment for women who are expecting and delivering babies. They work collaboratively with other health professionals to ensure effective, comprehensive services for women and their newborns.

Mr. Speaker, the former NDP government recognized the benefits, significant benefits midwives offer to the province through the formation of a transitional council made to guide midwifery and the funding of a bursary to enable midwives to access training or prior learning assessment. Also the Western Academy of Midwifery, with its home in Regina, was established in the fall of 2006 and began accepting students in January of last year. The academy offers a four-year distance education program in academic and clinical requirements for Canadian midwifery practice.

Mr. Speaker, midwives offer valuable knowledge and alternatives for meeting the needs of women. I ask all members of the Assembly and all Saskatchewan residents to join with me in recognizing the contributions of midwives on this very special day. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Wood River.

### Labour Policy

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, shortly after the last election the editor of the NDP's newsletter *The Commonwealth* wrote a scathing article outlining the NDP government's numerous failures that led to its defeat in the 2007 election.

Here's what he said about NDP labour policy, and I quote . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I recognize the member from Wood River. Other members will have opportunity in the near future to offer a statement. Member from Wood River.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Here's what he said about NDP labour policy and I quote: "Rather than create a new labour policy of its own . . . The government instead chose to reach back into the 1990s." He also called this approach an unmitigated disaster.

So what has the NDP learned from all this? Absolutely nothing. They're still out of step with Saskatchewan people on labour policy. A huge majority of Saskatchewan people, including union members, support essential services legislation. The NDP oppose it. A huge majority of Saskatchewan people, including union members, support secret ballots in the workplace. The NDP oppose it.

Mr. Speaker, our Labour minister has called on the NDP to support this legislation, but I hope they don't. I hope they cling to that same old lack of vision and failed ideology that lost them the last election. I hope they continue to oppose this balanced, progressive legislation and continue to demonstrate that they are completely out of touch with Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

### Contributions to Political Parties

**Mr. Yates:** — Well, well, well, Mr. Speaker. I would like to paraphrase the member from Lloydminster from a few weeks ago in this House. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Member from Regina Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to talk about 3 million reasons why the Sask Party is a bunch of hypocrites.

I think it's time the members opposite did a reality check. In the last election campaign, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party candidates received campaign contributions from big business to the tune of \$3 million. It's time to expose the members opposite for exactly what they are — puppets doing the bidding for the big-business masters. After all, Mr. Speaker, that is Sask Party logic.

Mr. Speaker, I mean, after all, the member from Lloydminster made the exact argument in this very House about union donations and the NDP. Just one small problem, Mr. Speaker — the facts. It turns out that not only did the NDP receive more donations from businesses in the last election than they did from unions, it was much more.

I guess we will see if my member's statement gets as much media attention as the member from Lloydminster's did, but I doubt it. You see, Mr. Speaker, some of the biggest corporate donors to the Sask Party are some of the media outlets here in the province. The Rawlinson group of companies gave \$102,000 to the Sask Party alone. My guess is that Rawlco Radio will treat this new fact in the same way their friends across the way did. They will ignore it.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Strategy for Crown Corporations

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 2007 was a good year for the Crowns, but thanks to the Sask Party's questionable priorities, 2008 may be a very bad year for affordability of utility rates in our province. The Crowns sector generated a profit of nearly \$600 million last year, and 200 million of that has just been dumped into the General Revenue Fund.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the province are left to wonder why, with such huge profits from the Crowns — including SaskPower's \$138 million profit — the Sask Party is setting up a SaskPower utility rate increase. My question is to the minister: why is the government allowing a mountain of money to separate the needs of Saskatchewan people for affordable utility rates from Sask Party government greed for even more money?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is partially correct. The first few months of the Sask Party government shows a sound operating budget for the Crown corporations . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — And that will continue on throughout the term of this Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker. It is a well-known fact that the NDP and the previous government opposite left an infrastructure deficit for this province. They left it for highways. They left it for health care. They left it for education. But maybe, Mr. Speaker, it was not as well known, they also left it in the Crown corporations.

SaskPower for example, they went ahead and they set some targets, the few targets that they did set, but they set some targets with absolutely no plan on how to reach them, no plan whatsoever. They came up with a plan. Then they dropped the ball. That's what that government did; that's not what this government will do.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy and Resources said on Friday, April 11, that he will not raise royalty rates for the next 16 years for oil companies. To the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]: with all-time record high oil prices and demand in the stratosphere, why is the Sask Party government promising corporations a royalty tax freeze while at the same time promising the people of Saskatchewan a power rate increase with more to come?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, to provide clarity to the member opposite, on November 7, this government said to the people of Saskatchewan that we will run the Crown corporations like a business. We will provide the service at the lowest possible cost, and we are doing that, Mr. Speaker. And the only people, the only people in the province that don't like it are the members opposite. Well get used to it.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government has more money than it knows what to do with. But instead of giving it back to the people of Saskatchewan, they're too busy committing to a political deal with their federal cousins in Ottawa to a prototype clean coal plant. Instead of addressing the rising cost of living for the Saskatchewan people, the government has saddled them with a debt starting at \$1 billion for untested technology.

To the minister: people of our province are already facing property tax and housing cost increases. Why does the Sask Party government continue to encourage utility rate increases in Saskatchewan? When does the shake down of Saskatchewan people end?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, the real question out here is, where does that NDP opposition stand? I understand now they're in favour of increasing royalty rates. Well that will be an interesting message coming from that opposition to go across the country when we're experiencing record economic growth. That's a shameful position, and I'll be interested to hear the member expound on that policy a little bit later.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, where do they stand on clean coal technology? We saw them talk about it in government, and then all of a sudden they're not in favour of it any more. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake. This government will be leading edge. We will take money from the federal government. We will put it towards projects like the clean coal initiative. And we will assure that we work in partnership with other corporations across the province. We will do it in a responsible manner — make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Before I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park, I would just ask members as well that even in question period, allow the member to place the question, the minister to respond in a manner so that other people can hear. The member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where does the NDP stand? We stand with the people of Saskatchewan; that's where we stand.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, the cost of living is going up fast for the people of Saskatchewan. One of the Sask Party promises was, quote, to "Mandate Saskatchewan's major crown corporations to provide high quality utility and insurance services at the lowest possible cost." That was before the election.

Well, Mr. Speaker, under the NDP government, the lowest possible utility and insurance costs meant the guaranteed lowest

cost utility bundle in all of Canada. That's what we meant.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will the Sask Party government commit today to maintaining for the people of Saskatchewan the commitment to the lowest cost utility bundle in all of Canada?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, here is the plan of what the NDP government had when they were in power. As far as SaskPower goes, they estimated that by 2010 three million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> credits would have to be bought at \$15 a tonne, a rough estimate of the potential impact on SaskPower. Mr. Speaker, it's very clear, the NDP and their government opposite, they had no plan. They had no long-term plan. They set a few targets. They didn't commit to addressing those targets whatsoever, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as far as political gimmicks go and how they relate to the Crown corporations, we made a commitment to Saskatchewan . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. The minister may complete his response.

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We made a commitment to the people of Saskatchewan that we would take the politics out of the Crown corporations, we'd operate them like a business, and that's what we're intending to do, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Funding for the Arts

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, we recently found out that \$3.45 million, almost all of the funding dedicated to the Saskatchewan Arts Board, will be diverted to the minister's office. Apparently she believes it's more valuable to establish a \$3.5 million slush fund than to allow these funds to be properly adjudicated. Why does the minister believe she's in a better position to distribute these funds than is the Saskatchewan Arts Board?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Money has been allocated to the Saskatchewan Arts Board to look after the five provincial

cultural organizations in the province. The remaining funds will be left with the ministry to determine and work with this sector, Mr. Speaker, to finally, Mr. Speaker, develop a strategy and a framework for the cultural creative industries in this province. For some time, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has lacked a framework to support a thriving arts and cultural sector. This government, this government, Mr. Speaker, is going to get it done because this government believes in a long-term sustainable arts and culture community.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

[14:00]

**Mr. Furber:** — Well I guess we have the answer then. She's going to use it for what she sees fit. And she's not the only one, Mr. Speaker. I was at the arts congress this weekend and the deputy minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport said that the money's going to be redirected for needs as they arise — different story than we hear today.

Apparently the artists in our province don't have the same level of need as does the minister. The deputy gave another reason why the funds have been confiscated, and he said, your job as government is to, I quote, "if you make mistakes, to correct them" — if you make mistakes, to correct them.

Mr. Speaker, my question: is that her view? Was providing additional funding to the Arts Board a mistake that she has to correct?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, let's take a step and look back a little bit here. Just prior to the election in 2007 the Arts Board was allotted unbudgeted funds of over \$4 million that was technically assigned to the Arts Board — unbudgeted funds, Mr. Speaker.

This government made a commitment to maintain funding to the arts and cultural community and that's exactly what we've done, Mr. Speaker. We've allotted funds to go to the Arts Board to support the five cultural organizations in this province, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue to support this community by helping and assisting, providing and developing a framework for this industry to continue on in the future, Mr. Speaker. Promise made, promise kept.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Furber:** — Rightly enough, Mr. Speaker, today is Music Monday, and in the words of the Minister for TPCS [Tourism,



Parks, Culture and Sport] Music Monday, quote “. . . is a day to celebrate the power of music in Canada and demonstrate how that power is rooted in our culture and part of who we are.” Mr. Speaker, some of the new funds that have now been poured into a slush fund for the minister were promised to SaskMusic to support a range of initiatives. This funding was awarded after a review of the entire music industry. Now, like many other groups in Saskatchewan, SaskMusic is left to wonder why their money is being diverted to the minister’s office.

Does the minister intend personally to pick and choose which artists receive grants in our province? If so, what qualifies her to do it? If music is as important to her as she claims it is in her news release, will SaskMusic be one of the organizations that she returns funding to?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, the funding that was thrown at the Arts Board just prior to the election of 2007 by that government is money that belongs to the taxpayers of this province, Mr. Speaker. This is unbudgeted money which government has committed to finding a framework which involves SaskMusic, SaskCulture, Sask Arts Board, etc., to help develop this sector to become sustainable over the long term, Mr. Speaker.

These funds that have been allotted to developing a framework and to the Saskatchewan Arts Board again, Mr. Speaker, belong to the taxpayers of this province, and we’re going to ensure that their money is well spent, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Furber:** — Mr. Speaker, first the Sask Party sabotaged status of the artist legislation. Now they’re removing funding from the Saskatchewan Arts Board — a board, a group of professionals that has served Saskatchewan well for over 60 years, a model of adjudication in this country. And they’re holding this funding in the minister’s office. No one knows how it will be distributed or when or if Saskatchewan artists will even be in receipt of this money. The government hasn’t been forthcoming with any details, as they seldom are.

Will the minister finally admit to the people of our province that she’s more interested in establishing this slush fund than seeing additional funding go to the artists in this province?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the member opposite is not hearing what we’re saying on this side. This

money has been allotted to and budgeted for, Mr. Speaker, to ensure the sustainability of the arts and culture sector. We have, we have agreed to work with the stakeholders in these industries to develop a framework to ensure long-term sustainability and empower the cultural organizations in this province, Mr. Speaker. For too long this province has been left under that government for not having a framework and one of predictability and transparency. Mr. Speaker, again promise made, promise kept.

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

#### **Consultation Regarding The Education Amendment Act**

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education’s approach to 178 of Bill 29 is nothing short of incompetent. Despite claims in committee that the minister had consulted with the Provincial Interagency Network on Disabilities and the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, we know that was false. That minister has a responsibility to meet with and listen to the people he is supposed to represent.

So I have a simple question for the minister. Will he meet with the members of the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living, or will he be sending ministry staff to do his job?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we’re working in this province as a new government to develop a strategy that is going to ensure that there is inclusiveness, that there are greater opportunities for pupils with intensive needs.

Mr. Speaker, the former minister under the NDP had her officials meet with the people involved on August 16. Mr. Speaker, last week we contacted the very people that he speaks about, Mr. Speaker, and we asked them for a meeting last week. They were unable to meet on Thursday. They were unable to meet on Friday. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, they were unable to meet today. They are going to meet with my ministry officials tomorrow in Biggar, Saskatchewan, and my ministry officials will be travelling there to meet with them.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I’m glad the minister has tried to book something in the last three weeks, but how about the last five months? I’m glad his ministry officials are going there tomorrow, but where is the minister? The minister was apparently too busy to meet with the largest disabilities advocacy groups in Saskatchewan, despite claiming otherwise. Now he is simply refusing to do the right thing. He is standing by his legislation instead of following through with the collaborative process embraced and expected by the education

community.

All these parents and advocates want is for that minister to listen to their concerns and to do his best for the needs of their children. But instead he's digging in his heels. To the minister: why is he refusing to meet with the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living? Is this a case of ministerial incompetence, mean spirit, or both?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in this Assembly and to the media last week, a letter was sent to the Saskatchewan Association for Community Living dated January 28, 2008, asking specifically for a meeting, Mr. Speaker. Not one response was received from SACL [Saskatchewan Association for Community Living] between January 28 and, interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, the press release that was introduced by that member in the House. I find that very ironic, Mr. Speaker. Not one piece of paper was sent to that minister while he was asking questions during committee about that Bill. Mr. Speaker, the information that we're putting into the Bill has been developed by the former minister to a meeting on August 16, 2007.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — For that minister to suggest that a non-partisan and professional group that has long served our province is somehow in cahoots with the opposition is a joke. The only thing they work for, Mr. Speaker, is the people with disabilities within our province. It's clear the minister's legislation, despite the minister's claim to the contrary, does not have the support of the disabilities community. This minister has failed . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — It's a joke, Mr. Speaker. The buck stops with that minister. The minister has failed to collaborate with parents in a meaningful way. Maybe if the minister was engaged in the collaboration, he would no longer refer to those people with disabilities as deficient — a term that takes us back to the dark ages of disabilities. Parents and children deserve more respect from that minister, and there is still time to plan. There is still time to get their input. To the minister: will he hold off on proclamation of section 178 of the Act until the views of the disabilities community can be addressed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a very simple answer to the response of that member. We are changing terminology. There are legal and there are human rights decisions that insist that words that need to be changed, and we are referring to people now as pupils with intensive needs. That is the phrase that I used. That is the phrase that is going to be incorporated into the Act. Mr. Speaker, that is what was requested in meetings with all stakeholders.

There was discussion that has been going on since 2004 on the guidelines and what needs need to be incorporated into the Act. All the changes that were requested by stakeholders are not being incorporated, but, Mr. Speaker, the information provided to the stakeholder on August 16, reflects what is in the Act today. So there is no fear. There is no need for people to fear that somehow we are going to create a position where students are going to be excluded. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we're going to ensure that there is more inclusivity.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Labour Legislation

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, it seems that the Minister of Labour is once again at odds with the rest of his cabinet. In response to a question about whether or not any analysis had been done in government ministries regarding the impact of essential services legislation, the minister said, quote, "Not that I'm aware of." But only a few short weeks ago in committee, the Minister of Energy and Resources said, quote ". . . all areas of government are looking through to determine whether or not the essential services legislation would have any impact upon that particular ministry."

To the minister: who's right? And if there have been analysis done by each ministry, will the government table them?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, I think the question was, who's right, and I think the people of Saskatchewan are right, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Earlier today we heard a member opposite said that the opposition was going to stand with the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. Well it's time to find out if they are. Seventy per cent of the people of this province want to make sure employers and unions negotiate essential service agreement. We'd said that all the way along, Mr. Speaker, that those were some of the best practices from other parts of Canada. Mr. Speaker, the key question is . . .

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — The key question, Mr. Speaker, is will the opposition have a free vote so that each one of them can stand in their spots and say whether they will be supporting essential services or not, Mr. Speaker? That's the question.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, we listened and we listened to this minister in committee and, Mr. Speaker, all I can say is he's provided a lot of material for the Rick Mercer show. That's what he's done, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan know to be skeptical whenever the minister opens his mouth. He likes to talk about dualities and synergies and essences of questions instead of actually offering tangible information. And on the rare occasion when he does give a straight answer, the answer, as we all know, usually turns out to be incorrect.

Mr. Speaker, you'd think that by now the minister would have some idea on how his own legislation would affect government employees. After all, the Minister of Tourism knows the exact number of employees who would be affected, and the Minister of Energy thinks that all ministries are doing an analysis.

**The Speaker:** — I ask the member to state his question.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — To the minister: how is it that the Minister of Energy and the Minister of Tourism both know more about Bill 5 than he does?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's somewhat flattering to say that we might make the Rick Mercer show because the member opposite wouldn't even make the outtakes.

Mr. Speaker, obviously in this, what we've said again and again is that this is about negotiation, Mr. Speaker. That is, an employer comes forward with a list. From that list, Mr. Speaker, we would then make sure that list is entitled, and it would be shared with the bargaining unit, Mr. Speaker. Those two entities would come together. They would negotiate that. The recourse, Mr. Speaker, is the bargaining unit could then take it to the Labour Relations Board, Mr. Speaker.

It's quite a straightforward dynamic. I thought maybe last week we'd gone through this enough, but I'm happy to spend more time here to ensure that the members opposite actually get the essence of this. That is, it's about the public safety of this province. And will the members opposite be voting for essential services or not? Yes or no?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, I could talk about more series. How about *The Invisible Man*, maybe. There's another one he can maybe try and reply to.

But anyways, Mr. Speaker, last Thursday as many as 1,000 people gathered outside the building to protest Bills 5 and 6 — lots of people, Mr. Speaker, but with one notable exception, the Minister of Labour.

**The Speaker:** — Just a few too many private conversations, that the Speaker is having a difficult time hearing the member placing the question. The member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — But, Mr. Speaker, I've said it before and I'll say it again: when you're a minister of the Crown, you don't get to pick and choose. You just can't decide to meet with people who like you and ignore everyone else. The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow understood that when, as Learning minister, she addressed parents concerned with rural closures on the steps of the legislature. And the former minister of Agriculture did the same things when farmers would rally here. So to the minister: is he really so thin-skinned that he can't even meet with people who might disagree with him?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the question. As we've said previously, what we did is we held consultations on both Bills. Between the deputy minister and myself, we met with nearly 100 individuals. We sent out 84 letters of invitation. We advertised in nearly 100 newspapers across Saskatchewan. We heard from right across the policy community, Mr. Speaker.

As a result of that, what we did is we actually came forward with some amendments — some who were informed by, inspired by organized labour, and others from other parts from our society. What this really represents, Mr. Speaker, is an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the Bill coming forward. That is, as we weigh public safety and the right to strike, we've met that nice balance, Mr. Speaker. Obviously there are some other elements, Mr. Speaker, like 75 per cent of the people of this province seeking to make sure that there's — what would you say, Mr. Speaker? — something as radical about a secret ballot, Mr. Speaker. A secret ballot.

Mr. Speaker, as well we can sit down and say . . .

**The Speaker:** — Member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, maybe a review would be in order. And number one, first, I guess, we notice that the

minister really does have thin skin. That would be number one. The minister refuses to hold public hearings on the Bills despite in fact that the public still doesn't have all the answers.

We heard last week that the minister and other MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] won't meet with people who they don't agree with. And we even heard about a violation of privacy of those who oppose Bill 5. And now the minister didn't even have the nerve to show his face at a demonstration held by one of his major stakeholders regarding his first pieces of legislation. What a start, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's not like the minister was busy reading or reviewing his own legislation. After all he seems to be the only member in . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The member will place his question immediately.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — To the minister: will he finally do the right thing and send these Bills to public hearings? Or is he still determined to ram these Bills through this House despite the fact that regulations are at least a year away?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Talk about a meandering question, Mr. Speaker. The easy answer is we are doing the right thing. We're moving forward on these Bills, Mr. Speaker. They protect public safety. They balance the right to strike, and they make sure there's something as radical as a secret ballot, Mr. Speaker. We are doing the right things.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 24

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Norris that **Bill No. 24 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Quennell:** — I spent some time the other day going through the history of this Bill and how we arrived here. But in summation — and I know I have colleagues who also want to address this Bill — so briefly in summation, Mr. Speaker, how we arrived at two trade union amendment Acts in one sitting of

the legislature is something as follows.

As I understand it somebody — obviously not the Minister of Labour — was busy drafting Bill No. 6, The Trade Union Amendment Act for some period of time before the election. The government suggests that the Department of Justice and the drafters there, the expert drafters there, were somehow involved, but there doesn't seem to be much evidence of that, Mr. Speaker. And I don't think any has been presented that they were.

But after all this work and a wholesale rewriting of labour law within the province of Saskatchewan, we have some changes at the Labour Relations Board. And the significant change, first of all, is a complete purge of the board — in mid hearings. As a matter of fact the firing I think was read in the middle of a hearing during the day. And all three of these members, all chosen by open competition, all who had a sterling record of unbiased judgments . . . I think for the time period that I gave out, about six years when I last rose on this matter, there were 1,300 cases. Six, six out of 1,300 overturned by the Court of Queen's Bench on appeal from the Labour Relations Board.

So we replace, as a government, as the people of Saskatchewan, an objective board chosen by open competition which had this type of record, with a political appointment. And that political appointment is given a 50 per cent salary increase, Mr. Speaker — from 120,000 to \$180,000. Well concern is expressed about that by the public that you would replace someone chosen in such an objective, disinterested way, who was doing such an objective disinterested job, with a political appointment and give them a 50 per cent wage increase, Mr. Speaker.

Well we weren't to be concerned said the government because they were going to shrink the size of the board. Now this is, this is a government that introduced in the fall all this legislation amending The Trade Union Act, a large Bill amending The Trade Union Act, making a number of changes; more changes than the Minister of Labour referred to in question period — quite a few more than that, Mr. Speaker. And then they realized they could not just change the size of the board by fiat, Mr. Speaker, that it was actually set out in legislation. And that seems to have first occurred to them when they needed an answer to the question of the raise for the political appointment. It does not seem to have occurred to them before, that there might actually be law even though they had made a priority changing that very Act. Not very, not very many pieces of the legislation, the six specified Bills, have to do with amending another Bill. Bill 6 does. So although they look at that Act very carefully, they didn't realize that what the minister was going to propose in a press conference was actually set down on law.

And when they had to respond to that, Mr. Speaker, that is what gave rise to this Bill, one of at least, if not the prime example of the oops Bill — the flying-by-your-seat-of-your-pants, making-it-up, press-conference-by-press-conference Bill, Mr. Speaker. And that's what brought us to this. And now the no more than two Vice-Chairs, and which could be zero because that's not more than two, they're still not committed to actually having a Vice-Chair for the board, even though they're going to do it quicker with their more highly paid Chair, supposedly.

These Vice-Chairs, if there's one or two, will now be chosen by

open competition, the Chair was not. Why this change of policy? Not set out in the Bill by the way, Mr. Speaker, not entrenched by legislation, but why this supposed change in policy? Because they also had to question not only, not only about the increased cost to the Chair, not only about speeding up hearings as they allegedly were going to do, but the way in which the Chair was chosen.

And again policy made on the run. The minister refused to answer the question as to whether they're in an open competition for any Vice-Chair, refused to answer the question, the next day said, yes. He couldn't answer the question the day before because he was at home tweaking the ad.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you believe that, I have a deal on the Broadway Bridge in Saskatoon and it's available. It's cheap, and it could yours. It could be yours, Mr. Speaker, if you believe this, if you believe this rendition of policy-making on the fly has resulted in two, two amendment Acts to The Trade Union Amendment Act.

Now I know that more than one of my colleagues wants to speak on this matter, so I had a chance to make these points and make them again in summation. And having done so, I will take my seat, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to rise and add a few comments to what's been affectionately called the oops Bill, trade union Act 2. So, Mr. Speaker, if when we look back at the labour legislation proposals that have been put forward by this Saskatchewan Party government, we can see they were put forward early in the fall, much to the surprise of many in the province because these had not been committed to in election commitments. In fact various ministers and the Premier had said parts of this legislation was not needed.

So, Mr. Speaker, we went through the fall. We went through a break in the session where committees could have been working, where there could have been public consultations travelling across the province, meeting with the public instead of the minister sitting in his office waiting for written submissions to be sent to the Ministry of Labour.

**An Hon. Member:** — Watching a teleprompter.

**Ms. Higgins:** — So here he was, yes, practising his videos and getting those down right on his website so he looked good, but didn't bother listening to the people of the province.

So, Mr. Speaker, here we are. We come into the spring session, and all of a sudden we have an amendment, The Trade Union Act amendment to put forward, because the minister found out in this House during various debates that the changes he was proposing to the Labour Relations Board weren't allowed under the Act. So, Mr. Speaker, oops — that's the big thing, oops. This was purely to fix an oversight.

And, Mr. Speaker, when we can go back a number of months on either of these pieces of legislation but especially The Trade

Union Act, and there has always been discussion and concern that it was written by an outside, biased, third party. There are other conversations that it was delivered to the Department of Labour in its second or third draft which just solidified the feel that this was not a piece of legislation that had been properly vetted, looked at how it affected and was affected by other pieces of labour legislation, not only within Saskatchewan but across Canada. There are always comparisons done, jurisdictional comparisons.

Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about being competitive. He talked about national norms, and he talked about putting in similar legislation that's across Canada into Saskatchewan. But he has never yet had the nerve to table in this House or provide for the committee that has gone through many, many hours of questioning, a jurisdictional comparison on any of this legislation. Where does this put Saskatchewan in context of the rest of the country? He can't do it or he won't do it, which is even more frightening. That's even worse.

[14:30]

So here we have . . . he's going ahead. He's making changes to legislation but hasn't thought it through, hasn't done any public consultations where he would have got comments back about the shortfalls of his initial piece of legislation. So here we go. We need another piece of legislation to fix what he didn't do right with the first piece of legislation. Now there's no point arguing about who wrote it because we know it was not written by the Department of Justice or the Department of Labour because they would have known. They have the process that they can go through. They would have done the comparisons to make sure that other Bills . . . how they were affected by other Bills and if the changes were complete in the context of the first amendments that were put forward. They weren't.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill raises a number of questions. It's been an absolute fiasco right from day one when any of the labour legislation was first proposed and spoken of to the media, not in any official format, not in the election campaign, not in platform documents but just offhand comments to the media that these changes were coming forward. And it's been a fiasco ever since. It would almost be called a comedy of errors. It would almost be a comedy of errors — do you know what? — if it wasn't so devastating in the balance of the labour relations market here in the province of Saskatchewan and if it wasn't so devastating for working people across this province.

Mr. Speaker, there are many comments that need to be made still on this piece of legislation. I know that we are set to move into committees this afternoon. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would adjourn debate on this legislation so we can continue having feedback with stakeholders. Even if the government won't have public consultation, this opposition feels that it's important that we speak to stakeholders. So I adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. I recognize the Government House

Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to allow the work of the standing committees, I would move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — In order to facilitate the workings of Assembly committees, the Government House Leader has moved this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:31.]

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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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Premier

**Hon. Bob Bjornerud**  
Minister of Agriculture  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Crop  
Insurance Corporation

**Hon. Bill Boyd**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

**Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff**  
Minister of Crown Corporations

**Hon. Dan D'Autremont**  
Minister of Government Services  
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Minister Responsible for Immigration  
Minister Responsible for the Workers'  
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**Hon. Lyle Stewart**  
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**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for the Capital City Commission