



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(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 — Dwain Lingenfelter

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, 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, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (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
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
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, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, 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
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well today is an extraordinary day in the Legislative Assembly. There is a very famous citizen that I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the members of this Assembly, a very famous citizen of the province of Saskatchewan. Surprisingly though, this is the first visit of this special citizen to this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, he has joined us on the floor of the Assembly, well frankly, because he's unable to fit in the gallery. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you that very special guest, Gainer the Gopher.

Mr. Speaker . . . Good job, Gainer. I just have a few more remarks. All right, I'll go ahead.

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to Gainer. Mr. Speaker, if you go to Gainer's official bio, you'll learn that from his earliest days in Parkbeg, Saskatchewan, Gainer knew he was different from his brothers and sisters. "Instead of spending his early days" — this is a quote:

Instead of spending his early days digging holes in farmer's fields, Gainer was studying the art of silent comedy, practising motivational miming, and watching his favourite football team, the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Of course this led to Gainer becoming the Riders' number one cheerleader over the last decade or so.

This Sunday marks Gainer's triumphant return to McMahon Stadium. Let's not forget that this is a gopher that's been embroiled in controversy in Calgary. In 2006 the Stampeders actually banned Gainer from McMahon Stadium for the Riders' playoff game there. But the fans rallied around Gainer and the Riders won the football game.

In fact there now appears to be a bit of a Gainer's curse on the Stampeders. Ever since they banned Gainer, they have never beaten the Saskatchewan Roughriders in the playoffs. The Riders beat them in '06. We beat them in '07 on the way to a Grey Cup win, and we beat them on Sunday on the way to a Grey Cup win. So now Gainer's going to go back to McMahon Stadium and lead the Rider fans in cheering our team to victory.

Mr. Speaker, I know all members of the Assembly will want to join in welcoming him here, but we also want him to do a little bit of work. We have a banner that we would like to have all members sign, on both sides of the House, that we want Gainer to bring to the Saskatchewan Roughriders who left this day for Calgary. It says, "Go Riders. Bring the Cup Home. 2009 Grey Cup." And we will send this around to members of the Assembly and will present this to Gainer so that he can in turn

present it to the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would just say this, that we welcome Gainer here to the Assembly. Obviously we're having some fun this week in Saskatchewan, and so we should. And I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing some of that fun to happen right here in this Legislative Chamber. And I want to warn Gainer, just for the record, that he should probably stay clear of the Minister of Agriculture, given the programs that the Minister of Agriculture's engaged in.

Mr. Speaker, with that — and I'm sure there'll be comments from the member for Regina Douglas Park — I say, welcome to Gainer the Gopher.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's indeed a pleasure to rise and join the Premier in welcoming the special, special guest to the Assembly, who's quietly and discreetly camouflaged in a 13 jersey, representing that group of Saskatchewan people who help make our team so greatly successful.

I just want to say as well that I'm proud that Gainer lives along the Trans-Canada Highway, the Premier has mentioned, in a small town, Parkbeg, which we drive by many times. I also want to thank the Minister of Agriculture for helping out Gainer with his bounty on coyotes because that makes his life a little easier, but doesn't quite make up for his other programs.

I want to say too how proud I am to be part of the clan supporting the Riders this weekend in Calgary. And I want to say that, while Gainer is the favourite and most talented gopher and gets a lot of excitement going, I want to say his biggest trick is not riding a bike and playing football, but driving 30 or 35,000 fans crazy at every game. And I want to thank you for that on behalf of the people in my caucus.

Finally I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that this is a great day and it's a great day when members of government and opposition can come together and really wish the greatest amount of success for the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Go, Riders, go, and good luck to all.

[Gainer the Gopher led the hon. members in a cheer.]

Some Hon. Members: — Go Riders Go!

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a rather hard act to follow. But sitting in your gallery is one of my favourite radio personalities from Moose Jaw by the name of Dustin Dion. Dustin, if you just want to give us a little wave there. Dustin is the morning host on Country 100 in Moose Jaw. He was born on a grain farm near Torquay, Saskatchewan. He actually spent four years in the broadcasting career in Medicine Hat, and then joined the movement of Saskatchewan people back home from Alberta to make his home in Moose Jaw. Dustin is in Regina all week reporting live for Country 100 and

Golden West Radio from Agribition.

Along with Dustin is another employee from Golden West Radio in the name of Gord Currie. Gord also works with Golden West Radio in my favourite department and that's in marketing. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all of our colleagues to welcome these two personalities to our Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you it gives me great pleasure to introduce a former colleague, Dr. Erica Bird, and her baby, Daphne. She is the Chair of the Children's Discovery Museum. And her fellow board member, Genevieve Dessommes Denny. Thank you. I'd like to welcome them to their Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the legislature, I'd like to introduce George Haas, a farmer from Langenburg, a councillor on the Churchbridge RM [rural municipality], and president of my local constituency, Mr. Speaker. I would ask all members to welcome him to his legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I want to introduce to you a number of . . . 12 students from Balfour Collegiate and their teacher, Erin Harlos, who is seated in the east gallery. And I just want to say to the students, you're observing how we carry on every day, and I hope you're enjoying the discussion so far. But truly, Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to have a group of students from my constituency here today, and I wish all members to join with me in welcoming them here.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the member for Saskatoon Riversdale in welcoming Ms. Denny and Ms. Bird and Daphne to their Legislative Assembly. We had a very good introductory meeting this morning, and I want to thank the member for Riversdale for setting that up.

And I'd ask all members to again welcome them to their Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon southwest, the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and to all members, seated in the west gallery, Neil Buechler, a resident of Saskatoon. A former director of Marsh Canada, now retired, on the SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] board of directors and one of Saskatoon's citizens that does a lot of volunteer work for a lot of good charities, and a good individual. And I'd like to welcome him to his Assembly today.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to rise on behalf of concerned citizens of Saskatchewan to present a petition on Highway 310. And the concerned citizens are particularly concerned about the portion of 310 Highway between Ituna and Foam Lake.

The petitioners say that the condition of the highway has deteriorated to the point where it's no longer safe for residents of the area to travel on. And, Mr. Speaker, I'll read you the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to commit to providing the repairs to Highway 310 that the people of Saskatchewan need.

And in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And this petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by the good folks from Ituna and Leross, Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of a new long-term care facility in La Ronge. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately invest in the planning and construction of new long-term care beds in La Ronge.

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

It is signed by the good people of La Ronge and area. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of fairness for Saskatchewan students through the necessary expansion of the graduate retention program. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately expand the graduate retention program to include master's and Ph.D. graduates.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present yet another petition on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind with respect to providing safe and affordable water and who have yet not had any commitment of assistance. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the residents of Duck Lake and Macdowall. I so present.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today and present a petition in support of maintaining quality health care services. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan needs to recognize the essential role of all health care providers as valued members of the health care team. And in order to achieve that, Mr. Speaker, there should be commitment to adequate funding and the installation of good faith in the provincial bargaining process. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining quality health care services and job security for all public health care providers.

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

And the petitions are signed by residents of Duck Lake, Domremy, Prince Albert, and Rosthern. I so submit.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise and present a petition in support of affordable rents and housing for The Battlefords. The residents note that some apartments have been given notice of rent increases of about 40 per cent which most feel are outrageous. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Legislative Assembly may be pleased to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to a greater number of people throughout The Battlefords, and that will implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive

housing environment.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of North Battleford, supported by residents of Cut Knife and Wilkie. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of their finances by the Sask Party. And while we're all cheering for the Riders this week, and you could say that we're united with our excitement with the sea of green, Saskatchewan residents are concerned with their books of red. And the opposition New Democrats are tackling deficits and taking names, Mr. Speaker.

The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to start managing our provincial finances responsibly and prudently to ensure that it does not continue its trend of massive budgetary shortfalls, runaway and unsustainable spending, equity stripping from our Crowns, and irresponsible revenue setting.

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

These are signed by many concerned citizens here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Recognizing Lorne Scott

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to rise today to recognize the achievements of Lorne Scott, an outstanding Saskatchewan citizen, a former NDP [New Democratic Party] cabinet minister, a recipient of the Order of Canada for his outstanding contribution to nature conservation in Saskatchewan, and just last week he received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit.

Lorne Scott is a long-time farmer, activist, and steward of the land in the Indian Head area. He has spent his entire life working to protect the natural world and helping other people share his passion. I am proud to say that Lorne brought his wealth of knowledge and talents to this Legislative Assembly, representing the constituency of Indian Head-Milestone for many years, serving in the NDP caucus alongside some of my colleagues in the '90s. As Environment minister, Lorne worked diligently to care for the environment in this beautiful province. He successfully protected 3.4 million acres of Crown land under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

Through his many years of service in whatever form that has

taken, Lorne Scott has shown an exemplary record of working to ensure that environmental concerns are addressed. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that from a very young age, Lorne was an environmentalist, a leader, and a visionary. Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members to join with me in recognizing the amazing work that Lorne Scott has done in the past and will continue to do in the future to protect the environment of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

The Grinches and the Whos

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, the NDP suffers from a condition first diagnosed by the late, great Dr. Seuss. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it saddens me to say that the members opposite suffer from having hearts two sizes too small. They sit atop Mount Crumpit, hurling their doomy rhetoric on the positive people of Saskatchewan. And true to grinchy form, the members opposite are envious of Saskatchewan's positive outlook, especially when theirs is so grim.

And why is Saskatchewan's future so promising? Well, Mr. Speaker, many are predicting good things for this province's economy. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country. For the first time in a century we have two new cities. Our population is growing faster than it has in 50 years. Mr. Speaker, we have five of the best cities to conduct business within the country. Construction is booming, Mr. Speaker, because of private investment and much-needed government infrastructure spending.

We made the largest income tax, property tax cut in this province's history. And last but not least, we have cut the taxpayer debt by 40 per cent. Mr. Speaker, the Grinches opposite want to ruin the holiday season by painting a grim picture, but the merry and warm-hearted Whos of Whoville, Saskatchewan, won't let them spoil the Christmas. To the Grinches opposite, turn those frowns upside down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Children's Discovery Museum

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, according to Fred Rogers, famed educator and children's TV host:

... play is a way for children to learn who they are, how the world works, solve problems and express feelings.
Yes, play is the real work of childhood.

The recently opened Children's Discovery Museum in Saskatoon provides a wonderful venue for children and their families to engage in this important work of childhood. The Children's Discovery Museum on the Saskatchewan is the not-for-profit charitable organization that operates the museum. The museum's mission is to foster creativity, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning in children 10 and under through hands-on exhibits, programming, and outreach.

After spending a very successful summer in 2008 operating as a travelling museum in Saskatoon, the board decided it was critical to get the doors open on its first permanent space. With the support of donors and sponsors and the hard work and dedication of volunteers, the organization opened its current facility in Market Mall this past May. The museum is roughly 2,000 square feet and features three permanent exhibits — a vet clinic, a northern Saskatchewan campsite, and a performance arts stage. In addition they offer several smaller activities and a variety of workshops and other programming.

The board is pleased with its success, but it is also looking down the road to the third phase of its growth — building or renovating a large state-of-the-art facility in a downtown location. An expanded facility will allow the Children's Discovery Museum to develop a greater range of exhibits and programs which reflect our heritage here in Saskatchewan, our culture, and our landscape. This broader range of exhibits will draw families into the city centre and become a major tourist attraction in Saskatoon, benefiting local businesses and the city's economy but most importantly, Saskatoon families.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Children's Discovery Museum on its success in opening the 10th children's museum in Canada, and encouraging the board to continue to work on its long-term goal of building a destination attraction and a family space in downtown Saskatoon.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

The Seat Belt Challenge

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to offer my congratulations to Muscowpetung First Nation on winning SGI's [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] Seat Belt Challenge in the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council.

The Seat Belt Challenge is a community-driven project SGI launched last year to raise awareness of the benefits of wearing a seat belt and increase seat belt use in rural and First Nations communities where seat belts use continued to be lower than in urban areas. The community with the highest percentage increase in seat belt use during the competition wins up to \$50,000 for local road safety improvements.

Mr. Speaker, the Seat Belt Challenge is proving to be a great success. Muscowpetung First Nation increased the use by an incredible 132 per cent, more than double its usage rate at the beginning of the challenge. In fact all eight First Nations communities that participated increased their seat belt use. Other participants were Carry The Kettle, Pasqua First Nation, Standing Buffalo First Nation, Peepeekisis First Nation, Star Blanket First Nation, Nekaneet First Nation, and Little Black Bear First Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize all these communities for the success during the challenge. Seat belts save lives and these communities are all safer as a result of this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

University of Regina's Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Friday night I along with my fellow University of Regina alumnus, the member from Regina Rosemont as well as the member for Regina South, had the pleasure of attending the University of Regina's Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards.

Each year the university and the Alumni Association celebrates outstanding graduates, people who exemplify the University of Regina's motto, as one who serves.

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to John R. Hewson. The Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement went to Justice Georgina Jackson, one of Canada's top jurists. The Award for Distinguished Humanitarian and Community Service was bestowed upon Laura Pettigrew, a person who gives a tremendous amount back in terms of the opportunities and musical talent with which she has been blessed. The Dr. Robert and Norma Ferguson Award for Outstanding Service went to "a blue collar guy with a vision," an individual who was and is a great friend of the university, a champion for post-secondary education, and an accomplished public servant, Don Millard.

Last but certainly not least, high school educator Corey Matthews was honoured with the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. Corey is a proud, young Métis man and excellent basketball coach and is someone who has that gift of being able to draw upon personal experience to relate to students and to make a tremendous difference in the lives of inner-city youth. I've had the privilege of being there to see Corey make that difference in person, Mr. Speaker, and that award was particularly well deserved.

Congratulations to the honourees and congratulations to the University of Regina administration and Alumni Association on a successful and inspiring evening.

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

Policy Renewal

Ms. Schriemer: — Mr. Speaker, the NDP recently sent out a letter about their policy renewal process. The letter says their policy renewal will largely follow the same process they used to develop their New Deal for people in 1971. Only the NDP could take something they did nearly 40 years ago and call it renewal.

The letter also talks about how this will be a public and transparent process. I note that their first meeting took place last Saturday, and I haven't read or heard a single word about it anywhere. Only the NDP could hold a closed-door meeting and call it public . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I'd ask the opposition members to come to order and allow the member to complete her statement. I recognize the member.

Ms. Schriemer: — Only the NDP could hold a closed-door meeting and call it public and transparent.

Mr. Speaker, the letter ends with a statement of what the NDP hope to accomplish with its renewal process, and I quote, "By building the next party platform in public, it will demonstrate party unity and strength and help to attract quality candidates and future civil servants." Mr. Speaker, after all the sanctimony out of the NDP about depoliticizing the civil service, one of the stated goals of the NDP policy process is to attract NDP civil servants. The NDP say one thing, and do another. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Consecration of Chaldean Catholic Parish in Saskatoon

Ms. Atkinson: — On Sunday, November 15th, the member for Massey Place and myself attended the dedication and consecration of the Sacred Heart Chaldean Catholic parish in Saskatoon. The Saskatoon Chaldean Catholic community has purchased the former church of St. Timothy's Anglican community in my constituency. Under the auspices of His Excellency Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, Father Sabah Kamora, parish priest, and parishioners of this church, guests were invited to witness the consecrating mass. A celebration dinner followed at the Travelodge Hotel.

Mr. Speaker, prevalent in Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria, the Chaldean Catholic Church is an Eastern rite church which began unification with the Roman Catholic Church in 1551. Christianity in Iraq dating from the second century had roots in Nestorianism. Nestorians who became Catholics are called Chaldeans. The current line of Chaldean patriarchs of Babylonia began in 1830, and the current patriarchal residence is in Baghdad.

In the last decade there have been hundreds of Chaldean Catholics from the Middle East emigrate to Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, we have one of the largest settlements in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Bishop Ibrahim Ibrahim, Father Sabah Kamora, the parish council, and the parishioners of Sacred Heart Chaldean Catholic Church on their new place of worship in Saskatoon.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Management of Provincial Economy

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question's to the Premier. In light of the fact that the March provincial budget has now been exposed as the most irresponsible budget in Saskatchewan's history, and to quote a Saskatchewan reporter, and I quote:

In this second half, one thing is for sure. The government needs to recognize you don't applaud when you get sacked. Two standing ovations in the house for the finance minister was not just inappropriate but frankly insulting. You don't applaud a deficit of one billion dollars. You show contrition and resolve.

Otherwise, you just look like cheerleaders.

Yesterday in the House, rather than apologize to the people of the province, the Premier said that he called this real progress, that getting to a recession and a billion dollar deficit, was in fact progress.

I want to ask the Premier: how and when did a billion dollar deficit and a recession amount to progress? When did that happen?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. It's a chance for me to say, and I was absent that day, but it's a chance for me to say I've talked to members on this side of the House, that they are obviously not, we're not applauding the fact that potash sales are where they're at, but they are applauding the efforts of the Minister of Finance. Because under his leadership, Mr. Speaker, the same minister that those members were attacking last week, the same minister has presided over the following: inheriting \$6.8 billion in debt and 1.2 billion in the savings account. He . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Again we have a number of members, basically on the opposition side of the House, not all of them. But let's be mindful of the fact that many members are trying to honour the process of the Assembly. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, this Minister of Finance inherited \$6.8 billion in provincial debt and 1.2 billion in the savings account, to be sure. The debt now stands at 4.2 billion. There's 600 million in the savings account. That's a net improvement. These are facts. That's a net improvement in the fiscal position of the province of Saskatchewan of \$2 billion during an unprecedented recession, Mr. Speaker, one in which is seeing this province lead in employment. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll have more good news about Saskatchewan's position with respect to the rest of the country economically in subsequent questions.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, this government's mismanagement and waste and incompetence has led to \$293 million in program cuts and capital projects being delayed and cut. And the majority of these cuts have in fact been — where? — in the Department of Health.

In fact the cuts to the children's hospital, \$95 million; and 3 million to surgical care in Regina; and 122 million in cuts to 13 nursing home projects across the province. In fact the 220

million cuts to the Health Department amount to 80 per cent, almost 80 per cent of the total cuts.

Now yesterday in the Assembly the Premier said that these would be picked up next year. And what I'm asking the Premier now, and the Department of Health, does that mean that the budget will be 220 million more, \$220 million more than planned? Or will it mean that other projects are delayed for years to come? Which is it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — It's interesting you know, Mr. Speaker, when you listen to the member opposite refer to these decisions as cuts, and then in the end of his question he admits they're deferrals. They are deferrals, Mr. Speaker.

We know that the health region in Saskatoon is still planning with respect to the children's hospital. The health region in Saskatoon and those committed to a children's hospital have said, look, this is not the year to be expending the \$100 million because we're not ready. So, Mr. Speaker, that money remains available for that important project — a project that waited 16 years for the attention of members opposite. They never gave that project anything but lip service.

It's true for long-term care home after long-term care home. That former minister of Health, Mr. Speaker, announced the Preeceville hospital in 1999. And then it was re-announced I think seven times later until the people had enough and said, we'll replace that party with a party that's actually prepared to act, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting. When the Premier is not cheerleading, he's throwing blame. And I want to ask him, in terms of the fiscal mismanagement and incompetence, he has talked about \$30 million in educational cuts. Can he give me the list of where those cuts will occur for this year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Speaker, for members opposite all in their Riders jerseys, I welcome questions about cheerleading today in the Assembly. Because if somebody's leading cheers, and I'm sure it's members on this side and hopefully members on that side, the implication is that there are people who are wanting to cheer. And I think that is the case, Mr. Speaker.

Witness today's news that's in the *National Post*. Witness today, Mr. Speaker, that a long-time economist from central Canada, Dale Orr, has done a study. Mr. Speaker, the study is now out today. It's in the *National Post* and it says this: “. . . in Ontario's case Saskatchewan will surpass it as the second-wealthiest province after Alberta.”

Mr. Speaker, that economic capacity is going to allow us to go forward and make important investments in health care — investments they ignore, but that will happen under a Sask Party government.

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

Consideration of Supplementary Estimates

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the budget of Saskatchewan, we need to end the cheerleading and start tackling deficit and recession. That's what has to happen here today.

My question to the Premier: we've had announced \$293 million in budget cuts in 19 different departments and agencies. And yesterday our caucus wrote to the government and asked that we be allowed to ask questions about this \$293 million in cuts. And the response, a written answer, and I quote, "The opposition is given the opportunity to ask questions regarding reductions during question period."

That's a response from the government about when we should ask about the cuts. Not in the estimates, but here in question period. In light of that answer, can the Premier now guarantee that we will have eight extra days of question period in order to ask about the 293 million in cuts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, this is incredible. This is absolutely incredible. In that same letter, the government offered members opposite up to 54 hours more of debate, Mr. Speaker. And now they're yelling, and now they're yelling. Here's what . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The member will come to order. That's correct. The member who asked the question will now allow the Premier to respond. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this building there were two committees of this legislature. They were investigating estimates, Mr. Speaker. Both Chairs government members. Both Chairs of those committees offered to members opposite the chance to go till midnight.

And what did members opposite do after making all of this noise about needing more days in the legislature to debate estimates? And that's the words he just used in his question, Mr. Speaker. Those are the words he just used. What did they do? They called the clock. They wanted to get out of this building by 10:30. Yesterday that member said, well you don't want MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] working that hard, working all the way till midnight. It's not rational, he says.

Mr. Speaker, there a lot of sectors in this province including health care, including the energy sector he claims to know a lot about, that are prepared to do the work. Members on this side of the House are. Last night we found out that they're all about politics and not about a debate on the budget, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier will know that he's less than forthcoming when he says that last night

members were allowed to ask questions about the 293 million in cuts. That's not true. What he said is not true. We are not . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The Leader of the Opposition will come to order. Members have been informed over time and time again that the rules of the Assembly do not allow members to accuse another member directly what they can't do indirectly. There's other ways of addressing the question. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my simple question to the Premier, in light of his previous answer: will he allow for the asking of questions in committee about the cuts of \$293 million? Will he allow those questions to be asked and answered?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, what will be allowed will be allowed by both sides of this Assembly when they agreed to the rules of this Assembly. And how this legislature operates, now that we have two sittings, one in the fall and one in the spring, is that there are supplementary estimates. And last night those supplementary estimates were introduced for discussion and debate. Some of the changes that have occurred would be reflected in the mid-term report. Well they all would be, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday members opposite had a chance to ask detailed questions till midnight if they wanted on Advanced Education, Social Services, First Nations and Métis Relations, and Municipal Affairs. But what did members opposite do? They are so concerned about these budget issues that they called the clock. They wanted to wrap it up at 10:30. Mr. Speaker, we make the same offer today.

And I would say this to that member opposite. If this, you know, if this is about the actual budget issue including the supplementary estimates, why won't he direct his ministers to engage with government members at least till midnight? Or is that too many hours of work for members opposite?

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, question to the Premier. It's exactly this kind of hiding from the facts from the public that have gotten us to a recession and \$1 billion deficit. In the 19 departments, in the 19 departments and agencies affected by the \$293 million cuts, he knows, the Premier knows that he is not allowing us to ask questions and give answers. He knows that. And he's not telling us the whole story when it comes to how the Assembly is working. He's not telling the public all of the answers about the cuts. In fact he's not telling any answers.

In light of the fact of this lack of transparency, I will be introducing an emergency motion calling on the government to agree to extend the sitting days by eight, because he has said and the government has said we can ask the questions in question period. Will the Premier agree with this motion?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, in the preamble to the

question, once again the member opposite ran down the economy of the province of Saskatchewan, as he did yesterday. As he did yesterday when he referred to it being in bust. As he did yesterday when he referred to it being in bust. The day after that member, who wants to be the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. The Premier. Order. The Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member said the economy's in bust. Today a leading economist in the country says for the first time ever we will overtake Ontario as the second most prosperous province in the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Speaker. That's what was said. The premise of the hon. member's question goes to forecast. It does. The premise of the hon. member's question goes to the budget challenge we face. I wonder what his old company, Nexen said just last year in their projections, Mr. Speaker?

What they said in their forecast . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I recognize the Premier. The Premier can complete his response.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the budget for Nexen, the company that he was a senior executive for this year, used the following forecasts in their budget: for West Texas Intermediate oil, \$50 to \$65 a barrel; for natural gas, \$6.50; and for the US [United States] to Canadian dollar exchange rate, 83 cents.

Mr. Speaker, forecasters across the world reflected numbers like that, Mr. Speaker. That was the case in the budget here. We are going to meet the challenge, Mr. Speaker. And he asked, what are they saying about us today? Here's what they're saying. They're giving us a credit rating upgrade for having the strongest financial balance sheet of any province in the Dominion of Canada.

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

Efficiency Secretariat

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I think they're also talking about the fact that we're the province that's leading the nation in a decline in retail sales, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to quote from a recent story in the *Leader-Post* on November 20, and I quote, "The only significant new savings announced Thursday were from the deferral of \$122 million in capital funding for new long-term care facilities." We know that this government has been slow to admit and quick to deny that they have a problem when it comes to the management of our finances. They have no plan to actually cut costs.

The Minister of Finance has hung his hat on the new efficiency secretariat that he created by collapsing the ill-fated P3 [public-private partnership] secretariat into the Ministry of Finance. Can the Minister of Finance confirm that he is spending over 1 million on the efficiency secretariat, which is a

60 per cent increase over what was being spent on the P3 secretariat?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the efficiency secretariat that is now situated in the Ministry of Finance is destined to provide an important service to government as we look into the future and make sure that the services we deliver to the people of the province are done so as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important initiative, and it's going to begin its work shortly. And we look forward to the fact that it'll help us in our budget process, and to make sure that we spend every hard-earned tax dollars that come into the care of the government with a great deal of prudence and caution.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Or maybe it's just a problem with the people sitting around the Treasury Board table, Mr. Speaker. I would remind the minister of another recent story in the *Leader-Post* on November 20. And I quote:

What was truly most disturbing was the complete and total lack of humility we saw from the Saskatchewan Party government which should [and I'll skip this unparliamentary refrain from the columnist] . . . be embarrassed by its own incompetence right now, rather than celebrating. Yes, celebrating.

They have created a so-called efficiency secretariat that they are spending over \$1 million on, a 60 per cent increase. Sounds a bit counterintuitive, Mr. Speaker. But in answers to written questions, they have confirmed that this secretariat has issued no reports and sent no information to cabinet for discussion. To the Minister of Finance: what exactly is he spending \$1 million of taxpayers' dollars on? Or is this just another example of his own ministerial incompetence?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this efficiency secretariat has just been set up in the Ministry of Finance, and it's going to begin its work moving forward. And the amount of the budget for this secretariat is annualized over a year. It includes some of the functions that already are in Finance, and it includes the functions from the P3 secretariat.

This secretariat has just been set up. It's going to begin its work, and we look forward to the reports as they come available, as the secretariat moves forward.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I continue to quote from the *Leader-Post*. I quote:

We just witnessed Thursday a Saskatchewan finance minister present a mid-year budget update revealing that . . . he forecast last March [what] was now an overall \$1.05-billion deficit . . .

And Gantefer gets *two standing ovations* from his caucus colleagues in Thursday's question period? Are you kidding us? What is it about running government that you don't understand?

We're asking the same thing, Mr. Speaker. What is it about running government that that Finance minister and that Premier don't understand?

According to the government's own documents, the head of the new efficiency secretariat is receiving a salary of \$183,564. This is an increase of \$8,000 from when that same person was running the P3 secretariat — same person. Can the Minister of Finance confirm that the only official act of the efficiency secretariat has been to give the person running it an \$8,000 raise?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this government has delivered an incredible amount of good news to the province of Saskatchewan because this province is based on strong economic fundamentals.

Mr. Speaker, we're coming off of incredible economic growth, leading the nation in many categories. And that's an important thing to remember, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward. Mr. Speaker, our economy is growing, our population is growing faster than it has in 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, this efficiency secretariat is going to help us to make sure that we do things in an effective and a cost-efficient way leading forward, and it's going to help this province continue the remarkable record of growth that we are currently enjoying.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Employment and Training Issues

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, as the Sask Party makes deep cuts across government, their IOUs [I owe you] keep piling up. New businesses across the province are the latest victims of spending cuts caused by this government's fiscal mismanagement.

Mike Nahorney recently opened a new business, M & N Repair, in Biggar. He applied to JobStart/Future Skills for funding to train an employee to order parts, answer phones, and manage the day-to-day operations of the business. On November 4th, he was sent a letter informing him that uncommitted funds remaining in this year's JobStart/Future Skills' budget were being cut. The letter also states that new applications can resume — guess when? — next year, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: why is the Sask Party cutting funding for programs that assist in employment here in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, thanks very much for the opportunity to provide an update on what we're doing regarding employment and training initiatives right across this province.

Mr. Speaker, in the NDP's last budget, they invested just under \$70 million, Mr. Speaker. What we've done is increased that by more \$23 million. It's \$92 million. That's including the caps that we've put in place, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we're doing so in a fiscally prudent and responsible way. Twenty three million more dollars regarding workplace training and employment opportunities, Mr. Speaker, that's our commitment to the people of this province. And we'll continue to work so in the fashion that they've seen in the past.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this government is so mixed up with the math that they can't even admit that a cut is a cut. Any of the new funding that has been received, the vast, vast majority, Mr. Speaker, is from the federal government. On the provincial front, we see nothing but cuts.

Mr. Nahorney was counting on JobStart/Future Skills to help him, and he made an application to the program in good faith. Last week he told me:

It means I have to pay the person to run the front and I work for nothing. Maybe the Minister of Labour would like to get paid nothing and for a money-saving [cost], he could pay the wages to his aides, and then we'll even it out.

To the minister: why are business operators like Mike Nahorney forced to pay the price and the consequences for this government's mismanagement of the economy?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, we continue to make progress in a number of areas, Mr. Speaker. But as it relates to the term cut, Mr. Speaker, happy to report that we have cut the provincial debt by 40 per cent, Mr. Speaker. Happy to report that we've cut 80,000 low-income earners off the tax rolls, Mr. Speaker. Happy to announce that the number of nursing vacancies has been cut, Mr. Speaker. Happy to announce that property and education portion of property taxes have been cut. And we continue to work on cutting the infrastructure deficit that we inherited from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to build a very, very productive and strong province on behalf of the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. That's where we remain focused. That's where the investments are going. We're doing so in a fiscally prudent fashion, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, once again members opposite won't even admit that a cut is a cut. They don't want to discuss the cuts. They not only will not discuss them, they won't even admit that a cut is a cut. Especially troubling on a day like today, Mr. Speaker, when we see from Statistics Canada that the number of people receiving EI [employment insurance] benefits month over month has increased by 1,600; year over year, by 6,180, Mr. Speaker.

People like Mike Nahorney recognize the value of this program even if the Sask Party doesn't. He told me last week:

This is very important. It's designed to create full-time opportunities plus training at the same time. When unemployment's at a higher level, this is a big help for a lot of people.

He goes on to say, "It's an important program. It should never be cut. Training or education should never be cut."

Mr. Speaker, why at a time when Statistics Canada shows us that unemployment is increasing in the province, more people are on EI benefits, why would the Sask Party choose to nickel and dime a program, Mr. Speaker, that helps unemployed workers, and that helps new businesses get established in the province?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Once again, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity. I think what's important, Mr. Speaker, is to realize, obviously, right across Western Canada economies are being affected. That's why we can see that EI has increased by 25 per cent in Alberta, 14 per cent in Manitoba, just about 13 per cent in BC [British Columbia]. And the lowest in Western Canada is right here, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan.

But importantly, Mr. Speaker, what we can see is, when we look at Saskatoon and Regina, we have the lowest unemployment rates in the nation in these two cities, Mr. Speaker. In Saskatoon there have been, year over year, 5,900 new jobs created. In fact the number of job vacancies on the saskjobs.ca website has gone up 14 per cent just in the last month, Mr. Speaker. And since April 2009, more than 55,000 vacancies have been posted on the saskjobs.ca website.

We know there's certainly more to do, Mr. Speaker. We know there's more to do, but we stand on our record. We're working on behalf of the people of this province.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

The Speaker: — The member from Cannington has a point of order. Member may state his point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a long-standing tradition of this House and parliaments in

general that a member cannot impugn the honour of another member. During question period, Mr. Speaker, I clearly heard the Leader of the Opposition call the Premier a fibber, not telling the truth, and lying, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Leader of the Opposition apologize and unequivocally withdraw those remarks.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — The member is correct. I did refer to the Premier as fibbing. I believed that that was true. But I apologize for it and withdraw the comments.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The member . . . Order. The member has raised a point of order in regards to the comments from the Leader of the Opposition and I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw the comments unequivocally without any further explanation.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the comments unequivocally.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 119 — *The Ticket Sales Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 119, *The Ticket Sales Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved first reading of Bill 119, *The Ticket Sales Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered a second time?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 120 — *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 120, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved first reading of Bill No. 120, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to

adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered a second time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, in accordance with rule 7(7) of *The Election Act* and the tabling of documents, I lay on the Table the report of the Chief Electoral Officer with respect to the use of the Chief Electoral Officer's emergency powers November 19th, 2009.

I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I rise to ask leave to introduce an emergency debate under standing order 59.

The Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has moved to introduce an emergency debate under rule 59. The Leader of the Opposition can state the reasons for the motion and place the motion.

MOTION UNDER RULE 59

Separate and Distinct Sitting of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to say just a few brief words about why the opposition is proposing this emergency motion.

The motion that I will be presenting is clearly a pressing urgent necessity for the people of the province who are facing now for the first time in many years a deficit of \$1 billion, but the first time a deficit has been announced in a long, long time and also in a recession. And I think it's the first time in a decade that we have had negative growth in the province of Saskatchewan. And in light of that fact, I hope that the government will allow this motion to be put in front of the Assembly.

And I can think of no issue of more urgent need in the province today — and I hear this from people across the province in Canora, in Prince Albert, as I travel the province — that the finances of the province need to be scrutinized, the spending cuts announced. What is involved? What programs are at stake? Is the seniors' drug plan involved in the cuts? We don't know. And we need to be asking these questions.

It is the position of the opposition MLAs that the effect of the new budget — it really is a new budget — needs to be debated

here in the open, and we need to shine a light on both the increases and the cuts.

And for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to put forward an emergency resolution to allow the Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan and the people in the public to properly do the work. We need to do the work on behalf of the people. And I would move a motion as follows:

That as per rule 3(1) and 5 of the *Rules and Procedures*, a separate and distinct sitting of this Legislative Assembly is ordered to occur between December 7th and 17th of 2009, for the purpose of examining the recent budget cuts of the Government of Saskatchewan.

The ordinary time of daily meetings and adjournments of the House, as per rule 6(1), shall be in effect for the purpose of this sitting.

I so move.

[14:30]

The Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has moved a motion of a urgent, pressing nature and has asked for leave to move the motion. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour? Order. Order. Actually leave has not been granted.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 532 to 539.

The Speaker: — Questions 532 to 539 are tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 117 — *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After my brief remarks, I'll be moving second reading of *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is one of the best places in the world in which to live. Our healthy environment and natural resources make life better for Saskatchewan families by creating jobs and economic growth and contributing to our

social and physical well-being. Our hunting and fishing opportunities are not only world-class, but they are major contributors to Saskatchewan's economy.

Mr. Speaker, our natural renewable resources are valuable, both economically and spiritually. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are an important part of Saskatchewan's heritage. For generations our province's residents have pursued these activities for food, for recreation, and for commercial and cultural purposes.

Mr. Speaker, *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* acknowledges the important place of these activities in our society in two ways. First, the Act recognizes hunting, fishing, and trapping as protected activities in accordance with the law in Saskatchewan. And secondly, it celebrates their importance by designating November 15th of each year as Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Heritage Day.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's very important to point out that the legislation does not deter or alter in any way an Aboriginal person's constitutional right to hunt, fish, or trap. What it does do, Mr. Speaker, is to tell the world that, in Saskatchewan, hunting, fishing, and trapping are a part of our way of life, now and in the future.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment has moved second reading of Bill No. 117, *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to have an opportunity to be able to make a number of comments on the Act respecting hunting, fishing, and trapping and which will put in place November 15th of each year as a day designated as Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Heritage Day here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of ways that hunting, fishing, and trapping could have been recognized in the heritage, as big components of the heritage of the province of Saskatchewan. But, Mr. Speaker, in my view, one of those ways would be taking an option that opens up . . . I guess it's one option that would open up a number of ways with which you could impress upon people the importance of all of these areas, and that would be by actually taking some initiatives when it comes to the environment here in the province of Saskatchewan.

We have seen that rather languishing over the last two years. There has been very little movement that's been made by this government. They seem to feel that it's not important. So they feel that somehow, I guess, that being able to put forward a day that recognizes hunting, fishing, and trapping is part of the heritage of this province will cover off any concerns that people may have.

But, Mr. Speaker, unless we look after the environment with which we live right across the province, a heritage day may be the only recognition we have for hunting, fishing, and trapping. And while each of these occupations and endeavours have contributed greatly to the development of Saskatchewan and

continue, not only from our early, earliest beginnings, but to the First Nations and first peoples that inhabited this land, but also into the current day which we all reside in this province and hopefully will continue to be a big part of the heritage and future of our province for many, many years to come.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would be really happy if we would see the government put in place some initiatives for the environment and work towards cleaning up a number of areas where there are concerns, putting in place some legislation that maybe expands wildlife lands around this province. If you don't have lands that are set aside and designated as wildlife lands and continue to grow and provide space for animals, hunting, fishing, and trapping will truly only be a heritage that we will be able to look back on, but not something that these people will be able to look forward to.

Mr. Speaker, I guess one of the issues that we have had with this government is that there has been a real failure to consult with interested parties around the province. And I know that when this Bill was first introduced, there was representatives from the Wildlife Federation, from the Trappers Association, also from resort communities — and it escapes me who else was sitting in the gallery that day — but I know there were a variety. But one thing that was missing, I don't recall seeing anyone representing First Nations or Métis across the province to see if there had been any discussion in that area and with those peoples. And that is important, especially when it comes to areas such as this which are traditional and when we were talking about recognizing a heritage day here in the province.

Mr. Speaker, the First Nations have a great deal of concerns when it comes to duty to consult, and we know that this government has not made any moves in that area. And they have been very slow to make any type of advances or improvements in the discussions that are out there. We know that duty to consult is a requirement and has been ruled on by, I believe, the Supreme Court of Canada, and that all governments are moving in this direction. But the Saskatchewan Party government seems to be making the decision that this truly isn't an important area for them to make some advances in. There doesn't seem to be a great deal of progress.

And when we see pieces of legislation such as this which, mind you, it recognizes the heritage day and it will be a very good day for various organizations around the province to celebrate. But First Nations and Métis were the first hunters, fishers, and trappers in this province and should not they be included in the consultations and be included in the gallery when the legislation is introduced? It seems to be a major omission.

One thing that I would like to see, as well as . . . Well a number of things I guess, and I'll take some time to go through them. I would like to see the government move ahead with some environmental legislation. We had a debate in the House and the government actually refused to vote on a motion which was exactly the proposal they had put forward in their platform in the last election.

Now we since know that they have downgraded and really broken that commitment. And we do know that they have walked away from any sense of duty to the environment. Well now the minister says that has nothing to do with anything to do

with hunting and fishing. Well unless the member opposite realizes if you don't have a good environment, if you don't have habitat for wildlife, if you don't have clean lakes where the fish can breed and grow and continue their cycle of life, there will be no fishing and there will be no hunting and there will be no fur trapping, Mr. Speaker. So you can't have one without the other.

It's much the same as our environment. We are all interdependent and nothing stands alone and operates in spite of the other. We are all connected and we all need to pay attention to various aspects. So, Mr. Speaker, to see this government actually do something when it comes to the environment, environmental standards.

We have seen moves where they are working to downgrade, make environmental assessments easier for companies to move ahead in a variety of areas. Mr. Speaker, that's a red flag for many, many people across this province who value our life and our quality of life.

Blue skies. Many provinces can't say blue skies any more. If you fly into Ontario, it's pretty brown and pretty grey most days. Mr. Speaker, we're proud of that here in the province of Saskatchewan and we want to make sure that it stays.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure on your way on the weekend, when you're driving home . . . I know for me driving home to my community of Moose Jaw, often you will see deer. You will see moose. Now moose look a little unusual out in the middle of a stubble field. That's a little unusual and it has caused a bit of havoc for traffic.

But I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, when you talk to some people that have lived in a number of areas, and I think of up near Canora, northwest of Canora, people will tell you when they were kids in that area, which isn't that many years ago, there wasn't very many trees. It was pretty wide open, and that they didn't see too many moose around there then.

Well now we see that animals migrate. They adapt to a varying habitat. And as we see more and more of these larger animals moving into the south of the province, in fact, Mr. Speaker, the Department of the Environment has actually opened up moose hunting seasons in the southern part of the province because of the shift in populations.

And that's pretty prevalent. You can look at synopses from the various hunting years over the past decade to 15, 20 years, and you will see shifts where mule deer populations have expanded. They have not only expanded in numbers, but expanded in the areas that they cover. You will see white-tailed deer, their population has shrunk. I know around my community we see fewer and fewer white-tailed deer.

So, Mr. Speaker, for the member across to say, well what's this got to do with the environment, well it has a great deal to do with the environment. Because if you don't have the proper environment, if you don't look after the environment that we have, if we don't make improvements and do the best that we can, it will change drastically, not only in our lifetime but for future generations. They may not have the opportunity to go hunting or fishing or trapping, Mr. Speaker. So they are

interconnected.

Mr. Speaker, while some stronger environmental legislation or at least any environmental legislation from this government would be welcome, and I'm talking about wildlife more specific to areas in the topography, I guess, of the province.

And that doesn't even take us into the whole greenhouse gas and greenhouse emissions reductions and targets. That is a huge, huge debate which this government has actually walked away from. For two days we had debate on discussion. And here again, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the government wouldn't even support a motion that was identical to their commitment during the election campaign. So they can't support their own commitments, but yet they can put forward very nice pieces of legislation.

And I know that hunters and fishers and trappers around the province will be very pleased to see a day that will be marked as a heritage day and recognized each year. But, Mr. Speaker, I also know that many of these people that are involved in these organizations and have spent their lives either as a career or enjoying nature, whether as a profession or as a hobby, as a sideline, or whether they just live in a spectacular area of the province — which is many, many areas of the province — and enjoy what we have here in the province, I know they would appreciate stronger environmental legislation.

I know they would appreciate some discussion and a look at expanding wildlife land around this province and make sure also the RANs, the representative area networks, that not only maintains and preserves those smaller ecosystems around the province. Because, Mr. Speaker, anyone that has had the privilege to travel around the province of Saskatchewan will know that this is an absolutely beautiful province.

And I often, when I run into engineers, sometimes give them a bit of grief because they built the Trans-Canada Highway and the railway lines across the flattest piece of property that runs through the province of Saskatchewan. And I'm sure it's cost and it's ease of construction and all the rest of it. But because of that, many people when they travel through on the Trans-Canada or travel through by train, they figure that that's what Saskatchewan looks like. And we've all heard the jokes about you can watch your dog run away for three days, and all those jokes that we kind of half-heartedly chuckle at, but secretly shake our head and roll our eyes because we all know it's not true.

[14:45]

And I read an article the other day in a newspaper. It was about a fellow who was raising money and awareness on a particular issue. And he was riding across Canada on his bike. And what he said was, someone said, well you took the easy part, you know, riding your bike across the Prairies here. And he said, if anyone thinks the Prairies is flat or Saskatchewan is flat, they should try riding a bicycle across the province.

And, Mr. Speaker, so maybe instead of rolling our eyes when people make bad jokes about Saskatchewan being flat and that the whole province is like this, we should maybe say to them, get out a bike. Ride a bike up and down the Trans-Canada for a

while, and let's see how flat you think it is after that.

But, Mr. Speaker, people also have to realize that when you go from the badlands in the South and the Great Sand Hills and travel through the fertile agricultural land that we have, Mr. Speaker — and a majority, well we're about 48 per cent I think of all arable land is here in the province of Saskatchewan — but as you travel north, then you will start to see bushland and trees and the ground will start to break into small rolling hills. And, Mr. Speaker, we get into the boreal forests and, farther north, into the Shield where it's actually an absolute privilege to have travelled from the southwest, southeast corners of this province all the way to far North.

And, Mr. Speaker, I actually haven't been able to set foot on the northeast corner of the province, but I have had an opportunity to be in the Northwest, and not actually set foot on the Athabasca sand dunes, but to fly over them and have a look at them. And that's my goal, is to be able to access that area and go on a great camping trip or canoe trip. It would be wonderful.

But, Mr. Speaker, it just speaks to the diversity that we have in this province. And that many of these people who are hunting, fishing, or trapping would greatly appreciate this government paying some particular attention, not only to environmental legislation that would protect this province and all of the variety and diversity that we enjoy in this province, but also wildlife lands. And whether it's in fish hatcheries or the wildlife lands, there are many, many things that this provincial government could be doing to enhance the opportunities that are out there and enhance the beauty.

And, Mr. Speaker, I have to say my husband has hunted the whole time that we have been married, long before we were ever married. And I used to go with him on trips. I never wanted to be one of those hunting widows where you stayed at home and missed out on all the adventure.

And, Mr. Speaker, for many people who start out hunting, it turns into a pursuit, quite often with a camera, taking pictures of wildlife. Because we have an opportunity when you're travelling some desolate areas, whether it's a community pasture in the South to Crown forest in the North, there truly is some absolutely beautiful spots in this province where you can be out there walking in the hills or walking in the forest or walking along the river breaks along the North Saskatchewan River. I mean if someone just dropped you there out of the blue, you would have no idea you were in Saskatchewan if you weren't from this province.

So hunting, fishing, and trapping may be for sustenance. It may be an occupation and a career for many in our province — both traditional and otherwise, by choice, I guess would be an appropriate term. But, Mr. Speaker, it goes beyond that; it goes beyond. For many of these people, it is an appreciation of the environment as a whole, and all of those animals that inhabit a spot within that ecosystem and within that environment.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say to the government, stronger environmental legislation that truly looks after the environment of the province — the trees, the water, the air that we breathe. Maintain the wildlife lands and maintain the quality of the lakes in northern . . . well, throughout Saskatchewan.

I know that there was a push to have testing done along the northwest boundary of the province because we often talk about the 100,000 lakes that are in northern Saskatchewan and the pollution that is coming over from the tar sands in Alberta. That's a concern because that affects the fishing in those areas, and it affects the animals, and it affects the people that live in those areas.

So I would like to say to the minister that there is many, many things that could be done in conjunction with this. And while it's important to have a heritage day and to recognize the heritage of this province and the future of the province in many areas, Mr. Speaker, there's also a great deal that could and should be done to support this legislation along the way. And we don't often make the connection between the two.

But, Mr. Speaker, as someone who has been on a lake in northern Saskatchewan, try about 4:30 in the morning waiting for the sun to come up, dressed up in a chilly morning. And it's absolutely beautiful. The fog is lifting off the lake, and as the sun's coming up over the trees, there isn't a more beautiful province and a beautiful spot to be than Saskatchewan, anywhere in the world that I have yet to see, Mr. Speaker. And it's a wonderful place . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well, Mr. Speaker, that's true. It's a great place to go out in a boat and go fishing.

And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, you put on an electric motor — because you don't want to pollute anything and you want to keep it nice and quiet — and you don't bother putting a hook on the end of your line as you toss it over the edge. You just kind of drag it along and watch it floating on the lake because you really don't want to do the work and catch anything. It's just kind of a beautiful way to spend the day. You're kind of rolling your eyes at me there. I know you mean . . .

But, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many things that could be done. And I truly wish that the minister had brought along with this piece of legislation some supporting pieces that would have had a huge impact, not only to celebrate heritage day, but to make sure that all of this that we enjoy and sometimes are at risk of taking for granted, that it's maintained out into the future and not only ever considered in a heritage Act.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Brkich: — I would ask leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The member from Arm River has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank the speaker that's speaking who let me in.

In the west gallery I just want to . . . I see my CA [constituency assistant] is up here today. He was up doing some work here in Regina and possibly maybe going to Agribition later. I just want

to welcome Mr. Clark Puckett here to the legislature, to his legislature. And I would ask all members to welcome him here, and I hope he enjoys the proceedings going on, even though I know he's watched it many, many, many times on TV. Thank you.

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

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 117 — *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act* (continued)

Ms. Higgins: — Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I know there are a number of my colleagues that would also like to make comments on this Bill, *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*, but I would just like to make one more comment.

When the minister talked about this being a way of life now and into the future, I have to say I guess a bit of a plea, to please put in place and look at the environmental legislation that needs to be done here in the province of Saskatchewan to make sure that we're retaining this quality of life and the beauty of our province, and actually to make sure that we do maintain this way of life into the future for those around the province who have built their careers. Many built their families, built a strong base of business throughout the province. It's a beautiful province, and that's truly the way we know we could move ahead, but not at the cost of all that we hold dear. So that's just something I would hope that the government would give consideration to.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know there are a number of my colleagues that would like to make comments, but there are people that we need to speak to on the issue of the Bill. And at this time I would adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 117. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 99

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert that **Bill No. 99 — *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a

pleasure to rise to participate in the debate on Bill 99, the emergency system amendment Act, 2009.

Emergencies — of course we're no strangers to them in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. I think of a time when yourself and myself and others were present at a committee meeting where there was a medical emergency took place and the ability to contact EMS [emergency medical services] right off the bat, you know — initiate first aid, of course — but the ability of the emergency responders to provide immediate medical assistance in terms of the EMS people that showed up, in terms of the firefighters that showed up within minutes of the call being placed, and then the good work that had been done in between in terms of stabilizing the victim and providing that critical first response.

I know that we've seen, right in this very building, the importance of being able to access the emergency measures system in this province and those emergency response providers. And again, Mr. Speaker, I think about the things that worked for us in that circumstance. One was a clear line of communication to fire and to EMS.

But of course, that's not the case around the province. Certainly where the people were dispatched to the situation here in the basement of this building, we had the advantage of people that had medical skills. We had people that had emergency responder training. We had the advantage of a public defibrillator being able to be brought to bear. And most importantly though, we had the fact that the fire was responding from the hall down on 13th Avenue. And that emergency measures, the paramedics, they were dispatched, I believe, from over by Pasqua at the time.

And again, quick access to EMS and the quick response time, in terms of those assets being located relatively close on hand, meant that what could have been a fatal medical incident for the person involved was turned into, you know, a remarkable recovery. And that person is alive and doing well to this day.

So I think about that circumstance and the importance of communications in a province as vast and as diverse as Saskatchewan. And obviously communications plays a critical role in ensuring that people have, you know, the best possible access, given the distances, to emergency medical services or whatever response needs to be brought to bear in terms of a situation.

I think about how far we've come in the case of my family, Mr. Speaker. We come from a quarter section out Montmartre way, in country I know you're well familiar with. And I think about in the '50s when my father and my grandmother were essentially flooded out. One of the things that precipitated that was the fact that my grandfather had a medical emergency and to get him into the hospital in Weyburn, or pardon me, in Wolseley at the time, Mr. Speaker, they had to put him in the back of a wagon, get him to the Hinton where there was a car, and then take him from there into the hospital in Wolseley where he subsequently passed on.

And again that was the only option that was had so that's what they did in that circumstance. And I think about the advances that have been made in technology and the ability of people

being able to bring to bear that emergency medical response in critical situations like that and how things have evolved over time. This was in the mid-'50s, Mr. Speaker, and even then it sort of strikes me as remarkable that the first half of that journey had to take place in the back of a wagon. But those were the times and that was Saskatchewan people responding as best they could.

[15:00]

I also think about an incident that my younger brother Neil was involved in, where they had to, he and another young woman had to provide CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] to a person, shove him into the back of a station wagon off of the beach at Katepwa, and then drive him into the nearest hospital where the person subsequently died. And in all of these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, quick response, you know, often makes the difference. In that case it didn't. But in our experience, our shared experience, Mr. Speaker, we know that quick response can make that critical difference and save a life. And again in terms of what makes that quick intervention possible is the quick access through something that's available like the 911 system.

In Saskatchewan one of the challenges we've had over the years is the vast geography that we have. We're a big province with a big heart, but a lot of space to cover and a widely dispersed population in many cases. I know that previously in government we certainly wrestled with what was the best response to the replacement of what was then aging and rapidly becoming obsolete technology, in the situation with FleetNet. The questions of where that was best housed, be it within Public Safety or in some kind of a conglomerate with other emergency response providers such as the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police]. Whether or not, even then, if something like that should continue to be housed with SaskTel, and did that fit with the mandate of SaskTel?

A great number of questions to be wrestled with to come up with what is the best public policy option for the people of Saskatchewan to again ensure that something that is critical public safety infrastructure is in place — and that is the ability to have a 911 system that is reliable, that is adaptable, that has that broad coverage that our province demands.

And again the ability around land locates and how this interacts with, you know, Global Positioning technology in terms of if somebody's phoning in from a particular quarter section, you know. How do ensure that you've got a system that responds to that circumstance? Or in the case of a, you know, push to talk, is it there for our public safety practitioners, be it in fire or in emergency medical practitioners? What is the availability or what is the durability of the technology in terms of if you're trapped in a building? And does the technology allow you to maintain that vital line of communication as you go about responding to the emergency situation? I know that some of the technologies being considered, that was one of the shortfalls of them.

So again a great number of questions to be considered in terms of coming up with something that must be durable, that must be reliable, and that must be affordable for the people of Saskatchewan. There's been a substantial investment made in

what is being referred to now as the provincial public safety telecommunications network, the PPSTN for short because of course in public policy, Mr. Speaker, we need to have a good acronym for everything.

But my hope is that this is something that responds to the diverse stakeholders and their needs in terms of the public safety need for reliable public safety telecommunications. And again that ability to not just access something like 911 but to carry the communications that are so critical to effective response in terms of emergency management, be it in a flood, Mr. Speaker, and the need to keep the team together and communicating effectively so that they can calibrate their response to the situation as it's presenting. Be it in the case of a fire in a building, Mr. Speaker, and again, the sort of needs that arise in terms of being able to have a telecommunications technology that doesn't leave responders stranded or trapped or cut off from communications and separated from the team. Also within the situation of a forest fire, the broad sort of front of response that that requires and coordination of effort.

Again, what is the best public policy response? What is the public safety infrastructure that is equal to that job? And we are hopeful that what we are considering here today in terms of legislation that will house the authority for the management of the provincial public safety telecommunications network, that will house the authority for this critical infrastructure in the Department of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Again I guess, Mr. Speaker, that, as we understand it, is the main purpose of this legislation. That's the intent. And certainly that, in and of itself, is a laudable goal and a necessary one.

And again, we'll see the things that flow from that in terms of CPSP [Corrections, Public Safety and Policing] taking the lead on this file. We'll see how that works out with the other partners that we know are involved in terms of work that SaskPower had been doing in conjunction with the RCMP and their public safety communications network. We'll see how this works out in terms of the cost involved for RMs, the rural municipalities, in terms of the infrastructure that they'll need to get going with the network.

We'll see how this works in terms of the coordination with First Nations and Métis locals throughout the province. Because again, I think of the flooding that took place — Red Earth, Shoal Lake country, or Cumberland House First Nation, or different other First Nations that have experienced flooding over the years or forest fires — and the absolutely vital need to keep everybody involved in that emergency response connected and communicating effectively so that they can, again, bring to bear the best possible response to these emergency situations as they present.

So not only does the infrastructure have to do that, but the governance of this infrastructure has to accomplish that balancing of interest and accomplishing that buy-in, not just in governance, but in the ongoing maintenance and funding of this project. We'll be interested to see how this carries forward, Mr. Speaker.

And again there's no small investment that has been made in the FleetNet before this, both in terms of the core, sort of,

infrastructure, but also the way the different partners access into it. And there's no small investment that has been made in this part of this evolution, this stage of evolution, this stage of development of the public safety telecommunications network as well. So again we'll be watching closely to see how that piece rolls out, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be watching with great interest and listening to what the stakeholders have to say.

I guess the last thing I'd like to say is, it's also signal of this sort of public policy question, Mr. Speaker, that you're dealing with what can be a very rapidly evolving technology. And certainly FleetNet and the sort of bulwark that that provided in terms of emergency management communication, it's a technology that has reached its life expectancy. And one of the urgencies around this replacement is to ensure that you've got a system that's reliable, that you can get parts for, that you can continue to have there to be relied upon.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, that costs money; money that we had certainly brought to the table and that I know the current government has brought to the table. But again, if you can have effective communications at the core of something like 911, that ensures that. You know, the distances might be great but at least you've got that communication and that ability to access in a reliable, consistent way, EMS, then that is something that's definitely worth investing in and taking forward for the people of this province.

So I guess those are some of my observations on Bill 99, Mr. Speaker. I know that I have other colleagues that want to participate in this debate at this time, so I guess what I will do is cede the floor for my colleague, the member from Regina Walsh Acres, so that she might participate in this debate at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to rise and speak to this Bill No. 99, *An Act to amend The Emergency 911 System Act*. This legislation, Mr. Speaker, appears to be the continuation of the work begun by the former NDP administration to strengthen the emergency 911 system. The integration of provincial public safety telecommunications network into the 911 system appears to accomplish just that, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, of course we're very supportive of the legislation in terms of what it's wanting to accomplish. And there are still a number of observations that I would like to make on this Bill, Mr. Speaker. And that is the good fortune that the Sask Party government has in terms of putting forward a Bill to deal with an emergency 911 system Act in terms of changing the amount of times the word "department" is referred to in the Bill and needed to be changed to "ministry," because that was something that this administration felt it needed to do was to change everything from department to ministry. And it's quite surprising how many times this needs to be referred to in this particular Bill.

So again it's another one of those changes that I still don't have an explanation for as to the necessity of going from a department to a ministry, but it's something the current

administration felt very strongly about and therefore has the ability to do in putting forward this Bill to make sure those changes are made.

The one concern I do have, Mr. Speaker, is that the system currently in place does fall under the purview of SaskTel, and it's my understanding that the system will now be falling under the purview of Corrections and Public Safety. And I'm still not quite clear as to what their reasons would be to make that change. I would appreciate if I could get some more clarification on that at some point from the minister and be able to understand better why it would need to move out of SaskTel where it's been housed for the duration that it's been in existence and obviously served the public very well in that capacity.

Now it's important obviously to have a very efficient, a highly efficient and effective 911 system because of the fact that obviously when circumstances arise, then obviously we all want to be able to access 911 services as quickly as possible. And I don't think there would be too many people, I would imagine, who haven't either needed to access 911 system either for their own families or extended families or situations that one comes upon when, especially nowadays, Mr. Speaker, when one is . . . There are very few people that travel without a cellphone, although obviously we're going to make sure that it's not being done while somebody's operating a vehicle in the near future. But it's something that more and more people are able to access quickly because the fact that most people do have cellphones or BlackBerrys, PDAs. So it's something that's become much more efficient just through the situation or the circumstance that people do carry cellphones and therefore are able to access 911 services that much quicker for any situations that they may come upon in their daily lives.

When people call 911 of course, the process is that the dispatcher immediately calls any of the pertinent emergency services that are needed, given the circumstances of the situation, to deal with the emergency at hand. And the response time from that, you know, that dispatcher in terms of locating those emergency services, the appropriate emergency services and the response time of those emergency services, getting to those situations . . . it can all be expedited through the good fortunes that we have with modern technology, Mr. Speaker. And this hopefully will be another one of those efficiencies that we can bring to the system.

[15:15]

Now, Mr. Speaker, clearly 911 services are not something that are exclusive to any particular area of the province. They're something that need to be accessed and people would like to see accessible in all corners of the province. And that means that when you're calling 911 from Regina or Yorkton or La Ronge or Wollaston Lake or Ile-a-la-Crosse or, you know, other places in the province, everybody wants to know that someone will be able to be reached when dialling 911. It's certainly a privilege and a comfort that we have as a modern society to be able to have these services notified as quickly as possible through a 911 system.

And it's something that's universal, Mr. Speaker. It's something that we know as citizens — doesn't matter where we are in the

province or outside the province — that when we find ourselves in a predicament, needing assistance or when we find ourselves needing to provide assistance, which we've come upon either, obviously, someone who's been injured, when one is out somewhere or coming upon an accident, then it's always nice to know that that, for lack of a better expression, lifeline is there in terms of being able to access the 911 system, no matter where one is in the province.

So, Mr. Speaker, wanting to create efficiencies within the 911 system is something that's obviously very desirable and something that we definitely support. And as I said, we had originally initiated the process when we were in government prior to 2007 as it was.

So no matter the nature of the emergency, whether it's, like I said, a fire or a request for police assistance or a request for medical assistance, these can all be accessed through the 911 system. And we are very grateful for that to be in place, Mr. Speaker.

Just recently driving home from Saskatoon, there was a slippery . . . The highways were a little glazed over in the morning. It was an early morning drive. I had to be back in the city for an 8:30 engagement, and I was in Saskatoon for a very late engagement. So I decided to catch a few hours of shut-eye and then drive back early in the morning.

So it was probably about 6:30 in the morning, and I saw a vehicle travelling from the driving lane — luckily enough, there were no other vehicles around him — travelling in the driving lane. All of a sudden, he started veering into the passing lane and, sure enough, went right into the ditch. And the good fortune was that the individual was able to control the swerving of the vehicle and the vehicle did not roll.

But I attempted to brake gently because I obviously didn't want to find myself in the same predicament and found, Mr. Speaker, that I had great difficulty in coming to a slower speed and potentially stopping. Plus there were vehicles behind me. So I knew I wasn't going to be able to provide assistance because I'd be too far down the highway, in terms of being able to see that the individual was okay, because one never knows whether the individual had simply fallen asleep — and I'm sure that that would have been enough to alarm the individual to being in obviously a very aware state of mind at that point — or whether the individual potentially had a stroke or whatever.

And so I was very glad that I was able to access the 911 system and just notify the individual on the other end of the phone of my location, of what I had witnessed, and that hopefully somebody could potentially check up on the individual if they drove by and found that the individual was still in their vehicle in the ditch, and ensure that there wasn't something of a more serious nature that had occurred for that individual to travel off the highway.

Now as I said before, Mr. Speaker, the 911 system is going to be moving from the purview of SaskTel, the Crown of SaskTel, to Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. And I understand that this, you know, may be done potentially to strengthen the system. I'm not really clear on that as I said. So I'm hoping that that is the purpose for the move, Mr. Speaker, and would

appreciate, as I said, to get some more clarification on this particular Bill.

Now the system as it existed, was certainly something that at the time, my understanding is, was state of the art. But obviously as technologies change and as our needs change and as population growth or decline changes, obviously, there are changes that need to be made to the system. And especially we're talking about, Mr. Speaker, areas of the province that are a little more isolated than other areas for instance. We want to ensure that these individuals and these citizens in those areas of the province have the same access to the emergency systems that we are able to enjoy, that anyone in the larger centres does for instance.

So in having this system move from SaskTel to Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, I certainly hope that that is the intention and that ends up being the outcome, that the system ends up being strengthened because obviously that would be something that everybody would be very happy to be able to take advantage of.

So, Mr. Speaker, the system that we currently have in place, as I said, has served us very well for the many years that we've enjoyed it. And the comfort level that people have had in terms of knowing that that is available for them to rely on is something that we can be very proud of as a province, given that we have a vast area in terms of the amount of land space that we have and given the lack of population in some of those areas, and certainly wanting to make sure that everyone has access to the system.

But my understanding is that we're replacing the FleetNet system. And the FleetNet system was something that was used for many years. And my understanding from talking to various service providers within the emergency services that we have in this province, they were very happy with the system as it stood. It was a system that was cost effective for them is what I'm told, and I'm certainly hoping that by replacing that system, that we don't remove the cost-effective aspect of the new service.

And, Mr. Speaker, if the new service is going to be of a more costly nature, then I would say that we'd have to be very cognizant of the fact that there are very limited resources that a lot of our municipalities and especially our remote ones, etc., that have the ability to pay for those services. So I'm certainly hopeful that the government is mindful of the fact there may need to be some attention given to the fact that people may not be able to afford an increased cost for the upgrade in this system.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the emergency 911 system is going to incorporate some other emergency systems, is what I'm understanding as well. So I'm looking forward to finding out some more of the details of this system in terms of what the Bill is trying to accomplish.

Now clearly once this Bill goes to committee, there can be some questions answered from the members of the opposition with respect to some more of the details within the Bill. So we're very fortunate that we have the committee structure to be able to use, to be able to answer the questions that we have on this particular Bill.

Now the Bill itself is fairly short and so therefore there aren't a lot of details attached to it. But we're wanting to make sure that all the concerns that we have and the things that we would like to see this Bill address with respect to the creation of this new system, that they are contained in the Bill itself because as I said, there isn't much detail to the Bill.

So contrary to what happened last night in supplementary estimates for instance, we're hoping that we can actually get the answers to the questions that we have on this Bill versus sidestepping the issues and asking for intervention from the Chair of the committee to be able to sidestep answering the questions that we have. I'm certainly hoping that won't be a repeat when we see this Bill go to committee, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm understanding that one of my colleagues would like to speak to this Bill as well this afternoon, so I'm going to take my place and allow one of my colleagues, the newly elected member for Saskatoon Riversdale, to make a few remarks as well.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to enter the debate and discuss the Act to amend the emergency 911 Act. Saskatchewan people being able to access emergency services when we need them, and wherever we may be, is critical. I think the opposition supports in principle this Bill, but you always have to make sure when you're making changes to any legislation or no matter what you're doing, that you get it right, that you talk to all the people on the ground for whom this will have a big impact.

The 911 system, myself, I actually have had to call 911 in my own life on a couple of occasions. One time . . . It wasn't here in Saskatchewan. It was in California and I was hiking and attacked, and someone had called 911 on my behalf. And so I know the need to use a 911 system and have the services there when something happens to you is absolutely critical.

I've also had the occasion to use it here in Saskatoon and the police responded very quickly. But it's very important that when you call 911 that the services that you need, whether it's fire, emergency medical services, or police, are able to respond.

So I understand that this Bill is moving the responsibility for the 911 system from SaskTel, the FleetNet system, under Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. And I understand this is supposed to strengthen the services. I hope that that's the case.

The opposition will . . . We are inclined to support the Bill but we are still consulting with emergency services providers and communities. We want to make sure that other jurisdictions who are using the system, what their experiences are all about.

So the bottom line is here in Saskatchewan, no matter where you are, whether you're in Assiniboia or La Loche, emergency services and being able to have quick access to them is critical. So I hope that in fact this Act will strengthen the 911 system, but we will be continuing to consult with people and for that reason we will support it in principle. But the jury's still out. So

with that, I'd like to now move this Bill to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is Bill No. 99 brought forward by the Minister Responsible for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act*, that it be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of government, I would like to designate that Bill No. 99, *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2009*, be directed to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has moved that Bill No. 99 be designated to the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Bill No. 116

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Draude that **Bill No. 116 — *The Traffic Safety (Drivers' Licences and Hand-held Electronic Communications Equipment) Amendment Act, 2009*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure this afternoon, after a number of good discussions we've had here on the floor of the legislature, it's a pleasure to join in on the discussion on Bill No. 116, legislation to do with traffic safety, Mr. Speaker. *The Traffic Safety (Drivers' Licences and Hand-held Electronic Communications Equipment) Amendment Act, 2009* — bit of a mouthful but an interesting piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

We've seen in Saskatchewan how prevalent and how commonly used cellphones are with all people here in the province. And this is something, Mr. Speaker, that has really come to the province over a period of time, and the popularity and the use of cellphones and hand-held devices has certainly increased.

Now this wasn't always the case here in Saskatchewan. I remember when I was a boy and my parents brought home the first cellphone that they had, and it was a rather large, clunky item. And perhaps some of the members here remember

carrying a briefcase just to hold their cellphone because they were so large at that time. And probably when those cellphones, those large cellphones were used at that time, I can imagine the difficulty that it would be to be driving an automobile with such a large, clunky phone.

But cellphones have changed over time. The size has decreased. The affordability of them has improved as well, and now we're at a state, Mr. Speaker, where many people here in the province use cellphones. And they use cellphones because it makes life easier for them. If we look in a global perspective, if you look at the use of cellphones, Saskatchewan people and actually Canadians in general studies show have been a bit slower coming on to the high use of cellphones.

But if we look in Europe, we look in Asia, other parts of the world, we see a very high use of cellphones, and that's for a variety of reasons. Sometimes the infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, the land line infrastructure in many of these countries was absent because it was a developing country or it was a poor country or it didn't have a tradition of strong Crown corporations like we do here in Saskatchewan where quality infrastructure is able to be built up over a period of time. So in certain countries, the use of cellphones skip that stage of land line infrastructure and just went straight to cellphones.

I remember during university I was doing a term abroad in Guatemala. And I remember seeing an indigenous woman and her daughter — not a wealthy person, a vendor in a market — had a Nokia phone that she pulled out and was sending text messages. And it seemed in many ways incongruent with the level of affluence the person had. But when you think about the absence of infrastructure in that country, it really was the most affordable option for the person, and it made life easier.

And I say that, Mr. Speaker, because it's the same principle that we see here in Saskatchewan where the use of cellphones makes life easier. It makes business flow more smoothly. It makes communication with our loved ones more frequent. I know probably all members here, when we're away from our home constituencies, we're BlackBerry messaging or doing other communications with our people back in our constituency — whether that's a constituent, whether that's our CA, and most importantly whether that's our loved ones, our significant other, back home. It's an easy way to stay in contact. It's an easy way to always get a hold of someone.

And we have a real dependency. There's almost an addiction, Mr. Speaker, with communication, with the use of cellphones. And it's an addiction, Mr. Speaker, because they're so convenient. They're so easy to use. They're so instant. And we have that connection with a loved one. We have that information about a business deal. We have that information about the goings-on that occur here in the Assembly.

More than once I've been sitting in the committee room in the basement, Mr. Speaker, and a colleague has been watching the proceedings at home, thinks of a good question to ask the minister. And in seconds that question is at your fingertips, and you can put that question to the minister. So there are many ways that this type of communication improves our life, improves our ability to get things done, and is a positive thing. So I make those comments about how much we like cellphones,

how much we like communication tools because, as I said, they can be addictive, Mr. Speaker, and people can use these tools perhaps at times when it's not exactly wise to do so.

Now there's various times when it's not wise to use cellphones. I know if I take my cellphone and put it on my nightstand beside the bed, my wife does not appreciate when the cellphone buzzes at 3 in the morning when someone sends me an email. So I've learned to not use a cellphone in that instance.

We see with vehicles, Mr. Speaker, though it might be convenient, though it might be tempting, though we may really want to use that cellphone, there are times perhaps where it's not appropriate to use that cellphone. And that's when . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . One of my colleagues says you shouldn't use a cellphone in the shower and I agree. That would be another instance, another occasion when you should leave the cellphone on the shelf, in the desk, in the pocket, and shower in peace, I suppose.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we're looking at the use of phones, there are instances when it's not appropriate to use the cellphone. And I think that's, Mr. Speaker, according to my understanding of this legislation, based on the comments of earlier members and reading the legislation and reading some of the media around it, that's where the motivation for this legislation takes place — the government taking the position that it's not appropriate for drivers to be using a hand-held communication device at the same time as driving. And the idea, the thinking being that individuals should focus on the road, focus on safety, and that's the safest approach.

And this is an approach, Mr. Speaker, that has been adopted in other jurisdictions around the country, around the world. I know my brother-in-law from Northern Ireland when I was over there visiting family wouldn't go anywhere near his cellphone when he was driving. If it buzzed, if the ringer went off, my sister would immediately pick up the phone and do the communication because of the fines and the restrictions in place in the United Kingdom about the use of cellphones.

So this legislation that we see here is coming out of a similar thought, that it's a safer and a proper way to conduct business. And so this legislation would bring in rules, as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, that would control the use of cellphones. It would require individuals to use a wireless earpiece or have a Bluetooth system within their vehicle. And I'll go on record, I'll let members know, that the other week I was given a Bluetooth earpiece and I was using it the other week, driving home to Saskatoon. Actually I think I remember talking to a colleague as I was using it. It was a bit tinny, Mr. Speaker, but it was still very good technology, and it made the communication work just fine and I was focusing on the road.

So in general, in principle, Mr. Speaker, I do see the merit of this type of legislation. But of course when you're looking at this type of legislation and the type of changes that occur, it's important, Mr. Speaker, that we hear from all the people that are included.

And it's my understanding that, in general, police officers are in favour of this type of legislation because they think it will improve safety. And I imagine police officers have this opinion

because they spend time of course on the streets in our cities and they've been to accident scenes where perhaps a cellphone has been involved, has been one factor contributing to the outcome of the accident. So I could see why they would be moving this type of legislation.

And there's been some polling and some opinion about this issue with the public. And that varies. There's been the informal anecdotal type of surveys and information that's received through a common section on a website.

For example, when CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] has a story up, individuals will put in comments. And it's interesting because some of the comments are strongly in favour saying, there's no way you can impose this kind of restriction. It's the state interfering with my personal life, and I've been using a cellphone just fine for a long time and have no problems. And other people say, no, this is appropriate. It's like a seatbelt law; it's a safer thing to do. It's an appropriate thing to do. It's a smart thing to do.

So there's a variety of opinion. And it'll be interesting to see with Saskatchewan people where everyone falls on this issue because it likely does vary because we live in a diverse province. The people have many different views.

There'll be some questions that we'll have on this Bill in terms of implementation and when police officers will be ready to enforce this law, Mr. Speaker. And so I know I'm not the first member in the Assembly to talk about this piece of legislation. I know many members in the Assembly have addressed and have touched on some of the similar ideas that have been discussed by myself.

But I think with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks by saying that in principle we're in favour of this, but we certainly do have certain questions around it and look forward to the opportunity to learn more. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will conclude my remarks, and this piece of legislation will be sent to committee.

The Speaker: — The motion before the committee is the motion by the Minister Responsible for Crown Investments that Bill No. 116, *The Traffic Safety (Drivers' Licences and Hand-held Electronic Communications Equipment) Amendment Act, 2009* be now read the second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of government, I wish to designate that Bill No. 116, *The Traffic Safety (Drivers' Licences and Hand-held Electronic Communications Equipment) Amendment Act, 2009* be directed to the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the Crown and Central Agencies Committee. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to have the committees have the time to do the important work of looking at these two Bills and to do supplementary estimates this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved that in order to accommodate the working of committee, this House do now stand adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:42.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Wall	3765
Lingenfelter	3765, 3766
Michelson	3765
Chartier	3766
Bjornerud	3766
Duncan	3766
Morgan	3766
Brkich	3778

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Harper	3766
Vermette	3766
Brotten	3766
Morin	3767
Iwanchuk	3767
Taylor	3767
Wotherspoon	3767

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Recognizing Lorne Scott	
Morin	3767
The Grinches and the Whos	
Bradshaw	3768
Children's Discovery Museum	
Chartier	3768
The Seat Belt Challenge	
Ottobreit	3768
University of Regina's Alumni Crowning Achievement Awards	
McCall	3769
Policy Renewal	
Schriemer	3769
Consecration of Chaldean Catholic Parish in Saskatoon	
Atkinson	3769

QUESTION PERIOD

Management of Provincial Economy	
Lingenfelter	3769
Wall	3770
Consideration of Supplementary Estimates	
Lingenfelter	3771
Wall	3771
Efficiency Secretariat	
Wotherspoon	3772
Gantfoer	3772
Employment and Training Issues	
Brotten	3773
Norris	3773

POINT OF ORDER

D'Autremont	3774
Lingenfelter	3774

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 119 — <i>The Ticket Sales Act</i>	
Morgan	3774
Bill No. 120 — <i>The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2009</i>	
Gantfoer	3774

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker	3775
-------------------	------

MOTION UNDER RULE 59

Separate and Distinct Sitting of the Legislative Assembly	
Lingenfelter	3775

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Weekes	3775
--------------	------

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 117 — *The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act*

Heppner	3775
Higgins	3776

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 99 — *The Emergency 911 System Amendment Act, 2009*

McCall	3779
Morin	3781
Chartier	3783
Krawetz (referral to committee)	3783

Bill No. 116 — *The Traffic Safety (Drivers' Licences and Hand-held Electronic Communications Equipment) Amendment Act, 2009*

Brotten	3783
Krawetz (referral to committee)	3785

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier
President of the Executive Council

Hon. Bob BJORNERUD
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Bill BOYD
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for Uranium Development
Partnership
Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Research Council

Hon. Ken CHEVELDAYOFF
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. June DRAUDE
Minister Responsible for Crown Investments
Corporation
Provincial Secretary
Minister Responsible for Information Technology Office
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin DUNCAN
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport

Hon. Rod GANTEFOER
Minister of Finance
Government House Leader

Hon. Donna HARPauer
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Jeremy HARRISON
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Hon. Nancy HEPPNER
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Bill HUTCHINSON
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. D.F. (Yogi) HUYGHEBAERT
Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

Hon. Ken KRAWETZ
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education

Hon. Don McMORRIS
Minister of Health

Hon. Don MORGAN
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Rob NORRIS
Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. James REITER
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Christine TELL
Minister of Government Services
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Capital Commission