



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

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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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
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, 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, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. 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
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. 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, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, 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
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

**SPECIAL ORDER**  
**ADDRESS IN REPLY**

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The time being 7 o'clock, this House is now in session. The member from Indian Head-Milestone had the floor. I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It certainly is a privilege to finish off my comments regarding the Speech from the Throne. I had an opportunity before supper, from about 10 to 5 to 5 o'clock, to talk about my constituency and the wonderful work that my assistant and all the people in my life do to allow me to be, number one, the member from Indian Head-Milestone, and number two, the Minister of Health.

What I want to talk about now is more of the substance of the Speech from the Throne, and in particular talk a little bit about the issues around health care. We know that on any given poll that health care ranks number one in people's minds. It has for many years and continues to be an issue that is number one in people's minds.

However with all the media attention that potash is getting — and not that I mind all the media attention that potash is getting — I would think that the potash issue may be ranking right up there with health care. And really, the absolutely marvellous job that our Premier has done handling that file, along with help from the Energy minister and the Minister of Enterprise. They've handled that file very, very well.

And it's been interesting to watch the opposition trying to get into that story. Not sure how they could get in, but they're trying their hardest to try and get part of that media cycle, to get some attention in the province. Unfortunately it hasn't worked very well for them.

But what I do want to talk about is the issues around health care and just some of the highlights of the Speech from the Throne and what we've talked about in health care. One of the areas that was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne definitely was in our platform, was the issue around a health care ombudsman. That will be moved forward. It will be a health care ombudsman within the office of the current Ombudsman, Kevin Fenwick, an excellent Ombudsman for the province, a third party, an arm's-length officer that does great work for the province. He handles health care issues already. It makes sense that we would incorporate that within his office, and we look forward to that office being open and running.

I think it's important. It was never the case in the old Saskatchewan under the NDP [New Democratic Party] that somebody could complain about health care that wasn't complaining to somebody within the health care system. And that's the whole point of a health care ombudsman. If they have some concerns or complaints about the health care system, they can do that complaining outside of the current health care system in the Office of the Ombudsman. And so we're certainly

looking forward to that.

And what I would say to that, like so many other issues that we have put forward in the platform, another promise made, another promise kept, Mr. Speaker. Another promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, another issue that was very prominent — and certainly the former Finance minister talked about it — is the \$200 million that have gone to the Saskatoon Health Region to move the children's hospital forward. I think there is a huge contrast with all the issues I'm going to talk about with health care; a huge contrast with the old Saskatchewan, what the NDP used to do.

Here's what the NDP used to do when they'd announce funding for a hospital, for a facility. They would go to Preeceville, and they would make announcement after announcement after announcement about a new hospital in Preeceville and never build it. And you know when they would really make a lot of announcements is just before the next election. In fact the former minister of Health, the minister from Lakeview, would not only have himself there, but he would have the . . .

[Interjections]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Would the member from Athabasca come to order. I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, not only would the former Health minister be there to make the announcement, he would make sure the candidate for the area — not the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for the area — the candidate was there from the area to make this announcement. It was all about politics. It was all about announcements, and they never got it done.

Under our government, we've got Preeceville hospital done. They did the same thing in Humboldt. Humboldt they announced and they announced. We've brought those projects ahead and built, Mr. Speaker. Words on that side; action on this side, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that is the same thing around the children's hospital. I would say that there'll be shovels in the ground and construction on that site next summer, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Under the previous government, they would talk about it. And I can't imagine, if they had seven years to announce the Preeceville hospital at \$30 million or \$20 million, how many years of announcements they would have on a \$200 million project, Mr. Speaker — well into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a lot of time so I want to talk a little bit about the nursing recruitment that we've done in our province. In the old Saskatchewan under the NDP, they would say, we don't want to set a target for the amount of nurses we're going to attract in the province. Why? Because we'd never meet it. That was the old Saskatchewan.

In the new Saskatchewan under this Saskatchewan Party government, we set a bold goal. We said we would attract and hire 800 more nurses within the first four years of our

government. The opposition said nothing until the election campaign. Then they thought they'd jump on that bandwagon and try and set a target, except the minister, former minister from North Battleford, said we can't set targets because we'd never meet them.

Mr. Speaker, we set the target. And not only did we meet the target, we surpassed the target. As of about two months ago, 830 more nurses working in the province in the first three years of our government even though we said it would take us four years. We succeeded and surpassed even the targets that we set, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about nurse training seats. Under the NDP, for many years they dropped the number of nurse training seats. Dropped the number of nurse training seats, and then for the strangest reason in the last couple years couldn't figure out why there was a nursing shortage. Mr. Speaker, it becomes of no surprise that when you don't train enough nurses in your province, you're not going to have enough nurses in your province. Mr. Speaker, we told the public of Saskatchewan in the election campaign we'd increase the number of nurse training seats by 300 in Saskatchewan within the next four years, Mr. Speaker. Promise made; promise kept.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many different areas. We could talk about physician recruitment. Why don't we talk about physician recruitment, Mr. Speaker? It's a major issue on the opposition benches. In fact I heard the opposition critic say today through the media that she has been around about 52 rural communities. And in those 52 rural communities, Mr. Speaker, do you know how many people she talked to? Hold it. I think opposition benches want to hear this. Do you know how many people she's talked to in the 52 communities? Hundreds of thousands of people she talked to. Hundreds of thousands. I want to tell the opposition critic there's about 40,000 people working in the health care field, and she's talked to hundreds of thousands of people throughout rural Saskatchewan in those communities. Pretty interesting, Mr. Speaker.

Physician recruitment is a priority to our government, and we've made great strides. Whether it's in Hudson Bay, whether it's in Nipawin, whether it's in Redvers, whether it's in Leader — those are all hot spots, Mr. Speaker — we've worked hard to make sure that we're working to increase the number of physicians working in those communities. And we've done that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, but listen: in the old Saskatchewan we had 60 training seats for the College of Medicine and we had 60 residency positions — the smallest medical college this side of Newfoundland. This side of Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, the smallest college of medicine. But not only was it the smallest college of medicine, the College of Medicine went under probation because the NDP funded it . . . lacked funding to go to that College of Medicine. We were in danger of losing our College of Medicine in Saskatchewan under the NDP.

In the old NDP, 60 training seats for the College of Medicine; under the new government, the new Saskatchewan, 100 training seats for the College of Medicine. Under the old Saskatchewan, 60 residency positions, Mr. Speaker; under the new Saskatchewan, 120. We are moving forward and making sure

we have the proper health care professionals in this province, something that the NDP could have cared less about, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have developed a physician recruitment agency. Little did I know that under the NDP, under the old Saskatchewan, no physician recruitment agency. Most every other province in Canada had a physician recruitment agency. Under the new Saskatchewan, we hired Ed Mantler, have a strong physician recruitment agency board, made up of SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], of SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], of many individuals working hard to make sure we have the proper complement, not only in urban Saskatchewan which is all the seats, some of the seats that they represent, but also in rural Saskatchewan, none of the seats they represent, Mr. Speaker. We're working hard to do that.

We're also working hard to make sure that we have a new assessment process, an assessment process that will not only accept physicians from seven countries around the world, Mr. Speaker, that eventually will accept college of medicine students from the world into our province to take the residency positions, to take the assessment within our province, Mr. Speaker, and if they're successful, be able to practise in Saskatchewan. That's a huge paradigm shift from the old Saskatchewan to the new Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've also increased the number of addiction beds in our province, continuing to increase the number of addiction beds, Mr. Speaker — a lot of work being done there. I certainly had the privilege to join the member from P.A. Carlton, P.A. Carlton up in Prince Albert on Friday as we tried to put a spade in the ground. It had been 10 below in Prince Albert for the last two days — tough to put a spade in the ground for a sod-turning — but regardless, Mr. Speaker, that project will be going forward. An extra 12 addiction beds for youth in this province — something the NDP never did, Mr. Speaker. We take action instead of just saying the words like the NDP did.

Mr. Speaker, but most importantly . . . My time is wearing short here. I want to . . . Or do they want me to go on longer? I would certainly go on longer.

One of the proudest moments I think that members from either side of the House, even though I haven't heard a word from the members on that side of the House, one of the proudest moments that I think our province should take regarding health care and the leadership role that we have taken in health care under our government . . . It has been a long time since I think places around, across Canada, could look at Saskatchewan as being a leader in health care. It certainly didn't happen under 16 years of NDP government.

But I think that people across the province and across Canada are looking at Saskatchewan as taking the leadership role on the MS [multiple sclerosis] file, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier moved this file forward when perhaps no other premier was ready to move it forward, that no other minister of Health across Canada was ready to move it forward.

Our government had looked at the issue around MS and the CCSVI [chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency] process,

liberation treatment that Dr. Paolo Zamboni was looking at over in Italy. And people were going from Canada, from Saskatchewan to many countries across the world now that are offering this treatment, and are taking it. Mr. Speaker, there is no responsible government in Canada, any provincial government that would be responsible to say we're going to cover this treatment without the proper science. But how does the science get done unless you have the leadership from a province, unless you have the leadership from the Premier, which we certainly have had in our province as we move this file forward, Mr. Speaker.

I find it quite frankly astonishing that the opposition hasn't had a word to say about this, haven't had a positive word to say as we move the clinical trials for MS liberation treatment forward in this province, taking a leadership role — something that this province hasn't done for far too long under the NDP government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that's 15 minutes of the positive things on the Speech from the Throne just on health care. I could certainly go on much longer on many other issues that are very, very positive. And that is really just touching the highlights in health care. There are so many other things that we could talk about.

Certainly the long-term care issue has been in front of the question period over the last couple days. It's interesting that under the NDP over the last five years of their term, they were closing about on average 26 to 27 long-term care beds a year per year over the last five years of their government. And now you hear the opposition critic stand up and say, my heavens, they're closing five in Wawota. And not that that isn't a serious issue — it absolutely is — but how could she stand in her place and say one thing about how bad it is what we're doing, and they did 26 to 27 beds a year for five years in the last five years of their government, Mr. Speaker? As Lewis Draper would say, it's pure hypocrisy. Pure hypocrisy, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'll be so glad to support the Speech from the Throne, and I'll be rejecting any amendment that that tired old NDP would ever put forward.

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

[19:15]

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is certainly a pleasure to enter into the discussion surrounding the Throne Speech — I must say a very good Throne Speech, a very forward-looking Throne Speech, a Throne Speech that will serve the people of this province very well. There's a number of new initiatives. Some of the speakers before, particularly on the government side of the House, have outlined some of the initiatives. I'd like to join with them in touching on some, and perhaps there's one or two that so far haven't been mentioned, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This is my 12th Throne Speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And as members of this Assembly know and particularly veteran members of this Assembly know that this is a time when one can say the thank yous to the people that you need to thank and make comments about your constituency and general policy

and issues surrounding the province.

What I would like to do first, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is congratulate the member from Saskatoon Northwest on his victory and welcome him and send a welcome to him to our side of the House. I'm sure he will enjoy his time here, his long time here. And I know, as he mentioned in his maiden speech, that he and his family certainly realize some of the sacrifices that we as elected members have to make, and he's certainly prepared to do that with his long service in city council and the boards of education. So once again I would say welcome.

I would also like to thank my wife, Marlene, and our family for their continuing support, the people of Last Mountain-Touchwood for their continuing support. I was at a fall fair in the small community of Kelliher on Friday afternoon and evening and I must say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reception there was very warm and welcoming, and that's always a good thing when you're an elected member, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The staff in my constituency office who serve the constituents in a very effective and efficient manner, and they certainly keep me on track and get me going in the right direction, and I'd like to say thank you to both Caroline and Sandra.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I have to summarize the summer of 2010, I would call it the summer of challenge, both in the constituency and in our family. I don't have to explain to members of this Assembly the challenges that agriculture had in this growing season. I think we're all familiar with it. And Last Mountain-Touchwood being a rural, largely a rural constituency — although we have an area along the Last Mountain Lake and the Qu'Appelle Valley that we refer to as our suburban part of our constituency — but by and large, at least in area, it's a very rural constituency, with the largest town of Strasbourg being some 800-plus people.

So the conditions for agriculture in this growing season, there was basically three areas of the constituency that suffered varying degrees of challenges. The southern third, by and large, the producers got most of their crops sowed and there was certainly subsequent flooding with the heavy rains in June, July, and August.

The central third, I would say perhaps, one-half to two-thirds of the crop land got sowed. And then there's, particularly in the northeast corner centred around in the area between Ituna and the east boundary of the constituency, the small community of Jedburgh where you could drive along Highway 52 for a number of miles, and I did that in the middle of June, and you wouldn't see one field that was sowed. What you would see is ruts filled with water and so on. And it was a real struggle for those producers.

And then of course we know of the harvest challenges with harvest being a month late with the excessive rains in August, late August and September, downgrading some of the crops. And there was real concern, I recall, all across the province and I know on this side of the House in mid-September, whether the harvest would be completed this year. And I never lost faith in our producers, and being one of those producers along with one of my sons who is the farm manager and operator and will soon be the owner of our farm.

The producers of this province got the job done when in September they harvested what they could. And when the good weather came along near the end of September, they were all ready to go and the last crop report I believe is 99 per cent. We're actually even above the five-year average and that's a real tribute to the men and women in agriculture and in crop production in this province, Mr. Speaker.

I mentioned that our family had some challenges this summer but we also now — Marlene and myself — look at some of the opportunities that are being presented to us with the raising of our two granddaughters. And we certainly will be meeting that challenge and I must say we have some interesting times in our household these days.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I would like to do is, just going back to agriculture for a moment, is just make note, and it's already been mentioned, of the quick and effective response led by our Minister of Agriculture to the excessive moisture that we had. And I heard over and over again, and still continue to hear it from producers and families in the province, how thankful they are for the programs that were put in place to assist them.

We have a bit of an issue in an area, a small area of the province, with the beef producers, and the Minister of Agriculture as late as this Friday said that he is looking at it in a serious way to see if some support can be found for those beef producers.

There are a number of issues in Last Mountain-Touchwood that are not uncommon to other areas of the province. And one of them I continue to be surprised by is the requests for child care spaces in our small communities. And the latest community that I heard from was last Friday evening when I was visiting this trade fair in the community of Kelliher, some 400 people. And I must say I need to congratulate those volunteers and those good people of that community who put on year after year just an excellent trade fair, the only one that I'm aware of in at least the east central part of the province. It's well attended, well organized. And there's a group of young people there who are very organized, have done their homework, and are working towards establishing a daycare. They've been in touch with the appropriate officials within our government, and I talked to them for some time last Friday evening and offered any assistance that my office could help them with in making this a reality.

And the reason that there's a need for a daycare in our small community is because we have young families staying in the community, moving out to the communities, finding that rural Saskatchewan is a great place to raise their children. Some of the young families that are moving to our communities are people who haven't had really any previous ties to rural Saskatchewan but find that housing and the other amenities make it attractive. So it's not really a surprise to see that a request for daycare is coming forward from some of these communities.

I'll only mention a couple of issues within the constituency dealing with health care because our Minister of Health dealt so adequately with them just before I stood up. What I will mention is our government's new initiative, the Saskatchewan physician recruitment agency, something that has been long

overdue in the community and in my constituency of Lestock who has been looking to recruit a physician to their community. I'm sure we'll find . . . I know that they already have received some assistance in their search and are grateful for this new initiative.

There are a couple of highways in Last Mountain-Touchwood that have been an ongoing issue. They've been an ongoing issue for the last 10 years. We have been able to make some progress on rehabilitating Highway 310, but there's still a lot of work to be done. And certainly the Minister of Highways is fully aware of the situation, but it's not the only highway in this province that needs work. There was quite a big pothole left by the previous administration over a number of years and with the changes in transportation have only exasperated some of the poor condition of some of our highways.

But I am pleased to be able to tell the people of the Last Mountain constituency, particularly those people in Ituna and Balcarres with regards to Highway 310 and those people in Earl Grey along Highway 22, a highway that was turned back to gravel some six or seven years ago, that those two — Highway 310 and that section of No. 22 Highway — have been added to the five-year rolling plan and are scheduled for upgrades. And I'm sure it's maybe not as fast as the residents of those areas would like to see, but we are making progress, and I'm sure we will see some significant progress in the next few years.

Now to talk about some of the initiatives in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. One of the ones that I would certainly be remiss if I didn't address is the announcement of the shock trauma air rescue service or STARS, a service to this province when it's fully incorporated to our emergency services program. And it already is. It's been very well received in rural Saskatchewan. I believe it's well received by most of the citizens of this province because certainly it will be most effective in rural Saskatchewan. And so therefore you would think that rural residents will be the major benefactors, but not necessarily so.

Anyone who travels our vast network of highways and should be in need of emergency medical services, particularly a trauma situation, will have this flying emergency room available to them. And I know the people of this province are very thankful that our government is taking this initiative. And you should congratulate the member from Melfort for all the good work he did on leading on this initiative.

Another initiative of the Throne Speech talks about educational outcomes for First Nation and Métis students. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, education I believe is one of the single most important initiatives we as a government can do to help all children in our province and particularly First Nations and Métis students because there is . . . Certainly the outcomes aren't where they need to be and particularly in those communities.

And so with the announcement in the Throne Speech on another initiative to help address those poorer outcomes, I think it is incumbent upon all leaders in this province, whether they be First Nations leaders, whether they be Métis leaders, whether they sit on the government side of the House or sit on the opposition side of the House, this is something that we all need to work collaboratively together to make sure and strive to help our children, the children of this province, to be the best that

they can be in whatever it is they decide to endeavour themselves in. And I know a number of current and past First Nations leaders refer to education as their new buffalo, the key to unlocking the future for our children. And education will play a key role in bringing the various groups within our province and within our society together to make this province a much stronger province.

There was also mention in the Throne Speech about encouraging and requiring our students to have 30 minutes of exercise each school day. And we may think, particularly if your family has been away from school and so on — and perhaps you don't have any young children in your family, whether they be your own or grandchildren — that children get a lot of exercise during the day. But they certainly don't get as much exercise as is required for good health because they have so many other distractions nowadays, whether it be the Internet, whether it be the electronic games, TV. And statistics are showing that there is a problem with obesity that's growing within our school-aged children, and particularly within our First Nations children.

[19:30]

And one of the not-so-desirable side effects of the increase in obesity is the ever-increasing type 2 diabetes. And so certainly 30 minutes of exercise isn't going to cure all of that, but it is certainly going to be a help, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Also in the Throne Speech there was mention of the energy efficiency program, EnerGuide, which in the current fiscal year our government put an additional \$9.4 million towards that program, even though the federal government suspended their partner program, ecoENERGY. And that program helped homeowners make their homes more efficient by reducing their energy needs.

Along that same line, as far as so-called green initiatives, there's mention of increasing wind power, in fact doubling it by 2015 to 400 megawatts, which will present opportunities for, of course, large wind farm operations but also small wind power initiatives through the net metering program that is already in place, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I've always had an interest in energy efficiency, reducing the use of energy, various programs that are in place, you know, within other provinces, other parts of Canada, across North America, and so on. And there's a general perception, I believe, that if you're going to become so-called more green, it's going to cost more money and you're going to lose efficiencies. And this I believe is not factual.

And I would just briefly like to mention the Banner Bank Building in Boise, Idaho. I had an opportunity two summers ago when I attended the PNWER [Pacific NorthWest Economic Region] conference in Boise, Idaho to tour the Banner Bank Building. It was one of their conference tours. I had really no idea when I signed up for it what it was all about. You know, I wondered why they would be having a tour to a bank building.

Well it didn't take too long to find out. In fact, when we arrived — well before we got there — our tour guide said, well the reason we're going to the Banner Bank Building is because it is

one of the few buildings in the world that has, in its construction and operation, has achieved the platinum LEED [leadership in energy and environmental design] designation, which is, for those people who are familiar with the LEED designation, it's a system, a number of criteria that builders of buildings need to meet in order to receive various designations starting with a bronze, silver, gold, and of course then platinum being the top designation. And we were very fortunate to have the owner of the building give us the tour of his building and explain what they did during the construction to achieve this prestigious designation.

And basically — I won't go into very much detail — but basically what they did is they really, the architects and the engineers and so on, when tasked with this idea of achieving a platinum LEED designation, they really didn't have to develop a lot of new techniques. Basically what they did is used existing construction techniques and modified them and were able to achieve pretty amazing results.

Well the bottom line is that they were able to build and operate a very energy-efficient, user-friendly building. And the owner and builder of the building, he said he got interested in energy conservation, but he's an investor, he said. And his first thought is and his first goal is to achieve a good rate of return, which he told us at the end of the presentation that he was achieving in two years of operation a 27 per cent return on his investment.

And in fact there was a documentary made of the construction of his building and it was actually nominated for an Academy Award, and I think the title of that documentary pretty well sums up I believe what a lot of people do not understand about being energy-efficient. The title of the documentary was *Green Is the Color of Money*, and if you think about it, it's a pretty potent message, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So I would like to say that with our small initiatives in our budget, but important initiatives, to increase wind power, to continue to find a new program to replace EnerGuide, plus all the other things that we have done in our three years of our mandate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think we are certainly headed in the right direction.

Now I would be remiss if I didn't just very briefly touch on the topic of today, and that is this whole potash issue. And there's some speculation I understand this evening that perhaps we could see a federal decision on this issue as early as tomorrow. I was reading a *Toronto Star* item on the Internet where there's speculation in Ottawa that the minister may announce a decision, a federal government decision as early as tomorrow after the markets close.

And I listened carefully to the debate last Thursday when we were debating the motion put before this House, and I must say that I was somewhat disappointed in particularly some of the members opposite when the Premier was speaking and members were chirping from their seats that . . . calling the Premier, Captain Canada, and that he is wrapping himself in the flag and that sort of thing. I don't believe that it served those members very well. And I think that in the future, they may want to reconsider some of their comments from their seats, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Potash, as some of the speakers from that side — not all — recognize that this is a very strategic resource that this province is blessed with. All you need to do is get on the Internet and have a look at some of the statistics, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If you understand anything at all about plant growth and have even a very introductory knowledge of mineral nutrients and the role they play in plant growth, you will see how strategic our potash reserves are to this province and to this country, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

One of the sources on the Internet that I looked at this afternoon as far as the rankings of countries, as far as production and reserves — and I'm not going to talk about the production because that can vary with different market conditions — but the reserve base, the known reserve bases, Canada leads the list of countries. We're miles ahead of any other country. And we all know, or at least we should know in this House, that Saskatchewan has 90, 95-plus per cent of the reserves in Canada. This source that I'm looking at which comes from . . . well I believe it's actually a federal government site, indicates that Saskatchewan has 11 billion tonnes of reserve.

The next country closest to Canada is Belarus at 2.2 billion. The list that I'm looking at, the total known reserves according to this information is 18 billion tonnes. So if Canada has 11 billion tonnes it is certainly . . . I don't see how anyone could argue that this isn't a strategic resource that we have in our province. And I believe we should be on the same page in making sure that the people of this province and the people of Canada maintain control of the mining capacity and work with companies who have the same goals as we have.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I realize my time is up. But what I would like to conclude is, I think we are going to see some very interesting times in the next few days here with a decision coming from the federal government, whatever that may be. And I would say in conclusion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I will certainly be supporting the main motion and not supporting the amendment.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's a privilege this evening to be able to join in the debate on the Speech from the Throne.

But before I begin, along with the rest of my colleagues, I know I want to welcome the new member from Saskatoon Northwest. I know the House is a bit of a shock the first couple days you are here — just a wee bit. The protocol, and I guess the added responsibilities that we take on and the different responsibilities that we have as an MLA in our home constituency, it is a bit of an adjustment to be here. But I offer him a warm welcome and I know that he will enjoy his time here.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a minute just to pass along to my office staff in Moose Jaw, Stacey and Charlene, a very warm thank you for all the work that they do keeping the constituency office running and providing service to people right across Moose Jaw — and from some areas surrounding Moose Jaw, people will stop in. They work hard. They do a very good job, and whenever I'm in Regina I'm comfortable to

know that the people in Moose Jaw are being well looked after and represented by my office. So thank you very much to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a privilege to represent Moose Jaw Wakamow. It is a great community that is moving forward, building on not only our historical assets that have become world renowned over the last number of years, but also we are a city that's meeting the challenges of growing and moving forward.

And I know the member from Moose Jaw North commented on a few areas of the city. I'd like to thank him for commenting on areas that are in Moose Jaw Wakamow. But the new soccer centre is now open, which is an initiative that began under the previous government. It's open for business now. And the Multiplex is well on its way; it's on schedule and being built and it will be a great addition to our downtown core. And Main Street, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is as active as ever, and we are welcoming new businesses and welcoming newcomers to our city.

And when I think of newcomers coming to the city of Moose Jaw, I have to comment on the soccer team from Central. Many new Canadians that played soccer in their country of origin now living in Moose Jaw decided they would put a soccer team into the provincial round of championships, and they ended up in the bronze medal game, Mr. Speaker. They've been together for a month. Ray Rawlyk was their coach and he kind of took it on as a good project even though he isn't a soccer expert by any means. And I want to offer them congratulations because, as Mr. Rawlyk said today on the radio, soccer is something that these young students know. It is something that's familiar to them and if it makes them feel more at home here in Moose Jaw and at the school that they are currently attending, then it's a very good endeavour and something that should be expanded upon.

Moose Jaw is, though, going through a number of difficulties. And I have to say, within the next week we'll see the final closure of the XL Beef plant which has been a part of Moose Jaw for many, many years. Was Canada Packers, was the Western Canadian Beef Packers, moved to XL Beef and it has been officially shut down. Its employees were locked out for well over a year in a labour dispute. And, Mr. Speaker, this really brings to an end a plant that's been a big part of our community, and it's the end of 200 good jobs in our community that are now gone.

Now of course the Thunder Creek Pork plant will be opening, but it would have been much better to see both plants operating at full capacity, not one sort of replacing the job loss in another area. It would have been better for employees and the citizens in our city, would have been better for livestock producers across the province, and for sure better for the city of Moose Jaw.

[19:45]

Now, Mr. Speaker, kind of on with the comments of more to the Speech from the Throne. When I look at the Speech from the Throne, first off when I sat in this legislature and listened to it, one of the first things I look at is the travelling that I have done over the summer and I know my colleagues have done



across the province, the constituents I have met with in Moose Jaw and in other communities. I think of the issues that they have brought up to me — areas where our city is lacking, our province may be lacking. But I always look for those issues to see what's being addressed in the Speech from the Throne and what initiatives may have an impact not only on Moose Jaw Wakamow constituents but others that I have met across the province.

And I really have to say that I . . . I'm sorry to say, really, that it was a very uninspiring speech and it was definitely lacking any type of vision for the province or for the future of the province. And none of the issues that we've heard mentioned so often around the province or at home were mentioned at all in the Throne Speech.

So it doesn't look like there's going to be much addressed. And much of those issues seem to be left untended by this government. Now I don't know whether they're just not hearing those concerns or whether they have different priorities.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other things that I always do when I look at either a budget speech or a Speech from the Throne, I go through with my handy-dandy markers. And I mark what are commitments that are repeated, what's new, what's kind of in the middle. And, Mr. Speaker, to be generous in my counting of the initiatives, I would say that in the Speech from the Throne delivered last week, there was 42 items that were repeated. There were at the outside, at the outside — and I was generous when I did my count — there were 17 that were new, and possibly seven changes that may be made in legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, while the Premier talked about this new road, I thought back to the Speech from the Throne a couple of years ago when he said, no more next year country. We're this year country:

For as long as I can remember, people have called our province "Next Year Country."

Today, I'm pleased to report that in our Saskatchewan, next year has arrived.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the whole Speech from the Throne was looking through the rear-view mirror. So I don't know. It's not much of a new road. And I believe it was the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* that talked about, and I quote, "Wall's new road is pothole-ridden." And I think one of the paragraphs out of that editorial really hit the mark. And I'll quote:

Too much of the throne speech, which is meant to outline the government's legislative actions for the coming year, is devoted to boasting about its accomplishments over the past year, while there's little that tells Saskatchewan residents what awaits them in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, 42 repeated commitments, 17 possible new ones that are pretty vague in some instances, and seven pieces of legislation. That's what we're looking at for a vision of the province.

Mr. Speaker, I know many of my colleagues have commented on the whole issue of potash, and it has been front and centre

not only in this province, but across Canada and in other areas of the world. And the situation with potash is much like this Throne Speech in that it sends some very mixed messages.

The Premier and many of his ministers have travelled across the world — China, Europe, right across Canada, in the United States. And they have talked about the opportunities here in Saskatchewan, which is true. They have invited foreign investment and talked about open markets. And, Mr. Speaker, now that it's here, now that we have this huge deal that is a possibility and is sitting in limbo while we wait for a decision from the federal government, but now that it's here — and maybe it's in a form or in a deal that was somewhat larger than what the Premier or any of his ministers may have expected or envisioned — they don't seem quite sure what to do with it.

And I know the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood was somewhat critical of our comments. But, Mr. Speaker, you need to have some open minds when you're looking at this issue. We need to look at all the options and all the possibilities that are out there. And if the member is quite willing to sit back and accept what the Premier says at face value, I know there are many others that are critical thinkers and need to look beyond that and be prepared for what might ever come of this.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think some people have even talked about the Premier's conversion to socialism in his defence of the potash industry. Now, Mr. Speaker, it's nice to see that he's come to our way of thinking that the resources of this province need to be protected, and that the government does have a definite role in guarding the resources that belong to the people of Saskatchewan and making sure that there is a fair return for the people on the resources that they own. It's too bad he wasn't thinking like that in 1989. But, Mr. Speaker, we'll carry on, and we'll look at the decisions that are here.

Many believe the Premier has come to the New Democratic way of thinking on resources. And it's going to be interesting to see how this plays out and how exactly it's handled over the next short period of time. But, Mr. Speaker, I can remember quite clearly a number of speeches in this House from members opposite when they were in opposition. They used to get up and just rant and rave about the Crown corporations, how many Crown corporations there were. Well the member from Wood River is nodding his head. He can remember a few of those speeches.

But you know what, Mr. Speaker? There is more Crown corporations now, after this group has been in government, than what there was under an NDP government. It's true. Yes, it's true, Mr. Speaker. So while they ranted and raved about them before, they just love this setup and they have created more. So maybe, Mr. Speaker, this conversion to socialism isn't so unusual. Maybe it should have been expected, Mr. Speaker. But we'll just have to keep an eye on it.

So, Mr. Speaker, not only is the way the government is dealing with potash, some of the comments that have been made, the way they are increasing the number of Crown corporations, a bit unusual for what one would have expected from a free market welcoming . . . free marketers welcoming foreign investment, there's a couple of other very mixed messages that are in this Throne Speech. And, Mr. Speaker, I just want to

touch on a couple of those.

One of the initiatives that's highlighted in the Speech from the Throne which is new, sort of, talks about ensuring children in our province get exercise. And that's interesting, Mr. Speaker, because while there is guidelines in the Department of Education which have been there for many years, they're highlighting those, but also talking about a school challenge to healthy kids. And, Mr. Speaker, it's a very good initiative, but when we look back at the last budget, what did we see that the SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] recreation and tourism management class was cut in half.

So here we have municipalities and communities right across the province that sent letters to the minister. And I'll quote from this letter, and it says:

A large percentage of graduates from the recreation and tourism management program are working in rural settings. These graduates are important to rural recreation and tourism service delivery including economic development, social community development, and environmental awareness. Employers will only be able to hire graduating recreation leaders every second year under this new intake process.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health just got up and ranted and raved about you can't cut the seats and expect there not to be a shortage. And, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what they have done with this program. You can't cut the number of recreational tourism activity people that are out in communities and then say, well we're going to increase the opportunities for students. It just doesn't fly.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we look at the whole issue of looking at creating more parks in the province of Saskatchewan. Well and this is interesting, Mr. Speaker, after we just went through the whole issue last session of opening up 3.5 million acres of Crown land under *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* to be offered for sale. Well, Mr. Speaker, parks, wildlife, habitat, it all goes together. People who enjoy the outdoors, who appreciate outdoors, appreciate the wildlife and the habitat in the province of Saskatchewan. But, Mr. Speaker, it's like, well we're selling off this land because we feel we could use the money, but we'll maybe look at opening up some new parks. Mr. Speaker, mixed messages. Very mixed messages in this budget.

Now the other thing that really jumped out at me was, part of the Throne Speech speaks to why this government is committed to improving educational outcomes for our First Nations and Métis students. Well that's fine, Mr. Speaker, and it's a good goal to have and something that is ongoing and needs to be worked at. But, Mr. Speaker, this government just canned the Aboriginal employment development program. And when you speak to anyone that was involved in this program, they speak highly of it. In fact other provinces were looking at this program, putting in place programs that moved Aboriginal First Nations employees into employment in our province.

It built an understanding, built a process where people were fit into jobs where they had the qualifications for. It just moved

our whole society forward. And, Mr. Speaker, you need to have these type of programs to make sure that there are opportunities and to make sure that the appropriate people are fitting into the jobs and the openings when they occur.

So when we have a program, when other provinces are looking at it, when we have other provinces appreciating the work that has gone on in this province and then this government cuts it and says, well gee, we've got some work to do in this area, and we'll just have to see what happens.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there was two things. I know my colleague from North Battleford also spoke of the lack of comment on housing in the Speech from the Throne. I know there is a commitment to 1,000 affordable units to be built with the private sector over the next five years. Well, Mr. Speaker, the wait-list currently in Moose Jaw is almost 200 for public housing and affordable housing. What happens to them? This government in no way talked about renters. It in no way talks about public housing. And, Mr. Speaker, are these people just to wait? Have the government members not heard these concerns? Have they felt that they aren't real?

I can give you many, many emails where constituents of mine talk about their rent increasing 100 per cent. And when you end up with rents jumping like that, when you have rents increasing so that senior citizens on a limited income are spending more than half their rent purely to cover the cost of accommodation, that's crazy. How do you pay for medication? How do you pay for food? How do you pay for the other essentials of life? Yet the government ignores this. Totally ignored it, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there's one other issue that I had truly hoped I would see in the Speech from the Throne and it was some reference — I know it's been referenced before — the Moose Jaw Union Hospital expansion project. This project has been on the go for quite some time. And I know the minister just stood up and he did a bit of a rant on — and it was a rant — on how previously he said the NDP, well when they were announcing a hospital, they'd have all the candidates there.

Well I suppose, Mr. Speaker, it's kind of like this one out at the Moose Jaw Union Hospital where we have the Premier, the member from Moose Jaw North, the candidate for Moose Jaw South, and the MLA for Thunder Creek all touring the hospital talking about how much of a high priority it was. And then we have the Sask Party candidates who said that should the Sask Party form the next provincial government, we will ensure the Moose Jaw Union Hospital is put at the top of the priority list for capital expansion.

[20:00]

Well, Mr. Speaker, we know how well that's worked, because we have seen numerous long-term care facilities announced, then cancelled, then kind of moving ahead, but not much on the Moose Jaw Union Hospital. And again through various political announcements — the minister may recognize these — they talk about the expansion of the Moose Jaw hospital again being a priority and proper health care funding is a priority.

Mr. Speaker, I've got about a stack, a file of about an inch deep of notices and press releases that have been put out by the Sask

Party, letters to the editor from the minister talking about how important the hospital is. Now, Mr. Speaker, finally, after this being a top priority the government finally allotted \$400,000 for planning for the Moose Jaw hospital. And that was in March of 2009.

And in 2008 the then minister of Finance said that it was a priority and it would be part of the billion dollar in infrastructure in the '08-09 budget. We know that didn't happen, Mr. Speaker. So when we finally got the money announced for the planning, everyone was quite pleased. Mr. Speaker, March of 2009 we received planning dollars, and we were told by the Premier in a visit to Moose Jaw in August and by the member from Moose Jaw North that the planning report would be released either at the end of this year or early in the new year. And it's printed. His quotes are in the paper, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health can have a look at them.

And now we found out just lately — and here's where the minister was flinging his arms around and waving his papers talking about, just for politics — now the planning report for the Moose Jaw Hospital, it will be two years after it began before it will be received and released in June of 2011. Two years after the money was allotted. Isn't that handy, Mr. Speaker?

So we miss the next budget. We miss the budget in 2011. And right before the election, right before the election, I'm sure the Minister of Health will be in Moose Jaw to make his announcement. But, Mr. Speaker, he won't even admit that it's pure politics. Well I know he won't admit it, Mr. Speaker. I must be awful naive to think he would. But it's pure politics to have this report shoved off and miss the budget cycle, and all of a sudden it's going to be there right before the election cycle.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I may look like it, but I wasn't born yesterday. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You liked that one, did you?

So, Mr. Speaker, the minister shouldn't rant and rave and jump around about the politics of building a hospital because he's right in the thick of it right now, Mr. Speaker, and it's not being appreciated by the people of Moose Jaw.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the one thing I do have to comment on is Groundhog Day.

**An Hon. Member:** — Groundhog Day?

**Ms. Higgins:** — Yes, Groundhog Day. Now the Minister of Health doesn't know, but I bet the former minister of Finance, he would recognize this. They are going to . . . I think this is, is this '08-09? Oh no, this is the Speech from the Throne 2010. So that's this year's, Mr. Speaker. They are going to establish a revenue-sharing formula with our municipal partners. I think I've heard that before, Mr. Speaker. Was it '08? Was it '09? It was a couple of years ago, Mr. Speaker, that we were supposed to have a permanent revenue-sharing formula with municipal partners. It was announced. All the pictures were taken. We were clapping ourselves on the back and shaking hands, and the minister was smiling.

And, Mr. Speaker, when they overspent the budget, when they

blew the bank and made some very poor revenue projections, they didn't even have the respect for their municipal partners to actually phone them — pick up the phone and give them a call — and say, we think this permanent revenue-sharing formula that we've announced and talked about and congratulated ourselves on for the last six months, I don't think it's going to work. I don't think it's going to work. We're just going to have to keep it where it is.

So . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, oh. Now the member from Moosomin's over there and he's saying, we did it, we did it. Yes they did. Two years in a row they did 90 per cent of one point. And if that's the permanent revenue sharing and he's happy with that, then you know what? He'd better go talk to the municipal partners because I can tell you that they're not happy. And they're not happy more so with the way they were treated, by the lack of respect from this government and being told through the media that they were not following through on their so-called permanent revenue-sharing formula.

Now, Mr. Speaker, so when we see it in the Speech from the Throne, it is Groundhog Day because I think this is second or third time we've seen it.

**An Hon. Member:** — Third.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Is it the third? Anyway, we truly hope that this government does keep its commitment to municipalities, because they are the ones that have to provide the service at the grassroots. They provide the service for the growing communities. And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, that's one commitment they need to keep to redeem themselves and to repair their relationship with municipalities. And, Mr. Speaker, I was surprised that they put this in print . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I've been listening with interest to, unfortunately, a number of debates. I think we should allow the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow the opportunity to give her remarks in regards to the Throne Speech.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a real hodge podge of ideas. It seems to be a lot . . . Well it is. It's a lot of repeated commitments. And, Mr. Speaker, the most frightening part is that there is no vision for the province. It's not forward-looking. It was a little depressing.

And, Mr. Speaker, when you've been in politics or public life for any length of time, or if you do public speaking, you really have to read your crowd and look around the room when you're giving a speech. Now not so much as in here because we're going to make them listen to us one way or another, Mr. Speaker. But when you're in the public and you're talking, you can see people start to squiggle. People start to move. and you think, time to move on. Time to end this speech, and let people get up and stretch their legs. And, Mr. Speaker, when you see people starting to squiggle in their seats and move around, shifting positions, you know they're bored. And, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't just me but there was many people in this Chamber that did not look overenthused about this Speech from the Throne and the prospects for Saskatchewan in the next year.

And, Mr. Speaker, when there's nothing that addresses issues from my constituents in Moose Jaw, there's a serious lack of issues being addressed from people around the province during our summer tours, Mr. Speaker, I cannot support the Speech from the Throne. And I will be supporting the amending motion. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to rise today to speak in support of the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start off by congratulating the new member from Saskatoon Northwest. I think it was a wonderful by-election and a great testament to . . . reflects well on the Premier and on the position the government's taken.

But specifically about the new member from Saskatoon Northwest, I have a great deal in common with him. I became a lawyer. He became a lawyer. I became school board Chair. He became school board Chair. I bought a motorcycle. He bought a motorcycle. I married a beautiful woman way over my head. He married a beautiful woman way over his head. In any event, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations and welcome to the new member from Saskatoon Northwest. It is good to have a few more lawyers in the House in spite of what some of my colleagues might say, and I think we will be well served in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by recognizing first my constituents in Saskatoon Southeast. I thank them for their input, for their support, and for the privilege of continuing to represent them in the House. I would also like to thank some of my staff here at the Legislative Assembly: my chief of staff, Denise Batters; ministerial assistants, Jean Watts, Michelle Chyz, Lara Zaluski, Judy Langford, and Matthew Glover. Matthew is a new addition to our office, having transferred over to handle the labour relations and workers' compensation files.

In my constituency office, Mr. Speaker, I continue to be very ably assisted by Gord Rutten and Laine Goertz. My other constituency assistant, Rita Flaman Jarrett, is sadly still off dealing and coping with the loss of her son almost two years ago.

I'd like to recognize some of the hard workers and supporters that have been very good in my constituency — my president, Peter Voldeng; Gary Meschishnick, the past president; people like Earl Priddle, Marie Koop, Don Ewart, Al Johnston, and Kay Robertson, who've been very faithful, good supporters, and I relied on them for advice and for help on a number of things.

Mr. Speaker, I usually when I'm doing these things comment on my mother. My mother is now 89 years old, still in relatively good health, and watches the legislative channel. I don't know whether tonight is one of the nights she will be pressing the mute button or whether she'll actually be listening and taking notes so that she can critique what the members have had to say. She stays active and communicates well by email and I'm waiting to see my BlackBerry light up with criticism partway through.

My mother-in-law still lives in Rosetown, does very well, and I would hazard to say makes the best butter tarts in the province and is very generous in sharing them. Sadly, as the family has grown there's more and more grandchildren that have now got significant other partners, so I have to share the butter tarts and stand in line. I'll be out there this weekend with the hope of getting some.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to as well thank my wife, Sandy, for the hard work and commitment and support that she's given. She shares my political passion and has been a wonderful support. During the last election — she enjoys the same kind of sense of humour that I do — we were out campaigning and it was about a week or 10 days before the election and I suggested to her that we should stop at the advance poll on the way home and vote ourselves. We got closer to the advance poll and she said, well I'm not sure we should go tonight; I'm still undecided. I hope that by the time election had come that she actually decided she was going to support the incumbent candidate.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to support the Speech from the Throne. Throughout the life of this government we have been forward-looking, and we've been moving Saskatchewan to a new era of prosperity. The Speech from the Throne sets out the new road that we as Saskatchewan people find ourselves on — a road that leads to continuing success, growth, and security. This government came to office with a huge agenda to complete. Our electoral platform was substantial. We made many promises and I'm proud to say that we have kept over 100 of those promises and we are well on the way to having completed all of them. We will continue to build on that platform.

We are now in the final year of our mandate and we are still looking forward, looking to build that new road to take Saskatchewan to the bright future that the people of Saskatchewan deserve. And it will be a bright future, based on what has happened since 2007. Our province has grown. Our population is now at an all-time high. There are more people working in Saskatchewan than ever before. Three of our cities rank in *The Financial Post's* top 10 entrepreneurial cities list. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business consistently finds our small-business owners to be among the most optimistic in Canada.

Canada has struggled with the economic downturn in recent years. We have not been spared that trouble, but we have managed far better than most of the other provinces. I was recently in Vancouver for the annual meeting of Justice ministers. It is obvious, despite the economic boost from hosting the Olympics, that they are still suffering significantly from the effects of the recession. I don't say that with any satisfaction but I am grateful that Saskatchewan has been able to do so well in spite of the economic difficulties that our country faces.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention a few things about my hometown of Saskatoon and my own constituency of Saskatoon Southeast. Work is well under way on the south bridge project to which this government has committed ninety-eight and a half million dollars. Any urban planner will tell you that good transportation routes and the ability to move about efficiently

are crucial to the growth of cities and neighbourhoods. This project will certainly help Saskatoon and I'm sure that the drivers of Saskatoon will not mind the temporary disruptions as they work and weave through the construction that has become almost chronic in our city. It's good to see that because at the end of that we will have a wonderful product and a wonderful city.

[20:15]

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the site for the new children's hospital is Saskatoon. The site verification study has been completed. The funds our government committed to this initiative have been transferred. The Premier presented a cheque for \$200 million to the hospital foundation in mid-September. Construction is set to begin as soon as the design is chosen.

Mr. Speaker, I'm particularly delighted that our province is choosing to participate in the MS clinical trials. As most of the members will know, our province has a higher per capita rate of MS than anywhere else in the world. It is only appropriate that our government should support those trials and we're hopeful and optimistic they will bring some positive benefit to those people that are afflicted with MS.

Work is also under way on the new health sciences building complex at the University of Saskatchewan. When complete, this facility will meet the needs of all academic health sciences, including medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, nutrition, veterinary medicine, kinesiology, physical therapy, and public health for teaching, administrative, and research. This facility is a public investment in our future and an essential element in the province's approach to health services.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatoon will also benefit from the expansion of the STARS air rescue program led by my colleague, the MLA for Melfort. People from Saskatoon of course travel in the surrounding area, and it is comforting to know that in the event of a medical emergency or crisis, the STARS helicopters will be available. For people living in rural areas, STARS will make it easier for them to get treatment in larger centres where trauma and other treatment resources are available. The quicker people get to the hospital, the better their prospects for recovery.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I was honoured to be appointed Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety. This is a new ministry, and as you can imagine, it is a challenge to start a ministry essentially from scratch. It is essentially an opportunity for something to make something new and completely different. And we trust and hope that better labour relations and a safer work environment will exist for our people in our province. I would like to commend the hard work and dedication of the ministry staff through the transition period as we focus more closely on safety.

Saskatchewan has, to our shame, the second highest lost time injury rate in Canada. This is unacceptable. Mr. Speaker, we are taking action. We have increased occupational health and safety inspections by 24 per cent to the highest level ever recorded. At mid-point of this year, the number of files referred to the Ministry of Justice for prosecution was nearly double the

previous year's total.

It is my intention to work with organized labour and with business owners to build a culture of safety in Saskatchewan workplaces. In the near future, a committee with labour and management representation will be struck to provide advice on labour and safety issues. We are turning our attention to hazardous materials in the workplace and are considering how we can reduce exposure to these materials in order to prevent long-term health problems such as the ones associated with asbestos.

I have had the opportunity to meet with labour leaders and just last week was able to sit down with the executive of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour. I appreciate that we have been able to have respectful discussions, and I thank them for their courtesy and candour in sharing their views with me. Mr. Speaker, we went around a large room of people, did introductions. One gentleman introduced himself, indicated that he was a constituent of mine and volunteered that he hadn't voted for me. I responded by saying, I presume that a lawn sign would be out of the question.

Mr. Speaker, the spirit of humour existed, and we had a valuable and productive morning. And the information I received was of some significant benefit. And in spite of the good-natured banter, the meetings were productive.

Mr. Speaker, I have indicated elsewhere that we are considering indexing the minimum wage. I have asked the minimum wage review board to provide a report on how this could be accomplished; for example, what economic indicators would be suitable to use for indexation. My ministry is in contact with organized labour to consult on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, turning briefly to my responsibilities in Justice, I am proud to say that we are making progress on many issues related to our Justice system and legislative needs. Our province sadly has one of the highest crime rates in the country. However, we are turning a corner in the fight against crime. Statistics are trending downwards and with our commitment to increase the number of police officers and Crown prosecutors and anti-gang initiatives, we will continue to see those numbers drop.

Mr. Speaker, missing persons, especially missing Aboriginal women, is a top priority for us. Throughout the life of this government, we have worked diligently with our partners to implement the recommendations of the provincial partnership committee on missing persons. Those recommendations include providing resources for the family of missing persons. This year we provided a checklist for families that guides them through what they need to do when a loved one goes missing. Also there is a guide to help families deal with the media. We have launched a website with information and resources relating to missing persons. We are working with provincial counterparts to share information about missing person cases, and we hope, improve investigation of those cases.

Before the end of this year, we will open a courthouse in Meadow Lake. We will introduce legislation to increase transparency and accountability for provincial court judges.

We have an aggressive legislative agenda. During the session we will introduce legislation to amend the human rights Act. This will allow complaints that are currently heard by the Human Rights Tribunal to be heard directly in the Court of Queen's Bench. As a result, we anticipate a substantial reduction in the time it takes to hold a hearing; the current average is approximately 22 months.

We will also introduce changes to the local government amendment Act to establish four-year terms for municipal representatives and allow municipalities to ask for photo ID [identification] when conducting elections. Amendments to elections Act will provide for photo ID during provincial elections. I would like to reassure everyone, Mr. Speaker, that we are not adopting or suggesting an all-or-nothing approach. Some people in our province do not have ready access to photo ID. We will work to ensure that there are alternatives to allow them to prove their identity when voting.

Mr. Speaker, Canadians are well known for helping democracies hold free and fair elections. I think it behooves us to hold ourselves to the same standards we encourage other countries to meet.

Earlier today I heard the member from Battleford talking about the problems that he was having with his own mother who may well not have a photo ID, and indicated that she lives in Saskatoon and that his brother lives in Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, if I could be so bold as to interfere with their family, what I'd like to encourage the member from Battleford to do is for he and his brother to travel to their mother's home, have a visit, take their mother out for supper, and while they're out stop by at one of the many convenient SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] locations and get their photo ID completed at no cost to their mother. And I think their mother would probably enjoy a visit from both of her sons.

I know that he indicated that she lives in my constituency, possibly one of my voters; a good likelihood of that. And I'd like to encourage her to go out and vote, and vote as she has in the past, which was likely for the Saskatchewan Party. So Mr. Speaker, I'd like to encourage the member opposite to consider that option.

Mr. Speaker, also on our legislative agenda is the introduction of whistle-blower legislation to protect provincial employees. As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, we have had vigorous and heated debate on this subject in the House. We believe that this new legislation will give provincial employees a clear process to follow in the event that they need to report inappropriate or illegal activity.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the beginning, Saskatchewan is on a new road. This government is investing in healthcare, education, affordable housing, infrastructure, and security.

We're investing in the new public safety telecommunications network that will ensure communities can keep in touch during . . . [inaudible] . . . Our promise of 120 new police officers is already 75 per cent complete. The fight against organized crime and gangs will be expanded to adult correctional centres.

In addition to the \$200 million for the children's hospital, we

will create the first-ever health care ombudsman. We have already surpassed our promise of 800 new nurses. We have 170 nursing training seats that have been added on top of 130 previously created. We've established the physician recruitment agency. We're introducing a dedicated addictions agency and creating an additional 100 long-term addictions recovery spaces.

We've reduced government debt, Mr. Speaker, by 40 per cent or \$2.7 billion. We will fulfill our one full percentage point of the provincial sales tax, sharing that with municipal partners. There will be 2,900 more licensed day care spaces by March 2011, a 30 per cent increase.

Mr. Speaker, we will be adding 161 affordable housing units since the last Throne Speech. One hundred seventy-five units for persons with intellectual disabilities. The new Head Start on a Home initiative will see construction of 1,000 new affordable homes over the next five years.

Mr. Speaker, we will increase support for Saskatchewan grad students, especially in fields of new technologies and telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, we will work with First Nations and Métis partners as part of a new and innovative approach to the development of our northern forests and our new forestry management agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by just commenting briefly on the situation with Potash Corporation with potash in our province. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the position that the Premier has taken. He has taken a careful, reasoned, analytical approach. He has sought outside assistance from large law firms. He has sought outside assistance from former premiers, from the Conference Board of Canada. The approach that has been taken is one that has been well-thought-through, and has been thought through with the best interests of our province. He has reflected on jobs, income, and the effect on what it would have, a sale would have on the rest of the industry. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the approach that our Premier has taken and would urge all members to continue to support that approach.

Mr. Speaker, when I look back on the road Saskatchewan travelled for so many years, when I think of the negativity, the defeatist thinking, the gloom of the past, I cannot help but be grateful that we have been able to change so much. And I'm proud of our government's and our province's accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion. I will not be supporting the amendment. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to support this Bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand and debate the Throne Speech, which really identifies a new road ahead for the province.

First off I'd like to start with just thanking some of the people that work with me, my CAs [constituency assistant] Charlene

Orr and Sandy Kuffner. As we know, we don't get very much time to spend in our constituencies. Lately this summer for myself, because of all of the disasters that have occurred in the province with flooding, tornados. I've not had much time to spend in my constituency. So I know that they're doing a lot of the leg work.

I'd also like to thank my ministerial staff, Wendy and Tammy, Lindsay and Bonnie, and my chief of staff, Rob, for all the work that they do in supporting me. And they have, again, have had a very, very busy summer with the flooding disasters that we've had this particular year. Also support from the ministry itself, who again have been extremely busy, as we know.

I'd also like to congratulate our new member from Saskatoon Northwest and welcome him to this Assembly and welcome him to the Government of Saskatchewan. So, very much a welcome.

I'd also like to thank my family. It's been a number of years that I've been in here, and we all know that it takes a toll on families. So I'd like to thank my wife, Phyllis, my two sons and my grandchildren. Also to thank the good people of Wood River who have brought me back here three times.

And I can say, Mr. Speaker, that I look at my constituency now and around the province — and I've had the opportunity to be around the province so much this year — there is a huge degree of optimism in the province. And this is a dramatic change from the last few years, previous years. Since we formed government, the optimistic attitude of the people has just climbed exponentially. We know that in the past the previous government had a propensity for mediocrity but also failing to achieve that mediocrity, so it really brought the people in the province down. They didn't expect anything and the NDP government never gave them anything so it was very, very common for them to be in the doldrums. And now there's a huge degree of optimism. So I'd really like to thank the good people of Wood River.

Mr. Speaker, I caught only a part of the member from Massey Place's comments, and I know he got up and he quoted something from my original speech in the House. And I don't know what he is trying to make of a . . . He's trying to make a point, but typical of an NDP, he stated something but I couldn't hear what the point was he was trying to make. But he did comment on my speech and what I had said in the year 2000. And I don't have the exact quote, so I won't use it, Mr. Speaker. But I do stand by the statement that I made then, and I stand by it again now.

[20:30]

And I'm very, very proud of my military career that I had. And it's thanks to, not myself personally, but to my predecessors in the military and all of the people ahead of us that have been fighting battles and wars over the year. And I have to thank those people because it's because of their grit, because of their professionalism. It's because of their determination, and it's because they put their life on the line that people like the member from Massey Place can get up and spout off like he does in a free speech society. So I think we all owe the military a huge degree of thank you.

Mr. Speaker, we know that we are on a new road. We have chosen to go a new road. We know back in the '40s this province came to a junction in a highway and elected at that time to take the left fork rather than the right fork. Well here we are today carrying on what we've done for the last two years, two and a half years. We're taking the new road. We're getting away from that left-leaning road and going on the new road. And I'd like to just make some comparisons of the old road to the new road.

The old road where we came from, 1992 to 2000, the province lost 32,749 people. That was the old road — 11,380 people left in the term — the last four years of the now Leader of the Opposition. Last four years of his time as Deputy Premier, 11,000 people left.

School enrolment declined every year from 1992 to 2007. The then government was there managing a decline. That is the old road, Mr. Speaker. I do not agree with the old road.

Now look at where the new road is taking us. Saskatchewan experienced its fastest growth rate in nearly 80 years, an increase of 30,511 people. That's the new road. Saskatchewan's population is 1,045,622, the highest in history. That is the new road. School enrolment increased in 2009 after 16 years of decline. That is the new road.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about roads also, we have to talk about the real roads. The old road was in the NDP's time. They spent 70 per cent, 70 per cent and 80 per cent of the amount collected in fuel tax on highways. That's the old road. We are spending 100 per cent plus on highways from fuel tax. The pothole deficit in this province left by the previous government was over \$1 billion.

And I'm sure that there's a lot of people in this Assembly will remember in 2000 when rural residents were forced to fix their own highways because of the NDP government's neglect. The now Leader of the Opposition, who was deputy premier at the time, mused that more farmers should volunteer to fix roads. It was clearly obvious that the government was not going to fix roads so people went out to do it on their own. And, Mr. Speaker, that actually happened in my constituency. I was out there and witnessed that.

Now where is the new road taking us? In the first three years since we took office, we've committed \$1.7 billion to Saskatchewan's highways. In the first three years of government, Highways and Infrastructure budgets have been the three largest in the history of our province. And as I mentioned, 100 per cent of the fuel tax revenues go to highways.

My constituency is very agrarian, Mr. Speaker. And we've got to look at the old road again and where we've come from on the old road and where we're going to on the new road. We had four years of drought right near where I live, and we couldn't even get an NDP Agriculture minister to come out and look at the drought area, not even tour the area. Four years. We heard the government then blaming the feds for everything.

They had no plan for education tax relief. And I go back to 1944 when it was stated that the education portion of property

tax was the most regressive tax in the country. Who said that? Tommy Douglas. 1944 until we formed government, there was no permanent replacement for the education portion of property tax. Even Tommy would be rolling over if he knew what those people on the other side had been doing.

Now NDP however, they could invest in private business but wouldn't commit fully to funding ag programs. And I'm going to talk about their investment in private businesses a little bit later. So how are we doing now in the new road? Provided \$50 cow-calf to cow to producers in 64 RMs [rural municipalities]; provided 29 million for producers in southwest Saskatchewan in 2008 for water infrastructure programs. Program is now province-wide. Gopher control rebate — very, very serious problem, something the NDP wouldn't even look at; \$71 million cattle and hog support; and the largest education tax rebate in Saskatchewan history.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do want to spend a little bit of time talking about some of the initiatives that we've done within the ministry. And again we have to look at where the old road took us and where the new road is taking us.

There is discussion about gangs in our street and in our correctional facilities. When the NDP came to power in '91, Saskatchewan's overall crime rate was similar to the national crime rate. Within a few short years, the crime rate was shooting upwards while the national rate was dropping. From '96 to 2006, crime in Saskatchewan had increased by 17 per cent while it had dropped 11 per cent nationally. By the time that we formed government, Saskatchewan's crime rate had been out of control for several years. Saskatchewan had the highest crime rate for 10 consecutive years and the highest violent crime rate for eight consecutive years.

Now we also talked about gangs. And here's when we talked about gangs and what we should be doing with gangs — in August of 2005, just days after the member from Saskatoon Nutana declared that Saskatchewan Party concern about gangs and violent crime to be nothing more than political fearmongering. Then suddenly the NDP changed its tune and realized that that was a problem in this province, was gangs and drugs. That was in 2005, Mr. Speaker.

And it's very interesting to note an article in the *Leader-Post*. It talked about drugs and drugs behind bars, and gangs. And there's just a couple of items that I want to note in this particular article, Mr. Speaker.

It's a man who served repeated stints at the RPC, Regina Provincial Correctional Centre, says, "It's common knowledge to both guards and inmates that there is a plentiful supply of drugs inside the jail." He also said he's surprised that the institution has finally come to light. Now it's very interesting, that statement, Mr. Speaker, because he goes on to say, everybody in the jail knew about this; just nobody said anything about it.

Now what I find strange about this is the NDP had, how many correction ministers? We didn't hear anything about it over the 16 years. We even had people that worked in the jail. Did they know anything about this, or is this guy really not telling it the way it is? So those are some very, very interesting questions to

ask of each other. Was it that well known? And if it was that well known, what was being done about it? And if it was not that well known, how come statements like this are being published, that it was a big operation in there and it was very easy to transact drugs within the correctional centres?

Now let's look at where we're going since we formed government. We were aware of the existing gang problems, and we're working to combat them with a number of initiatives. Safety and infrastructure upgrades to adult and youth custody facilities that started last year will be completed this year with an additional \$1 million in funding. Security in facilities to crack down on drugs and gangs in jails and in the community will be enhanced this year with implementing of telephone monitoring devices in the facilities — a huge step forward. Since forming government we have been committed to the safety and security of our facilities.

In the '09-10 budget, including funding for anti-gang programs including, including institutional clothing. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is one I understand that the guards have been talking about for some time. We know that it has really cut down the incidence of drugs. And what was the cost of this? And here we had a government for so many years. If any of these articles are true, wouldn't they at least use institutional clothing to combat some of these situations of drugs?

We instituted non-contact visiting. Again it's an estimate, but it's estimated that the drug movement within the facilities has been reduced in the neighbourhood of 60 per cent by introducing non-contact visiting. Now what was the cost of this, Mr. Speaker? Was this a problem in the past? Does anybody from the previous administration ever say that there was a drug and gang problem within the facilities? Or is it just the people writing the articles and doing the articles said they've known about it for 25 years — 25 years?

Now what would the cost be of exercising non-contact visiting? There was a little bit of infrastructure cost; however it has reduced the drug movement by such a substantial amount. It would have been a minimal cost for the previous administration to have looked at that.

We've expanded some substance abuse treatment units, high-security unit feasibility studies and cell conversions to create room for more segregated offenders which, you may read into there, gangs.

The '09-10 budget also included capital funding of \$9.4 million for security upgrades in adult and young offenders correction facilities that includes such items as security cameras. It makes you wonder. Security cameras weren't invented the last couple of years, but there was blind spots. Why would they not have been included many, many years ago? Enhancements to windows. Enhancement to perimeter fencing. Reinforce interior and exterior walls. Lock replacement. Video surveillance. Walk-through scanners. These are all, all initiatives that we've taken since we've been government that has really reduced the drug movement in jails and helps combat the gangs.

We also, Mr. Speaker, signed an LOU [letter of understanding] with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] to use a full-time drug dog in provincial correctional centres to conduct



routine searches and to seize any illegal drugs. Now we also still use Brigadier Security Systems, but the difference is, rather than booking a drug dog, with the agreement we have with the RCMP it can be more unannounced. And I would like to advise the Assembly that in the past year drug dogs spent 175 hours sniffing out Saskatchewan facilities. I very much applaud that, Mr. Speaker.

And in the '09-10 budget we included almost a half a million dollars for Saskatchewan's participation in a Western Canadian gang database, which is proving to be very effective. We know that gangs are very mobile, province to province, and our gang database is working very, very effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss if I didn't talk a little bit about the old road and the new road when it comes to provincial disaster assistance programs. Under the old road, private claimants had a 20 per cent deductible. Cap on claims: for private, \$100,000; business, \$100,000. Depreciation rates on furnaces up to 60 per cent. Average, average wait time for money, 12 to 18 months before any money was given to claimants.

Mr. Speaker, I'll just speak to those for the moment. We have reduced the deductibles on private claims to 5 per cent from the previous 20. This is the new road where we have listened to people of the province. We listened to what they really needed, what they wanted. There was a little bit of compromise in some areas, but at least we did, we listened and we actioned as quickly as possible.

[20:45]

Depreciation rates on furnaces to a maximum now of 35 per cent from 60. Wait times for money — and I've heard this from a couple of people, let's say from the NDP side — maybe it was peripheral wording about money being out to our people that have been hit with disasters. We had cheques out within 24 hours of the mayor of Maple Creek requesting financial assistance — within 24 hours.

Now I'd like to compare that to the Vanguard flood, and I heard people from the other side that said, well we never had disasters when we were government. Wrong. They were a disaster. But I'll use Vanguard as an example. There's people that waited over two years to get one red cent out of the then NDP government. Two years. And it was a disaster as equal as Maple Creek as far as severity — maybe not the numbers of houses, but the severity.

We had the minister at the time say, and I should get the exact quote. He said, "Well we had one person working on it." One person. And no wonder it took two years; a wonder it's been done until the time we formed government. But as of today, I would like to be able to tell the Assembly we've received 3,795 private claims as of October the 25th; 2,607 payments have been made; 9 million paid out; 354 files already closed.

Mr. Speaker, that is our government taking action. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do want to . . . My time is running low, but before I close what I'd really like to do is, I talked briefly about the priorities of the old road. And the priorities of the old road was not the people of the province.

The old road was investing money, and I would be remiss if I didn't highlight some of the private ventures that the old road led to. The tappedinto.coms, \$124 million lost. And I don't know, I heard this word someplace, maybe my friends can help me out. It was the word SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company]. I'm not really sure what it stands for but SPUDCO lost \$35 million. I'll have to get somebody over there to explain to me what SPUDCO really is. We've got Channel Lake. We've got Guyana.

Millions and millions of dollars that are down the tubes. And I've said this before, Mr. Speaker, I'll say it again, and I'll say it every time I'm in this House when I have an opportunity to speak. One of my favourites is mega bingo. We even had a socialist government that wanted to take over bingo in this province, and they lost \$8 million trying to take over bingo. And then we look at the money put into the Meadow Lake pulp mill, to the tune of \$800 million. And it's a good thing we formed government, Mr. Speaker. They were going to do the same thing in Prince Albert. They'd already committed \$100 million.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think my time is running to a close. So just before I close, I do want to, I do want to say that we hear from members opposite, the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow talked about uninspiring Speech from the Throne. I think she was referring to the ones from the year 1999 until 2007 because those were very, very uninspiring. So she's very familiar with the word uninspiring when it comes to throne speeches.

Also we hear members getting up on the other side now talking about, well my road isn't fixed yet. Well after 16 years of neglect, now we have a typical socialist government saying well, we had the problem but you haven't fixed it within 24 hours. And it's just, it's hypocritical to hear that from the members opposite — why the hospital hasn't been built in a week, why the roads haven't been fixed, why anything's not being done. We're doing it. It takes just a little bit of time. We know it took 16 years to get into this mess. It's going to take a couple years to get out of it.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I'll be saying I will not be supporting the amendment, but I will be supporting the Throne Speech. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased this evening to enter into the debate on the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start by congratulating the new member from Saskatoon Northwest. It's always a pleasure to have a new member enter the House, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a minute to just to thank the people of Regina Dewdney, who have on now four occasions returned me to the legislature, who I have the pleasure of serving and enjoy serving, Mr. Speaker. It is one of the best constituencies in the province. And, Mr. Speaker, the constituents of Regina Dewdney have many concerns and issues that face them on a regular basis, as do many of the citizens across the province.

Mr. Speaker, as we listened to the Throne Speech on last

Wednesday, I have to say that the first thing that came to my mind was, for the last two years, Mr. Speaker, we had less than a full House. Less than a full House to listen to the Throne Speech. I was somewhat shocked that the people of the province, constituents of the members opposite and constituents of the members of the opposition didn't think it important enough to come to listen to the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. Those that were here though, Mr. Speaker, tended to be less than enthused.

As I watched the room, I didn't see a single applause. Not a single applause, Mr. Speaker, during the entire Throne Speech for any initiative that the government put forward, Mr. Speaker. Not once in that entire Throne Speech did the government get an applause from the people in the Chamber. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that's probably the first time that I've ever listened to a Throne Speech that we didn't see a single applause, a spontaneous applause for any point in a Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. And that is, I think, indicative of the nature of this particular Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech talks and starts out with a quote from a poem, a well-known poem by Robert Frost. It says:

Two roads diverged in the wood and I,  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference;

Well, Mr. Speaker, yes I believe this government has taken a turn on the road, Mr. Speaker. And it is the road less travelled. We haven't seen this particular road travelled since the 1980s, Mr. Speaker. We haven't seen it since we had the last Conservative government in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So it is a less travelled road, Mr. Speaker, and it's a road full of potholes. It's a road that resulted in a significant disaster for the people of Saskatchewan. A road that put us in debt, Mr. Speaker, that took the people of Saskatchewan more than two decades to pay. And it's still not totally paid off, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start my response to the Throne Speech talking about the fiscal situation of the province. Mr. Speaker, like the 1980s, we have a government today that's trying to tell the people of Saskatchewan that their debt is going down, that they've paid the debt down when the reality is, Mr. Speaker, debt is going up.

Mr. Speaker, we're seeing the same pattern of behaviour from this administration as we saw in the 1980s, when Saskatchewan people are having the province's debt increased at the same time the government is trying to convince them that the debt is decreasing, Mr. Speaker. We saw that in the 1980s. We saw the government try to tell the people that their debt was going down. And we had at the same time reckless spending, out of control spending, and debt increasing at a rapid pace.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1980s we saw a government that built new hospitals across all of rural Saskatchewan only to see them shut down because we couldn't staff them, Mr. Speaker, because they weren't being utilized. Mr. Speaker, we have a government today that's spending money like they did in the 1980s, accumulating debt at a pace that is unbelievable, and trying to tell the people of Saskatchewan that their debt's paid

down by 40 per cent.

Mr. Speaker by their own budget book, page 62 at the budget summary for 2010-11, Mr. Speaker, we see that debt is increasing by \$4.2 billion or 55 per cent. Now how can you claim you paid down 40 per cent of the debt when your own budget summary book indicates debt is increasing? Journalists have commented on the government's depiction of the financial situation, and they've used less than, I would say, nice words to depict the debt, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite are following a different path most definitely. They're following a path that's putting us back in debt. They're following a path of reckless, out of control spending, Mr. Speaker. And they're following a path of trying to be all things to all people.

Mr. Speaker, in fact this is a government that in their Throne Speech today, on the most important issue, the most important strategic decision Saskatchewan will have to make — the issue of the future of our resources, and in particular the immediate issue in front of us is the future of our potash resource, Mr. Speaker — it gets a line, maybe two lines. Now how can we have a government telling the people of Saskatchewan, week after week, that this is an important issue when it's not an important enough in the Throne Speech to give it more than a line?

So, Mr. Speaker, we have a government who is trying to convince people that the debt is other than what it really is. We have a Premier in government that on a most important issue, strategic issue facing the province of Saskatchewan, didn't deal with it in the first two to three months we were aware of the issue, Mr. Speaker, when we called immediately upon the Premier to reconvene the Legislative Assembly so we could have a meaningful debate about the future of our resource in Saskatchewan. So we could have debated and put forward a position long before, long before government had locked themselves, the federal government had locked themselves into a path and a direction on that very strategic resource for this province, Mr. Speaker.

But what did we do, Mr. Speaker? The government did nothing. In fact media reports would indicate that the government, up until the day that they said they didn't want the deal to go through, were negotiating with BHP Billiton a deal that would include a \$1 billion cash payout, Mr. Speaker, and a infrastructure fund equivalent to the amount of money that in fact would provide for a domed stadium. Mr. Speaker, we don't know what went on in the backrooms with the government, but those are reports in the media, Mr. Speaker. And then the next day the government comes out and says they're against a deal.

Mr. Speaker, we have been clear from day one that for our resources we need to have a plan. We need to have a strategic direction for our resources, Mr. Speaker. And from day one, we have laid out a plan. We've said this deal should not go through with BHP Billiton, and we laid out the conditions under which, if the federal government approved, that BHP Billiton would . . . the commitments they would have to provide to the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, that was a plan.

We should have debated that in this House more than two

months ago. We, all 58 members of this Assembly, should have debated that very strategic issue facing our province. Because, Mr. Speaker, this may well be the defining moment of this legislature. It may well be the defining issue that any of us, as members of this legislature, are part of. Like rural electrification, like medicare, there become defining moments and defining decisions which make or break, to some degree, the future of your province. And, Mr. Speaker, we're at such a defining moment. Moving forward we need to have a clear, well-defined path. Both the business community and the people of Saskatchewan need to know and understand what our position is on our strategic resources.

Mr. Speaker, we're a resource-based economy. If it's not potash, it's uranium. It's coal. It's gold. It's diamonds. Saskatchewan has an abundance of resources, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have to have a plan. We have to be able to articulate that plan. And we have to be able to ensure both the people of Saskatchewan who own those resources and the business community that we have a plan, and that within that plan, Mr. Speaker, there will be development of our industries. There will be development of our resources, and there will be a path to move forward in the best interests of both the people of Saskatchewan and those who wish to invest in our province.

[21:00]

Mr. Speaker, what did we see instead? We saw a year ago and over the last two years, a Premier that said we were open for business, that we were going to accept foreign investment in all our sectors, Mr. Speaker. We saw him go to China. We saw him go to other countries, making it very clear that Saskatchewan was open for foreign investment. Then, Mr. Speaker, when one of those companies from another country comes to Saskatchewan and wants to invest, what do we see? We see the government do a one-eighty and say, no.

You're sending mixed signals, Mr. Speaker. What I'm saying is, the government should have laid a clear path before the people of this province and a clear path before the investors of the world as to what the conditions would be in order to get government support for investment in our province.

Mr. Speaker, it's one thing to have a set of rules and people know what the expectation is. It's another thing to say that there are no rules. And then you come here and you want to make an investment and then you see the rules change. Mr. Speaker, we can't make this mistake again. We need to clearly define what the rules are moving forward. People need to understand, Mr. Speaker, and we need to know.

We were very clear from day one we were against a BHP Billiton deal. But, Mr. Speaker, the government wasn't. They came to that conclusion after the polls indicated that the people of Saskatchewan were against the deal. They came to that conclusion after, Mr. Speaker, after they couldn't get the sweetheart deal they wanted. Mr. Speaker, it was referred to in the London *Times* that the government was acting like a third, Mr. Speaker, a third-rate nation, Mr. Speaker, in their transactions with BHP Billiton, that they were trying to get things that were deemed to be unacceptable by any progressive corporation in the world.

Now, Mr. Speaker, all I'm saying about this issue is this is a defining moment in our history. This is a defining moment in our future, and it warrants two or three lines in the Throne Speech. Mr. Speaker, how seriously does the government take perhaps the most important decision that we will have the opportunity to make as a legislature or as a province in the next couple of years?

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the portrayal of finances is less than accurate. The portrayal of our debt is one that shows a government that's trying to tell the people one story and live by another. Mr. Speaker, what we have before us is really a tale of two provinces — one of which the Premier wants to portray and a second one which is a reality. And, Mr. Speaker, the people of the province deserve the facts. The people of the province deserve to be told the full truth. They deserve to be told the real circumstances of the province's finances.

Mr. Speaker, we've spent thousands, and I have personally spent hours and hours and thousands and thousands of kilometres travelling around the province talking to people about the important issues that they face. And, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many real concerns that the people of Saskatchewan have. They have concerns about their health care. In communities across the province we hear about reductions in long-term care beds, reductions in hours of service of their health centres, Mr. Speaker, reductions in the number of nurses that are available for service in their health centres. We hear families genuinely concerned that their loved one will have to go a nursing home a hundred or more miles away because of bed closures and reductions closer to home.

Those are real concerns of the people of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, what type of response are people in these communities getting from the government? Mr. Speaker, in the town of Wawota they got told that they had a choice: highways, or beds in their long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker. It shouldn't be a choice about a person's health and their ability to remain in their community, and the building of highways, Mr. Speaker. There needs to be clear-cut priorities, Mr. Speaker, clear-cut priorities that are meeting the needs of the people of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I heard across the province that people's priorities didn't include a 20 per cent increase or \$20,000 increase to the Premier's staff in this building, Mr. Speaker, an issue raised just three weeks ago. Mr. Speaker, when the regular workers in the government are getting 4 or 5 per cent over four years, Mr. Speaker, what do the hand-picked chosen few of the Premier, what did they do to deserve such lavish increases, Mr. Speaker? That's what the people of Saskatchewan would like to know. Why is it so important . . . Why is it okay for the health care worker in the community to get 4 per cent over four years or 5 per cent over four years, but yet the Premier's staff can get 20 per cent or \$20,000 over the same time frame, Mr. Speaker? That's a real issue for people in this province, Mr. Speaker. That's a real issue. The people in Wawota were saying they have to close beds because of inadequate funding by the government in the health care budget.

Mr. Speaker, real people are impacted by poor choices and those poor choices are affecting families. They're affecting their loved ones and they're affecting the quality of life of their

communities. Mr. Speaker, the issues of affordability are huge for seniors, for low-income families, for low-income singles, single parents, Mr. Speaker, and students. We've seen a dramatic increase in rent, Mr. Speaker. And during the same period of time, Mr. Speaker, it's become clearer and clearer that there aren't additional supports or help for those on fixed incomes to deal with these increased costs, Mr. Speaker.

The people who built our province — our parents and grandparents — should not have to make choices between affordable health care, filling their prescription, paying their rent, or paying their electrical bill, Mr. Speaker, or the threat of having their power or heating cut off, Mr. Speaker. These are the people who built our province. They are the people who deserve our respect. They deserve our help and they deserve our attention to those very important issues that deal with their affordability, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to spend a minute talking about the issues of photo identification, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue that has long been an issue. Amendments to *The Election Act* have always been by agreement of all parties, Mr. Speaker, and that's been a steadfast rule of our democracy. The last amendments to *The Election Act* were done in full co-operation with the then Sask Party in opposition. They had the right and they agreed to all the amendments or they didn't go forward, Mr. Speaker.

Today we have an amendment coming forward that we hear about in the Throne Speech without consultation, without agreement. Mr. Speaker, that is . . . Our democracy and our electoral system is there to meet the needs of all the people in the province of Saskatchewan, not an individual political party, not an individual political agenda, not to disenfranchise those who have less, not to disenfranchise those who live in remote areas, not to disenfranchise those who, due to disability or being in a nursing home, don't have the ability to go out and access photo identification, Mr. Speaker.

And why are we doing this, Mr. Speaker? Can anyone point to an issue of electoral fraud? Can anyone point to an issue of . . . A real issue, Mr. Speaker. I'm not talking about fictional issues in members' minds. I'm talking about a real issue that's been investigated, an issue that's been investigated, proven, and needs to be dealt with, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, that isn't an issue that individual members of this legislature believe in. Mr. Speaker, it has to be an issue that was investigated by the Chief Electoral Office in our province, Mr. Speaker, found to be valid, and a recommendation been brought forward, Mr. Speaker.

It cannot be a group of members from a particular political party getting together in a room who know that the people who traditionally vote for them are higher income people, Mr. Speaker, and decide that we're going to enforce photo identification and try to disenfranchise those who most likely would vote against us. Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely wrong. That is trying to fix the electoral system to your own benefit, Mr. Speaker. And the people of this province, Mr. Speaker, don't agree with politics like that. They don't agree with somebody trying to fix politics to meet their own end, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm more astounded than ever that we have a

government bringing forward a piece of legislation like this after the Minister of Justice has personally told me that we wouldn't bring forward amendments. He was going to bring forward amendments without our agreement. But did he ask for agreement on this issue — didn't even consult us on it.

And, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this is the same government that turned down the appointment of a Chief Electoral Officer that was selected by a bipartisan committee of this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, what does it look like to the general public? It looks like we have a government who's trying to control the outcomes and electoral process. And that is not the role of any government, Mr. Speaker, in any government anywhere. The role of a government is to work with all political parties to come to an electoral process that's fair to all citizens, all electoral parties, Mr. Speaker, and that's fair to the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, members opposite can say that these aren't issues to people. Well they are issues to people. They are real, and real issues affect real people. And people should be concerned and people are concerned, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a couple of minutes to talk about some other things that have happened over the last three years. Mr. Speaker, we saw a change in accounting rules so the government didn't have to report debt in the same way that the previous governments had to report debt, so they could try to under-report debt, Mr. Speaker. Again, why would any government do this except trying to change the debt situation, try to change the debt situation to their own favour, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, we've seen a series of actions that have destabilized Crown corporations from this government. And, Mr. Speaker, during the 1980s we saw the same thing. We saw in the early 1980s, Mr. Speaker, in the late 1970s, Crown corporations that were profitable that under the Conservative government began to lose money because of a series of decisions made by the government. And then at some point because those Crowns were no longer making money, they were sold off, Mr. Speaker, and in some cases virtually given away.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing that. We're seeing that in SGI today and, Mr. Speaker, where we're changing the rules under which you can have a licence to provide drivers' licences and plates to Saskatchewan citizens, Mr. Speaker, opening it up, hurting SGI's market share, Mr. Speaker. Now why would any company want to hurt their own bottom line, Mr. Speaker, potentially damage their own market share, unless you had a hidden agenda? And, Mr. Speaker, that hidden agenda can and will result in the destabilization of SGI Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they can say, what are we talking about? But we've been down this road before. We were down this road in the 1980s. We had a viable, we had a viable, profitable Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan in the 1970s, Mr. Speaker, that made money every year it was administered under an NDP government, Mr. Speaker. And then in the 1980s a series of actions were taken and that corporation no longer was profitable and was sold off for pennies on the dollar.

We saw the same thing with Saskoil, Mr. Speaker, and we saw it sold off. And we saw SaskEnergy, an attempt by the then Conservative government to sell SaskEnergy. And at that point, the people of Saskatchewan got behind the New Democratic government and stopped that sale.

But, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, today, decisions made today can impact the long-term viability of Crown corporations. They can affect the long-term viability of the services provided to Saskatchewan people. And, Mr. Speaker, you can't just say it's not going to happen when those decisions appear to have direct impact on the bottom line of those corporations. And we're going to be watching very, very carefully.

[21:15]

Mr. Speaker, we have a fiduciary responsibility to the people of Saskatchewan — all 58 members of this Assembly — and we have a responsibility to ensure that we act in the best interest of Saskatchewan people. And, Mr. Speaker, above all we have a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the people of Saskatchewan understand what is being done by their government, what decisions the government is making, what the impact can and will be on the people of Saskatchewan. That's the role of the official opposition.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a government today who is spending as much of its time wondering about what its direction should be, what its vision should be, Mr. Speaker. Because it appears like they don't have a vision. They don't have a path. They don't have a direction, Mr. Speaker. When we want to have debates about meaningful issues, Mr. Speaker, they don't intend or don't want to have those debates, Mr. Speaker.

When the official opposition offers to go with the Premier to Ottawa to make our case to the Prime Minister, to Saskatchewan's 14 members of parliament, to the leaders of the other opposition parties, Mr. Speaker, what does this government do? What does this government do? It turns down, turns down that motion, turns down the support of the official opposition, Mr. Speaker. That is a path not taken.

Because, Mr. Speaker, on two occasions during the . . . at least two occasions that I well remember, when important issues faced the people of the province of Saskatchewan when the former NDP government was in place, Mr. Speaker, they took members of the official opposition with them to Ottawa to help them make their case. They never turned down an offer of help. They never turned down the support of the opposition, Mr. Speaker, because they believed that a united voice, a solid united voice made a difference.

This government in its first opportunity says, no we don't want anything to do with the opposition. We don't believe in co-operation or working together, Mr. Speaker. We don't believe necessarily working together in the best interests of Saskatchewan people is in our interest, Mr. Speaker.

So what do we do? The Premier does nothing. Did he go to Ottawa and have a meeting with the Prime Minister? No he didn't. No he didn't. Did he get a meeting with the Prime Minister? No. Could he have got a meeting if it was the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier? Well we'll never know

because the Premier, because of his own political, his own political posturing and wanting to be the hero, Mr. Speaker, wouldn't take an offer given genuinely by the opposition to help to take this issue to the Government of Canada, to the Prime Minister, to Saskatchewan's 14 members of parliament and the opposition.

Mr. Speaker, that tells you a great deal about the nature of this government. And this government's about itself, Mr. Speaker, not about the people of Saskatchewan, not about the best interest of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It's about itself.

So, Mr. Speaker, for those reasons I won't be able to support the Throne Speech. I will support the amendment, Mr. Speaker. And I hope that members opposite take a few minutes to consider their actions and what is viewed by their actions in particular on refusing help to deal with one of the most critical issues facing the people of this province in the last two decades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honoured to join the debate on the Throne Speech here this evening. But first off I would be remiss if I didn't join my colleagues in thanking a lot of key people. Firstly and foremost, my family: my wife, Leone; my daughters, Katelin and Rayanne. As many members in this Assembly know, a family takes quite a toll when a member of the family is in this line of this work and I do sincerely thank them for all their support and their well-wishes over the past few years, Mr. Speaker. As well as the numerous friends back home in Yorkton and around the province that continue with their thoughts, their prayers, and their supportive comments time after time, day after day, year after year, Mr. Speaker. That does truly make this job a lot easier.

Along with my constituency staff — I just had a lady that had been with me for three years, Ms. Annie Whitehead, left me after three years to move to Regina. And I welcome on staff Ms. Ingrid Stumph, our new CA. And my senior CA, Ms. Lauretta Ritchie-McInnes, who has been doing this job for quite a number of years and is just an indispensable member of our team back in Yorkton, Mr. Speaker.

And with that as well, the legislative staff here in this building that support us day after day and get the research done and help us out carrying out the jobs that we perform here, Mr. Speaker. The people of my constituency back in Yorkton and area, again very supportive and not always on side, but always there to give constructive comments, to tell us where they think we might be able to do better, but there also to support us with comments when we're doing what they feel we should. I am truly honoured and it is a privilege. I know it's a privilege and I'm blessed to be representing the constituency of Yorkton and with those fine people there.

As well my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, here in Assembly, both on our side of the House and across, working with them day after day and month after month for the past three years. A year to go. I'm looking forward to the possibility of more years after that, Mr. Speaker, after the next election.

I also want to join my colleagues in welcoming my new seatmate, the new member from Saskatoon Northwest. It's an honour to be sitting beside him. We've gotten to know each other a little bit over the last number of days and I look forward to . . . My colleagues over here aren't helping me out a lot, Mr. Speaker. They're telling stories that are not true and scaring my new friend here, the member from Saskatoon Northwest. But I look forward to developing the relationship over the next number of years.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss as well if I didn't mention our leader, the Premier of the province. I had the honour of introducing him at a leader's dinner, a chamber of commerce dinner here early in September. And in my comments, I mean you want to introduce the Premier and give some background on his past, but also to reflect on other things. I mean everybody can do that.

So what my intent was to reflect on him being the leader. What are the true qualities of a leader? And, Mr. Speaker, I googled qualities of a leader and I think I came up with 17 definitions and going through that list I challenged all the leaders in that room, Mr. Speaker, to look at themselves and see how many of those qualities they could describe themselves with from that list, Mr. Speaker. And as I rattled that list off of approximately 17 different qualities, I found that at one time or another, the Premier has demonstrated those qualities to me more often than not a number of times. And I am so privileged to be working with and for the Premier, the leader of our party, and I look forward to the many years that he will be serving this province in the future.

When reviewing the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, I quickly got to page 4. On page 4 we talk about the past summer, the season that we have just come through, the wettest season on record, past 100, maybe 500 years. And I want to take this opportunity to reflect on how that disaster affected my home constituency of Yorkton, my home of Yorkton, and with that recognize some local heroes.

First off the people of Yorkton, upon the storm ending, before the storm even ended, Mr. Speaker, people out of their homes and helping their neighbours quickly to ensure that nobody was in dire straits. People stepped up. They went above and beyond and I would say with minor injuries, if any at all, and no loss of life, which could have easily happened in the dire consequences of that flood, Mr. Speaker. It was just astronomical and heartwarming to see how the community rallied to help everyone in that community.

The EMS [emergency medical services], the different emergency measures in Yorkton, the fire department, the police under the leadership of Chief Dean Clark and Staff Sergeant Joe Milburn, Mr. Speaker, did an amazing job of keeping things organized and keeping everybody together and addressing the issues as they came and keeping people safe. The city of Yorkton employees, Mr. Speaker, were amazing. All employees were out, reported to duty, cleaning drains and rescuing people whether it be by boat or loader, and taking people to safety.

The mayor, James Wilson, his leadership was very welcomed and very respected. The leadership that he showed over the number of, not only the day of the flood, the days following the

flood, but also the months following the flood with the leadership he showed through the city, the city of Yorkton, and the council of the city of Yorkton, Mr. Speaker, the leadership that they'd showed as well.

Provincial employees through Corrections and Public Safety. We were just totally blessed to have the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety there a number of times and organized the help, the volunteer firefighters from the North and the volunteers from around the province that were orchestrated and organized through his department and his ministry to help the people of Yorkton. And for that, Mr. Minister, I'm truly thankful. So thank you very much. And when considering the minister and the work that he did and the Premier being out week after week throughout the disaster in Yorkton, and looking at some of the . . . I won't go into detail the changes to the PDAP [provincial disaster assistance program] program, Mr. Speaker, but the Minister of Corrections did a fine job of rattling through those.

And if there's three things I can focus on that were mentioned in the Throne Speech that people time and time again have given me a lot of good comments about, was our handling of the flood along with the people of Yorkton and the people of the province; the way the Premier and our government has been handling the potash issue as of late; and one other one would be the MS treatment, liberation treatment that we will be moving forward with here, Mr. Speaker. I'll touch on that a bit later.

When considering the theme of the Throne Speech, "The New Road" — or I would characterize that as you can't keep doing things the same old way and expect different results — we have been doing things a little bit differently. And no disrespect intended to the former government, the members across, and no disrespect intended to any previous government, but all governments of different political stripes have fallen into that trap over the past, Mr. Speaker.

That said, the Throne Speech does lay out some key things that maybe aren't new news but reiterating what the promises have been made, the promises that have been kept, and what we are going to be moving forward with in the future. The Throne Speech, as you know, is a plan for the government for the next year. And that plan very clearly continues on with promises made, promises kept, and continuing on finishing up those promises, some of which would be the revenue sharing with municipalities going to the full per cent this year and the expansion of the education property tax relief that will be fulfilled this year, Mr. Speaker.

These promises, Mr. Speaker, along with some new initiatives that are what is coming to be described as our new Saskatchewan, some of these initiatives for continued population growth . . . And speaking of the population, Mr. Speaker, the population growth we are now enjoying, the largest population in Saskatchewan's history. That alone, that might not be the greatest thing but when you consider that is in conjunction with one of the lowest unemployment rates if not the lowest unemployment rate in the country, along with some of the highest average wages in the country, Mr. Speaker, is something that the government has a little bit to do with. But it's the people of this province and that new-found positive attitude and that positive outlook and that faith in our province

that is helping us enjoy that to this day, Mr. Speaker. That environment is also one of an increased investment in this new, this contemporary Saskatchewan.

Now I'll move on to some of the details of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. I was going to leave this one for close to the last, but I heard the member opposite talking about the potash and talking about this combined trip to Ottawa with a united voice. And I heard that talk over and over again.

But in reflecting on the Leader of the Opposition's comments in his reply to the Throne Speech, there was clearly not a united voice. The Premier has had one message. And as I've reflected in just my previous comments, people I've talked to around the province and at home, very happy with the Premier's outlook on this subject, the stance that we've taken. And clearly the Leader of the Opposition not having the same stance, it doesn't make any sense to have a disunited voice or a not a united voice going to Ottawa to speak in the first place. So that sort of negates his comments there.

He referred to some alleged negotiations that I have not heard anybody here talk about, these negotiations with BHP. The only thing I have heard is the plans BHP came to the province with for the Jansen Lake mine which I mean that's a welcome investment into this province, and nobody here would debate that.

The only thing I have heard from this side of the House is a commitment to the people of the province to do all possible to ensure that the people of this province benefit for the resources that we do have here in biblical proportions, and that in a fair but business-friendly way. We realize the potash belongs to the people of the province. No one's ever debated that. And the Premier has time and time again referred to those statements that, you know, these are the people's resources and we're going to treat them as such. We are here to look after the resources of the people of the province. BHP looks after their interests. PCS [Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan] will look after their interests, Mr. Speaker. And that's the position that we have to take.

[21:30]

On this new road, reflecting on that, Mr. Speaker, I'll touch on some of the different initiatives. And again this, admittedly a previous announcement, but carrying through with some of the plans and commitments that we're following through with — the \$200 million commitment to the children's hospital, that money has flowed through, and as I've spoken about in this Assembly before, is something I'm very happy about.

I've talked to people around the province saying, you know, maybe that money should have been spent around the province, spread that \$200 million around the province to help all regions. But, Mr. Speaker, we know and I've seen with my own eyes that we need a specific children's hospital in Saskatoon that services these children, the issues that do arise with children around the province. Spreading that money around does not effectively address some of the issues that these young children encounter. And that money spent on a specific centre in Saskatoon is money well spent, and I look forward to the construction of that facility.

The target of 800 nurses. I think we all know now that 830 and plus has been met. So again a commitment that we made, and I'm very happy to reflect on that, Mr. Speaker, that that commitment has been kept in a year quicker than we'd expected.

Some of the other initiatives with surgery. We're talking about reducing surgical wait times, and in fact that is starting to work quite well, Mr. Speaker. In fact I think Saskatoon has realized a 71 per cent reduction in wait times for orthopedic surgery for mainly seniors. We've talked a lot about, today about the STARS program, the shock trauma air rescue system, which I believe will enhance our medical system, our emergency response system in this province to great lengths, Mr. Speaker. In the industries, specifically oil and gas and mining, and with some of our rural people as well, Mr. Speaker, where you know we have issues where we need — we have specific or very detrimental accidents and significant cases of trauma where a helicopter-based trauma unit would be very welcome.

Something I did touch on previously, and I'm very happy to be part of this government with the announcement of the \$5 million for the trials for the MS liberation treatment. I know around Yorkton I've numerous friends — just had a bit of an event yesterday for a friend of mine in Yorkton looking at his MS treatment, and this is a welcome, welcome announcement for the many MS patients around the province.

The expansion of the nursing training seats, Mr. Speaker, again something that's been very welcome and talked about at home to great length. In fact, one of my daughters has applied for nursing, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to the possibility of her getting into nursing and being a very caring and a very committed nurse in the future.

Something I was involved with very early on in my political career right after the election in 2007 with the community-based organizations initiative with the former Social Services minister from Humboldt, the community living wait-list of 440 now down to approximately 132, I believe. We have 308 of those spots filled, and those are quickly being addressed. So I'm very happy that some of the work that we did three years ago has come along that quickly, and we're very well on track for eliminating that 440 person wait-list by the end of this next year.

With that, a lot of the issues with housing for persons with intellectual disabilities, an initiative started in October '09, and we've got about 175 of those housing units in place right now, Mr. Speaker.

The Head Start on a Home program, which I think is a great initiative sort of along the lines possibly of Habitat for Humanity. And the investment we made in Habitat for Humanity, I think, has been a very welcome investment as well, Mr. Speaker. But Head Start on a Home will see the construction of 1,000 new affordable homes — homeowners in the next five years. And I've heard a lot of buzz around the Yorkton constituency as well where a lot of people looking at getting involved in that initiative and taking advantage of that.

The police officer initiative, we know we're 75 per cent of the way to that, completion of that. So we're right on track. And I

know Yorkton has enjoyed . . . The city of Yorkton put the money up for two and the provincial government put up the money for two, plus with the cadets in the city of Yorkton now, Mr. Speaker, we're well on our way to having a fully staffed . . . We do have a fully staffed police department. And as I mentioned, under the leadership of Staff Sergeant Joe Milburn, we have a very competent and a very, a very effective police force.

Reflecting again on some of the initiatives that were spoken about in the Throne Speech, and I think the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow kind of touched on this and maybe poked a bit of fun. But you know I've talked to many mayors and many municipal representatives around the province who, although they would've liked to have some of those initiatives in place followed through with last year, they're very happy with the follow-through within the four-year commitment, not only of our revenue sharing with municipalities, but the education property tax relief that will be in full effect this year, Mr. Speaker. And with that, a lot of the agricultural citizens around Yorkton are very encouraged by that and the income and the money that it will save not only the farmers but the ranchers in the Yorkton area.

The commitment to infrastructure investment — another welcome initiative that was announced. And when we started on that three years ago, the former minister from Maple Creek did an amazing job in getting that initiative up and running, and now our minister from Rosetown continuing on with the good work done by the former minister in some of the commitments with highways and infrastructure advancement and rebuilding in the province.

One thing I can point to that specifically comes into effect in Yorkton. The truck route, reliever route has . . . The initial part has been opened up and is in use. We'll be kicking off that initiative, I think, on Friday — the official announcement. And the additional routing that will be connecting down to 52 and over to Highway 10 is in the process of being built. So that's a significant investment in the Yorkton area, aside from all the other municipal investments that have been done through that ministry to improve roads and highways in our constituency.

We've seen significant investments in the agricultural portfolio, Mr. Speaker. And without going in depth — I know the Ag minister will be talking about those in depth very shortly, but — when we see the significant investments in livestock, loan programs, significant investments in hog and cattle operations, very welcomed, and the agricultural people around Yorkton are very happy about that. And now with the wetlands and the initiatives put forward through the Minister of Agriculture, again very welcome support in the community to get us through to the next year and carry those farmers through, Mr. Speaker.

I tease the member from Melville-Saltcoats quite often — the Minister of Agriculture — that you know I go to places and I have to straighten people out because they're always telling me how good this Agriculture minister is. It's quite likely he's the best Agriculture minister, Mr. Speaker, we've had in decades if ever. And you know quite often I have to straighten them out and, you know, kind of bring the Minister of Agriculture back down to ground. But he is truly respected and appreciated to many agricultural producers that I meet throughout the

province.

I had a conversation, Mr. Speaker, recently with a First Nations leader and I was very encouraged by the words that he had to say. We had a nice private conversation. And he was telling me that our government, this government, and the Premier probably have more respect from his group anyway than any leader in his memory. And, Mr. Speaker, I was very encouraged by that. You know sometimes you see things in the news and you think maybe you're not doing that great of a job but, you know, when you talk to some of these leaders in private they're very encouraging and very supportive and very open to continuing to work with this government for many years to come. So that's very encouraging.

And the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood touched on a lot of those initiatives there as well so I won't get too in depth there.

The Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has . . . The former minister did an amazing job as well, did some really good work. And he was in Yorkton a number of times and always well appreciated there and very loved and very liked. And a lot of good announcements with the film festival and a lot of the other Parks, Culture, and Sport announcements that we did have.

The member from Regina South, our new Minister of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, working very hard and some of the new initiatives I like to reflect on that are coming through his ministry, Mr. Speaker. The fixed \$6,000-a-year support for athletes. Our athletes continually supported by quite often Alberta out-of-province money, and I'm encouraged by supporting our athletes and building some Olympic athletes for now and into the future to represent their province so well that the Olympic athletes that we've had up to this point have done, Mr. Speaker.

We see new investments in our provincial parks which is always encouraging as well.

Energy, Innovation, and Environment, Mr. Speaker, some significant investments there. Although the federal government has dropped their portion of the program, we see almost \$10 million — nine and a half million dollars — invested in our EnerGuide program continuing on to support some of those energy efficiency initiatives that have been started and continue.

We're looking at new energy sources. We're looking at expanding, expanding wind power in the province. Doubling that capacity, along with other initiatives, Mr. Speaker, including, you know, the possibility of new hydroelectric power in the North in the coming years and exploring other opportunities as well. So that's always encouraging news.

Another file that I had the honour to work on with the former minister of Environment from Martensville and now under the guidance of the new Minister of Environment from Weyburn, Mr. Speaker, Weyburn-Big Muddy, the multiple material recycling program that I've often said is close to my heart coming from that industry; the solid waste and recycling industry and myself knowing, from our group, the Waste



Advisory Council and different groups that I've been involved with over the years, advocating for a sustainable recycling program in this province.

And again no discredit to the former government, I think they were trying to get things perfect before getting it out of the box. And we know that nothing is ever perfect. And I'm very encouraged that this new program, although admittedly quite likely won't keep everybody happy, it is a good first step and a step that we can, a foundation we can build on in the future to expand recycling and make sustainable recycling in the province with the non-refundable tin, plastic, glass, paper, and cardboard that we've seen ebb and flow through the markets, and then have sustainable, non-sustainable markets where now we're going to see markets that are truly going to be sustainable and positive recycling and less landfill usage in the future, Mr. Speaker.

I lost my page. Here.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk again about this new Saskatchewan for a few minutes and the positive attitudes. We see . . . I've often said . . . In my old life I used to do a lot of off-road racing and motorcycle racing, and one of the first things you'll get taught is, be careful where you look because where you look is where you steer. And time and time again, we'll see members opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, trying to get people looking in the ditch. And if we look in the ditch, where are we going to go? In the ditch.

We're on the road. We're looking forward. We're looking down this new road, and we're not looking in the ditch. We're glass-half-full people, Mr. Speaker. The people of the province are half-glass-full people. The new people moving to this province are glass-half-full; they're positive, they have a positive attitude. We're not glass-half-empty, the pessimistic-type attitude of the past like I've so often found members opposite, they do get that way.

And, Mr. Speaker, I often thought that this was maybe sort of an act, this glass-half-empty-type of an attitude, and I mean this sincerely. I'm not poking fun at the opposition whatsoever. I had the opportunity to speak to a group of social science teachers last year at the Social Science Teachers' Institute along with my friend, the member from Regina Rosemont. And he made a statement that really struck me, and it struck a chord with me. And it was sort of an aha moment for me. And he said to these teachers — and I mean it's public record, you can ask any one of them — that New Democrats by nature are critical people. And, Mr. Speaker, I thought that was an awfully odd statement. Because I mean I know he truly believed it. And I thought, critical, what does critical mean? Critical as in pessimistic; half glass empty; we'll never grow at the national average; we'll always be in and out of equalization — all these negative statements, Mr. Speaker.

And to me, that's looking in the ditch. And if you're always used to having that negative attitude, that pessimistic attitude, we're never going to grow. And that's why I think so many people moving to the province now and their positive attitudes, they'll see some of the comments coming from members opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, and they really get tired of it.

They are encouraged by the positive attitude of our Premier and our members of the government, Mr. Speaker, our Deputy Premier. A positive attitude. The member from Canora-Pelly always has encouraging, positive things to say. And every now and then I've even found myself in a bit of a woe is me attitude. And the member from Canora-Pelly is always there to pick you up, dust you off, and get you back on your feet with a positive attitude.

[21:45]

There's not too many more positive people than I've met from anywhere than my friend, the member from Canora-Pelly. And that really strikes me as odd, Mr. Speaker. I mean, we want to be positive. We have to be positive. And I started thinking about that — being positive. And I was at a blood drive awhile ago. My wife, my family, and I, we try to give blood as regularly as possible.

And when a friend's son recently was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, we thought it was time to get on the bone marrow drive. And you know, they're looking at your blood types. And I found out my blood type is B positive. No kidding. My blood type is B positive. And I guess it's in my nature. I can't help but be positive. You get down every now and then. But it's B positive.

I'm looking around this side of the House and I'm thinking, a lot of these members must have B positive blood types. And I'm not sure the blood type across . . . some might be B negative. I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker. But I want to just encourage my members, my friends on this side of the House to always keep your blood type in mind and be positive.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I've gone on quite a while here. So I would just like to say that I support the main motion, the Throne Speech, and I do not support the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. McMillan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to take to my feet tonight. Before I get into the meat of the Throne Speech, I would like to thank a few people. First of all my wife — she has been there with me through thick and thin. We've got two beautiful girls and she takes care of them. And tonight she ran to soccer practice and just . . . She's there doing some of the grunt work when I'm in the legislature representing the people of Lloydminster. So I'd like to thank her first and foremost.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, the ladies in my constituency office. We do a pile of work out of our constituency office. It's kind of a place that people come. They bring concerns. We try and deal with them directly. Some people bring in issues that they just want us to be aware of, Mr. Speaker. And Marilyn and Caren, Marilyn has really picked up the slack lately because Marilyn has had some concerns and hasn't been in the office as much. So I just want to say thank you to those ladies.

I'd like to congratulate our newest member from Saskatoon. I know all my colleagues have and some of the members opposite and I appreciate the members opposite acknowledging

him. I think he ran a great campaign. It showed a kind of barometer of where the people of Saskatchewan are today and the support that he garnered with more votes, higher percentage of the vote than we got in the last election. I think that was terrific.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected, one of the roles I had was Deputy Chair of committees, and with yourself as Speaker and the Deputy Speaker kind of showing me the ropes, it was a position I really enjoyed and it forced me to understand the rules in a fairly in-depth way. And now the member for Carrot River Valley will hold that position and I wish him the best of luck. I know he will do an excellent job and I hope he enjoys it as much as I do.

Mr. Speaker, before I get to the Speech from the Throne, I would like to also talk about one of the responsibilities I have, Mr. Speaker, and that's SGI. They had a very challenging summer. The member who just was on his feet spoke about some of the flooding issues in his constituency. Down in Maple Creek they have struggled with some major flooding issues there and I know SGI has struggled to be on top of those issues, to be a presence in the community almost as the rain is stopping.

And this summer I made a point of going to Maple Creek and meeting with our SGI office people there. I spent a day in Yorkton, Mr. Speaker, and talking to the people who are on the ground following those flood events. And the reports I hear back is that SGI was, you know, worked extremely hard. When you have that many claims in that short of period of time, it is a struggle for anyone. But I know that SGI did their best. And I think, looking back, they are recognized as being one of the leaders in Saskatchewan insurance industry, and it's the dedication of the employees which makes their brand stand out. I hear the member from Yorkton says, they set the standard, and I think the people of Saskatchewan can be proud that their insurance company set the standard, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk about potash as well, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I will put that a little later on, Mr. Speaker, in my chat tonight because that's something I would like to dig quite deep into here.

A couple of the things that jumped out for me, Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech was our . . . And the members opposite speak about, well the Throne Speech from '07, the Throne Speech from '08, the old Throne Speech. In each of those, Mr. Speaker, there was consistent commitments that we have come through with. I'm proud to stand behind those three throne speeches as I am this one. In each of those, Mr. Speaker, we talked about new police officers. In the election we said 120 in this term. Quickly do the math: that's 30 a year. In each Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, we have committed . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — You'd better write that down for them.

**Hon. Mr. McMillan:** — The member beside me thinks that I should be doing the math a little more, laying it out for the members opposite, but I think they can follow. Thirty a year, Mr. Speaker, for four years, comes to 120. At this point we're three years in and the funding has been put in each successive budget. This year it's in the Throne Speech. It will be in the

budget. At the end of our term we can stand in front of our constituents and say, we said we were committed to 120 new police officers and that's what the people of Saskatchewan deserve.

Again, Mr. Speaker, in the election campaign in '07 we said we think the people of Saskatchewan need 800 new nurses. We put it in our Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, back in '07 — 800 new nurses. The members opposite thought that was impossible but, Mr. Speaker, we thought it was possible. We thought it would be a lot of work; we didn't think it would be easy. But here we are, Mr. Speaker, three years in, a year ahead of schedule, and the Minister Responsible for Health said it here in the House today, Mr. Speaker, 800 — I believe it's 837 nurses today on the ground — new nurses, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand behind that commitment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, doctor recruitment. One of the members opposite today said the advertisements for new doctors, there's more new doctors required in Saskatchewan today than there was a year or two, three years ago. Mr. Speaker, that may be true but, Mr. Speaker, that's because our population is growing. If you look at the number of doctors on the ground today, there is more doctors working in Saskatchewan today than there was when these guys left, Mr. Speaker.

But what I think is more important, Mr. Speaker, we're training more doctors. When these guys left, there was about 60 training seats I believe, Mr. Speaker. Today . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Sixty-three.

**Hon. Mr. McMillan:** — Sixty-three, my counterpart says. I think that there's over 100 training seats today, Mr. Speaker. And not just that. We were training doctors back under the former government and we didn't have residencies for them. We would spend tens of thousands of dollars, potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars. We'd train our brightest students to become doctors, to take care of us. And then they'd have to leave to do their residencies. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if any of them have been in business but, Mr. Speaker, I see a flaw in that business model. I think that the people that lose there are the people of Saskatchewan. They've invested a large amount in the training and then they get nothing on the end.

Today in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, we're training more doctors; we're offering more residencies. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to keep more doctors in Saskatchewan because this is a positive place to live and a great place to be a doctor.

Not only are we training more doctors, Mr. Speaker. When the former government was running the province, they had six countries around the world which communities could recruit doctors from, foreign-trained graduates. And, Mr. Speaker, very successfully from South Africa in my community — we've had several doctors. I can't think of the other five countries have been nearly as prolific for bringing doctors in, but South Africa, we have several excellent doctors.

But at some point, Mr. Speaker, we needed to broaden the scope. We didn't have enough doctors in Saskatchewan. Their government wasn't willing to broaden the scope. I know our

Minister of Health has worked extremely hard. He's worked very hard with the College of Physicians and Surgeons to ensure that we have a standard which ensures we have a high calibre of doctors coming to Saskatchewan, but also ensures that the communities around Saskatchewan are recruiting those doctors to have the choice, have the ability to find a good one. And I think that that is a real feather in his cap, the college's cap, and a real advantage for the communities around Saskatchewan.

The critic for Health, Mr. Speaker, spoke earlier today about her tour of Saskatchewan, about communities. Mr. Speaker, she says she's been speaking a lot about it. And I knew that she had come through my communities because people would call me and they were scared silly, Mr. Speaker. They were shocked. They said, if those guys ever get in government again, we were are in trouble. You know, she said she'd come into town and she'd talk to some health care . . . people concerned about health care. And those people would call me up and say, holy cow, you guys got to, you got to win the next election; we can't go through this again.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think part of the concern might have been last time they did a tour of rural Saskatchewan, they toured hospitals, Mr. Speaker, they closed hospitals around rural Saskatchewan. So you can understand that it's kind of like, it's kind of like Halloween, Mr. Speaker, when they come knocking on your door. If they knock on your door one year and then egg your house, you're going to be a little suspect the next time they come around and knock on your door. So if she had a frosty reception in some of the communities, that may have contributed to it, Mr. Speaker.

The air ambulance, Mr. Speaker, that's a positive announcement that I think has been very well received. I live right on the Alberta border, Mr. Speaker, in Lloydminster. Alberta has an excellent track record with the STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] program. It's been functioning very well for the last 25 years. It provides a level of service for critically injured people across Alberta, and there's no reason that people in Saskatchewan don't deserve the same level, the same standard as people in Alberta and many other provinces. I think Saskatchewan might be one of the laggards in this regard.

We heard earlier today Saskatchewan was one of the leaders in fixed-wing aircraft for supplying airlift service in Canada. And we now, after 16 years of the NDP, find we're one of the last provinces to have a rotary wing service. And I think that's systemic of the problems that 16 years of NDP government . . . If any other province had to stand for 16 years of the NDP, they probably would be in the same boat, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk briefly about the potash situation. I know that's on the minds of many people in Saskatchewan. At a dinner up on Thursday night, a gentleman came up and chatted with me. He wanted to talk about the potash. He'd been waiting to talk to me for about three weeks. He came up and spoke to me, Mr. Speaker, about potash. He wanted to talk to me. He said he was very pleased with the speech that our Premier made to the chamber of commerce here in Regina. He thought that that is the right move for Saskatchewan and just wanted to let me know. And I think that's something that all our members are hearing here and

there around their constituencies. There's been very few people that are talking the other way.

But, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of chatter coming from the members opposite. And I think that they're feeling a little insecure about their position. Back in the '70s, Mr. Speaker — I'm going to go back a few years — back in the '70s, the NDP had a similar position. They thought, we don't think that the private companies are doing a very good job in potash. So they decided that they were going to be the captains of the industry, Mr. Speaker. They were going to run the industry. They thought that they knew more about potash than the mining companies. So they passed some legislation. They changed the laws and, in all essence, they stole the potash companies out from under the investors.

And well they started producing potash and they started selling potash and they started producing. Pretty soon, Mr. Speaker, we had a problem in Saskatchewan. We had mountains of potash. It was selling for very little, very little money. The people of Saskatchewan were not getting much value for their resource, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, then in the '80s, the potash industry was sold to the private sector, Mr. Speaker. Most of the shares were sold to the private sector. But it wasn't until 1994 when the now Leader of the Opposition was, I believe, the guy selling the last shares. The deputy premier, he sold. He knew that the NDP were not captains of potash. He'd suffered through the years of decline.

And, Mr. Speaker, I understand . . . I'm just getting into the heart of the potash debate here, Mr. Speaker, but we're coming up on 10 o'clock. So I know the members opposite are going to sleep well tonight, knowing that I can finish this tomorrow. But I'd like to adjourn the debate for this evening, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. The member from Lloydminster has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the House adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that the Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 22:00.]



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