



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Dwain Lingenfelter

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
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Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
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Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
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Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
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Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
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McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
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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
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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
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Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
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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 met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Before I recognize the Premier, I'd just ask members if, once the Premier's made his introduction and a response from the opposition, if they would give the Speaker then the opportunity to introduce our SSSI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] teachers. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's one of those special days here in the legislature as we have a number of very important guests, Mr. Speaker, including someone that I'm very pleased to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly — Her Excellency Nouzha Chekrouni, ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco in Canada. We're welcoming her to this Legislative Assembly today.

Mr. Speaker, Her Excellency was born in the Kingdom of Morocco in 1955. She's married with two daughters. From 1998 to 2002, Her Excellency served as delegate minister responsible for women's issues, family and childhood protection, and the integration of the disabled.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that Her Excellency has been in the province on a number of occasions. And we welcome her visits because, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is Morocco's largest trading partner both in exports and in imports as well. We do a lot of business. And more importantly, through that business there is obviously, Mr. Speaker, some mutual benefit to families that Her Excellency represents and families that we represent here in this Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan exports to Morocco consist almost entirely of agricultural commodities including wheat and pulses, mostly lentils and also a small amount of oilseeds. Mr. Speaker, our imports from Morocco also fluctuate, but our purchases include olive oil, Mr. Speaker, and air filters as well. And as we say, as I've pointed out already, it's the largest trading partner, our province is with Morocco, not just in terms of our selling but also in terms of our importing of goods from Morocco.

Mr. Speaker, the ambassador is accompanied by Ms. Charlene Richmond, who we'd ask to stand as well, and Mr. Mohammed Meskaoui, minister-councillor in the embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco and Canada. Ms. Richmond is the newly appointed honorary consul of the Kingdom of Morocco in Saskatchewan. The ambassador and the Provincial Secretary announced the appointment of Ms. Richmond earlier today. She has, since graduating from the University of Saskatchewan with distinction in 1988, gained extensive legal experience at all levels of court, including appearing before the Supreme Court of Canada. She co-founded the Richmond Nychuk Law Office here in Regina and practices family and agricultural law there.

We're going to have a chance to meet a little bit later on in the day, and there's a program for Her Excellency over the rest of the day as well. So we want to welcome them here to this Assembly. And we want to say in the name of this trading relationship, thank you.

Asalaam Alaikum.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming the ambassador from the Kingdom of Morocco to our Legislative Assembly, Ambassador Chekrouni who is, I understand, doing a great job for the people of Morocco. Along with her, Ms. Richmond. I want to say congratulations to you as well as being the honorary consul here in Regina.

But of course Morocco is very important to Saskatchewan because we have a lot of agricultural products that are exchanged. I think largely the exchange is to Saskatchewan's favour because we sell a lot of farm products including durum and chickpeas and lentils and other things, into Morocco.

I might also add that there's another similarity. Morocco has a very, very large oil shale project, and I know that Morocco is looking around the world for someone to help develop that industry. And I know that the expertise we have in western Canada in the oil sands, both in Alberta and Saskatchewan, I think there may be a linkage there that we should be talking to Morocco about. So welcome to the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Members, it's my pleasure as well today to introduce a group that have joined us, a group of teachers who are here for the 13th annual Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. The institute began on Saturday and will conclude on Wednesday.

This group has already met with a number of people including members of the judiciary, the acting Chief Electoral Officer, and the Clerk. Earlier today they met with caucus staff from both sides of the House, the Sergeant-at-Arms, and House leaders. They're scheduled to meet with caucus Chairs, caucus Whips, several MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly], cabinet ministers, including the Minister of Education.

And I'd like to introduce them individually now. And I'd ask that they wave as I introduce them by name: Mrs. Valerie Brooks, Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle; Ms. Victoria Danyluk, U of R [University of Regina], Regina; Mr. Perry Enns, Sacred Heart High School in Yorkton; Mr. Geoffrey Haacke, Pierceland Central School; Mrs. Corinne Harcourt, Englefeld School; Mrs. Amy Jago, Waldeck Elementary and Junior High School; Mr. Jonas Kiedrowski, Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon; Mr. Troy Koepke, Punnychy Community High School; Mr. Daniel Koskie, U of S [University of Saskatchewan], Saskatoon; Mrs. Michelle Lane, Osler School; Mr. Chad Lechner, Davison School, Melville; Mr. Matt Linner, Warman High School; Mrs. Kristine Neustaeter, Langenburg High School; Mr. Paul Orłowski, Faculty of Education, U of S, Saskatoon; Mr. Derek Paul, Warman High School; Ms. Fallon

Prince, Langenburg High School; Mrs. Jill Radwanski, James Hamblin School, Qu'Appelle; Ms. Amanda Schafhauser, Vanscoy School; Ms. Holly Stasiuk, Aberdeen Composite School; Mrs. Cherry Staszczak, Wynyard Composite High School; Mr. Armand Tetreault, Vickers School, Prince Albert; Mrs. Linda Varty, Harris-Tessier Central School in Harris; Mrs. Rhonda Watchel, Churchill Community High School in La Ronge; Mr. Darren Weinrauch, U of S, Saskatoon; and Mrs. Brenda Werner, Pilot Butte School in Pilot Butte.

Also joining the teachers from the Ministry of Education, Mr. Brent Toles, and our coordinators: Ms. Maria Sparvier, Cowessess Community Educational Centre in Cowessess First Nation; Mr. Robert Jardine, Blaine Lake Composite School in Blaine Lake; and Mr. Paul Weiman, Holy Family School in North Battleford.

I'd ask the members to join me in welcoming this group of educators from the province of Saskatchewan to their Legislative Assembly. I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Hon. Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it is my pleasure to introduce a couple of guests seated in your gallery. Joining us today is Robbie Scott. Robbie is the president of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in Scotland. The Caledonian Curling Club is known worldwide as the mother club of curling. The Caledonian was formed in 1838 and received permission from Queen Victoria in 1843 to use the word royal in the title.

Robbie is accompanied today by his lovely wife, Kathleen Scott. This is Kathleen's second visit to Regina. She was here in 1995 with 24 lovely Scottish lasses on a curling tour.

Mr. Speaker, Regina is proudly hosting the World Men's Curling Championship, and I encourage everyone who has the opportunity to take in the fine curling. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members on both sides of this House to join me in extending a cordial welcome to our guest from Scotland.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with you in extending a welcome to the teachers who are here with us today. We often have school groups visit the legislature on an ongoing basis, but we know it's a special time of year when the teachers make it to the legislature for the action-packed days that you have planned for them.

So on behalf of the official opposition, I would like to say welcome. And I know I speak for many members on both sides when I say that I look forward to the chance to meet with you. I know we have a number of breakout groups or sessions planned to share a bit about the Legislative Assembly. So welcome here, and we look forward to more conversations over the next few days.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also want to join with you in welcoming the teachers that have

joined us today and the organizers for the institute. We did have a chance to have a visit. I had a chance to have a visit with them this morning and a bit of a nickel tour of the Premier's office. And it was worth every, every penny, I'm sure they would say.

We did have a pretty good discussion about public policy in the province and the organization of government, but I know there'll be many more chances to have a much more in-depth discussion that these teachers will have with members of this House. And we join with you in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the legislature, I'd like to introduce somebody seated in the west gallery. Larry Kowalchuk is the legal counsel for Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union in the province, a tireless worker for union rights. And I'd ask all of my colleagues to welcome him to his legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you some relatives of mine joining us today. My Uncle Gary and Auntie Patti Harrison from Wakaw are in town as well as my Uncle Lyle and Auntie Val Thibault who are joining us from Quill Lake where Lyle's the mayor, actually, of Quill Lake. Amongst other things, they're here to watch the curling. So welcome to the legislature, and it's good to see you.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have guests in the gallery that I think are guests of probably both sides of the House. These people are tenants from two apartment blocks on Portnall Avenue. I think they've met with some of the members opposite and have met with myself and the Minister of Social Services as well as representatives from the Office of Residential Tenancies.

We had discussions regarding rent increases, which I think all members would find difficult and unacceptable, as well as other issues regarding their tenancy. We would like to thank them very much for coming and sharing their concerns with us. And we'd also like to thank them for not just that issue but the other issues that they raised, which will probably be of some assistance to the government going forward. So I would like to ask all members to welcome them and join them to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the minister in welcoming the renters from I believe it's 3211 Portnall Avenue in Regina. We have had discussions, as the minister has, about the rent increases that these individual families are facing that, as all of them readily admit, all the families in that particular apartment and many other hundreds of apartments in the province find it's unsustainable. And I'm

sure we'll be having further discussions. I just want to welcome them all to the Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have great pleasure to introduce Jeff Stusek, president and CEO [chief executive officer] of Information Services Corporation. He's joined with Charlene Gavel, the chief financial officer. And thank you very much for joining us today. Today we will be tabling ISC's [Information Services Corporation] annual report.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition that speaks to the issue that over the past four years too many Saskatchewan tenants have faced surging rent increases that are simply making living in Saskatchewan unaffordable. And, Mr. Speaker, it also notes that a majority of Canadians now live in provinces with rent control guidelines including Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Speaker, it also points to the issue that rent-controlled Winnipeg generated more new rental units than Regina and Saskatoon from 2007 to 2009. And CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation] data shows that there are fewer than 300 rental unit starts in Saskatchewan's two largest cities combined. During that same period in rent-controlled Winnipeg, there were over 1,500 new rental units generated. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action to cause the government to immediately enact rent control legislation that protects Saskatchewan tenants from unreasonable increases in rent.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by residents from Buena Vista, Raymore, Fort Qu'Appelle, Lumsden, Regina, Saskatoon, Tantallon, Humboldt, Craven, Wapella, White City, North Battleford, Grenfell, Ituna, Fenwood, Melville, Langham, Aberdeen, Moose Jaw, Wolseley, Moosomin, Whitewood, and Balcarres. I so present.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions on behalf of people who want the government to know:

That they ought to recognize the need for timely access to comprehensive and quality health care services for all communities within the province, including Wakaw and surrounding areas, and that the disruption of emergency services and in-patient services at Wakaw Hospital will not serve the needs of the residents in this community and surrounding area; and

That the cuts in access to timely and accurate diagnostic and laboratory tests within the community of Wakaw and surrounding area will also not serve the needs of the residents; and

That the government realize that the utilization and value of the full range of professional skills offered by health care providers is promoted through the address of critical retention and recruitment issues and by ensuring safe staffing levels; and

That such promotion can only be achieved through the commitment of adequate public funding to publicly administer publicly accessible health care.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintain quality health care services through the commitment of necessary funding to address critical retention and recruitment issues.

These signatures are from people from Saskatoon, Domremy, Wakaw, Humboldt, St. Benedict, Yellow Creek, St. Louis, Cudworth, Lang, Belle Plaine, Yorkton, Langham, and Aberdeen. I so present.

[13:45]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of eliminating poverty here in Saskatchewan. And we know that Saskatchewan's income gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow, and now one in five children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. We also know that freedom from poverty is an enshrined human right by the United Nations and that all citizens are entitled to social and economic security. And citizens living in poverty have long identified affordable solutions such as the national plan calling for dignity for all, and these plans have a lot of worth. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to act as quickly as possible to develop an effective and sustainable poverty elimination strategy for the benefit of all Saskatchewan citizens.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition from constituents who live in Hampton Village about the need for a new elementary school for their children.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of

Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that Hampton Village is a rapidly growing community in Saskatoon with many young families; that Hampton Village residents pay a significant amount of taxes, including education property taxes; that children in Hampton Village deserve to be able to attend school in their own community instead of travelling to neighbouring communities to attend schools that are typically already reaching capacity.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan cause the provincial government to devote the necessary resources for the construction of an elementary school in Hampton Village so that children in this rapidly growing neighbourhood in Saskatoon can attend school in their own community.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are residents in the neighbourhood of Hampton Village. I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of a potash royalty review for the province of Saskatchewan. The petition is being circulated because Saskatchewan has a 1,000-year supply of this strategic, world-class resource, but the owners of this potash, the people of Saskatchewan, deserve to maximize the potential of the resource; and that there is, according to a CEO of a potash company in Saskatchewan, a new norm for potash and the Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan. And I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

Cause the government to begin a comprehensive, transparent, and public review of Saskatchewan's potash royalty system with a view to maximizing the return from this strategic resource for its owners, the people of Saskatchewan.

We wish to use these additional potash royalty resources for needed investment in health care, child care, education, affordable housing, infrastructure, and other social programs as well as public initiatives such as debt repayment.

Mr. Speaker, the petition today is signed by good folks from the city of Saskatoon and the town of St. Louis. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present yet another petition to restore funding equity to Regina Catholic Schools. Mr. Speaker, Regina Catholic Schools received \$275 less per pupil than Regina Public Schools, amounting to a funding inequity of \$2.7 million in total. That

funding inequity places program delivery and staffing levels at risk. The Government of Saskatchewan has denied Catholic school boards in the province representation on the government-appointed committee mandated to develop a long-term funding formula for Saskatchewan school boards. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to address the funding inequity between Regina Catholic schools and Regina public schools that provides \$275 less per pupil funding for Regina Catholic school students, totalling \$2.7 million, and make known that the continuation for another school year of funding inequity places program delivery and staffing levels at risk in Regina Catholic schools; and in so doing, immediately restore funding equity to ensure that every student in Saskatchewan, whether enrolled in a Catholic or public school, receives equitable resources to ensure every student in Saskatchewan has access to a quality education.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the residents of Regina. I so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today with a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan concerned about the detrimental effect that the enactment of Bill 160 would have on human rights law in the province. And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan withdraw Bill 160 from consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and hold extensive public consultations informed by a public policy paper before any amendments to the Human Rights Code, the law that supersedes all others in our province, are even considered.

Today the petition is signed by residents of Moose Jaw, Regina, Lebreton, Lipton, Balgonie, Balcarres, Brownlee, Eatonia, Kindersley, and Melville, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude specifically to the fact that this government has run deficits and increased debt at times of historic highs in revenues, Mr. Speaker. In fact this year alone total public debt is increasing by \$548 million, and total public debt has increased over the last three years by more than \$1.3 billion, Mr. Speaker, set against a landscape of record highs and revenues. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party government for its damaging financial mismanagement since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying

Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Lanigan, Wadena, Margo, Canora, and Regina. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Autism Resource Centre Summer Program

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 2nd marked the fourth annual World Autism Awareness Day. World Autism Awareness Day promotes awareness about autism spectrum disorders throughout society. Our province is currently implementing its provincial strategy for autism spectrum disorder services. 6.5 million is being invested annually to improving services and supports for ASD [autism spectrum disorder].

Mr. Speaker, with summer around the corner, I would like to highlight a therapeutic summer program that Regina's Autism Resource Centre provides. The focus of the summer programs is to develop new skills and maintain already learned skills. Each participant has an individual planned program to follow throughout the day. IPPs [individual planned program] focus on communication skills, life skills, vocational skills, and overall independent skills.

Our government has provided \$100,000 this year to ARC's [Autism Resource Centre] summer program. And what this funding means is that parent fees will decrease and ARC is now able to add two new summer programs — the senior summer program and the senior adventure camp — to increase capacity.

In 2010 ARC had 105 participants. This summer they will have space for 120 participants. Promoting awareness and providing support to people with ASD takes place all year-round, and our government is committed to adding additional support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Cancer Awareness Month

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April is Cancer Awareness Month in Canada, a time when we strive to raise awareness and funds to help combat this devastating disease. Every year the Canadian Cancer Society steps up its efforts to promote cancer awareness during the month of April, also known as daffodil month.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this weekend, Mandi Schwartz, the Yale University hockey player from Wilcox whose battle against cancer made headlines over the past two years, passed on Sunday. Mandi, who was only 23, fought acute myeloid leukemia for more than two years and received a stem cell

transplant in September. Although the transplant was at first thought to be successful, the leukemia returned.

More than 4,200 people were added to donor registries in Canada and the United States as a result of Mandi's situation. The people who worked so tirelessly on her behalf and for the benefit of all patients with her form of cancer have a fighting chance because of her example.

On behalf of the official opposition, I commend the Canadian Cancer Society and other organizations dedicated to the fight against cancer. As well we extend our sympathies to the Schwartz family and all other that continue to fight this terrible disease.

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

Business Builder Awards Ceremony

Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 30th, the hon. members from Saskatoon Greystone, Saskatoon Southeast, Silver Springs, and Meadow Lake, and I had the privilege of attending the North Saskatoon Business Association 14th annual Business Builder Awards in Saskatoon.

This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the best and brightest of Saskatoon's business community, many of whom are located in my constituency of Saskatoon Northwest. Some of this year's winners include Jeremy Thompson of Sawyer's Trees & Landscapes with a New Direction Award; Brent Banda of Banda Marketing Group, Member of the Year; Alex Miller and Tyler Mathies of Innovative Residential for the Teambuilding Award; and Barry Ghiglione of Handy Group of Companies who won the Shirley Ryan Lifetime Achievement Award, Mr. Speaker.

That night began with inspiring words from Mr. Brett Wilson and Mayor Don Atchison, with both emphasizing the many positive impacts a successful business community has on both the city and the province as a whole.

The year's NSBA [North Saskatoon Business Association] Builder Awards also provide an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to showcase their talents and ideas. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge Keith Moen and the NSBA board of directors for their hard work each and every year and congratulate them on another successful Business Builder Awards ceremonies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Aboriginal Family Services Benefit Gala

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday night I, along with the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley; MNS [Métis Nation of Saskatchewan] President Robert Doucette; FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] Vice-chief Dutch Lerat; Senator Panna Merchant; and city councillor Fred Clipsham had the honour of attending the Aboriginal Family Services' 15th anniversary benefit gala. The gala was a great way to celebrate and showcase 15 years of struggle and success

in providing services to urban Aboriginal families and children in the Regina and area since 1996.

It was quite the night, Mr. Speaker, and things got under way with some fine drumming and singing from Piapot's own Dancing Young Buffalo and with wise words of prayer and blessing from elder Kirby Littlelent. Master of ceremonies Nelson Bird put in his usual excellent performance, and artistic guests Jason Chamakese, Andrea Menard, and Mike Keepness wowed us all.

But of course the real stars of the show were people like North Central hero Claudette Alexson, who bravely told the crowd what a positive difference the Aboriginal Family Services had made in her life, in the lives of her children. And the gala itself was a wonderful opportunity for Delora Parisian and Lorna Blind and all the staff and supporters to tell an inspiring story of 15 years of making a difference, going from one program and three staff to seven programs and 50 staff, and the joys and heartaches that come from administering the largest of 150 Aboriginal head start programs in Canada.

The story of Aboriginal Family Services is one of responding in a positive way to the terrible legacy of those who had set out to kill the Indian in the child. Delora Parisian and Aboriginal Family Services are building a new legacy, a legacy of healing and pride and self-sufficiency, one that takes up the challenge of Sitting Bull, Tatanka Iyotake, when he said, "Let us come together and see what we can do for the children." Happy anniversary, Aboriginal Family Services.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Humboldt.

Humboldt District Health Complex Opens

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell everyone about the celebration of the grand opening of the new Humboldt District Health Complex that took place this past Friday on April 1st. The opening of this new complex comes almost 100 years after the city's first hospital began construction in 1911.

And what a long way we've come, Mr. Speaker. This new facility houses both the Humboldt District Hospital and the Humboldt Community Services. The new hospital has the capacity for 34 in-patients with an additional four bed observation area and 10 day surgery spaces. There is increased capacity for resident and visiting surgeons, diagnostics, therapies, and cancer care.

It was an exciting event, Mr. Speaker, to celebrate the grand opening, rather than just the erecting of yet another sign. The project was first announced by the NDP [New Democratic Party] in 1999 by the member for Saskatoon Nutana. This same project was announced again in 2005 by the member from Regina Lakeview. And then again it was announced in 2007 by the member for The Battlefords. It took the Saskatchewan Party government to actually commit the dollars to make this state-of-the-art facility in Humboldt a reality, although of course this complex would not have been possible without the hard work of the community. Local funding for construction was contributed by 29 municipalities, the Humboldt District Hospital Foundation, the Saskatoon Health Region. The

completion of this project is just another way that our government continues to put patients first.

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

[14:00]

Cost of Living

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan families continue to face increasing difficulty in keeping up with the rising costs of living. Take basics like food, Mr. Speaker. About a month ago George Weston Inc., which produces bread products under a number of common household brands, announced it would be raising its prices by 5 per cent starting April 1st. Other companies like Maple Leaf are raising their prices too, and many family's food budgets, already stretched tight, won't be able to absorb the increases. Food bank visits could rise along with the prices, Mr. Speaker.

Things are no better when it comes to shelter. CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] reported last Friday that some tenants here in Regina are facing rent increases ranging from 63 per cent to as high as 70 per cent. The only limit is six months advance notice. As one tenant told reporters, and I quote:

Somebody can come in and give me a piece of paper that says in six months you have to drastically increase your earnings or you have to get out. And there's nothing that can be done about it.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing that can be done about it is also the answer we're getting from this government on issues like the rising cost of living and unaffordable housing, both of which were left out of the budget. Mr. Speaker, it's an answer that needs to change so we finally see some action to protect renters and families who are struggling to make ends meet here in Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville.

Opposition Statements

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inaccurate statements are again coming from the NDP. The most recent disregard for factual information comes from two senior members of the NDP caucus who have been here long enough to know better.

During budget debates on March 29th, in reference to our government's housing initiatives, the member from Saskatoon Fairview seemed to think he was speaking on behalf of Saskatoon's mayor and he said, and I quote, "... the mayor is not very happy ...". Well, Mr. Speaker, we have talked to Mayor Atchison. He said that the member for Saskatoon Fairview does not speak on his behalf.

Mr. Speaker, if he has not already done so, the member for Fairview should retract these words and apologize for this absolutely inaccurate statement.

But not to be outdone, the member for Saskatoon Eastview claimed on March 29th in this House that there was a reopener provision in the Saskatchewan Medical Association's contract. This statement was made after calling the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] for clarification, who told her that there was no such provision.

Mr. Speaker, the SMA has responded to the member with the following, and I quote, "I'm left to wonder why you bother to solicit information from the Saskatchewan Medical Association, as it would appear you don't seem to accept it as being reliable."

Mr. Speaker, the NDP's statements are so lacking in credibility that if they wish you good morning, you had better check your watch.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Response to Rent Increases

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, as indicated during introduction of guests, we have a group of renters from 3211 Portnall Avenue in Regina with us today. And the reason they're here is because last week they were notified by the owner of the apartment they live in that rents would be going up August 1st anywhere from 63 per cent to 100 per cent on August 1st. Now, Mr. Speaker, these are not rents that have been frozen for a period of time. In fact the rent in this building has gone up 10 per cent per year for the last three years for a total of 30 per cent, and this new increase of 63 to 100 per cent comes on top of that.

Mr. Speaker, up to this point the government has been saying that rents are going up at an appropriate rate and has failed to protect Saskatchewan families the way 80 per cent of Canadians have protection with rent control or a cap on their rent. Can the minister or the Premier explain to the people from 3211 Portnall why it's okay for rent to go up an average of 75 per cent August 1st for these families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's not acceptable that that would happen to people renting in this province or anywhere else. Mr. Speaker, this is a very unfortunate anomaly that's affecting the lives of people that have joined us today, who now face the prospect of the August 1st deadline as the Opposition Leader has pointed out, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell you that, like the industry in the province, like the mayors in the province, like the major dailies in the province, we think a plan to overall increase the supply of student housing and new homes, as well as build new public housing and increase rental allowances, that's the right broad strategy to pursue, Mr. Speaker. We don't want to, we don't want to inhibit supply in the long term, which would not help those in the gallery today or anyone else.

However, there is a housing summit coming up, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you this government will be listening carefully to the

partners in this housing summit. There may be options the government has with respect to the amount of notice that can be given and other measures that are possible to protect those who rent from what are obviously unacceptably high increases.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, on Friday I had the opportunity to meet with a woman, an elderly woman, 85 years old. Her name is Ann. And her rent is going from \$625 to \$1,100 per month. I know Moses, who's with us here today, his rent is doubling or going up 100 per cent on August 1st.

Ann has a situation where her income is \$1,200 per month. She doesn't have an opportunity to go get more income. Her income is fixed. She knows exactly within a dollar how much she spends on food, 125 a month, 625 for her rent, \$30 a month for her alert, \$100 for medical, pharmaceuticals, and so on and so forth. She said she can adjust her income \$5 one way or the other and after that there is no room. And the other families who live in this apartment and many other thousands of apartments in the province are in the same position.

Can the Premier tell us, not what he's planning to do in terms of meetings, but what is he doing to put in a form of cap or rent control to protect these tens of thousands of families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, these rent increases facing these folks in the gallery are unacceptable. And, Mr. Speaker, there are measures that may be possible. We want to work together in concert with partners who provide housing across this province to find out what's possible. We need to point out, we need to point out for the debate that the average monthly increases in rent in Regina is 6.3 per cent and also in Saskatoon that the increase is 4 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asks, what is the government doing for those who are most vulnerable? For the first time in history, Mr. Speaker, this government has taken the steps to increase rental accommodation allowances and then index them to inflation. And, Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 16 years this government increased the seniors' income tax . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would ask the members to allow the Premier to have the same opportunity to present his response without interference. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we've doubled the plan for seniors, the income assistance plan for seniors that was neglected for 16 years. 114,000 fewer people are paying income tax in the province. This particular situation deserves the attention of government. Ministers met with the group. It'll continue to get the attention of government. In the meantime, we'll continue with a long-term housing policy that will actually increase the supply. That's the long-term answer, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, a long-term plan for housing is very important, and the opposition couldn't agree more that we need a plan for affordable housing in this province because for the last four years we haven't seen a plan. But we need more than that in the interim for people like Ann who are 85 years old. A long-term plan isn't working real well for many of these families.

The Rentalsman, when individuals from this apartment went to meet with them or were told by people who went to meet with the Rentalsman, is there's absolutely nothing that can be done under the existing law — that these kind of increases of 100 per cent are absolutely legal and okay, and the Rentalsman can do nothing.

There is someone who can fix this situation. That's the Government of Saskatchewan. And what we need is a cap on rent through rent control, the way that 80 per cent of Canadians have that kind of protection. In Quebec, in Ontario, in Manitoba, in British Columbia they have protection.

When will this Premier move to protect families in this province by a form of a cap and rent control to look after families and protect them from these kind of rent increases?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's very clear that our rent situation in our province is in a state of change. We've had some very significant shortage of space to have in our province. There's been issues, but I can tell you that in the most recent survey by CMHC, the vacancy rate has increased from 1.9 per cent to 2.5 per cent. So, Mr. Speaker, we are somewhat over the worst of the situation we're at.

Early on in our mandate, Mr. Speaker, we appointed the task force on affordable housing, which was Ted Merriman and Bob Pringle. Those gentlemen did a considerable amount of work. One of the recommendations that they had was to increase the notice period to offer a better period of transition and a cushion to tenants. That increased the notice period, Mr. Speaker, from some three months to six months.

We are taking every step possible to ensure that we work with these tenants to provide adequate and appropriate solutions for them.

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

Situation of Low-Income People

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know the unequal way prices for things like rent and food have been rising relative to wages and income is creating a horrible strain on many of Saskatchewan's most vulnerable families.

To the minister: this affordability gap is hitting families hard on the lower end to the wage scale, with low-wage earners forced to spend up to 70 per cent of their income just on housing and food. To the minister: when will this government take some steps, real steps, in addressing the challenges for these men and children?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, it's an important question for the member opposite. And I'm sure that the members realize that everything we do in this government does address the issues for people that are in need. That's why it's taken 114,000 people off the tax rolls and, with this budget, we've lowered utility costs and we've doubled low-income tax credits.

Mr. Speaker, every ministry looks at the people that are the weak, vulnerable and that we should be looking at for their support. Mr. Speaker, it's an important issue for our people. We've indexed rental supplements and shelter aids five times. We've indexed them both to the cost of living. We've made sure that the people in our province . . . We've increased the income threshold for seniors by 48 per cent in urban areas. Mr. Speaker, we've doubled the number of seniors eligible for benefits under the seniors' income plan. There's a lot more to be done, but we have a growing economy and we have people that are involved in the economy and want to help. Mr. Speaker, we're relying on them as well.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, that minister would know that seniors don't qualify for the rental supplement, and that's a big, big deal for many seniors. It seems like affordability issues are like kryptonite to this government and they don't want to touch it with a 10-foot pole. And many people, many people are suffering because of the lack of inaction because of this government. And the faces of these families are suffering and today she can just list off in cold comfort the things that seem to be out of control in this province.

Mr. Speaker, when will this government let go of its mantra that everything is A-okay in this province and take some serious action to address the affordability issue here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, when the member opposite stands up, he always talks about things like strategies. Well what we do in this province is something that's called action. What we're trying to do is make sure that we're growing the economic pie for everybody in this province, where we've got more people working in this province than ever before. The average weekly earnings are up and the employment rate is the second in Canada. We're putting money back into the pockets of people right across the province by increasing the exemptions. We have low-income single parents who have saved \$2,800 annually, thanks to some of our tax cuts. Mr. Speaker, we're doing things like investing in life skills. We're doing things like investing in basic adult education. And we're providing financial support for the most vulnerable in our province.

There's more work to do, Mr. Speaker. It's part of the work that we're doing across ministries. And I'm proud of the fact that there is an advantage, and that's why there's more people moving to this province than ever before.

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

Mother Baby Unit

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, last week the minister said he wasn't prepared to do anything until the review around the circumstances of baby Cambria's death is complete. Mr. Speaker, that review is going to take at least six months. No family should have to go through what baby Cambria's family is going through now.

To the minister: one baby has died because something wasn't right within the mother baby unit. What precautions is he taking while he waits for the results of the review to immediately assure families that this won't happen to them?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said last week, our condolences absolutely go out to that family. I want to assure all expecting mothers and parents, mothers and fathers that their safety in our facilities is the number one priority of all health care deliverers throughout this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I've talked to the ministry officials last week, and we looked at what else could be done. As of today, ministry officials are reaching out to the family themselves to see if there's any assistance they can be as far as the recovery process and the grieving process, Mr. Speaker. Also the ministry as well as the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses are looking at possible steps as we move forward, Mr. Speaker, as to staffing levels. But according to the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, at the time it was appropriately staffed.

A review is being conducted, a formal review, as by the guidelines on the critical incident regulations, Mr. Speaker. We'll let that work take place, but in the interim, Mr. Speaker, communications between the family, health regions, Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, and the Ministry of Health is under way.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, on March 31st the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, SUN, issued a media release stating that their members working at the mother baby unit had raised concerns about the staffing levels and safety practices on the unit. They raised them at a presentation made about the old unit to the health region board of directors on June 15th, 2009, and in their presentation to an independent assessment committee on June 29th and 30th of 2010. Nothing was done to address these concerns in the new unit.

Mr. Speaker, last week the minister said he was not aware of any complaints or issues. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: how could he not know about staffing and safety issues that have been raised officially at least twice in the region?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the member is accurate today. She wasn't accurate last week when she said that the review had not been conducted on the new unit. And at least she was accurate today to say that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the independent assessment committee is a committee that is struck as to the collective bargaining agreement set out by SUN and its employer, SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations]. It is in the contract that this group has to be struck if there are concerns. That group was struck. It's made up of nurses, Mr. Speaker, management, that review the concerns raised by, for example, in this case, SUN. They review those concerns, Mr. Speaker. They put forward recommendations if recommendations are needed to change. In this particular incident, there were no recommendations came forward, Mr. Speaker.

Having said that, we are working with SUN. We are working with the health region and the ministry to look at what else can be done, Mr. Speaker, to make sure all concerns have certainly been listened to and alleviated. But the independent assessment committee made no recommendations.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, nurses have raised multiple concerns about limited access to the nursery and level of staffing on the unit. To quote the SUN media release, "We are here today because the fears of those in SUN have been realized."

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: he said he would take his lead, he said last week he would take his lead from people who are experts in this field. Nurses who work in the unit say they need more staff. One baby death is too many. Is the minister going to listen to the nurses and immediately increase the number of staff to work in the mother baby unit while he waits for the review?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said, the issue around patient safety and putting the patient first has been paramount for our government since we became government. That's why we work very hard to make sure we have the proper complement of health care professionals, whether it's nurses, doctors, Mr. Speaker. As I said last week, the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association for the first time have identified over 10,000 nurses working in this province, a far cry from what was happening under the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the independent assessment committee is made up of nurses, Mr. Speaker, that made no recommendations. That being said, we are still reviewing the situation, Mr. Speaker. The member is absolutely incorrect. I know she's trying to exaggerate like she normally does, Mr. Speaker, that the review will take six months. It will probably be done within two months, Mr. Speaker, not six months.

Mr. Speaker, we heard in a member's statement where she

actually phoned the SMA, then came into the House and misquoted. The SMA had to send her a letter reprimanding her of those comments, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how much we can trust from that member.

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

Health Care Issues

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the SMA and I have had conversations about why my questions came to the House. Two previous officials in the Department of Health reviewed that contract, and the questions they asked me to ask were the ones I did in this House.

And, Mr. Speaker, the minister showed the pattern of not listening to experts, not acting on recommendations, and not properly funding the health regions. He refuses to listen to nurses. He has 10,000 of them, but he doesn't listen to any of them. He refuses to listen to paramedics. He failed to act on the recommendations from the IAC [independent assessment committee] that SUN was in, and the 19 recommendations from his own EMS [emergency medical services] report sit idle on a shelf. Mr. Speaker, the minister has provided no new funding to ambulance services, no new funding to mental health, long-term care beds, or the North Battleford hospital in this budget.

To the minister: Mr. Speaker, the minister's inaction, inability to do his job, and distancing himself from his responsibilities has proven deadly. Mr. Speaker, when is the minister going to take full responsibility and do his job?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, in the past three and a half years, Mr. Speaker, we have done an awful lot of work to repair some of the neglect that this health care system saw under the NDP, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to quote one more time. Not only did that member phone the SMA, she phoned the SMA to ask if there was a reopener, heard the answer, came back, and asked for something different.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is what the SMA said: "I am left to wonder why you bothered to solicit information from the SMA, as it would appear you don't seem to accept it being reliable." The SMA's not reliable.

Mr. Speaker, she just stood and said that we've underfunded health regions. I'm glad to report, Mr. Speaker, that all 12 health regions, including the Cancer Agency, are going to come in at budget or a surplus, Mr. Speaker. Under their watch, with the member from Saskatoon Eastview and Nutana, under their watch, they put out a press release gloating that the health regions were only running a \$32 million deficit — so much better than the year before when it was \$49 million.

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

Contract Negotiations with Teachers

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of

Education claimed that the Sask Party government has no control over negotiations with teachers; rather, according to the minister, it's all up to the school boards. But the teachers who are watching today know that such claims simply are not true.

To the minister: how many representatives does the Sask Party government have at the bargaining table?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said last week — and obviously that member didn't listen or just chose not to listen — what I said last week is we would not be conducting collective bargaining negotiations on the floor of the Assembly. So I would encourage STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] to return to the table so that collective bargaining can take place where it should.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the minister to go back and listen to her scrum from Thursday in the rotunda and see what she said about her role in the negotiations.

Here's the truth, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party government has five representatives at the table. The school boards have just four. The government has a majority at the table. And those school boards are now 100 per cent dependent on the provincial government for all of their funding, so the Sask Party government is in full control of this entire negotiation process.

To the minister: is she unaware of the government's lead role in the bargaining process or is she simply trying to keep it a secret?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — No, Mr. Speaker, there is not a secret about the bargaining process. What will not happen is it will not happen on the floor of the Assembly. The bargaining process will take place between STF and the government bargaining team, Mr. Speaker, which consists of members from the Ministry of Education and members of the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association].

Mr. Speaker, that's not a different process that was in place when the members opposite were government. They understand collective bargaining, or they should. So, Mr. Speaker, I will repeat again: we will not be having collective bargaining negotiations on the floor of the Assembly. I encourage both sides to return to the table and have the negotiations where they should take place.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, once again we see from this minister an unwillingness to recognize her role in this process. She's happy to blame everyone else. She'll blame the SSBA; she'll blame the teachers; but she will refuse to take

responsibility on her own.

Mr. Speaker, the minister can play around with words all she wants, but the reality is that the Sask Party government is fully responsible for these negotiations, and they're completely disrespecting teachers. One teacher recently wrote a letter saying: "I make enough to pay the bills. No more, no less. I'm barely surviving." Another said, "Please show us that you value teachers and all the work we do above and beyond our job description by giving us a reasonable wage increase."

To the minister: why is the Sask Party refusing to properly value the important work of teachers by refusing to give them a reasonable wage increase?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, there is no question that this government values teachers and we value the work of the school boards, and we have increased funding for schools across our province for the school divisions. We have made unprecedented investments in schools, which is a better environment for our teachers to work in, Mr. Speaker, \$422 million investment over the last four years.

We respect teachers and we believe that there should be a collective bargaining process in place in this province that doesn't have political interference, Mr. Speaker, and that is how we respect the teachers.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this year's Sask Party budget is 37 per cent higher than the last NDP budget in 2007. They are spending a lot of money. Surely they can find the necessary money to treat teachers with respect. But for some reason, they are refusing to do so. Here's a quote from a teacher who works in my constituency:

Actions speak louder than words. Let's resolve the current collective bargaining agreement so that teachers can once again feel respected and appreciated for the hard work we do.

To the minister: teachers are watching today and they are tired of empty rhetoric. They want action from the Sask Party government. When will the Sask Party government finally show teachers some respect?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Well I'm very glad, Mr. Speaker, that the member opposite recognized that there has been substantial increases to the school divisions. As he knows, this budget does not include dollars that will be agreed upon when the teacher negotiations are completed. We will be putting that funding in the school boards' budgets when and if the agreement is met. Mr. Speaker, that is so that school divisions are able to handle the financial increases that they will experience when the teachers' negotiations are completed.

That is unlike the situation that they're seeing in Alberta right

now, Mr. Speaker, where the school divisions are finding that they are not receiving enough funding in order to maintain their staff levels. In Alberta, they're looking at massive layoffs of teachers. This is the second year in a row that that's been happening. That is not what we want to see happen to the teachers in our province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, teachers in this province are asking for respect and they're asking for recognition for the vital role that they serve in our society. In listening to their stories, it's clear that the minister does not value their work and the minister won't even recognize her important role in the bargaining process with respect to getting a contract, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: why won't she stand up, show respect to teachers, and return to the table ready to bargain a truly fair contract for our province's teachers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — The government bargaining team is ready to bargain at any time, any moment that the teachers indicate that they want to return to the table.

Mr. Speaker, is that member opposite suggesting that a minister should sit down and do the negotiations? Because it certainly wasn't the case in any other negotiations. I don't think that is a respectful process. I believe that we should allow the bargaining team and the STF to conduct the process as it should take place. I think that is a respectful process. So why is the member opposite suggesting that all of a sudden it should all be decided by one person?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave's been granted. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery are three guests. They are Madeleine Robertson, recently retired from legislative drafting in the Ministry of Justice. And because she's now retired, any problems there are with the legislation, she'll certainly take full and complete responsibility. She is joined with her husband, Neil Robertson, another one who shares my profession. He was at one time with the city solicitor's office in city of Regina and more recently has represented the Saskatchewan Federation of Police Officers. Probably if you ask them today, their most notable achievement is they are the parents of one our Pages, Tristan Robertson.

They are also joined by Neil's brother, Colin Robertson, who was with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa, and I think very recently retired from that, if I stand correct. And I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members welcome them to the legislature today.

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

Mr. Quennell: — Leave to introduce guests.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[14:30]

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues in the legislature. I wanted to join with the Minister of Justice in welcoming the guests to the Assembly today. Ms. Robertson's provided great service to the province of Saskatchewan under a number of administrations. And as we know, and certainly as the minister knows and I know, almost all Bills that come to this legislature are Justice Bills, and the ones that aren't Justice Bills, Justice probably got their fingerprints on them. And Madeleine Robertson's fingerprints are on a lot of legislation in this province.

And I would also like to join the minister in thanking her husband, Neil, for his service, both in the legal community and specifically to the city of Regina, which was under my watch recognized by a Queen's Counsel appointment, but that of course is not nearly enough. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you. I ask for leave to join the welcome.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Well it's a very great pleasure to have not just three Robertsons but four in the Assembly because their son is one of our Pages, and he's provided good services in his role. But I want to say a special thank you to Madeline on behalf of the opposition. But more importantly, when we were in government after many, many years with the legislation committee and working with Madeline in the Department of Justice, we ended up, I think, learning many things from each other. And her husband has provided good advice to the profession over many years.

But especially Mr. Robertson, who's come from afar to Regina,

I get regular newsletters from him about Canada-US [United States] relations and many things that happen within our North American continent. And he is providing some very good advice to all Canadians and Americans about how we can make our continent work better. And I think all members of the legislature should thank Mr. Robertson for that. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 166 — *The Renewable Diesel Act*

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 166, *The Renewable Diesel Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister Responsible for Enterprise has moved first reading of Bill No. 166, *The Renewable Diesel Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — At the next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 167 — *The Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation Amendment Act, 2011*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 167, *The Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Highways has moved first reading of Bill No. 167, *The Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 168 — *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2011*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 168, *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read for the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Education has moved first reading of Bill 168, *The Teachers Superannuation and Disability Benefits Amendment Act, 2011*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I wish to lay on the Table, according to the provisions of section 41(1) of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, the financial statements of the Crown agencies for the years ending in the 2010 calendar year.

I recognize the member from Athabasca.

BILL WITHDRAWN

Bill No. 619 — *The School Bus Drivers of Saskatchewan Appreciation Day Act*

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On orders of the day, I ask for leave under rule 15(2) to withdraw Bill No. 619, *The School Bus Drivers of Saskatchewan Appreciation Day Act*.

The Speaker: — The member of Athabasca has asked for leave to withdraw Bill No. 619. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Bill 619 is withdrawn.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the House do now adjourn to go to committees.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that the House do now adjourn to facilitate the working of

committees. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:37.]

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Premier of Saskatchewan
President of the Executive Council

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

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

Hon. June Draude
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Education
Provincial Secretary

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Darryl Hickie
Minister of Municipal Affairs

Hon. Bill Hutchinson
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Tim McMillan
Minister Responsible for Crown
Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for Information
Technology Office
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor and
Gaming Authority

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Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Workers'
Compensation Board

Hon. Rob Norris
Minister of Advanced Education,
Employment and Immigration
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for Uranium
Development Partnership

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority

Hon. Laura Ross
Minister of Government Services