



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

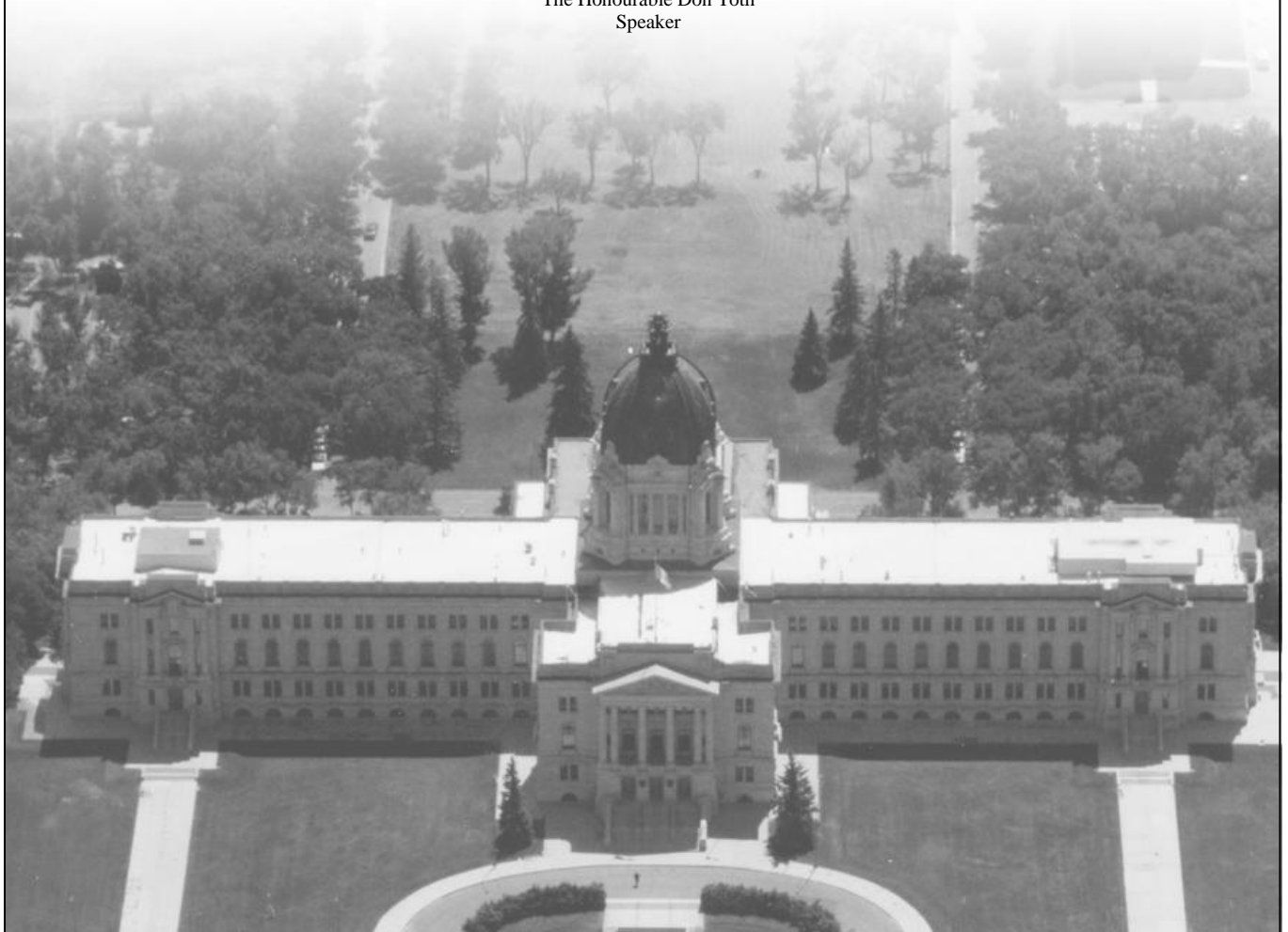
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, 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
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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
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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 met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With leave to do an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to you to the members of the Assembly, it gives me great pleasure to introduce some of the members of the North American Indigenous Games bid committee that have successfully brought the 2014 North American Indigenous Games to Saskatchewan. Several members of the committee are in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and I'll have a chance to introduce them in just a second.

Last week I was thrilled to join a fantastic team in Moncton, New Brunswick as we presented our pitch to bring these games to Saskatchewan. Earlier this morning we had an event to announce our government's \$3.5 million contribution to these games. We can't wait to welcome over 10,000 people from around North America to our great province. I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to introduce some of the bid committee who were able to be here today, and those supporting the bid as well.

I'll begin with Chief Guy Lonechild, no stranger to this House. Chief has been very supportive all along the way of the bid. Also here is Vice-chief Morley Watson, FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] vice-chief, former chief of Ochapowace First Nation and was a leader instrumental in the bid. Mervin Brass is here. Mervin is the director of communications for FSIN, and he served as our emcee for the bid. Also here, Mike O'Donnell, councillor, city of Regina. Mike represented the city along with councillor Chris Szarka. Louis Gardiner, the minister of sport for the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan is here. Welcome, Louis. Daniel Longman, sports programming director for FSIN; Brenda Bathgate, the past Chair of the Saskatchewan Games Council; Joe Daniels, Aboriginal sport development consultant in the speciality of extreme sports; Courage Bear, executive director, sports and recreation, FSIN, and a former games athlete himself; Shelley Bear, senior policy advisor for the FSIN. Also joining us, Larry Hiles from the Regina Regional Opportunities Commission to show his support.

Other members that weren't able to be here this afternoon but were instrumental, Mr. Speaker: Dr. Craig Chamberlin. Dr.

Craig Chamberlin from the University of Regina was able to articulate the great facilities that the U of R [University of Regina] would bring. Dawna Neilson, manager of sport and recreation to the city of Regina. Mr. Speaker, I just, I want to make sure that I've got everybody mentioned here. Corporal Tracey Dunnigan, the NCO [non-commissioned officer] of cultural relations for the Regina Police Services here as well. Also instrumental in the bid was the Littleton family. Terence Littleton, the world champion hoop dancer was there, along with Kirby as an elder, and youth representative, Jason Littleton.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I hope I didn't forget anybody, but you know what I can say is this group worked very well together, some 20 individuals who had about 45 minutes to do a presentation, to talk about the great province that is Saskatchewan and our history of successfully hosting games. So as I said earlier, we're looking forward to hosting the games in 2014 and welcoming 10,000 people to Saskatchewan in that summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask all members to join us.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — It is my pleasure to join with the minister and welcome Chief Guy Lonechild and Vice-chief Morley Watson as well as the other folks who are here today. Mr. Gardiner, who is with the Saskatchewan Métis Association and the city of Regina, and friends I see from really all over the province who are here today to celebrate the winning of the North American Indigenous Games for Regina here in 2014. This is a big effort and one that we're all very proud of. It will obviously attract many, many youth who will compete, show their excellence, and also as the minister says, thousands if not tens of thousands of people who will come out and watch, and also many tourists who will be here for that event.

And since its inception in 1990, I believe in Edmonton, this has grown by leaps and bounds. These indigenous games, I remember back in 1993 when it was held in Prince Albert and the great profile that it had for the city of Prince Albert, for the province of Saskatchewan. And I just want to say that, job well done. I understand there were a couple of other cities, I think Halifax and Hamilton that were, London as well, competing. And I just want to say to the city of Regina, the province of Saskatchewan, and most of all to the bid committee, job well done. And also to the minister, thanks for the effort that I know you and your staff put into this bid as well.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a young gentleman in your gallery by the name of Bennet Misskey. Bennet is my intern for the second term of the Saskatchewan legislative internship program. And I've asked Bennet to — you might not be surprised by this — to do a comparison of whips' and House leaders' and caucus Chairs' responsibilities in the Commonwealth. And I look forward to his research when he's done that and report back to me. So please join me in welcoming Bennet to his legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have two introductions, if I may, please. First would be Lance Hammell who is serving as my intern in this part of the session and into the early summer, Mr. Speaker. Lance is from Oxbow in my constituency, and as I explained to my colleagues, this is another attempt by Cannington to take over the government, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Lance is very well versed in what's going on in the Assembly, having been a student of politics for some period of time now and, I'd like to say, a former air cadet and WO2 [warrant officer second class] of the 675 Bow Valley Squadron in Oxbow. This session Lance is working with me in looking at the rules and regulations, particularly regulations, that we utilize in this province to see whether we're doing them as well as we could. So I'd like to ask everyone to welcome Lance to the Assembly.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly, Mrs. Elva Nelson, 94 years young, sitting on the floor of the Assembly here with her family and friends, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Elva lives in Regina now at the William Albert House in Emerald Park, but she comes from Fillmore where her and her husband farmed for many years, Mr. Speaker. They have a newsletter that goes out through their facility, Mr. Speaker, and in this newsletter one of the questions was, which famous Canadian person, past or present, would you like to meet? Well Elva, Mr. Speaker, chose our Premier. So she's here today meeting with the Premier.

As well, with her are her nephew and his wife, Marvin and Lynn Chambers. Marvin is also the mayor of Fillmore. With them as well is some family friends, Mr. Speaker, Ray and Kathy Bellamy. Ray has worked in this building now for 34 years, I believe it is, or for Government Services. And in this building, and a lot of the beautiful woodwork you see around the building is Ray's work, Mr. Speaker. So I would ask that members welcome Elva and her family to their Chamber.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the House, I'd like to introduce my legislative intern, Nicole Hamm. She's a law student and is quite an enthusiastic intern, great sense of humour. She comes to us via the opera. She loves the opera, but here she is in politics. What a combination. And no surprise, she's doing some work around housing, particularly the whole issue around condos. I'm looking forward to her work because for many people condos are their way of shelter, and it's important for us all. So I'd ask all members to welcome her to her legislature. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in being able to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the members of the Assembly, two grade 9 students from Campbell Collegiate, Nasra Moumin and

Areeb Salim. Accompanying our two students is also Lorelie DeRoose from the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association. Nasra and Areeb not only took part in the 2011 junior high school National Debate Championship in Estevan and Regina over the weekend, they took home the honours of being named 2011 National Junior Champions. I would like to ask the rest of the members of the Assembly to welcome these fine people to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join our leader in asking the House to pay a special tribute to all the people that are here to fight and lobby for the indigenous games. And a lot of people ought to know that some of the leadership that are in front of course couldn't do it without a great support team in the back.

But, Mr. Speaker, a few notes about the support team in the front. I know that many of them are athletes of old. I understand that Morley Watson used to be quite a ballplayer and a hockey player as well. And a lot of people don't know, Mr. Speaker, that my friend from Ile-a-la-Crosse, Mr. Gardiner, was in the WHL [Western Hockey League]. He actually played with the Bombers when they were in the WHL, and he's a hockey hero from back in Ile-a-la-Crosse.

And I understand that another good friend, Lonechild, was quite a goaltender when he was young. I understand that he went a long ways, our FSIN chief. And I often have this picture of him as he's reaching out. And the puck, as you can see many times in the NHL [National Hockey League], you see these goalies reaching across their crease, and I seen him spread out like that. And of course the lights were flashing, and everybody was watching him. And as he's reaching for the puck, the puck hit him here. And that was quite a stop at the time but deflection, he said.

But I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, I want to join these leaders, these political leaders now but athletic leaders in the past, and their support team for the great work that they're doing trying to get the games here. I commend the government for their effort as well, but to point out that as a former participant in the games it helps many Aboriginal people, young and old, really showcase their talent and really make them proud of who they are.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone, the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly I want to introduce in the west gallery 16 grade 11 and 12 students from the Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle. They've made the 45-minute trip into Regina to watch the proceedings. They're accompanied by their teacher Valerie Brooks and chaperones Arianne Muirhead and Cory Cochrane.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to meet with them after and hopefully

answer any of the questions, but I do know that they'll have good guidance through their teacher as she had attended the Social Sciences Teachers' Institute just recently. I remember her coming into my office, and kind of trying to answer some of the questions, not sure how successful I was, but I look forward to getting together with them after question period. I hope to answer any questions they may have.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I just also want to welcome Elva Nelson to the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I can remember when I was a pretty young kid growing up, my parents and Elva and Norman, her husband Norman, were very good friends and spent a lot of time together. And I haven't seen her for quite a few years, but she hasn't changed much. So I want to welcome her here to her Legislative Assembly, as well as the grade 11 and 12 students as well.

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

Mr. Furger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'm exceedingly pleased today to be able to introduce a 14-year-old grade 8 student from John Diefenbaker School in Prince Albert, Ms. Melissa Menzies, who happens also to have competed in the Miss Teen Saskatchewan pageant and won the Miss Teen Central Saskatchewan crown and now moves on to Toronto to a competition there in July.

Ms. Menzies is active, volunteering in Prince Albert in a huge number of different events, charity work, and is a positive role model for a number of youth her age in Prince Albert. And so I'm pleased that she does that work for our community. And she's here today to learn about the legislative process and to learn more about her province so that she can better represent us in Toronto in July.

Additionally accompanying her, Mr. Speaker, is her mother, Nicole Rancourt, who I would argue has taught Melissa well in terms of volunteering for the community. She spends days every week volunteering her evenings in support of a number of different organizations in our city. So I'd like the Assembly to welcome both of them here to their Assembly today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker — I know that she'll be displeased that I've done this — but I'd like also to introduce my constituency assistant, Rose Rothenburger, who in my mind certainly is the model for a constituency assistant of all of the 58 in our province. She again does an incredible amount of work, both in the constituency and for the greater good throughout the rest of the city and spends a lot of time in the arts and gender equity and in a number of other charities and different organizations. So I'd like each of the members of the Assembly to welcome her here today as well. Thank you.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member for Athabasca is right. It's people behind the scenes often who don't get the credit they deserve. And I'd like to introduce to you and through you one such person in my life —

actually, two.

I'll introduce Nola Smith who's in your gallery. She's my constituency assistant in Swift Current. Some MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] are probably higher maintenance than others in terms of the work we put our constituency assistants through. And Nola has her work cut out for her and does a great job of helping constituents with their concerns and answering questions, and I want to acknowledge her today and thank her for that. She's joined by Susan McNaughton, who's in my office here at the legislature, and I also haven't had a chance yet to introduce Susan. So I wonder if members would help me thank them and welcome them here to the Chamber today.

While I'm on my feet, if I can, Mr. Speaker, I also want to acknowledge the delegation that has joined us who were successful, along with the minister, in Atlantic Canada last week in getting the Indigenous Games to our province. It's going to be a very significant event obviously, as it was in 1993 for Saskatchewan. And so to Mr. Gardiner and Chief Lonechild, to all of those who made this possible, to our ministry staff, we want to say thank you very, very much for this leadership. And we're looking forward not just to the games, but to all the work, the planning that goes into the games. And we acknowledge the FSIN and the leadership role they took in this regard.

And finally while I'm on my feet, if I can, just to say a few words to Elva Nelson. Mr. Speaker, it is I who was honoured to meet her. Together with her husband, Norman, they helped build this province, helped build that southeast corner of Saskatchewan. In fact the health care centre they have in Fillmore today, I learned, is there in no small way because of her work. She hosted a meeting in her basement and got some local people interested in meeting with MLA at the time, and that's how these projects happen. And there will be countless other contributions she's made to the life of this province as a teacher and together as farm couple with her husband, Norman, of 62 years.

Mr. Speaker, she also answered this question: if you could invite three people — on the survey the member for Cannington referenced — if you could invite three people for dinner, whom would you ask? And she said: Clark Gable, Betty White, and Charley Pride. Mr. Speaker, one of Charley Pride's biggest hits was "Kiss an Angel Good Morning." We know that her husband Norman had that privilege for those 62 years.

And again we want to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly, and I want to thank her for the chance to meet her earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister opposite in welcoming the debaters that are here today and the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association, represented here by Ms. Lorelie DeRoose.

And I too attended the championships this weekend that were the nationals here in Regina, and they were conducted over a

three-day period down in Estevan — I know the Comprehensive should be commended for their organization down there for those three days — and they concluded here in Regina.

And what I can say is that I witnessed the two debaters that are here today, Nasra and Areeb, both in full debate, Mr. Speaker, in the championship. And these are two incredibly talented, bright young people who are going to be leaders, not only leaders here and now within our province, but I'm certain they will be for many years forward, not only within Saskatchewan but within country and possibly beyond those borders, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to recognize Ms. Janessa Weir who's, I believe, is with them here today and is a teacher and a support with them.

And now these students, Mr. Speaker, had attended the Huda School for their elementary school and now over at Campbell Collegiate. We're most proud of these students and all participants of the National Debate Championships and that are involved in elocution and debate. I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you I'd like to take an opportunity to welcome a person that's important to my life — and I'm glad that we in this House sometimes get to save the best for last — and it is my wife, Sandra, who's here visiting me. It is an honour to have her here and just to take part in the proceedings that are going to go on and see how we go through some of the fun times and the hard times.

But I think my wife watches us quite a bit and sometimes gives me, I guess, comments and play-by-plays some days I get. But she truly is a supporter, and she's a proud person, making sure that we take care of all Saskatchewan. She's a good supporter. And you know, it's nice; we have a blended family of five. We have our 14th grandson going to be born in another few months here. So we're doing our part and our family's doing their part with young numbers. But I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to have her here visiting us. And I would like to ask all members to please join me in welcoming my wife to the Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, again I just want to acknowledge FSIN Chief Lonechild and Morley Watson. I'd just like to welcome you, and the leadership from the MNS [Métis Nation of Saskatchewan] and the team. Because you truly are a team. You have touched many hearts. And I think you're going to do us all proud as we come together. And I think I just want to say let's show all of Canada and the world and the provinces that we are a team and we're proud. And let's do us good.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring a petition on behalf of residents of the province of Saskatchewan

who wish to bring to our attention that the Saskatchewan Seniors Association has approximately 180 senior centres throughout the province, and the vast majority of them are located in rural Saskatchewan.

These centres provide much-needed recreation and social activities, as well as important health clinics and workshops which contribute to an enhanced quality of life for the many seniors who use them. And that due to skyrocketing costs of utilities, insurance, taxes, etc., one quarter of these centres may close within the next 18 months. And the closure of these centres will lead to the deteriorating mental and physical well-being of seniors, which will lead to additional stress on long-term care facilities and hospitals:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly in Saskatchewan to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to provide the much-needed funding to assist seniors' recreation centres to remain open and active within their communities.

The signatures on these petitions today, Mr. Speaker, are from Shellbrook, Debden, and Canwood. I so present.

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 in Saskatchewan. And we 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 we know the income gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow, and now one in five children in Saskatchewan live in deepening poverty. 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.

I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on behalf of my constituents who live in the neighbourhood of Hampton Village, and it's about the need for a new elementary school in the area:

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 tax; 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 of Hampton Village. I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of a potash royalty review because the people of Saskatchewan are the owners of a 1,000-year strategic resource, and as the owners of that resource, they deserve to receive the maximum benefit of the resource. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, if you have been watching the news, the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Potash Corporation has said that there's a new norm for potash moving forward in the world markets, and their \$732 million first quarter profits, I think, will underscore that point. The prayer reads:

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

Mr. Speaker, today's petition is signed by good folks from the cities of Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since 2007 too many Saskatchewan tenants have suffered monthly rent increases of hundreds of dollars, with average rent increases of over 35 per cent. The majority of Canadians now live in provinces with rent control guidelines, including Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island. Rent-controlled Winnipeg, for instance, generated more housing units from 2007 through 2009, and the data reveals that fewer than 300 rental unit starts were in Saskatchewan's two largest cities combined while, during the same period, Winnipeg generated over 1,500 new rental units. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately address the deepening housing crisis in Saskatchewan, evidenced by the soaring, unaffordable increases in rent which have placed the cost

of shelter out of reach for far too many Saskatchewan residents, and make known that Saskatchewan's housing crisis has worsened by the extremely low vacancy rates in Saskatchewan's urban centres, which has resulted in drastically reduced options for renters; and in so doing, bring to the government's attention that the leave it to market approach has proven to fail Saskatchewan renters and now, at this present time, Saskatchewan renters need protection from their government to prevent further large rent increases.

And accordingly, Saskatchewan people would be best protected by enacting rent control without delay to ensure that the basic human need of shelter is put within reach of Saskatchewan renters, thereby making Saskatchewan once again an affordable place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the residents of Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of personal care home funding. Saskatchewan residents require different levels of care in their senior years, and the personal care homes play a vital role in providing the seniors who live in them an appropriate level of care. Saskatchewan's Ministry of Health currently does not fund personal care homes, although it does fund special care homes, which provide services to seniors requiring higher levels of care.

Therefore we, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan cause the government to provide a subsidy to personal care homes, permitting the seniors who rely on them to live in dignity and independence without bearing an undue financial hardship.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by people in Davidson, Warman, and Saskatoon. And I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again 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 to a record that includes both the running of deficits and increasing of debt at times of record highs in revenues. They point to a record that includes increasing that debt for three consecutive years, well over \$1.3 billion of debt being incurred to the people's public books, and this year alone, Mr. Speaker, incurring more that \$548 million in debt, adding that to the debt of the people of this province, of course having consequences both now but well into the future. 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 and good folks from La Ronge, Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon. I so submit.

[14:00]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Tribute to Derek Boogaard

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay respect to a former NHL hockey player, but more importantly a son, brother, friend, and a teammate. Derek Boogaard's body was found Friday in his Minneapolis apartment. Derek was a Saskatchewan boy and he called Regina home. Derek's hockey career, which spanned six NHL seasons, was spent primarily with the Minnesota Wild. His last year was played in New York. Before he became a fixture in the NHL, Derek spent three years in the minor leagues and four as a junior in the WHL.

"Derek loved sports and obviously in particular hockey, so we believe Derek would have liked to assist with research on a matter that had affected him later on in his career," Ryan, Derek's brother, told the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*. This statement was made after it was learned that the family of the NHL enforcer donated his brain to research. His brain will be examined by researchers from Boston University studying the connections between repeated head injuries and degenerative brain disease.

In closing, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Derek's family: his siblings; Ryan, Aaron, and sister Krysten; his mother Joanne; and his father Len.

Derek's brother Ryan said it best when describing him, "He was a big man with an even bigger heart." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Regina to Host North American Indigenous Games

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, it was announced that the city of Regina won the bid to host the 2014 North American Indigenous Games. That's a tremendous honour for the city of Regina and the province of Saskatchewan.

The North American Indigenous Games attracts close to 10,000 indigenous athletes, coaches, parents, and fans. There are 15 sports slated for the 2014 games, with various age divisions for males and females. Sports range from archery and shooting to basketball and lacrosse.

Mr. Speaker, the games are expected to generate approximately \$35 million for the province of Saskatchewan and the city of Regina. However, this event offers much more than positive economic spinoff. In addition to the economic benefits, the games offer an invaluable positive impact upon Saskatchewan's indigenous youth. The goal of these games is to improve quality of life for indigenous peoples by supporting self-determined sports and cultural activities. The hope is to encourage equal access to participation in the social and cultural fabric of the community in which the athletes reside. The only other North American Indigenous Games held in Saskatchewan took place in Prince Albert in 1993.

And Mr. Speaker, Team Saskatchewan has won the overall championship at six out of seven games held since their inception in 1990. As a former coach and a gold medal recipient myself at the North American Indigenous Games in Victoria in 1997, I am exceedingly delighted to see that the games are returning to the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members will join with me in recognizing this great achievement for the bid committee, the city of Regina, and the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

2011 Junior National Debate Championship

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the pleasure of attending and judging the 2011 Junior National Debate Championship held at the Estevan Comprehensive school.

The 2011 junior high National Debate Championships began on Thursday, May 12th, with the arrival of delegates in Regina. There were 34 teams altogether from British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan. There were over 30 coaches, parents, and family members also attending as observers.

Delegates were officially greeted by the enthusiastic and dedicated members of the Estevan Comprehensive school debate club led by former junior national attendee Shaylee Foord and her partner Amber Dechief, who won in 2010, and Adam George and Jordan Walliser, who won in 2008.

The final match was exciting with the Minister for Government Services and the member from Regina Rosemont in attendance. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in the history of the Junior National Debate Championships, Saskatchewan was able to claim victory as the team of Nasra Moumin and Areeb Salim of Campbell Collegiate were crowned the 2011 Junior National Champions.

I would like to thank all participants for an exciting weekend of debate. And, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this Assembly, I would like to congratulate these two exceptional individuals seated in the gallery for providing their province with its first ever Junior National Debate Championship.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Deli Celebrates 45th Anniversary

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a distinct pleasure to rise in the Assembly to extend best wishes and thanks to a venerable Regina institution, the Italian Star Deli, on their 45th year of operations and to wish the Giambattista family 100 more years of success or happiness, or cent'anni, Mr. Speaker.

As was pointed out in an excellent profile in last week's *Leader-Post*, the Italian Star is a family affair. It got its start in 1966 with Frank and Gina Giambattista at the helm, and Mama and Papa Giambattista are still going strong with the Star to this very day. The next generation, Carlo and Nick, pitched in early on, and subsequent generations of Giambattistas are contributing right up to this present day. As Carlo has said, his dad Frank was the visionary, his mom Gina was the workhorse. And pitching in all together, the Giambattista family name has become synonymous with great food from Italy, the Mediterranean, and indeed around the world, as well as with tremendously warm, friendly, and well-informed service.

Carlo has emerged in many ways as the voice and face of the Italian Star, and there's nothing quite like having a quick visit with Carlo while he whirls about making sure people are getting what they need in the store, all with a smile and a joke and the artistry of a maestro.

As part of their continual drive to make a good thing even better, the Italian Star has teamed up with Jerry's artisan ice creams and gelatos — my favourite was Gina's Bacio, bacio meaning kiss in Italian, and named in honour of Gina Giambattista. Congratulations to Jerry Kristian and Elyse Proulx-Cullen of Saskatoon on making some very tasty product and for their success in this ideally suited partnership.

So there you have it, Mr. Speaker: the Italian Star had a working birthday party, and Jerry brought the gelato to help celebrate. May the Italian Star and the Giambattista family continue to prosper and make Regina an even better place to live for many years to come. Cent'anni.

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

2011 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to the recipients of the 2011 Saskatchewan Municipal Awards presented this past Friday in Regina.

Established in 2006, the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards celebrate the excellence and innovative practices of Saskatchewan municipal governments. This year dozens of municipalities were recognized, far too many to list in the time permitted here, but I would collectively like to recognize their efforts and initiatives that are contributing to the betterment of Saskatchewan communities.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all the sponsors of the awards, and specifically the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' partners SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural

Municipalities], the Urban Municipal Administrators' Association, and the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association, and New North, all for their contributions.

A special thank you to the members of the selection committee, chosen based on their own distinction and achievements in Saskatchewan. The committee included Senator Pamela Wallin, Jim Angus, Holly Hetherington, Bob Linner, and Murray Mandryk.

The award recipients and all the entries exemplify the very best of what we can accomplish when municipalities work together and take a creative approach to solving problems. These are amazing things that are happening in the province, and the Municipal Awards help to shine a spotlight on the great work that is contributing to the Saskatchewan advantage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Relationship with Teachers

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's teachers are back at the bargaining table. We are pleased that negotiations are continuing, however also are ongoing taxpayer-funded attack ads on teachers in the media. Public money is being spent to beat up on teachers. Instead of bargaining in good faith, this government is trying to bully our teachers.

Saskatchewan's health CEOs have received massive contract increases while high-ranking members in the Premier's government inner circle have received up to 70 per cent increases in pay. We find that the Premier's personal chauffeur makes more than four-year education graduates who are starting their teaching careers.

The Saskatchewan Party government has set the mandate when it comes to negotiations and shouldn't be surprised that teachers are requesting more than 5 per cent over three years. It's no wonder teachers feel they have no option but to vote 98 per cent in favour of job action.

Mr. Speaker, how many other professionals take 15 years to reach their maximum pay levels? Mr. Speaker, teachers not only work incredibly hard but they donate hundreds of hours in volunteer service to their schools and respective communities. Their selfless volunteerism within our communities cannot be undervalued. All they request in return is a fair deal. It's time for the government to step forward and ensure that teachers are treated with the respect they deserve and fair compensation for their services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville.

Union Dues

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hard-working union members across Saskatchewan are having their money pulled out of their pockets. SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union] members recently received a letter notifying them that their union dues would be increasing from 1.5 to 1.9 per cent to, and I quote, "increase the amount of

public advertising and promotion we do in response to the Brad Wall government's political agenda to privatize public services."

There are many SGEU members, Mr. Speaker, who support this government, and it's unfair that their hard-earned money is being taken from them against their will to pay for political attack ads that they don't believe in. Saskatchewan people are free to contribute to political parties and causes, but they shouldn't have their own wages taken from them in order to pay for a political agenda that they don't support. Each union member should have the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Members' statements reflect members' views, and we allow members to make those statements whether we agree with them. I recognize the member from Martensville.

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each union member should have the right to decide if they want their union dues to be used to pay for political advertising. They should not have that dictated to them by their union leadership. Further, Mr. Speaker, union members also deserve to know how their union dues are being used. Union leaders constantly call for more accountability and transparency from government. They should be held to the same standard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Mosquito Control

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister in charge, I believe, of Municipal Affairs, and it deals with the misguided idea of getting rid of the funding for West Nile mosquito control program. As we know, last year this funding was cut and then, after a lot of discussion, the money was re-stated. And now we find out again from the *Leader-Post* today, and I quote from the *Leader-Post*. It says, "Saskatchewan's city mayors, led by Regina's Mayor Pat Fiacco, demanded the provincial government restore funding previously allocated as part of the provincial efforts to combat West Nile virus."

In light of the fact that we have an even wetter spring and more water, which is perfect area for mosquitoes to breed and reproduce, can the minister tell the people of Saskatchewan why we would choose now to put the life and health of people at risk by reducing and in fact, at the provincial level, ending the funding for the mosquito control program?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government is continuing with surveillance. We're putting in over \$300,000 to continue the surveillance of the mosquito that carries West Nile, the *Culex tarsalis*, Mr. Speaker. And if we see an increase of those type of mosquitoes, which are usually later on in the summer — not in the spring; later on in the summer, Mr. Speaker — we can then move and

help deal with that infestation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, but in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, mosquito control, pure mosquito control is not the responsibility of the provincial government. It's the responsibilities of municipalities, Mr. Speaker. That's why we put in \$50 million more into revenue sharing. For example right here in Regina, Mr. Speaker, \$7.6 million on top of . . . That's an increase this year of \$7.6 million into programs that the city of Regina wants to cover. If it comes so that the *Culex tarsalis* is on the rise, Mr. Speaker, later on in the summer, then we'll revisit the provincial program.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister: in light of the fact that West Nile virus cases have actually gone down in the province in recent years, in large part because of the collaboration between the province and the municipal government — and I think in fairness to governments in general, they've done a very good job of controlling mosquitoes and actually reducing the number of cases of West Nile — why does the minister choose to wait, as he did last year, until public pressure grows and people become ill from the disease? Why would you wait? Why wouldn't you get in front of this and make a concerted effort to continue to work with municipal government, as suggested by the mayors through Pat Fiacco, to get the job done and just put the money in now so that we can control the mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, if you look at the cases of West Nile virus in the province over the last couple of years, the member opposite is right: there was only two last year in Saskatchewan in 2010 and one in 2009, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, so if there is an influx of that type of mosquito, we'll be there to help with programs, Mr. Speaker, like we have been in the past. But an overall mosquito control program, Mr. Speaker, is not the responsibility of a provincial government; it's the responsibility of the municipalities. If a municipality wants to cover mosquito control in their area, they've got the funds to do it, Mr. Speaker, because this government followed through on 1 per cent of the PST [provincial sales tax], Mr. Speaker. This government followed through on revenue sharing, something that that former government never would do.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting that the minister explains that the system is working and working well, and then goes on to suggest that he's going to change it and not put the money in. And that at a time when we have record income in the province, and we have record wet areas in the province, it would seem to me, and I think most people would agree with the mayors of the province and Mayor Pat Fiacco, that this is not the time to withdraw the funding.

And what many municipal governments worry about as well,

like retention and recruitment of doctors being off-loaded on to municipal governments . . . In some cases now, 15 per cent of the municipal budget has been spent on recruiting and retaining doctors. Municipal government is concerned that West Nile virus, retention and recruitment, if they move in that direction, what is next? What will be off-loaded on to the municipal government? Can the minister commit to put the money back today so the safety of families is not put at risk in order to make a point somehow that medicare in this province is not his responsibility?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said in my opening question, that the over \$300,000 is still there, put in by the provincial government to do surveillance of this type of mosquito, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was money put in last year because we hadn't followed through on our 1 per cent. And it was said at that time, it was one-time money.

Mr. Speaker, if the municipalities want to follow through on a mosquito program, there is money there put in by this government, like 7.6 million into Regina, over \$49 million provincial-wide, Mr. Speaker. If they so choose to use that money for a mosquito control program, they certainly can do it. We are following through with the surveillance, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, I don't quite understand the premise of the question when he gets talking about doctor recruitment and doctor retention, Mr. Speaker, when talking about mosquitoes. Mr. Speaker, if he's talking about off-loading, there was community after community after community that was involved in doctor recruitment under their government. They did nothing about it. This government has increased the number of training seats, increased the number of residencies. Mr. Speaker, we're going a long way to preserve a medicare system that was started maybe under their government.

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

Negotiations with Health Care Workers and Remuneration of Chief Executive Officers

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, a week ago, many health care professionals went on strike in Prince Albert because of the government's failure to provide over 3,000 Health Science Association professionals with a fair and respectful contract, despite being at the bargaining table for over two years. Mr. Speaker, those dedicated professionals from Prince Albert, along with the other 3,000 health care professionals, have decided not to hold a strike today in order to give the government a chance to rethink their position on binding arbitration.

To the minister: health care professionals are doing everything they can to negotiate a fair and respectful deal and ensure that Saskatchewan people get the health care they deserve. Mr. Speaker, is the government going to agree to binding arbitration so a fair deal can finally be negotiated?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I certainly am very aware of the impact that the past three days of strikes, rotating strikes around the province have had, Mr. Speaker, on the health regions, be it up in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Swift Current, Mr. Speaker. So it does have an impact, but I don't believe in any way is it any time to look at binding arbitration. There is still work to be done at the bargaining table. The employer is still there. The SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations] is still there wanting to continue on with collective bargaining.

And I'll quote again, Mr. Speaker, what the former premier had to say on this very issue when this very health care union, Health Sciences, was on strike in 2002. "I firmly hold the view that the best contracts are always those negotiated at the bargaining table between the two parties." I would say, Mr. Speaker, has the party opposite changed their mind on binding arbitration? That was their view in 2002, and that was after a strike that lasted for 28 days.

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the minister clearly forgets that Bill 5 and Bill 6 have changed the bargaining atmosphere forever in this province under his government. And the deal that's been offered to Health Sciences is less than the cost of living when the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region CEO is getting 60 per cent increase with an extra \$100,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, volunteers in Prince Albert, who have shown such incredible commitment to the health region by fundraising for the dialysis unit at the Victoria Hospital, are questioning the double standard the government is applying to health care with big raises for their CEOs. Mr. Speaker, volunteers from the Elks and the Royal Purple are, to quote, "flabbergasted and disgusted" at the \$100,000 a year wage increase for the CEO when they work tirelessly to raise money for equipment.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: there is no shortage of CEOs, but there is a shortage of health care professionals and surely volunteers. When is the government going to stop disrespecting health care professionals and volunteers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we value the work of all health care providers in this system and we also value the work that so many organizations do when it comes to fundraising within their community. The philanthropy of many, many organizations is really incredible, Mr. Speaker, and I believe that we'll continue to see that well into the future, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have come to an agreement with . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I would ask the members to allow the minister to respond in the same manner that the members to the right of me allowed the member to place the question without interference. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we've come to an agreement with the vast majority of health care providers. Over 90, about 90 per cent of the health care providers have reached a contract through a collective bargaining process. We continue to hope that is the case, Mr. Speaker, between the Health Sciences and SAHO, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell you that SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses], SGEU, SEIU [Service Employees International Union], the CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees], Mr. Speaker, physicians, PAIRS [Professional Association of Internes and Residents of Saskatchewan], all have come to an agreement with this government. I really do believe that there is room for negotiations to continue on at the bargaining table and I call on both sides, especially the employees, to get back to the bargaining table and hammer out an agreement.

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

Ms. Junor: — So I guess, Mr. Speaker, what the minister is saying is the volunteers are wrong. They should not be flabbergasted or disgusted. This is the norm under this government.

Mr. Speaker, the P.A. [Prince Albert] Health Region's CEO \$100,000 per year salary increase, which the minister supports, is a reward for cutting health services to the people in Prince Albert. It took hard-working volunteers from the Elks Club and the Royal Purple Lodge 25 years to raise \$500,000. But the government, with a stroke of a pen, gave the CEO a \$100,000 a year wage increase. It would take volunteers five years to raise \$100,000. That's a lot of bake sales, donations, volunteer hours, and bingos, Mr. Speaker. The volunteers are frustrated and they feel used and disrespected. They're going to start looking for a different charity to give their money to.

To the minister: the hard-working volunteers want to know why they should continue to work and raise money when the government disrespects and devalues the work that they do by giving the CEO a \$100,000 raise.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we've certainly been through this on the floor of the Assembly. In fact the Leader of the Opposition raised it in Premier's estimates in which the Premier answered absolutely correctly in that 65 per cent of the Western average is where our CEOs are at right now, Mr. Speaker. All the other service providers that we've agreed to, Mr. Speaker, and settled with, are certainly well above that 65 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

But what I would say when, if you go back and you look at the 12 health regions right now and the CEOs of the 12 health regions, Mr. Speaker, what you'll find is that every one of the health regions is at a break-even or surplus budget, Mr. Speaker. That's a huge accomplishment compared to what we saw under the NDP, when 25 I think of 32 health regions were in the red, Mr. Speaker, were in deficit position, Mr. Speaker, under the NDP government. Under the Sask Party government, they are running on a break-even or a black position, Mr. Speaker, and providing some of the best services this province

has ever seen.

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

Road Conditions

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to assume the Minister of Highways has been out and about in Saskatchewan in the past two weeks. I also have to assume that Saskatchewan roads and highways, that he is aware that Saskatchewan roads and highways are in worse shape than they've ever been in. Right across Saskatchewan, motorists are finding that broken pavement, more surface failures as the government now refers to them, more safety problems than ever before. In fact anyone driving into Regina today on Highway 6 or 33 have dozens of stories about how bad it is out there. Mr. Speaker, how is it that the minister can say they are spending more money than ever before, but the highway system is in worse shape than it's ever been before?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of problem highways around the province this year. Spring is always pothole season in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. There's been . . . This year it's been exceptionally bad because there's been an unprecedented amount of moisture this spring, last fall — huge runoff. We have highways that have been flooding. Mr. Speaker, the extra moisture even in areas that don't have flooding have again, with the freezing and the expanding of the water in the surface cracks, has caused a large amount of potholes.

Mr. Speaker, but the premise of that question is just wrong, Mr. Speaker. Our government has made highways a priority. When we ran in election in 2007, we committed that if we were given the privilege of forming government that we would spend \$1.8 billion on highways over a four-year term. Mr. Speaker, with this budget we will have far exceeded that platform commitment, Mr. Speaker. We'll have spent \$2.2 billion on highways, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, highways are a priority to this government and they will continue to be so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. A week ago we saw signs that said, surface failures. This week the signs will likely say, extreme surface failures, Mr. Speaker.

The minister also has said in the media that it's no time to quibble about budgets, despite the fact that the Minister of Finance may want him to say something different. The fact of the matter is the Minister of Highways has yet to outline a concrete plan that proves to Saskatchewan people that the roads and the highways they drive on today will be taken care of this year. The minister has provided us with a list of highway work he wants done this year, but the fact of the matter is there's a lot more highways damaged by high water tables than he has on the list. What is he telling Saskatchewan people today, Saskatchewan people who just want to get to work, to get to their doctors appointments, or get their kids to school safely and on time?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite talks about problems with highways and with our government versus their government. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point . . . You know what, Mr. Speaker? I would like to read a quote from *Hansard* from March 28th, just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, from the member opposite. And he talks about one particular highway that's in bad shape in his constituency, Mr. Speaker. And he says, "At the same time, just north of The Battlefords, Highway 378, Mr. Speaker, a very narrow, very curvy road, Mr. Speaker, [get this, Mr. Speaker] that's received virtually no support over 40 years, Mr. Speaker." That would include 16 years of NDP [New Democratic Party] neglect, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this government is making highways a priority, and we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the people along Highway 378 have not expected four years of neglect under the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker. The minister wants the people of Saskatchewan to applaud his spending, and yet the roads and highways are in worse shape than ever.

In the Economy Committee the other night when the minister was defending his budget estimates, he talked about the public's insatiable demand for highway work, and he asked people to have patience. Mr. Speaker, there's only so much patience a person can endure. Can the minister outline his plan for getting the work done, for financing the work that needs to be done, and his plan for helping people get to work, get to school, and get to their doctors appointments safely and on time?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again the member opposite has followed this pattern of taking things out of context. He did it a few weeks ago with the member from Estevan, Mr. Speaker, and he's doing it again here. What I was referring to in the media that he talked about the other day was the fact that when highways are flooding is when I was referring to budgets, Mr. Speaker. When we have flood damage, we will take whatever action's necessary to get the travelling surface of that road back in shape as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the whole premise of the argument is just simply wrong. We understand that there are a lot of highways that need to get fixed in this province. We inherited a massive infrastructure deficit from the members opposite. Mr. Speaker, do we have a lot of work to do? You bet we do. But, Mr. Speaker, we made a good start, and we're going to continue.

[14:30]

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of this transportation infrastructure in Saskatchewan that's been significantly damaged by the flood waters is in rural

Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing roads that are washed out, bridges damaged, approach roads eroded to single lanes, culverts blown out. We're seeing rural municipalities facing some major financial obstacles in getting these roads back to useable condition.

Despite the minister's claim that his budget isn't important when it comes to responding to flood emergencies, can the minister confirm that in committee the other night he and his officials said individual RMs [rural municipality] are responsible for repairing their own roads and that he and his ministry have not yet developed any plan that would help RMs with their equipment and staff, if they asked, to get the work done quickly, efficiently, and at less cost?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again taking parts of a quote, taking it out of context. Mr. Speaker, I find this fascinating. The member opposite is suddenly worried about rural municipalities in this province. Mr. Speaker, my entire career I was a rural municipal administrator, and when that member was minister, I remember how difficult, if not impossible, it was to even get a meeting with that member. Mr. Speaker, the RMs in this province are very, very supportive of what our government has done.

Mr. Speaker, the fact he's suddenly concerned about rural Saskatchewan is almost laughable. When the Leader of the Opposition was deputy premier, Mr. Speaker, let me read just a headline that came out of *The StarPhoenix*. It was, Mr. Speaker, "Deputy premier proposes turning more roads over to volunteers," Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government is getting highway projects done, unlike the members opposite who told people to go fill their own potholes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Relationship with Teachers

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan teachers are dedicated professionals who we entrust our children and grandchildren to to deliver a quality education system, Mr. Speaker. Teachers deserve to be treated with respect and fairly, Mr. Speaker. To the surprise of everyone in this province, Mr. Speaker, over the last several days we have seen taxpayer-funded ads attacking teachers, Mr. Speaker, attacking teachers before they return to the bargaining table today, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister please tell the people of Saskatchewan why she thinks it's appropriate to use taxpayers' money to attack teachers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education is a priority for our government, and that's why we've increased funding year over year. And we do truly thank the teachers for the great work that they do. It's unfortunate that the members opposite believe that information given to the public, information only, is an attack. I wonder why they think that that is an attack. Do they not think that the information . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Allow the minister to respond to the question.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — That the public should not get any information? Is that what the members opposite believe? The negotiations need to take place at the table, so we're very pleased that the teachers have accepted our invitation to return to the table. And those negotiations will take place where they should, Mr. Speaker, and that's at the bargaining table.

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Teachers are dedicated professionals that give hundreds of hours of their own time to extracurricular activity on behalf of our children, both in school, Mr. Speaker, and in the communities in which we all live. Mr. Speaker, teachers are at the bargaining table asking for a fair contract. Why should teachers have to face taxpayer-funded attack ads about their profession, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Again, Mr. Speaker, giving information that is merely factual is not an attack. We thank the teachers very much for the great work that they do. We have invited them to return to the bargaining table. As I have said in the past, the offer that we have, should the teachers accept it, will mean that they will be the second highest paid teachers in Western Canada. And we think that there's other areas that need to be discussed, but that all has to happen, Mr. Speaker, at the bargaining table. So we're very thankful the teachers are going to return to the bargaining table, and that's where those discussions need to take place.

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the facts are that the ads are not factual, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it takes a teacher 15 years to reach their maximum pay, Mr. Speaker. No other profession takes 15 years to reach their maximum, Mr. Speaker. Why is this government undertaking ads that undermines teachers, and is trying to bully them into taking a substandard contract?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the public believes that second highest in Western Canada is substandard, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker. And I think that a number of people, most of the public value teachers. We all have a favourite teacher. We all know that for our own children how important teachers are. So therefore we need to have a fair . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I believe the minister has the right to be able to respond to the question without interference so that the people can hear what she has to say. I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know,

it's odd. In the past I know that the NDP made offers such as zero. Was that because they didn't respect teachers at that time, Mr. Speaker? If they offered zeros and they respected teachers, why are they questioning our offer now or the facts that we are allowing the public to become aware of? So, Mr. Speaker, negotiations need to happen at the table. They will happen there and that is where they need to happen, not on the floor of the Assembly. Thank you.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations.

2014 North American Indigenous Games

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my great pleasure to announce that the partnership of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, the city of Regina, and the province of Saskatchewan has been awarded the 2014 North American Indigenous Games.

I was honoured to be part of the final bid presentation to the North American Indigenous Games Council in Moncton, New Brunswick last week where the Saskatchewan bid was in competition with London, Ontario and Halifax, Nova Scotia. I believe that the Saskatchewan bid's strength was its combination of the commitment of the partners, the venues in the city of Regina, and the incredible army of volunteers who indeed will support the games.

The NAIG [North American Indigenous Games] are a multi-sport games format for Aboriginal youth which provides them with an opportunity to showcase their heritage, history, and culture through a variety of sport and cultural events, Mr. Speaker.

The games are a two-week celebration which attracts up to 10,000 athletes, coaches, families, and supporters. The games has a total budget of \$10.35 million. The Government of Saskatchewan's contribution of \$3.5 million is matched by Sport Canada. The city of Regina is contributing 1.1 million, and the balance is raised by registration fees, destination marketing fees, sponsorship, and fundraising.

This is a very worthwhile event for the province to participate in. In 2002 the NAIG event in Manitoba resulted in an economic impact of more than \$25 million, while the 2008 games in British Columbia resulted in an economic impact of more than \$30 million.

I'm confident that the citizens of the city of Regina and all of Saskatchewan will work with the NAIG partners to ensure that these games are indeed the best ever, and that our Aboriginal youth will have the opportunity to participate as athletes, as volunteers, and as fans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, with leave to respond to the ministerial statements, and away we go. This

is a great day for the province of Saskatchewan and a particularly great day for the city of Regina. The partnership that was put together for the North American Indigenous Games bid for 2014, we want to tip our hat to the province and to the city of Regina, to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan on putting together what was by all reports, Mr. Speaker, an excellent bid. This will provide tremendous economic spinoff for the province and for the city of Regina, but most important is that legacy of striving to compete, to succeed that so many young First Nations and Métis and indigenous people from across North America will have the opportunity to participate in.

This past year we saw Tony Cote inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, the visionary behind the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations summer games and winter games, and we've seen what kind of legacy that has brought going forward. A marquee event like this can have, you know, take that kind of impact and extend it even further. So we think this is a good day for the province of Saskatchewan, and we congratulate the partnership that made this day a possibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 160, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on this Bill and the Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 160. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 160 — *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2010*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved third reading of Bill No. 160, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment. Is the Assembly

ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Carried. Those in favour of the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say nay.

Some Hon. Members: — Nay.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 14:42 until 14:54.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 160, *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2010* without amendment be now read the third time.

Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 30]

Wall	Morgan	Norris
Draude	Boyd	Eagles
McMorris	Cheveldayoff	Duncan
Huyghebaert	McMillan	Harpauer
D'Autremont	Harrison	Reiter
Brkich	Hart	Schriemer
Stewart	Weekes	Ross
Wilson	Gantfoer	Michelson
Wyant	Ottenbreit	Chisholm
Kirsch	Bradshaw	Hepner

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — 19]

Lingenfelter	McCall	Belanger
Harper	Trew	Higgins
Junor	Atkinson	Nilson
Forbes	Vermette	Broten
Furber	Morin	Yates
Iwanchuk	Taylor	Quennell
Chartier		

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 30; those opposed, 19.

The Speaker: — The motion carries.

Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 172, *The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2011*. This bilingual Act is without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill and that this Bill be now read the third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 172. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 172 — *The Victims of Crime
Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la
Loi de 1995 sur les victimes d'actes criminels***

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved that Bill No. 172, *The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2011* without amendment be now read the third time and passed under its title.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its 10th report. I move:

That the 10th report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services has moved:

That the 10th report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to questions 1,058 to 1,066.

The Speaker: — Questions 1,058 through 1,066 are tabled.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move this House do now adjourn to facilitate committees this afternoon.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved this 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. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:00.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
President of the Executive Council

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

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

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Health

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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
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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