



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

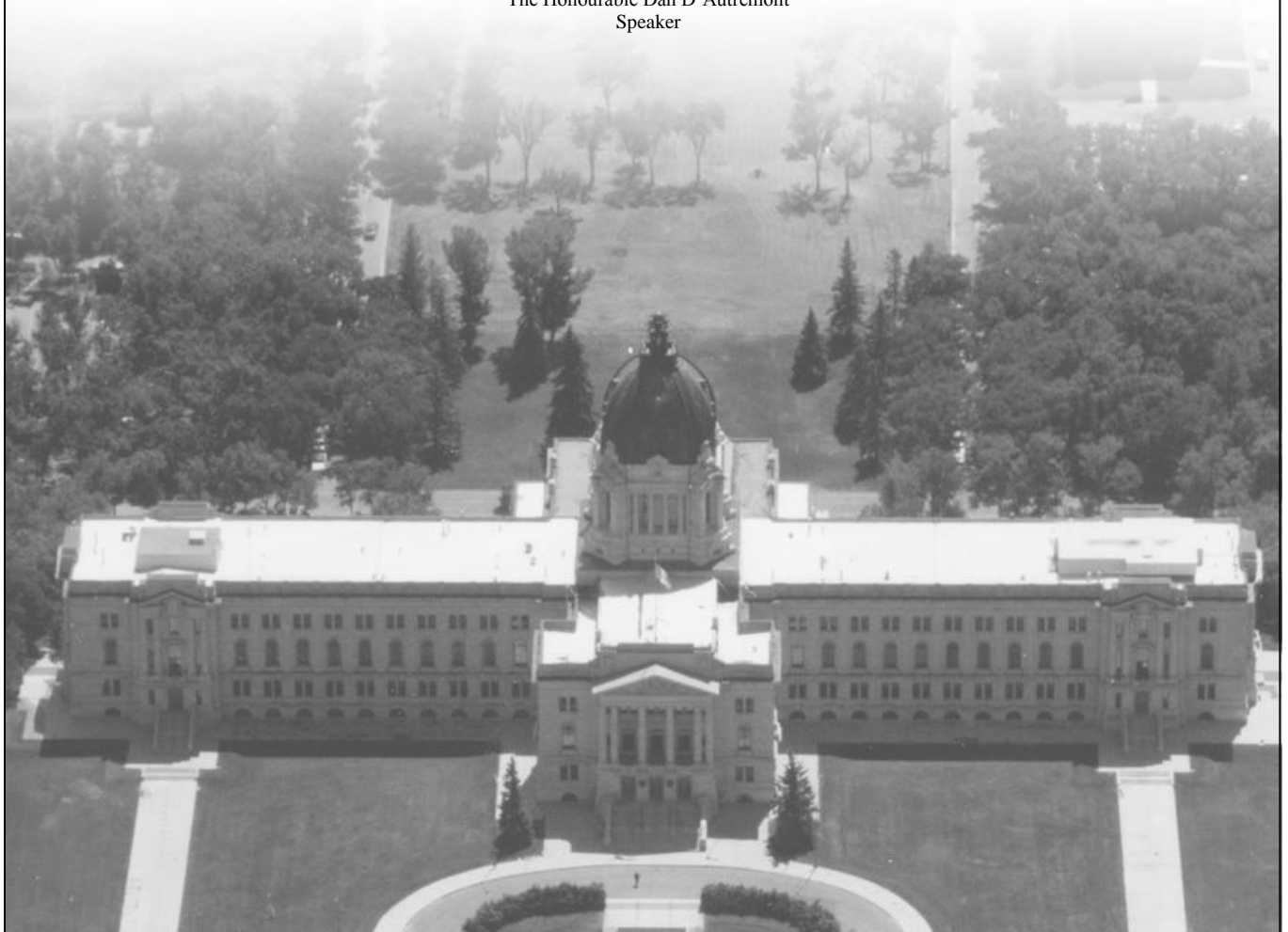
---

**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

---

(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Dan D'Autremont  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — John Nilson

| <b>Name of Member</b>         | <b>Political Affiliation</b> | <b>Constituency</b>       |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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         |
| Broten, Cam                   | NDP                          | Saskatoon Massey Place    |
| Campeau, Jennifer             | SP                           | Saskatoon Fairview        |
| Chartier, Danielle            | NDP                          | Saskatoon Riversdale      |
| Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken        | SP                           | Saskatoon Silver Springs  |
| Cox, Herb                     | SP                           | The Battlefords           |
| D’Autremont, Hon. Dan         | SP                           | Cannington                |
| Docherty, Mark                | SP                           | Regina Coronation Park    |
| Doherty, Kevin                | SP                           | Regina Northeast          |
| Doke, Larry                   | SP                           | Cut Knife-Turtleford      |
| 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          |
| Harpauer, Hon. Donna          | SP                           | Humboldt                  |
| Harrison, Hon. Jeremy         | SP                           | Meadow Lake               |
| Hart, Glen                    | SP                           | Last Mountain-Touchwood   |
| Heppner, Nancy                | SP                           | Martensville              |
| Hickie, Hon. Darryl           | SP                           | Prince Albert Carlton     |
| Hutchinson, Hon. Bill         | SP                           | Regina South              |
| Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi) | SP                           | Wood River                |
| Jurgens, Victoria             | SP                           | Prince Albert Northcote   |
| Kirsch, Delbert               | SP                           | Batoche                   |
| Krawetz, Hon. Ken             | SP                           | Canora-Pelly              |
| Lawrence, Greg                | SP                           | Moose Jaw Wakamow         |
| McCall, Warren                | NDP                          | Regina Elphinstone-Centre |
| McMillan, Hon. Tim            | SP                           | Lloydminster              |
| McMorris, Hon. Don            | SP                           | Indian Head-Milestone     |
| Makowsky, Gene                | SP                           | Regina Dewdney            |
| Marchuk, Russ                 | SP                           | Regina Douglas Park       |
| Merriman, Paul                | SP                           | Saskatoon Sutherland      |
| Michelson, Warren             | SP                           | Moose Jaw North           |
| Moe, Scott                    | SP                           | Rosthern-Shellbrook       |
| Morgan, Hon. Don              | SP                           | Saskatoon Southeast       |
| Nilson, John                  | NDP                          | Regina Lakeview           |
| Norris, Hon. Rob              | SP                           | Saskatoon Greystone       |
| Ottenbreit, Greg              | SP                           | Yorkton                   |
| Parent, Roger                 | SP                           | Saskatoon Meewasin        |
| Phillips, Kevin               | SP                           | Melfort                   |
| Reiter, Hon. Jim              | SP                           | Rosetown-Elrose           |
| Ross, Hon. Laura              | SP                           | Regina Qu’Appelle Valley  |
| Sproule, Cathy                | NDP                          | Saskatoon Nutana          |
| Steinley, Warren              | SP                           | Regina Walsh Acres        |
| Stewart, Lyle                 | SP                           | Thunder Creek             |
| Tell, Christine               | SP                           | Regina Wascana Plains     |
| Tochor, Corey                 | SP                           | Saskatoon Eastview        |
| Toth, Don                     | SP                           | Moosomin                  |
| 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       |

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Services.

**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 and to the rest of the members of the Assembly a group of 28 grade 6 and 7 students from St. Angela Merici School in the constituency of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley. They are here with their teacher, Mr. Kevin Kuntz.

St. Angela's is a wonderful school with great students and staff, and I will be meeting with them later on this afternoon. So please, everyone welcome these wonderful students from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in your gallery I notice a third-year business student of the University of Regina and one of my constituents, Nicole Lang, also daughter of Iris Lang who serves us so honourably from the Clerk's office here. I would like to welcome Nicole to her Assembly. She's, as I say, a third-year business student but also an accomplished curler from a provincial perspective, a national perspective, and I believe representing Saskatchewan internationally in Turkey last year. So I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in welcoming Nicole Lang to her Assembly.

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

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, in the west gallery is Carlene Schmaltz from Carrot River. Carlene is a diabetic nurse and will be speaking on behalf of the Canadian Diabetes Association this evening in Room 218.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention that Carlene's husband, Cory, is a coach of the famous Carrot River Wildcat football team that have won four six-man provincial titles in the last 11 years.

I would like all members of this Assembly to please welcome Carlene to her Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce a number of individuals that are seated in the west gallery, the government gallery, Mr. Speaker. They're here, many of them will be here to probably follow along with an announcement we'll be making later on this afternoon.

But in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, or in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, are people from the Canadian Diabetes Association: Warren Wagner who is the regional director from Saskatchewan; Connie Abram, the executive director for Western Canada; Brie Hnetka who is the manager of public program and services; Ken Orban, community engagement coordinator. Leah Domoney is the coordinator of public programs and services. Faith Rowland is account manager. Lauren Suchan is the coordinator of public programming and services. Peter Dickinson, northern regional volunteer coordinator; Clint Davies, the southern regional volunteer coordinator. Tristan Banyay is the leader of training in Saskatoon, and Carlene Schmaltz is the nurse diabetic educator for Carrot River, Mr. Speaker.

They're here, as I say, to follow along with perhaps an announcement that will be coming later on this afternoon regarding diabetes. And also I'd just like to take this opportunity while I'm on my feet to introduce two others: Beth Kidd who's the senior manager of external relations for AstraZeneca, and Bill Gowen who is the manager of patient access and strategic partnerships for Sanofi Aventis, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like all members, all members, of this Assembly to welcome these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming the many individuals that he just read out, welcome them to the Assembly and thank them so much for the important work that they do in our province helping individuals and building a healthier Saskatchewan for many families and for many individuals. So it's good work that they do, and I'm very pleased that they're here to join us today.

In particular I'd like to say a special hello to one individual, and that's Mr. Tristan Banyay, who is a constituent of Saskatoon Massey Place, a recent graduate of Bethlehem High School and is enrolled at SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] in the youth care worker program, involved in many volunteer pursuits including the Diabetes Association.

So with that special introduction as well as a welcome to everyone, I'd ask all members to join me in once again welcoming this group to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Seated in the west gallery is a constituent of mine and a friend for some time. He's also president of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers and no stranger to this Assembly. Harold Martens is here, and I'd ask all members to welcome Harold to his Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister for post-secondary education and Immigration.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce Mr. Kyle Addison, past president of the student association of the University of Regina. While he was president, he worked diligently on behalf of the interests of students and continues to do so as he continues to play an informal leadership role on that campus. And I'd ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming Mr. Addison to his Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

**Hon. Mr. McMillan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I notice that my wife and daughter, Ali McMillan and Gracie, have just joined us today. So I would like all members to help me welcome them to their legislature.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Responsible and Effective Opposition

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise in the Assembly today as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. Last month's election was a tough one for my party. It's difficult when promising candidates are not successful and when hard-working MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] lose their seats.

On this side of the House, we know that there are many lessons for us to learn and that we have much work to do in order to renew and rebuild our party. But make no mistake about it: Saskatchewan people deserve a responsible and effective opposition for the next four years, and that is what we will work hard to provide.

The people of Saskatchewan bestow a great responsibility on all of us by electing us to this Assembly. Whether we are on the government benches or on the opposition benches, the people have sent us here to do an important job — to make life better for people today and to build a stronger Saskatchewan for tomorrow.

I want to sincerely welcome all newly elected members and I want to congratulate all those who have been re-elected. There is much work to do in order to make life better for people and to build a stronger province. We in the official opposition are ready to do our part, and we will continue to hold the government to account and stand up for what matters to Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

**Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, December 6th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day marks the anniversary of the

murders in 1989 of 14 young women at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal. This event was absolutely horrifying to the nation due in part to the fact that Canadians pride themselves on being a peaceful nation as well as a country that recognizes gender equality.

As well as commemorating the 14 young women whose lives ended in an act of gender-based violence that shocked our nation, December 6th represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society.

But first and foremost, Mr. Speaker, our thoughts should be with the families and friends of the victims whose sudden and shocking death rendered a profound loss for all Canadians. Together we can say no to violence and collectively empower women with strength and courage to change their lives. On this day, I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in taking a moment to think about the Canadian women and Canadian society that has been affected by violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The Parliament of Canada designated this day in 1991 to commemorate the 14 young women who were murdered at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989 simply because they were women.

December 6th is a day to remember these women and to acknowledge all Canadian women for whom violence is a daily reality. Violence against women is a serious issue in all communities across Canada, but today I want us to take a particular note about violence against Aboriginal women.

As of March 21st, 2010 the Native Women's Association of Canada gathered information on 582 cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women and girls from across the country, and they believe there are many more undocumented cases. In Saskatchewan there are 61 documented missing and murdered women and girls. Seventy-seven per cent of these missing and murdered are under the age of 31 — lives cut short often well before they'd even got a chance to start. These women and girls are mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, and they are part of our communities. We must work together to stop this violence.

Mr. Speaker, I'm asking my colleagues in this Assembly to reflect on this issue and all the lives damaged or lost by violence and to commit to working together to end violence against women and girls in Saskatchewan and all across our country. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

#### Canadian HIV/AIDS Awareness Week

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, across the country the week of November 24th to December 1st marks Canadian HIV/AIDS [human immunodeficiency virus/acquired

immune deficiency syndrome] Awareness Week. It's an occasion to raise awareness surrounding HIV/AIDS issues nationally and on international observance of World AIDS Day.

The focus of AIDS Awareness Week is to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS, reduce the discrimination faced by those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, and to promote safer sex practices. World AIDS Day is especially important this year as we commemorate two milestones: the 30th year of HIV, with the first reported case documented in 1981, and the Canadian AIDS Society 25th anniversary of responding to the epidemic. AIDS Awareness Week is important to the people of Saskatchewan as it brings a light to the stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS issues and the way it causes barriers to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

Fear of discrimination may prevent people from seeking information, treatment, and support or from acknowledging their HIV status. Currently there are approximately 60,000 Canadians living with HIV/AIDS, and it's estimated that 25 per cent aren't aware of their status. Every day thousands of Canadians still face HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

I would like this Assembly to recognize the Canadian AIDS Society that encourages all Canadians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Northwest.

#### Multiculturalism Week

**Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November 20th to 26th marks Multiculturalism Week in Saskatchewan. Multiculturalism Week is a time to celebrate how the riches of all cultures in the province contribute to our strength, growth, and unique quality of life.

We are so fortunate to enjoy such a diverse cultural population throughout our province. Multiculturalism has become a way of life for the people of Saskatchewan, whether it is our rich history of First Nations or the various cultural backgrounds for many people that now call our province in Canada their home.

Mr. Speaker, in each of the past four years the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program has increased its nomination target, resulting in nomination of over 11,000 newcomers since 2007. Including family members, our government has invited over 30,000 newcomers to Saskatchewan since coming to office.

One of the true strengths of our province is multiculturalism because it shows that we are a society that cherishes cultural diversity and values and inclusion while at the same time seeking to preserve fundamental Canadian values. This is vital to expressing the type of province and place Saskatchewan is to other countries and helps us create strong bonds with nations across the world. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to live in the new culturally diverse Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

#### Saskatchewan Manufacturing Week

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask this Assembly to join me in recognition of the Saskatchewan Manufacturing Week which was held just last week.

With many markets around the world in uncertainty and governments looking for ways to spark growth, Saskatchewan has embraced a week aimed at innovation and developing the next generation of businesses. The focus of the week is to celebrate Saskatchewan's manufacturing expertise, the successes our businesses and communities are achieving, and to highlight the training and career opportunities that are available to Saskatchewan's vibrant and innovation manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing is one of the three major wealth-generating sectors in our province, as we export about 80 per cent of what we manufacture. Mr. Speaker, our economy is very much export-based, and the prosperity and growth that we are currently experiencing has a lot to do with the companies across the entire province that design, build, and market their Saskatchewan products all around the world. The ingenuity and skill of over 30,000 people and an abundance of resource wealth have driven the growth of Saskatchewan's manufacturing and processing industry with shipments almost \$11 billion annually.

Mr. Speaker, I would like this Assembly to join me in applauding our manufacturers who are recognized all around the world. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

#### Potash Mine Announcement

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A new era has officially arrived in our great province of Saskatchewan. The long-awaited announcement of a solution potash mine north of Moose Jaw in the Bethune-Findlater area has been announced. This is the first new potash mine to be built in the province in over 40 years, Mr. Speaker.

The K+S supervisory board announced its approval of the German company's plan to proceed with the Legacy Project which will include construction of a \$3.25 billion solution potash mine. As this will be the first greenfield potash mine to open in over four decades, the Legacy Project will implement new and innovative environmental standards, technologies, and techniques.

The mine, Mr. Speaker, is expected to begin production in 2015. It is anticipated to require as many as 1,100 construction workers by 2013 and will employ more than 300 people at the peak of its productivity.

Mr. Speaker, there will be approximately 6 million employment hours in construction alone. Ground-breaking investments such as this, Mr. Speaker, are the direct result of our province's stable royalty structure. In the words of Moose Jaw Mayor Glenn Hagel, this is a good day. It's a good day. We on this side of the House couldn't agree more.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## QUESTION PERIOD

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

### The Government's Program

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday's Throne Speech was full of half measures. At a time of record revenues and record spending and at the beginning of the government's brand new mandate, many Saskatchewan people were expecting something more, something better, something visionary. When will the Premier recognize that there needs to be more than half measures and when will he recognize that the province deserves a long-term plan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me just say at the outset, congratulations to the hon. member on his new position as Leader of the Opposition, and congratulations to all members for being elected to this Assembly, especially members who've been elected here for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, we're very proud of the Speech from the Throne that was presented yesterday in these chambers, principally because that Speech from the Throne did lay out a long-term vision for the province, as did our platform. But even more significantly, I think at least in the immediate term it indicated that this government would continue to do the things that it said it would do.

Mr. Speaker, in our first term in government we worked very hard to keep the promises we made to Saskatchewan people. This particular Speech from the Throne indicates that that's exactly what we intend to continue to do. Mr. Speaker, we made reasonable and affordable promises to the people of the province in the election campaign. It's our intention to keep them and that's the plan the Speech from the Throne laid out.

**The Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, that doesn't disguise the fact that there are many gaping holes in this government's agenda, and the Throne Speech yesterday left many things out. The Throne Speech said hardly anything about agriculture, nothing about the environment, nothing on energy, nothing on homelessness, very little for municipalities, whether they're urban or rural. And I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker.

What does the Premier have to say to all those people who were expecting that these important issues would be addressed by the government in this Throne Speech?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne seeks to build on the record of the government over the last four years. Mr. Speaker, that record includes a five-year, quarter billion dollar housing program that's currently in place, that will deliver 4,600 new entry-level units, that's built 850 new affordable units and currently 1,100 more affordable housing units in construction.

It's a record that includes greenhouse gas legislation, Mr. Speaker — something our government actually implemented where the previous New Democratic administration failed to do, Mr. Speaker.

It includes revenue sharing, historic revenue sharing for the municipalities of this province — something they had asked for, for well over a decade. And it includes of course a long list of other campaign commitments we made and kept in the previous four years.

The Throne Speech seeks to build on that record, and is shaped by our vision for a province that will lead this country in economic growth, that will attract new citizens to Saskatchewan, and see continued population growth in the province as well.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, we on this side and all of the people of Saskatchewan understand that the Sask Party won a big mandate in the election. The very makeup of this House, the way we're sitting here makes it abundantly clear. The government has the power to do as it pleases and now Saskatchewan people have high expectations of that Premier and of that government. Unfortunately, the Throne Speech left them wanting.

It lacked in overall vision. It was full of half measures, and there were glaring omissions. This, of all throne speeches, should have laid out a four-year vision, maybe even a 10- or 20-year vision for all Saskatchewan people about where we're going to go, rather than just some statements for a select few. So again, what does the Premier have to say to all those people who are being left out of this government's agenda?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, again it's the same question, and we've just dealt with it. We have also before the Assembly not just the Speech from the Throne but a Legislative Assembly, this configuration, which indicates that we were busy for the last four years dealing with the issues of Saskatchewan people, making sure we were working hard on those who were not participating in the economic growth as much as we would like. That's certainly part of the record of the government, and a successful one based, I think, not just on the results of the election but on the face of the matter, the facts that are before us in this Assembly today.

Mr. Speaker, we campaigned on a very clear set of ideas for Saskatchewan. The Throne Speech laid out, repeated all of them. Why? Because we're going to do the things we said we would do. We're a government that keeps its promises.

Early on in the Speech from the Throne, though, it spoke of a Saskatchewan that would be 1.1 million people by 2015, a Saskatchewan that would eliminate its General Revenue Fund debt. If your population is growing and your debt is being reduced, it means it's in part certainly been fuelled by a vision for growth in this province, backed up by a plan for growth that now has us leading the country.

Mr. Speaker, I think people weighed in on the 7th of November as to not only the vision but the individual plans of the government. We're going to work very hard to continue to earn what happened on the 7th of November, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

### Child Care

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday's Throne Speech included an ad hoc approach to child care and no long-term vision or plan. More spaces are a start, but we have a long way to go to ensuring all families have the supports they need to be the best possible parents and the best possible employees or students.

To the minister: will the government commit to working with families, service providers, educators, and other stakeholders to develop a real and meaningful plan for early learning and care rooted in Saskatchewan families' values and needs?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Child care is extremely important for our province, especially now more than ever before because our province is growing. So this is an important service that we need for our families, and we've been quite aggressive in developing child care in our last term. It was a promise that we made at the last election and a promise that we kept and surpassed quite significantly. We increased child care spaces in this province by over 35 per cent in four years. In our election, we promised 2,000 more spaces. We will keep that promise, Mr. Speaker.

We inherited a dismal mess in child care. It was neglected for far too long and in fact, that member's past colleague, Pat Atkinson, said, "... because I agree there has been a significant ramping up of child care in our province." And she was talking about this government's initiatives, not her own.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the minister, more spaces is not a plan. Many members on that side of the house are parents and grandparents and would know first-hand how hard it is for families to find high-quality, affordable child care that meets their needs. For far too many families, that is an impossible task.

To the minister: how can the government possibly believe that 2,000 additional child care spaces spread out over the next four years is possibly enough to support families today?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not only a plan but it's steps towards a solution. Quite frankly, we need to expand spaces around our province. And I know a good friend of mine constantly says that the way to judge future behaviour is to look at past behaviour.

She is representing a party that when in government had a decline in child care spaces over some of the years. They absolutely neglected the child care spaces within this province, and we inherited a dismal inventory of child care spaces. We're addressing that as we have spaces available, as we have community organizations that can run those spaces. We are putting as many as possible within school facilities as school divisions are gearing up. Mr. Speaker, we are doing it responsibly and aggressively across the entire province.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, right now if a family with one child makes one penny over \$1,640, they are no longer eligible for the full child care subsidy. You know what that means, Mr. Speaker? It means a single parent working full-time, earning barely more than minimum wage, is not eligible for full child care subsidies. To the minister: if affordability is in fact a priority for this government, will they agree to review and overhaul our subsidy system immediately?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, we have put a number of supports in as a government across different ministries for parents of children. And one thing that's very, very significant is the number of lower income families that we've taken completely off of the provincial tax roll whatsoever. Mr. Speaker, in the Ministry of Social Services, we've increased the Saskatchewan employment supplement significantly for single parents with children, and rental supplements as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are looking at all of these continuously. And we'll evaluate, but we need to have availability of spaces and that is what we're working on as well.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — Just to emphasize again, availability of spaces is not just the only part of a child care system. Mr. Speaker, 500 spaces a year is incrementalism, at its best. We're very near the bottom of the pack in all kinds of measures in Canada for child care. We need more than incremental change.

To the minister: when will the government actually take this issue seriously and develop a real plan, a plan for supporting families?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, in four years we increased the inventory of child care spaces within our province by over 35 per cent. The plan that was, that we inherited, quite frankly was we had Saskatchewan with 8,850 spaces while our neighbouring province of not . . . or very similar population had 26,000 spaces. That is how serious that the NDP [New Democratic Party] party took child care spaces when they were in government. So now to talk about it as if it's a huge priority and they're appalled, then she should talk to her past colleagues and find out why there was such a neglect to that particular area within our province.

We are trying to expand spaces in a responsible manner where we can have the workers in place, the space in place, the organizations to run the child care spaces. Last promise, we surpassed it significantly. We're going to continue on an aggressive path.

[14:00]

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

### Housing

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday's Throne Speech included several half measures on the issues of affordable housing, and one of those measures is to extend the notice period for rent increases in some rental units. While we obviously don't think that goes far enough to protect renters, we want to have whatever increased protection we can get out of this government in place as soon as possible. To the minister: when will we see this legislation brought forward?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question. The legislation will be introduced this session so that it can be voted on in the spring. If the members opposite choose to spend less time on debate, perhaps it could be voted off before Christmas.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer, and we'll talk more about standing committees and things like that. But what I want to talk about right now is the tenants assistance initiative that the Throne Speech raised yesterday, and essentially that talked about voluntary rent control. And again we don't think such an approach is the right answer, but we're keen to see any improvements because the status quo is clearly not working for far too many people. And I'm curious to know, Mr. Speaker, are there any examples of a voluntary tenants assistance initiative being successfully implemented anywhere in Canada to date that actually benefits renters? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we commend the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Industry Association for their initiative in doing this. They are unique in Canada in doing this. The purpose of the expanded notice will give renters a greater period of time to deal with a transition from one property to another or to adjust their finances accordingly. It adds a great deal of stability.

I can advise the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, that this program that's put forward by the rental industry will accomplish three things: one, it will give the opportunity for tenants and landlords to meet to determine how things are to work out, whether the rent increase is fair or reasonable, and perhaps persuade either or one of them that the situation should be otherwise.

It also gives the opportunity to refer tenants to other landlords

that may be able to find more affordable accommodation. And we understand that that process is under way and is working.

It will also give the opportunity to refer tenants, where appropriate, to either the Rentalsman, Social Services, or other agencies where they may be able to find housing.

I think we should note, Mr. Speaker, that the average rental increase in Saskatchewan right now is 3 per cent and often less. And I understand from talking to officials with the Rental Housing Industry Association that a number of landlords have cancelled rent increases and that some of them in Saskatoon are actually looking at modest decreases in rent.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I take note of that last answer, especially the part about landlords cancelling some rent increases, because my question I raise now is about Sask Housing. And we know that many Sask Housing tenants have received significant rental increases over the last year. And these are supposed to be affordable housing units, and in fact many exceed the cost of living that the minister has referred. And this is extremely challenging for those on low and fixed income.

To the minister: does Sask Housing Corporation already belong to the landlords' group or can we expect Sask Housing to be among the first to sign up for voluntary tenants assistance initiative so that its tenants can finally experience a bit of relief?

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, and to the member opposite, thank you very much for the question. He noted that Sask Housing is committed to safe, affordable housing, and our tenants continue to pay rent that's based on their income. Some tenants are really, are eligible for a rental supplement and some of them are eligible for the shelter allowance. And combined they add up to about 100 per cent of the average market rent, and it's 110 per cent for persons with disabilities.

So, Mr. Speaker, right now Sask Housing affordable rents are set at approximately 10 per cent below the market rents, and they're adjusted periodically. So if there's an issue, Mr. Speaker, I assure the members opposite, and everyone, that we're going to make, we're going to ensure that we can provide housing to the people of the province that are under Sask Housing Corporation as affordable as possible.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do find it odd in that last answer from that minister that now you can qualify for rent supplements to live in Sask Housing units. This is a new thing that's kind of different. And some in the private market are very well deserved, but Sask Housing units, a supplement to live in there, that's kind of unusual.

But I want to say that yesterday's Throne Speech said that the government would listen to ideas, including those put forward by the official opposition, and we appreciate that. As is abundantly clear on this side of this House, we are very



concerned to make sure renters are protected from high rent increases, and we'd like to see much more done in that regard. And we recognize that the half measures put forward by this government is better than no measures at all. So until the government listens more closely to our ideas, we're keen to see their proposals get going, as the minister said earlier, and because tenants need to see urgent action.

To the minister: will he refer this voluntary measure to a standing committee so that the public can be fully consulted and sound legislation can be drafted as soon as possible?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, during the election the Premier made statements that we thought it was appropriate to add some stability. And we felt that by increasing the notice period from six months to a year, which seemed to be well received during the election, that this would add a significant amount of stability to this. We've chosen to do that. We'd like to see the legislation in place as quickly as possible so that we're able to give that additional measure of security to tenants in our province.

It would not be the intention to have public hearings or a standing committee on this. This is a commitment that we made during the election. It's part of the platform of this government and, Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to move forward with the legislation on that basis.

If the members opposite have comments they wish to make, we certainly have indicated that we're open and receptive and would welcome any input that they choose to have. And, Mr. Speaker, no, we're not going to go through any public hearings. Our intention is to introduce the legislation and have it passed and in place so that it may most effectively deal with the situation that will give renters the most benefit in our province.

**The Speaker:** — I'd like to recognize the member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

### Third Party Surgery Delivery

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear to almost everyone in the province that there was a very clear conflict of interest with the awarding of contracts for the private surgical centres in the province. Most people share this view; however, the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region does not have this view. My question to the minister: does he believe that there was a clear conflict of interest with handling of the surgical care contracts?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — First of all I'd like to congratulate the member opposite on being named the Health critic. I hope that we can cultivate, as I did with the last Health critic, a very busy and . . . a very busy relationship, Mr. Speaker, over the next number of months, Mr. Speaker.

Regarding the third party delivery, Mr. Speaker, of surgery in our province, it has been a true success story, Mr. Speaker, with having third party deliverers in the province, no one paying out

of pocket, no one queue-jumping, but adding to the capacity of surgery that we do in our province.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the surgical wait times drop significantly over four years. People waiting 18 months . . . 99 per cent of all surgeries are done within that 18-month period; 96 per cent of all surgeries are done within 12 months, Mr. Speaker. Our goal is three months: 76 per cent of all surgeries are being done within three months in this province, Mr. Speaker, a far cry from what we took over, the longest wait-list in Canada, from the NDP.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the minister's words. They truly do warm my heart when we talk about the relationship that we can have going forward.

But I did ask a question in there about the conflict of interest around the surgical centres here in Regina. My question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister — yes or no — does he believe that there was a clear conflict of interest with the awarding of the contracts?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I would imagine the member opposite is aware that right now the Omni Surgery Centre, which was under contract previous to Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, is in the process of a court case regarding the awarding of the new contract to the Surgery Centres Inc. from Alberta, Mr. Speaker. And as a result it wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment on the direct case around Omni.

But what I will say, Mr. Speaker, is that we are very pleased with the new surgery centre that will be operating in the province in the near future. It will continue to reduce the wait-lists that we have seen come down significantly over the past four years. And, Mr. Speaker, you just have to talk to people that have been through one of these surgery centres, whether it's Omni, whether it was the Saskatoon surgery centre, how pleased they were with the service they received from those private providers — but more importantly, how quickly they were able to get their surgery.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When most thinking people in the province can see that there's a very clear conflict of interest with the awarding of the new contract, it's puzzling why the minister would not recognize this conflict of interest himself. My question to the minister: when was he made aware of the conflict of interest, and why did he choose not to act?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not quite sure what the member is alluding to as far as a conflict of interest. The Omni Surgery Centre and the Saskatoon surgical centre in Saskatoon were awarded the contract for the

Saskatoon Health Region and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. An RFP [request for proposal] went out to all companies across Canada. An RFP went out and companies could bid. The successful bidder was the Surgery Centres Inc. out of Alberta, Mr. Speaker.

Now certainly Omni and Saskatoon aren't happy with that, and they have avenues to pursue that, Mr. Speaker, if they so choose. I don't know if that's the conflict that he's trying to allude to, Mr. Speaker, because quite frankly there was no conflict. It was an RFP, an open process. If the two centres aren't happy with it, then they can pursue whatever measures they want to pursue.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, instead of choosing to pursue a path that would build capacity within the public system, the minister chose a path that is fraught with problems. One such problem is the \$10 million lawsuit that the health region now is facing, Mr. Speaker. My question to the minister: with this lawsuit now under way, a \$10 million amount, where is the minister planning to find the \$10 million? Is this money being set aside now? And if it is being set aside now, how is that affecting patient care?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my previous answer, it wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment on something that is before the courts, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly won't be commenting on it.

But what I will comment on, Mr. Speaker, is the people of this province never want to go back to the NDP under the longest wait-lists in Canada, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they've chosen to look forward, Mr. Speaker. They've chosen a government that looks at other options, Mr. Speaker, to provide the best patient care that we can in this province. If it's a third party deliverer, no queue-jumping, no paying out of pocket, they are quite happy to see that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we ever go back to the NDP days again, we'll face the longest wait-lists in Canada — absolutely unacceptable.

**The Speaker:** — At this time I would like to ask for leave to revert back to introduction of guests. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — Thank you. I was remiss in not doing an introduction earlier and that is Nicole Lang, seated in the Speaker's gallery, the daughter of our Clerk at the Table, Iris Lang. Nicole is a university student in business at the U of R [University of Regina], and she represented Saskatchewan at national curling championships as well as representing Canada and the University of Regina at the World University Games in Turkey last January the 11th. I would ask members to welcome her to her Assembly.

[14:15]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask leave to introduce a guest.

**The Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition has asked leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce one of our former colleagues, Sandra Morin, who is behind the bar. And she's here today to help us in the question period. And we know that we have many colleagues from over the past number of decades who continue to work with us as we move forward, in the same way that members opposite have many colleagues that are no longer present here. But it's very nice to have Sandra here, and we ask that all members welcome her.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

#### Support for People Living with Diabetes

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my great pleasure today to stand before my fellow members of the Assembly to announce our government is following through on our election commitment to provide more support to Saskatchewan residents living with diabetes. First I'd like to again recognize Ms. Connie Abram, executive director for the Canadian Diabetes Association, responsible for Western Canada, and Warren Wagner, Saskatchewan regional director of the Canadian Diabetes Association and their team leaders I recognized earlier. They are strong advocates and key partners for our government to address diabetes-related issues. They are here with us today to celebrate the important changes we are making to benefit many Saskatchewan residents living with diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a concern in this province. Our government is introducing two enhancements to help those with diabetes better manage their disease. In addition, we are providing significant financial assistance to the families affected by diabetes.

Effective immediately, two long-acting insulins, Lantus and Levemir, will be listed in the Saskatchewan formulary as full benefits. This means patients do not need to meet medical criteria to receive coverage.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, on January 1st the insulin pump program will expand to cover young adults with type 1 diabetes up to the age of 25. Saskatchewan is a leading province in covering the full cost of an insulin pump and providing assistance with the cost of pump supplies as determined by an individual's level of coverage under the drug plan. This coverage expansion means that more residents with type 1 diabetes will not need to purchase insulin pumps at a significant out-of-pocket expense. This is especially important for young

people at a time when they are attending post-secondary education, starting their careers, or beginning their lives independently. Mr. Speaker, these pumps cost up to \$6,300 each, with an additional \$250 in monthly pump supplies. In total we are investing \$2.5 million to help individuals and families better manage their condition.

We have worked closely with the Canadian Diabetes Association to get their first-hand feedback on the changes we are announcing. I want to thank them for their input. Mr. Speaker, we believe these two measures will put patients first and help enhance the quality of lives for people with diabetes.

Today I am very proud to be a member of our government as we continue to keep our promises and move our province forward.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to begin by thanking the minister for sending across his remarks earlier on in the day. And once again, I would like to say a special thank you and a welcome to all of the individuals from the association. I know they do tremendous work throughout the year, over a number of years, and it's good to have them here today adding to the discussion, as I know later on in the day we'll be meeting with them for a reception.

Diabetes is a condition that affects many people in our province. We all know of individuals in our families or simply constituents that we know of who live with diabetes. We know that it is a condition that if managed properly the quality of life and health for individuals can be greatly increased, as well as, Mr. Speaker, we can decrease many of the long-term costs if diabetes is managed properly.

So when reading this news today, Mr. Speaker, I can think of conversations I have had with people . . . Oh, I guess in listening to this news today from the minister, I can think of conversations I've had with people and how these changes will be a positive, have a positive benefit for many people in the province, Mr. Speaker. So that is a good thing whenever we can increase benefits for Saskatchewan people and provide a better quality of life for them.

And so, Mr. Speaker, at this opportunity I want to thank the association for the work that they have done in bringing forward their cause, bringing forward their concerns on a level of advocacy but as well as a level of education, Mr. Speaker, to allow all people in the province, whether they be elected individuals in this Assembly or simply individuals in the community, I would like to thank them for the educational initiatives that they do to improve the wellness of so many people in the province.

So with that, I would conclude my remarks and say I look forward to our discussions later on in the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

### Fighting the Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation in Alberta

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to notify this Assembly that this government has taken an important step in the ongoing battle with a significant forest pest, the mountain pine beetle. This is a tiny beetle that has had an enormous impact. The mountain pine beetle outbreak in British Columbia has killed huge tracts of that province's lodgepole pine forest. In the last five years, two major flights of beetles have crossed the Rocky Mountains, spreading the mountain pine beetle to the east, more than halfway across Alberta.

Recent research has confirmed what scientists have long suspected, that the mountain pine beetle can survive in Jack pine. This means that Jack pine forests across northern Saskatchewan, indeed right across the country, are at risk unless all jurisdictions continue to co-operate to prevent or significantly slow the beetle's spread further east.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report that Saskatchewan will be contributing \$150,000 to the fight against the mountain pine beetle in the province of Alberta. This funding will be part of a multi-year agreement with the Alberta government that will allow us to co-operate even more effectively and provides a framework that will enable other jurisdictions to join us to address this national issue.

This funding will support control operations in areas of Alberta that pose the most risk to Saskatchewan's northern forests. Our dollars will help Alberta to even more aggressively . . . in their removal programs. And we will continue to support research and modelling to better target future program efforts.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement builds on a long history of co-operation between our two provinces on forest, insect, and disease issues and will further enhance collaborative management for the entire region. Early detection and rapid responses are critical to protecting Saskatchewan's forests.

Starting in 2008, our government invested \$200,000 per year in the monitoring and early detection program. For 2011-12 budget year, this has been increased by \$155,000 to enhance surveillance, research, and public education in co-operation with Alberta.

The focus this year has been on surveying for beetles in the Northwest where it is more likely to cross over from Alberta, and in the Cypress Hills Provincial Park where the beetle is currently present. Our contribution to research, for example beetles that are now infecting jack pine trees, has increased and is now at \$40,000. The Parks ministry is also spending money in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 this year on removing infected trees in Cypress Hills, ones that Environment has identified in their survey.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in the 2011-2012 budget year the Ministry of Environment has increased its pest and disease budget by \$1.5 million to over \$2.1 million. Mr. Speaker, the province is committed to addressing this significant threat to Saskatchewan's forest. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I certainly want to thank the minister for his information that he forwarded to my office. And I'm also very pleased to respond on behalf of the official opposition.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter and there's no question that aggressive action is needed — very aggressive action — as we can see the devastation from the pine beetle in BC [British Columbia]. We fear what happens in BC and now in Alberta is certainly on its way to Saskatchewan and that this government must take a very aggressive position, and action, of course, is warranted.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people are asking, many people in different sectors, is what exact measures are being taken to stop this threat. Mr. Speaker, there's no question that more than ever the forestry sector needs this kind of protection. The tourism industry, the cabin owners and many people that live off northern lands and lands throughout Saskatchewan, they need to be assured that this matter is being taken care of and that there's real action to fight the pine beetle problem, Mr. Speaker.

And as well it's also important to point out to the government, and certainly to the minister, that this pine beetle infestation and threat is something that should not be used as an excuse to clear-cut large areas of forest, nor should it be used to not fight forest fires that threaten many of our lands and many of our communities. No question in my mind, Mr. Speaker, that this is a very serious issue, and I thank the minister for raising it today and highlighting this issue throughout all of Saskatchewan.

And that's why it's important to ask the question to what measures are being taken today and certainly in the future as the budget is being announced. This opposition, and certainly myself as a critic, are looking forward to seeing what more is being done to battle this serious threat to many of our lives when it involves the land and forestry, Mr. Speaker. And the pine beetle issue must be addressed as I mentioned earlier, and we'll certainly be looking at the budget to see what measures the minister and this government is taking to fight back. Thank you very much.

### ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

**The Speaker:** — Members of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Rule 43, it is your duty at this time to elect a member to serve as Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole. I now ask the Clerk to initiate proceedings.

**Clerk:** — Members, pursuant to the procedure specified under Rules 42(1) and 45(4), the following member has declared his intention to stand as a candidate for election to the office of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Glen Hart, the Hon. Member for the Legislative Assembly for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**The Speaker:** — Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that you have elected Mr. Glen Hart, the Hon. Member of the Legislative Assembly for Last Mountain-Touchwood, as your Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Why is the member on his feet?

**Mr. Hart:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take an opportunity to reply to being elected Deputy Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member has asked leave to respond to the election of Deputy Speaker. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all members of the Assembly for placing their trust in me. Sometimes when you are elected to a position by acclamation, you often wonder does everybody really support you or is it a position that people say . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . and so on, but I will take it as that I have widespread support from all members. And I will look forward to their co-operation when I am called to sit in the Chair, Mr. Speaker.

It's important that, as you said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that the person in the Chair deals with the Assembly in a non-partisan way that enforces the rules and the traditions of the Assembly that the members themselves over the years have put in place. And I certainly intend to do that to the best of my ability. Ever since I've entered public life I've only ever made one promise: I will do my best. And that's the promise I make today to deal with all members in a fair and non-partisan way. And if I fail in that, in doing so, it's my failing; it's not a failing of the position that you have elected me to.

Mr. Speaker, I would also take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the position. And I certainly agree with the comments that you made yesterday, and I have summarized them very briefly.

[14:30]

Before I take my seat, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate and thank the member from Moosomin for all the good work that he did in the Chair in our last legislature. It is a tough position to be the Speaker, hopefully a lot less tough to be the Deputy Speaker, and I know the member from Moosomin did a great job in that position. And I think we as all the members of this new Assembly certainly owe him a vote of thanks for the work that he has done in the past.

And also, Mr. Speaker, before I sit down, I'd certainly be remiss in thanking my colleague, the member from Arm River, for the great job that he did as Deputy Speaker of the last Assembly. He certainly had the respect of the House. He certainly conducted himself in a non-partisan member. And I was going to say that there's large shoes for me to fill. But on reflection, I'm not intending to go out and buy any western boots, Mr. Speaker, because the member from Arm River is very fashionable in the western dress.

And so again I would just like to thank him for all the work that he has done, and I certainly will be calling upon him for advice in the future. So once again, Mr. Speaker, thanks to all the members for placing their trust in me.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I would ask leave of the Assembly to make a motion with respect to Deputy Chair of committees.

**The Speaker:** — The Premier has asked leave to make a motion regarding Deputy Chair of committees. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

### MOTIONS

#### Appointment of Deputy Chair of Committees

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I move:

That Ms. Christine Tell, the hon. member for the constituency of Regina Wascana Plains, be appointed to preside as Deputy Chair of committees of this Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — The Premier has moved:

That Ms. Christine Tell, member for the constituency of Regina Wascana Plains, be appointed to preside as Deputy Chair of committees of this Assembly.

Is the motion agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — To ask for leave to make a motion regarding session timelines.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has asked leave to make a motion regarding House times. Is the leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Government House Leader.

### Assembly Adjournment

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That when this Assembly adjourn at the end of the sitting day on December the 15th, 2011, it shall stand adjourned at a date and time set by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government and that Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved:

That when this Assembly adjourn at the end of the sitting day on December 15th, 2011, it shall stand adjourned at a date and time set by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government and that Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Is the motion agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### SPECIAL ORDER

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thought I was ready to make this speech, but until I got final coaching instructions from my two colleagues immediately in front of me, I knew I wasn't quite ready.

Anyway I don't know how many times, Mr. Speaker, over the course of my lifetime in Regina that I've climbed the steps of this Legislative Building and walked through those two doors at the front. I know it's a number of times, but there was no time more special than on the morning of November the 8th when I walked through those doors as a member of the elected Assembly. And you know, each day since, each day since that day has become more special as I realize the enormity of the responsibility and the trust that the people of Douglas Park have given me to move forward over the next four years. So thank you.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying I am very excited to be here, and I'm truly honoured to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan representing the constituents of Regina Douglas Park and to have the privilege of being asked to move the Speech from the Throne commencing the twenty-seventh legislature of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate your election as Speaker of this Assembly. I think my first conversation with you was when I was trying to accumulate 20 signatures on my nomination paper to be nominated as the candidate in Regina Douglas Park. I was provided with a list of party members in Douglas Park, and I saw a family of four living in one household, and I thought I hit the jackpot: one stop, four signatures, and it'd be over. So I bravely made the phone call, and who should answer the phone but Mr. Speaker. And I have to say that I didn't quite get the response that I thought I was going to get. And so I was a little taken aback. But you did clarify you didn't want to be seen favouring one candidate over another, and I thank you for that. Mr. Speaker, your tenured service to this Assembly is obviously well known and respected. We know that this Assembly will be very well served with the highest standards of fairness and integrity, knowledge and experience. Congratulations.

I want to offer my congratulations to all the members of this House on both sides and particularly the new members. We are reminded, Mr. Speaker, by the words of Sir Winston Churchill, that the worst form of government is democracy except for all others. We know, Mr. Speaker, that democracy is about the

people and that democracy will therefore be only as strong as the people who step forward to participate in this process — people such as everyone in this House, people who have earnestly and unselfishly put themselves in a position to make a difference in the lives of their fellow citizens. Without people like all of you present today, we have no democracy. Mr. Speaker, I salute everyone.

*Multis e gentibus vires*, our provincial motto — through many peoples, strength — defines this day and our province. Having taken my place in this Chamber for the first time, I have to say that I am truly humbled by the experience. As a young boy growing up in Regina and in Regina Douglas Park, this building, these grounds, the lake, the old bike paths, the black bridge, the boat club on the island, Wascana pool, the museum — all were my playground. We would play in this building. My grandson calls it Auntie Mel's castle and wonder what went on behind the doors of this room or that room. And we were in awe of the very important men and women who walked through these doors. For me to have now been chosen to serve the people of Douglas Park and to sit in this Chamber is truly a humbling experience and a time that I will cherish.

I also want to congratulate our Premier, the Deputy Premier, and members of this cabinet. Mr. Speaker, when I look around this side of the House, I'm extremely confident with this team of women and men from the Saskatchewan Party who have been chosen by the people of this province to form government for a second term. And I am very proud to be a part of this team and of government.

I heard it many times, Mr. Speaker, time and time again while on the door: how confident our people are with our leadership, with our vision, with our plan to complete the mission. Not fancy, not complicated, simple, straightforward, principled, and responsible — those values, Mr. Speaker, define our people and, I'm very proud to say, define our leader.

Our vision, Mr. Speaker — a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan leading the country in economic and population growth while providing a high quality of life for all — has not changed and, based on our record from our first term in office, for me more reality than vision. The Throne Speech articulates our plan to continue to move forward. It is a straightforward, fiscally responsible plan to improve the lives of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I had a great time campaigning in my old neighbourhood, many great visits with faces from the good old east end days. And in typical east end fashion, I was reminded bluntly, yes, Russ, this is the new Saskatchewan. And yes, Russ, we are moving forward. And yes, there is a great attitude today, but remember, Russ, remember where you came from and respect those who came before you.

These sentiments, Mr. Speaker, are at the core of our value system. They are established for us by our parents, our omas and opas, our kohkoms and mushoms, our babas and gidos. It's our job to make sure we are moving forward but to do so in a manner that is respectful and done with a sense of service. And in that way, Mr. Speaker, we'll be sure to honour and respect the contributions of all those who have contributed before us. It's a good time to be from Saskatchewan, and we will move

forward.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank some of the people who helped get me to this point. First I want to thank the people of Regina Douglas Park. A famous Alfred, Lord Tennyson quote states, "I am a part of all that I have met." Mr. Speaker, this quote speaks volumes for all of us in Saskatchewan. I am very honoured that the people of Douglas Park have decided that they would like one of their own to represent them. I was born and raised in the constituency, attended St. Augustine School, Little Flower Church, Campion College high school, the University of Regina — all in Regina Douglas Park.

And Regina Douglas Park is absolutely rich with history, culture, and characters. Most of you are aware that where we are sitting is almost the centre of the constituency. I say almost because we all know that culture . . . because we all know that the centre, the heart of all our constituencies is the people. Indeed Douglas Park is home to our legislature, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, l'Edifice de la Reine, the sound stage, the Saskatchewan Science Centre, SIAST, the First Nations University of Canada, the University of Regina, three high schools, five elementary schools, Wascana Centre Authority, the longest bridge over the shortest span of water, and Liebel Field, and more — rich with landmarks and rich with history but richer still because of the people.

And of the people, Mr. Speaker, let me elaborate. Douglas Park was home to the first wave of eastern European immigrants. Romanians, Ukrainians, Polish, and Germans made Douglas Park their home. Much of Douglas Park came to be known as German town. My grandfather was instrumental in establishing the German-Canadian club. My Ukrainian grandfather helped build the Ukrainian church in Toronto Street. And so Regina was impacted.

In 1957 another wave. I think I was 11 years old. We welcomed families fleeing the Hungarian revolution. I was fascinated. What was a revolution? Why were these kids so scared? Why were they so quiet? Why didn't they know how to play baseball or football? And I was profoundly impacted.

In 1978 I was teaching school at Davin Elementary School in Regina, and we welcomed Vietnamese refugees fleeing a war-ravaged Vietnam and an oppressive regime. One day I was out for a run and bumped into two of my students on the path around our lake in front of the bandshell. They were on their bellies, leaning over the retaining walls, scooping from the lake. Kien Ba Du and Vin Tran — I remember them well. What are you doing, boys, I asked. Fishing, Mr. Marchuk. Fishing for what? They didn't know but in English word but in French came a response: l'écrevisse, Wascana Lake crayfish. Kien Ba Du stood up and opened up a plastic bag teeming with Wascana Lake crayfish — makes good soup — and I was impacted. Today Kien Ba Du is a very successful real estate developer in Toronto and has been able to provide a great, great deal for his family, and I was impacted because I met him. And today Regina and Douglas Park is home to families arriving from the Philippines, Iran, Iraq, India, and Pakistan. We will all be better because we will meet them.

Mr. Speaker, as I campaigned in this constituency, it became very clear to me how we owe who we are to those we have met.

Each little piece that we inherit from those we meet makes us stronger for the encounter and, Mr. Speaker, I could not be more proud.

Special thanks of course to my wife, Karen, my sister Lois and her husband, Brian, who worked tirelessly during the campaign; my brother Pat and Sharon, his wife; my sons, Chris and Cam, for their support; and of course my girls, Michelle and Mel. To my campaign team, a team made up of individuals that came out of every nook and cranny to help, a team that believed in me, believed in what we were doing, and believed that we could do it, that we could win Regina Douglas Park — and do it we did. A team that got the job done — it was they who never quit. Every night they would show up totally energized and, Mr. Speaker, I was impacted.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, here's the deal, really simple and really straightforward. The deal is we have a vision. We have a plan. We have a team and we have a leader who will get the job done. These are exciting times for the people of Saskatchewan. That's the reality. This plan is outlined in the Speech from the Throne, this fiscally responsible plan. Our promise, Mr. Speaker, is the instrument that will realize that vision and truly seal the deal.

Saskatchewan and of course the people of Regina Douglas Park spoke loud and clear on November the 7th. And now, Mr. Speaker, we must produce. And produce we will, just like the government of the last legislature — 140 promises made, 140 promises kept. We will keep our promises. This Throne Speech articulates exactly how the lives of the people of this province will be enhanced. It demonstrates that we listen. It demonstrates that we care. And make no mistake, this government cares.

We care about seniors. We are a government committed to treating our seniors with dignity and respect. Mr. Speaker, Douglas Park has a high demographic of senior citizens. There are more than 15 seniors apartment complexes in the constituency of Douglas Park. Thirteen of 21 voting stations, almost two-thirds, were located in seniors complexes. Mr. Speaker, they spoke. They spoke loud and clear and I listened to people who contributed so much to this great province and to whom we owe such a great deal. We heard what they said.

This plan articulates how we will enhance the lives of our seniors. We will build on what we accomplished last term, Mr. Speaker. Last term, this government helped low-income seniors by more than doubling the maximum benefits available through the seniors' income plan, a plan that saw no change during the previous 16 years. As outlined in this plan, our government will take the next step, providing further assistance to seniors by increasing benefits by over 40 per cent over the next four years. By 2015, seniors' income plan benefits will have tripled compared to 2007. This plan recognizes that many low-income seniors don't receive any income beyond the federal and provincial benefits. This plan will introduce a new seniors personal care home benefit that will subsidize the difference between a senior's monthly income and the cost of their personal care home space.

As well, as well as these initiatives to seniors, consider the reduced provincial debt, income tax cuts, more police making

our communities safer for seniors, more nurses and doctors, shorter surgical wait times, increased revenue sharing with municipalities helping to keep utility rates as low as possible, which directly affects fixed-income seniors. And you see a very significant recognition on the part of this government of the contributions of our seniors, and we will continue to listen.

We care about education. Again, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech clearly describes our plan for education: 181 per cent increase in K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] school infrastructure funds; a third of all Saskatchewan schools improved.

And, Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased with two new elementary schools in Regina Douglas Park, Douglas Park Elementary School and Arcola Community School. I have seen the designs for these two buildings, and I have been watching them go up. These are wonderful additions to our community, to our educational community and to our community in general, and will serve to deliver programs in ways that facilitate the different learning styles and dynamics of delivering a first-class, publicly funded education to every child that enters the building.

Infrastructure funding at St. Andrew School for the construction of an elevator, making the building fully accessible. All positive signs of growth in the confidence that people have in the direction we are heading. Again, as I campaigned in my own neighbourhood, my old neighbourhood, I saw houses just like the one my dad built when he came home from the war on little 25-foot lots being remodelled or replaced with new — rejuvenating a great, fantastic neighbourhood. Young families excited about their neighbourhood and of course a new school.

There is more to be considered in terms of this plan's commitment to education. Add in an active families benefit to help parents with their young people's extracurricular activities — healthy bodies, healthy minds — a graduate retention program to keep our graduating students at home, the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship for graduating grade 12 students to help defray the cost of tuition, Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings, making it easier for parents to save for their children's . . . for the cost of their tuition, the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings, making it easier for parents to save for their education, a 30 per cent increase in on-campus child care spaces, making it easier for parents to get their post-secondary education, and by supporting a philosophy that is critical to closing the gaps in student outcomes.

This government has created 115 pre-kindergarten programs. Pre-kindergarten programming is vital in assuring that, as much as possible, children come to school ready to learn and are at relatively the same level of readiness. Further, Mr. Speaker, in order to meet the growing demand for skilled tradespeople, over 35,000 training opportunities exist — \$95 million will be provided for training opportunities this year, and a budget of over \$21 million for adult basic education. Mr. Speaker, clearly we care. Clearly we care about education.

Mr. Speaker, we care about the needs of persons with physical and intellectual disabilities, and we care about responding to the needs of Saskatchewan's most vulnerable. Mr. Speaker, I'd like

to read into *Hansard* an article that appeared in the November 28th edition of the *Leader-Post*, an article written by Ms. Judy Hannah, Chair of the Saskatchewan Disability Income Support Coalition. And I quote:

The Saskatchewan Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC) is pleased that the plight of people with disabilities became an issue during the recent provincial election.

DISC and its 38-member organizations have been advocating for more support for people with disabilities since current income programs only provide a meager \$26 a day for all expenses including food, shelter, and medicine. This leaves people with disabilities living in poverty in addition to struggling with the barriers imposed every day by their disability.

We are pleased that Premier Wall made this issue the largest announcement in his party's platform.

We look forward to working with the government on increasing the number of people eligible for the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program as well as increasing the benefits that it provides. SAID operates independently from social assistance and is meant to be responsive to the unique needs of people with disabilities.

With SAID, people with disabilities do not need to reconfirm their disability every year, and they are free from the stigma of receiving welfare.

The government will expand coverage to persons with disabilities living outside residential care — about 7,000 people — bringing the total number of people on SAID to around 10,000. It also plans to increase benefits by \$150 a month to individuals in residential care, \$350 to single persons living outside residential care, and \$400 a month to couples living outside residential care over the next four years. It's a good start for assisting those currently struggling to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of being a teacher, an educator for almost 40 years. I interacted with a lot of people, served in many capacities, and learned a great deal. We are about serving people, and when serving people I learned this: I learned that sometimes it is hard to do things right, but that it's even harder to do the right thing. I firmly believe that this government — my government — will be doing the right things for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Fairview:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the

Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the beginning of the present session.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Regina Douglas Park, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Fairview:

That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan in session assembled, humbly pray that Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

**Ms. Campeau:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate you on your new position and also acknowledge the years of service that the member from Moosomin had put in. We appreciate the work that you have done. I would also like to acknowledge that we are in Treaty 4 territory.

Good afternoon, colleagues. I would like to sincerely thank you for your warm welcome and congratulate those who have been re-elected for another four years and congratulate the new MLAs. I am extremely honoured and consider it a privilege to serve the good people of Saskatoon Fairview. It is quite overwhelming to sit in this Chamber which has such a rich history. And I would like to acknowledge Joan Beatty for her past public service and being the first Aboriginal female MLA in Saskatchewan and paving the way for other First Nation females such as myself.

I would also like to thank my dear friends and family, most notably my daughter Denaya who, without her I do not think I would be in the position I am today. She has made me want to be a better person and a role model and has inspired me to go places I would never have thought possible. I am still in disbelief that I have gotten through an undergraduate degree, gotten an M.B.A. [Master of Business Administration], and now in a Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] program. I can now add elected Saskatchewan Member of the Legislative Assembly for Saskatoon Fairview to that list.

It is still quite amazing to me that people from all walks of life can be elected members of all levels of government even though I was born and raised here. I am like many other people in Saskatchewan who have been raised in core areas of the city as well as living in rural areas and also on-reserve. I have also lived in a residential school for seven years like my mother and grandmother did. So I was the third generation to attend these schools. I was affected by the social pathologies that affect many who have grown up the same way I did, yet I was able to



get through them. And once I put my mind to succeeding in academics, I did. I knew I wanted a better quality of life, and in Saulteaux we call it . . .

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

This term means the ability to make a living using what is provided for physical, material, and economic survival of the people. These teachings relate to self-sufficiency provided the individual direction and guidance for achieving self-worth, dignity, and independence. Self-worth, dignity, and independence are overarching principles that relate to many people in our province — seniors, our youth, our First Nations and Métis populations, and our new immigrant populations.

The constituency that I serve, Saskatoon Fairview, is made up of a diverse population that range from young families to seniors and also has a growing population of newcomers to Canada. This clearly reflects our government's commitment to ensuring that not only do we have a diverse population, but we have enough people to help grow our economy.

Since coming to office, our government has nominated 11,000 newcomers to this province. When you include family members, we have invited approximately 30,000 newcomers. To support the influx of newcomers to our province, this government has directly invested over 27 million towards settlement and retention initiatives since coming to office, 60 per cent increase since 2007.

Saskatoon Fairview is in the west end of Saskatoon and is made up of hard-working people who want a good quality of life. These families have directly benefited from the tax breaks that this government has given to low-income earners. I would like to remind this House that our government has removed 114,000 low-income earners from the tax rolls.

Income tax release has benefited everyone in this province especially those who no longer pay any provincial income tax. While tax breaks are welcome, the character of the people of this province is such that no matter what obstacles are put before us as a Saskatchewan people, we can have success in our lives. Education and training is the surest route out of poverty and towards the good life.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in another language.]

My experience are a testament to this.

[15:00]

This government has dedicated 2.8 billion to Saskatchewan's post-secondary system over the past four years and our government has recently announced the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship. Beginning in 2012, every new Saskatchewan high school graduate will be eligible to receive up to 2,000, a maximum of \$500 in any single year to be applied towards tuition fees at any Saskatchewan post-secondary institution or recognized training course.

Our government has also announced the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings which will match up to 10 per cent of the annual contribution to a child's RESP

[registered education savings plan] account to a maximum of \$250 annually. Policies such as these will ensure that families and students benefit from the Saskatchewan advantage.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the face of Saskatchewan has changed in the past four years and we can be proud to say we are from this province.

I would like to talk a bit about responsibility and how important it is to take responsibility for actions and for others. This is first and foremost what we are expected to do as public servants.

Not too long ago, Saskatchewan was considered a have-not province and this is the state of the province that I was born into and had grown up in. Like many other Saskatchewan exports, I had left to pursue other interests, but like many I had returned home again.

Jonas Salk has said that good parents give their children roots and wings. I am going to use this analogy, but let me explain the process as it relates to Saskatchewan. Roots tie us to the ground and wings help us fly away. The process is this: a nurturing environment must be prepared for roots to grow and they give plants stability. You continue to nourish the plant to make it stronger.

This can be tied for the economy in Saskatchewan. And according to Statistics Canada's revised estimates released on November 7, 2011, Saskatchewan posted a GDP [gross domestic product] of 63.3 billion in 2010 and an increase of 9.6 per cent from 2009, and it ranked second among the provinces in terms of percentage growth.

The Royal Bank of Canada forecasts Saskatchewan's real GDP will grow by 4.3 per cent in 2011 and 4.1 per cent in 2012, the highest rates of economic growth among the provinces for both years. RBC expects employment to grow by 1.7 per cent each year on average, or about 5,000 jobs in 2011 and 13,000 jobs in 2012.

Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings including overtime increased by 6.9 per cent in September 2011 compared to September 2010, while the national average is 1.1 per cent. Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings of \$906.22 in September '11 was the second highest in Canada. I would say that the economy is being nurtured for sure.

We in Saskatchewan are very blessed and fortunate to have the stability in the economy that we do have. We are blessed to be a resource-rich province and to experience the economic and population growth. However my prayers are with those who are suffering as a result of the global economic turbulence. The prolonged financial troubles throughout the global economy remind us that we must make responsible decisions to ensure the vitality of our provincial economy.

Now let me get back to the wings part of the analogy. The biggest export we had in the past was our young people which was really unfortunate. I was one of those who left to pursue and I had come back. The ones who came back are well trained in their fields of employment to help us develop capacity in our human capital.

I come back to the word responsibility. This government is responsible to the people of Saskatchewan. This government has put measures in place to mitigate the threat of economic instability by being fiscally responsible and realistic. I would like to reference the Throne Speech, and I quote:

Through a ... commitment to its **Saskatchewan Advantage Growth Plan**, my government will foster population growth and nation-leading economic performance.

Key to this plan are continued debt reduction, balanced budgets, competitive taxes and promotion of global trade.

My government will also pursue stable natural resource royalties designed to encourage further investment.

The vision of this province, as outlined in the Throne Speech, charts a course that is both bold and responsible. This vision includes a province of 1.1 million people by 2015, a province that is steadily eliminating its general revenue debt, a place where young people get the best education and opportunities, a place where seniors are treated with dignity and respect, and a place where people with disabilities get the best care and support available. This vision of Saskatchewan is one that we can all be proud of, and certainly we are already on that path.

The latest economic indicators certainly demonstrate this province is moving forward. For example, our population is now at an all-time high at 1,057,884. It has grown by 13,856 people in the past year, making Saskatchewan the third-fastest growing province in Canada. The province's population has now increased for 21 consecutive quarters, and in the past five years Saskatchewan has grown by over 65,000 people — the fastest and most sustained period of population growth in decades.

More importantly, new employment numbers show that 524,200 people were employed in November 2011, the second-highest level of employment on record for the month of November. There were employment increases in construction; retail and wholesale trade; finance, insurance and real estate services; and public administration.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to humbly thank the people of Saskatoon Fairview once again for their confidence in my ability to serve them and represent them in this House. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I second the motion to accept the Speech from the Throne. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to stand today and offer my comments in relation to the Throne Speech and certainly the fact that it's been a bittersweet moment for us on this side of the Assembly, obviously. And while it's sweet for us in terms of the nine that have returned as MLAs, I want to take this moment to congratulate the previous speaker as a First Nations woman. And certainly I understand that there are also Métis MLAs on the opposite side, and I also want to point out that we commend them for their effort and for putting their names forward and standing for election and, of course, becoming a member of this Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to very quickly say that the Speech from the Throne certainly supports what we have been saying all along — that this government really has no vision and no plan for the future.

I found the Speech from the Throne very flat. I found the Speech from the Throne very visionless and really lacked a lot of the substance that people were expecting from this government, Mr. Speaker. As you walk into the Assembly with 49 members strong, you should really have a vision set out. You should have a bold statement. You should have a number of things that you want to identify very quickly as what you'd like to see done. And, Mr. Speaker, we have not seen any of that action or any of that indication at all.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share with the members out there listening to the Speech from the Throne and certainly the response for it, that in politics, on election night when I was contacted, they spoke to me about some of the importance of making sure that we came to the Assembly and that we spoke for the people that we wanted to speak for. And that's of course all the constituents that we have.

When you look at some of the communities that we come from, First Nations or Métis communities, there is a large gap in some of the things that people have enjoyed in Saskatchewan for years; like decent housing, like employment, like training opportunities, and the list goes on. The list goes on. And, Mr. Speaker, we see nothing from this government for the past four years. And over the next four years nothing in the Throne Speech to indicate that they're going to change their mind on any of those things and addressing some of those things, Mr. Speaker. And that's a crying shame.

And I want to steal a line if I can, because obviously it's important that I recognize the line was said at one time and I kind of converted it a little bit because the original line was along the lines of, this isn't a good country for any of us unless it's a good country for all of us. But in reality, I want to convert that to the Saskatchewan perspective when I want to tell people that this isn't a good province for any of us unless it's a good province for all of us.

And I want to point out that as an Aboriginal member of this Assembly, that the proof is in the pudding when you go home and you see that First Nations enjoy paved roads like many of the other people do. That you see Métis communities have decent housing, that they're free of mould and free of overcrowding, Mr. Speaker. That you don't see some of the First Nations and Métis people that are travelling to the city pay rents that are so high that they had to make a choice between rents or food. That you see that young people that are trying to start off can't afford daycare and rent at the same time, Mr. Speaker. And these were some of the issues that the Throne Speech didn't address. They didn't address any of those issues, and we know that there are thousands of people suffering under those circumstances in this province right now.

So the Speech from the Throne didn't address any of those issues, Mr. Speaker, and that's why it was a flat speech. It was a visionless Throne Speech, and it certainly wasn't one that was inclusive of all people of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I'm going to tell the people that certainly supported the opposition this past election, and of course I want to thank all those back home that did support me: my wife and my family, my friends, the great community of Buffalo Narrows, Beauval, La Loche, Turnor Lake. These are communities that are really very supportive, and I want to thank them for their kindness and for their support.

But what I'll tell the people that have stood by the NDP all these years, Mr. Speaker, as we criticize this Throne Speech that our time will come. There's no question about it in my mind that at this stage of the game, with all the politics, the to-and-fro in politics, that obviously the Saskatchewan Party won a clear mandate. They won a clear mandate, and as New Democrats we have to accept that and understand that. Our job is now to point out over the next four years the inequality, the challenges, and certainly the problems that they will face. It's important for opposition to keep government in check on some of these fronts, and you're going to see evidence of that as the days go on in this Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'll tell the people that are out there — our members, the people that support the NDP over the years — I will tell them that our history is richer. And while the fruits of our labour, our early labour as the government is now enjoyed by other people, Mr. Speaker, it was something that we had to do, Mr. Speaker. We had to do this, Mr. Speaker, for the good of Saskatchewan and for the good of all of our people, Mr. Speaker.

So while it is frustrating as New Democrats to sit by and watch others enjoy the economy we built or the money that was left in their coffers, it is something that we had to do, Mr. Speaker. And we graciously accept that responsibility then, and we have to accept the consequences of being in opposition now, but the benefactors of that, Mr. Speaker, are the people of Saskatchewan.

And that's why it's important to point out to the people out there listening, to our members, is to have faith because the fight will go on, Mr. Speaker. The fight will go on to recognize the values of those people that want to make sure we have opportunity for all in this province and not just a chosen few. That is what we stand for. That is our mantra. And we will never stop that fight, Mr. Speaker. We will never stop that fight.

And I want to point out that over time the richness of our party, the history of our party has shown that we are going to continue fighting for what is socially right and economically feasible for our province, Mr. Speaker. That's one of the things that people out there have always maintained within our movement. And I want to point out that substance is much greater than simple style. And the reason why? Because substance will give you a long-term plan. Substance will give you a vision that is fair, and substance is intelligent, Mr. Speaker. And that's why it's important to point out to the people out there that yes, the NDP has substance. And there's no question that they've done the hard work, and it had great leaders that provided great style, Mr. Speaker. And time will go on. Time will go on and you will see the changes, the changing landscape, and of course the changing people.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned at the outset that our vision for a

fair Saskatchewan, an inclusive Saskatchewan, and a greater Saskatchewan involves all aspects of life. Now whether it's something like a decent home to live in or whether it's safe roads to travel on or whether it's affordable child care or whether it's a post-secondary learning opportunity, these must be afforded to as many people as we can, Mr. Speaker.

And we're seeing as a result of the Throne Speech and the action of this government that there are huge gaps. There are huge gaps. And, Mr. Speaker, as time goes on, people on the other side of the Assembly will recognize those gaps. And as they will soon begin to realize, as they soon will begin to realize that they aren't addressing those issues, they will begin to wonder why. They will begin to wonder why, Mr. Speaker. It's because it was never the intent of this government to deal with those issues. All it has been about is to gain power and to keep power. And they'll do anything in their path or anything within their grasp to do to make sure they maintain that power. And people will be used and people will be forgotten, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

There is no question from our perspective that as an opposition we're going to have an amendment to this Throne Speech. We're going to talk about those issues that are important to people. And yes, Mr. Speaker, we will continue speaking from this Assembly. And we will not blink, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue speaking hard. We'll be telling the people of Saskatchewan the mistakes that those guys will surely make and we'll certainly hold them to account.

Now as I mentioned to the members out there during the election night, yes, it's similar. It's much the same, the circumstances were much the same when we had a great win in 1991. I think the NDP at that time had 55 seats or so and the Conservative Party were down to about 5 seats. And things change, Mr. Speaker, over time. And right now the ebb and flow of politics, it's their time. They're doing well. They've got 49 members. But there are going to be challenges for them because no longer can they count on the money left to them behind by the NDP. But now the pressure as a result of some of the commitments that they made during the campaign must be met as they indicated. And the question we have is, where is the money going to come from? Mr. Speaker, where is the money going to come from?

So we'll be watching them and certainly point at the people that while it's their time — certainly as a result of the second term that they've got — that the people of Saskatchewan will be less forgiving. And they'll be watching very carefully what this government does not only with the resources, but to make sure there's a fairness in how they approach all the people of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will tell the people, the New Democrats out there, the people that have supported our party, that there's no question that the fight will go on in this Assembly. There's no question that we will ask for your loyalty and your resilience. That's important for us to know that it is out there, that we will govern for all and in our time of our deepest need, and the time for the most resilience for our members and the movement that we have, is now. And I point out that we need the amount of information that they have. We need their

volunteerism. We need their support. We need their guidance. Now is the time to step forward to make sure that this movement continues to build and rebuild, Mr. Speaker, as we seek to have a new leader within the New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan.

Now I will point out, Mr. Speaker, that as I listened to the Throne Speech, it was pretty bland. It was visionless, and there was huge gaps. That's the general frame of mind that I saw and I certainly perceived the Throne Speech from. Nothing there about anything as dramatic as people were expecting. There was huge expectations. They got the clear mandate to govern and, Mr. Speaker, their Throne Speech fell flat. It fell flat. And what is going to happen, Mr. Speaker, they're only a few bad budgets away from being defeated, Mr. Speaker. If they have major problems with their budget, as we suspect they are going to have in meeting all those demands, then guess what? The ideof March will come. Mr. Speaker, the ideof March will come.

And secondly, Mr. Speaker, they are only a few years away from the next election, and there'll be a few opportunities for them to make mistakes. And as we look at the makeup of their caucus, you know they're going to have to make all the expectations of their caucus. They have to be met because some people come there with aspirations and dreams and plans. And guess what? Those dreams and aspirations and plans will be dashed because at the end of the day it's about one thing, and that's retaining power. It's not about being fair. It's not about being representative. It's not about being responsible to all segments of our province. It's all about power, Mr. Speaker, and that's the unfortunate reality that people within that caucus will soon learn and soon realize.

So in my few closing comments I want to tell the people out there that are listening today that there are nine of us here in the Assembly, nine strong members. But, Mr. Speaker, we have many thousands of people that support this movement. We have many capable historians within the party that can add to the fight within this Assembly, that we know that as nine people we are not alone. We're inspired by our history, which is rich in service of this province and this country as well. We also have a history that talks about some of the services provided to many parts of the province of Saskatchewan. And I can tell people that we have been fair. We have been consistent. We have been visionary as a party, and that certainly that history will hold us together. And all of this time, what do we need in terms of a message to our people is to stay resilient and to stay focused and to stay strong.

Mr. Speaker, we are looking for a fight in this Assembly. We're going to continue, we're going to continue looking for that fight, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to build. From nine members we will build, from nine seats will we build on an optimism. And inspiration will guide us, not catcalls from the opposition or from the opposite side, Mr. Speaker, and that's what's important. That's what's important.

Certainly as a newly elected MLA I can tell the assembled masses across the way that we're looking for a fight. And they're only a few mistakes away from losing support that they've gained under the premise of all these promises that they've made. They're only a few mistakes away, Mr. Speaker, and mark my words, those days will come. Those problems will

come. The challenges will come. And we in the opposition are going to make sure we watch, we wait, we learn, we listen, and we see what's going to happen to them. And right now arrogance seems to be their theme, and that's exactly what we anticipated would be the case, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's important for people out there to know one thing: is that keep that confidence, keep that spirit alive because we are coming back. It is our low time at this stage of the political world, but we will come back. And there's no question when we come back we'll come back with a vengeance. And that vengeance will be a good vision and a proper plan for the people of Saskatchewan that's inclusive of all people, Mr. Speaker.

So one of the things I want to point out in terms of my final comment is that I have an amendment to the original motion. And it reads as follows:

That all words after "Assembly" be deleted and the following words be substituted:

does not support the Speech from the Throne because of its failure to move Saskatchewan forward in becoming a fairer, greener, and more inclusive province.

I so move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the member from Regina Elphinstone. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** — Order. The motion for amendment as presented is out of order, based on a ruling of March 2nd, 1962 by Speaker Wood. Mr. Speaker ruled the said amendment is out of order on grounds that it did not add words to the address in reply.

It takes a very simple change to accommodate the amendment as presented by the opposition. So by striking out "That all words after 'Assembly' be deleted and the following words substituted," striking that out and including in the amendment:

The following words be added after "present session":

And that this Assembly does not support the Speech from the Throne because of its failure to move Saskatchewan forward in becoming a fair, greener, and more inclusive province.

Moved by the member for Athabasca. And seconded by the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I guess if that's what it takes to get a reference to a ruling by then Speaker Everett Wood from 1962, the Lloyd government and what would have been then the Thatcher opposition leading the Liberals, so be it. Anyway I thank members of the House for the accommodation and the Speaker for making sure that the amendments can go forward as intended.

I guess what I'd like to say first off, Mr. Speaker, entering into this debate, standing on my feet in this Chamber for the first time after the election, I'd like to say thank you very much to the people of Regina Elphinstone-Centre for once again

expressing their confidence in my ability to take their concerns forward to this Assembly. It is often said, but it doesn't get any less true for saying it, Mr. Speaker, it's a humbling thing to go out amongst your neighbours, friends, and constituents and to ask for their support and to ask for a mandate from them to come to the legislature to speak of something of the issues that they are concerned about.

So again in the case of this election, Mr. Speaker . . . When I was first elected in a by-election in February of 2001, I got a little bit over 56 per cent of the vote. It's seen some ups since then, Mr. Speaker, but this one it's back to 57 per cent. So again you learn some lessons. You go up, you go down sometimes in this business. But I guess, as has been said, the people when they make a decision in an election, they're always right. And I'm sure the member from Indian Head-Milestone is happy to hear me say that.

But that's what I'd said on election night, Mr. Speaker, and I say again, obviously for our side, the people have sent the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party a fairly strong message. They've sent a fairly strong message to the members opposite. And I think it's obviously falling to us in the opposition to do two things: one, we've been entrusted with the job of holding this government to account, to being Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. And we will strive diligently to hold this government to account, to guard against the arrogance that can creep in with the kind of numbers involved in this Assembly, to guard against the kind of missed decisions or the wrong decisions that can be made with the guarding of the public purse, and to guard against legislation that is wrong-headed, and where possible, Mr. Speaker, to put forward measures to improve those actions on the part of this government.

Today of course is the anniversary of the massacre at École Polytechnique, and there's some excellent statements given earlier about that, and today many of us wear the white ribbon, Mr. Speaker. And the white ribbon comes out of a campaign that was specifically targeted towards men to do what they could do about ending violence against women. One of the founders of that campaign was Jack Layton, who passed away earlier this year, Mr. Speaker. And one of the things that Layton was often fond of saying is that it's, and for a federal New Democrat obviously this is a pretty important thing to keep in mind, it's not just about opposition, but it's about proposition. And as we are best able to, Mr. Speaker, we'll not just oppose this government, we'll not just critique, we'll not just criticize, we'll not just aim to hold them to account as we are able. We will hopefully bring forward proposition as well to put forward that better alternative as we see it.

[15:45]

And as we talk to the people of Saskatchewan about what the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party needs to get right, what we need to do better, how we need to better connect with the hopes and dreams and the issues that Saskatchewan people hold dear and how that translates into how they cast their votes at election time, that's something that we'll be keeping firmly in mind as well, Mr. Speaker.

Having said thank you to the people of Regina Elphinstone-Centre, I would like to say congratulations to those

who also sought election in Regina Elphinstone-Centre. Bill Stevenson ran for the Sask Party and mounted a very vigorous campaign, and I know some of the people in this building that worked very hard on that campaign. I congratulate them on a vigorous affair. And I also congratulate Ingrid Alesich who ran for the Green Party. I congratulate both of them for doing their part in the democratic process and for mounting what, for the most part, were vigorous, well-fought campaigns.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, as I then turn to the campaign that we mounted in Regina Elphinstone-Centre with the NDP, we of course don't get here by ourselves. And I really want to thank the people who worked tirelessly on the campaign. I want to thank my family, and I particularly want to thank the folks that spent many, many hours doing what they could to work with me to ensure that I had this privilege to stand forward in this legislature once again. So I've got, as is often said, you have debts to pay in this business of public service, and I will not forget the people that were so kind to me and so generous with their time and effort and supports in this campaign.

I want to say congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, for assuming the role of Speaker in this Chamber, and already here comes your brand new Deputy Speaker. Congratulations to the both of you. I'll try not to drag you into the debate, but you've sought these jobs as servants of this legislature, not of one side or the other but of the legislature, and it's delegated authority from the people. So I wish you well in doing those jobs, and of course we'll be there to provide our advice when we think you're doing well and, I'm sure, when we think you're not doing as quite as well.

But I also want to thank the outgoing Speaker, the member from Moosomin. I think he's an honest man and obviously not just long serving in this legislature, Mr. Speaker, but was an excellent servant of the legislature as a whole. Made some very difficult decisions that I think probably were obviously tough to make, but I think he made them and called them as best he saw them in accordance with his conscience and with the precedents, and we commend him for that. We commend him for being a good servant of the people and a good servant of this legislature. So we thank him for his service.

I guess, you know, now . . . I was teasing my colleagues earlier that the, you know, finally the enlightened reign of Deputy Speaker from Last Mountain-Touchwood has begun, and well I won't get into it, but . . . Anyway I'd like to say, I'd like to say thanks as well to the member from Arm River-Watrous for his service to the legislature. And obviously you've got some big boots to fill there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I'm sure you'll do just fine. But thank you as well to the member from Arm River-Watrous.

Obviously we're in a very interesting period as the New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan. We've seen historically as a movement — my colleague from Athabasca talked about this — we've seen our ups and we've seen our downs. We've been party to some pretty heavy victories in this province, and we've also suffered some stunning defeats. And of course one of the things that is oft quoted, it was Douglas when he was defeated in this town in the federal election of 1963, I believe or '62, when he first contested as the federal leader of the New Democratic Party and of course he'd gone from being premier

of the province of Saskatchewan to running in a federal campaign where he lost his seat on the east side of Regina. And, you know, from those days he's come to emerge in history as someone worthy of being voted the greatest Canadian in an exercise that was held by the public broadcaster, CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation], not a few years ago. But on that night of defeat he said, you know, "lay me down and bleed a while," quoting an old Scottish proverb, after Culloden, but "lay me down and bleed a while and then rise and fight again."

And his message then was one of determination and to carry on. And I guess in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, when I first saw this seating arrangement I thought it looks like a bit of a battleship over there and it looks like we're a bit of a canoe pulled up alongside that battleship. But we'll be paddling hard and we'll give it a game effort in terms of the trust that the people have put in us to hold this government to account and to do this job with nine and to make them a mighty nine to hold that government to account.

I want to say as well that I've got some new responsibilities in this House and one of those is as House Leader. And I want to thank the Clerks for their advice and their tutelage thus far. I'm getting sharpened up on the job. I'll be doing that job with the member from Nutana who'll be the Deputy House Leader for the opposition and I very much enjoy working with her and I look forward to the contribution that she has to make, not just as an MLA in this Assembly, but across the piece. I think she brings a lot to the job and we'll hear more from her shortly, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I also want to say congratulations to the Government House Leader on his appointment, moving up from Deputy House Leader into the new Government Deputy House Leader as well. We look forward to working with them. And obviously this is a place of conflict and oftentimes heated, passionate debates but . . . And obviously there's a certain mandate or prerogative on the part of each of the House business teams on each side to look for that advantage to, you know, put forward your cause as best you can. But for our side we commit to communicating as squarely and as honestly as we can and being plain dealers and if we can keep those lines of communication open and to keep the process from creeping into these things.

I think always when if the process becomes the debate and not the policy or the ideas themselves, that's a poor service to the people in a democratic process. So we'll try to do our part, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in making sure that we keep those dealings as straightforward and as open and productive as possible.

In the campaign, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there were a number of issues that were as plain as the doorsteps I stood on and as the kitchen tables I sat at. It's obvious that there are many people that are not benefiting from this boom, and that in fact, as prices rise, they find it harder to make a go of things.

I think of a woman who's — my colleague from Saskatoon Centre was talking about Sask Housing prices earlier — who is living in a so-called affordable housing unit in one of the apartments in Regina Elphinstone-Centre where the price is \$600 for rent and was going up. And she had \$750 in income, and the hardness of her putting that . . . keeping body and soul

together and in addition in her case, dealing with a pretty significant health challenge.

You know, I've never seen so many people actually break down and cry as I have on the campaign trail this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it wasn't because these are . . . You know, these are people that are trying as hard as they can to hold ends together, to make ends meet. And they are finding it harder and harder to do that.

So if the economy isn't working for all of us, then we've got work to do, Mr. Speaker. If it's not as fair and as inclusive as it needs to be, then we've got work to do. And we see that, not just with people struggling with poverty, but in different regions of the province where there's very little mention of them in this Throne Speech, where there was very little mention of them and their hopes and dreams and their situations on the campaign trail.

So again, you know, I was raised in the Baptist church, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And one of the things we learn there is that as you treat the least of these, so you treat me. And that of course was translated in later days into the principle that a society is known by what it does for the poorest among us. And I think as a province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've got a lot of work to do. And I think that the plan put forward in this Throne Speech and the platform put forward by the members opposite in this campaign, with all due respect, doesn't do the job. It needs to do better. We as a province need to do better.

We need to do better if one of the key indicators that, you know, we haven't heard from that side, is if it's food bank utilization rates going up by 20 per cent over one year, '09 to 2010, that's a big problem. And that's a key indicator to my mind in terms of what we're not doing right as a society and an economy in terms of bringing people in.

If the rent is going up 34 per cent over the past four years in the city of Regina, I'm glad to hear that, you know, as mentioned earlier in question period that there are landlords considering voluntarily decreasing the rents. But honestly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's not what we've seen on the ground. That's not how it's played out.

So we've got a lot of work to do as a province, and obviously we've got a lot of work to do as an official opposition in holding this government to account and pointing the way forward to a better state of being for the province of Saskatchewan.

A couple of last things I'll say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is congratulations to those who were re-elected and congratulations to the new members that were elected. We've already heard two excellent speeches, excellent contributions on the floor of this House from the member from Regina Douglas Park and the member from Saskatoon Fairview. And I guess for the other rookie members, both on that side and on this side, they've set a pretty high bar in terms of the contribution that they've made already to the proceedings in this place. So congratulations for that. I'll also be looking very closely, or listening very closely to see if the member from Regina Coronation Park quotes any Jerry Lee Lewis in his first address. But perhaps we'll wait to see if that plays out or not, Mr.

Deputy Speaker.

Anyway, the last thing I'd like to say is this, when this Throne Speech . . . when we had the last Speech from the Throne at the start of the new government, it's always an interesting day of pomp and circumstance and the imagery that represents this province. And at that time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the people that participated in the proceedings in December of 2007 was the elder, Isador Pelletier. And he passed away late last week, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and his wife of 50-plus years, Joan, she passed away not long after him. And I guess Isador gave us good counsel at the launch of the last Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, in terms of do what you can for the people. And it's not about what you do for yourself, but it's what you do for the people. And I think Elder Isador is a proud member of Pasqua First Nation and is someone who gave literally decades of his life in trying to bring people together and to promote understanding and to bring forward something of that cultural and linguistic renaissance that we need in this province. He will be missed, as will Joan. But their legacy is a formidable one, and it certainly reaches into this House as well.

But I do think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we'd do well to heed the prayers that were lifted up at that time and to see if we can't do something better for the people than is being offered here in the Throne Speech today.

But in that regard, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be supporting the amendment and I will be voting against the Throne Speech. And I await the other interventions from all members but with particular interest for the new members. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[16:00]

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

**Mr. Doherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed an honour to stand in this Assembly and deliver my first speech as the elected member for Regina Northeast.

Let me initially say that I want to join colleagues on both sides of the House and congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election as our Speaker. You, sir, have served your constituents of Cannington with honour and dignity for many years, and the confidence shown by your legislative colleagues in electing you as Speaker is a testament to your experience, knowledge, and fairness. I know that you will preside over this Chamber with a fair but firm hand.

Let me also offer my congratulations to the hon. member from Moosomin who served this Legislative Assembly so admirably the last four years. While I wasn't here while the hon. member was Speaker, I watched as he served the people of this province in that chair.

I also want to congratulate all members who have been elected to this Legislative Assembly. Whether you are a returning member or a new member such as myself, it is a privilege to serve the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise here today to offer my support for this

Throne Speech, I am mindful of all those people who were so instrumental in helping me get here today. If you'll indulge me for a minute, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank a few of them for their incredible generosity, advice, hard work, and support.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to humbly thank the people of Regina Northeast. They have entrusted me with their most cherished democratic right — their vote. I will forever be grateful for that vote, and I will never take anything for granted when it comes to the high expectations and standards of the people of Regina Northeast have set for us as a government and for me as their elected representative. I'll say more about the people of Regina Northeast in a minute, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Premier for his leadership, his example of service with humility, his constant reminders to all of us that we are here to serve all of the citizens of Saskatchewan, and his unwavering support of each of us, the women and men who make up the government caucus. Mr. Speaker, I heard a quote recently whereby former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed always reminded his caucus that they, meaning his government members, were not in power but that they were the trustees of the public trust. And I firmly believe that that sentiment is exactly how this Premier leads this government.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the members of our caucus who assisted me in our campaign in so many different ways. They came out and door knocked with me. They provided advice and support and attended fundraising events. In particular, I want to thank the hon. member for Kindersley, the Minister of Energy and Resources, who has been a source of wisdom, advice, and support for me as well as a good friend for many years. I literally would not be standing here today were it not for him.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that every member here claims to have had the best campaign team in the province, but I am here to put that debate to rest as I truly did have the best campaign team in the entire province. And I will be forever grateful to them for the incredible effort they put forward to ensure that we had a successful campaign. I won't get into names, Mr. Speaker, as I will surely forget someone, but suffice to say that while I joke about having the best campaign team in all of Saskatchewan, I was and am truly blessed by having these women and men come into my life over the last two years.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to pay tribute to my main opponent from the NDP in this election, Mr. Dwayne Yasinowski. Dwayne worked extremely hard and he is a formidable candidate. I have gotten to know Dwayne a little bit better over the campaign and since the campaign. He is a husband, a father, and a gentleman who is passionate about his party and his beliefs. And I want to publicly thank him for a vigorous hard fought but clean campaign and wish he and his family well.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my family and friends. I am the second eldest of six children to Mike and Lenora Doherty who still reside on the family farm in my hometown of Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. And I am extremely fortunate to have the love and support of my parents, my brother, four sisters, and their families, and a circle of friends who have enriched my life beyond what words can describe. I simply

want to say thank you to all of them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, during the course of the last 18 months I have had the wonderful and unique opportunity to meet thousands of residents of the Regina Northeast constituency right on their doorstep. While not everyone supported our party, I can honestly say that the citizens of Regina Northeast were engaged in this recent election as they shared with me their ideas, their concerns, their hopes, their criticisms, and their stories. These amazing Saskatchewanians challenged me, humbled me, humoured me, questioned me, and many of them shared very personal, touching stories.

Mr. Speaker, I met a lady who shared with me her journey through life living with MS [multiple sclerosis] and all the challenges that go with that, and how proud she was that our Premier and this government were prepared to take a leadership role in trying to find some solutions, if only symptomatically, for this dreaded disease.

I also had the opportunity to visit with a woman who is a foster parent and who has parented a total of eight foster children over the last number of years. She shared with me how difficult being a foster parent is and why our government needs to ensure that we pay attention to those issues that don't tend to register very high on the political agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I also had a number of discussions with men and women who are unionized workers in a variety of jobs. These folks are passionate about their province, and we had very respectful conversations about how we need to keep moving the province forward. We didn't always agree, but these visits were some of the most memorable and impactful on me, and I truly appreciated their views.

But, Mr. Speaker, the sentiments that I heard the most, time and time again, while door knocking were comments around how much people in Regina Northeast just wanted the government to keep doing what it was doing.

Mr. Speaker, it didn't matter if I was visiting with people in Uplands or Creekside, Glencairn or Glen Elm, Eastview or Parkridge. The message was very consistent. Keep looking for ways to reduce taxes in a fiscally responsible way. Keep investing in our health care system to reduce surgical wait times, hiring more nurses and attracting more physicians to our province. Keep building and repairing our highways. Keep hiring police officers to reduce crime and make our streets safer for our kids. Keep helping those most vulnerable, particularly our seniors. Keep investing in education by building and repairing more schools, offering programs like the graduate retention program, and finding ways to make post-secondary education more affordable. Keep investing in more child care spaces, keep bringing more people to the province, and keep bringing our kids home. Keep looking for ways to help out the small-business owner so they can expand their operations and hire new people. Keep providing an environment that is attractive for investment. Keep your word on royalty stability because when we in Saskatchewan shake hands on a deal, we keep our word. Keep paying down debt, and most importantly, Mr. Speaker, keep governing with integrity, humility, and grace.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Regina Northeast told me that those are their values, and those are the values they were going to vote for. And because of the fact those were exactly the values of the platform that our party campaigned on, the people of Regina Northeast and in fact the people of Saskatchewan, virtually in every constituency across this province, in large urban centres and in smaller rural communities, spoke loud and clear on November 7th and voted for this Premier and this Saskatchewan Party.

Mr. Speaker, the election of November 7th is behind us, and the people of this province were presented with two very fundamentally different platforms to consider and ultimately to vote on. The people chose our platform in overwhelming numbers. They said in no uncertain terms that they liked what this Premier was offering, and they also said that they trusted him to do what he said he would do. That is a rare commodity in the political world these days, Mr. Speaker — trust. The people that I spoke with for the last 18 months said it over and over again, whether they supported our party or not, that they believed the Premier when he said something. He and this government have a solid track record in actually doing what they said they were going to do, and that in turn has resulted in a level of trust between this government and the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with that theme and that track record of making promises and keeping them, this Throne Speech has outlined exactly how this government is going to govern in its second term. They are ambitious goals, to be sure. But they are not done as an end to themselves, but as a means to make Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family, and to build a life.

Mr. Speaker, these are not just words put down on a piece of paper that rhetorically sound nice. They are the guiding lights for how this Premier and this government will act, the record of the government in its first term, the campaign platform that was just presented and voted on by the people of Saskatchewan, the vision of the Premier and this government for what we would like Saskatchewan to be — things like a population of 1.1 million people by 2015, to become debt free, a province where young people have the best educational and career opportunities, treating our seniors with dignity and respect, a province that leads the nation in quality of life for people with disabilities and where we care for those in need, a place where communities will be safer, health care will be better, and surgical wait times will be shorter. These are the tenets of that bond of trust that exists between the citizens of Saskatchewan and this government.

Mr. Speaker, some 11 years ago I was one of those individuals who left this province because of work. There wasn't a day that went by that I didn't think of my home province. And when the opportunity arose for me to come back, it was a simple decision. When I got back here three years ago, almost three years ago, this was a different province. You could see it in the people, you could sense it in the community, and you could literally feel the level of confidence growing among everyone, young and old, urban and rural, north and south.

It was a feeling that we finally had a government that believes



our best days are yet to come, a government that believes that we can compete with anyone on the face of the planet, a government that chooses optimism over pessimism, a government that's not afraid of new entrepreneurs bringing new businesses to our province, a government that believes it's okay to try new things to solve old problems, and a government that recognizes that it does not have all the answers, admits when it makes a mistake, and a government that keeps its word. That is what the people of Saskatchewan voted for on November 7th, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, I am truly humbled by the trust that the people of Regina Northeast placed in me. And as we embark on this new journey in my life together, there are some things that I know right now. I will make mistakes; there's no doubt about that. I will experience highs and lows, untold joys and unexpected sorrows. I will make many new friends of all political persuasions and meet extraordinary people along the way. I will learn new things about myself and, more importantly, I will learn life lessons from so many others. I will surely disappoint some, but I hope that the values instilled in me by the models of behaviour of my parents will continue to guide me on this journey and act with integrity, a sense of humour, and always ensuring that I do what is in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with so many others who helped, worked very hard to get here. Now that we are here, there is work to do, and I will continue working hard to contribute to that vision of making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada. And in order to do that, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the amendment, and I will be supporting the Speech from the Throne. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour and a privilege to enter the Speech from the Throne debate on behalf of the people of Walsh Acres.

Mr. Speaker, I've been thinking about the first time I visited this Chamber, and it wasn't in 1957 like my colleague from Regina Douglas Park. My first time at this building was my grade 5 trip in 1993, and I remember walking up to this building and thinking it looked like a castle. And after we had our tour, we saw all the marble in the building and all the shiny floors and the pictures and we all got to go and have lunch at the MLA dining room. And before we came up to question period, because we were going to be able to watch the Assembly from the Speaker's gallery, we were told a few things by our teacher. And one of the most important was, be respectful, pay attention, and above all else, be quiet. So you can imagine my surprise, Mr. Speaker, once question period got under way. Here is a group of grown-ups doing the exact opposite of what we've been told not to do. They were shouting, talking over top of one another, and they never raised their hands once. We were amazed. In a word, it was awesome.

[16:15]

When I got home that night, when I got back to the farm at Rush Lake, I proudly ran into the house and said, mom, dad,

I'm going to be a politician. They looked a little surprised, because who wants their 10-year-old to be a politician? And they said, well why would you want to be a politician? And without missing a beat I said, who wouldn't want a job where you could talk whenever you wanted to?

Mr. Speaker, I felt that exact same childlike sense of wonder the first time I walked up the stairs of the legislature as an MLA after the people of Walsh Acres gave me the honour to represent them on November the 7th.

Over the last few years, I've had the opportunity to work in this building, firstly in the government process and cabinet planning, and over the last two years I've been working in the caucus office as the director of research. And I've had the opportunity to work with the men and women who I'm now proud to call colleagues. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it's nice to look around and see a few familiar faces from that first class trip in 1993. You are one of those faces and so is the member from Moosomin and the member from Kindersley, and I'm proud to call them colleagues as well.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the legislature. I've had the opportunity to get to know you over the last few years, and I'm sure you're going to do an excellent job.

Before I get too far into the response to the Throne Speech, there are a lot of people that I need to thank for having the opportunity to rise in this historic Chamber and give this response today.

First and foremost, I must thank my wife, Larissa. She's the most amazing woman I know. And she's been with me every step of the way from when we decided to run and get the nomination, straight through till the results came in on election night. She actually may have been the only person in Saskatchewan more nervous than myself.

Next I need to thank the good people of Walsh Acres for giving me the opportunity to represent them. I'm humbled by the support that they've given not only me but this government. I feel very privileged and honoured that they entrusted me to be their voice in the legislature.

The next people I need to thank are my campaign team. Mr. Speaker, I may be a little biased, and me and my seatmate may have words over this, but I believe I had the best group of volunteers in the whole province. And without this wonderful group of men and women, there's no way that I'd be here today. And I know it's not enough and it sure won't be, but to each and every one of them I just want to say thank you. They put in many hours. They worked hard, tireless hours from signing letters to writing notes to licking envelopes to going out door knocking with me. And I also want to thank my caucus colleagues who made the time to come and door knock with me. It is greatly appreciated, and your help meant the world to us.

Mr. Speaker, before we get into the Throne Speech, I'd like to take a few minutes to . . . [inaudible] . . . where we've been to where we are today, and then go on to where we're going to go into the future.

Mr. Speaker, today in Saskatchewan more people than ever are calling our province home. Our population is at an all-time high of 1,057,844. And I firmly do believe that we've grown by 13,856 people in the past year. And I do believe people vote with their feet and people are seeing Saskatchewan as a place to come and have economic opportunities, and that is seen in our population growth. And I think that does say a lot for our province in this time of economic uncertainty all over the world.

Today in Saskatchewan our economy is leading the nation, and it's predicted to lead the nation again next year.

And this is something that we've learned recently, is that Saskatchewan's average weekly earnings, including overtime, increased by 6.9 per cent in September compared to September 2010. The national average increased by 1.1 per cent. Saskatchewan's weekly earnings are \$906.22, which is the second highest in Canada. And that's something where . . . I remember years ago that Saskatchewan always used to be seventh, eighth in weekly earnings, and that's something that we have changed. And I believe because we are second now — we are ahead of Ontario — it's another reason why people are seeing Saskatchewan as a place to come to and have some opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, today in Saskatchewan, surgical wait-lists are getting shorter, and our government made the commitment, by 2014, to ensure that no one waits longer than three months for surgery. Today in Saskatchewan, people with disabilities have the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program which allows them to have an income support program. And today in Saskatchewan, one-third of our schools have been repaired or renovated, and there are more than 3,400 new child care spaces.

Something that has been important to us and me — I've been a recent graduate from the University of Regina — and you see this all over the province, is that our post-secondary education system has seen record investments. Student loan limits have been increased, and new student housing is being built.

Today in Saskatchewan, taxes are lower. Income taxes, education property taxes, and small-business taxes have all been reduced in our first term as government.

And last but not least — because this is one of the things that we've heard on the doorstep the most over our campaign — was today in Saskatchewan, debt has been reduced by 44 per cent and the budget is balanced.

Mr. Speaker, to get back to post-secondary education for a moment, we made a campaign commitment that we were going to try and make post-secondary education more affordable. And beginning in 2012, we're going to provide up to \$2,000 over four years to new high school graduates to reduce the cost of post-secondary tuition in Saskatchewan. Now that's \$500 a year that's going to go towards people being able to afford education. And it's something where I know, going to university, is that having an extra \$500 throughout the year does mean a lot to us, and it allows people to perhaps not eat Kraft Dinner every day, which is something where me and my roommates did a lot of.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, to make post-secondary education more affordable, we're going to match up to 10 per cent of the annual contribution to a child's RESP account to a maximum of \$250 annually. This is in addition to basic Canada education savings grants.

Mr. Speaker, there are parents here that are saving for children's education and this makes it a little more, a little more money in the bank account for parents that are looking to ensure that their children have a better future right here in our province.

Mr. Speaker, there is one more thing that I'd like to talk about post-secondary education and that's the graduate retention program we put in place in our first term. And this is one of the reasons why I did get involved in public service, is that when I graduated . . . Well first of all my sister, my sisters and brother graduated. They all left this province because they didn't see economic opportunities and they didn't think that Saskatchewan was the place where they wanted to start their lives.

And that stuck with me throughout my whole life actually because I remember being on the farm and loading up the trucks where my brothers and sisters . . . and they left all over North America, and I wondered, what's going to happen when I graduate? And in 2000 when I graduated high school, I couldn't believe that half of my graduating class all left. And my friends all went to Alberta and they all went to Medicine Hat and they went to Calgary, and I couldn't understand why people didn't want to stay in our province. And then I realized they just didn't see the opportunities there and they couldn't make a go of it.

So, Mr. Speaker, our graduate retention program has attracted young people back to this province in droves. And I have to say that my brother's back in Lloydminster. He's on the Saskatchewan side so he is back in Saskatchewan. And I'd like to say that a lot of my friends are coming home too. And that means a lot because I think it's great to have families, to bring families back together and that's something that the graduate retention program has done. And then we've expanded it to have graduates come from all over Canada and we're going to have more young people in our province which is a great thing to see.

Mr. Speaker, next, on the doorsteps in Regina Walsh Acres I talked to many seniors and they had questions and concerns, and I was proud to see that part of our campaign did deal with some of the questions seniors did have. And over our first term we dealt with the senior income plan and that's something that people found was very useful to them. And it's good to see that we've made commitment to increase the senior income plan some more and increase the maximum senior income plan benefit to \$80 per month or almost \$1,000 a year annually. Next we've . . . The Saskatchewan senior income plan provides benefits to low-income seniors including a monthly income supplement and access to extended health benefits.

Our next commitment during the campaign was provide the senior in personal care home benefit, a \$3,000 annual benefit to low-income seniors residing in personal care homes beginning next year. Mr. Speaker, seniors helped build this province. They were the pioneers and we believe that giving them the best quality of life after their retirement is something that's very important to this government, and I'm proud to say that we've

been moving forward on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, another challenge that comes with growth is affordability. And being a younger person in our caucus, I know that some challenges that young people face is the first home that they're going to buy for them and their family. And during the campaign we made this commitment and we reiterate during the Throne Speech of the first-time homebuyers tax credit. And we're introducing a new \$10,000 tax credit for the first-time homeowners, saving them \$1,100.

Mr. Speaker, we've gone through this recently with finding a new home and every little bit does help. And I believe that getting the young people into homes faster also frees up some rental properties, and that's a situation that is another challenge of growth. And I believe that this first-time homebuyers tax credit is going to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, in our first term, the Saskatchewan Party government reduced the small-business tax rate by more than 4.5 per cent to 2 per cent. This is the third-lowest small-business tax rate in Canada. And I believe this is one of the reasons why our economy has continued to move forward. I do have friends and I've referenced my brother before, but his wife started up a clothing company in Lloydminster. And I believe this has something to do with creating an environment where young people believe that they can make a go of it in business, and I think that is the job of the government to make sure that people do have some chances and opportunities. And I see these opportunities within the province to take a chance and start up a business and become successful entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I know it's getting on, but I would like to talk about our government's investment; our government's four-year highway investment of over \$2.2 billion is the largest in the province's history. We've fixed over 6000 kilometres of Saskatchewan highways that has been improved over the past four years. And you can see these results right here in Regina. You can see it by the completion that we announced of the Lewvan interchange a couple of weeks ago, and also the Pinkie interchange that has been started. And there is some construction right in Walsh Acres on 9th Avenue North that's going to be twinned. And that's something where people, on the doorstep people have said, you know, traffic is getting a little more congested in Regina Walsh Acres. And I said, well we're going to see if we can get something done about that.

Mr. Speaker, there's been some historic investments to build and repair Saskatchewan schools over the last four years. Since 2007, over one-third of all Saskatchewan schools have benefited from repairs, renovations, or new school buildings. Thirty-eight major school capital projects are completed or under way. Five hundred and eighty smaller school capital projects have been undertaken across Saskatchewan, and our government have created more licensed child care spaces in four years than the NDP government did over 16.

Since 2007, under the Saskatchewan Party government, the number of licensed child care spaces has increased by 35 per cent. Mr. Speaker, on-campus child care spaces have increased by 30 per cent and 115 pre-kindergarten programs have been created since 2007, an increase of nearly 75 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, one of the . . . [inaudible] . . . the Saskatchewan Party the most is our commitment to tax reduction. An average Saskatchewan family of four, after our first term in government, will pay no taxes on the first 45,500 of earned income. And that's the highest tax rate income threshold in Canada. A single-income earner will pay no income tax on the first \$17,580 he or she earns. Over the past four years, a family of four that makes \$50,000 annually has paid 8,000 less in taxes than they would have under the former government's regime.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, and I think that's something important because at the heart of what we believe — I believe personally — is that people know what best to do with their own money. And the more money we can put into people's pockets, I think is the better thing for all residents of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we will also lower taxes for persons with disabilities and caregivers. The supplement for disabled children has more than doubled from \$4,095 to \$8,563. The disability tax rate has increased from \$7,021 to \$8,563. Mr. Speaker, this goes with our vision from the Throne Speech, and our vision that simply says Saskatchewan will be the best place in Canada to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education and to raise a family and to build a life. Mr. Speaker, this includes people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, there is one project that has happened over the last four years that's close to my heart. It is something I worked very closely with with the former member from Melfort, and that's the STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] program that we're bringing to Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party government has dedicated \$5 million this year to purchase two Shock Trauma Air Society medical helicopters, and these . . . I've been able to visit the bases in Grande Prairie and I've visited the bases in Calgary. Mr. Speaker, these people are committed to saving lives and I . . . It's something where you go into their bases and you go and you meet the people and you meet the pilots and you meet the emergency crews and they are so committed and they're so happy to get to work. And it's something where it's an amazing organization that Dr. Powell and Linda have created. And it's something where, being from rural Saskatchewan, I realize when accidents happen, you're sometimes further away from help than you'd like. And when you see those helicopters in the air, you're going to know that you're getting first class emergency services as soon as they hit the ground.

And I know that they're going to work closely with the emergency services that are in place already and it's going to be a great part, a great system, and they're going to save a lot of lives in this province. And that's something that the former member from Melfort is very proud of and it's something where I was very honoured to be a part of that, part of that system moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne lays out our government's vision over the next four years — balanced budget, reduced debt, maintaining a competitive tax structure and using our prosperity to make life more affordable in our province and taking the actions to ensure that Saskatchewan residents enjoy the highest quality of life in Canada.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, these, the above reasons, will be why I'd be supporting the motion put forward by the member from Regina Douglas Park. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I would like to recognize a member but I can't name the entire caucus so . . . Yes, pick one at random.

I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand before this Chamber for the first time as a newly elected MLA and I'd like to begin by thanking the constituents of Coronation Park for the privilege of this honour. And I'm humbled, proud, and grateful for the opportunity to respond to the Speech from the Throne.

Throughout the campaign and in the last few weeks, I wondered how to possibly pay back the generosity of my friends, family, volunteers, donors, well-wishers and constituents. They told me I owe them nothing; just do a good job, help this province, serve the people, make us proud.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you. In particular, I'd like to recognize the work of my campaign manager, Rob Nicolay, my election day Chair, Lisa Danyluk; office manager, Amanda for their integrity, humour, strategic and organizational excellence.

I'd also like to thank my campaign team, made up of stellar community members and for which their tireless service never stopped. And I'll take a liberty here, and I'm sure my colleagues will start to heckle, but here goes the list: I'd like to thank Kim and Dick, Karl, Lynn, Liz, Barb, Scott, Bill, Dustin, Naomi, Dwayne, Colin, Karen, Megan, Wendy, Sara, Tami, Kevin, Keith, Liz, Lisa, Rebecca, Terry, David, Jolene, and Nicole, plus the numerous others who lent their support.

Thanks to my campaign team. You know what you did. A group of people who are incredible, experts and diverse in their own fields, who are the epitome of diverse, not divisive; open, not closed; vigilant, not complacent; thorough, not careless. In the words of Teddy Roosevelt, "Far and away the best prize life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Why did I run? It's because I can contribute to this province. I also know I trust the leader of our government. He's earned my respect and the respect of voters in my constituency and across the province. How did he earn this respect? By keeping his promises. He's a leader that inspires me to do my best. His leadership and the government's message resonated and inspired the people of this province.

I went into this wondering, what do I really know about campaigning? Well listening is a big part of it. I listened and learned from the people of Coronation Park. I heard them. The needs of this constituency are diverse and complex. I don't think any of us here believe we have all the answers, but I have spent my life listening to the needs of those who didn't enjoy the same advantages as I had, and I have dedicated my career to finding answers of those in need. That's what I do best, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the word hope is a concept that touches us all. The constituents of Coronation Park hope their children's future will

be better than their own. They told me they want opportunity, the same opportunity that comes with growth. They want this province to be a great place.

I think back to when I was in Bulgaria having the angioplasty, or the liberation procedure as it's more commonly referred to. And that was a reminder to me about how important hope really is. When the Premier led this country and announced clinical trials for MS while I was in Bulgaria, all the other patients around me from all over the planet and Canada said, your province is awesome; I wish I had your Premier. I came back to this province from that adventure with renewed hope in myself and my province.

Change is not easy, and community development, housing affordability, purposeful employment are major issues. We have a solid commitment to addressing housing issues through the Saskatchewan advantage housing plan and the target of 4,600 new entry-level housing units.

I intend to spend the next four years honouring the strong work ethic and sense of community in Coronation Park and use it as inspiration to find solutions to the challenges faced by those in Coronation Park and the province. Roadblocks exist that may slow our progress to making Saskatchewan better, but they will not stop us. We as a government want to look back after four years with the knowledge that the province is better than it is today.

My mother, family, friends, Street Culture Kidz, and I have always been of the belief that I can make a difference. And I'm grateful and honoured to have the opportunity to represent the citizens of Coronation Park.

I believe in community and the power of working together. How did we win? We worked hard, plain and simple. We knocked on doors. We phoned. We listened to the people. We heard opinions on both sides of many debates. I was told people want opportunity for their families. They want things to be better for them. They want to find a good job in a thriving and safe community. These are needs that can be met, and it is a privilege to assist in providing this service.

The new Saskatchewan of today is better than the one of yesterday. I agree with the Premier that there is still work to be done. I will do my best to deliver to this Assembly the needs of the people of Coronation Park, to improve the lives, and continue to encourage growth within the many communities that make up the constituency.

Leading up to being sworn in to the legislature, I've been in the news. Over the last few years I've been an advocate as the poster boy for MS. MS is what I have, but it's not who I am. However, having MS has taught me a number of things about myself. It's taught me the importance of never giving up and to let others in similar circumstances know that there is hope. As a person with a disability, I was especially pleased to see the attention paid to disabilities in the Throne Speech and in the actions the government has taken to date.

My father came to this country and settled in Regina where he met my mother. My father was one of the founders of the Saskatchewan crippled children and adults, the precursor to the

Wascana Rehab Centre. Both my mom and dad worked together with polio patients. So although I did not intend to take on this challenge, I have been prepared for it through the example my parents set for me as a child.

Mr. Speaker, I see hope for people with disabilities in the Throne Speech. The vision statement of “It should be a place where one can find the best services, the best supports, the most dignity and the most opportunities” is the road map, specifically the expansion of Saskatchewan assured income for disability program, providing benefits to up to 7,000 additional individuals living outside of the residential care system. Maintaining independence and self-sufficiency is so important.

It’s a privilege to serve and ultimately to perform public service. This is what I believe that is actually a purpose. I see that purpose. It’s a shame to work without purpose.

Mr. Speaker, this government has a vision for the province, and they are admirable goals and aspirations. For all citizens in this province to be full citizens, to reach their full potential, they can only reach their full potential through opportunity. Our ministries and Crowns are responding to how best to educate and train a workforce to meet the needs of our growing economy and ensure that everyone can participate in that goal.

The citizens of this province expect us to work with purpose and to work together in this Chamber for the greater good of all. Nobody wants us to go back to being a have-not province. We have come too far to fall back. Our constituents have entrusted this Assembly with a great honour, a great responsibility, and a great purpose. We have an educational, employment, and immigration system that gives all of us the tools and the purpose to ensure that Saskatchewan is and continues to be a have province. We are a place that the rest of the country and the rest of the world now picks as their destination of choice.

The Premier has reminded us, reminded us that our seat is on loan. It was purchased with the blood of our soldiers. My father served in World War II in the Royal Medical Corps. He always said, find a job that you will be passionate about. My parents would say, we want your life to be better than ours. And my life has been pretty darned good. They would say, listen to people. Say what you mean. Mean what you say. Treat people with respect. Stand up for yourself. Stand up to oppressors and bullies. Leave every situation better than before. The person you are talking to presently is the most important person in the world for that moment. The task you are presently doing is the most important task in the world.

Mr. Speaker, this is that special place where decisions are made for the people, for the betterment of the province and the citizenry. We have the opportunity to be better, to do better. We have to. That has to be the goal: to always do better, to be balanced, to leave a great legacy. In four years, this province and the people need to be better off than they are today. We need to find answers to the difficult circumstances people find themselves in. We need to serve without expecting something back, just give in the truest sense of giving, not based on whether or not they can further your goals and what they can do for you.

Mr. Speaker, labels such prostitute, gang member, homeless,

welfare bum, crazy, delinquent, lazy, addict are damaging. Yet all have a story: most tragic, some inspiring. Nobody says, I want to be a street person. Nobody meets with their guidance counsellor and says, I want to be a crack addict.

What can we do? Sometimes the smallest gestures make a difference. Engage in conversation with a street person. Say hi. Look them in the eye. I believe we can humanize homelessness, addiction, and other social issues and work to improve the lives of the province’s most vulnerable.

The reaffirming of this government’s commitment to the Saskatchewan children and youth agenda in the Throne Speech is applauded, as well as continued support of promising initiatives like the Prince Albert community mobilization partnership. We need to continue to engage people in need and improve the health of our provincial community. The issues are complex, but those who are marginalized, disenfranchised, have important lessons to teach the province as it works to improve the lives of those in need in ways that can take advantage of new opportunities.

I’ve spent many years working successfully with youth at the far edges of our society, and the lessons I’ve learned is that the most marginalized can be reached. The most disenfranchised can find inclusion. We have individuals and families with complex multi-sector needs, and they require a cross-ministry approach as articulated through the Sask children and youth agenda. This is an initiative that shows great promise, and the only way to advance these issues is through collaboration.

[16:45]

When I ran for city council years ago, street kids were my campaign team and, Mr. Speaker, in some of this past election as well. I told them it was important to vote, to be involved. Their response was, why don’t you run? So they challenged me. And I did; I accepted their challenge.

The Premier’s leading but so are we. We are leaders as well. Our constituencies are depending on that. If you think you are leading, turn around and look behind you. See if anybody’s there.

Mr. Speaker, as any parent can attest when dealing with their children, fair is not always equal. This election campaign was flooded with the concept of fairness. The concept of fairness does not mean that everybody gets exactly the same thing or is treated exactly the same way.

Mr. Speaker, we will be judged by how many families left the welfare rolls, how many children are no longer hungry, how many quality jobs are created, how many seniors spent their retirement with dignity. Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech contains the road map toward something great, a destination where a have province enjoys continued development, immigration, and growth. But our legacy can go further. Its reach can also include improving the lives of the province’s most vulnerable. To accomplish that, we need growth, and growth is not a dirty word. Opportunity, entrepreneurship, these are not dirty words. Some people worked long and hard, took the risk, and repeated the rewards.

And I'll quote Teddy Roosevelt again:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs . . . because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, [but who strives to do the deeds], who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while . . . [doing] greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Take the opportunities, do the work, make the personal changes necessary for your families to thrive. Go to school, train, be a role model, mentor. Coronation Park can be great. This province will be great. Look around at the newcomers to this province and how proud they are to be here and work, vote, contribute. I look around the Chamber and at the wealth of knowledge and experience. I think about the history of this Chamber and it's very, very humbling.

Mr. Speaker, I support the motion to move the Throne Speech. The hopes and dreams of our province are embedded within it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to enter the debate on the Throne Speech. I would like to start off, Mr. Speaker, by saying congratulations to Mr. Speaker for the role that you now take in the Assembly. I know you have a long history in this Assembly over a number of terms and have fulfilled a number of different roles here in the Assembly. I'm sure this is a special time in your own career and I look forward to working with you as members of the opposition, and congratulate you once again on this achievement.

I would also like to say congratulations to the Deputy Speaker, the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood, who I'm sure will do a fine job as a I've had the opportunity to work with him through committee and a few different interactions here in the House. I know he's well suited to the job and I wish him all the best as he fulfills the duty as Deputy Speaker.

I would also like to say, having congratulated the Speakers in this Assembly, I would like to extend congratulations to all members, whether they are re-elected or elected for the very first time. Probably the very first time it's a bit more special. I suppose it's always special, but maybe a bit more memorable for the first time and to deliver the first speech in the Assembly, and it's a privilege to represent any corner of this province. And I do want to extend my congratulations to all members who have found their place to this Assembly following the election on November 7th.

I also want to say a thank you, Mr. Speaker, and make a few remarks about all the individuals who let their names stand in

the election but were not successful. In my own constituency, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party candidate, Ali Muzaffar, and the Green Party candidate, Diane West, I'd like to thank these individuals for allowing their names to stand in the democratic process for a clean campaign. And our democratic system requires individuals to let their names stand, to put their neck on the line so to speak, to put their reputation in the public domain, the public realm, and to have the people of a particular area make a judgment based on a number of factors.

And so I do want to thank all of the individuals throughout the province who were willing to take that leap, recognizing that it is a sacrifice for their families, for their own individual career at times. And it can be an experience of ups and downs, as any of us in this room can attest to.

The democratic process, Mr. Speaker, that I just spoke of requires people and it requires candidates. But the elections that occur in the province and throughout our country require a whole lot more people than simply the candidates. And this is something that I know every elected member here knows first-hand because while we may all work hard in a campaign and we may do our absolute best in the years prior to an election, without the dedicated support of all the people on the ground in our local area when we do seek election, our success . . . our efforts and all of our energy would not make the difference because it clearly is about having people and the team.

I do want to say thank you very much to some of the people that were involved in my campaign, or I should say the campaign for Saskatoon Massey Place. Whether it was people that helped in the office, whether it was people that helped on election day, whether it was people that put up signs, whether it was people who donated some of their own financial resources to make it happen, Mr. Speaker, I very much am appreciative to all of these folks.

I want to say a special thank you to my family, both immediate and extended, for their support throughout the process. As I said before, seeking election is something that is a family commitment much of the time. I know there's all sorts of different models for how elected officials conduct themselves but also involve their families in the process. But I have to say, I'm very thankful and appreciative for the role that my family plays, whether that's my wife and our young daughter, Ingrid — she wasn't too hands-on in the campaign — but it was still a nice treat to be able to come home to her and thank my wife for allowing me to be gone so much over the summer and the fall period and really on an ongoing basis as well.

I also want to thank my parents who are a tremendous support in so many ways. And I really do love them and appreciate everything that they have done for me over the years and the interest they've shown in me and in my family. I appreciate that so very much.

I also want to thank my campaign manager, Linsay Martens, for his role in the election period and outside of that as well for the commitment and the help that he showed in Saskatoon Massey Place for allowing success in that area for myself and for our party in Saskatoon Massey Place.

I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, I'm leaving many important people out. And I hesitate to get into naming specific people because I hate to omit or leave out anyone, but for all the individuals that have played in a significant role, given a word of advice along the way, provided some feedback, helped out in whatever way they were capable of and able to do, a heartfelt thanks to them from me and my family. I really do appreciate it a great deal, and I will do my best to live up to the expectations and the work and the energy that you placed into the campaign.

The constituency of Saskatoon Massey Place, Mr. Speaker, is a very diverse constituency. I know that's probably a claim that many MLA's would make about their local area, but when you look at the makeup of Saskatoon Massey Place, I think it is one of the more diverse constituencies in terms of the types of neighbourhoods and the types of people that are present in the constituency.

I know there are many constituencies that might lay claim to that suggestion that I just made. But, Mr. Speaker, when I think of many of my older neighbourhoods, starting on the eastern end of the constituency like Caswell and Mayfair and Westmount and going across into neighbourhoods of the 1960s like Hudson Bay Park and Mount Royal and Westview, going into the heart of Saskatoon Massey Place, Saskatoon Massey Place itself, and then some of the newer neighbourhoods like Dundonald and the brand new neighbourhood of Hampton Village, Mr. Speaker, which is included in the constituency of Saskatoon Massey Place, I think of how diverse the constituency is, whether it's a retiree living in Hudson Bay Park who built their own home with their hands or whether it's a young family in Hampton Village or whether it's a long-time resident in Mayfair.

All of these individuals, Mr. Speaker, have different concerns, have different priorities, but they're united in their concern for a better Saskatchewan, for a stronger Saskatchewan, and a Saskatchewan where together we're able to achieve more and their individual families are able to live up to their own dreams and desires, Mr. Speaker. I know that's what all members of this Assembly share. We may have different views and suggestions of how we get to that goal, but is something that motivates, I think, all MLAs that find themselves in the Assembly here.

When I think, Mr. Speaker, of those neighbourhoods, I think of the interactions and the discussions that I had with many people. I know every candidate who spends a good amount of time door knocking, whether that's in an election summer or whether that's throughout the year, we think of the interactions that we have with people because they guide our decisions. They guide our viewpoints on things.

Mr. Speaker, I think of the family that I visited with in Mayfair. And this is a working family; both partners have jobs but I would term them as working poor, Mr. Speaker. They pay an incredible amount in rent in their area. They struggle barely to get by. They have kids. They have a number of children and rely on a strong public school system in order to provide the best education for their children. But I think about how hard this family is struggling. And I think of a conversation where the father was brought to tears over the struggles that their family has faced in simply making ends meet and for his desire

to provide the absolute best for his children, but despite working as much as he can, simply not being able to get ahead because of a number of barriers and concerns, Mr. Speaker.

I think of during the election talking with some young students who were particularly concerned about the environment, Mr. Speaker. I remember the conversations I had with them about their desire that we as a province look forward a number of years, how we as a province consider how we can expand our reliance and our use of renewable energy sources, Mr. Speaker. I think of these two young people when we examine the Throne Speech and examine the content that is there.

I think, Mr. Speaker, to another conversation I had with a single mother who lives in the Massey Place neighbourhood in an apartment block, and how this woman was enrolled in school, had a young child and was scheduled to go back and do a practicum for her studies but, Mr. Speaker, did not have any suitable child care lined up despite starting her practicum in just a few days, did not know what she was going to do with her young child.

I think, Mr. Speaker, of many of those seniors in neighbourhoods like Hudson Bay Park and Mount Royal who are living at home and want to live in their home because that's where they're happiest. But I think of a number of instances of conversations I had with individuals where one partner in the relationship has Alzheimer's or dementia and the burden and the stress placed on the other partner as they become the spouse but also the caregiver for that partner. And I think, Mr. Speaker, of conversations I had with these people on how a few supports in their home could make life so much better for them, reduce costs for the health care system and really provide a happier existence for both members in these marriages lasting many, many decades.

I think, Mr. Speaker, also of the issue of HIV/AIDS, which affects many people in my constituency. I think of one CBO [community-based organization] that is active in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, and many constituents who visit the CBO for services. I think of the stress and the hardship that many of these individuals face as they encounter a challenge that many of us couldn't begin to imagine with how we would deal with it, that compounded, Mr. Speaker, by many other barriers and challenges that they may be experiencing in their life. So when I look at the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, I see what attention is paid to this issue and what sort of solutions, what sort of emphasis the government is placing on this issue for my constituents living in that area.

I think, Mr. Speaker, also of Hampton Village, as I said, one of the newer neighbourhoods in Saskatoon where there are many families. And I think of the many, many conversations I had in Hampton Village around the need for a new elementary school in the community. I think about all the conversations that spin off of that discussion about traffic safety for their children as they're bused about, the sense of cohesiveness of a community and the need for a school in the community. So when I examine the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, this is yet again another factor that I consider.

I think also, Mr. Speaker, about the issue of job training. We know, Mr. Speaker, that in the province right now there are

over 25,000 people who are unemployed and looking for work. And, Mr. Speaker, when I look in the Throne Speech, I look for evidence and examples of where there are successful job training programs, Mr. Speaker, and a desire to address many of the issues that are there. So, Mr. Speaker, when I look at this issue . . .

**The Speaker:** — It now being after 5 o'clock, this House is recessed to 7 p.m.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Ross .....        | 13 |
| Wotherspoon ..... | 13 |
| Bradshaw .....    | 13 |
| McMorris .....    | 13 |
| Brotten .....     | 13 |
| Wall .....        | 13 |
| Norris .....      | 14 |
| McMillan .....    | 14 |
| The Speaker ..... | 20 |
| Nilson .....      | 20 |

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### Responsible and Effective Opposition

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Nilson ..... | 14 |
|--------------|----|

##### National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Tell .....     | 14 |
| Chartier ..... | 14 |

##### Canadian HIV/AIDS Awareness Week

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Wilson ..... | 14 |
|--------------|----|

##### Multiculturalism Week

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Wyant ..... | 15 |
|-------------|----|

##### Saskatchewan Manufacturing Week

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Michelson ..... | 15 |
|-----------------|----|

##### Potash Mine Announcement

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Stewart ..... | 15 |
|---------------|----|

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### The Government's Program

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Nilson ..... | 16 |
| Wall .....   | 16 |

##### Child Care

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Chartier ..... | 17 |
| Harpauer ..... | 17 |

##### Housing

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Forbes ..... | 18 |
| Morgan ..... | 18 |
| Draude ..... | 18 |

##### Third Party Surgery Delivery

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Brotten .....  | 19 |
| McMorris ..... | 19 |

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

##### Support for People Living with Diabetes

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| McMorris ..... | 20 |
| Brotten .....  | 21 |

##### Fighting the Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation in Alberta

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Duncan .....   | 21 |
| Belanger ..... | 22 |

#### ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| The Speaker ..... | 22 |
| Clerk .....       | 22 |
| Hart .....        | 22 |

#### MOTIONS

##### Appointment of Deputy Chair of Committees

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| Wall ..... | 23 |
|------------|----|

##### Assembly Adjournment

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Harrison ..... | 23 |
|----------------|----|

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### SPECIAL ORDER

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Marchuk .....                           | 23 |
| Campeau .....                           | 26 |
| Belanger .....                          | 28 |
| The Speaker (ruling on amendment) ..... | 30 |

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| <b>McCall</b> .....   | 30 |
| <b>Doherty</b> .....  | 33 |
| <b>Steinley</b> ..... | 35 |
| <b>Docherty</b> ..... | 38 |
| <b>Brotten</b> .....  | 40 |

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

---

**Hon. Brad Wall**  
**Premier of Saskatchewan**  
**President of the Executive Council**  
**Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs**

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

**Hon. Bill Boyd**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for SaskTel  
Minister Responsible for The Global  
Transportation Hub Authority

**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

**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

**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

**Hon. Laura Ross**  
Minister of Government Services