



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

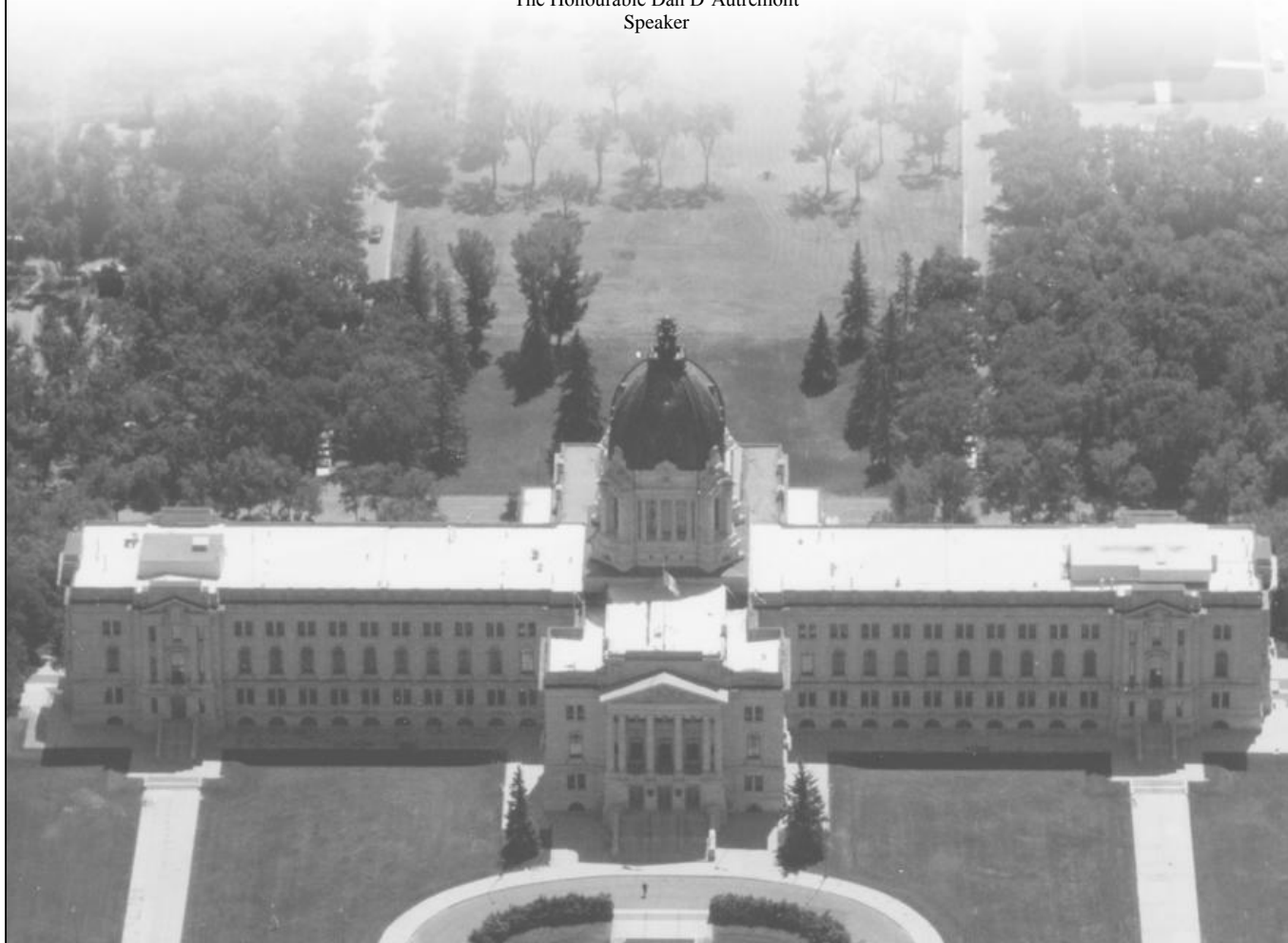
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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, Hon. 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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

An Hon. Member: — Introduction of guests.

The Speaker: — I would like to thank the Government House Leader for his unnecessary assistance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the legislature, I'm honoured today to introduce someone seated in your gallery, Michael Richter. Michael Richter is the executive director of the South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre. The Independent Living Centre offers a variety of programs for and support for people with disabilities who live independently in the community.

He's here to join us for an announcement that we're going to have later, and I'm asking all of my colleagues in the House to give a warm welcome to this man who's dedicated to people in our community.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, it's my pleasure to join with the minister in welcoming Mr. Richter to his Legislative Assembly. I'm sure he's very much looking forward to the announcement this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, I'd like to introduce some friends in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, former neighbours actually in Rosetown. We have Kelvin and April Debler and their son, D.J. And with them is Kelvin's cousin from Sweden, Mikaela Purtsi.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly miss having them as neighbours. They've moved now to some opportunities in the Vanscoy area, but still in this great province, Mr. Speaker. And I certainly miss having D.J. around the neighbourhood. He's a great young man. His one major character flaw is he's a Detroit Red Wings fan. Mr. Speaker, I've continued to work on him this morning, and eventually we'll convert him to a Boston Bruins fan.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members of the Assembly to please give them a warm welcome to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the

member in welcoming the guest from Sweden. And I know that often Swedes and Norwegians have some difficulties, but there's never difficulties when you're outside of Scandinavia. So I would like to say to her:

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly an honour for me to introduce to you and through you to the rest of the members in the Assembly, a grade school group from Humboldt that are sitting in the west gallery. There is 37 grade 12 students from the Humboldt Collegiate and their teacher, David Millette. So it is great to see them here today. I hope they enjoy their proceedings and may everyone welcome them.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

A Piece of Saskatchewan's Medical History

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, on December 4th, the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon in my riding of Saskatoon Nutana unveiled its cobalt bomb display, but don't let the name fool you. This was not an instrument of destructive radioactivity; instead it was a world medical breakthrough in cancer treatment.

There was a medical arms race in 1951 between Saskatoon and London, Ontario. Both medical institutions wanted to be the first to successfully treat a patient with an accurately calibrated dose of cobalt-60 radiation. This bomb, Mr. Speaker, didn't kill thousands. It's saved millions.

Canada's first full-time cancer physicist, Dr. Harold Johns and his colleagues including the former lieutenant governor of this province, Sylvia Fedoruk at the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Physics, led the world in the development of a high-technology cancer treatment. The team of innovative and dedicated scientists won the race and changed medical history.

The original cobalt-60 beam therapy unit, manufactured locally in Saskatoon, also known as the cobalt bomb, is on permanent display now at the museum. I invite all the members to check it out. This exhibit honours the 60th anniversary of the first successful treatment of cancer with this instrument. By the 1960s, the cobalt-60 machine was standard equipment for radiation therapy worldwide. And these machines are still in use in many developing countries that previously did not have the necessary resources for good radiation therapy.

It's an incredible piece of Saskatchewan medical history and a testament to what an innovative and forward thinking government can accomplish. And as Joan Champ, the exhibit's curator agrees, the cobalt bomb is a shining example of Saskatchewan's innovation in health care research, an innovation that had a worldwide impact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Cowboy Christmas Parade

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 12th of this year, it was my pleasure to once again ride in our Cowboy Christmas Parade in the town of Battleford. Mr. Speaker, this parade was an opportunity for families to bring out children, horses, neighbours, the in-laws and team together in order to spread some real Christmas cheer. And it was a real delight to see the smiling faces lining the streets of Battleford. This parade is hosted and organized by the Battlefords Quarter Horse Club, Mr. Speaker, and is a unique parade since only horses, mules, ponies, etc., are allowed in the parade. There are no motorized vehicles allowed.

Mr. Speaker, this is a club to which I've belonged for nearly 35 years. It's been very active in various activities such as one of the first Terry Fox rides in Canada and has raised funds annually for that Terry Fox Foundation. All funds raised by the participants in this particular parade go to our empty stocking fund by our local food bank. This year we raised \$7,000 for families less fortunate than us, and over the last four years, we've raised \$34,000 for this fund.

I would like to extend an sincere thank you and congratulations to Ray Cox and Shirley Smith and their committee on the continuing involvement in this very worthwhile endeavour. I'm sure that they would join me in thanking the many participants and the always important sponsor of this parade. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Northern Educator a True Pioneer

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honour a constituent of Athabasca and a resident of Ile-a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. Vicky Caisse was a true pioneer in early education here in our province. She recently stepped down from teaching after serving to educate Saskatchewan's northern youth in her kindergarten class for over 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, Vicky was part of the first graduating class of the northern teacher education program, also known as NORTEP in 1979. These students were women who had previously worked for the northern school boards as Native instructors — teacher aids who had completed a six-month training course, then returned to their home communities to work along side experienced educators. I suppose you could say they're similar to the educational assistants, Mr. Speaker.

The NORTEP program was tailored to meet the needs of these students and others facing similar economic, social, and geographical challenges. NORTEP and teachers like Vicky Caisse have done much to improve conditions in the North, yet there's still an urgent call for further development and response to the needs of northerners as well as the future needs of the labour market.

Vicky is a hard-working person who has done extraordinary things and dedicated her life to improve the lives of First Nations and Métis within her community. Mr. Speaker, full-day

kindergarten is being discussed, and I feel it's fitting to recognize this inspirational person. Perhaps we should provide all our children the opportunity to spend their whole day with amazing educators like Vicky.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today and recognize this extraordinary northern educator. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Most Powerful Women Awards

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, two Saskatchewan women were recently recognized at the 2011 Canada's Most Powerful Women Awards Gala. Twyla Meredith, president and CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation has been named to the Women's Executive Network's 2011 list of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100. She received her award in the public sector leaders category. Meredith has been with Saskatchewan Gaming since its inception and is the only female president of a Crown corporation in Saskatchewan.

As president and CEO, Meredith is responsible for \$137 million in annual revenues and more than 1,000 employees. She leads a corporate strategic planning process to create the organization's vision, mission, and values while ensuring the integrity of casino operations and systems.

Mr. Speaker, the next Saskatchewan woman recognized for leadership in the public sector was Social Services Deputy Minister Marian Zerr. Marian became deputy minister of Social Services in June 2009. She is renowned for her competency and compassion, delivering effective and efficient service for the people of Saskatchewan. Marion exemplifies the best qualities of the Saskatchewan public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing Marian and Meredith for their selection as two of Canada's top 100 executive women. Thank you.

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

Benefit Concert Raises Funds for Burn Victims

Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a benefit concert held on December 3rd with the aim of raising funds to help three people who were seriously burned in the recent explosion at Regina's Co-op Refinery.

The October 6th explosion and fire at the Co-op Refinery in northeast Regina forced 1,400 people from the facility and sent several to hospital with severe injuries. At the time of the explosion, there were serious concerns that the fire could spread and ignite gas and diesel tankers on the other side of the facility, but the decisive action of the workers on the ground averted a more serious disaster.

Mr. Speaker, a number of the injured workers have yet to return to work, and one in particular, Irene Rombaut of Regina, continues to recover from her injuries that she suffered that day. The initial fundraising goal of the benefit concert was between

2 and \$3,000, and in typical Saskatchewan fashion, Mr. Speaker, this goal was easily eclipsed with organizers estimating as much as \$20,000 being raised to assist their fellow workers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in thanking these individuals for their dedication to their colleagues and keep those injured in their thoughts and prayers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Regina & District Chamber of Commerce Accomplishments

Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand in this House today and celebrate the accomplishments of the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce. Since January of this year, memberships at the chamber of commerce has increased by 176 new members for a total of 1,141. With the vision to be one of Canada's most respected, influential, and innovative business organizations, it is not surprising that the Regina chamber of commerce is excelling at memberships.

People in Regina and the province are looking forward — forward to the forecast that Saskatchewan's real GDP [gross domestic product] will grow by 4.3 per cent in 2011 and 4.1 per cent in 2012; forward to the fact that Saskatchewan has the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 4.7 per cent, well below the national average of 7 per cent; forward to a province of over 1.1 million people by the year 2015. The people of Regina and the province can look forward to four more years of government that will guide this province through continued economic growth.

Congratulations to the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce and their members for 125 years of success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Building Permit Statistics Indicate Growth

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the Assembly that October building permit statistics released December 6th by Stats Canada indicating construction in Saskatchewan continues to rise at a rapid pace.

Saskatchewan's building permits were up 22.4 per cent in October compared to 2010 — 10 times higher than that of the national average and the highest increase amongst the provinces. This increase correlates into \$278 million in permits being issued this October alone. These statistics are another indication of the strong expansion of the province's resource sector and growing population. This growth can be seen across the province, from rejuvenated rural communities and growing urban centres to expansion of the province's construction and mining sectors.

The province of Saskatchewan continues to move forward with construction in the mining industry is expected to increase by \$50 billion in the next 20 years, supporting further increases in

building permits in short and long term.

I ask that all members in this Assembly join me in recognizing these impressive figures as another indication of our province's vibrant and growing economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:15]

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Combating Youth Suicide

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that youth suicide is a challenge everywhere. And in northern Saskatchewan we have lost far too many of our young people to suicide, and the number of attempted suicides is extremely high.

Mr. Speaker, when young people have no hope for their futures, it is discouraging not only to the young children but to our elders as well. To the Minister of Social Services: what supports are available in northern Saskatchewan for young people who are attempting suicide?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member for that very serious question. It is a concern. Suicide anywhere in our province or our country is a very sad fact and it indeed does happen, and it happens in northern Saskatchewan. We know that one is just too many, and it's something that we are taking very serious and studying with.

I have worked with the member in the past to meet with members or leaders from northern communities to talk about this. We have experience within the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations to deal with the problem and to work on ideas as well how we can educate around the situation, both pre- and post-. And that is what we're working on. It's very much a central part of the northern action plan that we are implementing. But again we don't have all ideas with this. We are seeking counsel from experts, from members opposite, from whoever can help us along to address this in the best way possible, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, the sad truth is there are very few if no supports available for youth in northern Saskatchewan. Many of the youth are attempting suicide because, as I've mentioned, they've lost hope.

Last night I travelled to Saskatoon to visit a young mother from northern Saskatchewan. No names, but her son attempted suicide and is at a mental health centre. But he is being sent home soon on his own and on her own. This mother is stressed and she is terrified because her son needs more help and there

are no supports for her or her son available in northern Saskatchewan. What does she do, Mr. Speaker? What does she do?

So again to the Minister of Social Services: what does she have to say to this family? And what supports can this stressed mother and terrified young man access in northern Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I too do feel . . . My heart goes out to a family where we have a child that has attempted suicide, as there is reasons for that. And one of the things that we are doing through the child and youth agenda is to have seven human services ministries together where we talk about the issues of a child, not just through the lens of every ministry but through the eyes of a child.

How can we do better? One of the things that we did last year was implement a budget that had \$34 million so we could talk specifically about dealing with children individually. We've put more workers in place on assistance roles so they can be helping people who need support. And I agree; there is more work to be done. We've been doing it through Education. We've been doing it through Health. And we must do it more with the communities.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, this particular family and this mother has asked for help from Social Services but has been denied. I have a letter from the mother which says, and I quote:

If I don't get help and if something happens to my son, then after that there's no use of saying, I could have helped that family when she asked for help. I even asked for help from Social Services but got denied.

Mr. Speaker, I'll send this letter across to the Minister of Social Services. And my question to her is this: will she intervene in this particular case to ensure that this young man can continue accessing the mental health services that he needs, and that his mother could be supported while she's in the city helping with her son?

And as well, Mr. Speaker, we need to begin to focus on a long-term strategy to help deal with this growing crisis in northern Saskatchewan. So again, will the minister intervene to help this family out today so that he can access more help as he needs? And this is his second attempt at suicide. It's a cry for help. And the mother's asking for your intervention so she can be supported and her son could seek that help. Will the minister commit to doing that today?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, and to the member opposite, yes, I definitely will take the information. I have to look at it to know what the specific case is, and I know that we will be dealing with individuals. But in the big picture, yes, we

know there's more work that has to be done. When we sit as a committee in dealing with . . . The ministers talk from the health perspective or the education perspective or the corrections perspective about why we have children that are in this state of mind. We know there is more work to be done. It's something that there's been work done within individual ministries and we have a chance to focus it when we come together.

I will be looking at this information. I definitely will review it immediately, and my commitment is to see what we can do as a government to make sure that people don't fall through the cracks.

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

Long-Term Care Facility

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, last year we asked a series of questions about the government's decision to enter into a sole source contract with Amicus, a company with ties to the chief of staff to the Premier. At the time, the government assured this House that there was nothing to worry about. Now the Provincial Auditor has stated:

Neither the Saskatoon Health Region nor the Ministry of Health could tell us what criteria was used to award the contract or what process was used to determine if other healthcare providers were interested in bidding for the opportunity.

So the obvious question to the Premier: was this decision made in the Premier's office? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question. We've certainly had much discussion on this particular long-term care facility in this House over the past year and a half, I guess. Certainly the auditor has reported today, and we respect the recommendations of the auditor.

The situation around Amicus is unique in that it was a pilot project. It is a pilot project where the Catholic Health Ministry approached the Saskatoon Health Region and the Ministry of Health with an idea. We looked at it. We certainly know that there is a lack of long-term care beds in Saskatoon. In fact we know that there are at any given time over 60 people living in an acute care centre — absolutely unacceptable to be living in an acute care centre.

We needed to move on that quickly. We entered into a pilot project with Amicus, or the Catholic Health Ministry I should say, to see how this would work. Aging in place, a whole lot of benefits, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to say that that facility is very close to opening, Mr. Speaker, and we will certainly enjoy the benefits of this facility into the future.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we also asked if Saskatchewan taxpayers were on the hook for repayment on the debt, citing clauses in the agreement with Amicus that suggested this was in

fact the case. Again the Minister of Health claimed that there was no truth to these assertions. Today the Provincial Auditor states that the Saskatoon Health Region and Saskatchewan taxpayers will indeed be on the hook for this. Her report states, "Once construction is completed, Saskatoon assumes the risk over debt repayment and the operation of the new facility."

To the Premier: if Saskatchewan's taxpayers are indeed assuming all the risk here, what exactly was the point of all this if not to reward friends of the government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it's very clear what the point of all this was, Mr. Speaker. It was about putting patients first, Mr. Speaker, something that that opposition obviously has no idea about. Whether it was the questions yesterday about third party delivery within the public system, they are more worried about the provider than the people that they're actually serving, Mr. Speaker — the patients. And that's the same as what Amicus is, Mr. Speaker.

We'll be moving . . . There are 100 new beds that'll be coming into circulation for long-term care needs, Mr. Speaker, in the Saskatoon Health Region that will allow us to move acute care . . . patients out of an acute care setting into the appropriate living facilities, Mr. Speaker, such as Amicus. We believe, Mr. Speaker, that it's a pilot project. We're going to see how it works, Mr. Speaker. But what I can tell you is that this government, each and every time, will choose the patients over process that that government always got hung up on.

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

Financial Reporting

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, today the Provincial Auditor, an independent officer of this Assembly, released a report and focused on the inappropriate accounting of this government of our provincial finances. In that report, she called the current reporting confusing, not fairly presented, and she highlights the government's ability to manipulate the books and to manufacture desired financial outcomes: for example, in the fiscal year 2010-11, reporting a surplus to the public when it ran a deficit of \$13 million.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people deserve to know the true state of our finances. Why won't this government provide just that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, this government really appreciates the work of the auditor. This government is committed to full and transparent financial reporting, Mr. Speaker, especially to the people of the province. And we do that, Mr. Speaker, we do that through the summary financial statements which provide a comprehensive view of government activity, as well as the General Revenue Fund statements. And those are really focused on the programs and services that government provide to the people of this province. The GRF

[General Revenue Fund] and the summary-based information each have a role to play in providing important accountability information to the public regarding the financial state of the province.

The members opposite know this, Mr. Speaker, because they followed the same practices, Mr. Speaker. They followed the same practices, Mr. Speaker. But there is something that has changed, Mr. Speaker. For the first time in history, we have a AAA credit rating, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the good work of our Premier and our Minister of Finance, we've seen the debt go down by \$3 billion, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible].

Mr. Speaker, reporting through the summaries, reporting through the GRF, the news is solid for the state of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The statement made about debt doesn't include the over \$6 billion of debt that the auditor highlights that's not included in our books, Mr. Speaker. And as to the minister's comments about change in positions, times change, Mr. Speaker, accounting standards change, and it's simply not acceptable for a government to set its own accounting policy. We wouldn't accept that of companies in this province, Mr. Speaker, or anywhere else. We're out of line with the rest of Canada.

Over the past four years, this government has worked hard to manufacture desired outcomes. They've stripped over \$2 billion from our rainy day fund. They've stripped over \$2 billion from our Crown corporations. And our auditor had this to say in her report:

It is an issue where Saskatchewan is not keeping up with other provinces. Other provincial governments and the federal government report publicly using their Summary Financial Statements that are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

It's time for public reporting to focus on the Summary Financial Statements. [She said that this change] . . . will provide citizens with the deficit or surplus result that fairly reflects Government's management of public monies and resources under its control.

Question to the minister: does he agree with the Provincial Auditor, yes or no?

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

[10:30]

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. What the auditor also included, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, that "The Auditor's 2011 Report — Volume 2 describes how the government produces two sets of financial statements. One includes all government operations. These are the Summary Financial Statements." And again I quote: "The Auditor has given these statements a clean audit opinion," Mr. Speaker.

Regarding the GRF, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to *The Financial Administration Act, 1993* that the members opposite will know, which is meant to ensure that the government reports based on how it's both organized and how it operates, the GRF is the designated fund to which all public monies are to be deposited and from which all public monies are to be appropriated.

Mr. Speaker, as far as the claims regarding manufactured outcomes, Mr. Speaker, what we can see is from independent bodies — most recently from the Conference Board of Canada and from BMO [Bank of Montreal] today — Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, is going to be finishing first in real GDP for 2012, Mr. Speaker. Those aren't manufactured. Those are hard-earned facts by the people of this province.

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

Canadian Wheat Board

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Agriculture and the Saskatchewan Party have openly supported and encouraged the federal government's legislation to remove the Canadian Wheat Board's exclusive statutory marketing authority for wheat and barley sales.

There are many, many unanswered questions about the dismantling of the Canadian Wheat Board's single desk. What is the impact to producer cars and shortline railroads? How will this affect transportation, producer grain costs? Premiums earned from the single desk for farmers are between 400 to \$500 million a year. Where is the plan to ensure these funds are still going to farmers? How will producers be able to replace the Canadian Wheat Board's leveraging power, their access to port capacity?

To the minister: with all these unanswered questions, has he obtained any analysis of the impact of this dismantling on Saskatchewan producers? If yes, where is it? And if no, why not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the ruling that came down yesterday from the judge, I just want to quote part of that ruling that he came out with. And part of that ruling, and I quote, says, "The applicants confirm that the validity of Bill C-18, and the validity and the effects of any legislation that might become law as a result of Bill C-18 are not the issue of the applicant." So what he is saying in essence is it's not Bill C-18 that the ruling was about.

What we should not lose issue with here though is what farmers are asking across Saskatchewan, what they are asking across Alberta and BC [British Columbia], and for that matter Manitoba, Mr. Speaker — is to have the choice to market their own grain as they see fit. And that's the main issue here, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, that's not what farmers are

asking at all. In the summer of 2011, the farmers held a plebiscite. Sixty-two per cent of wheat producers and 51 per cent of barley producers voted in favour of the Canadian Wheat Board single-desk marketing system. Yesterday the Federal Court judge ruled that the federal Agriculture minister breached the Wheat Board Act by failing to consult farmers before introducing legislation to strip away the single-desk grain marketing system. In the ruling, the judge states, "Had a meaningful consultation process been engaged to find a solution which meets the concern of the majority, the present legal action might not have been necessary."

The federal judge's ruling also states, "By failing to conduct a producer vote, the minister has acted contrary to legitimate expectations of Western Canadian wheat and barley producers."

To the minister: is he going to do the right thing, support the democratic rights of Saskatchewan producers, or does he agree with the federal government's choice to break the law?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I notice this morning that the wheat growers across Western Canada and the barley growers across Western Canada have come out in support of the federal minister, asking him to continue with Bill C-18 to give them the opportunity to sell their own product.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how the members opposite would like it if when payday came around if some of their colleagues said, we're not going to give you your whole payday; we're going to give you maybe half, and we might only give you that a year from now or six months from now. I'm not sure how many members opposite would go for that. Because, Mr. Speaker, that's the scenario our farmers are dealing with every day out there where they're not receiving money for their product when they would like to sell it for how much they would like to sell at the time of that sale. All farmers are asking for is choice.

The Canadian Wheat Board can function. The Canadian Wheat Board can stay in existence for those who would like to market their grain through it. But many producers out there across this province are saying, we want the choice to market our own grain.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, in the 2011 Canadian Wheat Board plebiscite, 62 per cent of wheat producers and 51 per cent of barley producers voted in favour of the single-desk marketing. A federal judge has ruled that the federal government broke the law by making changes to the Wheat Board without consulting with farmers. The judge stated that the government had to be "held accountable for [its] disregard for the rule of law."

The Chair of the Canadian Wheat Board has stated that there's been no recent impact analysis done on the cost to producers of dismantling the Canadian Wheat Board and there are unanswered questions around the survival of producer cars,

shortlines and premiums.

To the minister: since he is in favour of dismantling the single desk, does he have a pragmatic plan to ensure that producers continue to enjoy the obvious advantages of the single desk?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I think we've made it very clear from the very start of this process — many, many years ago actually when we were in opposition, and now in government — that we have no problem with the Canadian Wheat Board. It can function as an entity for the producers that would wish to utilize that as an opportunity to sell their grain.

What we're saying and the federal government is saying, that for those producers that would like that choice with their own grain — and I repeat, their own grain — they should have that choice to market it when they see fit, for how many dollars they would like to receive for that product. Right now they do not have that luxury, Mr. Speaker. They are told when they can sell it, who they can sell it to, and for how much they can sell it. And, Mr. Speaker, no other business in this country would be able to function under that scenario.

Our producers — and many of them, Mr. Speaker, are new, young producers coming on stream which we need very much in this province — want to market their own grain. They turn on their computers in the morning; they can check prices right around the world. And yet when it comes to Canadian Wheat Board and the monopoly, they are not allowed to sell their own product.

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

Supply of Nurses

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday afternoon I had the pleasure of attending a Christmas reception held in downtown Regina by the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses. And while it was a restaurant very close to Crave, Mr. Speaker, do not be alarmed. I know members from both sides of the House were invited, because I did see the Health minister there, along with his seatmate.

Over the course of the reception, I spoke to a number of representatives from SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] and they told me, Mr. Speaker, that at present there are at least 18 vacancies in the operating room for operating room nurses in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. And due to this shortage, Mr. Speaker, surgeries are being stalled, surgeries are being delayed, physicians are being frustrated, and patients are not happy, Mr. Speaker, and being served well.

My question to the minister: can he confirm that there are 18 operating room nursing vacancies in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region at this time, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Yes, I was certainly glad to attend the

reception as well as a few members from the opposition, and my seatmate was there as well. We had a very good time, Mr. Speaker, and certainly had a good discussion with the president, Rosalie Longmoore, as well as the board, regarding some of the issues regarding nursing. It was more talking about the Christmas season than anything else, but we are very aware that in Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region right now, there is a shortage of operating room nurses. We know the absolute need to fill those positions, as we have a very aggressive target on wait times, Mr. Speaker, which we are going to meet by 2014.

What I can report though, Mr. Speaker, that over the last four years, we have set a target of 800. We've recruited over 900 nurses, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, about a week and a half ago, I was at SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] with the graduating class there. There were 54 newly graduating nurses, Mr. Speaker. I was proud to hear them talk about where they were going to be settling when they were done — 100 per cent here in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Assembly, the Minister of Health refused to admit that his approach with for-profit clinics was presenting a drain to the public system and in the process hurting patient care and hurting the work of physicians and practitioners within our system.

My question to the Health minister today, Mr. Speaker, in the for-profit surgical clinics that are at work in Saskatchewan, my question to the minister: are nurses employed in the clinic and how many nurses are employed in the clinic, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that we need both a full complement of nurses, absolutely, in our public system. We are offering surgeries through the private sector, Mr. Speaker. Third party, no paying out of pocket, no queue-jumping, which is helping us decrease the wait-lists that we see.

Mr. Speaker, our government has moved from 400 training seats up to 700 training seats for nurses in this province, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't too many years ago, if you went back under the NDP, that there was less than 100 seats for a year or two, Mr. Speaker, for nurses. If he's complaining about a lack of nurses right now, he better look at the members on his own caucus that were Health ministers at the time or Education ministers at the time that reduced the number of training seats, Mr. Speaker.

We've increased the number of training seats. We've got a strong contract with our nursing union, Mr. Speaker, that are seeing nurses come back to Saskatchewan, as opposed to being the province that exported more nurses than any other province in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the current

situation, and the minister refused to answer the question about the current situation.

Admittedly, Mr. Speaker, I have not been the Health minister for the last four years, but I would ask the Health minister this question. Looking at the situation, here's what I see, Mr. Speaker. We have a shortage of surgical O.R. [operating room] nurses in the Regina Health Region. There's a shortage. This is causing a reduction in the amount of surgeries. It's causing frustration for physicians practising in the region, and patient care is being harmed because of it. We have private, for-profit surgical clinics, Mr. Speaker, that are existing, that employ nurses to conduct the surgeries that are done in the system, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the minister: does he not see a connection between the shortage of surgical O.R. nurses in the public system, the presence of O.R. surgical nurses in the private system? Does he not see the connection there that one is draining resources from the other?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, there were huge shortage of nurses before there were private clinics in this province, Mr. Speaker. If it wasn't for the leadership of our Premier and the government of the day, the Sask Party, to recruit nurses, to set a target, which that opposition never would have done when they were in government, to set a target of 800 more nurses in this province, Mr. Speaker, we would be short across the piece if it was still under the NDP [New Democratic Party], Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it isn't the issue to reduce one or the other. It's to properly staff all, Mr. Speaker, and that's what we're doing by increasing the number of training seats, by retaining 100 per cent of the graduating classes, Mr. Speaker, the best retention rate in Canada, I would say. The Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, as we speak, are sending more nurses to the O.R. course to fill those vacancies because, Mr. Speaker, we know that there's a greater demand.

But what I'm proud to say is our government sees this, and we'll be meeting that demand into the future.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — I'd like to inform the House that earlier this day I tabled the Provincial Auditor's 2011 report volume no. 2. It was laid before the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the provisions of sections 14.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Enhancements to Disabilities Program

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to rise in the House today to announce an expansion to the Saskatchewan assured income for disabilities program, or the SAID program. It was established in October of 2009. SAID provides income support, and that's separate and distinct from

social assistance, to people with significant and enduring disabilities. Initially enrolment had been limited to individuals living in residential care settings. Currently there are more than 3,000 people with disabilities who live in residential care and enrolled in SAID.

Today, following through on commitments made by our government in the recent provincial campaign, I am pleased to announce there will be a number of significant enhancements to SAID in 2012. These enhancements will increase the benefits paid through SAID and will make SAID available to as many as 7,000 more Saskatchewan people with disabilities, and it will further distinguish SAID from the Saskatchewan assistance program.

Effective January 2012, SAID beneficiaries in residential care settings will receive an additional \$50 per month increase in their benefits. More than 3,000 SAID recipients will benefit from this increase.

Shortly after this increase takes effect in the spring of 2012, the Ministry of Social Services will also deliver on another commitment to expand enrolment in the SAID program. This will result in as many as 7,000 more Saskatchewan people with significant, enduring disabilities joining the SAID program in June of 2012.

[10:45]

Expanding enrolment will be followed by substantial, additional benefit increases to the SAID program. Specifically, our government recently committed to boost SAID benefits over the next four years by \$350 per month for people with disabilities who are living independently and \$400 a month for couples with disabilities who are living independently. For people with disabilities living in residential care settings, in addition to the \$50 a month increase in 2012, we will increase benefits by \$100 per month over the next four years.

Finally, we will also broaden the inheritance exemption in SAID in January of 2012 to include the proceeds of life insurance policy. This further distinguishes SAID from the Saskatchewan assistance program.

Combined, these various significant enhancement to the SAID program support our government's goal of making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for people with disabilities. The enhancements to SAID in 2012 and beyond will continue our multi-year commitment made by our government to develop the SAID program with input and the participation of the disability community.

We are truly looking forward to continuing to develop SAID with our community partners in the months and the years ahead, making the program even better on behalf of people with disabilities and their families right across our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister first of all for sending her remarks over a little

while ago, or earlier in the day. I really appreciated that. And a special thank you to our guest in the audience today, Michael Richter, who is here to hear the announcement.

I know many people in Saskatchewan have been eagerly awaiting the next intake of SAID. I know the individuals who were part of the first intake were very pleased. The 3,000 or so were very pleased to be part of that program but will be very happy to hear about the increased benefits. They've been eager and hopeful that that would take place. And I know there's been many others who have been waiting for this second intake for the last two years.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, in my constituency office that's a regular request. People want to know. Many people on social assistance — a number I've heard, about 70 per cent of people on social assistance — have some disability. So there are many, many people who are very happy to hear that this next intake will be happening in the very near future and there will be increased benefits.

I also just want to thank all the organizations who have worked together to advocate and work with the government to ensure the government understands some of the unique needs of people with disabilities. And it's all your good work that I think has helped move this forward.

So I know again, as I've said, there's many people in Saskatoon Riversdale and beyond who are looking forward to these improvements. It's always a good thing when we can enhance benefits for citizens and especially for our most vulnerable. And the sooner we can get this done the better, Mr. Speaker. So thank you very much.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Bill No. 1 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011/*
Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du
*Banc de la Reine***

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 1, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 1, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act* be moved the first time. Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When will this Bill be read a second time?

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

**Bill No. 2 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011/Loi corrective*
*(droit collaboratif) de 2011***

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Bill No. 2, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Collaborative Law) Amendment Act* be now read a first time. Is the House ready for . . . the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When will this Bill be read a second time?

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

Bill No. 3 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 3, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 3, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2011* be read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

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

Bill No. 4 — *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 4, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 4, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2011* be read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

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

Bill No. 5 — *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 5, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General that Bill No. 5, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2011* be read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

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

Bill No. 6 — *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for CIC that Bill No. 6, *The Miscellaneous Business Statutes Amendment Act, 2011* be read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

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

Bill No. 7 — *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011/ Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1996 sur les coopératives*

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 7, *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for CIC that Bill No. 7, *The Co-operatives Amendment Act, 2011* be read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

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

Bill No. 8 — *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 8, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for CIC that Bill No. 8, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2011* be read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

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

Bill No. 9 — *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2011*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 9, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 9, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2011* be read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

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

Bill No. 10 — *The Parks Amendment Act, 2011*

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 10, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2011* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 10, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2011* be read a first time. Is it

the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be read a second time?

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Marchuk, seconded by Ms. Campeau, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Mr. Belanger.]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to speak to the Throne Speech of 2011. And before I get to the substance of the Throne Speech, I'd like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election, congratulate you again, and we look forward to working with you in the coming years as we make sure that this legislature functions in an appropriate way for all of the people of Saskatchewan.

I also want to say thank you to our former Speaker from the last four years for the diligent way that he handled this job. And I know that all of us will be saying thanks to him for the record that he has presented and also has left for all of us as we move forward.

It is also my pleasure to welcome all of the new members to the House — the one member on our side and all of the new members on the other side of the House. Because what happens as people are new to this place is that they get to learn how to be legislators by observing those people around them and across from them. And, Mr. Speaker, I think all of us who have been here for a while, and probably, Mr. Speaker, more than the rest of us, can identify those members who should be used as good examples and those members who should be, maybe their examples should be ignored.

But I say to all of the new members, this is a very special place to be. It's a very important task that you have. It ends up being the kind of place where you're not always certain what's happening in your world. But there's no question about it — there will be a time and a place where your single vote will actually make a big difference in what happens for the people of Saskatchewan. So don't be lackadaisical or don't end up assuming that you can just ride along here. On every issue that comes up, you need to make sure you form your own opinion

and that you end up making decisions on behalf of your constituents which are for the betterment of all of us in Saskatchewan.

Now I also want to make special note and congratulations to the nine members, I guess including myself, in our opposition caucus. We have quickly come together as a group. And we're very pleased to be able to be here in the legislature as a group of capable experts in lots of new areas but who are here to make sure that the government is held to account on all of the decisions that they make, but especially in how they use the resources of the province. And, Mr. Speaker, we will take that task up in a very definite and direct way, and we will make sure that our questions are appropriate and raise the standard of governance in this particular province.

Also want to say welcome to all of the new Pages who are here. You will end up getting to know us in various different ways, and we will get to know you. We appreciate the fact that you have chosen to apply to do this particular work, and we hope that you will learn many things from the work that you do here in the legislature.

Also want to say thank you to the legislative staff. There are many tasks that you have, and any time we enter into a new legislature, there are new ways of doing things that we all have to get used to. So we ask that you have magnanimity towards us as members, but we also know that there will not always be clear answers on questions that we raise when we have the present makeup in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to represent the constituency of Regina Lakeview, and this is the fifth time that the people of Regina Lakeview have elected me to come and be their representative in this place.

[11:00]

I want to say thank you to all of the voters in Regina Lakeview. What I know is that people in Lakeview are very up to date on the questions that happen in provincial government and on policy. And I know that when people go to vote in our constituency, they are looking very carefully at all of the things that are happening in the province.

I also know that when I'm out and about visiting with people in Regina Lakeview or in the city of Regina or anywhere in the province for that matter, that I will get very good advice. I will get very hard questions. I will get suggestions around policy changes. I will get warnings about things that are happening here in the provincial government and in how we as legislators are doing our job. I want to say thank you to all of the people of Regina Lakeview who take that task seriously and those people who provide me with good advice.

I want to say a special thank you to my constituency assistants, Connie Yakimchuk and Cory Oxelgren. They have served me well over a number of years, and I know that they will continue to serve the people of Regina Lakeview and of the whole city of Regina as we go into these next four years.

I want to point out two people in Regina Lakeview who have been of a special assistance to me and I think to all the citizens

of Saskatchewan in my political career. And that's Gary and Jessie Carlson. They are celebrating their 50th year of marriage, 50 years in a whole number of different areas. But I wanted to specifically thank them because they have provided me with support and good advice over the years.

And finally in the thank yous, I want to say thank you to my wife, Linda, my daughters, Ingrid and Solveig, for the support that they have provided over these many years. It's not always easy to be a family of a politician as we all know. And they have been able to give me good advice or information, but most importantly just a chance to be myself away from this place and all of the pressures that are part of our life as politicians.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the Throne Speech was presented on Monday this week, I'd have to say that my first reaction was disappointment. And it was disappointment for me personally, but more so disappointment on behalf of all of the people of the province. The election campaign was hard fought, and it was a clear result with 49 members on the government side and nine members in opposition. And it's very obvious, visually, when you are in this legislature to see that power that is there with the government. I think all of us were expecting that when the Throne Speech was presented we would see and hear what the Premier and what the government intended to do in setting out a plan for the province, maybe on a four-year scale but maybe even on a longer term. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we saw that.

It kind of reminds me, in a way, of an analogy of a 49-passenger bus, where you end up with the Premier driving this bus and partway through the week, partway through the week the Premier turned the heat up in the bus and everybody kind of fell asleep. And so what we end up with is people who are not enthused about this speech at all, not enthused about the direction where the government is going.

And in fact, we haven't heard from very many people here today about what it is that's the government's agenda because it's my understanding that rather than having our normal number of days of Throne Speech debate, we will be ending the Throne Speech debate after three days. I'm not sure if this is unusual, but it's not been usual in my years here in this legislature.

Now what is the message that we're sending to the public? Is it that the agenda of the government is so clear, so straightforward, so dramatically accepted by all of the public that, oh, we don't even need to talk about it in this place? Or is it that people have fallen asleep with the heat in the bus and that they're not ready to actually come and say something about this particular Throne Speech?

And I guess if I was on the government's side, as an experienced person in this legislature, I may be one who would be hesitant to get real excited about speaking about the Speech from the Throne because in this particular speech there are a whole number of things that are laid out as kind of a shopping list, but the vision, the plan, where we're going to go, doesn't appear to be there. There are some words about moving forward. Well practically, I think, that's a message for every person who is alive on this earth. You're moving forward somewhere. And that's kind of what goes. But where are you

going? What are you doing? How are you doing it? All of those kinds of questions are the questions that the people in Saskatchewan have as we are looking at this Throne Speech.

Now you know, I've been asked, well what parts of this speech are good? Well I think there are some good parts relating to the further support for disabled people as we're going to hear more about later this morning. I think there is some good parts about how there's support for post-secondary students. It's not the way that we would have done it. I think there's some better ways to do it, but there is some information there.

But when you look at the things that are there as it relates to health care, there's not very much there. But more importantly, if you think about the main issues of our society as we move forward in the next decades, there's a lot of things missing. One of the things we know is that the number one issue in the community right now is health care. And as I said, there doesn't seem to be much in this particular document about that. But more importantly, when you look at the health of our community, of our province, of our earth, the major issues that all of us are concerned about — but especially young people — relate to the environment. And what you end up seeing in this particular document is absolutely no comment other than that we have a pristine environment in Saskatchewan.

Now that may be true about parts of Saskatchewan, but there have been some major challenges to that special place that we have here from different environmental factors, whether it's the acid rain related issues that come into our northwestern part of Saskatchewan, or whether it's the number and amount of herbicides and pesticides that are used in our agriculture industry and how it affects the environment, or whether it's the government's own policy to remove wildlife habitat land from protection — and we still are waiting for an agenda around what they're going to do with all of that. So what we have is no comment and no goal, no long-term perspective on where we go with the environment.

On agriculture, there's very little in this particular document about agriculture. There's very little in this document about northern Saskatchewan and about the people of the North. And as our member from Cumberland was talking about yesterday, northern Saskatchewan is one of the five poorest areas in Canada as far as the rate of poverty, and that those are the types of issues that people expected, expected to be in this particular document. So we also know that there are a whole number of other issues related to northern Saskatchewan that appear to have missed the screen to be part of this particular Throne Speech.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the issues around our relationship with First Nations people and Métis people in Saskatchewan will be the defining issues for what Saskatchewan is as we look at the 21st century. And it's absolutely important that we do this together because all of us are treaty people in this province. And we happen to be here on Treaty 4 territory, but we have responsibilities as successors to the people who signed Treaty 4 but also the other treaties in Saskatchewan, and we need to live up to those responsibilities.

In the same way, the First Nations people who are covered by the treaties are expecting that certain things will happen. There

doesn't appear to be an agenda in that area that will allow this province to grow. And we've heard questions about that in this House this week, but the biggest question being, we have this wonderful resource of many, many young people who are looking for hope and opportunity in Saskatchewan, in Canada, in the world, and where is it and how is it that we as a province will use our resources appropriately to make sure that they can be the best that they can be and that they can be proud to be Saskatchewan people, proud to be treaty people, proud to be Métis people as we move forward.

We also know that many of the interests of Métis people are protected in our Constitution of Canada, but we haven't fully defined what that means. And we need to make sure that that's front and centre in the agenda of the provincial government because there are so many areas that are impacted by the decisions that a government will make, whether they're policy decisions or policy and financial decisions or just straight financial decisions.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are a whole number of areas in that world of relationships between Indian and Métis people and the overall community, but all of us are together as Saskatchewan people who want the best for everything. So I think rather than ignore some of these issues and stick them to the side, it is up to the government. It's up to the Premier to show leadership and direction about how we're going to resolve some of these issues. We know that in the election that some of these issues were used in ways that were more like weapons rather than ways to solve problems.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to the Premier, as leader, setting out where we're going on some of these issues. And we need to make sure that we're all together and that we know where we're going, and this includes all of the different aspects of that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the questions that came to me this morning was when I saw the Provincial Auditor's report, and one of the highlight features of this report was the word transparency. And we know that the Premier has used this word in many different ways, whether it's about the lobbying registry or it's about other aspects of how these things work. But in the Provincial Auditor's report, there was this question about transparency, and I'm not sure if he's embarrassed about this. We may hear something about this a little later. But it's very much a question for the public when the officer of the legislature whose job it is to point out places where the government's not being as clear or as transparent as they should be, where that officer in her very first report has this highlighted as an issue for the provincial government.

[11:15]

So, Mr. Speaker, we think there's quite a bit of work to be done here. We will be helping them by, helping the government by pointing out where their problems are. We hope that the problems get fixed, not that they get pushed aside, that they get neglected.

Also in this same light, it's very curious that the government's response around the Wheat Board this day is that we're not concerned about the rule of law. We're not concerned that laws

are there to be kept and followed and we're not concerned that things are done in ways that don't follow the rules. And, Mr. Speaker, there are very clear ways to follow the rules and accomplish the agendas that you might have. But, Mr. Speaker, part of our role as legislators, but even more so part of our role as the Minister of Justice or as the former minister of Justice or as the critic in this area is to point out to our colleagues that the basis of how our society works is the rule of law. It's this fact that we have come together and set up procedures whereby we will create policies which then are enacted into legislation which is to be used to make sure that the society is better.

And on Monday when the Throne Speech was presented in this legislature, we had a very good visual example of the fact that we have three branches in our government. We have a legislature. We have an executive, headed by the Premier and the cabinet. And we end up having the judiciary whose job it is to make sure that those laws passed by the legislature are appropriately dealt with and followed by the executive branch. What we heard today in question period and what we heard yesterday in the media is both on a national level and on a provincial level. We have executive branch members who are not following the laws passed by the legislature or by the parliament.

Mr. Speaker, this goes right to the heart of what our democracy is in this province and in this country. And so, Mr. Speaker, we all end up having to make sure that we look carefully at how we do things and what we say. And so, Mr. Speaker, I want all of us here in Saskatchewan to make sure that the way that we proceed is beyond reproach and will benefit all of the people by following the rules that we've set for each other.

This is a matter that is serious for the whole country. We know that there have been a number of discussions in Canada about a change in how we govern ourselves, and one of those changes relates to this concept of much more power into the executive side of government overriding the legislative one. We always are at risk in Canada with the executive controlling the legislature, whether it's in Ottawa or whether it's in Regina. Some of the things that have been happening in Ottawa raise a lot of questions about this system whereby the executive can control parliament.

Mr. Speaker, we as a small opposition here in Saskatchewan will be watching very carefully that some of those same methods of governing that we see starting in Ottawa, we want to make sure they don't show up here in Saskatchewan. Because one of the reasons that our constitution is set up the way it is set up is to make sure that all of the various places of power within society have some balance. And there may be times when the balance in this particular legislature is a little uneven. I think we can see that. But it doesn't mean that the concepts and the rules that have been here for centuries, even millennia if you go back to, you know, some of the Icelandic parliaments and things like that. But what you end up having is rules and ways of doing things that benefit the whole community.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we in this legislature are concerned about democracy. We're concerned about the rule of law and I, as Leader of the Opposition, will point out these things. I know my colleagues will be watching. But what I especially ask today

is that the Premier and the government, in a position of great power, also looks carefully at how they respond to things, how they do things because it will make a difference in what happens in this province for the long term.

Also what it makes a difference for is that individual, like my seatmate raised this morning, who can't get services, we need to change policies or make sure that resources are available for people who are in trouble whether it's lack of housing, lack of food, lack of resources to do things. All of those are why we're in this place. But we go all the way back again to the rules and how we make our decisions, how we follow those decisions, how we check up on those decisions through the judiciary to make sure that whatever we do is for the benefit of all of the people of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, throne speeches are important. They're one of the two times a year when every member in this House gets to stand up and set out the kinds of issues that are of concern to them. And, Mr. Speaker, it's a surprise to me that there's only three days of debate on this Throne Speech in this particular year, given that many people have great hopes for the new government which has a lot of power.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm disappointed. I'm a bit sad that what we have is a Throne Speech that doesn't really meet the expectations of the people of Saskatchewan. So I will be voting against the Throne Speech. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the chance to enter into the Throne Speech debate today.

Just before I begin with some remarks with respect to the substance of the Throne Speech and respond to some of the points that have been made in debate by members on this side and members on that side of the House, it's important for me to offer my gratitude first and foremost to my family, to Tami and Megan and Colter and Faith for their enduring and truly amazing support for me in this particular work, and for their love. And so I want to thank them, as well as the constituents of Swift Current who since 1999 — either because they thought maybe I could give voice to their concerns or they just wanted rid of me — have sent me to Regina in successive elections.

And really I will never forget, as amazing as this last election night was and the one before that — really, in each one in terms from a local perspective — I will just never forget what it was like on September the 16th, 1999 when the people of Swift Current first gave me the chance to serve. And so I know exactly how the member for Nutana feels and how the new members on this side of the House feel because it's something that will never leave me. And I'm sure that's true for every single member of the House. And I'm grateful for the people of Swift Current's support and encouragement and will endeavour to work hard, first and foremost, as their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] because without that, without those duties, I can do no other.

I also would like to thank the campaign team that once again helped the most delinquent candidate in the province because I

wasn't able to go door knocking at all in Swift Current or campaign locally. I was campaigning in other parts of the province. And so my campaign team co-chaired by Bryon Campbell and another fellow by the name of John Wall led that effort there. And I wanted to thank them as well, as my mom was pretty key in that. And a few others that I'd like to mention if I can for the record: Lyle and Pat Quintin and Jackie LaRoche and Shauna Fjaagesund. And there's many others, and I'll miss a few, but I just want to thank them on the record for their support and their help in the local campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I have thought a lot about the 7th of November, 2011 in the days since. And I know a lot of members have, and some have reflected on that in their efforts in terms of the Throne Speech debate. I'll just be very candid and tell you this, Mr. Speaker. I got a report on the weekend from our pollster. It's a pollster that we trust, who has been accurate not only in forecasts in this particular province but in other forecasts, other predictive work he's done for other elections, general elections in other provinces and nationally. And he remains very effective, by the way. The firm remains very effective. But I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker. I received on the weekend a worst-case number of seats potentially — I mean, that's all forecasting — and then a best-case projection. I will tell you that what happened on 7 November far exceeded the best-case projection that I received on that weekend.

And so I have thought about why that . . . I've thought about a couple of things with respect to that. Number one, why would that be? Well the answer to that, at least part one is the reason that we did much better than even some of the best in the forecasting business would have predicted we would do, I think, is because of the women and men that sit to your right hand, Mr. Speaker, because of the hard work of candidates, now MLAs on this side of the House — and, by the way, candidates, nine of them who were not yet . . . who were not successful — and just how hard they worked right through that weekend when those forecasts were tendered to me, right until the very end in terms of getting out that vote. They spent every single moment they could on the doorsteps and on the farm gates of this province making a case for a renewed mandate for the Saskatchewan Party government.

They, I think — and I saw it first-hand in terms of campaigning with a number of them — they campaigned with humility. We recognized that in the first term we benefited from a lot of good fortune. We tried to do the right things in government with all of that good luck. But when we were campaigning, I think we had that approach, they had that approach of humility on the doorsteps, and they approached it as a job interview. And really that's what it is. It's a fairly long job interview, but that's really what that process is for all of us. And they worked hard to make the case that they wanted to earn the support of those peoples, those folks on the doorsteps and on the farm gates of this province.

So, Mr. Speaker, I need, I will thank them very, very much for all of their hard work. That's why the numbers came in a lot stronger than we would have ever thought they would have. And I'm so very, very grateful to have as many as we do have on the bus that the Leader of the Opposition referred to. Better to caucus on a bus than in a Suburban, Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has referenced . . . [inaudible]

interjection] . . . Well I'm just going to leave that alone. The hon. member has heckled from his seat, "At least we're awake," and I'm just going to leave that alone.

There has been some interesting work in the wake of the election by political scientists, principally but not only at the University of Saskatchewan, that have been published in our daily newspapers here lately. And it's interesting as they've sort of broken down the numbers, and they've dissected the election results and have reported it out publicly. And then the media have reported back that, for example, 29 out of 30 demographic groups voted for the Saskatchewan Party in this election. And they drilled down and ask a lot of questions why.

[11:30]

We know that on the surface there are other numbers. For example, we know 64 per cent of the popular vote, the highest popular vote ever received by a party in the province's history. I think Walter Scott early on in our province's life had 57 per cent of the popular vote. I think provincially we've done some analysis and found that only in Newfoundland and Labrador has there ever been a provincial popular vote higher than what we were able to garner and what we were grateful to receive here in the last election. And of course the last statistic is witnessed to your right hand, Mr. Speaker. It's the 48 members that are here in the Legislative Assembly and a caucus of 49.

And so, Mr. Speaker, you will understand then why we are just very humbled by that and why we have wanted to adopt, not just adopt, but conduct ourselves in an attitude of service, in an attitude of humility. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to make this commitment again on the floor of the legislature as one of my first comments with respect to the context of the Speech from the Throne. We say to the people of the province as we did in the Speech from the Throne, first and foremost, thank you.

Secondly we are accepting this result with humility. We recognize that again our government benefited from some good fortune in that first term. And thirdly we are going to work hard every single day to try to earn the result of 7 November, 2011. The result happened then but we haven't earned it yet. That comes, that started on November the 8th and actually, when we kept our first promise on that particular day to extend the PST [provincial sales tax] exemption on children's clothing, to kid's clothes for kids 18 years and younger.

We're going to work hard to earn the result of that election right through until the next election.

So once again, these members on this side, and our candidates contesting in the nine seats represented on the other side, will be able to look those voters in the eye, those residents of the province whom we serve in the eye, on the doorsteps and at the farm gates and say, once again we did what we said we would do, and here are yet another set of commitments we make and a renewed vision for the province. And you can trust us to do these things because that's been the modus operandi of this government and this party in office, Mr. Speaker.

I noted in his remarks the honourable Leader of the Opposition lamented the fact that the Throne Speech debate is short. His contention I guess is that it's cut short. Well, Mr. Speaker, if

you take a look at the Speech from the Throne — and you have a bit of déjà vu, I'd understand it because what is in the Speech from the Throne is exactly what was in the platform that we just campaigned on — and so the Throne Speech debate actually started on the 10th of October 2011 and it was completed for the most part on the 7th of November.

And do you know what, Mr. Speaker? The best thing then about this particular Speech from the Throne is that it wasn't just debated by members in this House. It was debated by the people of this province who looked at two choices — one tendered by the opposition, one by this party — and chose this party's platform. And that was the length of the Speech from the Throne that we had, Mr. Speaker.

The Speech from the Throne has a number of components. I'll just deal with them quickly, and then we can move on with the voting. I'm anxious to see how that will turn out.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne, like the platform, begins with our vision for the province. And I was shocked that one of the first comments we heard from the Opposition Leader was, in his entry into the Throne Speech debate . . . Actually when it was released on Monday, his contention was that there wasn't a vision in the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, the entire first part of the Speech from the Throne is a vision. The entire first part of the platform that we campaigned on in this election is the vision.

And our vision has never changed, by the way, and neither will it. As long as we have the honour to serve in these benches over on this side of the House — well, or frankly, on any side of the House — our vision will remain unchanged. The platform for the vision, the bulwark for our vision for the province will always be about economic growth. That is the North Star of this government. More on that in a moment as to why that would be, Mr. Speaker.

But with respect to that general vision, we backed it up with specific goals and targets in the Speech from the Throne and in the platform, including that we would be 1.1 million people by 2015. And I remember, Mr. Speaker, in opposition when the Saskatchewan Party proposed that we could get to 1.1 million people within a decade. I remember, Mr. Speaker, because the NDP on this side of the House at the time said that it was a statistical impossibility. It was the former member from Regina Wascana — not the current member for Regina Wascana Plains — the former member who in a local paper in the member for Arm River-Watrous' constituency told the world that it was the NDP's belief that it was statistically impossible for this province's population to grow even at the national average, which is 1 per cent.

You know what, Mr. Speaker, they were kind of right because since the election we have, since the election in '07, we have not grown at the national average. Our population has not grown at the national average. It has exceeded the national average in population growth. It's been the highest time of growth in our population in about 50 years, Mr. Speaker. And so we have a goal now to be to 1.1 million people by 2015.

It's an important goal, Mr. Speaker, by the way, because if a government lays out a target — the Minister of Health has

highlighted the importance here today of targets in health care — but if a government or a business or an organization is informed by some target, its actions are going to move towards delivering on a target. If you set a target for 800 nurses, you are going to train more and you are going to recruit more. And in four years, lo and behold you're actually going to exceed that target. We're at 900.

If you set a target for short wait times, your actions will be informed by the target. You'll deploy the private sector within the public system. You'll provide more funding for the public sector, Mr. Speaker, and you will reach the target. And we are well on the way to reaching the target of a surgery within 90 days for the people of this province. Targets are important.

Early on in our first term, the minister of Social Services, now the Minister of Education, reported that there were over 440 of our fellow citizens with intellectual disabilities who were languishing on a wait-list either for day programming, their families for respite programming, or the dignity of a place to live, Mr. Speaker. And when that information was presented to this government, we asked that minister how much, how much would it take to deal with that? And I think the answer was about \$76 million. Mr. Speaker, we set a goal to eliminate that wait-list. And while there is work to do, I can tell you we are ahead of schedule. I think we are over 70 per cent of the way there now. In my own constituency when there was 25 of these individuals with intellectual disabilities waiting for a place to live prior to the '07 election, the wait-list is now one or two, from my last report just prior to the election.

Targets are important. If you set a population target as this Speech from the Throne does in its vision statement, that target's going to inform your action. You are going to do what you can do to attract more people. You are going to go to job fairs. You are going to sharpen the province's efforts with respect to our immigration strategies. You are going to work to engage our First Nations and Métis in the economy to a greater extent. You are going to do the things that we need to do to keep up with infrastructure demands so we can accommodate more people. All that that government will do on the economy is going to be informed by the notion that we want there to be more people living in this province. The goal is 1.1 million people.

Mr. Speaker, the other target that's set in the Speech from the Throne and in the platform document is that we would steadily move towards eliminating the General Revenue Fund debt of Saskatchewan. Now, Mr. Speaker, some would say — not knowing the history, the recent history of the province — well that's special, but what are the chances of that happening? They might say that for example if they had only looked at the record of members opposite where the General Revenue Fund debt was never meaningfully reduced. But here's the good news, Mr. Speaker: yes, we had good fortune in government in those first four years. What did we do with that good fortune? Well first and foremost, we paid off over \$3 billion of the General Revenue Fund debt. And that means that we have reduced the mortgage on the future of this province, on the next generation, and our work is not done. We need to eliminate that debt. That's also part of the vision that we have.

There are many elements to the vision of this government with

respect to the Speech from the Throne, including how we treat our seniors with dignity and with support, ensuring that our youth can get the very best education and then employment opportunities thereafter, that people with disabilities get the best support possible. Our goal is of course to be the best in the country for individuals among us and their families who are dealing with the challenges of disabilities.

Our vision is, and I quote — it's in the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, simply put — “Our vision is that Saskatchewan will be the best place in Canada to live and to work and to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family, and to build a life.”

Then the Speech from the Throne highlights how we are going to do that, and the first section of course is on growth. That is what this government will always be about. What are the elements of our growth agenda, Mr. Speaker? Well they remain unchanged. We believe we have to have competitive taxes. We need to lower taxes where we're not competitive, Mr. Speaker. We need to maintain the Saskatchewan advantage. Debt reduction, we've already talked about that. That's part of a growth agenda. Fiscal responsibility, fiscal probity is an important part of a growth agenda. That's how we send a signal to the rest of the world, to businesses in the rest of the country and in the United States that things are a little different in this place called Saskatchewan. That you may be living in a jurisdiction where the debt is mounting and where the spectre of tax increases are there, where businesses are considering moving away from, Mr. Speaker. Things are different in this Saskatchewan. In this Saskatchewan, we're paying down debt. In this Saskatchewan, we'll balance the budget. In this Saskatchewan, we're doing it so that we can remain competitive from a tax perspective. And so that fiscal probity is an important part of a growth agenda. Stable royalties, stable royalties are an important part of any effective growth strategy, growth agenda.

Mr. Speaker, it's very interesting. It's very interesting to me and I think more than just a coincidence that days . . . I think it was days. I look at the members for, the two members from Moose Jaw we're proud to have, Mr. Speaker. I think I recall that it was days after the election when the people of this province said no to a reckless tax hike on royalties that would threaten the expansion of the potash industry, and yes to stability, and yes to the Saskatchewan advantage. Days after that a German company called K+S made an announcement in, I think it was right in Moose Jaw. That's where the announcement was made. They're going to go ahead with a . . . was it a 3.4?

An Hon. Member: — 3.25.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — \$3.25 billion solution potash mine, Legacy Project, Mr. Speaker. And I had it asked of me, would they . . . if the NDP would have won that election and gone about with jacking up royalties in the potash sector, would K+S be investing in Moose Jaw and area today? Mr. Speaker, no, I don't think they would. They wouldn't know what they were getting into. They wouldn't know about what royalties might come at them. We wouldn't know if we could actually be competitive in the future against Jordan and against Russia and against all these other places where there is potash. In the

general election, the NDP acted like that we were the only ones with potash. And of course we've got 53 per cent of it. That's a lot, but we don't have all of it. In fact our tax rates today are the highest in the world, highest in the world — twice as high as the next highest country, which is the Kingdom of Jordan.

Now the NDP government . . . Let's just do a quick history lesson if we can and then move on with the growth agenda. The NDP government, to their credit, to their credit when we were in opposition and we were calling for this, said, this high tax rate is going to mean that if potash companies are thinking of expanding, they will not choose Saskatchewan. They will choose Jordan. They will choose Russia. By the way, there was an announcement about a \$6 billion potash expansion announcement in Russia just in the last couple of months, demonstrating that we're not the only ones with potash, that we must stay competitive and vigilant.

So the NDP several years ago when they were still in government said — and we asked for this — well let's reduce potash taxes temporarily so that companies will invest here and when the expansions are complete, they go back up to the high rate of taxes, the highest in the world. Good policy. The member for Athabasca would have, I think, been in the cabinet and helped in a part of that policy. It was the right thing to do. The current Leader of the Opposition would have been a part of that decision. It was the right thing to do. And they did it with our support.

And do you know what happened, Mr. Speaker? — \$12.9 billion in expansion. Never mind the talk of new mines. That's not K+S. That's not other, like BHP or all the other alphabet favourites of ours that are happening in the potash industry. That's the existing three players, valued players in the economy.

It was the right thing to do. And those temporary incentives will be earned, and they'll be back to paying the highest rate. And the people of this province will share in that revenue, unlike any other citizen of the world where there happens to be a little potash. So stable royalties is very much a part of our growth agenda.

An Hon. Member: — Who are these K+S people?

[11:45]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well you know, the Minister of Energy asks an interesting question. He asks, Mr. Speaker: who are these K+S people? And if the name sounds familiar to members of this House, it wouldn't surprise me because this is not the first time this German company has been in the province investing their dollars. This particular potash company was here before. This particular potash company built Lanigan. I believe they either built it or operated it, but they were operating the Lanigan potash mine before it became a Potash Corporation mine.

Do you know how it became a Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan mine, Mr. Speaker? Well when the Potash Corporation was owned by the government, it was a Crown corporation. You will know, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP decided it would be good for the province if they ran the potash

industry, if they nationalized, in other words basically expropriated with some compensation existing potash mines and basically run those companies out of town. And K+S was one of those companies, if you can believe it.

So I think it's a great coincidence or it's ironic. Either way it's a welcome development, that one of the companies that the NDP drove out of this province through nationalization is back under a Saskatchewan Party government, and they're building a mine, and they're creating jobs in the province of Saskatchewan.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure they were watching the election carefully as were all of the potash players. I'm sure they were astonished on the 13th of April when they read in the *Melville Advance*, because there's potash companies in that Melville area, they would have read the *Melville Advance*, when the former leader of the opposition, supported by the way I guess by his caucus, said that they could increase potash taxes by 80 per cent and if the potash companies didn't like it, well the government could step in and run them just like they used to do, Mr. Speaker. That's nationalization. That's nationalization. Unbelievable at a time when we're building the Saskatchewan advantage, when we want to tell those who'll risk their capital investment and create jobs for Saskatchewan families, and raise taxes by the way for us that help us fund initiatives for the disabled and to reduce wait times, at such a time as that the NDP were talking about nationalization.

Mr. Speaker, that's not the only reason, but I think that's why there is fewer members of the NDP today sitting in this Assembly because the people of this province said, that's not right for the province, that doesn't make sense today, and we'll not let anyone take away the Saskatchewan advantage, Mr. Speaker.

Another part of our growth agenda is infrastructure investment. Quickly we've invested \$2.2 billion over four years, and admittedly we need to do more. We've had record investments in highways and transportation. The Speech from the Throne highlights that we need to do more. Crown infrastructure is important to a growth agenda. We've been in net investing in SaskTel in addition to the dividend policies of the government. And with respect to SaskPower, we inherited a multi-billion dollar infrastructure deficit for this fundamentally important utility, and we're dealing with that as well today.

Supporting agriculture to mitigate against risk is also part of an effective growth agenda, Mr. Speaker. We've been there for producers in the past. We will be there for them in the future under the leadership of the member for Saltcoats and in partnership with the federal government. And, Mr. Speaker, we didn't touch on it in the Speech from the Throne necessarily, but it goes to agriculture policy. You bet this side of the House supports choice for farmers with respect to the national government's Wheat Board position.

I'll tell you this. I've heard members opposite say, well you supported Canpotex during the potash takeover, when BHP was trying to take over the Potash Corp. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, we tried to mount a vigorous defence against that takeover, and we were worried about the future of Canpotex, which is the marketing agency for Saskatchewan potash, at

least the international marketing agency. And I remember the member for Regina Rosemont, who's had a, who's had a bad week, Mr. Speaker. We can just can talk a little bit about the First Nations revenue-sharing policy. But he also said today from his seat today that well, how could you support Canpotex and not support the Wheat Board? Mr. Speaker, this is incredible. And I've heard this argument put forward by some union leaders as well. Mr. Speaker, with the Wheat Board we support choice. We support that the Wheat Board would exist but that it would be voluntary.

Canpotex is a voluntary marketing agency. It has always been a voluntary marketing agency. Agrium and Mosaic and PotashCorp are the shareholders, and they voluntarily decide to pool together and market. And by the way, that's not all the potash. All the potash is not marketed through that voluntary marketing board. Actually about 48 per cent of it is directly sold by the companies into the United States, the North American market, and yes, some in Saskatchewan as well. And the former member for Northcote didn't know that we used any potash in Saskatchewan, but we do.

So, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It's not analogous. When we support voluntary choice for marketing in wheat, it's completely consistent with the position we had with respect to Canpotex.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would say this: if there really was 40,000-plus farmers that voted for the Wheat Board, if there was — and I wonder about it because I've had some conversations at the Safeway in Swift Current of people concerned with those who actually are deceased that were sent a ballot and votes were tendered — Mr. Speaker, I could tell you that if there are that many farmers that voted for the Wheat Board, the good news for the Wheat Board then is that that's a pretty good base of support in a voluntary choice system. They've got 40,000-plus farmers — if there are 40,000 farmers that actually voted that farm — to actually work with the Wheat Board. So it should be a win-win both for those that want choice and for the Wheat Board that wants to continue and sell Saskatchewan grain and Western Canadian grain around the world.

So agriculture policy's part of our growth agenda. Engaging First Nations and Métis people in the economy is part of our growth agenda, and it will ever be thus, Mr. Speaker. I could tell you . . . And there was some questions raised, good questions, by the critics opposite on First Nations and Métis Relations and I think even better answers from the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations on some of these issues.

Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history, our government has negotiated a power generating agreement with First Nations, not unlike what SIGA [Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority Inc.] was to be for the gaming industry, so that First Nations can be involved directly in the economic opportunities and spinoffs that come from generating electricity. We know we're going to need more megawatts in the future. And why wouldn't we want to partner with First Nations companies to be a part of that supply?

For the first time in a long time, maybe ever, a significant portion of an important resource, forest, was shared. That

resource was shared with First Nations because, Mr. Speaker, in the past under the NDP there was a lot of talk about these issues, but when it came to their FMAs [forest management agreement] rarely did they include First Nations, tribal councils, or individual bands to receive some of that fibre, to be a part of that business. Mr. Speaker, there is a new FMA in the province to supply fibre to a reanimated forestry industry, thanks to a mill I think that's reopening in Prince Albert. And First Nations are going to be a part of that.

Mr. Speaker, we've worked hard to build a dynamic partnership with SIIT [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies] and First Nations University. SIIT is one of the most effective post-secondary institutions in the province, period. And we have increased our supports and partnerships with that institution as we seek to increase the engagement of First Nations in this growing economy. The Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations is focused, as well, on the educational outcomes gap that we must reduce. There's resources behind that initiative and its across-government approach including Education and Social Services as well, Mr. Speaker. That is also part of our growth agenda.

Fair and balanced labour legislation is part of our growth agenda as well. We're not advocating for things and we haven't changed things in the first four years that don't exist in other places. We think essential services to protect people in the case of a work stoppage who have concerns with respect to health and safety, we think that's common sense. We were the last government to have essential services, but that changed four years ago.

Mr. Speaker, we've made changes with respect to freedom of expression in the workplace and secret ballot certification, Mr. Speaker, balanced labour legislation, competitive labour legislation, and a labour environment that is accountable to the stakeholders. The most important being, first, the public in the case of public sector unions. The second most important being the union members — not the union leadership, but the union members. These are the principles that will inform the changes we'll make going forward and we'll seek consultation in this respect with all the stakeholders.

So, Mr. Speaker, the growth agenda is there. Also included in it, as one final component, is our innovation agenda, Mr. Speaker. And that innovation agenda is going to help us build, together with industry partners in the university, a new global food security institute at the University of Saskatchewan. It's already helping us make historic investments in clean coal technology that are grabbing the attention of the world, Mr. Speaker. It's why there's now a uranium research centre of excellence at the University of Saskatchewan, welcoming partnerships from Hitachi.

We're going to take our resource strength and build the next economy. Our government sees a role for it where the private sector won't yet go and research, but we're partnering with industry to build the next economy, Mr. Speaker, and it's fundamental to our growth plan.

And we are focused on the plan, as I've said earlier, not for growth itself, not for the sake of the stats . . . And we heard some in member statements and they're great statistics. And

every time you hear those statistics from this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, please understand, and for members opposite, please know that these statistics point to something more important. When the economy is growing, when our tax base is expanding, that's how we can provide better public service. That's how we are able to reduce debt. That's how we can drop 114,000 low-income people from the income taxes altogether. That's how we can reach out to people with disabilities. That's how we can find millions more, millions more to reduce wait times. Not talk about improved public health care, but do something about public health care.

Mr. Speaker, growth is going to pay for the Saskatchewan advantage housing plan. Our five-point plan — quarter of a billion dollars — it's opening up 4,600 entry level units in the province. It's how we'll pay for the Sask first-time homebuyer's tax credit. It's how we're going to pay to improve the secondary suite program so we can open up more basement suites and other accommodations in the province.

It's how we'll pay for the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship where, next year at graduation, high school students who graduate are going to receive up to \$2,000 — \$500 in any single year for up to four years — to go against their tuition, no questions asked, no bureaucracy. Here's the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship: attend tech school, go to university, be a part of this dynamic and growing economy because, when you are done that degree or that diploma, there will be opportunity waiting for you. There will be a job waiting for you. And you can get all your tuition back if you stay in the province. In one of the most effective graduate retention programs in the country, that's what growth pays for.

Growth is going to pay for our partnership with parents to save for their kids' education as we bump up the federal RESP [registered education savings plan] program. It's going to pay for the active families benefit which is in the Speech from the Throne.

It'll pay for our initiative to support seniors in personal care in a meaningful way, an issue we've heard at every SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention I've been at where these non-profits, a lot of them run by municipalities, need some support so they can deliver personal care and long-term care to seniors. They've been asking for a long time for support, even longer from those members when they sat here. They're getting it, Mr. Speaker. It's in the Speech from the Throne. And growth is paying for it in the province of Saskatchewan.

Just very quickly, growth is going to pay for 2,000 new child care spaces. That's on top of the 35 per cent increase in child care spaces over our first term, admittedly with more work needed. It's going to pay for our SAID initiative in terms of improving income for those, and actually creating some income for people with intellectual disabilities. It's being announced later today. It's going to pay for another \$4 million in investment for families and children and adults with autism.

Growth is going to pay for better health care. We were talking about it this week in cabinet about the need to continue with our plan to lower wait times in the province. It takes resources, and not a little bit of resources, to do more surgeries. Whether

they're in the private system or in the public system, it takes money. And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to make sure that investment is there. And when we make those announcements and advance those funds, we will know that it wasn't a money tree that provided it. It was growth that paid for those surgeries and it's why we'll always pursue it.

With respect to our rural health care strategy when we're forgiving student loans for doctors who will go to rural Saskatchewan or nurses or nurse practitioners or adding seats for nurse practitioners or STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] ambulance or you name it, we will always remember that growth is paying for those things and that the growth agenda is paramount in the activities of this government. It's true for our help for parks and rinks and safer communities, Mr. Speaker. Everything we campaigned on, all that is in the Speech from the Throne is going to be delivered because of growth. But, Mr. Speaker, it will be delivered within a balanced budget, and that too was a central question in this most recent campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I've listened carefully to members opposite since the election, to the new Leader of the Opposition, to members as they've engaged in this particular Speech from the Throne, and what I've not heard is any comment about the campaign they ran. I have not heard one single member stand up and say, you know, I think there is a disconnect between us and the people of the province. I don't think we're on the same page as the people of the province, and I think we need to do better. I haven't heard any members in the NDP say anything like that.

[12:00]

They were promising, in our last count, \$5 billion worth of stuff. They were doing two announcements a day in that campaign — \$5 billion worth of promises. Mr. Speaker, they were promising things with money that is not theirs. That money belongs to the people of the province. And our ability to afford all of these things we want to do in health care and education and in social services is predicated not only on growth, but that we have a balanced budget, that we're fiscally responsible, that we don't have the train wrecks that we see in Europe and other places in terms of their fiscal health.

And I still haven't heard members opposite make that admission. In fact what I've heard unbelievably is members opposite stand up and question, question the spending of government — which is their job, don't get me wrong. But while they're doing it, while they're saying I think this government's spending too much — and I've actually heard it — while they're saying that, they might want to say, we campaigned to spend a lot more than you're spending, and that was probably a mistake, but having said that now, we've been on the Damascus road and we think you're spending too much as well. Nothing like that, nothing approximating that.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'll make this prediction. As long as politicians on either side of the House do not take their cues from the people of this province, do not approach this place and these duties with humility, understanding that we're going to make mistakes and we need to admit of those and quickly address them, as long as that happens, those members on either side of the House are in peril of losing their seats in the next

election. I think that was part of what happened on the 7th of November, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Right. The Minister of Energy has again helpfully pointed out that there was a hopeful sign from the member for Regina Rosemont, who came out early on after, I think, the mid-term was released, the mid-term financial report, which showed a smaller but a balanced . . . a smaller but a surplus. And he indicated — unequivocally, I think would be fair to characterize it — the member for Rosemont said, First Nations revenue sharing is not on; the people of this province rejected it.

Was it 24, 48 hours later, someone got to the member for Regina Rosemont and said, no, no, no, no, no, we're not wrong. We're not wrong. The people of Saskatchewan were wrong. The people of Saskatchewan who unequivocally voted on this issue, they're all wrong and we're right. And someone got to the member for Rosemont, and he had to come out and have another scrum and said, I misspoke, that it's the policy of the party and it's the right policy.

In his entry in the Throne Speech today, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, supported with — ironically enough — with some heckling from the member for Regina Rosemont, talked vaguely and mysteriously about whether some party in the election used weapons. And so we were trying to discern what he was talking about, and then the member for Rosemont said, well it's First Nations policy.

And so what does that mean exactly, Mr. Speaker? If a party and a people . . . Well the member for Riversdale maybe is explaining what it means. If the party . . . If the people of this province and a political party reflecting them says First Nations and Métis relations issues, Métis issues are fundamentally important to the future of this province and we want a government that's prepared to act on them and we want a government that's prepared to ensure they're engaged in the economy, but, but we just fundamentally don't believe that the resource revenues of the province, which belong by definition to all of us, should be shared disproportionately with any group — First Nations or non-First Nations or any group, Mr. Speaker — what they're saying is if the people of the province believe that and a political party believes it as we do, and then we say that publicly, that frank and open, honest opinion, somehow that's a weapon, or maybe something even more nefarious they'd suggest it is.

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, maybe it's, maybe it's this. Maybe it's the fundamental fairness of Saskatchewan people who do want to make sure that no one's left behind, that we're working with First Nations, that we're working on Métis issues, that we are working on northern issues. Maybe it's the fundamental fairness of Saskatchewan people that says do that. But that doesn't mean anybody gets any special deal on a resource that belongs to everyone, Mr. Speaker. That is a fair position to hold on behalf of the people of this province, on behalf of this party, and it will remain the position and the policy of the Saskatchewan Party and the duly elected government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there was one particular engagement in the Throne Speech debate by a new member that I just want to close with, touch on and close with, by a new member opposite. I want to first of all say again, if I can, as I do, as a bit of a

context for this, how grateful I am to have so many new members in our caucus, 15 of them. And again I know how hard they all worked, and we're just that much better. We're a much better organization already, Mr. Speaker. You got to hear amazing speeches from rookie members who really deserve the . . . [inaudible] . . . I want to thank them very much for that.

And there was also a very effective speech in terms of its clarity from the new member for Nutana. And I want to congratulate her on a very clear speech in terms of the Throne Speech debate. So clear, Mr. Speaker, that I think would cause a few questions that would form debate going forward. And by the way, that's what this place should be all about — that kind of debate.

Mr. Speaker, I noted in the member's speech that she talked about the family heritage, the family tradition in terms of social democracy. That's also something that all members on this side can understand and members on that side understand. Ours is a political heritage in my family too, and these kinds of discussions happen. She talked about those discussions in her own home though in the terms of the, and I quote, the context is, the quote here is "the evils of capitalism."

Mr. Speaker, you know again, again I would just say, and I'm the proud son of someone who was involved in small business all of his life. He dropped out of school in grade 8, got his GED [general educational diploma] but moved out of school in grade 8. And together with his brothers they started into business right away, and at some considerable risk. It was never a huge business. They had a few people working for them in freight and then later in furniture moving. And then they tried to rent a few homes out to people and keep good care of them.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, I always used to . . . My early interest in political debate was to hear that kind of depiction from New Democrats, from those who are proud to call themselves socialists, as the member was. And again I give her credit for it in her remarks because, Mr. Speaker, when we say those kinds of things, we are talking about the free enterprise system. We are talking about a capitalist system that really fundamentally in our province is about small businesses. Yes, there's big companies that are here. But we know that 80 per cent of new jobs are created by small businesses.

And it used to bother me a little bit because I understood early on that what my dad was doing was risky, that he had no promise of bringing home any particular amount of income. What other small people do, what farmers do, frankly, is very much this case as well. And I understand though that if he did a little better one year, he should maybe keep a little bit more than that particular year so that he was ready to get through a tougher year. And also when he did a little better, of course there might be another person hired or the tax base might be expanded. And, Mr. Speaker, what that is, what I'm just describing, are what the member would refer to, I think, as the evils of capitalism. Well they say no. They'd probably say no, no, we just mean big companies. That's probably what they'd say — we just mean the big multinational corporations.

Well it's a bit of an integrated value chain proposition here, Mr. Speaker. One of the most important clients for my father in his moving business was the Royal Bank of Canada — one of

those evil banks that the NDP and self-described socialists rail against. Well the Royal Bank of Canada was moving, moved their bankers around quite a bit — thankfully, it's how I got to go to university — and other banks did too, and the Mounted Police and the Wheat Pool. You know, they did business with those large, evil corporations, Mr. Speaker.

We do need to make sure that in this country there is a balance, that we have a tax system that ensures that capitalistic activities, that entrepreneurial activities are about creating a tax base so we can remain fiscally competitive and then invest in people and in quality of life. But let's not forget that the heart of it is that system. And it works pretty well, Mr. Speaker, not perfectly but it works pretty well — certainly shouldn't be depicted as an evil.

Mr. Speaker, she then talked about, and I quote, “many socialist programs introduced in this Assembly” over the years. And again, I want to give her credit for that depiction because, Mr. Speaker, when we use that word socialist as a descriptor for members opposite, save for the new member for Nutana, they get very upset. They get very upset. They don't want to be, for some reason, they don't want to be called socialists.

Mr. Speaker, I give credit to the member for Nutana for her clarity because we are going to have some discussion around the role of government in the economy. We've already had it in health care, Mr. Speaker, where we're clearly on the side of public health care that involves a private component if it delivers results. And the future potential leader of the NDP, the member for Massey Place, is dead set against it. He'd rather give people ideology than surgery. That's the kind of debate that we're about to have, and I think if there's clarity on both sides — and I credit the member for Nutana — I think that's a pretty good thing.

One final comment I will say is this, and I hope members opposite will clarify this, including the Leader of the Opposition. That member there is going to be a very able critic for the Minister of Energy and Resources. She is the Agriculture critic and the Minister of Energy and Resources. And her comments about energy were all again about, and I have the quotes here, they all seem to be about how our resource sector and what we're doing in the province is a “race to the bottom.” A race to the bottom. And then she goes on to vilify the industry in terms of CO₂ and a few other issues.

Mr. Speaker, I expect to hear that from the federal NDP because we've seen the federal NDP actually go down to Washington and join the argument, the ill-informed argument, of those who would depict our oil from Canada as dirty. And don't just think that implies oil sands oil, Mr. Speaker. When those interests in the United States depict our oil as dirty, it hurts the Bakken play. It hurts the Viking play. It hurts the Lower Shaunavon. It hurts the trade relationship. And we need to be a force for good in that debate, Mr. Speaker.

We do need as a country and as a province to say, we should always be doing better by the environment. We should always make sure resource extraction is more sustainable. But by the same token, we need to go down to the United States and here in this legislature say, but you know what? In this country — more than in Venezuela, more than in the Middle East, more

than in any other oil-producing country in the world — we're spending more per capita of public dollars to clean up coal, to reduce the CO₂ footprint of oil extraction. Companies are spending more. The federal government's spending more. Habitat's being reclaimed.

We can always do better, Mr. Speaker, but let's be a voice of support for an industry that employs thousands, creates economic opportunity for the small business, and let's avoid throwing them under the bus, especially in this particular Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to energy policy, I think this is going to be interesting going forward. In the campaign, the NDP proposed some renewable objectives. They proposed some changes to our grid, to our fleet of electrical generation that we know would cause massive hikes in people's electrical rates. We know that. We have to do this in a ordered and methodical way. We have to invest in the new technologies. We have to have our greenhouse gas regulations move forward in a way that does hold industry accountable for emissions but then, Mr. Speaker, ensures that any proceeds from potential penalties for high emissions stays in the province and is reinvested in technology so that we're always about the solution.

The solution is technology. The solution in this is not a wealth transfer, Mr. Speaker, where we lose money from the West to Central Canada or from one company to another, where we move emissions around. The answer is technology, and we're not waiting. We are investing record amounts in the clean coal project in Boundary. There might be even more developments on this front in the days ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the debate that we've heard from both sides of the House, I think, has been informative. But there might be nothing more important than how the member whom we welcome to the Assembly concluded her speech by saying that the NDP speaks for 99 per cent of the people of the province, and because we have, because we have some . . . Or the province. And because we have some sort of growth agenda, that we speak for the 1 per cent. I guess the very, the very, very rich is the implication; I don't know.

Mr. Speaker, I was surprised to hear that, so I checked the election results again. And as it turns out, the NDP doesn't speak for 99 per cent of the province, and, Mr. Speaker, neither does the Saskatchewan Party. Mr. Speaker, we would never be that presumptuous, even after a successful election, to claim to speak for any percentage of the people of this province. What we would claim is our intention to work hard to do that, to speak for the people of this province, to speak for all, to serve them all, not claim presumptuously that we know everything that is on their minds and everything that's best, but that we would continue to listen and to work and to keep our promises.

Mr. Speaker, though, I do think the election results show that 49 members on this side of the House — well 48 — do speak for some people. They spoke for some people on election night — people waiting for surgery in this province, people with disabilities in this province, seniors, young people who want to stay here, who want to build a life here, people who want a fiscally responsible government. I think members on this side of the House are going to work hard to speak for them —

farmers in rural Saskatchewan, workers, Mr. Speaker, union and non-union, and now more than ever, now more than ever, because of the work of members on this side of the House, for urban centres and rural centres, Mr. Speaker, and yes, for our northern communities.

[12:15]

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage all members of this House to be participating in this debate and the upcoming budget debate with this in mind, that we are here to serve, that we were just returned to this Assembly to represent our particular constituents. And yes, we have parties, and yes, we have policies and principles, and that's also a strength of the system. But if we always remember why we're here and that these seats truly are on loan, we're going to at least have a small chance, a better chance, an improved chance of doing justice to the great honour that we've been given by our respective constituents to come represent them here in this Assembly.

And so, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a government that admits that's there more work to be done, I want to tell you today that I'm going to be voting for the Speech from the Throne. And when I do that — and I hope it's true of all my colleagues — when we do that, we're thinking of people back home, our constituents that sent us here. We're thinking about generations yet to come. We're thinking about moving this province forward. We're thinking about the fact that Saskatchewan today is a leader in this country like it never has been and that we must work in this Assembly to ensure that leadership continues. That's why I'll be supporting the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, and unable to support the amendment. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — There being no further members who wish to speak to the amendment, I will put the question. The question before the Assembly is the amendment to the address in reply moved by the member from Athabasca, seconded by the member from Regina Elphinstone:

That this Assembly 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.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion to the address in reply? Those in favour of the motion please say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed please say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — The nos have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:17 until 12:18.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the amendment please

rise.

[Yeas — 9]

Nilson	Forbes	Belanger
Wotherspoon	Brotten	Chartier
Sproule	McCall	Vermette

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the amendment please rise.

[Nays — 45]

Wall	Morgan	Bjornerud
Norris	Draude	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Toth	Reiter
Duncan	Ross	McMillan
Harpauer	Harrison	Hickie
Hutchinson	Elhard	Hart
Tell	Parent	Brkich
Stewart	Ottenbreit	Weekes
Campeau	Heppner	Wilson
Michelson	Kirsch	Merriman
Doke	Cox	Makowsky
Jurgens	Steinley	Doherty
Lawrence	Tochor	Moe
Marchuk	Phillips	Docherty

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the amendment, 9; those opposed, 45.

The Speaker: — I declare the amendment lost.

Debate will continue on the main motion, the address in reply. If there are members who wish to speak to the main motion, they should do so now. Seeing there are no further members that wish to speak to the main motion, the address in reply, I will put the question. It has been moved by the member for Regina Douglas Park, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Fairview:

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:22 until 12:23.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour please rise.

[Yeas — 45]

Wall	Morgan	Bjornerud
Norris	Draude	Boyd
Eagles	McMorris	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Toth	Reiter
Duncan	Ross	McMillan
Harpauer	Harrison	Hickie
Hutchinson	Elhard	Hart
Tell	Parent	Brkich
Stewart	Ottenbreit	Weekes
Campeau	Heppner	Wilson
Michelson	Kirsch	Merriman
Doke	Cox	Makowsky
Jurgens	Steinley	Doherty
Lawrence	Tochor	Moe
Marchuk	Phillips	Docherty

The Speaker: — All those opposed please rise.

[Nays — 9]

Nilson	Forbes	Belanger
Wotherspoon	Brotten	Chartier
Sproule	McCall	Vermette

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the humble address, 45; those opposed, 9.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that this Assembly do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This Assembly now stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:26.]

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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
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Hon. Jeremy Harrison
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Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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Hon. Rob Norris
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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