



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

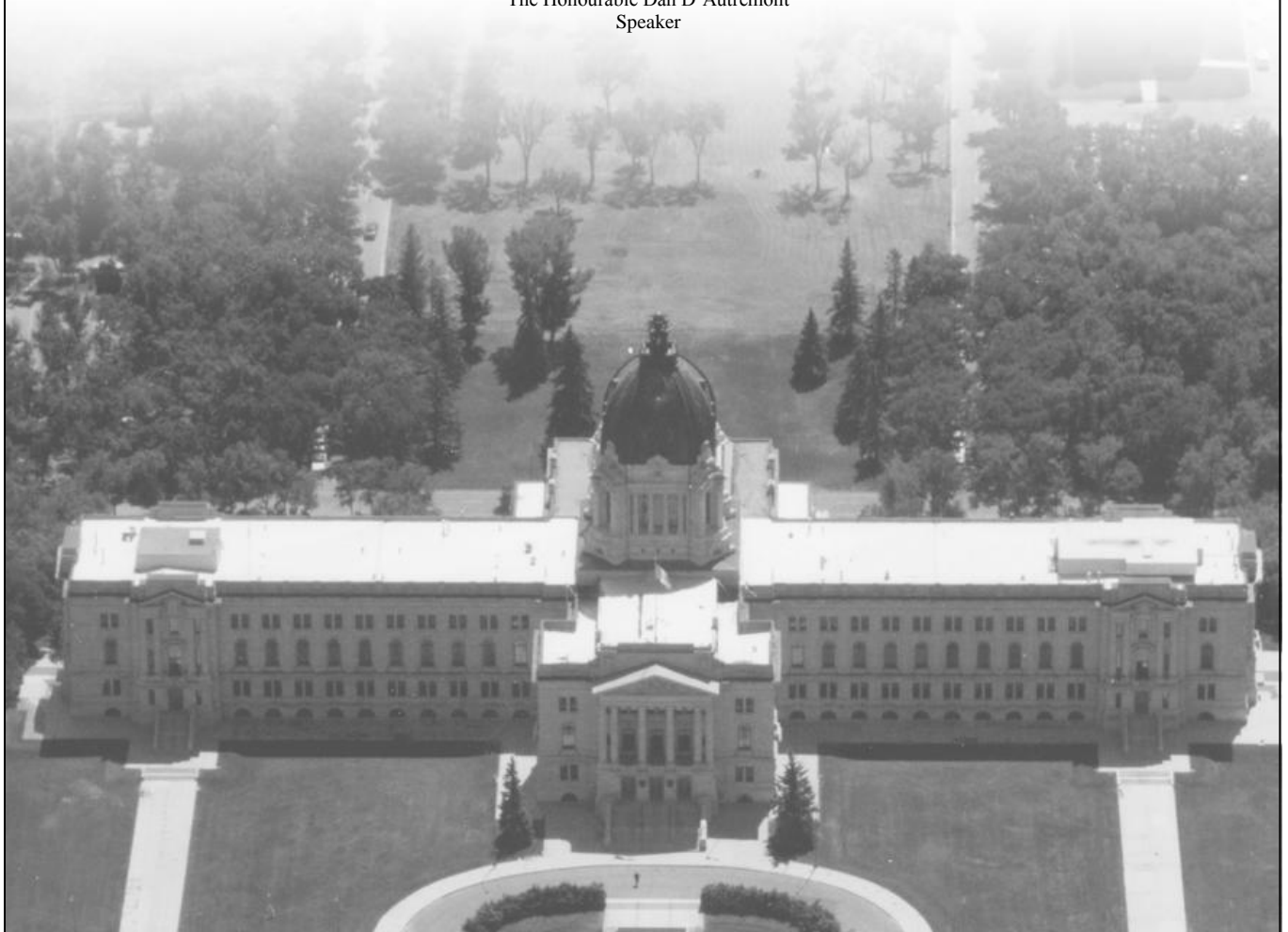
of the

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
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's a pleasure to introduce some very special guests who've joined us today on the floor of the Assembly. The nine among us who have been nominated by their peers, by their friends, by their family to receive Saskatchewan's Volunteer Medal have joined us. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a pretty bright room and a pretty special place to be, but it could always use a little bit of brightening. And when this day happens every year in the calendar, the room is brightened indeed by the best among us, those who have given so much of themselves over a lifetime to their passions, to their avocations, and have made this province the place that it is today. And we want to welcome them to their Assembly.

As you will know, Mr. Speaker, because you were there, we had the chance to more formally acknowledge them over at Government House this morning at the annual ceremony for the Volunteer Medal. We were joined by the Provincial Secretary, and by a number of members of the cabinet, as well MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] who represent these fine individuals. And of course we were hosted, Mr. Speaker, by Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor and His Honour as well.

Mr. Speaker, eight of the honourees are with us today in the gallery, and they're going to be formally introduced in a moment by their respective members of the Legislative Assembly. And a ninth, the former Weyburn city councillor, Marlene Nedelcov of the city of Weyburn, who had given so much to that community and to southeast Saskatchewan but who we lost in February, was honoured posthumously today as well. And representing Marlene is her daughter Susan. She's here as well today, Mr. Speaker.

Last month Stats Canada reported incredibly that Saskatchewan again has the highest volunteer rate of anyplace in all the Dominion of Canada at about 60 per cent of adult citizens helping out in some way, giving of themselves to their community, to their neighbours, to their province, to those who need the help the most. We honour some of those leading volunteers, of those 60 per cent or so, on a day like today.

Mr. Speaker, for those of us who were there for the citations, who might read the biographies of these everyday heroes, you would be right to wonder how they find time to eat or sleep because they're also of course pursuing, and they have been through their lives, pursuing their various occupations and vocations through the year while they were giving.

Mr. Speaker, this is just a very small token, the medal itself just a bauble compared to their great contribution to our province, and we just want to thank them. We especially want to thank as well their family members and their friends who have shared

them with the rest of the province who made their giving and their generosity possible. We honour both the recipients and their families and friends today, and we welcome them all to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join in on behalf of the official opposition and welcome all of our special guests here today to the Assembly, but especially to welcome the volunteers.

These people have shown us that they care about their neighbours, they care about their communities, and they care about our province. And our simple task today is to say thank you to these nine individuals and remember that they are symbolic of all of our communities and all of our people in our province who serve each other. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you very much for everything that you have done.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to this House, Mr. Allan Bailey from the constituency of Yorkton who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

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

Mr. Parent: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Mr. Marcel de la Gorgendière from the constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to introduce Mr. Joseph Dubielewicz from the constituency of Kindersley who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it is my privilege to introduce Mr. Clarence Johnson from the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Dr. Anne Leis from the constituency of Saskatoon Sutherland who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Marchuk: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Mr. Don McDougall from the constituency of Regina Douglas Park who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce Ms. Susan Nedelcov-Anderson from the constituency of Weyburn-Big Muddy who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal for her mother, Mrs. Marlene Nedelcov.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Ms. Sandra Wankel from the constituency of Regina Elphinstone-Centre who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce Mrs. Evelyn Wojcichowsky from the constituency of Saskatoon Greystone who today received the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all the members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce 36 very beautiful young students from the grade 10 class at the Yorkton Regional High School in Yorkton, accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Perry Ostapowich, and chaperone, Ms. Lyla Cugini.

Noteworthy, Mr. Speaker, two members in that group I'd like to point out — I hope I don't embarrass them — one is Ms. Carlie Neufeld. Carlie, could you give us a wave? Carlie, she got a hold of me on Facebook. She's wanting to take part in the 15th annual Brayden Ottenbreit Close Cuts for Cancer this year. So you know, we're recognizing volunteers in this House today, and another one starting out very young and that someday we may see on this floor getting her own volunteer medal. So I'd like to acknowledge her as well as Brooklyn Jackson. Brooklyn, can you wave? There's Brooklyn.

It just so happens, I think Brooklyn, I don't want to embarrass her either, but she's one of the Premier's biggest fans. And I was questioning him about that earlier. I don't get it. But we are a bit partial to the Premier, but I'd just ask all members to welcome all of these great people to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, it gives me some great pride and honour today to introduce in the west gallery from Saskatoon, Larry and Rosemarie Hazelwenter. Do you want to give us a wave? Today's the first day that they've actually toured this magnificent building, Mr. Speaker, and along with them is a young couple, Lorne and Noreen Knibbs, who also acted as part-time tour guides. Now

of course everyone in the House that knows I've introduced Lorne and Noreen before; I'm their favourite son-in-law. I'm their only son-in-law, mind you, but that's got no bearing whatsoever, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like to ask everyone to welcome Lorne, Noreen, Larry, and Rosemarie to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for extended leave, please?

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, at the entrance to the Assembly, I would like to introduce three people integral to my P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote MLA office. Sharon Kuhn is sitting on the left — give us a wave — is my constituency assistant. I first met Sharon a couple of years ago at a gathering of like-minded Saskatchewan Party members. Sharon came out with me to door knock and heard first-hand the hopes and fears, the concerns and dreams of our constituency of Northcote. With Sharon as my eyes, ears, and voice while I am here in Regina, there have been more than 75 Northcote residents that have been helped since opening our doors in December.

Donna Barr, sitting in the middle, is a shining example of our Saskatchewan entrepreneurs. Through her grit and determination, skills, and personality, she is building her website design and photography business. As she has said many times and I quote, "Since Brad Wall and the Saskatchewan Party, I am doing better now than I ever have been." This single mom is trained in journalism, copywriting, and skilled in photography. With her on our team, we are able to capture the stories, passions, dreams, and sense of community of Northcote.

Brent Gerlach is the newest member of the team and casual constituency assistant. Skilled as a graphic artist and web designer, the patience needed for such a craft was utilized many, many times as he struggled to regain speech and indeed his life after enduring a stroke. I am so fortunate to have his sense of humour and determination on our team. He has designed our website and continues to smile despite the myriad of changes I ask for to get our website to reflect me, the MLA, and our voice for the community of Northcote, so that together we are making Northcote in Saskatchewan the best place to be. Mr. Speaker, this team of Sharon, Donna, and Brent are a godsend. Please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and

through you, I'm very pleased to introduce to this Assembly my Aunt Monica here today, Monica Wotherspoon, who joins us in the east gallery here today from Indian Head. Monica's here to celebrate the life of her sister, Marlene Nedelcov, here today and the contributions that she's provided southeast Saskatchewan and Weyburn.

I'd like to thank my aunt for joining us here today. Aunt Monica served as the kindergarten teacher for many years in Indian Head. Her husband, my uncle Glen, serves as my fishing partner and good friend. And certainly they're known to all in Indian Head for having the most beautiful yard, possibly, in the province. But it's a pleasure to have aunt Monica joined here today and certainly to join in the thoughtful celebration of Marlene Nedelcov. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of this honourable Assembly, 14 grade 7 students from the Herbert School seated in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. And I'd ask them to give us a wave. There you are. Accompanied by their teachers, Devin Bitschy, Randy McCullough, and chaperone, Sarah Doerksen.

I hope that you will all enjoy your time at the legislature and that you will find it both educational and interesting. I also hope that you will enjoy this beautiful building that is 100 years old this year and is yours. I look forward to meeting you at 2:30. And I ask all members to extend a warm welcome to the grade 7 class from Herbert and their teachers and chaperone.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the member from Yorkton in introducing a student from the Yorkton Regional, not because she was involved in the Miss Teen Saskatchewan competition last year, not because she's an A student taking an advanced English program, not because she dances in the Ukrainian dance program, but because she takes her schooling at the Yorkton Regional High School and is just a tremendous student. But she lives in Kamsack where her home is and the fact is that she is the daughter of Warren and Sherry Todosichuk, great leaders in east central Saskatchewan. So I'd ask all members to have her, first of all, wave so that my colleagues know who she is, and welcome Kennedy Todosichuk to her Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — One last quick introduction, Mr. Speaker. I would be remiss if I didn't introduce these individuals. With their father, Allan Bailey, in this Assembly today is two businessmen from Yorkton along with their wives. On the floor is Raymond Bailey. Do you want to give us a wave, Raymond? He's the baby of the family. And Boyd is the eldest. Boyd. And their wives are seated up in the east gallery. We have Rhonda married to Boyd, and Crystal married to Raymond.

So I'd ask all members to welcome them and also acknowledge one other fact, Mr. Speaker. Their mother, Colleen, we lost to cancer in 2006. But interestingly enough, in 2004, she was also

awarded the Volunteer Medal of Saskatchewan. So I'd ask all members to acknowledge that and recognize the Baileys in this Assembly.

[13:45]

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

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to introduce to you and through you to all members, a father and son from Regina who are serving our country with great distinction overseas. They're in your gallery today. Thank you, gentlemen.

A senior officer with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Chief Superintendent Everett Summerfield is home on leave from his position as Canadian police commander in Kabul, Afghanistan. Before joining the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] 38 years ago, the chief superintendent served in the Canadian Forces military police here in Canada and abroad.

Lieutenant Coady Summerfield serves in the third battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry based in Edmonton. He graduated from Saint Mary's University in Halifax and completed his infantry officer training in St. Jean, Quebec and Oromocto, New Brunswick. He was posted to third battalion PPCLI [Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry] in February 2011 and deployed with his unit in July to Kabul at Camp Eggers and Camp Phoenix. Like his father, Lieutenant Summerfield is home for a few days of well-deserved rest and recreation with family members who have been waiting many months to see them.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to thank these outstanding gentlemen for their dedicated service to Canada and to welcome them to their legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions calling for greater protection for late-night retail workers by passing Jimmy's law. And we know in the early morning hours of June 20th, 2011, Jimmy Ray Wiebe died from his injuries when he was shot. He was working at a gas station in Yorkton, alone and unprotected from intruders. We know that British Columbia and other provinces have brought several safety precautions through law, including a requirement that workers cannot be alone during late-night, early-morning hours. And if they are required to work, there must be protective barriers such as locked doors and protective glass.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately enact Bill 601, Jimmy's law, to ensure greater safety for retail workers who work late-night hours.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Saskatoon. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to present a petition from the Beauval area. And the prayer reads as follows:

Therefore we, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan undertake to upgrade the section of Highway 165 between Beauval and the English River First Nation by adding proper lighting for pedestrian traffic, by adding space for pedestrians on the highways and its bridges, and by properly surfacing the road with the material needed for a busy, heavy-haul road.

And the people that have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are primarily from Beauval. And I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to education in our province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party government to make education a top priority by establishing a long-term vision and plan, with resources, that is responsive to the opportunities and challenges in providing the best quality education and that reflects Saskatchewan's demographic and population changes; that is based on proven educational best practices, that is developed through consultation with the education sector and that recognizes the importance of educational excellence to the social and economic well-being of our province and students for today and for our future.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Kindersley and Regina. I so submit.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of the province who are concerned about how some seniors are treated in Saskatchewan. And these individuals are calling on the Sask Party government to support the Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that many Saskatchewan seniors live on fixed incomes and are victims of physical, emotional, and financial abuse; that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to social and economic security and a right to live free from poverty; that Saskatchewan seniors have a right to

protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to enact a Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights which would provide Saskatchewan seniors with social and economic security and protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of trappers of Saskatchewan. The current regulations being enforced are creating challenges that are a concern for our traditional trappers. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the experience gained through practical experience be valued; and in so doing to cause the government to review the current legislation and regulations with respect to trapping regulations and firearm use in consultation with traditional resource users.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good northern people. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Journalists for Human Rights Saskatchewan

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to highlight some inspirational work of Ms. Raquel Fletcher. Raquel is a local journalist, writer, and photographer. Her work was showcased at a photojournalism exhibit and fundraiser at the University of Regina on March 31st. I was pleased to attend.

As a member of Journalists for Human Rights Saskatchewan, Raquel participated in an international journalism internship in Ghana, West Africa. Her photo exhibit entitled, *This is Africa* shared a wide-reaching array of human rights stories and highlighted the unique culture and national pride of the local people. It aimed to illustrate Raquel's personal experiences, as well to break down stereotypes of the continent by displaying images of a colourful and vibrant country. As I examined the images, I noticed that each photo shared a unique human story.

The evening was also a fundraiser for graduating U of R [University of Regina] journalism student Noah Wernikowski who will be embarking on the same project in May and continuing the work of the local chapter of Journalists for Human Rights to inform Saskatchewan residents of human rights issues around the world. It was a fantastic event that told a story that challenged stereotypes and assumptions. I ask all in this Assembly to join with me to recognize the meaningful work and leadership of Journalists for Human Rights and

specifically that of Raquel Fletcher and Noah Wernikowski. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Missing Children's Month

Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to proclaim Missing Children's Month in Saskatchewan. This year marks the 21st Green Ribbon campaign by Child Find Saskatchewan, which culminates on May 25th with the advent of National Missing Children's Day. According to Child Find Saskatchewan president Phyllis Hallatt, thousands of children are reported missing in Canada every year. Missing Children's Month is a vital opportunity to raise awareness at home here in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada on behalf of missing children and their families.

The Green Ribbon of Hope campaign is recognized nationally as a symbol to remember children and to seek their safe return. It originated at a Holy Cross Secondary School in St. Catharines, Ontario following the disappearance of one of their students, Kristen French. In memory of this tragedy, the students and faculty created the green ribbon to increase national awareness for missing children.

Our government is committed to the safety and well-being of all Saskatchewan children. That is why we are wearing today the green ribbon, and that is why we are encouraging all Saskatchewan citizens to do their part and put on a green ribbon of hope this month to raise awareness of missing children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Aboriginal Youth Leadership Summit

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House today to draw attention to a very special event that took place in Prince Albert very recently. That event, Mr. Speaker, was the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Summit. With the goal of spreading a positive message of empowerment and furthering education, the summit drew over 100 youth from Prince Albert and area to hear the stories of inspiring leaders in the Aboriginal community which included scientists, athletes, and actors.

One of the highlights for the attendees, Mr. Speaker, was the presentation by keynote speaker and a former Prince Albert resident Justin Rain. As a successful actor with his own story of struggle, Justin addressed the audience with the goal of inspiring youth to pursue their creative expression. Mr. Speaker, Justin Rain is currently appearing on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network's *Blackstone*, but he's also known for his roles in *Two Indians Talking* and of course the very popular *Twilight Saga*, the *Eclipse*.

During his presentation, Justin spoke carefully about peer pressure. He spoke candidly about his problems with drugs, as well as his struggle as a lost teenager growing up in the Prince Albert area. He went on to urge the youth to find things they're passionate about and to pursue them as he did to overcome

periods of heartache and difficulty.

On behalf of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers, the speakers, and everyone involved for inspiring and bringing hope to youth by organizing this very important and wonderful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

International Workers' Day

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today and celebrate International Workers' Day. The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the province's workers and their indispensable contributions to strong communities and a growing economy. As we continue to develop this fine province, it is employees who make much of this progress possible, and their safety and continued prosperity is at the top of the mind for government.

As of March 2012, Saskatchewan had 529,000 people working in the province, an increase of approximately 5,200 jobs. Strong employment conditions are evident in diverse areas of the economy. Saskatoon's employment numbers are up 3.3 per cent, while Regina's has increased by 5.4 per cent year over year. Saskatchewan is experiencing record employment, and this includes our Aboriginal population. 2011 saw the highest level of Aboriginal employment in the province's history. In addition Aboriginal youth employment is up 9.2 per cent, indicating that investments in training and education of youth is resulting in transferable job skills.

We will all work hard to continue these positive employment trends and maintain one of the country's lowest unemployment rates. I invite the members of this Assembly to please join me in recognizing the contributions of our Saskatchewan workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Father-Daughter Gala Fundraiser

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to talk about the Father-Daughter Gala which I attended with my two daughters this past Friday in Prince Albert — Alyssa and Mackenzie.

The gala was a fundraiser for the Prince Albert Raiders education fund and the upgrading of the Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon. The special event was organized by the Prince Albert Raiders Hockey Club. The inaugural gala included father and daughter portraits, flowers for all the ladies in attendance, and entertainment provided by the comedian duo of Double Vision. The event also held a silent auction of fabulous items and an elimination draw featuring a variety of prizes for ticket holders.

One thing was very clear, Mr. Speaker, daughters who want auction items should not be messed with. In the end, Mr. Speaker, they had absolutely no problem spending their father's money. Case in point, Mr. Speaker, is that one of my daughters

decided I should purchase an evening out in Saskatoon to see the *Jersey Boys* Broadway show, along with a dinner out and a night stay in a hotel. Then, Mr. Speaker, the other daughter, not to be upstaged by her older sister, decided a night stay in an executive suite at another hotel in Saskatoon was in order. Like any special father and daughter time, it's the memories that are important, Mr. Speaker, not the cost. Or that's what we decided to tell their mom when we got home that night.

I would like to acknowledge the organizers and attendees for making the gala a success. The organizers were aiming to sell at least 150 tickets, and they exceeded this expectation overwhelmingly by selling out. That meant that about 100 fathers were in attendance and over 200 daughters were ranging in ages from 4 years old to 29 years and holding, Mr. Speaker. We all had a fun evening together.

On behalf of the province of Saskatchewan, I ask all members to thank the generous individuals from both Prince Albert and Saskatchewan who assisted those in need and help to make our province a great place to live. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Regina Resident Completes Sahara Marathon

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we acknowledged the 100 years of Huskie athletic contributions to our province. I stand today to recognize a constituent of Regina Douglas Park and the University of Regina who successfully completed what is considered the hardest cross-country foot race in the world, the Marathon des Sables in the Moroccan Sahara Desert.

Stacey Shand has competed in running events in the Northwest Territories — a race aptly called the Cold Foot Classic — Costa Rica and Europe, and has scaled Africa's two tallest peaks, Kilimanjaro and Kenya, within a week of each other, Mr. Speaker, all in the pursuit of pushing her mental and physical limits.

When not racing, Stacey works as a lecturer and community research coordinator at the University of Regina. The University of Regina is very fortunate to have an instructor of this calibre. And as the Premier remarked yesterday, accomplishments of this magnitude only serves to focus attention on our province.

The Marathon des Sables is a seven-day, 243-kilometre race through sometimes knee-deep sand. Each competitor carries a 30-pound pack containing a sleeping bag, clothing, food, a snake and scorpion anti-venom pump, and a ration of water. Mr. Speaker, you can get more water if needed but then you're time penalized for each request — give me a break.

A guidebook is provided to racers along with a compass which helped Stacey navigate her way through the course at night — and get this — a sand storm at 81.5 kilometres. Stacey finished second among Canadian women and third among women of North and South America. A fantastic accomplishment.

Please join me in applauding a courageous and determined

Regina and Saskatchewan resident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Grade 6 Students Start Recycling Program

Mr. Phillips: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the excellent work by a group of grade 6 students in the town of Star City. These 10 students, under the guidance of Mrs. Kathleen Stobbs, started a community-wide recycling project in November of 2011.

The object of the project was to improve Star City environmentally and socially. The class decided to offer free recycling pickup the first Friday of every month. The way it worked, Mr. Speaker, was to accept calls from the residents ahead of time and then the teacher and students would pick up the recycling material from the residents during the noon hour. After that, Mr. Speaker, the students would make sure the cardboard, paper, tin cans, plastics, and bottles were ready to be recycled. Then the students would bring the material to the bins or to Sarcan for recycling. In the words of Mrs. Stobbs, little did the students know that this class assignment would turn into a program that they would all be so passionate about.

This past February the town of Star City nominated the class for the Saskatchewan waste reduction awards. And recently it was announced that this grade 6 class won the award for youth and students.

I would like all members to join with me in congratulating Mrs. Stobbs and her grade 6 students on their initiative and their energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Impact of Federal Crime Legislation

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Justice minister said once again that the government did not know exactly what the impact of Bill C-10 would be on the provincial justice system. He said that the number of inmates in provincial prisons will increase as a result but he couldn't say by how much. In an interview yesterday the Ombudsman said, "The estimates that seem to be the most reliable in terms of the impact on the provincial system is about a 20 per cent increase."

Has the Premier learned anything more about the impact of Bill C-10 on the provincial system? And does the Premier agree with the Ombudsman that a 20 per cent increase in the number of inmates is a reliable estimate?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you for the question, Mr. Speaker. We've indicated before that we've chosen not to participate in speculation on this area. We've looked at what's taken places in other provinces, and we know that speculations

vary widely. We know that this Bill will have an impact on our inmate population. We also know that our correctional facilities are at or near capacity. We know we will have to increase capacity at some point in the reasonably near future.

It would be premature and foolish to plan for an expenditure that may not be necessary or, on the other hand, may not be sufficient. We will be careful and we will be prudent with the public's resources, and we will make a good and a right decision when the time comes. The federal government has indicated to us they will work with us on proclamation dates so we have reasonable time and can make a good plan in this area.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, in his report the Ombudsman writes, "Correctional centres in Saskatchewan already house almost twice as many inmates as they were designed for. With the recent passage of the federal omnibus crime bill, this situation has the potential to deteriorate [even] further." Yesterday the Minister of Justice admitted that not only is there double bunking going on in provincial facilities; there is some triple bunking.

How can the Premier support Bill C-10 when he says he doesn't know the financial cost to the province and he says he can't tell us what the impact will be on the inmate population at a time when triple bunking in provincial facilities is already occurring?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the time when the members opposite were in government, they replaced a facility. But during that time, they did not add a single space in the correctional facilities. We inherited a significant deficit. We have made increases that will allow, with double bunking, to increase the ability to hold the prisoners by an additional 204. We also have other plans on the way to increase space.

We will do our best, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we've got the best possible facilities. There will be a transitional period. We will work through that transitional period. Unlike the members opposite, we are not sitting back idly waiting. We have made an increase, and we are going to continue to make further increases as are necessary and as are warranted and as are financially prudent, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, Bill C-10 will have both short-term and long-term impacts on the province's correctional system. Even without Bill C-10, there's overcrowding and triple bunking. The minister admitted yesterday, classrooms are being converted to dorms. The Ombudsman says, "Overcrowding does pose serious health and safety risks for the inmates, but it also poses risks for the corrections workers tasked with supervising them."

My question to the Premier: does he believe that triple bunking inmates or even mass housing inmates by converting

classrooms to dormitories is safe for inmates and for correctional staff?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want to talk about safety, we'll talk about safety. We'll talk about child sex predators and getting them off the street. Mr. Speaker, we'll talk about people that traffic large amounts of drugs at or near our schools, and we'll want to get those people off the street. And if those people have to be triple bunked, so be it, Mr. Speaker.

We want the criminals off our streets. We want to have safe streets. We are taking steps to ensure that our streets are safe. And the provisions that are in Bill C-10 that will make our streets safe, we will support those provisions. We asked for those provisions, Mr. Speaker, and we will see that those provisions provide safety to our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, people ought not be returned back to society when they have not completed their sentences or when they have not completed an adequate rehabilitation program. We are going to continue to do that, and we will work to ensure that we do not have child sex predators on our street, to ensure that we do not have large quantities of drugs. Those are the steps that we will take for safety, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Support for Northern Housing

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, on April 30th, 2012 on behalf of the Minister of Social Services, I took notice of a question asked by the member from Cumberland on the rental purchase option program. The rental purchase option was introduced in 2001 and helped 138 northern households to become homeowners between 2001 and 2012. As well since 2007, our government has invested 31.6 million to build 256 housing units in the North.

The rental purchase option program was never intended to be offered indefinitely, and the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation conducted an assessment of the program and presently it is on hold pending consideration of the information gathered in the assessment.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Proposed Urban Development Project

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that the minister responsible is considering a proposal to help pay for a domed stadium in Regina. Unfortunately when the minister was questioned about the proposal he made it clear that the Sask Party government was not prepared to share any information with the taxpayers of Saskatchewan about how much money they might be on the hook for.

In 2007 the Sask Party campaigned on being one of the most open and transparent governments in the history of Saskatchewan. Well they have a chance to live up to that, Mr.

Speaker. This government has not been forthcoming with the people of Saskatchewan from day one on the stadium project. They have a chance to do so today. To the minister: how much money has the city of Regina requested and will the Sask Party government be paying part of the cost for a new stadium in Regina?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the question. We did indeed receive a proposal from the city of Regina late last week, a proposal that encompasses the major revitalization of the city of Regina including a stadium, including the development of the CP [Canadian Pacific] yard site and development of the existing Mosaic site. That proposal has asked the government for some \$230 million out of a proposal of \$348 million.

Mr. Speaker, we behave in a very professional manner. This proposal was sent to us in confidence and we extended that courtesy to the city of Regina to ask that that information be released. They okayed that information and here it is.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — We thank the minister for the actual information today, Mr. Speaker. We're glad to have that on the table. The minister has said that everything is on the table when it comes to the total project. So the \$230 million that the minister's referenced, what does that go for? Does that go for the stadium? Does that go for housing? What do those dollars represent, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, just to remind the member opposite, we went through a proposal. It was a partnership of the federal government, the provincial government, the city of Regina, and the Saskatchewan Roughriders. The federal government had chose not to participate in that particular proposal. At that time we'd asked the city of Regina to take the lead in this area. They've come up with a revitalization plan. The mayor is certainly the lead on that file. And we will continue to ask questions on it. What they provided us last week was a proposal. We have many questions, and earlier today I wrote a letter to the mayor of Regina asking for more information in that regard.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, will the minister table that letter with the Assembly?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to talk about the substance of the letter. The letter had just gone out earlier today to the mayor, and again I would ask that that letter be kept in confidence. But certainly I can talk about the . . . more information that's needed about the proposal, about the

specifics, about the funding model that is going to be used, about the involvement of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, and normal questions that would be asked in the process of due diligence that we are undertaking at this time.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, after the first answer, this set's been a little short on information coming from the minister. Again, the \$230 million, what does that represent? What is that request going to the province for? Is it for housing? Is it for the stadium? What does that, what do those dollars represent?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — That amount is the amount of money that the city of Regina is requesting for the entire revitalization program, and that includes the existing site for Mosaic Stadium, some of the ideas that the city is putting forward; the downtown site; the CP yard site, the revitalization there; and the stadium. That is the total ask that encompasses all of those three areas. Again we're asking for more information from the city. We will be doing that due diligence. We will be asking them questions like the involvement of the private sector.

But we've asked them to take the lead on this file. They are the lead on this file. They discussed it at city council yesterday, and we'll be waiting for more information that comes forward as this necessary proposal is being considered by levels of government. Mosaic Stadium, Taylor Field is 100 years old. I think all members will agree that something has to be done. It can't remain the status quo as it is now.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, in an earlier chapter in this story around what happens with the stadium, we came to a pass where the federal government said that they were out, that there wouldn't be federal money going towards this project, and at that point, the province followed suit. Is the province today saying that there is federal money on the table for this as well?

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, when we were involved in the joint project, we asked the federal government to put money forward for this project. They declined to do that at that time. They were very clear in that. We took them at their word. What we have asked now is the city of Regina to come with a proposal. They've come to us with an ask of the province. We're doing our due diligence. We have not had any discussions with the federal government as a province on this file.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — So one of the challenges that we have as the opposition, Mr. Speaker, is to get a clear picture of what this proposal really means for the people of Saskatchewan. We want to know what the Saskatchewan public dollars that are being

asked for in this project, we want to know what that leverage is in terms of the private sector potential involvement. And we want to know whether or not there is in fact some potential for federal involvement.

And again on this front, Mr. Speaker, the minister, after having come forward to talk about a proposal that provincial money had actually gone into helping to construct, Mr. Speaker, wasn't able to come forward with the information. We've got a lot more questions about this, and I guess we're glad about the key details on the total ask being put forward today.

To the minister: what more information is he going to provide the people of Saskatchewan so that they can make an informed decision about a huge project for the province of Saskatchewan?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — The member opposite outlines a number of questions. I can tell him we have similar questions. And we are asking the proponent, the author of the proposal that came to our attention last week, for that additional information.

I think what the more important question maybe is today, in the line of the questioning, is where does the NDP [New Democratic Party] stand? Are they in favour of a new stadium? Do they think that Mosaic Stadium, Taylor Field is in need of renewal? Mr. Speaker, that is something that we will continue to ask. But at the meantime, we will do our job as government. We will do our due diligence. And we will make sure that before any taxpayers' dollars are spent, that there's a judicious review of this proposal. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Saskatchewan Home Repair Program

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, on April 30th, 2012, on behalf of the Minister of Social Services, I took notice of a question asked by the member from Cumberland on the home repair program. Our government is pleased to announce last week the launch of the new Saskatchewan home repair program. This new program replaces the residential rehabilitation assistance program, known as RRAP, and provides solutions to reflect the current housing environment in Saskatchewan and to respond to our province's unique housing needs.

The Saskatchewan home repair program has been redesignated to be more accessible to homeowners and the rental property owners for repair and/or to adapt their dwellings. Assistance levels have been enhanced for all program components for repairs to recognize the increased cost of repairs. The new program also increased eligibility of households with disability-related issues to account for the additional costs.

These changes to the eligibility requirements and the maximum assistance levels will better target those who most need the

program. This targeted delivery will assist everyone in our province, including homeowners in the North.

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

Support for the Film Industry

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March this government chose to put an industry at risk by killing the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit. After the huge public outcry, the government then agreed to give the industry a short reprieve. Now only two months remain for the tax credit. People working in this industry are anxious and want to know what the future might hold for them in their own province. To the minister: what progress has the government made in working with the industry to come up with an acceptable replacement for the tax credit?

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

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier has suggested consideration of a real tax credit program that actually reduces income taxes payable by Saskatchewan-based film companies. Under the current program, as many will know, less than 2 per cent of the payments reduce taxes payable; over 98 per cent is just a grant.

The Premier also invited the industry to consider ways to help the film community transition from its current format to digital production, which is obviously the way of the future. Industry representatives are clearly intrigued with these ideas. A lot of good work, we know, has already been done on both sides of the table, and we look forward to sharing the results of our work with industry representatives in the very near future.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supporters of the industry have felt compelled to keep this conversation going and the industry alive. The end of the tax credit is looming and the minister has yet to provide a solution or even a progress report, which we just asked for, on finding a solution. People need clarity and concrete statements to make plans for their future. That's why they continue to push with petitions, letters, email, rallies, and other actions. Time is running out. Will the minister commit today to ensure an equal or better incentive is in place before the June 30th deadline?

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

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his budget response speech, the Premier said no to continuing a grant program that has paid tens and tens of millions of dollars to companies that don't even pay income tax in Saskatchewan. But he also said yes to creative alternatives. And here is a quote: "If you want to work with government to find a better way to sustain . . . the film industry . . . we are ready to work . . . to see what can be achieved together."

As I mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, the Premier suggested a real tax credit program that reduces the income taxes of Saskatchewan-based film companies. And he has suggested more research into digital production, which we all know is the wave of the future, not only for film, but for all of the creative industries. That's what we're doing. We're looking forward to the results with great enthusiasm, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The extension of the tax credit hasn't eased a single concern for people in the industry. In fact supporters of the film and television industry have ramped up their actions and want this government to listen. They need this government to listen and they need something in place before the tax credit is dead.

In recent weeks, those who make a living from this industry have been handing out what they call money cards, demonstrating the impact their work has on our economy in this province. These individuals work hard, pay taxes, and raise their families here in this province. On behalf of these families, Mr. Speaker, will the minister guarantee something is in place before June 30th or will he be the one responsible for putting a nail in the coffin of the film and television industry?

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

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously we're working on it. The member is fully aware of that. But while we're considering the work that's going on, we also need to consider other options.

Here is what Colin Craig who's the Prairie director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation has to say:

Chances are, the corner store by your house, the mechanic [that] you take your car to and the little machine shop you pass by on the way to work receive nothing in terms of government handouts.

Nor should they [he says] . . .

The reality is, the Wall government has tabled what many have called a "razor-thin" budget surplus this year. Thus, in order to balance the budget, it had to make some tough choices — give millions [of dollars] to movie companies or spend money on things like the new colon cancer screening program . . .

There are plenty of businesses out there that create jobs, buy local products and support the local economy without receiving subsidies. The film industry should be no different [he argues] . . .

Some may not like the film subsidy decision [he concludes], but the Premier made the right choice.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Support for Children in Care

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, on April 30th, 2012, on behalf of the Minister of Social Services, I took notice of a series of questions from the member from Saskatoon Riversdale on persons of sufficient interest and the federal benefits cuts.

Effective January 1st, 2012, the Canada Revenue Agency of the federal government implemented changes to the *Children's Special Allowance Act* which directly impacted extended family caregivers and their eligibility to apply for federal benefit payments for children placed in their care as persons of sufficient interest. That decision of the federal government affected some of the caregivers through a loss of a child disability benefit or universal child care benefit or GST [goods and services tax] credits or income tax exemptions.

The member opposite should be well aware that we do not have access to the federal database of recipients of various federal programs in order to identify who received a reduction. However, our government did have a concern of families seeing a reduction and therefore the Ministry of Social Services increased the maintenance payment amount it provides to extended families to ensure that they're able to meet the needs of the children. For those families who previously received the child disability benefit for a child in their care, the ministry will provide an equivalent amount as their benefit payment.

The member opposite asked for our government to take a serious look at the administration of the program and to use common sense and simply fix it. Again, Mr. Speaker, it is not our program to fix. The federal government decision affected one or more areas of different support payments. We cannot fix the federal government's administration.

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

Literacy Programming

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the literacy community has learned that the SaskSmart Innovations Fund is being cut, being terminated. This fund enabled community-based literacy plans focused on family, adult, and Aboriginal literacy to become a reality. The Saskatchewan Literacy Network has weighed in in a letter to myself and the minister at the end of last week. I quote: "The decision to end the SaskSmart Innovations Fund is premature and ought not to be taken without a full review or evaluation of the program."

Why is the minister cutting a program without consultation, without review, and without consideration of the impacts on communities and families across Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, there still would be funding for the Saskatchewan Literacy Network and the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network. There was one portion of the fund that we redirected into the literacy camps which are conducted mostly in the northern communities, but they are run to identify and give assistance through the summer months to the most vulnerable communities, vulnerable

children. It has proven to be an extremely successful program. The usage to the libraries of the children that access this program has increased not only for the children that have accessed the literacy camp but also for their families. It has been a very, very positive program and one well worth supporting.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, literacy skills are essential to development of a good, strong career and certainly development of being able to further education. The literacy camps themselves sound like a positive step but we know that community-based family, adult, and Aboriginal literacy programs which are funded through the SaskSmart Innovation Fund go a long way to supporting children's literacy and certainly strengthening economic opportunities such as jobs and training opportunities.

By cutting the SSIF [SaskSmart Innovations Fund] without consultation in favour of literacy camps, the minister is saying it's either one or the other. Why is the minister making this an either/or scenario instead of making literacy a priority and decisions based on evidence?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will not apologize for our government making decisions based on evidence. The literacy camps are showing great results, not only for the children involved in the literacy camps, but for the entire families. This will only benefit the communities. I'm surprised to hear the member from Athabasca chanting because it's helping many communities in his particular constituency. So you would think that he would be very, very interested in what the literacy camps are doing.

Mr. Speaker, there was another program. It was a grant program. It was year by year — it was not a continued program by any means — where different communities would make submissions for different programs. We did not find that those programs were showing the results that we're seeing from the literacy camps, so we are thinking that that is a far better way to spend our money.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — With leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has asked for leave to introduce a guest. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the members of the legislature, I'd like to introduce Arden Bradford who is a farmer by Saltcoats, is also a constituent of mine. But having

said that, we grew up together and been neighbours for many, many years. So I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming him to his legislature.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 38, *The Active Families Benefit Amendment Act, 2012* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 38, *The Active Families Benefit Amendment Act, 2012* and that the Bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 38 — *The Active Families Benefit Amendment Act, 2012*

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed until its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 38, *The Active Families Benefit Amendment Act, 2012* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

[14:30]

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 10, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2011* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 10, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2011* and that the Bill now be read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed with moving third reading.

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Tourism that Bill No. 10, *The Parks Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

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

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
and Justice**

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 9, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2011* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Tourism has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 9, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2011*. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

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

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Tourism that Bill No. 9, *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2011* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave regarding the committee designation, leave to make a motion regarding the committee designation of Bill No. 23.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to make a motion regarding Bill No. 23's committee designation. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House

Leader.

MOTIONS

Referral of Bill No. 23 to Committee

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

That Bill No. 23, *The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, 2011* be withdrawn from the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice and committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That Bill No. 23, *The Occupational Health and Safety Amendment Act, 2011* be withdrawn from the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice and committed to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? Is the Assembly in agreement?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 27

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 27 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2011/Loi de 2011 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Witherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, pleased to enter into discussion this afternoon as it relates to Bill No. 27, *The Education Amendment Act, 2011* and to offer a few comments to it. But really where I'd like to see this Bill is to be placed into committee because there's many questions for the minister on this front. There are challenges that have emerged with the introduction of this Bill — a Bill that stems not from consultation, a Bill that stems not from deriving good public policy, a Bill that stems from a middle of the campaign election promise from the Sask Party.

And so I guess that's what brings forward this Bill here today and why we're considering it. It has to do with the school year

and Labour Day. But what this Bill . . . And I suspect it's one of those circumstances, or maybe it's deliberate, where the Premier and government weren't maybe aware of the can of worms and the consequences to their behaviour when they made this change. Because certainly this announcement that was made in the middle of the campaign that is sort of a, maybe considered by the Sask Party at the time to be a low-impact announcement, is certainly anything but.

And what the potential is, is significant change within the educational environment here in Saskatchewan and how it impacts the stakeholders. And this is where it's so disappointing to see this piece of legislation that comes from a knee-jerk and quick campaign promise that's been ill-considered by way of the consequences back to students, to parents, to teachers, the entire education sector.

So more questions exist than answers at this point in time. That's why I don't intend to speak at length here today on this floor. But I do look forward to having many questions in committee and on behalf of the education sector who has many questions that exist on this front, different perspectives to be shared. What we do know is that this change takes parts of the Act that were enshrined in legislation and moves many portions of that, many sections of that Act into regulation, which then can be changed by the minister and the government without the oversight of this Assembly, without the consideration of this Assembly. And that raises some unique questions of their own.

But I guess what's interesting is when we're looking at this piece of legislation, that it highlights just how vacant this discussion has been of any vision that's putting students' best interests first, that's focusing on truly how do we enable and empower our education system to meet the needs of students. That's not what this Bill is about. This is where the energies of this government have been placed. And that's disappointing because I think that if this discussion were a discussion, one with goals of making improvements in education and what those goals that we strive towards are, and how we are going to get there and working with our partners to do so, then that would be a very worthy discussion.

If this legislation had any basis in evidence-based decision making or was respective of pedagogical reasons for making changes, then this would be a worthwhile discussion to have. If this was more than just a knee-jerk response in the dark of a campaign that didn't consider all the intended and unintended consequences that have arisen, then we'd be up for this discussion in a very meaningful way. But disappointingly, that hasn't been how this has proceeded. And we continue to see information as far as other jurisdictions being provided in a manner that's less than forthright, comparing things that aren't apples to apples as apples to apples. And we have a lot of considerations as we move forward to make sure that we're serving the best interests of students, that we're speaking to a positive vision of publicly funded education here in Saskatchewan and that simply that part of this whole discussion has been vacant.

So there's a lot of arbitrary decisions and a lot of rumours right now as well, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to this piece of legislation, lots of discussions with the different educational sector stakeholders, concerns and considerations that they want

to make sure are heard, and that there's answers to their questions. Certainly we'll be looking to committee too for those sorts of answers.

So all I have to say at this point in time is we'll move this Bill to committee. We'll take it there where we can ask the kinds of questions that are important to Saskatchewan students and parents and educators and the entire education sector. But this is another example of poor planning on behalf of the government. It's another example of no consultation with those who represent stakeholders who are directly impacted by changes. And you know, there's unintended consequences and intended consequences for which . . . put forward the potential for significant change that may very well not be in the best interests of Saskatchewan students.

And on that front, this goes well beyond any discussion around Labour Day and the school calendar. It gets into a whole bunch of other considerations for which we'll be raising in the time in committee. So the discussion is much broader. I'm not sure that the Premier was aware of the can of worms that he was opening up with the mid-campaign promise. Had there been an ounce of consultation that had occurred with educational stakeholders during that time before that announcement, then we wouldn't be at this point in time, and we'd have a piece of legislation that was much more clear in what it intended to do. But the sad reality is that we have legislation before us at this point in time, and we still don't have the regulation changes or the understanding of what those regulation changes are. And in fact it will still be, may be weeks and months before those are made clear to the education sector and to students.

More questions exist than answers at this point in time, but what's certain is that the discussion that this government chooses to have about education is vacant of any sort of vision towards what we can build as a publicly funded education system in this province. And it's vacant of discussion and consultation with Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan students, and the education sector. And it's this sort of reckless approach to deriving policy and legislation that problems arise.

And I guess there's many issues and concerns that exist across the education sector on this front as it stands right now, many questions that parents have, many questions that students have, many questions that teachers have, questions that school boards have. And educational administrators will be seeking answers to those questions. It's unfortunate that we have legislation, as I say again, before us that I think thought to tinker around with something they thought might be something that was just maybe popular, from their perspective, in playing with the calendar around Labour Day.

But now there's all these other impacts into education for which could have significant change. And certainly we aren't entered into a process that would be a desirable one that we should enter into, and that would be a process that should be about putting students and their education first and having a discussion about how we build towards the goals that we aspire in this province.

It's been a narrow-minded discussion and debate from the side opposite on this front. There's a much broader discussion that we must engage our exceptional stakeholders in this province

on, and it's been disappointing that hasn't been done to date in a meaningful way. We'll continue to ask good questions on behalf of stakeholders and Saskatchewan people and make sure, as best we can, that we understand the implications, or Saskatchewan people understand the implications of this legislation. But at this point in time, we look forward to those questions occurring at the committee structure.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 27, *The Education Amendment Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 27, *The Education Amendment Act, 2011* be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — The Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 28

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 28** — *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Now, Mr. Speaker, my comments won't be long as it relates to Bill No. 28, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011*. We look forward to having questions answered in committee as it relates to this Bill.

Again, as I've highlighted as it relates to Bill No. 27, what the Sask Party government has done with its legislation is go about a process without any consultation with the education sector or stakeholders or students without understanding those impacts on those various fronts and made legislative change that brings about significant change when you look at the two Bills, or the potential of those two Bills, that goes far beyond the election promise that was made in the fall.

Specific to this Bill, there's some aspects of financing that are being changed. And it's awfully interesting, Mr. Speaker, that we have a government that's in fact needlessly spending millions of taxpayers' dollars by having school boards borrow

at higher interest rates than government can deliver that financing. And back in 2009, when this government made changes to education financing, it was only expected that with changes to the education funding formula that this would be a matter that would be addressed.

Now the province, in entirety, controls education funding in this province for school boards in this province. And it doesn't make any sense whatsoever for school boards, who have no control over the revenues that they receive, to be going out and borrowing dollars to have some sort of a . . . the 35 per cent share in school capital projects. It should be entirely on the backs of the province at this point in time.

[14:45]

And the reason I say this is what's going on now is you have school boards that are going out and borrowing this 35 per cent share, and they're doing so at a much higher rate than the government financing rates or borrowing rates. So the cost of capital to government is much lower than what school boards are borrowing at. And then the government itself is simply transferring monies, paying those higher interest loans off with the dollars they transfer.

This is needlessly wasting dollars of taxpayers. And this is something that could be resolved and rectified quite simply, unless this is nothing more than having a desire to place debt onto school boards that doesn't show up on the GRF [General Revenue Fund] of this province. We know this government reports its finances in an inaccurate fashion that's inappropriate as it relates to public sector accounting standards. And this may be a simple manoeuvre to try to keep debt off the books of their GRF, which we know is an inappropriate way to report finances — the only province in Canada to be holding out in this fashion.

But what we know at the same time is that it's wasting millions of dollars. And if we look specifically at, you know, one school board, for example, here in Regina that went out and was forced to borrow \$16 million here this year for school capital projects, we know that that cost of borrowing comes at almost 1 per cent higher of the . . . that the rate that government can receive, and that this will needlessly waste almost \$2 million, or \$2 million over the period of time that those loans are being delivered. So we're wasting \$2 million that could otherwise be reprioritized to priorities of Saskatchewan people, either in education or in debt reduction or anywhere else. So we are certainly challenging this government to fix something that is needlessly wasting dollars and is certainly not in the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

So that's one of the aspects I thought I would mention as it relates to some of the financing in education as it stands right now. It's certainly not in the best interests of taxpayers to spend more than they need to on high-interest loans. And government should be stepping up to the plate, taking responsibility for the changes they've made, and securing that financing and doing so in the most efficient, effective way on behalf of taxpayers.

As I've said, the legislation that's been put forward by the Sask Party has been vacant of any sort of a broader discussion as far as a vision of publicly funded education in Saskatchewan and

how we can make meaningful improvements. It is resultant of changes in the election or announcements in the election or an announcement in the election, about a Labour Day holiday in the school calendar year.

But this is really not the point where there's a whole bunch of broad-based questions that exist by stakeholders and by parents and by students all across the province, about significant changes that could be brought on by way of these legislated changes. And it certainly is representative of a government that has been unwilling to engage with stakeholders who are impacted by their decisions. And that failure to consult with the education sector on this front or with parents and with students has put this government in a position, with legislation before us with consequences that likely have never been considered by the Premier and government. And that's unfortunate, but certainly we have the committee process before us to ask many of these questions as we move forward.

So at this point in time, I look forward to further questions on behalf of Saskatchewan people that I'll be bringing forward to committee and to I guess try to answer some of the questions that exist across the education sector and by Saskatchewan parents and Saskatchewan students, and we'll do so at the committee structure. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 28, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 28, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2011* be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Bill No. 37

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Hutchinson that **Bill No. 37** — *The Tourism Saskatchewan Act* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on the

debate on Bill No. 37, *The Tourism Saskatchewan Act*. And it's been interesting to see the conversations, the letters, interviews with the media, different individuals, whether it's emails, the letter writing, the phone calls, the conversations that are going on in our province, the frustration, and I think the way . . . It's not so much that they're going to go into it. I think it's the way this legislation, this Bill, was introduced with no respect to the industry, no consultation to the industry. They were blind sided.

We've heard all kinds of comments. They were in a daze. People are making comments, and they're wondering why. And they're trying to understand what's the purpose. What is truly the purpose of this Bill? Some are claiming it's to take control of maybe the advertising, the marketing dollars — that's just about \$8 million — that if it's turned into a Crown corporation, the minister, the government of the day will have control over it. That's been some of the concerns people are raising. My colleagues have raised these concerns as they've spoke to this Bill and joined the debate on this Bill. There's quite a bit of concern, the process. What is the reasoning?

And the government and the minister himself says, well they want to have greater influence, more control. We've heard one of the ministers talk about, as to the marketing. So when you say take better control, when you say take control of, people are really concerned. And I think that should ring alarm bells to many people, and I think it has. I think truly the government is not responding well. They're acting like they're not hearing it, and that's fine. They can sit there and act. But I think my colleagues, myself, and I think the press, the industry, Tourism Saskatchewan, the board, the CEO [chief executive officer], I think past board members, staff — they're all concerned. When you have a report . . . And I want to be very clear: as an arm's-length agency was doing an excellent job.

People are very proud. And they have moved the tourism sector in such an area, and they reached out to such a wide audience. They targeted certain areas, and they were really good at bringing in tourism to Saskatchewan. And we have a province that's very proud. We have a beautiful province. We have many parks. We have a lot of sights for people to see in this beautiful province. We have a lot of good people who are taking training on how to treat tourists when they come to our province. There's all these things happening with the industry. There's growth. There's movement.

But unfortunately we see the challenges that were being faced when you have a government that wants to take control. And the concern very clearly is the advertising dollars. And I'll be honest: what is going to change? What will their . . . What will the advertising look like? What will the marketing tools be? Who will have better control than the government? And that's some of the concerns.

And they talk about the report. They had a report, and it was a review in 2009. In that review it stated very clearly, and I think all parties that took part in that, the one thing that came out loud and clear was Tourism Saskatchewan should remain at arm's length of government. Well I don't know how come a government can want to push forward to have a review, and then get the report and then not follow it when you have it.

And like I've said earlier, and I know in question period very

clearly, after the government introduced this Bill, Tourism Saskatchewan did a survey. Over 600 of their members, tourism industry individuals, responded to the survey — over 600 of them. Almost 70 per cent were opposed to what this government was introducing — legislation, Bill 37 — were opposed to the way they were doing it. And nothing has changed. The government is just going to go ahead with the Bill just like we've seen the government move forward on other legislation and Bills that they have passed.

We see frustration. We see an industry. And you know, it's interesting. Some people are even a little nervous to come forward and launch their complaints or concerns. And I sometimes wonder why, why would individuals, Mr. Speaker, in a province and a government that says it will be accountable; it will listen to the people; it will be humble. We heard all these things from the Premier, his government, the ministers. Well if that's what they were referring to, a lot of people aren't seeing it, that accountability.

We've asked questions in here. We've raised concerns when the Bills were being introduced. And the government either doesn't answer or talks about what the previous government did or didn't do. Well sometimes if you're going to hold the government to account and you want the government, then you ask questions. And you should have those questions asked. Whether it's in question period, whether it's on Bills, whether it's in committee, whether it's estimates, you hope that you'll get the information. You're asking on behalf of the people. And there has been many letters raising concern.

And the tourism industry, I think very clearly — and again I think it's very clear we need to repeat this — the tourism sector has done an excellent job. We know that. Tourism Saskatchewan, with its partnerships that it has created and has made, has been a huge success. It has benefited lots of tourism business, whether it's outfitters, whether the fishing camps, whether it's the parks, whether it's communities. It has reached out, and it's done an excellent job. We should be supporting them, not blindsiding Tourism Saskatchewan by trying to take control of its marketing dollars.

And government says, the funding mainly comes from government. Well I think very clearly . . . I don't know exactly dollar to dollar. We've tried to establish that — we've heard different numbers — at the end of the day to see exactly what the budget is of Tourism Saskatchewan and how much partner industry puts in. Majority comes from government, we realize that. But when you have an agency like Tourism Saskatchewan that's doing an excellent job that it has been doing, no consultation with them about doing this, it's no different than we see with, I guess, the film industry and how the problems that they're faced with and the challenge they're being faced with by this government's decision to go ahead without consulting.

So it's pretty frustrating. Pretty frustrating for the industry, when you see a government act the way it is. It says it wants to be accountable. It wants to work with the people and it doesn't do that.

Clearly the tourism sector has continued to move forward and wants to continue. And I know there are a lot of questions need

to be asked, and we will be asking those questions. They have to be asked in committee before this moves forward.

And I know that there are many individuals . . . We have a lot of letters, and we've heard a lot of response. The media has taken us up. So when we look at this and we wonder why the minister isn't following the review, the report of 2009 that he commissioned or the government commissioned to go ahead, why they are not following the recommendations.

And we have a government that likes to pick and choose what reports, the way other provinces are doing things. Oh, if that province is doing it, we're going to follow it. They pick and choose what they want to move their own agenda forward.

So is there a hidden agenda? Well I think we all know that there is a hidden agenda. They're moving it forward. We see some of the legislation that's been passed in this session. We have worked clearly with them. And they talk about all the different things, and yet they want to talk about being accountable.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's clearly a problem for many people, the industry, Saskatchewan residents. There are a lot of questions that need to be asked, but I think we've seen a lot of people weigh in on this. And in the frustration, concern, they're very concerned about where is the organization of Tourism Saskatchewan going. Will it have the same, the impact? Will it reach out to the type of, I guess, audience it wants to? Will it have the same effect, or will it be changing when it's taken over by a Crown corporation?

And the government has an opportunity to rethink this. The government can say, whoa, we need to put the brakes on here. We're seeing the industry, we're seeing the partners, we're seeing our partners concerned about this. Maybe we should rethink this. Maybe we should slow down a bit. Maybe we should take a breather and talk it over, consult. Will they do that? No. No, we don't see that.

[15:00]

And it's unfortunate because we've tried to raise concerns on different Bills, giving the government an option to out. We've seen this government move ahead, Mr. Speaker, on the different Bills that we've brought forward. And when there are issues, we've asked them. It's very concerning when you see a government as big as it is. And we hear them say that, you know, look at the size of the government; look at the size of opposition.

But the opposition truly has a role to play on behalf of the people it represents. And it's not just in our own constituents. There are people who do not agree with the government, whether they're in other constituents, who have issues and concerns. And our role is to make sure that we hold the government to account, and we will do all we can to make sure the government has a second look at some of their Bills. When people bring their concerns forward, we're asked — whether it's our constituents, whether it's business, industry — we will bring those concerns forward.

In some areas, we knew the tourism section's doing well. The partnerships that it's created, very successful. We're very

proud. And board members, staff, the CEO have done an excellent job. They're very proud of what they have accomplished together as a team and the different partnerships that they have created, moved forward on. So to see this Bill come through the way it was brought forward, blindsided Tourism Saskatchewan, I think the industry partners were hearing it. There is a lot of different organizations that are partners buy into Tourism Saskatchewan, and it has worked very effectively for a very long time and has been very successful.

And I think that is why people are shocked that the government is using the heavy hand it's using on them, on an industry that was so successful, doing such a great job. And we've seen that throughout our province. We see the numbers going up of people visiting our beautiful province, coming to Saskatchewan, whether it's out of Canada, whether it's in Canada, a lot of people coming to Saskatchewan to have a look at our beautiful province. And it is a beautiful province, and we should all be proud. But unfortunately the way the government, the Sask Party government has done this, it is not something that they should be proud of — the heavy-handedness, blindsided.

If you look at all the different things that we're hearing, it's the way it was done. It's not saying that people aren't willing to look at different ways of operating Tourism Saskatchewan, but it's the way the Sask Party government introduced this Bill, without consulting, without letting Tourism Saskatchewan and its partners, the industry, know about it. It just comes out heavy-handedly and does this. It's a little concerning to a lot of people and should be concerning.

You know, I know that in committee, my colleagues have talked about Bill 37. We've gone through it. They've raised their concerns. We have seen it in question period. We're going to continue to do all we can to make sure that this government either takes a second look at this Bill, or in committee we have, I guess, questions that we will be asking, direct questions, into this Bill to see if there's anything we can do to work with the government to put the brakes on this Bill and say, whoa, maybe we have to rethink this. Maybe we should take a break, take a breather. There's an option for the government to do if they really want to.

So at this time, Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments on this Bill. We know we will have more comments in committee. And we'll be moving, you know, forward with our questions in committee to get some of the answers and give the government an opportunity to take a breather on this Bill and take into heart what they're hearing from the industry, industry partners, and from our citizens on taking over Tourism Saskatchewan the way this government has done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 37, *The Tourism Saskatchewan Act* be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I designate that Bill No. 37, *The Tourism Saskatchewan Act* be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

The Speaker: — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, in order to facilitate the work of committees later this day, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:06.]

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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
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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Hon. Jim Reiter
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