



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

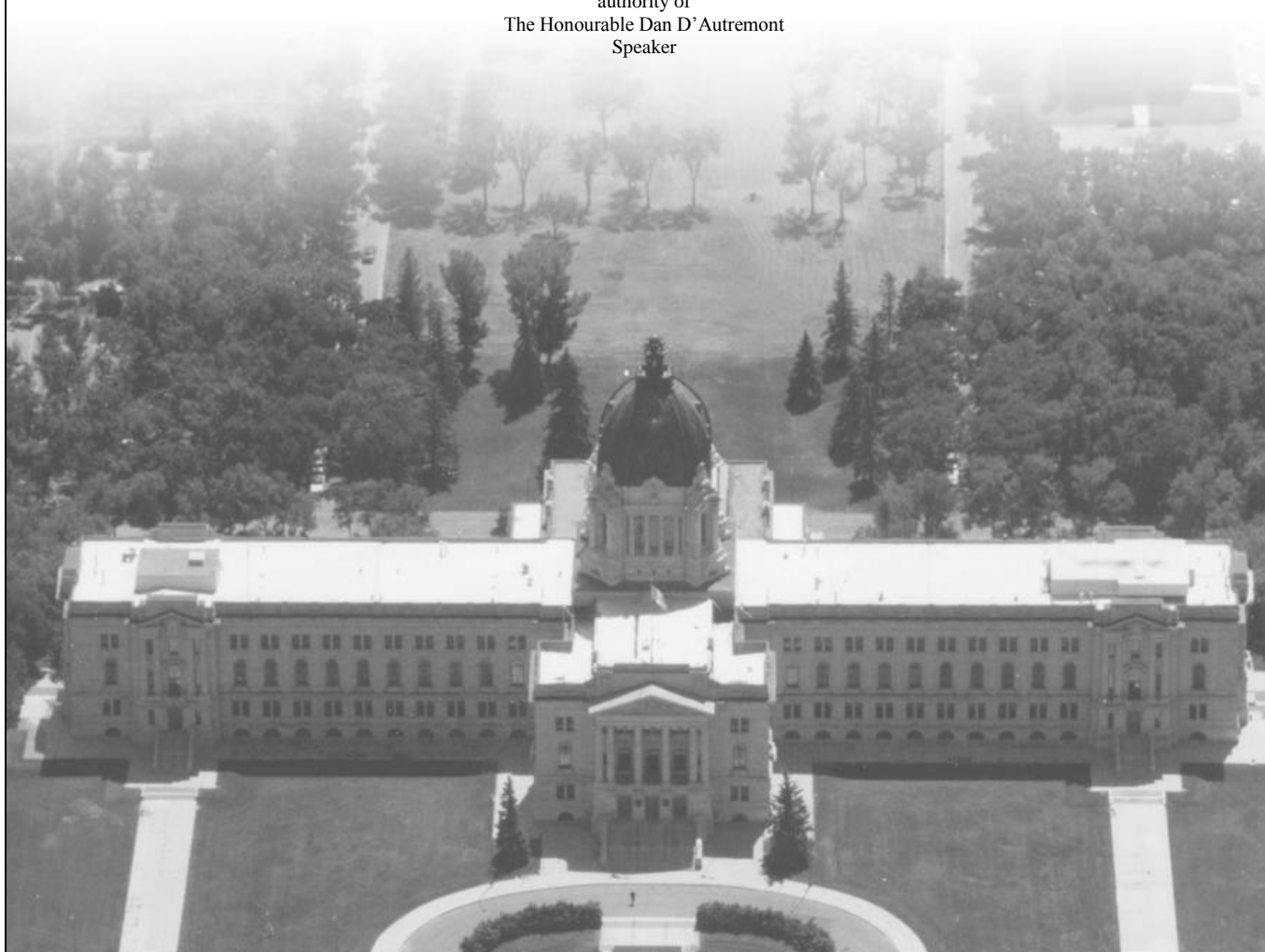
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

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



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, 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. In terms of introduction of guests, it's a pleasure for me to introduce some guests that have joined us in your gallery. I have had the chance to introduce some of this delegation before, but there's somebody brand new to the province visiting the province that I also want to draw the members' attention to today, if I can.

Mr. Speaker, joining us again today are two of Saskatchewan's greatest ambassadors. They recently moved from Ireland to the province of Saskatchewan; it was about a year and a half ago. Sinead Tierney and her husband, Howard Morrisey, are both here — maybe give us a wave. They, I think, have recently purchased a house in Lumsden. In addition to enjoying life in the province with their daughter Cara, they have helped us mightily in terms of our effort to offer opportunities to the people of Ireland who are looking for employment at a time when we are looking for skilled labourers from across the country and right around the world.

Joining them today, first let me introduce to the Assembly John Hopkins who is the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Regina Chamber of Commerce. John and the chamber of commerce were instrumental in terms of advancing some resources so Howard and Sinead could join us on the trade mission, at the job fair. And we just want to say to John, we want to thank him and his president and his board, his members, for their help.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Howard's mom is with us today as well. She's visiting from Ireland. She's from Nenagh in Ireland and her name is Breda Dean. And, Mr. Speaker, she's been here for about a month, I think, planning to go home tomorrow, and also I believe planning to return many, many more times to see Howard and Sinead and probably especially Cara. And so we just want to welcome her to the province of Saskatchewan. We want to thank Sinead and Howard for what they've done and welcome all of these fine individuals to the Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Leave, Mr. Speaker, to make an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has asked for leave to make an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a very special group of seven high school students with us today, seated in your gallery. These students are the winners of the Saskatchewan Dream video contest.

This contest was announced in March by the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Provincial Capital Commission in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building.

The contest was open to students in grade 9 through 12 who are currently enrolled in a Saskatchewan school or home-based education program. Mr. Speaker, students were to submit written concepts describing a short video based on the Legislative Building in Regina and the provincial theme of building the Saskatchewan Dream. Three winning submissions were selected from across the province. The three winning groups of students are here today and will be introduced shortly.

Mr. Speaker, these students will be in their capital city and here in their Legislative Building for the next three days to map out, shoot, and produce their video with help from mentors from the Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative. So, Mr. Speaker, we will see them in the halls and throughout the building over the next few days working on their videos. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage the students across the province and celebrate the historical and cultural importance of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, and I know we all can hardly wait to see what they produce.

This group is accompanied today by Gord Heidel. Gord is from the Saskatchewan achievement and supports branch at the Ministry of Education. So please join me in now welcoming these very special guests to their legislature, and I hope we will all extend a most heartfelt welcome to them during the days that they spend with us in our Legislative Building.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the minister and welcome these bright young students that are joining us here today for the Saskatchewan Dream contest, along with some of their teachers and chaperones. What an exceptional learning opportunity for these students, taking a look at our history as a province, the history of this very building, its place in the province, and doing so with a project that is very experiential and hands-on in nature, and utilizing technology here in this province.

I just want to say to these students, thank you for joining us here today. Good luck over the next few days. Thank you for the videos that you'll put together, and excited about what those videos are, but also their contributions to our fine province moving forward.

I'd like to say thank you to the Saskatchewan Filmpool that's going to be working with these individuals. And I'd like to say to them and also to the film industry in Saskatchewan and to these young filmmakers that we're working incredibly hard to make sure that that film industry is viable in this province. I won't make too fine of a point on this right now, Mr. Speaker; it's of hot debate across sides of this Assembly. That film

industry is important to this province, it's important to the futures of young students like these, and it's important to our economy.

I'd also like to welcome Mr. Gord Heidel that's up with them here today. Gord has a great history in education in Regina through hands-on learning, and has a great history of teaching. He was at Cochrane High School for many years. He's also quite the athlete and extreme sport enthusiast. Often you'll see Gord Heidel out on Last Mountain Lake as a kite surfer or a kite boarder out in the fields of Saskatchewan, out just sort of north of Regina. I'd like to welcome Gord to his Assembly here today. I ask all members to join with me in welcoming this delegation.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce Lesia Karalash and Sarah Foley from Aden Bowman Collegiate in Saskatoon who are winners of the contest from the constituency of Saskatoon Nutana. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery it's my privilege to introduce Hayley Olson, Riley Hayes, and Cassandra James from Val Marie School, and their principal, Angela Clement, who are winners of the contest from the constituency of Wood River.

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

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce Dayn Halter and Mitchell Bohn from the Kindersley Composite School, as well as their teacher, Lisa Padberg, who are winners of the contest from the constituency of Kindersley.

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce eight grade 11 and 12 students from the Bert Fox Community High School from the beautiful, beautiful community of Fort Qu'Appelle. Mr. Speaker, I'll have the opportunity to meet with them after, I believe, as long as I'm not too busy in the rotunda, which would be very nice to meet with them after, immediately following. I would also like to introduce their teachers who are Valerie Brooks and Cory Cochrane, and chaperone Terra Smith. So I'd like all members to welcome these people to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly I'd like to introduce a group of students that have come to join us from Gull Lake today. We have 14 grade 4 students and 12 grade 12 students, and they're in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. I'm

going to be meeting with them after session, and I'm just wondering at this point who will have the toughest questions, whether it will be the grade 4's or the grade 12's. My experience has been the younger group have the tougher questions. And so I'm looking forward to meeting with them a little later today.

Accompanying this group from Gull Lake is . . . Well there's two teachers, Neal Boutin and Adele Kirwan, as well as the teacher aid, Delee Lindsley. We have supervisors Rob Myers, Bev Lich, and Cindy Girodat, and the bus driver — the most important person on the trip — Lorna Irish. Please welcome all these students to their Legislative Assembly.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition calling for greater protection for late-night retail workers by passing Jimmy's law. And we know that in the early morning hours of June 20th, 2011, Jimmy Ray Wiebe was shot two times and died from his injuries. He was working at a gas station in Yorkton, alone and unprotected from intruders. But we know provinces such as British Columbia and others 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.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand today to present a petition on highways, and the prayer reads as follows:

Undertake to upgrade the section of Highway 165 between Beauval and 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 heavy-haul road.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from Beauval and Ile-a-la-Crosse, and I so present.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise 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 Regina and Saskatoon. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presenting a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan people who are calling on the Sask Party government to support the Saskatchewan seniors' bill of rights:

We, the undersigned the 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 present.

**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 a challenge 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 the traditional resource users.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good people of Stanley Mission. I so present.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

### Women of Distinction

**Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Thursday night, the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] held their annual Women of Distinction Awards. For over 30 years, this gala has given us the opportunity to recognize women whose outstanding achievements contribute to the health and future of our community and are an inspiration to others. The Women of Distinction Awards recognizes women in 12 categories. The event reminds us of the tenacious and courageous visionaries of the past, celebrates the women who are changing the way we live today, and nurture and inspire the young women who will shape our tomorrow.

I would like to give special congratulations to the Co-Chairs of the Women Build — Habitat for Humanity committee, the ministers of Social Services and Government Services, as well as the rest of its members: Vianne Timmons, Pam Schwann, Pat Faulconbridge, Amanda Plummer, Sally Tonn, Megan Rumbold, Kama Leier, Karen O'Brien, Trisha Bezborotko — sorry if I made a mess of that — Susan Dishaw, and Teresa Kendal. This group of determined women won in the circle of friends category as they provided women of Regina and surrounding area an opportunity to learn construction skills and build a home for a family in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join with me to congratulate all of the women who won, as well as all the women who volunteer and give back to our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

### North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week marks North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, otherwise known as NAOSH Week. The goal of NAOSH Week is to focus the attention of employers, employees, the general public, policy makers, and all partners in occupational safety and health on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home, and in the community. NAOSH Week was first launched in 1997 based on an agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico to promote safe practices at work. We've made some progress, Mr. Speaker, but we still have a long way to go to prevent injury, illness, or even death on the job.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the second highest injury rates in Canada, and furthermore, it saddens me a great deal to know that last year 37 people had died on the job in this province. Workplace injuries, illnesses, and deaths can cause incredible emotional, financial stress on individual workers and their loved

ones. There is significant costs also to businesses and the economy.

The theme of NAOSH Week this year, Mr. Speaker, is Safety and Health: A Commitment for Life! Make it Work. It's a strong message, Mr. Speaker, a strong message that all members of this Assembly must take very seriously. It's the responsibility of all of us to promote safe practices at workplaces across Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to support NAOSH activities taking place throughout the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

### Saskatchewan Athlete Plays for Washington Capitals

**Hon. Mr. McMillan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak about an outstanding Saskatchewan farm boy making us proud on the world stage. Braden Holtby was from Marshall, Saskatchewan and like many talented hockey players, he played for the Saskatoon Blades before being drafted in 2008 by the Washington Capitals. He spent the last two seasons working his way through the East Coast Hockey League, the American Hockey League, and making a few impressive showings in the NHL [National Hockey League], but not quite cracking the permanent roster.

Mr. Speaker, this may have all changed. Braden was called up for the last game of the regular season following injuries to the Capitals' regular starting and backup tenders, and his impact has been nothing short of awe-inspiring.

In the first round, the Capitals faced off against the Bruins and last year's Vezina Trophy winner, Tim Thomas. Holtby and the Caps dispatched the Bruins after seven games. And for the first time in NHL history, all seven games were decided by a single goal. Now in the second round with the series tied 2-2, the Capitals are slugging it out against the Rangers.

Mr. Speaker, many may have noticed that Braden proudly wears a Saskatchewan flag on the back of his helmet, displaying his connection to our great province. Please join me in applauding Braden Holtby and letting him know how proud his province is of him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Roughriders' Number One Draft Pick

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to rise in the House today to celebrate U of S [University of Saskatchewan] Huskies offensive lineman, Ben Heenan, as the CFL's [Canadian Football League] number one draft pick by our very own Roughriders. Mr. Speaker, this hometown talent, grown from Grand Coulee, just a few miles west of Taylor Field, became just the second Huskies player to go first overall. I understand that Ben has come a long way since his humble beginnings as a defensive lineman for the Spartans of Sheldon-Williams, and that his first year of playing football was a bit of a struggle at times. But by the time Ben reached grade 11, he had switched from D-line [defensive line] to O-line [offensive line]. Mr. Speaker, he excelled.

Ben has compiled a glowing list of achievements: Canada West Rookie of the Year, two-time Canada All Star, two-time All Canadian, and participant in the East-West Shrine Game. Now, Mr. Speaker, he can add first overall draft pick of the CFL draft to his accomplishments.

Like all in Rider nation, I look forward to watching Ben hit the field with the green and white, bolstering our O-line. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Ben Heenan as well as thanking head coach Brian Towriss, the Huskies, and the Sheldon-Williams Spartans for their role in developing this exceptional player. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### School Safety Patrol Week

**Mr. Makowsky:** — Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 4th, I had the privilege of speaking with a group of 100 school safety patrollers from all over the province who were visiting the Legislative Building as part of School Safety Patrol Week. It was great to meet this group of student leaders and congratulate them on the great job they are doing.

Safety patrollers are truly a remarkable asset to our province. They dedicate themselves to the safety of their peers, and they perform their duties regardless of the weather conditions they may face. What they do is vital to keep school crosswalks safe for the children of this province.

As a father of three school-aged children, I see the work they do first-hand. I am grateful of their dedication and their willingness to serve others. I appreciate these young students getting involved and helping others at such a young age. Safety patrollers spread a very important message about safety every time they perform their duties. In fact there has never been a serious or fatal injury at a crosswalk controlled by safety patrollers. What they are doing is working and should be commended.

Saskatchewan has Canada's longest running school safety program with over 6,000 students who volunteer as safety patrollers at approximately 225 schools. I'd like to commend CAA [Canadian Automobile Association] Saskatchewan who sponsored this year's jamboree once again. They have been involved with the safety patrol program since 1951.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing all of our Saskatchewan school safety patrollers that work to keep school crosswalks a safer place. Thank you.

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

### Radiothon Supports Work of Health Foundation

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sixth annual Family First Radiothon took place last week in Moose Jaw. The marathon broadcast was hosted by the Moose Jaw Health Foundation and radio station CHAB.

Over the 36 hours, requests and challenges went out to all citizens in a plea for support for medical upgrades to the Five

Hills Health Region. This year the funds were dedicated toward purchasing new lifesaving equipment for cardiac and stroke patients. This equipment will be used in the Moose Jaw Union Hospital and the new regional hospital planned to be opened in 2015. The final total at 6 p.m. on Friday was \$287,015. A final donation in the amount of over \$65,000 from the estate of Eli Karmin helped to achieve the goal. Eli Karmin was a former news reporter with the Moose Jaw *Times-Herald*.

Mr. Speaker, health touches everyone, and the generosity of Saskatchewan people to come together for important causes is most gratifying. The success of this fundraiser is indicative of the support of the residents of the Five Hills Health Region for the Moose Jaw hospital.

Thank you to the Moose Jaw Health Foundation for their dedication and their commitment. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who donated their time answering the phones and accepting donations during the radiothon, and especially to all who generously donated for new and upgraded equipment at the Moose Jaw Union Hospital during the sixth annual Family First Radiothon.

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

#### Challenges to Natural Resource Industry

**Mr. Doherty:** — Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday federal NDP [New Democratic Party] leader, Thomas Mulcair, took the opportunity to label Western Canada's natural resource industry a disease. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition believes that Western Canada's thriving natural resource economy is an illness in need of a cure. In a desperate attempt to shore up votes, Mulcair and the NDP wants to pit eastern manufacturing versus western natural resources as a zero-sum game. In fact, Mr. Speaker, television host Evan Solomon described Mr. Mulcair's latest effort as a "wedge issue" which merely pits one part of Canada against another for short-term political gain.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is a nation composed of many peoples and many industries. These same industries face daily challenges that require continual adaptation in order just to survive. When politicians like Mulcair interfere in this process for a short-term political gain, nobody wins, Mr. Speaker.

Last Thursday, this House passed a motion asking all federal parties to unite in support of the Keystone XL pipeline. However, that provincial NDP voted against the motion. And why, Mr. Speaker? Because they were whipped by their federal masters.

Mr. Speaker, the time for divisive politics is over. All elected officials should be united in their support for the very industries that generate tens of thousands of jobs and provide a high standard of living in Canada. Mr. Speaker, our natural resource sector is not a disease, and the NDP should be ashamed for suggesting just that.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Review of Labour Legislation

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier's proposing a sweeping review of 15 different pieces of labour and workplace safety legislation and all of the associated regulations. It's taken 100 years to put these laws in place to ensure fair treatment and safe environments for working people. In his recent decision on Bills 5 and 6, Mr. Justice Ball clearly identifies the lack of consultation with working people as one of the main problems with the Bills. To the Premier: how is expecting working people to review 100 years of labour and workplace safety legislation in 90 days fair and meaningful consultation?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, because it's been 100 years is precisely why we should have a look at this very important part of the economy, very important part of the legislative environment for Saskatchewan. And just because it's been 100 years doesn't mean some pieces haven't been removed from the books as new pieces of legislation have been added. Mr. Speaker, there are 15 pieces of legislation that impact the workplace — both union and non-unionized workplaces.

We think now is the time, when Saskatchewan is in many respects leading the country in economic growth, to continue that advantage but to ensure our labour environment is fair to both the employer and the employee. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a consultative process that includes a 90-day period for commentary to be made back to the process. The Bill might be introduced in the fall if there needs to be a brand new Bill, an employment code piece of legislation. And then after it's introduced, there's even more opportunity for consultations because of course it can't pass, by the rules of this House, it couldn't actually be voted on until spring, a year from now.

We will have an earnest, legitimate discussion, Mr. Speaker, about the importance of workplace reform and modernizing the labour legislative environment in the province. We want all parties to be engaged, including the NDP opposite.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier is trying to sell his sweeping review of labour legislation as a consultation, but it's clear he's already made up his mind on what the coming labour legislation will look like. On Thursday, the Premier stood in the Assembly and said, "... maybe the union [should] do the right thing . . ." Sounds like the Premier's already got his mind made up.

To the Premier: why is he dictating the terms of the legislation in advance of the so-called consultations?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, individual members of the House may believe it's the right thing for unions to consider exempting kids, high school kids, from paying union dues or exempting people on low-income from paying union dues. We exempt them from paying taxes, Mr. Speaker, dropped 114,000 right off the tax rolls.

But others may not agree, and that's why we're having a consultation process, Mr. Speaker. It will be an earnest process. The initial consultation period is 90 days. July, I guess the end of July is the time by which, the deadline by which any group or individual has to get their commentary in to the government about the questions we've asked. And all of these proposals are phrased as questions. You might know that, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that, if there's legislation that comes in the fall, then there will be another period of months for some consultation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that's a reasonable period of time. That's about a year on something as important as one employment code, one piece of legislation, possibly, to modernize the labour legislative environment in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, in his first term, the Premier put together labour legislation that violated human rights and violated our constitution. Some of the discussion questions in the review, such as opting out of paying union dues, are clearly in violation of long-standing case law in this country. Others, such as hours of work, are issues that have been negotiated and settled over the course of 100 years. Why is the Premier prepared to waste more taxpayer dollars on court challenges instead of defending the interests of working people?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, we know the NDP opposed essential services legislation in the province in any form, in any form. In the event of a workplace dispute, they would rather a province where the public service could withhold services like clearing highways in the midst of a blizzard because of a strike.

Mr. Speaker, we don't agree. We will make adjustments to our essential services legislation, abide by that court ruling, Mr. Speaker. On other parts of the ruling, we do not agree in terms of a constitutional right to strike. That's new and, Mr. Speaker, that's not well-received across the country by many other jurisdictions.

And in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we're taking a year-long process now to review the labour legislative environment in the province of Saskatchewan, including things like the idea of indexing the minimum wage for those who are on minimum wage, including things like increased flexibility in the workplace if it's negotiated between the employee and the employer in terms of the number of hours you can work per week, Mr. Speaker, including things like ensuring the penalties to enforce workplace safety are appropriate in the province of Saskatchewan.

This is a broad-based, wide-ranging consultation that asks a number of questions of Saskatchewan people. The NDP have all made up their minds. They're not interested in any change to these 100 years worth of labour legislative environment. That's why, Mr. Speaker, this province of Saskatchewan is fast passing them by.

[14:00]

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

### Length of Workweek

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government's had five years to index minimum wage, so you could do it any time. And they've taken their time; people are waiting for it. But we know to build a modern economy, we need fair and effective labour laws, and that people of Saskatchewan throughout our history have worked hard and struggled to ensure fairness in our workplaces.

But meanwhile this government is ramping up a new set of attacks on workers in Saskatchewan. And an obvious example of this is a so-called consultation with leading questions about the 40-hour workweek and overtime. My question to the minister: has it come to this, longer workweeks? Will this government attempt to extend the 40-hour workweek?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we have a long-standing practice in this province where people have been allowed to adjust their hours with the consent of both the employer and the employee, and they require an exemption certificate from the ministry officials. Mr. Speaker, it's a system that's worked. And it's somewhat cumbersome; a lot of people are not complying with it because of the timelines that are there. There are approximately 1,200 exemptions in the province right now that allow people to work more in one week, less in a week. The average overall is 40 hours per week.

Mr. Speaker, we are doing nothing more than asking the question whether people want to continue that practice, bury that practice, or make it more streamlined or easier. There is no preconceived notions in this whatsoever. It does nothing more, Mr. Speaker, than ask the question. Mr. Speaker, this is a far-reaching, broad-based inquiry, and we want answers from people all the way across the province, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, asking these questions are sure making a lot of people nervous about the rights that they have struggled for for many, many years. And we know there's no doubt, no denying that labour unions have historically brought improvements for workers — minimum wages, weekends, safety standards, and even the 40-hour workweek. And now we know that this government claims, under the current regulation process, employers and employees are not able to vary their hours respectfully without requesting and receiving written permission from the government. This permit process requires reviews and investigations of each application. This regulation acts as a safeguard to protect both the employee and the employer.

And my question to the minister is this: if the government removes this regulation, and the employers and the employees enter into mutually agreed upon flexible work agreements, arrangements, what protections or regulations will be in place to protect both parties?



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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we've got labour standards officers that work throughout the province. The labour standards officers meet and review and work with both employers and employees, give them advice and assistance as required, and make prosecutions where people have breached the law. Mr. Speaker, that provision would continue.

And, Mr. Speaker, we are not committed to do this. We are asking the question — nothing more — asking the question, is this a cumbersome process now? Does it work? Is this something that should be varied? The 1,200 that exist in the province right now, we're saying to those people, how did that work for you? Should there be changes made to that for them? Should it be an easier process? Are people complying with the existing law now?

Mr. Speaker, that's what consultation is about. That's what consultation is for. And I'd urge the members opposite to participate in the consultation, Mr. Speaker. They will probably hear from some of their members as well, and we'd like to hear from those members. They can either contact us or they can contact those members. We would like to hear in any event, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Well as I said, asking these questions when they should be talking about work-family life balance, it's making people nervous in the workplace. And we know that people in Saskatchewan work hard and they play hard. And they appreciate earning a good living for their families, but they also appreciate the time they have with their loved ones. But apparently, according to this government, they just haven't given enough, and they want to squeeze them even more.

And now this government is looking for ways to change workers' rights regarding fair overtime. And the Premier's foregone conclusions — and he can laugh about it, but he's been giving out a lot of mixed messages — could mean the end to fair overtime pay. My question to the minister: why is this government pushing longer workweeks and more overtime at straight-time pay?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the member opposite was travelling across the weekend and may not have yet had a chance to read the paper. Nowhere in the paper does it say anything about longer work hours or anything different . . . [inaudible] . . . It asks the question simply whether people should be able to have a different process to vary hours between one work cycle or another. And the reason why you might ask that question, Mr. Speaker, is so that people who are on the road travelling, as salesmen or whatever else they're doing, would want to be able to compress their work in one week and spend more time at home with their families and loved ones as the member opposite is raising. It's exactly for that reason that that the question is being posed.

Mr. Speaker, this government will stand behind the workers of the province, will ensure that they've got labour standards officers that are working for them. We will ask the questions in a fair, reasonable, reasoned manner. And we will go on and we will take people's advice in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, what I'd like to do is urge the members opposite (a) to participate. And the member in particular, I'd like to ask him to sit down and read the paper carefully, and maybe once he's read the paper, Mr. Speaker, he'll understand some of the questions that are being put forward.

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

### Support for the Film Industry

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the film industry presented a plan for discussion to the government to replace the film employment tax credit. This government took that plan, made a major change to it, and introduced its own ineffective plan, blindsiding those with whom they were supposed to be working.

Mr. Speaker, this government has a very bad habit. They either fail to consult or they pretend to consult. The minister and the Premier have said they wanted to work with their industry partners to come up with a plan. Then suddenly, in the middle of those discussions, the government unilaterally announced its non-refundable tax credit. To the minister: why pretend? If he and his government have no intention of hearing what people actually have to say, why waste everyone's valuable time and energy?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We welcome the member's question. On Friday, May 4th, following our meeting with representatives of the film industry, we released a brand new three-point plan that focuses not only on the film industry but all creative industries.

The first point is the creation of a new film tax credit that now includes all production costs, not just labour as before, and applies to digital production as well. This is exactly what the industry has proposed except in a non-refundable form, which means that they pay income tax on their corporate earnings like everybody else.

The second point is consultation with our creative industries to develop a strategy for greater use of digital technology, helping our creative sector compete both here in Canada and around the world.

The third point involves repurposing the sound stage as an incubator for film and other related industries, a creative hub where new technologies and new companies are born. Mr. Speaker, this is in fact an innovative plan that has the potential to provide leading-edge support for our creative industries. Instead of following, Saskatchewan can lead the way.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the film industry was surprised and shocked — not my words actually, Mr. Goetz's words — surprised and shocked with the government's sudden announcement of a non-refundable tax credit on Friday. The film industry had a program here that worked. It was a refundable tax credit. The government threw that out the window on budget day and later asked the industry to come up with something new.

After considerable work, the industry came up with a proposal for discussion — for discussion. But it also hinged on the program being a refundable tax credit, the industry standard around the world, Mr. Speaker. Instead of holding further discussions, the government took the industry's proposal, used a magic marker, and changed it from refundable to non-refundable. They might as well put the proposal directly into the shredder, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: why is the government forcing through a plan that will be completely useless in keeping the film industry alive in Saskatchewan and that won't attract outside investment here?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's be clear about this. In every one of our discussions with the film industry, we have been very clear that the old refundable tax credit wasn't viable. It obviously wasn't helping to grow the industry. The industry was seriously in decline. It came at an enormous cost to taxpayers, and it was unfair to every other industry active in this province. In fact over 98 per cent of the \$100 million paid out through this program was really just a grant to companies that don't even pay corporate income tax here in Saskatchewan.

Every industry creates economic activity, Mr. Speaker. Every industry creates employment, but only the film industry has benefited from provincial programs without paying income tax. That has to change. It's time for a new approach based on growing Saskatchewan-based businesses, sustainability, and fairness. We believe that the new program is a fair and practical incentive. We're confident the taxpayers along with our business community will believe that too.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The key to succeeding in the film industry is to attract investment from across Canada and around the world. That is how most film projects are made. In turn that outside investment creates jobs in this province that are filled by Saskatchewan people. These people pay Saskatchewan income tax. They spend money in this province. They pay sales tax. They volunteer in their communities, and they contribute to the very fabric of this province. All the while they tell our stories and give us pride of place.

To the minister: why is he open to outside investment in other industries but not the film industry? Why is he chasing away investment and jobs and, most importantly, people who are

involved in the industry and those who benefit from the film industry?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Mr. Speaker, every industry creates spinoffs, but not all industries get straight-out grants. That's the problem. The key to succeeding in the film industry is to get on board with digital, Mr. Speaker, the background conversation that the members opposite aren't understanding. Digital technology is changing the way we work, changing the way we communicate in an environment that is mobile and fast, interactive and virtual.

Adapting digital technology and supporting its application to our creative industries, not just film and video but all of them, is how we're going to grow Saskatchewan-based businesses that can compete successfully in Canada and abroad. To encourage this growth, we need to repurpose the sound stage as a creative hub and a centre of excellence, but also gaming and application development, music and sound recording, writing and publishing — all of the creative industries need to be supported, Mr. Speaker. Supporting the film and video sector with a new, broader based program that helps Saskatchewan companies reduce their corporate income tax in a non-refundable way, is an integral fashion, an integral part of innovation, sustainability, and fairness, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since Friday's sudden announcement, Saskatchewan film industry members have been united in criticizing the government's recently announced program. Kevin DeWalt, a board member with Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association said, "Clearly a non-refundable tax credit will not work." They can laugh over there, Mr. Speaker, but this is serious.

DeWalt went on to say if:

They stick to the non-refundable aspect of it, this industry is gone. There is just no chance that we'll stay around, any of us, because we will not be able to do business in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the government isn't listening to people who know how this industry works. If they aren't listening to the experts, Mr. Speaker, then whose advice are they relying on when developing policy and programs that could mean the life or death of a valuable industry?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP would have us believe that Saskatchewan's film industry can't possibly survive unless we provide it with grants that no other industry currently gets. We have a lot more faith in the creativity and the resourcefulness of our film companies, and so should the NDP. Shame on them, Mr. Speaker.

We believe that if we provide a significant and broadly based program that actually reduces taxes, supports the development of the industry-leading digital technology, and provides a centre of excellence where all of our province's creative industries can work together and innovate under one roof, then our Saskatchewan-based film companies will not only survive, they will thrive.

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

### Funding for Education

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the education funding formula put in place by that minister and government is clearly flawed. The education sector is speaking out and looking for solutions. At the end of last week, Saskatoon Public Board Chair, Ray Morrison said, I quote, "The province's new education funding formula fails to include a mechanism to compensate school divisions that grow throughout the school year such as Saskatoon Public."

When is this minister going to put in place a mechanism that properly funds population growth and meets the needs of students in this province?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member opposite is well aware, in order to calculate a budget allocation, you have to use a moment in time for a student enrolment count. And this year's budget, that moment in time was September of 2011. For 2012-13 budget for the Saskatoon Public School Division, the enrolment was projected to be 20,794. When we check these school division stats as of today, their enrolment is 20,742. That is 52 students less than what they were budgeted for.

[14:15]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — So, Mr. Speaker, the school boards are wrong. Saskatoon Catholic, that's not going to be funded for 500 students and Saskatoon Public, that's over 600. The minister is right, I guess, and the boards and their directors are wrong, Mr. Speaker.

We have hundreds of students in desks in classrooms all across Saskatchewan that are unfunded, putting unnecessary strain on teachers and students. To quote Ray Morrison, I quote, "We're looking in every corner (for budget trims.) Some class sizes might go up. Some programs might not exist." Catholic board Diane Boyko said, I quote, "I think we're seeing that we are being challenged to find the resources in the existing budget within last year (and) that isn't addressing the increase in students."

Why is the minister forcing increases to class sizes, cuts to programs? And just exactly how is this in the best interests of Saskatchewan students?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the 2012-13 budget, greater Saskatoon Catholic budget was based on a projected enrolment of 15,097 students. As of today, using their data system, they have enrolled 15,152 students. That is 55 more students. That is approximately one student per school in Saskatoon.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — The minister can spin this any way that she likes, but educational leaders are saying something entirely different. The fact remains that the education funding model is flawed. It's forcing school boards to make difficult decisions that will negatively impact their students. With respect to the inadequate funding, Ray Morrison said, I quote, "It doesn't account for the 600 more students administrators expect to walk through public school doors next fall." There's 500 others in Saskatoon Catholic as well, Mr. Speaker.

Students deserve better than this. The education sector is waiting and willing to work with the minister. When is this minister and government going to step up to the plate, meet the demands of growth, and fund school boards based on the number of students in the current calendar year?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, year after year this government has stepped up to the plate when it comes to education. We have made it a priority year after year, and we've done that, Mr. Speaker, within balanced budgets.

We could go on and on. Let's talk about the Saskatoon Public School Division over the past five years. We agree that they have seen 1,203 students; that's a 6.1 per cent increase in enrolment. But do you know what their increase in budget was over that same period, Mr. Speaker? Twenty-three per cent increase in the budget for Saskatoon public. That is only for operating, Mr. Speaker. That does not include all of the capital dollars that we have put into the city of Saskatoon, both in the public school system as well as in the Catholic school system.

Mr. Speaker, we have made record investments in capital projects for our education system. Year over year we're at about a half a billion dollars now invested, as well as a 21 per cent increase in operating. Mr. Speaker, we are making education a priority, unlike the members opposite when they had the opportunity to be government.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to make a motion regarding the appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to make a motion regarding the appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

## MOTIONS

**Appointment of the Chief Electoral Officer**

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

That pursuant to subsection 4(3) of *The Election Act, 1996*, Mr. Michael Boda be appointed the Chief Electoral Officer effective June 1st, 2012.

I so move.

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

That pursuant to subsection 4(3) of *The Election Act, 1996* . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — I'll start over. It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That pursuant to subsection 4(3) of *The Election Act, 1996*, Mr. Michael Boda be appointed the Chief Electoral Officer effective June 1, 2012.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Does the Assembly approve the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committees this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:22.]

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