



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

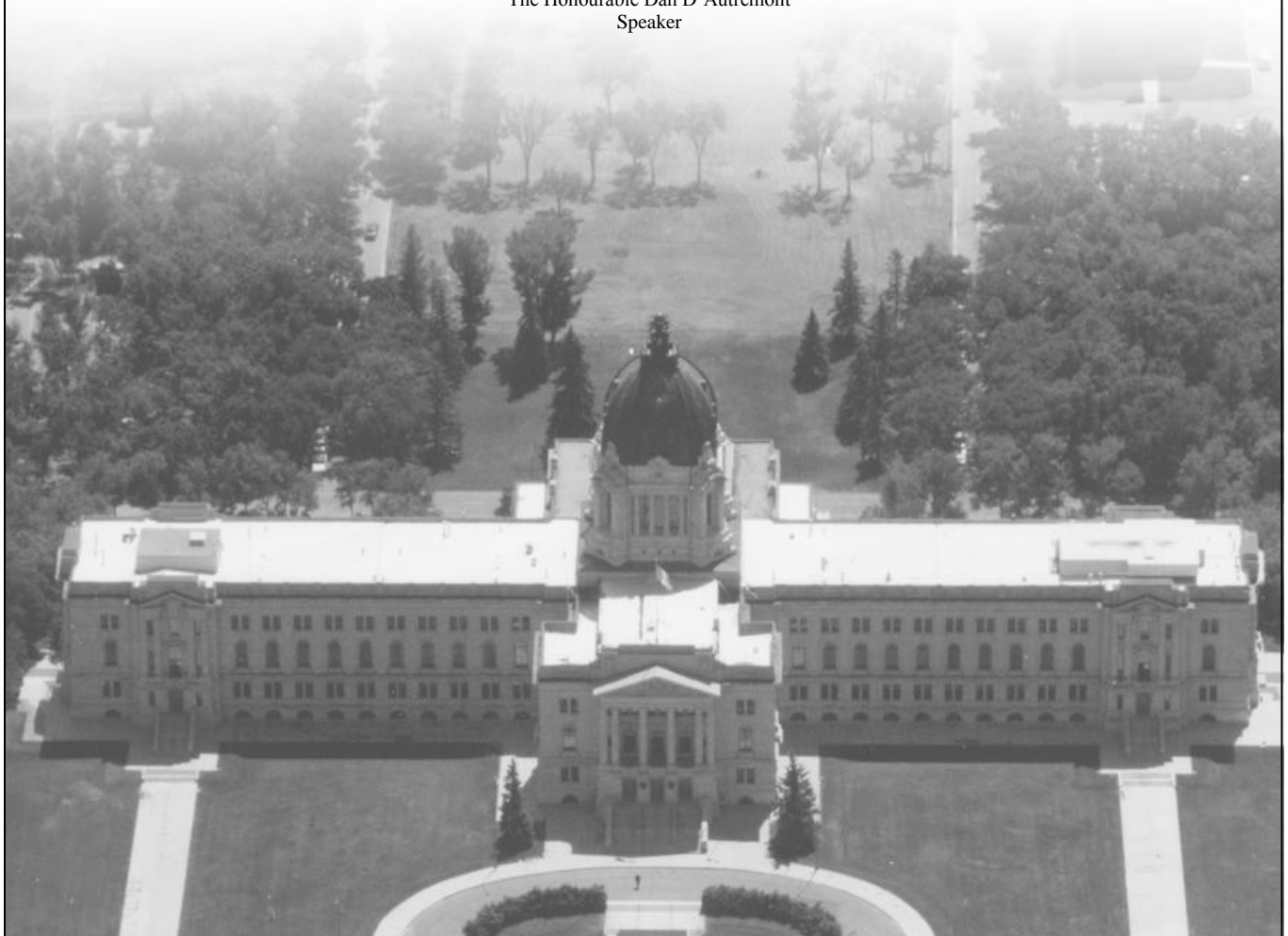
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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 Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

**Hon. Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to the rest of the Assembly, I would like to introduce 11 grade 9 students from the community of Gravelbourg and the Gravelbourg High School, seated in the west gallery. They are accompanied by their chaperone, Craig Jamieson and their teacher, Darcey Huyghebaert. And I do have that pronounced correctly, Mr. Speaker, because it is my son Darcey that's here with the group. I'll have an opportunity to meet with the group after question period and look forward to answering their questions. And so I would ask all members to please join me in welcoming the group from Gravelbourg to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request leave for an extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce through you and to you some of the founding members and participants of last year's 7000 Generations Walk against nuclear waste.

As all of the members of this Assembly will know, the 7000 Generations Walk left Pinehouse Lake, Saskatchewan on July 27th, 2011 and headed to Regina, meeting with Saskatchewan residents along the route, collecting petitions to support the pass of legislation to ban nuclear waste storage and transportation out of and through Saskatchewan.

This group connected with people from all walks of life, and today they're here in person for the tabling of the 12,000-plus signatures collected for the petition. Signatures were collected from over 250 communities in total, including 23 communities from outside Saskatchewan. I want to thank these guests for the work they do and for coming down here to join us in the gallery today. Together they're currently members of the committee for future generations, which began a year ago. Their first meeting was on May 16th in fact.

A few of the people that I'd like to introduce today are meeting actually with the Minister of Environment after the Assembly

adjourns today. And I'll just introduce those people, if they could give us a wave: Doreen Docken, Candice Paul, Max Morin who is the starter of it all, Fred Peterson, John Smerek, Meridale Dewar, Mark Bigland-Pritchard, Jim Harding, and Debbie Mihalicz. And these folks are just some of the leaders of a very large group that are here in the Assembly today. I would like to ask my fellow colleagues to give them a warm welcome to the Assembly on the one-year anniversary of the formation of their committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming these citizens to their Saskatchewan legislature. It's a venue for many views to be heard and certainly we're welcoming of the debate and dialogue on this issue. Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker, and I ask all members to welcome these citizens to their legislature.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the legislature, I am very pleased to offer a welcome to some of the folks from the film and television industry who came from the rally outside and have made it in to some of the galleries here. There's too many to name, but I would like to make sure that you know that this is your Legislative Assembly and you are more than welcome here. So with that, I ask my colleagues to welcome the folks from the film and television industry here today. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have the pleasure of introducing my older sister, Arlene Stiglitz. I'd like everyone here to welcome her to . . . She's right up there. She's short like I am. Wave, Arlene.

Arlene has been a very strong supporter of this present government and also when the Saskatchewan Party first formed. She sat on the executive of Minister Bjornerud's, and as you . . . Oh sorry, Minister of Agriculture. I do apologize. She's been very supportive of ensuring that everyone understands the positive aspect of the demise of the Canadian Wheat Board. So thank you very much for your support, Arlene, and I wish everyone here to extend a welcome to you.

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and to all my colleagues in the legislature, I had the opportunity this morning to work with, to talk to 23 individuals with the Saskatchewan housing network. They have been spending years, volunteer years putting in, looking after our volunteer housing associations right across the province. In fact, between the number that are in the gallery today, they put in 905 volunteer years together.

I'd like to introduce them and maybe ask them to give us a wave when I call up their names: Vera Cadieu from Spiritwood Housing Authority, 25 years; Katherine Hamilton from Codette Housing Authority, 25 years; Dorothy Baber from Balcarres Housing Authority, 25 years; Lois Dixon from Balcarres Housing Authority, 25 years; Wanda Schiels from Semans Housing Authority, 25 years; Irene Buye from Fox Valley Housing Authority, 25 years; Kenneth Tanchak from Borden Housing Authority, 25 years; Alvena Oryszczyn from Lintlaw Housing Authority, 25 years; Anne Van Nortwick from Mayfair Housing Authority, 25 years; Alice Grigor from Mayfair Housing Authority, 25 years; Lewis Anfinson from Pelly Housing Authority, 25 years; Murray Crump from Welwyn Housing Authority, 25 years; Olga Morgan from Melville Housing Authority, 25 years; Guy Cyr from Debden Housing Authority, 25 years; Rudy Weber from Wilkie Housing Authority, 25 years; Evette Bailey from Debden Housing Authority, 25 years; Jacqueline Denis from St. Isidore Housing Authority, 25 years.

Ruth Davis from White Fox, 30 years; Ken Oberkirsch from Radville Housing Authority, 35 years; Brian Watson from Dinsmore Housing Authority, 35 years; Victor Frank from Ogema Housing Authority, 35 years; Dianna Knaus from LeRoy Housing Authority, 35 years; and from Wynyard Housing Authority, for 40 years, we have Michael Lalach.

And I'd also like to welcome some special volunteers who couldn't be here today: Alma MacDonald from Mankota, 25 years; Sharon Bakken from Craik, 25 years; Bernice Johnson from Codette, 25 years; Stephanie Sorba from Rose Valley, 25 years; William Caird from Ogema, 25 years; Yvonne Morrow from Oxbow, 25 years; Peggy Genest from Harris, 25 years; June Bartel from Lanigan, 25 years; David Wooff from Turtleford, 35 years; and Cameron McKie from Foam Lake, 35 years.

Mr. Speaker, these volunteers are from 29 of the 270 housing authorities that volunteer to assist families and seniors right across our province. I want to thank them for their years of commitment not only to the housing but to the community, and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the minister in welcoming and recognizing these volunteers. Truly is an impressive list and the time is really impressive — 25 years, 35 years, 40 years. What a commitment to our communities right across the province. We know there's some 300 housing authorities in our province. It's huge, it's huge and they do such a good job to making sure our communities are safe and everyone has a home.

So on behalf of the opposition, thank you very much. And we ask all members to welcome them to their legislature. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce a very dear friend of mine, a high school classmate, teammate on the Rams with me, and fellow educator, Mr. Rick Sawa, up in the gallery behind me. Rick and I share some common educational interests in terms of the work we've done with First Nations. And I'd like to applaud Rick and ask all members of the House to welcome Rick to his Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all our guests in the galleries today and to remind them that they are not to participate in events on the floor, and that includes applause.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present another petition calling for greater protection for late-night retail workers by passing Jimmy's law. And we know that Jimmy Ray Wiebe was shot and killed on June 20th, 2011, while he was working at a gas station in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. He was alone and unprotected from intruders.

We know there are positive stats that convenience store and gas station robberies are down by one-third since 1999, largely due to increased safety practices including two people working together on late-night shifts. But we still see the issue like in Regina in January and Saskatoon over the last couple of months, and in fact yesterday morning in Regina we saw yet another robbery at 3 o'clock in the morning on Dewdney where the convenience store was held up. And so we have much work to do. 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.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Saskatoon today. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a petition today about requesting the government to stop increasing the number of politicians in Saskatchewan so the money can be used for more appropriate things. So the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to not increase the number of politicians in

the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, and to continue including those individuals under the age of 18 in the determination of the constituency boundaries.

And the people who have signed this petition come from the city of Moose Jaw.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of northern residents as it relates to a highway in northern Saskatchewan and the condition of that highway. The petition states:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request 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 highway and its bridges, and by properly surfacing the road with material needed for a busy heavy-haul road.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Beauval. 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 that has been developed and circulated by members of SEIU-West [Service Employees International Union] concerning creating safe workplaces in the health care sector:

To the honourable Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan in legislature assembled, to the petition of the undersigned citizens of the province of Saskatchewan, humbly showeth:

That the Government of Saskatchewan recognize the need for safe staffing levels for all valued members of the health care team. That SEIU-West members employed as health providers within Cypress Health Region, Five Hills Health Region, Heartland Health Region, and Saskatoon Health Region provide valuable care, compassion, and quality health care services to the citizens of Saskatchewan in acute care, community care, long-term care, and the public health sector.

That the Government of Saskatchewan realize that the utilization and value of the full range of professional skills offered by health care providers is promoted through the immediate address of retention and recruitment issues and by ensuring safe staffing levels; that such promotion can only be achieved through the commitment of necessary resources to fulfill required training needs or education supports in-house so as to ensure that vacancies are filled in a timely manner; that adequate funding be in place to address ongoing replacement issues where ill and injured employees are required to attend work as a result of

employer attendance support policies, and to secure a buddy system to relieve workload pressures; that the government recognize and support the need for these additional measures and funding to endorse a full staff complement on a daily basis.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly will be pleased to cause the government to commit to create safe staffing levels in all health care sector workplaces and for all health providers.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition, hundreds of people, represent individuals living in a number of health regions throughout the province in large and small centres throughout Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to present a petition in support of the film and television industry. More than 8,000 signatures have been garnered in just a few short weeks, Mr. Speaker. The folks here . . . I actually would like to read the petition. I think it speaks for itself:

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: after 25 years of hard work and investment by the people of Saskatchewan, our province has become a national leader in film, television, and digital media. The success of acclaimed programs including *Corner Gas*, *Little Mosque*, *Wapos Bay*, and *The Englishman's Boy* has contributed to our growing prominence on the world stage and brought renewed respect to our own Prairie heritage.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan work with industry partners to develop a new incentive program which allows film, television, and digital media to continue to flourish in our province.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by more than 8,000 people who are concerned about the future of the industry here in this province if the government doesn't get back to the table and implement something that really means something, Mr. Speaker. I so submit.

[13:45]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in the legislature today to present a petition of more than 12,000 signatures. This is from the committee for future generations. With the help of individuals and organizations from all over the province, the committee for future generations has gathered over 12,000 signatures on a petition to the provincial government to legislate a ban on nuclear waste storage and transportation in Saskatchewan.

And thousands of these people are from northern communities. The committee for future generations was formed on May 16th by concerned citizens of Beauval, English River, and Pinehouse to raise awareness of nuclear waste and promote informed choice for their people. This is especially true for northerners who depend so closely on the water, land, and animals. The North is one of the few places left in the world where they can still go out on to the land and water for moose, berries, medicine, plants, and fish. This is called food sovereignty and the North is very fortunate to still have that gift. One accident with nuclear waste, which according to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's own literature remains extremely hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years, would put all of that at risk. What amount of money or jobs could buy back our clean water and land? There is no price tag.

They believe that prosperity can be gained in ways that will not poison our environment. Countries around the world are developing sustainable energy policies which builds the economies while protecting the environment for future generations. So their work is focused on saying yes to renewable energy:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, Mr. Speaker, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly pass legislation to permanently ban nuclear waste storage and transportation of nuclear waste into, out of, and through Saskatchewan.

This is respectfully submitted from people from Aberdeen, Abernethy, Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Air Ronge, Alameda, Albertville, Allan, Alvena, Annaheim, Arborfield, Archerwill, Balcarres, Balgonie, Batoche, Battleford, Beardy's & Okemasis Reserve, Beauval, Bellevue, Bienfait, Big River, Birch Hills, Bjorkdale, Black Lake, Blaine Lake, Borden, Broadview, Bruno, Buckland, Buena Vista, Buffalo Narrows, Bulyea, Cairns, Candle Lake, Canoe Narrows, Canora, Canwood, Carievale, Carlyle, Carpenter, Carrot River, Chitek Lake, Choiceland, Christopher Lake, Clearwater River, Cochin, Codette, Cole Bay, Colonsay, Consul, Coronach, Cowessess First Nation, Craik, Craven, Creighton, Cudworth, Cumberland House, Cupar, and Cut Knife, Davidson, Debden, Delisle, Denare Beach, Deschambault Lake, Dillon, Katepwa, Domremy, Duck Lake, Dundurn, Earl Grey, Eastview, Edenwold, Elbow, Emma Lake, Esterhazy, Estevan, Eston, Flying Dust First Nation, Fond du Lac First Nation, Fort Qu'Appelle, Foxford, Frenchman Butte, Gainsborough, Gallivan, Girvin, Glaslyn, Glen Ewen, Glenavon, Govan, Grandora, Gravelbourg, Green Lake, Grenfell, Griffin, Guernsey, Hagen, Hazlet, Hoey, Holbein, Hudson Bay, Humboldt, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Indian Head, James Smith Reservation, Jans Bay, Jansen, Kelliher, Kenaston, Killaly, Kinistino, Kipling, La Loche, La Ronge, Laird, Lanigan, Lashburn, Leader, Leask, Lebret, Leoville, Lestock, Lipton, Livelong, Lloydminster, Lone Rock, Loon Lake, Love, Lumsden, Macdowall, Maidstone, Makwa, Manitou Beach, Marcelin, Martensville, Mayview, Meadow Lake, Meath Park, Medstead, Melfort, and Melville, Meota, Michel Village, Middle Lake, Mildren, Mildred, Mont Nebo, Montreal Lake, Moose Jaw, Moosomin First Nation, Muskeg Lake First Nation, Muskoday First Nation, Naicam, Nipawin, Nokomis, Norquay, North Battleford, Nut Mountain, One Arrow First Nation, Onion Lake First Nation, Osler, Oxbow, Paddockwood,

Pakwaw Lake, Patuanak, Paynton, Pelican Lake, Pelican Narrows, Pense, Piapot First Nation, Pierceland, Pilot Butte, Pinehouse Lake, Poundmaker Cree Nation, Preeceville, Prince Albert, Prud'homme, Punnychy, Radisson, Radville, Raymore, Red Earth First Nation, Regina, Rosthern, Rouleau, Saltcoats, Sandy Bay, Saskatoon, Shaunavon, Shellbrook, Shoal Lake, Sinaluta, Smeaton, Spalding, Spiritwood, Spruce Home, St. Louis, Stanley Mission, Star City, Stony Rapids, Stoughton, Sturgeon Lake First Nation, Success, Sweetgrass First Nation, Swift Current, Theodore, Tisdale, Turnor Lake, Turtleford, Tway, Unity, Uranium City, Victoire, Vonda, Wahpeton Dakota Nation, Wakaw, Waldeck, Warman, Waseca, Waskesiu, Waskesiu Lake, Waterhen Lake First Nation, Weyakwin, Weyburn, White Bear First Nation, White City, Whitefish, Whitewood, Wilkie, Wollaston Lake, Wolseley, Wynyard, Yorkton, and Zenon Park.

Thank you, 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 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 people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Saskatchewan Fashion Week

**Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today and recognize the hard work of fashion and creative industry professionals and volunteers in the organization of Saskatchewan's inaugural Fashion Week. This event was unique in Saskatchewan as a celebration of thriving fashion and creative industries. Thirty designers from Swift Current, Saskatoon, and Regina were selected to reveal their 2012 collections for men, women, and children, influenced by worldwide trends and cultural influences.

This three-day event took place in Regina's City Square, north of Victoria Park, from May 10th to May 12th. All showcase selections were available for purchase directly from designer trunk show displays that were open the day after the collection had been shown on the runway.

There were various ways to participate in this great event. Event

programming was different each day, exposing participants to new styles and designs. The swag lounge featured culinary fashion and creative trends where ticket purchasers sampled products and services. The catwalk was another innovative Sask Fashion Week event, allowing businesses to showcase fashion, beauty, interior design, and culinary offerings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all organizers and volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring this idea to fruition. You have successfully increased the profile of our fine province and fine Saskatchewan businesses while hosting a great event in Regina's new downtown square. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### “Made In Saskatchewan” Film Appreciation Night

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night the member from Saskatoon Nutana and I had the pleasure of attending the “Made In Saskatchewan” Film Appreciation Night at Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon. With appearances by Kim Coates of the popular TV show, *Sons of Anarchy*, and Ron Goetz, the president of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association, the event showcased the amazing pool of Saskatchewan film industry talent by featuring films including the award winning *Lupine Life*, *Neighbours Dog*, *Bionic Bannock Boys*, *Interpersonalities*, *Rabbit Fall*, *Wapos Bay*, *The Sideshow Christmas*, and the never-before-seen *Resurrection SK* and *Rufus* teaser.

Our Saskatchewan film industry workers create phenomenal, beautiful, high-quality films — films that create jobs for Saskatchewan people, films that generate six times the amount of money for our economy than what is spent on the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit, films that put Saskatchewan on the map, films that tell our stories, films of which we can all be very, very proud.

But while I left the film appreciation night with a sense of pride, I also walked away feeling profound sadness. We are about to lose this industry and many of the fine creative workers and families that come with it. No matter how the members opposite spin the elimination of the Saskatchewan film employment tax credit, it makes absolutely no sense. Without a competitive tax credit, our film workers are going to have to pack up their families and leave this province to work elsewhere. So much for the Saskatchewan advantage.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to thank the passionate and resourceful team who have been instrumental in organizing last evening's event and today's rallies to support the film industry. You have done an amazing job of reaching out to people and shining a spotlight on our incredible, creative, valuable film industry. Thank you.

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

#### Employment Statistics

**Mr. Parent:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today and speak about the Saskatchewan employment numbers announced last Friday. Statistics Canada reported in its April

labour force survey that employment numbers have taken quite a jump in this province — 13,100 more people are working in Saskatchewan now than there were last year. Saskatchewan has the second highest growth rate among Canadian provinces with a year-over-year employment increase of 2.3 per cent and is currently tied with Alberta with the lowest level of unemployment in Canada at 4.9 per cent.

Canadian employment numbers were also strong in April, with an increase of 58,000 jobs. Many of these gains were credited to full-time jobs in the goods manufacturing, natural resources, and agriculture sectors. This is quite the accomplishment for our great province in the nationwide context. Saskatchewan contributed 11.7 per cent of the nation's job gains in April with only 2.8 per cent of the nation's population.

Job growth in the province indicates increasing opportunities for all our citizens. So far in 2012, not only have we had great job numbers, but the numbers include all segments of the population. Aboriginal employment is up to 3,200 positions compared to 2011.

The government is looking forward to the rest of 2012 and continuing to promote the Saskatchewan advantage to the rest of the nation and the world. I would like to thank all those workers and entrepreneurs in our province for achieving these wonderful results and helping move our province of Saskatchewan forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers Present Jabula

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday evening, Stephanie and I were pleased to partake in Jabula, a wonderful fundraising evening organized by Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers here in Regina.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers is a group of Regina and area grandmothers and others who are dedicated to alleviating the plight of grandmothers in Africa as they care for children orphaned by the AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] pandemic. This nationwide movement has been inspired by and supports the Stephen Lewis Foundation's campaign.

The evening featured keynote speaker Sally Armstrong, an Amnesty International award winner, member of the Order of Canada, journalist, teacher, author, and human rights activist. She was also appointed to the International Women's Commission at the UN [United Nations] in 2010. In her address, Ms. Armstrong emphasized the importance of making every voice count in an effort to create positive change while outlining the challenges of our era. It was a very inspiring evening, but also it was a strong reminder of the work needed right here in Saskatchewan. Though this province is home to just under 3 per cent of the Canadian population, Saskatchewan has a disproportionately large HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] problem that is sadly getting worse with each passing year. Clearly we have much work to do on the home front as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend warm thanks to Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers for their work and leadership. I

ask all my colleagues to join with me to applaud this important initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Remembering Huma Morrison

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work and passionate spirit of Saskatchewan mines inspector, Huma Morrison. Ms. Morrison recently passed away at her home near Prince Albert. She was just 38 years old.

Huma was the first female mine inspector for the Saskatchewan government, and during her career she was regarded by her colleagues as a great worker and team player. Huma was incredibly energetic and passionate, loved to travel, dance, and ride motorcycles. She had a great sense of adventure and her caring and giving nature touched many lives.

Recently Canadians recognized the 20th anniversary of the tragic Westray mining disaster that killed 26 miners, a disaster that brought attention to the need for mining inspector independence and regulatory control. Since this disaster, success has come in part due to the close working relationship between labour, management, and the mine safety unit. Huma dedicated her career to ensuring that disasters like Westray never happened again.

Mining involves risk, but the industry's safety record has improved dramatically in the past 10 years due to the hard work of people like Huma Morrison. On behalf of the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, I want to extend my condolences to Ms. Morrison's family. We honour Huma Morrison's contributions to the safety of workers in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

[14:00]

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

### Radville Citizen Named Man of Influence

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Claude Carles on being recognized as one of Saskatchewan's Top 10 Men of Influence by *Saskatchewan Business* magazine. Mr. Carles is a farmer in the Radville area and has been the president and chamber of the board of the Weyburn Inland Terminal since 1998. As president he has overseen the long-term direction and successes of this Weyburn company. As well, Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Carles's leadership, this past fall the Weyburn Inland Terminal was inducted into the Sask Business Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame as its 24th inductee.

Mr. Steve McLellan, CEO [chief executive officer] of Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, had this to say about this accomplishment, and I quote:

“[The] Weyburn Inland Terminal showcases the entrepreneurial spirit of Saskatchewan, originating from a group of farmers who saw a need and filled it, emerging

not only as an economic leader, but [also as] a community leader as well.”

Mr. Speaker, I just want to offer my congratulations to Mr. Carles on his outstanding achievement, along with the entire board, management, and staff and the shareholders, in making the Weyburn Inland Terminal an important part of a vital Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to join me in recognizing Mr. Carles on his accomplishment, as well as those of the Weyburn Inland Terminal. Thank you.

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

### Souls Harbour Banquet and Graduation Ceremony

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 7th, the member from Cypress Hills and I attended the annual Souls Harbour Rescue Mission Love Your Neighbour fundraising banquet and graduation ceremony for 2012.

Souls Harbour is recognized not only in this industry, this city, but province-wide for the amazing work they do for those with addictions or just need a hand up. Their Christian-based programs and services have helped countless people with little hope find new life and dignity. The evening, emceed by Brad Grass of Big Dog 92.7 — who did a fantastic and entertaining job, by the way — was not only sold out but enjoyable and full of inspiration through the many stories of people involved with and helped by Souls Harbour.

Many great door prizes donated by the business community and individuals were awarded during the evening, and Executive Director Joe Miller did a very touching address to update the capacity crowd on the challenges but mostly the directions and successes of Souls Harbour. Saskatchewan's own Keith Kitchen of Swift Current entertained with music and further inspired by sharing some of his story.

The highlight of the evening though, without a doubt, was the life-changing graduation ceremony of five people who have successfully completed their programs, and the heart-wrenching testimony of one of the grads, a young woman who told of her struggles with addictions and mental illness, and how Souls Harbour has walked with her to overcome her demons and be reunited with her children.

Congratulations and thank you to all involved with Souls Harbour and may you both be blessed and a blessing for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Support for the Film Industry

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thousands of people have signed an online petition, and today I tabled a petition with more than 8,000 signatures in support of a tax credit that works for the film and television industry here. MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] have received hundreds of letters, email, and phone calls from concerned



Saskatchewan people who support the industry. A poll released last week shows the majority of Saskatchewan people support the film and television industry. The concern is so great that today we had hundreds of people gathered here, including a certain son of anarchy who is proud to call our province home. Clearly the film industry is important to people in Saskatchewan. How can the minister continue to disregard something so important to so many?

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

**Hon. Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We welcome the member's question. Mr. Speaker, everyone understands that the film industry creates economic activity and employment in our province. All industries do that.

The real question is, how much public money should be invested in this industry, one that has declined by almost 70 per cent in the last five years alone? Do we subsidize it at an even higher rate, as some have requested, when we are also being asked to deal with issues like affordable housing, child care spaces, autism funding, cancer treatment, surgical wait times, assistance for the disabled, and building schools and hospitals and highways?

Mr. Speaker, we determined that we couldn't do it all within our balanced budget and that's why we made the difficult decision that the FETC [film employment tax credit] program had to change. Our promise to the people of Saskatchewan was to provide sustainable spending for programs and important infrastructure investments within a balanced budget. Mr. Speaker, we're keeping that promise.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On budget day, those in the film and television industry were shocked to hear the Sask Party government was killing the tax credit. After a huge public outcry, the government agreed to work with the industry to come up with a replacement program. The film industry took the government at its word.

Unfortunately last week it had the rug pulled out from under it once again when the government announced its own version of the industry's proposal. The government took out its magic marker and changed the industry's proposal by writing the word "non" in front of it. This simple word took the industry's proposal from useful to utterly useless. Why did the minister bother to give all these people hope? Clearly he had no intention of working in good faith to ensure a strong and vibrant television industry here in Saskatchewan.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As has always been the case in the province of Saskatchewan, budgets are approved by all of cabinet. Budgets are approved by members on this side of the House and then presented to the Legislative Assembly for a vote, for debate and vote. And so, Mr. Speaker, I just want to be clear, in light of some of the calls from industry over the weekend, there is support, complete

support for the minister's position that he's outlined in terms of the industry.

And to the member's specific question, there ought not to be a surprise that our government's moving to a non-refundable tax credit. We've been pretty consistent all along. In fact, Mr. Speaker, on the 26th of March, Mr. Goetz, Ron Goetz speaking for the industry in an interview said, he — the Premier — made it very clear that he is not interested in subsidies, that he's interested in the industry, interested in going forward on something, but he doesn't want to go back that way.

He was referencing a refundable tax credit. There's other quotes, Mr. Speaker. We have adopted the tax credit proposal from the industry, but we've said it will be non-refundable. In other words — well, members laugh — in other words, it'll be available to those companies who pay taxes in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — I think, Mr. Speaker, there's thousands of people who pay taxes in the province in the film and television industry who take great umbrage with the Premier's comments.

The minister has said many times in this House that our film industry can't compete with Toronto and Vancouver. He's talked about concentration of the industry in those cities. The people here today know otherwise. With the support of government, Saskatchewan's film industry can compete with the rest of the country and on a global stage. In fact, it has. The minister, the Premier, and their government like to talk about how Saskatchewan is a have province open to all kinds of possibilities. Why does the Sask Party government believe we can be major players in every way except when it comes to the film and television industry?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, we know that everybody involved in any industry as individuals who are employed pay taxes. The point here is about the companies involved in the industry itself. The point here is that we can have a tax credit system for companies who pay taxes in the province of Saskatchewan. What we are stopping is a grant. It is a de facto grant that has existed up until now. Ninety-eight per cent of the monies paid under this tax credit have come as a grant before any profit is made, before any taxes are paid in the province of Saskatchewan. If it walks like a grant and it talks like a grant, the taxpayers think that they are supporting, in a very direct way, an industry. The member's question is about whether or not this province is a have province. Of course it is.

Here's the way that we maintain have status within the confederation, within the Dominion of Canada: sound economic policies, Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget, an even-handed economic development approach that doesn't favour one particular industry with a grant over any other particular industry.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very simple. The Premier can say yes or no to the film industry in Saskatchewan. Saying yes means the government needs to get back to the table and work with the industry to come up with something that will sustain and grow the sector. If the answer is no, which seems more likely the case if one were to judge based on actions not words, then the people here today want their government to look them in the eye and be straight with them. Stop hiding behind a program that will not work. Mr. Speaker, people are listening. What does the Premier have to say about the future of the industry? Does he want it here? Yes or no?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all decisions when we go through the budget process are difficult. None of the decisions are made by a single minister. Those decisions are upheld by cabinet and an entire caucus, Mr. Speaker. It's about choices, Mr. Speaker. We chose not to follow through with an \$8 million subsidy, an absolute subsidy to industry, Mr. Speaker.

We chose not to follow through with that, but what we chose instead is a colorectal screening program for early detection. That's what this government has chosen, Mr. Speaker. We've also chosen to follow through with a campaign commitment for insulin pumps, Mr. Speaker, expanding that program to people up to age 25. That's a choice, Mr. Speaker. Instead of \$8 million worth of subsidies, it goes to . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — I'll ask the members to come to order and allow the minister to complete his question.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Instead of an \$8 million subsidy to one industry, Mr. Speaker, we chose colorectal screening programs. We chose insulin pump programs, Mr. Speaker. All of this within a balanced budget, the only province in Canada.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier's handling of this file is abysmal. We know that there is great support throughout the province for the film industry because it provides jobs for young, capable people. It's brought lots of people back to the province.

So my question to the Premier is, when the president of SMPIA [Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association] says that the minister's actions and the government's actions are "put the entire Saskatchewan film and video industry in jeopardy," will he listen to the film industry and make changes in the Ministry of Culture with the minister and with the policy?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the president of SMPIA, after we met on 26 March said, about our position, about me in particular, was he was very passionate about the role of tax credit in this province. and he wants to not be in a bidding war any more with film. The president of SMPIA, the

industry went on to say, they — the government — are really not wanting to be in that business anymore of granting.

He went on to say, the Premier is very determined about the direction he wants to go with respect to tax credits. That's because we said at that meeting that while we're not prepared to go the way of this grant tax credit where 98 per cent is paid upfront without any money being made. Mr. Speaker, we were prepared to look at a non-refundable tax credit.

Mr. Speaker, that member has some explaining to do as well. Because the leader of the NDP, the day after the budget when confronted by the media with the question, if you're not going to cut the film tax credit, what will you cut, he said he'd cut money to municipalities. He'd cut money to agriculture, Mr. Speaker. He's got some questions to answer on his side of the House.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, it's very curious that the Premier quotes Mr. Ron Goetz, the head of SMPIA [Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association]. I'm reading from the weekend edition of *Metro*, May 11th to 13th — it's the 14th today, Mr. Speaker — and in this front page article with the headline "SMPIA calls for Hutchinson's head." Mr. Ron Goetz says, "We ask that he be replaced with a new minister that understands our industry and who wants to work with us to save us."

Mr. Speaker, the issue is the Premier. The Premier has the ability to make a change. He can say look, we didn't get this quite right. He can go back and say to the people on the Treasury Board and in the Finance department, let's take another look at this. Let's save an industry which is really important for the people of Saskatchewan. I ask the Premier: will he take that step, admit he's made a mistake and go back and redo this?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, we give full credit to the industry. They've been clear from that particular meeting on the 26th and since that the only way they can survive is if they continue to get the subsidy. That's what they say.

Mr. Speaker, we think, by the way, there's other parts of the creative industry that can prosper and can be very effective with respect to a non-refundable tax credit. But the industry has said and the NDP have said, if the taxpayers don't pony up a direct subsidy, a grant to the tune of \$8 million, then we will lose this particular industry.

Mr. Speaker, the budget is about choices. And the Minister of Health and others later on this day will highlight the choices that this government made. Choices in favour of colorectal screening, choices in favour of those who have intellectual disabilities, choices in favour of building new schools, choices to balance the budget, Mr. Speaker, choices about policies that are overseeing the fastest growing economy in the Dominion of Canada, Mr. Speaker — those are the choices we made on this side of the House.

When that member was asked the day after the budget, if not cutting the film tax credit, what would you cut? He'd take it out of farmers and municipalities. We disagree with that choice, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, this is about leadership. And the Premier is not showing leadership when he lets an industry like this go to the side when he forces young families to move away from our province because of a decision that they have made around the cabinet table. We know that 75 per cent of the people in Saskatchewan support the film industry. We know that the Premier has the ability to make a change. It's happened before in other governments, in other times, in other places.

And I ask the Premier, will he take steps to make sure that all of the families, all of the people, all of the industry in our province that work in film will keep their jobs and, more importantly, that all of the other industries that work together with them will keep their business?

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite and to everyone that's listening, they need to know that the decision to end the grant for the film industry was not an easy one. It was not a decision by just one minister. It was a choice about balanced budget. It was a choice about keeping campaign promises. It was a choice about keeping campaign promises for people with disabilities, for people on Saskatchewan assured income for disabilities who have been waiting for years to have the dignity and respect that they deserve by having a separate plan. The decisions we made this year in our budget allow them to have an extra \$200 a month, which they have never had before, Mr. Speaker.

We also know that the members opposite left 440 people, people with a disability on a wait-list, people that didn't have a home. We chose to spend money to ensure that people on that wait-list would no longer be looking for a place to live. With our government, they have a home.

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

### Review of Labour Legislation and Minimum Wage

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the discussion items in the sham of a consultation document put forth by the Sask Party focuses on minimum wage here in Saskatchewan. When we've asked the question before about the potential for a training wage in this province, the Sask Party has been anything but straightforward. They loved what happened with Gordon Campbell in BC [British Columbia] when he brought in a \$2 an hour reduced minimum wage for first-time workers. But this has people wondering, where else is this government willing to lower the bar for working people? To the minister: is this government considering a lower training wage for first-time workers here in Saskatchewan?

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

Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we're a government that chose to help the low-income people in our province by doing a lot of different things. We raised the basic personal tax exemption so that 114,000 more people have been removed from the tax rolls. Mr. Speaker, we have increased the minimum wage from 7.95 to 9.50 per hour. We've had an increase of 19.5 per cent over four years, an average of 4.9 per cent per year.

Mr. Speaker, we've continued to make those changes and will continue to go forward with looking after low-income people. We've taken steps to do that. We have a minimum wage board that meets on an ongoing basis. There may well be another increase later on; those members opposite will have to stay watching.

Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite want to advocate changes to the minimum wage, I'd urge them to try and participate in the program and offer some meaningful input.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Well that was certainly an interesting answer, Mr. Speaker, not a word about the training wage. You know, three years ago, I asked the Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and training, and this is what he said when asked on May 4th, 2009: he said, and I quote, "I'm certainly not ruling it out."

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has been far from clear on this so-called consultation about what is in and what is out. Will the Premier stand and clear this up once and for all? Will he bring in a training wage, here in Saskatchewan for first-time workers, yes or no?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, our goal with the consultation paper is to have a broad, comprehensive consultation. We are not ruling things out. We're not ruling things in, Mr. Speaker. There is no intention. There is no discussion about a training wage, Mr. Speaker. We'll allow the members opposite to have some meaningful input, Mr. Speaker.

Our goal is to try and enhance the role of our workers in our province. The women and men in our province contribute to our economy greatly. We look forward to finding ways to continue to support them, so that those people have got lower taxes, better opportunities with homes, better schools, roads. And we want to continue to do that, Mr. Speaker, and we want to ensure that we have a labour environment that fosters them in their pursuits as well, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when BC finally raised its minimum wage after a decade of neglect, they hit back at minimum wage workers. They put into place a server's wage, a right wing invention to lower the minimum wage once again for servers in bars and restaurants.

Now the minister says he won't prejudge what is in or what is out in the consultations. But surely he can agree that a server's wage, a two-tiered minimum wage in our economy, is simply unfair and unjust. Will the Premier stand today and rule out a server's wage for Saskatchewan? Yes or No.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, a year ago the government in Alberta chose to have a two-tiered system. We chose to raise our minimum wage instead. We did not adopt a training wage at that time. We did not adopt a service wage at that time. It's not something that's on our agenda, not something that we've heard from. We don't see that there's a need for that in our province. If the members opposite want to raise that as something they're interested in having a discussion about it, I guess let them wear that one. But we're not going to, Mr. Speaker. We're moving forward and upward.

We think workers should earn more, not less. We think it's the right way for our province to go. We've steadily increased minimum wages, Mr. Speaker. When we formed government, we've actually raised wages four times, and we're going to continue to do that each and every time we think it's appropriate. And where the cost of living has gone up, we think that should be reflected in the amount of money that our workers earn. Our workers work hard. They're committed to our province. We want them to continue to move back. We've got a labour shortage in our province. We're moving upward. We're not wallowing in what they're doing over there.

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

### Surgical Wait Times

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week in the Assembly, the Minister of Health stood in the Assembly and said that surgeons in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region were not being punished for two things: (1) complaining about operating rooms sitting idle; and (2) advocating for their patients. The minister said in the House, "Nothing could be further from the truth."

My question to the minister: does he stand by those remarks today, or does he wish to correct the record?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, last week we were talking about the fact that the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region isn't meeting its targets. That's a concern. That's why I've talked to the CEO and the board chair. There is more to report on that in the coming weeks as they work on a more aggressive plan to meet the targets, Mr. Speaker. Part of that conversation to be able to meet those targets is absolutely with physicians. We want physician input. Mr. Speaker, all physicians need to be, and especially the surgeons, need to have input, as well as the operating room nurses and others within the health care sector, especially in Regina Qu'Appelle.

I have said that our surgical care initiative that I think has done

a very good job so far, Mr. Speaker — more work to do, but has done a very good job — is largely made up of surgeons from across the province. Their input is extremely important, Mr. Speaker, and I stand by the words to say that absolutely we want physician input. We want all health care professionals' input so that we can get away from the longest wait-lists in Canada that was left by the NDP [New Democratic Party].

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under this minister's watch, operating rooms within the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, the existing operating rooms are sitting idle and not running at full capacity. The minister says that physicians aren't being punished for speaking out and advocating for their patients.

Well, Mr. Speaker, reports in the media tell a different story. Mr. Speaker, it says, from Global, it says, the president of the Regina Qu'Appelle medical association said:

There were some concerns raised to me by the members of the Department of Surgery with being concerned about speaking out about some of the goings on, or lack of goings on within the operating room, specifically the amount of surgeries going on.

Some individuals felt that when they did speak out, they had their operating room time cut.

Last week the minister dismissed these concerns, said they were not true. We know, Mr. Speaker, tomorrow evening there's an extraordinary meeting of the regional medical association to deal with this issue of surgeries in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. My question: who are we to believe, the minister or the Regina Qu'Appelle medical association? Who's telling the story?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, you know, I won't, I can't stand in the House and say that there has been no surgery cancelled because of a physician having to do another emergency surgery. But no surgeries have been cancelled because of the staffing issues, Mr. Speaker. People don't get put on a list and then cancelled because we don't have the operating room. What it does do is it delays the time that people get put to have their surgery, Mr. Speaker. So from that point of view, there has not been cancellations due to the staffing issues around Regina Qu'Appelle. But what I would say is people aren't getting their surgery as soon as they should be, as soon as the targets were set, Mr. Speaker. There is a difference there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I've said all the way along that surgeons are extremely important. We want them to have their input. I know, after speaking to the CEO and board chair that next evening, Mr. Speaker, Dwight Nelson was meeting with surgeons. There will be more meetings conducted through the past week and into the next week. That's the only way we get their input, Mr. Speaker, and that's the only way targets will be met.

We are seeing targets met in other jurisdictions, Saskatoon, in eight other health regions, Mr. Speaker, in this province. They have met their targets. Saskatoon is close, and we believe Regina can get there.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister did not answer the very specific question. There are two very different stories being told on this issue. The physicians, the surgeons are saying, Mr. Speaker, when they speak out, when they are concerned about operating rooms sitting idle, Mr. Speaker, they say that they're being punished and losing OR [operating room] time. The minister in question period says that is not the case. The minister needs to explain which story is true and who has the facts.

My question to the minister: we know that there are challenges with recruiting more physicians. We hear a lot of talk about wanting to retain the physicians we train, about attracting other physicians here. But when physicians complain about a lack of OR time in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, when we hear of punishment being levelled on these physicians, Mr. Speaker, how does that encourage and support recruitment and retention of doctors in the province?

To the minister: who is telling the correct story — the regional medical association or the Minister of Health?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to meet with a number of physicians in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. Mr. Speaker, about two Fridays ago I was at the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] elected council meeting, met with the board, and then the general assembly. Later on, on that weekend, Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I was at the doctors' night out in Regina, which had about 60 or 70 physicians from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.

I talked to many of them, Mr. Speaker. I've talked to Dr. Sridhar, to Dr. Joy Dobson, many of the physicians that are part of the surgical care initiative. I haven't heard them come back and say that there are threats, that there is intimidation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what we want is all the input of physicians to make sure that Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region can meet its targets like eight others are doing in the province, like Saskatoon is very close to doing. Mr. Speaker, I think there are things that we can learn from those health regions.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, the commitment has never been stronger, with \$60.5 million, a choice that had to be made. Not \$8 million worth of subsidy, but \$60.5 million that went to the surgical care initiative that it's seeing better service for Saskatchewan people.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

#### International Minerals Innovation Institute

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the House today, Mr. Speaker, to tell people across the province about an important new initiative, the international minerals innovation institute, a centre of excellence for post-secondary skills training and innovation and related areas of applied research.

This institute will be jointly funded by industry and government and will ensure that minerals and mining, especially pertaining to this important sector in our economy and across the Saskatchewan province, has access to a skilled workforce and new and innovative areas of technological needs.

Innovation Saskatchewan is providing an initial \$500,000 investment to support start-up costs for the institute. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that an inaugural board of directors is in place, representing industry, government, and educational institutions.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order.

[14:30]

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — For example, Mr. Speaker, Engin Ozberk, the vice-president of technology and innovation at Cameco; Dr. Karen Chad, vice-president of research at the University of Saskatchewan, and Jerome Konecsni, CEO of Innovation Saskatchewan are all participating, Mr. Speaker. And former Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Gordon Barnhart will serve as an interim Chair of the board to make sure that this new centre of excellence can get up and running as quickly as possible. This inaugural board under the leadership of Dr. Barnhart will work to expand the board of directors, recruit an executive director, and launch the institute's programming.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is Canada's hottest mining jurisdiction. What we've seen, Mr. Speaker, are billions of dollars invested in recent years. And when we look out over the course of the next 20 years, we anticipate that that will be close to \$40 billion in additional investment over the course of the next 20 years.

Saskatchewan's world class mineral reserves however, they do come with some major technological challenges. These technological challenges require research, innovation, new areas of development that are going to need to be conducted by increasing collaboration in areas of applied research. In addition the mining sector is also facing a major human resource challenge or what I call talent challenge. Mr. Speaker, we anticipate that over the course of the next decade this sector alone is going to require an additional 21,000 new entrants with specialized training across a broad array of programs. That's a staggering number — more than 21,000 in the course of nine years.

That being said, since 2009 a steering committee has been exploring the need for an industry-driven Saskatchewan mining and minerals innovation centre to address industry-specific human resource needs as well as important research

requirements. This steering committee undertook a feasibility study and business plan and consulted broadly with industry, educational institutions, as well as other research institutions, not simply here in the province, but across the country.

The need is obvious and present, and certainly the business plan calls for increased investment. And that's where we're very pleased, Mr. Speaker, where industry has already stepped up with a commitment of more than \$4 million over the course of the next five years, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we can help meet this talent challenge of 21,000 people over the course of the next nine years, as well as to ensure that the billions of dollars in research and investment that are going to be coming forward are going to actually be applied to increasing the productivity and ultimately adding value to our natural resources within the mining sector.

I'd like to thank specifically some key companies — Cameco, BHP, the Potash Corporation, as well as Mosaic, Mr. Speaker — in coming to the table and pledging these dollars in advance of the institute being formally established. Now that it is, Mr. Speaker, we can make sure that we are operating as quickly as possible.

I'd like to also thank the member for Saskatoon Northwest for playing an important role in engaging industry leaders and encouraging this kind of investment. Our government is pleased to play a catalytic role in bringing the mining industry together with the educational and research community right here in Saskatchewan to create this new and innovative institute.

Mr. Speaker, today's announcement is important news for our province's already strong mining sector and by extension for our economy. It will continue to position Saskatchewan as a world-class centre of excellence and innovation and build on the Saskatchewan advantage.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the minister for the announcement. We agree it is great news for a strong mining industry, and those types of investments and innovation and research are always welcome in this province. Certainly research and investment that meets the needs of industries is important.

The focus in this particular announcement is on the mining industry, and we can only ask the government to consider to focus on other industries as well, perhaps in renewable resources, renewable energy, and in the cultural industries like the film industry which could also use this kind of support and investment to ensure that their industries are viable as well.

So while this is a great announcement for the mining industry, it's important that they have those kinds of supports. Thank you. We would hope that this government continues to look beyond the boundaries of mining in its innovation approach.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question 398.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has tabled the answer to question 398. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

**The Speaker:** — Before putting the question, I would like to remind members that there will be a CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] meeting here in the Chamber immediately after adjournment of the House. The Government House Leader has moved adjournment of the House. Is the House in agreement?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. CPA, I'm told, is tomorrow now.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:35.]

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Duncan .....	1506
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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Minister Responsible for SaskTel  
Minister Responsible for The Global  
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Minister Responsible for the Status of Women  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
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Technology Office  
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Employment and Immigration  
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