



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

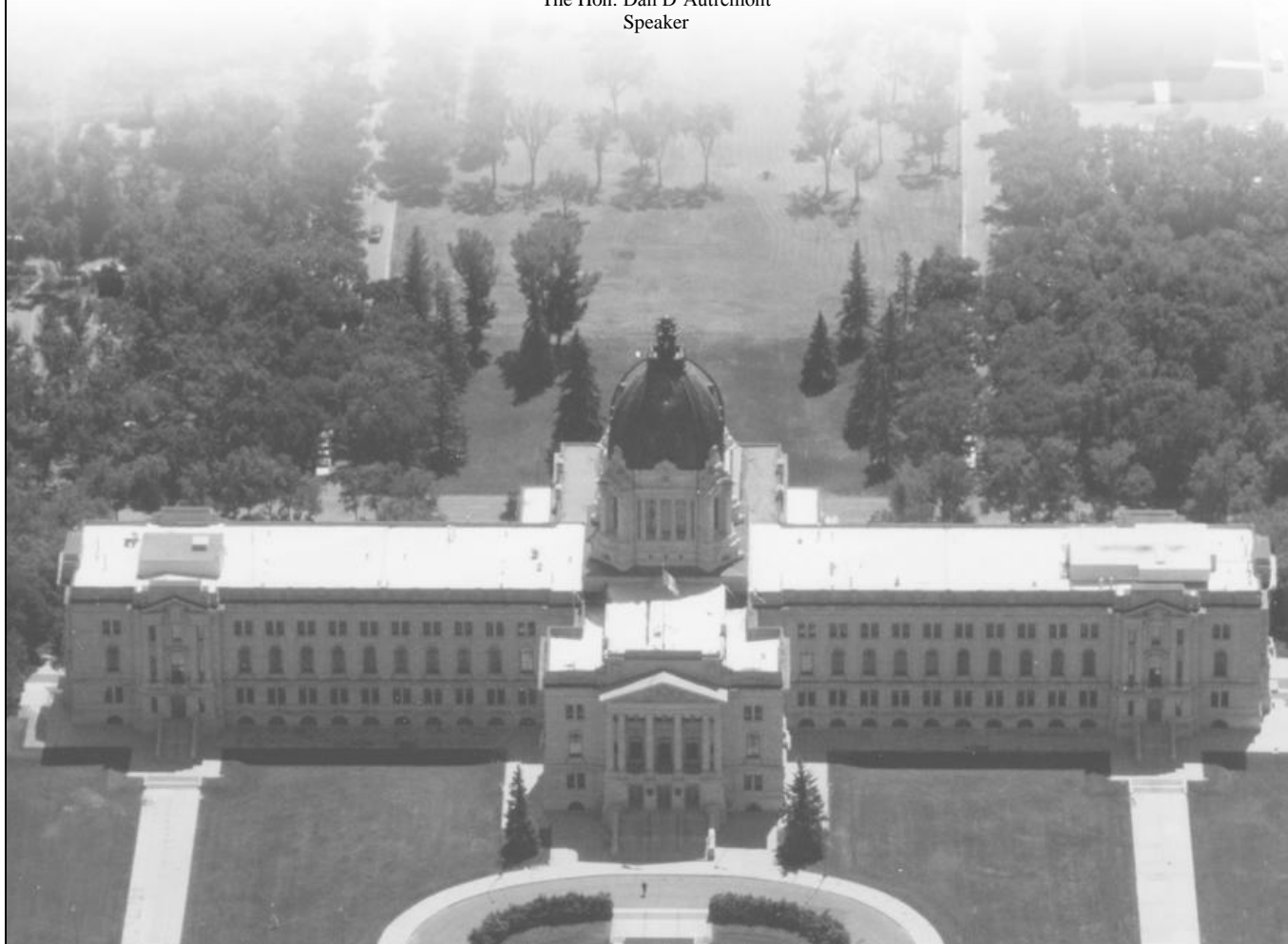
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. 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

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Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
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Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
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Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
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Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
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Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce and welcome a very special guest, Mr. Tony Kay, consul general of the United Kingdom at Calgary, to the province of Saskatchewan and to our Legislative Building. This is not only Mr. Kay's first official visit to our province, but it is the first visit of a consul general of the United Kingdom from their newly opened consulate office in Calgary.

Mr. Kay will be in this post for four years, and we look forward to working with him closely during his time on the Prairies. Mr. Kay was awarded the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty The Queen earlier this year for his work during the Arab Spring. Congratulations to you.

Mr. Speaker, there are many reasons that Saskatchewan celebrates its relationship with the United Kingdom. Saskatchewan has strong cultural linkages with the United Kingdom. Saskatchewan's Legislative Building was officially opened by Queen Victoria's son Prince Arthur, Governor General from 1911 to 1916 and with Earl Grey, former Governor General being in attendance. Forty-three per cent of Saskatchewan's population claims some British ancestry, with 1,671 new residents arriving between 2006-2011. The UK [United Kingdom] is Saskatchewan's sixth largest trading partner and the fifth largest foreign investor in Saskatchewan.

While in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kay will meet with many cabinet colleagues, leaders of post-secondary and business communities.

The province of Saskatchewan enjoys a strong bond with the people of the United Kingdom, and it is through missions like this that we will continue to strengthen that bond. So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Legislative Assembly to join me in welcoming Mr. Kay to Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome the consul general to Saskatchewan. It's a very good role and we appreciate the fact that you are serving in a full-time capacity.

I am the former Norwegian consul for Saskatchewan, and so I understand how the consular corps works. I encourage you to be involved with the consular corps of Saskatchewan because they have many valuable experiences that are available for you. So on behalf of the official opposition, we welcome you to Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd like to welcome a

whole crew of students that are in the east gallery. We have 47 grade 5 and 6 students from Ethel Milliken School in Regina Lakeview. And one of the students, Mikyla Myers, is down here on the floor. They're accompanied by Janice Hiebert and Lori Skoberg, the teachers; and educational assistant Holly Sinclair who's up in the gallery; and Bailey Kasko who's here down on the floor. And I ask all members to welcome them to the legislature.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members, I would like to introduce two individuals from the University of Regina who are seated in your gallery. Ms. Anna Dipple is the vice-president external with the University of Regina Students' Union who is here today, as well as Joseph Mburu who is an instructor at the U of R [University of Regina]. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to the legislature. Thank you.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this House, I'd like to introduce some folks in your gallery. We have here today Brenda Shenher, Tracy George, Terry Mialkowski, Paul Compton, Luke Annand, Ian Gardner, and Mike Burns. These are all folks, Mr. Speaker, who are involved in the film industry and are waiting hopefully for the government to put in place a program that works. But every week they're watching their colleagues and friends leave the province, Mr. Speaker. With that, I would like my colleagues to welcome them to the 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 positive statistics show that convenience stores 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. 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 Jimmy's law, to ensure greater safety for retail workers who work late-night hours.

I do so present. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too want to rise today to present a petition on expanding cell coverage. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Undertake, as soon as possible, to ensure SaskTel delivers cellular service to the Canoe Lake First Nations, along with the adjoining communities of Cole Bay and Jans Bay; Buffalo River First Nations, also known as Dillon, and the neighboring communities of Michel Village and St. George's Hill; the English River First Nation, also known as Patuanak, and the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nations and the neighboring community of Turnor Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the petition here has signatures from people from Patuanak, from Meadow Lake, from Saskatoon, and all throughout the province. And I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan people as it relates to the finances in our province. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the honourable Legislative Assembly call on the Sask Party government to provide Saskatchewan people with the fair, true state of our finances by providing appropriate summary financial accounting and reporting that is in line with the rest of Canada in compliance with public sector standards in following the independent Provincial Auditor's recommendations; and also to begin to provide responsible, sustainable, and trustworthy financial management as deserved by Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses.

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

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Saskatoon and Weyburn. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of the leadership in the community of Wollaston Lake. And the prayer reads as:

Let the Government of Saskatchewan stop turning their back on the people from northern Saskatchewan and start investing in public highways in the North.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the construction on the road to Wollaston Lake, which was started under the previous NDP government, has shown little to no progress and must be completed quickly.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good people of Wollaston Lake. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Nutana.

Persons Day

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, October 18th was Persons Day in Canada, which marks the day the Persons Case was handed down in 1930 by the Privy Council. This was an historic milestone for women's legal rights. Due to the efforts of a group of activist women known as the Famous Five, which included Nellie McClung and Emily Murphy, women were finally legally recognized as persons, 51 years after Confederation.

Today organizations such as the Saskatoon Council of Women continue to work on improving the quality of life for women in our communities. On October 23rd the Saskatoon Council of Women celebrated Persons Day with a luncheon to honour the accomplishments of two Saskatoon women, and my colleague the member for Saskatoon Riversdale was present at that luncheon.

At the event, Brenda Baker and Shirley Haines were inducted into the Saskatoon Women's Hall of Fame. Brenda Baker is a noted singer-songwriter and mentor in the Saskatchewan music scene. She is the founder of Kids of Note, a children's choir that is accessible for children with disabilities. She devotes her life to the arts, working for social justice, and contributing to many other community organizations.

Shirley Haines has been an educator, actively participating in the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation while leading the way in many other organizations working to improve lives and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brenda Baker and Shirley Haines, along with the Saskatoon Council of Women, on the important contributions that they make to our lives and our communities. Thank you.

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

Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 20th I had the distinct pleasure of presenting at the 2012 Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ABEX [Achievement in Business Excellence] Awards. In 1984 Saskatchewan's Chamber of Commerce introduced ABEX awards to honour outstanding achievement in business excellence. The awards have gained prominence as the most highly esteemed symbols of business excellence in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan enterprises are recognized for the commitment to their employers in their communities as well as long-term growth they have achieved.

It was an honour to present the 2012 ABEX award for Aboriginal Business Partnership to Kendall Netmaker of Neechie Gear. Neechie Gear was also a 2012 ABEX award winner in the community involvement category. Kendall and Neechie Gear are a purpose-driven clothing company that elevates young athletes from across Canada while promoting the positive aspects of sports among youth.

Neechie Gear also uses their large customer base to support and develop their non-profit organization, the NG Athletics Club which creates, develops, and supports youth-based sports teams.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in congratulating Kendall Netmaker and all of the 2012 Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ABEX Award winners for their commitment to their communities all across our province. Thank you.

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

Ânskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last weekend Saskatoon hosted the Ânskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival. The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writers Circle started this annual event in 2004. The event was hosted in partnership with the Saskatchewan Writers Guild and the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Literacy Network. Mr. Speaker, this event is one of only two literacy festivals of its kind in all of Canada.

Festivals like this one make it possible to bring Aboriginal authors from all across Canada to educate the public on the richness of Aboriginal literacy and to promote further understanding of Aboriginal people. Special guests include a legendary country singer, Sylvia Tyson; Darren Prefontaine, winner of the 2011 Book of the Year Award for Saskatchewan Book Awards; and John Lagimodiere, publisher and editor of *Eagle Feather News*; past poet laureate of Saskatchewan, Louise Halfe; and Curtis Peeteetuce, artistic director of Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company.

On behalf of the NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus, I ask all members of this legislature to join me in congratulating the organizers of this very successful event. I'm proud of the talent we have in this province, and I thank Ânskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival for showcasing this talent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House to draw attention to Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer continues to be the most common cancer in Canadian women over the age of 20. It is estimated that one in nine women are expected to develop breast cancer over the course of their lifetime, and in 2012 nearly 23,000 Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Mr. Speaker, I am sure everyone in this House has known someone who has been affected by breast cancer. Too many of our mothers, daughters, sisters, and grandmothers have been lost to this terrible illness.

Mr. Speaker, effective screening offers the best chance for early detection and treatment of breast cancer. New digital mammography equipment is now available on Saskatchewan Cancer Agency's mobile unit that travels throughout rural Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, every woman screened is a potential life saved.

Through continued innovation in research and treatment, early detection, and an unconquerable desire to beat this illness, we

will continue to make historic gains in the fight against breast cancer. Mr. Speaker, together, through initiatives like Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we will continue to make progress in the fight against breast cancer. Together we can beat breast cancer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Foundation Donates to Saskatoon Art Gallery

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in this House to pay tribute to two proud Saskatchewan citizens, Dr. Frederick Mulder and Ellen Remai. Dr. Frederick Mulder, a London-based art dealer who grew up in Eston and is a University of Saskatchewan alumnus, assembled a collection of 405 Pablo Picasso linocut prints over a 10-year period. It is considered the most impressive collection of Picasso linocuts on the planet.

Ellen Remai, a Saskatoon businesswoman and a philanthropist, purchased the collection, and through the Frank and Ellen Remai Foundation she has donated the entire \$20 million collection to the Remai Art Gallery. It is among the most valuable art donations in Canadian history.

In addition to the world-renowned Picasso prints, the foundation has also donated 30 million to the Remai Art Gallery for the construction and future programming of the gallery. Mr. Speaker, the extremely generous donation by the Frank and Ellen Remai Foundation, although the biggest, is not their first. The foundation has been active in the Saskatoon community for years, particularly in the fields of education, social issues, and the arts. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Ms. Remai for her generosity and, most importantly, her passion for Saskatchewan arts and culture.

[13:45]

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

International Year of the Co-operative

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 2012 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of the Co-operative. Co-operatives are democratically controlled, member-driven organizations that are formed to provide goods and services to its members. Around the world, co-operatives employ 100 million people — 20 per cent more than multinational enterprises — while in Canada, 150,000 people are employed by co-operatives.

Saskatchewan has a long and storied history of co-operatives. In 1895 a group of dairy farmers in the settlement of Saltcoats formed Saskatchewan's first co-operative butter creamery. In 1935 Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Ltd. was established by farmers in Regina. And in 1985 the first debit card was piloted in the Swift Current area at Pioneer Co-op.

Today in Saskatchewan there are more than 1,200 co-operatives that employ nearly 15,000 people across the province, and 28 of the top 100 companies in Saskatchewan are either co-operatives

or credit unions. In Saskatchewan, 56 per cent of the population are members of at least one co-operative. Co-operatives are an integral part of Saskatchewan's economy. They provide gainful employment and valuable services across the province.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the important contributions of Saskatchewan co-operatives and to congratulate them on 2012 being the International Year of the Co-operative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Canadian Patient Safety Week

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government started the journey to transform our health system with the concept that patient comes first. And that principle is driving quality, service, and safety throughout the system and to the front lines where service begins. For this reason, Mr. Speaker I'd like to recognize October 29th to November 2nd as Canadian Patient Safety Week.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Saskatchewan's health providers, along with the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, for their commitment to safety practices and procedures. Mr. Speaker, our doctors and nurses now routinely use surgical safety checklists in hospital operating rooms. This simple but important practice ensures standard steps are followed. It also encourages better communication between health care providers, which improves patient safety significantly. Health providers are also taking additional safety steps to reduce the number of infections among surgical patients based on best-known evidence and practice.

Reducing the number of falls among patients is another safety focus. Through the Saskatchewan Falls Collaborative, health regions are taking measures to reduce falls and injury from falls among long-term care patients and home care residents.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to patients and their safety. We will continue to ensure top quality health care, delivered in the safest way possible, for the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Influenza Immunization

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Families across Saskatchewan are concerned with the news that flu shots are suspended across the province due to problems with the vaccine provided by the company Novartis. These vaccinations are very important to Saskatchewan residents, especially to young children and seniors.

My question to the minister: when will the flu shot clinics reopen across the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly safety of patients is our first priority. When we were notified late last week that there was an issue that was seen in a batch of Novartis vaccine that was being manufactured, Mr. Speaker, we took the recommendation of Health Canada that we temporarily suspend vaccination programs in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we are, as we speak, working with not only the manufacturer and Health Canada to determine when we can begin again with Novartis. And in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, should that not be the case, there are other provinces that have ample supply of the other two vaccines that have been approved by Health Canada. And we will know within the next day or so whether we will continue on with Novartis in our flu clinics or whether we will continue on with the other two vaccines. And we'll be making that announcement within the next day.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recommendation from Health Canada was made last Friday regarding the concerns with the vaccines from Novartis. The news however has had a different impact in different provinces. In some provinces, Mr. Speaker, the flu clinics have been proceeding as normal. This is because Novartis is only a percentage of their flu vaccine supply. As reported in the media, Novartis makes up 1 per cent of supplies in Manitoba, 22 per cent in Alberta, and 30 per cent in British Columbia.

My question to the minister: what percentage of Saskatchewan's flu vaccines are provided by Novartis?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, the province of Saskatchewan is in a fairly unique situation along with one or two other provinces in the fact that Novartis currently makes up the vast majority of our flu vaccine. This is, Mr. Speaker, because provinces across Canada as well as Health Canada have bulk purchased the flu vaccine for this year. Three vendors, suppliers had been selected. And just in terms of logistics to supply all the different provinces, Novartis was essentially the supplier of choice for the province of Saskatchewan.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, we do know that at least three other provinces have ample supply of the other two vaccines in the event that Novartis cannot be continued to be used. Mr. Speaker, if that is the case then we will take our supply from those other provinces. And as I said, we'll make that decision in the next day or so.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Flu shots are very important to Saskatchewan patients and residents. It's peace of mind for many families and they have a real benefit saving health dollars in the long run and helping Saskatchewan residents through the flu season. It appears, Mr. Speaker, that other provinces have been better at diversifying their supply of

the vaccine. My question to the minister: why is it that our supply of the vaccine has not been diversified as we've seen in other provinces?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and to the member for his question. Certainly I think it is fair to say that the flu vaccine across Canada has been well diversified. That allows us within just a matter of days to be able to determine that other provinces are in the position to supply flu vaccines from the other two manufacturers in the event that Novartis can no longer be used in the province.

I think it's important though for me to say, Mr. Speaker, that while the regulatory agency in Italy, where this manufacturer is located, has identified issues with the current lot of this vaccine that is being produced, certainly at no time when the lot of this vaccine was being manufactured did that regulatory body identify any concerns, nor did Health Canada who is the regulatory body within Canada for this vaccine and with all vaccines.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that at this time we don't have any concerns with those people that have already received the flu shot, Mr. Speaker, and we hope to be able to continue on with the important work of our flu clinics within the next week.

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

Support for the Film Industry

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party's spring budget decimated the film industry. Every day since then people have had to make the most difficult choice — stay in the province they love and not work or earn a living in another province that actually understands competitiveness. We want to stem that out-migration and so do the people of Saskatchewan.

Recently I learned the Minister of Culture has been briefed on a study partially funded with public dollars through SaskFilm. This study shows the Sask Party government's decision to axe the film employment tax credit was the wrong one. Mr. Speaker, the minister has this information that shows the industry deserves support to keep our cultural economy flourishing.

Can the minister tell this House today what he has been briefed on in this study and why he has taken no action to reverse his government's decision to kill the film industry?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question that the hon. member asked, she and I had a discussion about this. She knows full well that I was presented with a report from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce that was done in conjunction with SaskFilm. And as I have said to her in our private meeting that we had last week, that we sat down and talked about these issues, I'm okay if the

Sask Chamber of Commerce wants to release the report or if SaskFilm wants to release the report. They have asked me not to release it, Mr. Speaker. It's not my report.

Now what I can say, and I've said this to the hon. member in our conversation, is that particular study showed that there was an economic benefit to the province for the film industry. And as I asked her, I said, show me an industry in Saskatchewan that doesn't derive an economic benefit if you're receiving a refundable tax credit to help offset your labour costs. I can't imagine what the mining sector would do in this province, Mr. Speaker, with the same kind of refundable tax credit, or the oil and gas sector or the agriculture sector.

What I've said to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, the refundable tax credit in its current form was gone as of June 30th of this year. We have implemented a creative consultation process with our creative industry to sit down, talk to the film industry, the visual arts, the crafts people, the publishing industry, the music industry, Mr. Speaker, on how government can support all of our creative . . .

The Speaker: — Next question.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually you don't cut a program that is key to a sector and then do consultations. When public dollars go into a study — public dollars, Mr. Speaker — the public has the right to know what the study has found. The minister believed it worth his time to be briefed on the study.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the study found that the net cost of the tax credit to the province is \$735,000, less money than this government has budgeted for a non-refundable tax credit that will be useless to the industry. Mr. Speaker, the minister should help clear the air. Will he table the study and explain to the people of the province why, when presented with the facts, he's still not standing up for the film industry now, Mr. Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've said to the hon. member, I have no difficulty if the chamber of commerce, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce wants to release that study; if SaskFilm wants to release that study. I'm sure they'd be more than happy to share it with you.

But interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, what the study did show is that there was a net cost to the taxpayer in this province for implementing the refundable tax credit to the film industry. So what we're doing, Mr. Speaker, is we are working in conjunction with MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] here that were appointed by the Premier, cabinet committee, and going around the province and talking to all of our creative industries — all of our creative industries — on creating a mechanism, Mr. Speaker, that will benefit all of our creative industries.

And what that model looks like, Mr. Speaker . . . And you don't have to take my word for it. The Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association sent me a letter in their formal presentation asking that a new model program needs to place a

greater emphasis on indigenous production. I don't think we have a problem with that, Mr. Speaker. It should support greater Saskatchewan expenditures to promote industry sustainability. It should be as cost neutral as possible. It needs to be . . . [inaudible] . . . requirements will not participate in what is seen as a bidding war. And it cannot be a tax-related initiative, in other words not a refundable tax credit, Mr. Speaker. That's SMPIA's position on this.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see that he's had a week to work on his talking points on this matter. The only way, Mr. Speaker, for the people to know the facts is for the minister to release the information provided in the taxpayer-funded study that was commissioned by SaskFilm and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. It is common sense to keep an industry that creates jobs, economic spinoff, and pride of place. Shamefully the minister and this Sask Party government doesn't seem to let facts get in the way when they make decisions.

As the minister referenced, I had a chance to meet with him last week. He told me the study even includes details about the things like the number of hairdressers who benefit from our province's film and television sector — highly detailed.

When was the minister aware of the study and why is he not using the information contained in the study to reverse the bad decision his government has made?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, what I can tell you is during this creative industry consultation process we've had 45 submissions come into the government online. We've had several meetings in the city of Saskatoon and the city of Regina where we've had 77 representatives come out from the creative industries — all creative industries in the province, Mr. Speaker. The film industry is the only industry in Saskatchewan that enjoys the benefit of a refundable tax credit, a refundable tax credit to help offset labour costs.

Now we know what the position of Mr. Weir is on this. Mr. Weir has come out and said in his leadership contest for the NDP he would reinstate the refundable tax credit and he would do it by a \$200 million tax grab by increasing taxes on small businesses. And, Mr. Speaker, the NDP position, the Finance critic when asked what he thought about that said, I don't know; I need to study that plan. Mr. Speaker, we reduced taxes on this side of the House. The Minister of Finance reduced small-business tax from four and a half to 2 per cent in the most recent budget. They want to increase taxes on small businesses, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is such a shame

that this government cannot seem to admit its glaring error on this file. Supporting the film industry means supporting a tax incentive to leverage investment and create jobs as it does with other industries that receive support from this government. We saw this in the Throne Speech with the tax cut for big business, Mr. Speaker.

The minister knows a study exists. He knows it contains information that proves his government made a bad decision. He knows the report shows a refundable tax credit creates jobs and boosts the economy in so many ways. And he knows the net cost to the province would be \$735,000. The minister and his government have put \$1 million on the table for a tax credit that won't work. Why will he not listen to the industry and the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce? Why will he not rely on the independent study that shows the original refundable tax credit would actually cost taxpayers less in the end?

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — It's interesting, Mr. Speaker. In difficult budget decisions this past budget, this government chose to invest in low-income seniors in this province — the most vulnerable seniors in this province — and you folks didn't give a dime's worth of increase in 16 years, Mr. Speaker. We chose to invest in people living with disabilities, a sector of our society that you people ignored for 16 years as well, Mr. Speaker. We chose to invest in education and health care and highways and infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

We know that the Leader of the Opposition, when given the opportunity to say where would he find money for the film industry, he would cut agriculture spending and revenue sharing with municipalities, Mr. Speaker. Then we have a leadership contest, Mr. Speaker, a leadership contender who says he would increase taxes, a \$200 million tax grab on small businesses to implement the refundable tax credit again, and the Finance critic can't make up his mind whether that's a good idea or not, Mr. Speaker.

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

Immigration Issue

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today at noon for a second time, university students at the U of R rallied in support of their fellow students, Victoria Ordu and Ihuoma Amadi. Ms. Ordu and Ms. Amadi are two international students who have been studying at the U of R since 2010. As part of their visas, international students are permitted to work on campus, but Ms. Ordu and Ms. Amadi mistakenly believed that their social insurance numbers permitted them to work off-campus.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honest mistake. But now, for less than two weeks of off-campus work, the federal government wants to deport these students. As a result, Mr. Speaker, these two women have been forced to hide in a local church since the month of June. My question to the Immigration minister: does he believe this case is being handled by the federal government in a fair and just manner?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for his question. Saskatchewan has had a long tradition of welcoming students from around the world, both under this administration and under previous administrations. This is something that is a hallmark for this province. We believe that this is a very good thing to have international students come to our province.

This situation is indeed troubling. I have taken the opportunity to write to federal Minister Toews with respect to this situation. We would hope that the federal government would take a close look at this and agree with our position, which is simply that these students probably didn't do anything necessarily too terribly wrong.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's not only U of R students and faculty who have been rallying in support of these students. It's also the U of R administration. The administration is backing up these students in their bid to stay here in Canada and to complete their education here.

Mr. Speaker, it just makes common sense. These students made an honest mistake in finding part-time jobs off-campus despite the fact that they were only permitted to work on campus. The common sense solution here, Mr. Speaker, is not to deport the students but to explain the rules to them and to ensure everyone in the province understands what the rules are for students in this situation.

The Minister of Immigration referenced an earlier letter, Mr. Speaker, but I would like him to clearly state, going back to my previous question, is it his opinion that this situation is being handled in a fair and just manner? Yes or no?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Well, Mr. Speaker, at this point in time we haven't received any communication from the federal government so it's difficult to tell how they are going to adjudicate this situation. It's my understanding that today in Ottawa there is a group of people that are going to be addressing this situation to the federal government and the federal minister, and that is after all the appropriate jurisdiction that they should be raising this issue because it is an area of federal responsibility.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, one of the women had this to say:

This is a small mistake we made and now everything is at risk. It doesn't make any sense. They're looking for us like we've killed someone. We're just students at university, but it's like we're running away and living in fear every day.

Mr. Speaker, they made an honest mistake and for less than two

weeks of work off-campus, they're being chased by the federal government, Mr. Speaker, and being threatened with deportation. You would think, Mr. Speaker, that this would be an opportunity, this would be a time when the Sask Party government could use its supposedly great relationship with Ottawa to pick up the phone — not simply write a letter, but to pick up the phone — and ask for some action here that is just, that is fair, that is based on common sense.

My question to the Immigration minister: instead of referring to some letter he wrote some time ago, will he commit today to pick up the phone, call the federal government, Mr. Speaker, and ask for fairness for these two women?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the federal government may have additional information, I'm not aware of any additional information that they may have. On the face of this situation, it appears that there is nothing too particularly troubling, at least not to our administration, with respect to this situation.

With respect to your question, the federal minister, I understand, is going to be in Saskatchewan during the next couple of days at some point in time. Our Justice minister at that point will be raising this situation with the federal minister to see if there's any way we can resolve the situation.

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

Support for First Nations Education

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, an investment in education is an investment in our province's future. It's also common sense. The more educated our province is, the better we all do. That's why so many in our province are concerned by the unacceptable, unfair underfunding of First Nations education on-reserve in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the first step in fixing a problem is recognizing a problem exists. The federal Conservative minister said we don't have a funding problem. In fact he suggests that on-reserve education funding is in fact higher than the provincial education funding. Does the minister agree with the position of Minister Duncan and the federal Conservatives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, you know, we want the best outcomes for all Saskatchewan students, whether they're on-reserve or not. And we take issue with the funding disparity very openly. And that's why, Mr. Speaker, our Premier has spoken personally with the Prime Minister. I have spoken directly with Minister Duncan ... [inaudible] ... we have been in consultation with the representatives from FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations]. And we agree that that's an area that we need to mitigate before we can bring to full fruition the disparity between outcomes for on- and off-reserve.

As the member opposite realizes, I've spent many years out in

Treaty 4 area and I can speak first-hand with regards to some of the results that result from that disparity in funding.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — It's good to see that we have some shared concern here on a file that should matter to all of us. We recognize that on-reserve First Nations funding is 68 cents for every dollar spent off-reserve. This disparity itself is simply wrong. It's an injustice and it offers harsh consequences for us all. It's holding back our province's full potential and threatening a wider gap in everything from income to employment to health to quality of life.

The minister outright denied the underfunding and directly challenged the numbers of the AFN [Assembly of First Nations] and FSIN. Referenced by the minister was a meeting of the Premier with the Prime Minister. Referenced as well was a conversation with the federal minister, his counterpart. What I'm interested in hearing is, how did that meeting go? What case was put forward by Saskatchewan? What representation did we have there? What was our position? And also, as it relates to the actual numbers, what's the minister's position on the actual numbers of the AFN and FSIN?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again, again our government recognizes the funding disparity between on- and off-reserve. Again we have been working with our counterparts at FSIN. We've been working with First Nations individually to look at the disparity. In the 2012-13 budget, Mr. Speaker, our government committed \$4.3 million for First Nations and Métis education fund and, in individual achievement accounts, another \$500,000 to support initiatives in school divisions that support closing those disparities.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier's growth plan also sets an agenda for our government to reduce the difference in graduation rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students by 50 per cent by 2020. Mr. Speaker, we have a growth plan. We've articulated goals and targets. We're not afraid to do that. And we'll do what we need to do to mitigate that disparity in funding.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Without a doubt there's clearly a discrepancy that needs provincial and national attention. We hear words from this government; we also need action to support that. I know Simon Bird, FSIN vice-chief said, I quote, "The . . . numbers are in fact fairy tales. Their falsified numbers are really Pinocchio accounting." And it's certainly a matter that we all need to stand up and to be heard on.

What will this minister do? We hear the words here today, but what will this minister do to push for immediate attention and action from a federal government that's clearly abdicating its responsibility and engaged in damaging and divisive spin?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again

thanks to the member opposite for the question. The list of initiatives that the Ministry of Education, our government, has ongoing with First Nations people is quite extensive. We have the First Nations and Métis Education Achievement Fund. We have the First Nation and Métis provincial advisory committee. We have the shared standards and capacity-building committee. And above all, Mr. Speaker, we have the task force — the joint task force with the First Nations, with the FSIN, and the province — and we intend to use the results of that task force along with the results from the other reports and committees that we're working with to mitigate those results.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, to be clear, the question was about the unacceptable underfunding of First Nations on-reserve education. All of Saskatchewan includes our First Nations students. Our government must work with all of Saskatchewan. I'll quote Vice-Chief Bird. "It is extremely disappointing that the Federal Government would attempt to poke us in the eye by issuing such fairy tales about First Nations Education funding."

The provincial government has remained conveniently silent. The Sask Party government was more than willing to publicly praise the federal government's spring budget when it suggested it was going to increase funding for First Nations education, but now entirely quiet when it was evident that the feds had broken that promise and that not a dollar had flowed to Saskatchewan. When will this government work with all of Saskatchewan, stand up, speak up, and represent this province's best interests?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Mr. Speaker, our government has made education a priority for all people in Saskatchewan. All people in Saskatchewan. And we've established that with a \$500 million investment in infrastructure and a 21 per cent increase across the board for . . . [inaudible].

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, *The StarPhoenix* editorial board put it bluntly. "It's a real problem that needs a real solution, not simply more spin and murky numbers." Time is of the essence. The gap is widening. Is this government ready to step up to address this injustice with every tool it has available, and quite simply, what's its plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would be a rookie mistake. Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to education in this province. We've made it a priority. We've set targets, we've set goals, and we're going to attain those targets, working together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Advanced

Education.

Extension of Degree-Granting Authority

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise in the Assembly to recognize a historic moment for post-secondary education in Saskatchewan. Today marks the proclamation of *The Degree Authorization Act* and its regulations.

This new legislation allows the government to extend degree-granting authority to post-secondary education institutions other than the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan. Our universities have their own robust internal quality assurance processes and for this reason they are exempt from the new legislation.

This government consulted broadly on the issue of expanding degree-granting authority to ensure changes will enhance options for students and improve our ability to meet labour market needs. Institutions seeking degree-granting authorization must undergo a rigorous quality assurance review process. To achieve that, the newly created Saskatchewan Higher Education Quality Assurance Board will play an important role in the evaluation of proposed degree programs.

The board members, drawn from academic communities in Saskatchewan and across Western Canada, bring a wealth of expertise and experience in post-secondary education and quality assurance. Several board members have deep roots in Saskatchewan. The Chair of the board is Dr. Grant Isaac of Saskatoon, senior vice-president and chief financial officer of Cameco Corporation. Prior to joining Cameco, Dr. Isaac was a professor and dean of the Edwards School of Business of the University of Saskatchewan.

The board's Vice-Chair is Dr. Ronald Bond, the provost emeritus of the University of Calgary and former Chair of the Alberta Quality Council. Other board members include Dr. Marie Battiste, professor in the College of Education and the most recent director of the Aboriginal Education Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Battiste is a former recipient of the National Aboriginal Achievement Award. Another board member with a strong Saskatchewan connection is Bill McLaughlin of La Ronge. Mr. McLaughlin's career is in post-secondary education in the province of Saskatchewan and has spanned 37 years working extensively in the regional college system. He's served as president of Northlands College since 1993 until his recent retirement.

The other board members are Karen Barnes, president of the Yukon College in Whitehorse; Dr. Robin Fisher, provost and vice-president, academic of Mount Royal University in Calgary. He was the founding Chair of the Saskatchewan Council on Admissions and Transfer. And also Ms. Irene Lewis who has served as president and CEO [chief executive officer] of SAIT [Southern Alberta Institute of Technology] Polytechnic in Calgary since 1998. And I might add that Ms. Lewis is originally from Prince Albert.

I want to thank each board member for their service to post-secondary education and for accepting this new challenge. This initiative will ensure that there is greater accessibility for

students while preserving and protecting the quality of Saskatchewan's post-secondary education system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for sending his remarks across earlier. This announcement by the minister today flows out of legislation that was passed in the previous session and has been debated extensively. The issue at hand here is if degree granting is extended to more institutions that there needs to be the highest standards in order to ensure that the quality of those degrees are at the level that everyone in Saskatchewan, within Canada, and abroad would expect them to be.

So the announcement here today of the individuals sitting on the board flows out of the earlier discussions we've had. The individuals listed by the minister indeed have experience and are accomplished. And I wish them well in their work as they ensure that Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions that may be newly degree granting would be doing so in a way that is effective and enhances our reputation at home and abroad.

So thank you for these comments and I wish the board all the best. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Why is the Opposition House Leader on his feet?

Mr. McCall: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Please state your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During question period the Minister for Culture quoted from a document, I believe it was a letter. If the minister would be so kind as to table that document with the House as per practice in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Okay. Well, I see the Government House Leader did get to his feet, so I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The point of order is well-taken and that document will be tabled.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has indicated that the letter will be tabled.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr.

Docherty, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Mr. Nilson.]

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to stand and support the Speech from the Throne, "Planning for Growth," that was delivered last week. Mr. Speaker, growth provides strength. It strengthens our economy. By strengthening our economy, we mean it strengthens our tax base. A strong securities tax base provides better funding for infrastructure and assisted government programs. It builds health centres. It builds schools. It upgrades and constructs highways and houses, improving the Saskatchewan economy. Mr. Speaker, it's about growth and planning for growth.

I talked to constituents in Moose Jaw North during the spring and summer. There were several topics they were willing to discuss. Roads and highways were a priority, which was a bit of a surprise seeing that I have an urban constituency. Housing was a concern, as was student housing, social programs, health issues, seniors' needs and care for those with special needs.

Mr. Speaker, Moose Jaw is a terrific community, challenged with growth as many communities are in Saskatchewan. But it is in managing the growth and planning for growth that Saskatchewan and Moose Jaw will meet those challenges. Moose Jaw is growing. There are new businesses along Thatcher Drive East. Two new hotels are being constructed. The Grand Hotel is in near-completion stage of being reconstructed for condominium living accommodations. And the Walter Scott Building is beginning to be totally renovated for additional residential apartments. There are three new residential subdivisions and new moderate- to low-income apartment buildings being constructed through the Saskatchewan housing program.

I'd like to report too, Mr. Speaker, that the planning for the new hospital continues with some of the best architectures in the business, some of the top advisors, and some of the best design experts that we can find. These discussions go on with the medical staff at the Five Hills Health Region and the Moose Jaw Hospital and with a lot of patient input. Mr. Speaker, this will be a state-of-the-art hospital. It'll be a health centre to serve the needs of Moose Jaw and the Five Hills Health Region, and construction on this fine facility is due to begin next year.

Mr. Speaker, growth is good. Growth is happening in Moose Jaw, and I appreciate this in the Throne Speech outlining the plan for growth. Planning for growth provides a plan far into the future. The Throne Speech builds on the Saskatchewan plan for growth. We realize that there are challenges that come with growth; however a statement at the conclusion of the Speech from the Throne sums it up very well. That statement was "... the challenges of growth are preferable to the challenges of decline Saskatchewan faced just a few short years ago."

A few short years ago. Let's look back just a few short years ago. Our youth, the future of our province, were looking for other jurisdictions for opportunities. The infrastructure of this province is falling apart with no long-term plan to improve it. Schools were being closed. Hospitals were being closed. Businesses were choosing other jurisdictions to expand and

invest. Our surgical wait-lists were the longest and the worst in Canada. The elderly and the underprivileged were all being neglected. There was minimal support for community-based organizations and no increase to the senior's supplement for 16 years. Saskatchewan had some of the highest tax rates in Canada. And many of our highways were in a disgrace. Mr. Speaker, this was a few years ago. A few short years ago.

But I'm proud to be in a province that now leads the nations in so many sectors. I'm proud of this government's record of improving growth and prosperity, and I'm proud of the plan for continued growth as was delivered in the Speech from the Throne supporting the Saskatchewan plan for growth.

Mr. Speaker, we hear the members opposite disagreeing with the Throne Speech. They disagree simply, Mr. Speaker, I suspect it is because they have never understood growth. Their record just a few years ago was managing decline. And today they don't understand what managing growth is all about. In fact after the Premier's announcement of *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: Vision 2020* the member from Regina Lakeview — yes, the Leader of the Opposition — was quoted in *The Globe and Mail* on October 17th saying:

A document like this distracts . . . [everyone], and I think his [meaning the Premier] popularity will stay up there as long as there's sort of a myth of a booming economy.

A sort of a myth. The Leader of the Opposition is calling this a myth. Well I don't know what kind of mythical delusion that member is living in, but it is clear those members opposite just don't understand the meaning of growth.

To dispel any myths that may be in the minds of those members, let's look at some of the recent economic indicators. Mr. Speaker, our population is now at its highest level ever at 1,079,958. It has grown by over 22,000 people in the past year. In the past six years, Saskatchewan has grown by nearly 88,000 people, the fastest and most sustained period of growth that this province has had for decades.

Mr. Speaker, new employment numbers show that 540,800 people were employed in September of 2012, the highest level of employment on record for the month of September. Saskatchewan's unemployment rate now stands at 4 per cent, the lowest rate in Canada and well below the national average of 6.7 per cent.

And there are dozens of press releases to further emphasize the improved economic position of Saskatchewan. Record retail sales in August; August was a record month for retail trade in Saskatchewan. August wholesale trade, second best on record. Building permits more that double the national increase. Saskatchewan's non-residential construction — best in Canada. Manufacturing increases more than triple the national rate.

These are some of the press releases that have been just recently come out. Job positioning up on saskjobs.ca; there were 15,323 job postings in September. Ten thousand six hundred more Saskatchewan people working in September. And here's a good example in July: new all-time high for average weekly earnings. Then to follow that up in August, the weekly earnings in August hit record. Take-home pay continues to rise for

Saskatchewan workers in August, according to the news report on payroll employment earnings and hourly rates released by Stats Canada. Five years ago the average weekly wage in Saskatchewan was \$744, well below the national average. Today it is 938, up \$195 a week or 26 per cent, and well above the national average.

Mr. Speaker, the world is watching Saskatchewan and is keenly interested. The consular corps delegation of diplomats representing countries from around the world attended the Speech from the Throne last Thursday. Mr. Speaker, these were representatives from Indonesia, the Netherlands, Iceland, Mexico, Italy, Japan, Germany, and Pakistan were all in attendance. These nations are interested in Saskatchewan. It's no myth. These nations are interested because they can see what we have and the opportunities it will bring to their countries, improving their lifestyles, and also improving the quality of life for the people of this province.

But the Leader of the Opposition thinks it's a myth. He clearly doesn't understand growth. So I would ask that member what is his thinking of reality if he thinks those are myths? Well his reality is probably mass exodus where we saw 16 years in their government, population decline, our youth moving to other jurisdictions for employment opportunities. Their reality is closing schools, closing hospitals, forcing the sale of potash mines like K+S and nationalizing the industry.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, after 40 years K+S is back, and at the sod-turning ceremonies, the president of K+S made it well-known that they were kicked out the province by the former government 16 years ago. The other thing is their reality is bad investments, very bad investments, Mr. Speaker — SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], Navigata, Craig Wireless, Channel Lake, Guyana, Coachman Insurance — over \$200 million of taxpayers' monies lost because of the bad investment that that former government made. That's their reality. They have no vision of the future of this province and that's their reality. They do not set goals. They would not set goals because they may not achieve them.

Mr. Speaker, that's like a farmer not seeding because he may not get a chance to harvest or like an oil company not drilling because they may not find oil. Can you imagine, at an airport, a jet taking off without a flight plan because they may not know where they're going? That's just totally ludicrous and totally absurd. But that unfortunately was their reality. That's the way they live and that's what they believed.

Mr. Speaker, we believe in Saskatchewan. We believe Saskatchewan has a bright future. We believe in setting ambitious targets, targets to attract investment, targets to be competitive in our tax structure, targets to invest in infrastructure like highways, hospitals, health, and education. Targets for population growth — 1.2 million people living in Saskatchewan by 2020.

Mr. Speaker, the speech lays out the province's priorities for our government to continue growth, and benefit all the citizens of the province. Our government's priorities will be investing in infrastructure, addressing the skilled labour shortage, and

ensuring Saskatchewan remains competitive. We will focus on improving our health and education systems, improving life for people with disabilities, and improving educational outcomes and employment opportunities for First Nations and Métis people. Mr. Speaker, we will do this, maintaining fiscal discipline and all within a balanced budget.

The planning for growth through the Throne Speech will seek growth to improve the quality of life for everyone who is living in our great province. Mr. Speaker, we will continue the growth agenda and to continue to work with Saskatchewan people to meet the challenges that growth has, and its opportunities.

I speak in favour of the Speech from the Throne. God bless Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone back to the second session of the twenty-seventh legislature, and look forward to a productive fall session. I would like to acknowledge also that we are in Treaty 4 territory.

After listening to the Speech from the Throne 2012 and reading *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: Vision 2020 and Beyond*, I have a few points to discuss about the goals and progressive plan of our government. The current global economic climate reveals a turbulent global economy, one that Saskatchewan has managed to avoid due to an abundance of natural resource and a strong export economy. This is also due to fiscal restraint and keeping our provincial house in order. Saskatchewan people now and in the past generations are no stranger to tightening our fiscal belt and making do with what we have. Now more than ever should we continue with ongoing fiscal responsibility.

Sun Tzu, as the infamous *Art of War* states, "Know the enemy and know yourself; in a hundred battles you will never be in peril." I use this quote as an analogy to interpret what is happening in the global economy, the enemy being global economic turbulence and what measures need to be undertaken to avoid it. The Saskatchewan plan for growth has many goals in place to foster growth and mitigate the challenges of rapid growth. We know all too well what is happening in other areas with the global recession and we can learn from their challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with the other members a concept that is well ingrained in traditional teachings of my Aboriginal community. And it's published, so I have permission to share it. And being a traditional Anishinabe kwe, my thought process always includes teachings that I grew up with and practise today. It is what is called the seventh generation sustainability teaching, which is an ecological concept that urges the current generation of people to live sustainably and work for the benefit of the seventh generation into the future. There is a debate on where it originated from and with what tribe, either the Anishinabek, the Nehiyaw; some of the eastern tribes claim it. Regardless, the concept being to think seven generations ahead, a couple of hundred years into the future and decide whether the decisions they make today would benefit their children seven generations into the future.

And I quote:

In every deliberation, we must consider the impact of the seventh generation . . . even if it requires having skin as thick as the bark of a pine.

This is an often repeated saying. In fact the original language translated into English is as follows:

In all of your deliberations in the . . . Council, in your efforts at law making, in all your official acts, self-interest shall be cast into oblivion. Cast not over your shoulder behind you the warnings of the nephews and nieces should they chide you for any error or wrong you may do, but return to the way of the Great Law which is just and right. Look and listen for the welfare of the whole people and have always in view not only the present but also the coming generations, even those whose faces are yet beneath the surface of the ground — the unborn of the future Nation.

Quote:

We are looking ahead, as is one of the first mandates given [to] us as . . . [governors], to make sure and to make every decision that we make relate to the welfare and well-being of the seventh generation to come . . . [So we think about] What about the seventh generation? Where are you taking them? What will they have?

These are the kind of questions that must be pondered while making decisions that will affect the people in Saskatchewan and the future citizens of this great province. Our government is planning for this future in introducing the Saskatchewan heritage initiative, the use of non-renewable resource revenue and a debt free Saskatchewan to identify options and provide advice to the Government of Saskatchewan for how best to utilize Saskatchewan's non-renewable natural resource revenue after the province's debt has been fully retired.

The Government of Saskatchewan will establish the Saskatchewan heritage initiative. This heritage initiative embodies the teachings of the seven generations. This will ensure that our descendants will be in a better fiscal position than my generation and the generations before me. We owe it to those who came before us and those who will come after us. This is why we have a plan for a 25-year water strategy and, Mr. Speaker, this is just the start. For environment, the newly created Water Security Agency will implement a 25-year water strategy to protect water quality and sustain water supplies for residential, industrial, agricultural, and recreation use.

I have been involved in the committee that engaged consultations with the creative industries, and I can't help but include a quote from the artist, Andy Warhol: "They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them for yourself." And this is what happened in Saskatchewan in the last five years. People in Saskatchewan have changed the climate in our province to one being positive and a place you want to stay and raise your children.

To benefit from the quality of life we enjoy here at home — and I emphasize the words, at home — from 2007 to 2011, funding

for arts and culture increased 35 per cent compared to the previous four years. Our government has invested 46 million over five years in our parks system to ensure visitors have the best experience possible. This year there were more than 3.5 million visits to our provincial parks, which is a new record. More than 60,000 reservations were booked on the government's new reservation system.

Democracy, being a system under which the process of government is the process of public decision making, is subject to popular control. The people of Saskatchewan helped write the Saskatchewan plan for growth after consultations this past summer. Highlights include: our government has released *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: Vision 2020 and Beyond*. The plan sets a bold target: 1.2 million people living in Saskatchewan by the year 2020.

In the past five years our government has invested more than 5 billion to improve and expand highways, schools, health care facilities, and municipal infrastructure. The total doubles the amount spent during the previous five years, and our government has committed to funding a minimum of 2.5 billion in infrastructure investments over the next three years. Saskatchewan has a thriving housing sector with more than 8,000 housing starts forecast for this year — the most since 1979. Government initiatives will help add 12,600 new housing units between 2011 and 2016.

Aristotle, the famous Greek philosopher, has said:

The society that loses its grip on the past is in danger, for it produces men who know nothing but the present, and who are not aware that life had been and could be different from what it is.

We must always be cognizant of the past, Mr. Speaker, and the struggles we have endured in the past population decline when our young people were leaving in droves to pursue a better quality of life. However it is a very different Saskatchewan today. Our population from July 2000 to July 2007 to July 2012, Saskatchewan's population increased by nearly 80,000 people. In the last year alone, Saskatchewan grew by more than 22,000 people and the most growth in any year since 1921. Every Saskatchewan city and nearly 80 per cent of Saskatchewan towns saw their population increase during the most recent census period. In the previous census, over half of Saskatchewan cities and more than 85 per cent of our towns decreased in population.

In August the number of people employed in Saskatchewan hit an all-time high of nearly 550,000 after growing by more than 20,000 in just the past year. For employment, at least 60,000 more workers will be required by 2020 to meet the objectives set out in the growth plan.

Since 2007, 3.5 billion has been invested in post-secondary education including more funding for programming to assist First Nations and Métis students. The number of registered apprentices has increased by 43 per cent, and there are now more than 35,000 training opportunities available in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the health of a community affects the quality of

life of a community. And, Mr. Speaker, I've been fortunate to meet the new doctors who have come to our province through the SIPPA [Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment] program. This fall 24 international medical graduates entered the Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment. Since the program began in 2011, 37 foreign-trained family physicians have successfully completed the assessment and more than 90 per cent are practising in rural or remote communities. In the upcoming year, up to 90 international medical graduates are expected to enter the assessment.

Nearly 9,000 Saskatchewan children contract rotavirus each year. Beginning this fall, our government will expand the infant immunization program to provide free, universal access to the rotavirus vaccine.

And our government will forgive up to 120,000 in student loans for new doctors and up to 20,000 for new nurses and nurse practitioners who agree to practise in rural, remote, and underserved communities for up to five years. These physicians are excited to call Saskatchewan home. They have brought their young families along with them, and I was honoured to welcome them.

Mr. Speaker, I am a firm advocate in education and a believer of education levelling the playing field. Our goals in education include: during the past five years my government has invested 3.5 billion in the province's post-secondary education system. Our government introduced the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship which provides high school graduates with up to \$2,000 over four years to attend a Saskatchewan post-secondary institution. This fall approximately 4,000 students received the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship, and the Saskatchewan graduate retention program provides tuition rebates of up to \$20,000 over seven years to post-secondary graduates who stay in the province.

This fall our government will introduce legislation to create the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings. This new program will help Saskatchewan families who are saving for their children's post-secondary education by providing up to \$250 per year per child. Our government will support schools as they prepare students for post-secondary studies and through a new student achievement initiative. And this four-year program will see the introduction of provincial assessments for each student enrolled in the pre-K [pre-kindergarten] to grade 12 system.

By 2016 all school divisions will consistently and transparently measure and report student progress. Our government's goal as outlined in our growth plan is to have the province lead the country in high school graduation rates by 2020.

For innovation, our government will continue to enhance Saskatchewan's reputation as an innovator in agriculture by establishing the Global Institute for Food Security.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on with other aspects of the Throne Speech but we are only allowed a certain amount of time. And I would like to close with a quote from Niccolò

Machiavelli, *The Prince*:

There is nothing more difficult to plan, more doubtful of success, more dangerous to manage than the creation of the new system. The innovator has the enmity of all who profit by the preservation of the old system and only lukewarm defenders by those who would gain by the new system.

Mr. Speaker, this new system is the new Saskatchewan and the difficulty of planning is the future of Saskatchewan. And the doubters are those members across the floor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I support the Throne Speech.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise today and to offer my comments on the Throne Speech that we heard last week, and of course we do have a lot of concerns.

But before I get into the formal part of my comments, I do want to say some things about my riding, Saskatoon Centre. It's been quite an eventful summer in Saskatoon Centre. You know, it's one of the oldest parts of Saskatoon, and so many of the local organizations and churches and groups are celebrating their centennial. In fact I was very fortunate this year to take part in the St. John's Anglican celebration that they were marking their 100th anniversary, and of course they've had a bit of a time capsule as well.

But you know, one of the things they take the most pride in is of course their church. And many people, if you've walked down Spadina Crescent just down from the Bessborough, it's a beautiful part of Saskatoon. It's a wonderful part. I think a wonderful part of our province, really actually. And many visitors who come to our province stay at the Bessborough, particularly so they can walk along the river and enjoy the architecture. And of course St. John's is right front and centre.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think that I just want to take a moment and recognize St. John's Anglican for the good work. But I'd also be amiss if I didn't say to the Knox United folks just down the street that's also marking their 100th anniversary this fall, what a great church that is. And we're so proud of our churches in our communities that add that support to us in times of need and times of celebration and times of passing. So I want to say that first.

Our community, Saskatoon Centre, ranges from those who are very well-off to those who are experiencing challenges, experiencing poverty first-hand, and especially experiencing what it's like not to have a grocery store in your neighbourhood and actually having to go quite a distance. In fact we refer to that often as a food desert. And this year, this fall, just actually just a couple of weeks ago — and I'll be speaking more about this in a member's statement — but we were very fortunate to have the grand opening of the Station 20 West facilities. That really marked how strong our community can be when we believe a social cause is right. And we rallied around in spite of what this government did in the spring of 2008 when it cut the funding to Station 20 West, thought that project was killed. In

fact the community rallied and made sure it was strong. And it's in place.

And I was so proud to be at that opening because it really was a community initiative and the community rallied around it and made sure it happened, and it did. And part of that of course is the Good Food Junction, a food co-op which is a great place to go shopping. I try to do a bit there every once in a while and support that because I do believe it's important that we have access to good food in our neighbourhoods, all neighbourhoods. And really this is really, really important.

Well, Mr. Speaker, right off the bat I do want to say that I won't be supporting the main motion but in fact supporting the amendment. Because the other thing about people in my riding is we don't much like surprises from our government. We think when you say something in the Throne Speech, that really is the blueprint that you're going to be going ahead from.

When we saw this from last fall with this government when they came back, some of the things that they were talking about, particularly around the labour legislation review: not announced in the Throne Speech a year ago, but all of a sudden it sprung up in May. The cutting of the film tax credit, which really meant the end of the film industry for Saskatchewan, they don't much like surprises like that. In fact what they really believe in — it's a pretty common saying in Saskatchewan — don't fix things unless they're broke. Don't fix it if it isn't broken. And this government seems really bent on fixing things based on ideology and not common sense. They're driven by ideology, and it's an ideology about corporate interests or big business but not about people in our province. Not about people in our province, and I'm really worried about this and so are many people in my riding.

And in fact it was interesting that it was in my riding that the Premier gave his deluxe version of the Throne Speech a week before. I understand the price was \$100. Now the Premier said, listen, it was free on the Internet. You just had to go on the Internet, if that's where you watched it. That's where the common folks will be watching it. Others will be paying \$100 a plate. That's just not the way we do things in Saskatchewan. We know the way, the place to deliver your Throne Speech is here, here in this House. Here in this House, this is where you start. This is where you start the legislative session, here with a Throne Speech that we hear first.

You know, Mr. Speaker, what I found interesting in the Throne Speech, what I found interesting in the Throne Speech were words that weren't in the Throne Speech that should have been in there, should have been in there. Not a word about poverty. That's something that matters a lot to people in my riding, people right across this province. Not a word about poverty. What are we going to do about that? Not a thing.

Also, and I appreciated that my colleague from Cumberland brought some folks down from the North because not very much in the Throne Speech about the North, particularly around highways which means so much to them.

And, Mr. Speaker, what I found very interesting when they talk about how they're friends of business and the financial community and making things happen in this province, not a

word about the co-ops, particularly seeing this is the international year of the co-ops. Why is it that they are neglecting co-ops? And I'll talk more about that as we go forward. But, Mr. Speaker, and I will talk a bit more about this, was what the government announced last May, May 2nd, about their review of 15 pieces of labour law here in Saskatchewan. And where that came from, we're not sure, but out of the blue they decided that they were going to overhaul 100 years worth of legislation in 90 short days.

Now it is something that I think that we can all agree on that it's a good thing that government every once in a while decides to review legislation. It's the right thing to do to make sure that you're current, that you're up-to-date, and you're meeting the needs of people here in Saskatchewan. You're meeting the needs of people and businesses, and it's a fair balance. That's what you've got to do. But to do it in 90 days, to say you can only write in, people were really concerned about that. Because you know, people really felt that they were part of what made this province go so well right now. They were part of the economy that built this province, but now they're being told that something wasn't quite right.

Now when I look at this on page 6 of the Throne Speech, enhancing competitiveness, this is the part that talks about the employment Act, two short paragraphs about it. But, Mr. Speaker, what's left out? What's the other word that I don't see in there? It talks about most modern, competitive, fair, and balanced labour and employment environment in Canada. Many of those parts I agree with. But you know what's a real priority here in Saskatchewan, I've got to say, Mr. Speaker, is safety. Where is safety in this mandate? It's just not there. And yet we as a province have the highest or the second highest injury rate in Canada. If there's one thing we need to do, we need to get that right. We need to get that right.

Too many people are being hurt at work and that's a priority. That's a priority. That's something that's broke, and that's something that has to be fixed. But yet it's not part of the Throne Speech, not part of the Throne Speech. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? We've got to do better than that. And that's what people in my riding and, I think, right across the province are saying.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have some real, real concerns about that and what the real mandate is behind this. I'm really worried about that. And of course when we talk to people through our consultation process and, Mr. Speaker, you may have heard that we went to nine communities over a period of about three weeks actually in September because we wanted to hear from people about what they thought about what we should be doing about labour legislation. And the number one thing they said, the number one thing they said is, do the consultations the right way. They're not afraid of change. They want to make sure it gets done right, but talk to people. Get out there and talk to people. Be proud of what you believe in. And if you do believe in it, you'll talk to people about it. And I've not heard people so far, from their side, talk about people coming up to them and saying, hey listen, you got to fix that labour code. You got to fix that labour legislation. That's a real problem. So that's something that's really important.

And, Mr. Speaker, the other thing that was happening at those

meetings, some of the groups that couldn't make it out — or when I phoned them and said, please come out; I want to extend this invitation to come out — they had not even heard about it. Because of when the announcement was made, made in May, people were already starting to get a bit in that summer, late spring mode, and did not know about it. For example, the students — students at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, and Kelsey — I can tell you did not know about this. In fact I had to share with them the government document, our invitation, what our plan was. They had not heard about this. And I think that's really important. It's students that hadn't heard about it.

You also had seniors. When I met with the senior Council on Aging in Saskatoon, as a group, they want to talk about employment. That was part of their agenda. They said, let's talk about employment. And I said, have you heard about the government's new plans about labour employment? They didn't; they hadn't heard a word about it. And I know that several of the government-side MLAs from Saskatoon had met with that group but not raised the issue about the employment labour code that might be up for . . . that's up for review.

And newcomers, clearly we're very proud of the fact that we have in our province more newcomers, and it's a good thing to see. But again, another group that's not being included. And again the First Nations and Métis not fully engaged.

And, of course, Mr. Speaker, these things are complex. And it's important that you develop a capacity so when you consult with groups they can actually have an informed opinion. You just can't walk up to them and say, so what do you think? And they go, wow, you know the 15 pieces of legislation, that's hundreds of pages. What are they going to say? They want to know more, but they want to make sure what they say is what reflects their true values. So you have to develop that capacity.

So, Mr. Speaker, we'll be talking a lot about this employment code that we've heard about. We hope that it gets introduced sooner than later, not on the last day of session, because we want to have as much time to review it as possible.

Now, Mr. Speaker, of course you know that I've been advocating a lot around Jimmy's law, and I'm hoping that we can see progress with that shortly. We're going to be talking a lot about that and we hope that that . . . Because I think that's a common sense issue that we have to tackle. And I really think that we have to get on this as soon as we can. And I'm looking forward to seeing more about that.

And I am also looking forward to seeing more details about the orange zone speeding law. I know that I can feel very good about that. That's a very important one. Speeding through those construction zones is just not on. That is something that needs to be fixed, and so we look forward to that.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, the other issue around labour that just needs to be fixed, needs to be fixed as quickly as possible is around essential services. The Throne Speech was silent on that, not a word about that. And I clearly think if the people of Saskatchewan want one piece of legislation fixed in this province of those 15 pieces of legislation, it's that one that Judge Ball said, you've got to get back and work with the

stakeholders, work with unions. Get it right and then we can move on.

Here's a piece of legislation that's broken, that was poorly written, lack of consultation. In fact Judge Ball even cited that as an issue. It was an international embarrassment for us in Saskatchewan. We actually have a strong reputation in terms of labour, whether it's occupational health and safety or whether it's labour standards. And here we had this embarrassment of the essential services legislation. We need to get that fixed as quickly as possible.

The government needs to talk and include and work with all the stakeholders to make sure everyone feels that it's a fair and balanced approach to how trade unions can practise in this province. And that's all they're looking for, is it's fair and it's balanced. Not one side have more power than the other, but that we can get collective bargaining resolved in a way that does not endanger public safety but also can make sure people can exercise their rights. That's hugely important.

Mr. Speaker, as well I wanted to touch briefly on municipal affairs. As a critic for Municipal Affairs, I want to first extend my congratulations to all the people who will be coming back to sit on city councils, town councils across this province. I also want to recognize and thank all those people who put their names forward to serve our communities across the province. That's not an easy job, and it's one that when you do that you really do put yourself out there publicly. And it's really one that I think we should take a moment and thank everyone for doing that. And now we have new city, town councils, RM [rural municipality] councils across the province, and we'll be happy to work with those folks.

[15:00]

I do want to talk a little about infrastructure, hugely an important issue. I was able to take in some of the National Infrastructure Summit here in Regina this fall. Very important. Of course we know that's a huge deficit right across Canada, and Saskatchewan's no exception. And I will be looking forward to see how this government talks about asset management, particularly when it comes to provincial interest. What's our interest when it comes to seeing what is restored, what is built, what is new? What do we do about our roads, our water systems, and that type of thing?

But also, Mr. Speaker, it's a real opportunity, it's a real opportunity to talk about sustainability. How can our communities be sustainable? How can they be green communities so that they can last longer than ever before? We've learned things about infrastructure over the last few decades and we can put that into play. Let's make sure we don't go in a way that we regret later on where we want to have our cities, our communities, our countryside . . . I mean it's a beautiful province and we want to make sure that it's sustainable and our communities are sustainable.

I do have to say, just I want to touch on one issue around the P.A. [Prince Albert] bridge. It was interesting that we were out in Prince Albert just after Labour Day weekend. Of course it was the talk of the town. And I don't know if the folks from Prince Albert will talk about this, but the concern was the story

of people trying to cross the bridge on Labour Day Monday afternoon when the line across was something like 5 miles. And they're trying to get an answer from the government: where is that second bridge in terms of a priority for this government? It's not mentioned.

Now we're saying there should be some sort of list, some sort of inventory of what are important infrastructure projects for this province. And I've got to say, Prince Albert, the second bridge would make a big difference not only for the city of Prince Albert, for the northerners, the mining industry, the economic growth of the North. It's huge.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I see that housing has been put on the Throne Speech, and rightfully so. But I do have to say that after five years you would think that we would not be talking so much about housing affordability, that more would have been done in this area. But clearly what we see are some real, real significant gaps in a housing strategy, that folks are still raising concerns. And we saw the new mayor of Regina talking about that he's going to do a housing summit on affordable housing, and rightfully so. But this government has failed, has failed over the last five years to really make a dent in this market. We see extremely low vacancy rates and in a few weeks we'll see what the new ones are from CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation]. Will you have Regina just floating around point six per cent? And I don't know if that'll change very much. But you have Regina in that kind of a circumstance. That's a real problem. And we still see high rents, and we see high rents and we still have people talking to us about, what can we do about that? And we know the government here put forward a piece of legislation last spring about rent, rogue landlords. That was a very interesting piece of legislation that is just totally ineffectual when it comes to protecting tenants from being gouged. And still they're not really addressing that.

Couple of things that I was looking for in the Throne Speech. Housing First, just not there. Just not there. Anything around co-op housing you would think would be there this year . . . [inaudible] . . . going to be a year for co-op housing and special initiative, international year of co-ops. Not a word about co-op housing. And of course we know many of them, their funding becomes a risk over the next couple of years. That's a huge issue. So more around that.

But we saw this summer the government announced plans around their social housing program for Sask Housing that will affect some 15,000 families or people in their units. And of course they targeted 800 people. We're not sure. They decided to go right at that in the cities. But in the rural areas and the northern areas, this press release said clearly they're going to consult. But I don't know what's happening with that. And we're going to have lots of questions. But we're getting letters from people who felt that they were in a place where their rent was going to be predictable and it's not. And some bizarre logic by some of the folks at Sask Housing about how this is going to create new spaces. But where do those 800 people go? I mean it just doesn't seem fair and not well-thought-out at all. Everyone needs a place. So we have to approach this in a common sense way, but to make a media project out of it was a problem. And we hear more especially around northern housing and senior housing, a lot more has to be done around that. So it's really, really something.

I just want to speak briefly about highways and a couple of other topics here. First, highways. I want to say that, you know, I was shocked when yet we had another press release on the twinning of Highway No. 11. I believe it is, since 2008 . . . Six times? Six times? That's amazing. Six times, and I'm sure we're not finished yet, are we? Are we going to hit 10? 10? Who says 12? Maybe it'll be 12 press releases. Who knows? Who knows? And of course what happened last Friday around the Hatchet Lake road. The promise, the one press release that they could have kept — they issued a press release — and they should have kept that but they chose not to.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I was really shocked about was the fact that we did not hear about highway safety and the fact that in Saskatchewan we have some real challenges around highway safety. And you know, I was on the Internet and taking a look at how do we stack up across Canada. And of course you know, we had in the year — this is from SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] — 2010, 167 traffic fatalities in Saskatchewan. And I know for every family, every group, this is really a tragic situation when we have a highway death or a death on a road.

How do we stack up against other provinces, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Well here are the stats from 2009. Per 100,000 population, we have 14.7 highway deaths. That's number two. Only the Yukon is higher; they have 20. Where's Manitoba in terms of highway deaths? 7.1. And where's Alberta? 9.6. But we're over 30 per cent higher than Alberta, at 14.7. How does that work? How does that work?

And here we go. How about if we look at it in terms of per 100,000 licensed drivers? We have 21 fatalities per 100,000 licensed drivers. Alberta has 12. Manitoba has 11. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the Throne Speech not one word about highway safety, about fatalities on highways. We're very supportive of the orange zone, but what about these folks here? We could do more. We should be doing more. And if there's something that's broke, this is it, and we should be fixing it. So that's a real problem, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I just want to say health, not a word about mental health. I know that's an issue that's a big concern in my riding. That, you know, the issues around addictions is a big deal, but not a word about addictions. Not a word about addictions, and not a word about bullying. Clearly we need to do more about this. And mental health issues in Saskatchewan, Canada, are becoming a bigger and bigger issue as we recognize the impact it has on our families, our communities. And we saw that just recently in BC [British Columbia] with the tragic death of a young high school girl because of bullying. We can do more, and we should be doing more. And not a word in this Throne Speech about mental health. We should be doing much more.

And of course I just want to, as a teacher, just to talk about education and their approach that is outlined in the Throne Speech about standardized testing and how that's going to resolve the issue around grade 12, the falling grade 12 graduation rates. And clearly, Mr. Speaker, that may be one way to approach it, but many of us who were at the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] luncheon, and we heard other causes. You know, when we start, when kids start to experience success in school, it really is at an early age. It's not

in grade 9 or grade 10. You can't start in high school. You have to start even pre-school. And we see what this government thinks about pre-school education. So we have to start at an earlier age, and we have to talk about what really is . . . How can we make the connection between kids in schools better? A lot of it is housing; it's nutrition; it's poverty — those things. That's the challenge that we have to do to make sure every kid comes to school ready to learn. And we do it in grade 1. We do it in pre-school. We do it in kindergarten. And if we do it then, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we'll have a good group of high school kids that will do well. But you've got to make that connection early on so they're strong.

And really, standardized testing, while it's one interesting way of approaching it, I'd be curious to know what the STF has to think about this. And we'll be looking for this. I know the Premier stood up with his three pages of endorsements. I'm not sure if the STF was on that list or not. He didn't read through the list. I'd be very curious about it.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do want to wrap up because I know we've got lots of people who want to weigh in on this debate. Of course I have really a lot more that I could say around the environment too. I mean we could go on and on. But we'll have more time when we debate specific concerns.

What I look for is what's in it for people in the middle class, the people that are in my neighbourhood. I didn't see an awful lot, Mr. Speaker. I didn't see people who are looking for resolutions around bullying in our schools. I didn't see that kind of stuff. I didn't see . . . not much for my neighbours. I know my neighbours weren't down at that \$100-a-plate dinner.

They're worried about the surprises that they may get. This government is getting a bit of a reputation for delivering surprises on the last day before the end of session in December or early . . . or at the last days of spring session like they did last year around labour legislation or the three more MLAs. Please, Mr. Deputy Speaker, no more surprises. That's what my people are saying. No more surprises. We want straight talk on our finances. This government's getting a reputation as well as not . . . not straight talk that they can really, really believe in.

So, Mr. Speaker, in summary, I will be supporting the amendment that's put forward, that there's very little that is new in this Throne Speech. In fact it's the rehash of old ideas that allows ideology to trump common sense, and that it's put an agenda that puts politicians ahead of people, and it ignores the middle class and small businesses of Saskatchewan. So therefore I will be supporting the amendment and not the main motion. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's a pleasure to rise in the House once again on the second session of the 27th legislative sitting and talk about the Speech from the Throne, our plan going forward called planning for growth.

Mr. Speaker, as always when I stand here in the Legislative Assembly, I feel very humbled and honoured, and there's a few

people I'd like to thank before I get going into my Throne Speech response.

First and foremost I want to thank my beautiful wife who's up in the west galleries of your Legislative Assembly. As the member from Martensville said, she's as far away from me as she can possibly get, so that's nice of her. But, Mr. Speaker, my wife has been with me for the long . . . for three years now, and it's been a short three years for me, but maybe a long three years for her. We've been through a campaign. We've been through building a house together. And she is my rock that I rely on, and our future looks better and better every day I get to wake up beside her. So thank her very much for being here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wouldn't be able to stand in this House today and give my response to the Throne Speech without the good people of Regina Walsh Acres giving me their support in the election. It's almost a year. It happened a year ago from November 7th. They humbled me with a 50 per cent approval rating basically, and I'm going to work hard each and every day to make sure that I'm representing them and how they feel our province should be going, and I feel that this Throne Speech is a part of that.

[15:15]

I'd like to actually talk a little bit about consultations. Our member from across the hall there from Saskatoon Centre talked about how we don't do consultations. And I don't know how they made public policy back 16 years ago. It's probably a little different than we do it. But this document, the Throne Speech and our Saskatchewan plan for growth, they weren't forged at the cabinet table in Regina. They were assembled from ideas around every kitchen table across our province.

Our 49 members went out and we asked the people of Saskatchewan where they want to see their province going in the next decade, Mr. Speaker. And the ideas that they brought forward and gave us are what you see in the Saskatchewan growth plan, vision 2020 and beyond. And what you see in our Throne Speech is assembled from our 49 members going talking to their constituents, consulting with our constituents, having ideas, and these ideas are what really filled the books in this little booklet, as the Leader of the Opposition would say.

Mr. Speaker, talking about our Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, there's some things we'd like to go through. We as a province are leading in economic growth throughout our country. Our population is at a new record high, Mr. Speaker. That means over the last — from July 1st, 2012 — over our last five years, our population is now at 1,079,958, Mr. Speaker. That's a growth of nearly 80,000 people in five years, and the fastest growth in our province in the last 90.

Just to compare and contrast where our government is going and where the previous government has been, in July 1st, 1991 to July 1st, 2007, our population went from 1,002,713 to 1,000,171. That's a decrease, Mr. Speaker. I think that's perhaps why the opposition has some trouble understanding how we plan for growth when the only thing they ever did was mitigate decline.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as always we welcome some ideas from

our members across the hall, but planning for growth is not one that they know very much about. And, Mr. Speaker, we don't seek growth just for the sake of growth. It's not an end; it's a means to an end, Mr. Speaker. We look for growth so that we can invest in education and post-secondary education, in highways, in health care. That's what growth means to us. It means an expansion in our tax base. It means an ability to provide people with the necessities they want to improve their quality of life all across Saskatchewan.

So the question that we went and asked our constituents was, do we want this growth to continue? And, Mr. Speaker, the answer that we heard when we consulted with them was a resounding yes. But, Mr. Speaker, along with growth come challenges arising from our growth. They want to ensure the benefits are widely shared, and we heard that loud and clear from our constituents. And to that end, that's why we announced our plan for growth in our Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. And the main goal for our plan for growth is to reach 1.2 million people by the year 2020.

Mr. Speaker, with our growth plan there's six components to it. The first component is infrastructure. And we've created SaskBuilds, a new government organization, to drive innovation in infrastructure, financing, and design. Mr. Deputy Speaker, our focus over the next two years will be on renewing roads, water systems, health care facilities, and schools.

The second component of our plan, Mr. Speaker, is to keep the Saskatchewan economy competitive. Our government will lower business tax from 12 to 10 per cent by 2015. Mr. Speaker, this fall we will introduce the Saskatchewan employment Act, which will clearly outline the rights and responsibilities of employers, employees, and unions in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, the third component of the growth plan for Saskatchewan is fiscal responsibility. Mr. Speaker, all of our plans within this Throne Speech will be contained within a balanced budget, Mr. Speaker. That's fiscal probity and that's something that we take serious. That's the brand of our government. Our government fulfills commitments, but we fulfill our commitments within a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, the fourth component of the growth plan is education and training. Mr. Speaker, as a younger voice in our caucus, this is something that I feel very passionate about, post-secondary education and secondary education. I think it's something where if you don't educate your children, you won't have much of a future in their province. And we take this very serious. That's why we've already committed to the infrastructure of secondary education — fixed 50 per cent of our schools already, Mr. Speaker.

I remember growing up in a small town. We'd go to school. Our school, when it would rain, we'd have buckets catching water all over the school, Mr. Speaker. The roof was leaking. The wind would howl through the windows. And that's something that we're changing, Mr. Speaker. Our Finance minister and our Education minister are committed to good education facilities, and that's something that we're very proud of moving forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our post-secondary institutions have

received over \$3.5 billion in the first five years of our government, and that's something we pride ourselves in. We've done a great job in making sure that post-secondary education is available to everyone. And we feel that, as an institution, we've committed in this Throne Speech to add 300 more training spaces to SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], Mr. Speaker, so that we can meet that challenge of trying to make sure that we have the skilled workforce to continue to grow our province.

Mr. Speaker, the fifth component of the plan is innovation. We'll continue to support world-leading research in agriculture and energy. And, Mr. Speaker, this government isn't afraid to make goals, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And some of the goals that we've made in agriculture is increasing crop production by 10 million tonnes by 2020 and increasing exports of agri-food products by 50 per cent to \$15 billion in 2020. Mr. Speaker, this is something that was long forgotten in a bygone era when the previous administration was in place. They forgot about our agriculture sector. They didn't keep their commitments. They didn't think that rural Saskatchewan was going to ever catch up. They didn't think rural Saskatchewan could grow, and they really just tried to leave us in the past.

And growing up on a farm, I know that we had some tough years in the mid-'90s and early 2000s. And I think the agriculture community in rural Saskatchewan really appreciates the effort that this government has made to ensure that they have the capacity to grow. And moving forward we considered the agriculture sector as being of one of our main areas where growth is going to help this province move forward.

Mr. Speaker, the sixth component of the growth plan is strengthening Saskatchewan's role on the world stage. Mr. Deputy Speaker, our government will appoint a Premier's advisory committee on Asia as part of our strategy to double Saskatchewan's exports by 2020.

Our government will work to develop new markets in Central and South America. And under the new Saskatchewan international future scholarships, 20 students a year will study business at an international institution with government support. Mr. Speaker, in return, these students, they'll agree to live and work in Saskatchewan for five years after they graduate. That's the new Saskatchewan really is about, Mr. Deputy Speaker, having opportunities for our students after they've gone through their post-secondary education or training at SIAST or gone to regional colleges. They see their future is right here in our province. And that is why a year ago, a couple of years ago, we agreed to a \$20,000 rebate for one of the most aggressive student retention programs in the country, and why we've added the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship of up to \$2,000 for any high school grad in Saskatchewan that gets trained at a post-secondary institution right here in our province.

Mr. Speaker, our growth plan does include targets. And those targets include by the end of 2014 no one will wait longer than three months for surgery. By 2017 no one will wait to receive emergency room care. And by 2020, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan will have the highest grade 12 graduation rate in the country.

The Saskatchewan economy is being propelled by our natural

resource wealth. There's been a lot of debate about what we should do with royalty revenues once the debt is paid off, Mr. Speaker. And don't take my word for paying off debt before we decide what we do with the royalty rates as being a good idea. There is some third party quotes that I'd like to share with you about some of our future growth plans. And one of them is actually from . . . Well, I'll read the quote first, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I agree with Premier Wall that it is a matter of accounting. It makes sense to pay off the existing provincial debt before creating a new savings fund.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's from one of the leadership candidates of the NDP, Erin Weir. And it's nice that he agrees with some good public policy, and he's really one of the only people that has started to put out public policy for the leadership race. And we look forward to seeing what the other candidates are going to say about this.

Mr. Speaker, paying off debt just makes sense. Any time you look at a family, a household income, you can look and see that paying off debt makes sense before you start saving money. So I don't know why anyone would think that paying off debt would be a bad thing, but I'd like to hear what our leadership candidates from Rosemont or Saskatoon Massey Place have to say about that.

Mr. Speaker, but when the debt is paid off, and it will be paid off at some point in time, Premier Wall has asked the former University of Saskatchewan president, Peter MacKinnon, to look at the question by leading the Saskatchewan heritage initiative. Professor MacKinnon will develop and recommend options on what Saskatchewan should do with its resource revenues after we pay off the provincial debt.

Mr. Speaker, after years of stagnation, Saskatchewan is growing. But we do need to do things right to sustain this growth, to deal with the challenges of growth so that our children and their children can build a good life right here in our province. And that's what our Throne Speech sets out at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It sets out how we can continue to maintain our growth and grow in a sustainable way and make sure that we don't forget about some of the infrastructure challenges that we may face during our term.

Mr. Speaker, it's a plan that I think the people of Saskatchewan had a great deal of input into. I know that my constituents, I had a wonderful summer of going out and talking to constituents, and they did mention paying off the debt was very important to them. They did mention that we know that growth is a good thing. We want to increase our tax base. We want to make sure that more people are coming to Saskatchewan, and we want to ensure that people that have their education in Saskatchewan have opportunities to stay in our province.

And, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the fact that when we grow our tax base, when we grow our province, when more and more people want to move here, there are going to be challenges that we face. But these challenges are challenges of growth. And I think that growing our province is something very important. And when we continue to hit, and when we do hit that population of 1.2 million, I think, I think it may be before 2020.

I'm a little optimistic. Call me an optimist, but I think we can do it.

And, Mr. Speaker, when we do do it, it's going to be another example of how we made a goal and we set it. We made it a goal of recruiting 800 nurses. We made that goal. We set it; we attained it.

And I think another one of our brands that people are coming to realize is that we do what we say we're going to do. And, Mr. Speaker, that's something that once you do it over and over again, when you do it over and over again, Mr. Speaker, I think it's something that when people learn to respect you. And it's something that when we go and door knock in 2016 when the next election comes up, and we say, you know what, this is our platform, we're going to roll this out, they're going to believe what we say.

And for us as politicians to have people believe what we're going to say, it's important, and I think it's a great, great reward for us. And I believe that our Premier leads the way in making sure that we do what we say we're going to do. And our great caucus, our 49-member caucus, they're all people of great honour and integrity. And when they go forward and they tell people what we're going to do is what we're going to do, the province is believing us. And I think that's very important.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will strongly disagree with the amendment put forward by the Opposition Leader. And I believe let the people of Saskatchewan see through that their need to oppose, obviously strongly oppose us. But, Mr. Speaker, I'll agree with the motion put forward by the member for Battleford, and I'll proudly stand behind this Throne Speech. Thank you.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a true honour to rise and speak today on the 2012 Speech from the Throne. You know it's been almost a year since the first time I was able to stand up in this Assembly and speak to my colleagues and to the people of Saskatchewan, and the honour hasn't lessened one iota, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is tremendous, the ability that my colleagues have put forward to move Saskatchewan ahead.

[15:30]

Before we go any further, Mr. Speaker, I need to thank my family, most and in particular my wife and my best friend, Marjorie. The encouragement and support myself and my boys receive from her is immeasurable. And as all of us know, without our support at home we wouldn't be able to do the job that we're able to do.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I need to thank my parents. I have a lot of friends that they talk about the hours we put in as legislators working here and back in the constituency. And this goes back to an interview I had when I was . . . before I started working at SaskTel. The people at SaskTel, they asked me during the interview, they said, are you going to have trouble working 35 to 40 hours a week? And I wasn't sure where this was coming from because I'd worked in the oil field. So my answer to them

was, what do I do after Wednesday? And they were taken aback by that, and they said, what do you mean? I said, well we put in 12 hours on Sunday, 12 hours on Monday, 12 hours on Tuesday. Does that mean we get the rest of the week off? And they're like, no, no, no. You don't get the rest of the week off.

And the reason I was able to do that is the work ethic that my parents instilled in me. We talk about a legacy. That is something my parents have given to me and it's something my boys picked up. They tend to be there, first ones on the job and a lot of time they're the last ones to go. I've talked about my boys. The two most recently have changed jobs. And they've had actually their managers come up to them and said, look, it's 3 o'clock. Have you taken your coffee break yet? Coffee break, no I haven't even taken my lunch break yet. You need to take a break. End of the day there's still customers waiting, and they're waiting to wait on the customers. They're not, it's 4:30; it's time to go home. And that's the work ethic that my parents have instilled in me, my wife and I have been able to instill into our children. And this is the work ethic as a government that we put forward with the direction from the people of the province.

We talk about the Saskatchewan plan for growth which sets out the Government of Saskatchewan's vision for the province all the way out to 2020. And it's unique. And the Premier spoke about this in our luncheon today in Moose Jaw. Previous governments — and he said governments of all stripes, not just the previous government — governments of all stripes tend to plan in four-year stints. Well as a long-term vision, that doesn't work for the province. We need to think out long-term, so we're planning out to 2020. Within that, we've set goals.

You know, that's one of the differences that attracted me so much to this government on this side of the House is that when we say we're going to do something, we're going to set out and try and do it. We're going to set those goals, we're going to go ahead and we're going to work and we're going to do our best to do it. Our member that spoke previously spoke well to it. He said we're going to reach out for 800 nurses, and we're going to do that. Well, what did we do? Well in that time frame it was over 900 nurses that we recruited.

An Hon. Member: — Nine hundred and forty.

Mr. Lawrence: — Nine hundred and forty. There we go, over 900. I was close. Well, no, 900 is more . . . Over 900 is 940. There we go.

So the other things we've done, or are planning to do, investing in the infrastructure required for that growth. When the Premier set us forth this summer, at the end of our last session, it was to go out and talk to our constituents, the people in our ridings, and see what they thought. Overall meeting after meeting, contact, coffee, it was we need to invest in our infrastructure. So first platform in our growth plan, invest for the infrastructure for growth. Next educating, training, and developing a skilled workforce. Well we have to start somewhere, so let's get going and we're going to work on that. Ensuring the ongoing competitiveness of Saskatchewan's economy and supporting increased trade and investment exports through international engagement, advancing Saskatchewan's natural resource strengths, particularly through innovation to build the next economy. Again, planning for the future. We plan for the

future. That's what we do. And on top of that, we need to do this: ensuring fiscal responsibility through balanced budgets, lower debt and smaller, more effective government.

There are many, many highlights in this speech that I considered to address today but, for me, the focus that this government is giving to the area of social services makes me incredibly proud. Mr. Deputy Speaker, for far too many years, the previous government was prone to giving this lip service but not truly delving into the heart of an area of issues of our province's most vulnerable.

As many of you know, my wife and I, Marjorie, are foster parents. We have been foster parents for several years, and before we were foster parents for what were called persons of interest, we actually had Social Services contact us and say, look, we have kids that need a place to stay. Can they stay with you? We stepped up and we did that. So we have witnessed first-hand what neglect can do to children who are not cared for as they should be.

We've also witnessed how a neglected child welfare system can stymie progress that a foster family may be making with children in their care. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is so important that we as a government take this so seriously and we're working on it and making it a priority. The numbers show the number of our children in child care has decreased by seventeen and a half per cent since March 2009. And the number of foster homes with more than four children has dropped by 54 per cent in the same period. So great job.

However a true transformation will only occur when fewer children are entering the system in the first place, and our government will begin a development of an early year strategy that puts a priority on parental training and their family. This government and our Premier have been clear — crystal clear in fact — that the child welfare system is a priority. In fact since 2010 alone, this government has invested \$74 million, \$74 million into the child and youth agenda. You know, it's so wonderful that we walk the walk that we talk. Or no, how do we really say that? We do in fact walk the walk, not just talk the talk. I've got to get a new pair of glasses.

The Saskatchewan child and youth agenda is already impacting our at-risk children, youth, and families, over and over. We have \$34 million and it's been invested already into this critical area. Work is being done to transform the current system. And I can't thank this government enough for the vision and heart that they are putting into this complex issue. I know the cabinet committee on children and youth are working tirelessly to help create opportunities for these young people. And you know, the thing is I get to work with this day in and day out. I have foster children in my home right now. I get to see first-hand what we do as a government to try and help these children strive to become all that they can be. And we don't just talk about it; we actually do it.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's part of the plan for growth. You know, by 2020 we want 1.2 million people in this province. Why do we want 1.2 million people? It's pretty simple. It's to expand the tax base so we can actually provide for those that have trouble providing for themselves, to give them a hand up, not a handout.

We have a plan. You know, we sit there over and over and over again, what are we going to do? What are we going to do? What are we going to do? Well here's what we're going to do. We're going to sit down. We've sat down. We put the plan together. We're going to work on this. We've been working on it since we started governing, and we're making progress.

The difference between us and the members opposite: we set goals. We set goals that are hard to attain and we strive for those. So at the end of the day if we don't make those, we're going to have a lot to answer for. But you know what? In the meantime we've met the goals that we've set. We've set the goals for the nurses. We've set the goals for reducing debt. We're reaching these goals and unfortunately the other side doesn't know how to set goals. They get mad at us because we set goals. We speak about it day in, day out. We're going to set the goals. We're going to strive to do our best to achieve those goals and we are going to achieve those goals. We're going to achieve those goals through the help of the people of Saskatchewan in growing this province.

For this reason as well as the others, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to speak in favour for the motion from the member in support of the Speech from the Throne and against the amendment from the member opposite.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to enter into the Throne Speech debate. Each and every MLA in this room actually serves two masters as it were — each of us represents our own constituency and at the same time we are called upon to provide the best possible government that we can for our province. So indeed I am looking forward to hearing the exchange of ideas in the Throne Speech debate.

Having said that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm going to do a little bragging about the Melfort constituency which I'm sure is probably the leading constituency in the entire province . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes we are. I also want to look at how the Throne Speech and the Saskatchewan plan for growth affects the Melfort constituency and how it helps to lead in the new Saskatchewan.

I would like to start by saying thank you to my beautiful wife, April, who has encouraged me and supported me so well, and I would like to also express my pride in April as she was elected to the Melfort city council last week.

I would also like to thank my CAs [constituency assistant] back home, Laurie Hookway and Peggy Gordon. As this past year has been my first as an MLA, these two ladies have been and continue to be invaluable to both myself and the entire constituency.

And in speaking about people of the Melfort constituency, I want to thank them for their encouragement during the past year. And in particular I would like to thank the RMs, the village, the towns, the cities, and First Nation councils who have worked with me so well in the past 12 months.

The Melfort constituency runs north to the Saskatchewan River, south to just about two kilometres north of Highways 6 and 16 at Dafoe, east and west about 60 kilometres, with Highway No. 6 as the backbone of the constituency.

The landscapes vary from heavy forest and the beautiful Saskatchewan River valley in the north to the wide open spaces of the south. There are many recreational sites in the area — provincially known Wapiti ski hill, lush golf courses, gorgeous lakes, fishing, hunting, camping, and various municipal facilities.

An Hon. Member: — And a great MLA.

Mr. Phillips: — And a great MLA? I would hope so. Some day. Economy-wise, agriculture has long been an important part of the local economy, as some of the very best farm land in the world is caught up within those boundaries. But there is more. There is so much more in this constituency.

Each year there are up to 5,000 hopper cones built and shipped from within 30 kilometres of Melfort. More cones are built in that area than anywhere else in Canada. Added to this is an iron triangle which encompasses Bourgault Industries and Bourgault Tillage Tools, Free Form Industries, and others in St. Brieux, which today just borders on the constituency, tomorrow will be in the constituency with the new boundaries.

[15:45]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Annaheim is the hometown of Doepker Industries, Schulte Industries in Englefeld, Michel's Industries in St. Gregor, Failure Prevention Services, which is one of my favourites, and Sapphire Water in Watson, just to name a few. The reason that Failure Prevention Services is one of my favourites is because they employ 20, 30, 40 people in Watson, but they don't ship to anybody within 100 or 200 miles of Watson. They build filters for the largest machines in the world at Watson and export throughout the world. These are the world-class industries, and all from the Melfort constituency.

On the horizon is BHP Billiton Jansen Lake potash mine, the largest potash mine in the world, and that's just south of LeRoy in the Melfort constituency, Mr. Deputy Speaker. With \$2 million being invested each and every day from the new mine, don't let anybody tell you that it's not going to happen; it's not going to be a reality.

And there's other megaproject considerations in the constituency, including the Pehonan hydro development on the Saskatchewan River and the Shore Gold diamond discovery just across the river from the constituency, so I will claim it as well, with apologies to the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as you can see, when we talk about the new Saskatchewan, the Melfort constituency is very much a leader in our great province. This past summer the member from Batoche and myself had the honour of officially opening the new and reconstructed Highway 368 which services over 1,000 workers along the western portion of the constituency. Add to this the improvements in Highway 3, Highway 5, Highway 6, grid 640 and the newly announced Highway 41 improvement.

This Saskatchewan government understands the needs of the people in this province. The Saskatchewan plan for growth, which is largely what the Throne Speech is about, was developed after consultations with thousands of Saskatchewan people who willingly submitted their ideas for a better Saskatchewan. These people told us to keep growing Saskatchewan, to keep balancing the budget, pay down the debt, and more than anything, more than anything, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they told us to keep providing our citizens with good government that uses growth to improve the quality of life in our province.

But what does the Throne Speech and the growth plan mean for the Melfort constituency? It means that the municipalities that are now growing will get help with their infrastructure. And I find that interesting that four out of five municipalities, towns and villages and cities, are growing where almost that same number, 85 per cent, were losing population under the tired, old NDP government. It just switched it around. And that's what Saskatchewan is doing now. Mr. Deputy Speaker, it means help for industries that are growing but have limitations due to employee shortages.

But let's focus on a couple of items. Let's talk about places where the government has set definite goals. After all, if you don't know where you're going, how are you going to know when you get there? With agriculture, industry, and mining being so important to the Melfort constituency, let's have a look at exports. Our government has set a goal to grow trade and investment and double export sales by 2020. In the past five years this government and our people have already started along that path. Oil exports up 48 per cent, potash up 127 per cent, wheat up over 10 per cent, canola 170 per cent, pulse crops 81 per cent higher, and canola oil up by a whopping 449 per cent. That's the way we're doing it in Saskatchewan, in the new Saskatchewan.

This year, 2012, Saskatchewan is on pace to pass British Columbia as the fourth largest exporting province in Canada. We are building trade partners where there were none. We are increasing exports to existing trade partners. And we are working to increase productivity in agriculture, in the industry, in mining right here in Saskatchewan.

How is the government going to double exports by 2020? I think it sums it up in the growth plan, and I like it. It says:

Saskatchewan's ... [internal] export, trade and engagement strategy will focus on Saskatchewan's natural resource and agricultural strengths [strengths we already have] and their associated value-chains, including processing, manufacturing and innovation. Saskatchewan will seek international investment in greenfield projects and expansions that contribute to the growth of Saskatchewan's natural resource sector.

What is really great about that statement is that we are accountable. We have set the bar very, very high, and this government has and will succeed when the last government failed the people of Saskatchewan so badly.

In agriculture our stated goal is to increase crop production by 10 million tonnes, increase exports of agriculture and food

products by 50 per cent. This would mean an increase from \$10 billion in 2011 to 15 billion in 2020. Think what that would mean to the hungry world.

And there is more. There is more growth and more goals for all of Saskatchewan residents in education, in population, in the environment, in health care, in innovation, in our residents' day-to-day lives. It's a plan. It's a vision. But more than anything, it is the way to make Saskatchewan the best place to live, to work, and to raise a family. And for all these reasons and many, many more, I will be supporting the Throne Speech motion. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. This year's Throne Speech outlines the government's growth plan with key investments in infrastructure, addressing the skilled labour shortage, and ensuring Saskatchewan remains competitive while maintaining fiscal discipline and a balanced budget.

We don't seek growth for the sake of growth but for what it allows us to do. Mr. Deputy Speaker, from July 2007 to July 2012, Saskatchewan's population increased by nearly 80,000 people. In the last year alone, Saskatchewan grew by more than 22,000 people, the most growth in any year since 1921. Every Saskatchewan city and nearly 80 per cent of Saskatchewan's towns saw their population increase during the most recent census period. It is because of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we must have a pragmatic and effective plan for growth.

As we reflect on what growth offers our province, I think of how important it is for everyone, but especially the next generation. I think about how important a vision and a plan for growth is for the young people in our province currently in elementary and high school. Mr. Speaker, when I was a teenager growing up in the '90s, I was told, get an education that would be useful in the economy, but not in our economy. Growth and opportunity back then was not to be found in Saskatchewan. Today Saskatchewan is growing, and with that it offers opportunity for all. It allows us to invest in what's important. We must ensure the growth continues for all generations but especially for the next generation.

We must have the infrastructure needed to deal with the challenges of growth. That is why we are creating SaskBuilds and a new 150 million SaskBuilds fund to deliver infrastructure financing, design, and delivery. Innovative approach ensures that the much needed infrastructure will be built in time to deal with the challenges of growth. It was the old and tired practices of the previous government that led to the stagnation of population and of the economy. We on this side of the House seek out innovative solutions in order to tackle the challenges of growth.

Dividends of growth allows us to help the ones in need the most by continuing efforts to add 12,600 new low-income housing units by 2016. Our government is taking initiatives to ensure that no one will be left behind during our province's growth. We need to give the next generation the opportunity to receive the skills needed for today's economy, and that is why we are developing 300 more apprenticeship spaces. A growing

Saskatchewan needs the skilled labour that these 300 more spaces will provide. A growing Saskatchewan means more opportunity for the youth to stay in our province for education and work.

We need to compete for new investment and high-paying jobs from the private sector. That is why our government will be lowering the business tax with a goal of reducing it from 12 to 10 per cent by 2015, which will bring Saskatchewan in line with Alberta and BC.

In our first term, we lowered the small-business tax and removed 114,000 low-income seniors or earners off the provincial income tax roll. We did this because Saskatchewan is competing with Alberta and BC and growth dividends afford us this ability. By lowering the business tax to the same level as our neighbours, this will ensure that Saskatchewan will no longer be at a competitive disadvantage with our neighbours. Now Saskatchewan, more than ever, will be attracting investment. This investment will create more jobs, increase the take-home pay, and a better Saskatchewan. One only has to look at the uncertainty in the world economy and realize that if we are going to compete for much needed investment, that now more than ever we can't be at a disadvantage.

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral obligation to the world to improve food security. This is why we are establishing the Global Institute for Food Security.

As we make record investment in infrastructure, we cannot be putting our men and women in unsafe environments. That is why we will be introducing new measures to improve work safety in highway construction zones, including increasing speeding penalties to triple the normal amount, and use photo radar in orange zones. These changes will safeguard our construction zones and hopefully reduce injuries and loss of lives. We must grow in a safe environment.

Education is key to a growing Saskatchewan. A growing Saskatchewan plans for this with the creation of the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings, which will help families who are saving for the children's post-secondary education by providing up to \$250 per year per child. This grant will help families save for education and ensure that we have the skilled and educated workforce for future growth. This program is paid for with the dividends of growth. We must ensure the best education possible in Saskatchewan.

We will be introducing a new student achievement initiative and an introduction of a provincial assessment for every student in the pre-K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] system. Our government will support schools as they prepare students for post-secondary studies through the new student achievement initiative. With competition in the world increasing daily, we must ensure we have the best educational system possible to give our young ones the chance for success.

The First Nations and Métis education employment gap must be closed in Saskatchewan. Closing this gap is an important step to ensure growth continues. We will be continuing to make progress in the First Nations and Métis education and employment joint task force. For far too long the previous

government had let this gap grow. We have a skilled labour shortage and a high unemployment with First Nations and Métis. This could be the best time ever to make real changes and ensure everyone is benefiting from growth. Education resulting in employment can be a game changer. Everyone can remember what it felt like to get their first job. Work means responsibility. It means personal respect, the end of dependency, and it means financial freedom. Society as a whole will improve as we make improvements to job opportunities for First Nations and Métis. Employment for First Nations will help Saskatchewan grow as a province and meet its true potential.

Growing Saskatchewan, we need more of everyone, including highly skilled doctors. This government will increase efforts to retain Saskatchewan-trained physicians and to attract more international medical students through the Saskatchewan international physician assessment. We need to retain more of our locally trained doctors and attract more international graduates. The previous government cut training seats. We expanded seats. They limited where doctors could be recruited from. We expanded the list. This government will improve health care by looking at best case practices used successfully in other parts of the country. That is why we'll be introducing the new team-based approach to providing primary and emergency care in rural and remote communities modelled after Nova Scotia's collaborative emergency standards. The previous government neglected rural health; this government is improving it.

[16:00]

One of the ways we plan on improving rural health care is by providing student loan forgiveness for new doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners who work in rural and remote communities. This program will help recruit health professionals we need in rural Saskatchewan. This is what growth affords us.

Past governments had unbalanced labour laws that disadvantaged the province and drove jobs away. We will be introducing a new Saskatchewan employment Act that will give Saskatchewan the most modern, competitive, fair, and balanced labour and employment environment in Canada and help grow Saskatchewan. As a growing Saskatchewan means more jobs and higher take-home pay for all, this is what Saskatchewan looks like.

This Throne Speech focused our attention and action on growth because with the dividends of growth we will improve our social safety nets, improve our health care, invest in infrastructure, reduce taxes, and improve the quality of life for all of Saskatchewan.

To appreciate my view of the importance of this Throne Speech I need to take you back to my youth. I will tell how a completely different approach has shaped me and my generation. Past throne speeches from my childhood offered a very different version of Saskatchewan — a province in decline, a government that did not want change and feared growth.

Get an education that would be useful in the economy, but not our economy. That is what I was told growing up in the '90s. When I was a teenager, like many others I sat down with a guidance counsellor to look at post-secondary education and

career paths. I remember reviewing the list of opportunities in Saskatchewan. It was limited. Then we reviewed the list of opportunities for outside the province. It was endless. Opportunity was not to be found here. As a teenager in Saskatchewan, I started to be aware of my community, province, and country. As most teenagers, you start questioning things. You question authority, parents, teachers. I was asking why. I started to ask why my province wasn't like the others. I was asking why our population was dropping, why a province with so much potential was performing so poorly. Every day reading the *Leader-Post* I would hear the news out of Regina, and it wasn't good. Deficits, loss of population, scandals, the economy tanking, and the Riders missing the playoffs again.

There was always hope and a promise that next year will be better. I wanted to know why we were failing. I was asking. There has to be a better way. Status quo would only bring more of the same. I was asking why so many people said my future wasn't to be found here. Growing up in the '90s should have been better but it taught a valuable lesson that has shaped my generation. My generation was told Saskatchewan was always going to be a small, wee place. We were told that in Saskatchewan that you didn't have to worry because government will always provide for you. The government knows best. The government could provide you with everything you want. Even at a young age I knew something was very wrong.

What was wrong was the government of the day planning for failure. Instead of fixing the climate for the economy, they decided to manage the decline. The government of the day failed my generation. Their policies made a tough situation worse. It was a failed mindset that produced failing results. Infrastructure was neglected. They let our province's once proud and innovative health care system become the worst in the nation. That failed government scared away investment and jobs we badly needed back then. That was the environment I grew up in.

My generation did not know growth or opportunity in Saskatchewan. Some of my generation has been able to return home and that is why growth is so important to me. Growth and opportunity means our next generation staying and succeeding in Saskatchewan.

Today in Saskatchewan we plan for growth. It's a different attitude that helps our province grow. We know that our growth means challenges but it also gives us the tools necessary to tackle these issues. In the Throne Speech our government is making significant investment in ensuring this province is ready to become what it was destined to be.

Growth offers us a better quality of life. Growth has allowed us to pay down 44 per cent of the provincial debt. Growth has paid for a children's hospital for the province. It's what growth brings that is important. With a broadening tax base and increased financial ability, Saskatchewan will continue to grow.

Opportunity for far too long was found in other places. Opportunity today is found everywhere and for everyone in Saskatchewan. Growth brings opportunity and opportunity brings growth. This opportunity is being encouraged and embraced, Mr. Speaker. Our government's Throne Speech will

ensure no future generation will be told to look for opportunity elsewhere. Growth has a new home. Opportunity is now Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I will be supporting the Speech from the Throne and opposing the amendments.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — It's my pleasure to rise today to reply to the Speech from the Throne, and in particular to support the amendment that was made by the Leader of the Opposition to the Speech from the Throne.

I guess first off I want to make a few comments about the past year and the experiences that I've had as the new MLA for Saskatoon Nutana. I want to thank the people from Saskatoon Nutana for their support. And in particular, I want to thank my staff and my friends and family, my sons, for supporting me, and certainly my good friends for being there for me when I need their support and help.

Over the past year, it's been a wonderful, wonderful opportunity to be an MLA and member of this Legislative Assembly, and to speak to and meet with all kinds of people in all kinds of groups and organizations — people that are working really hard to make our constituency a better place to live and our province a better place to live and indeed the world itself. There's a lot of hard-working, dedicated NGOs [non-governmental organizations] out there and community-based organizations that are doing incredible work in our province for the people of this province. And I'm very proud to say that a lot of the good folks from Saskatoon Nutana are doing that kind of work, and I'm very proud to be able to represent them here in this Assembly.

All is not well in Saskatoon Nutana. We are enjoying good times, to be sure, but it's not something that's being enjoyed by everyone. In particular I'm thinking of some people I know who are having a lot of difficulty with housing, and particularly rental housing, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My constituency is near the University of Saskatchewan. There are a lot of students who would like to be able to live in my riding. Unfortunately the rental rates and the increasing rental rates are causing them to have to seek . . . move often and always be seeking lesser quality rental spaces because they simply cannot afford the incredible rent increases that they're suffering.

This is a tale that's hard to tell and certainly it's hard for people who are struggling with all sorts of other issues to be able to focus and organize around these unfair rent increases, but it's something that is probably the most prevalent problem. I've heard it from my constituents. And this isn't just students, Mr. Deputy Speaker; it's also senior citizens. And again there's a lot of people on fixed incomes, seniors in my riding, who are really struggling with having a quality, affordable place to live.

So when it comes to this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, I just don't, I don't hear anything in there that's helping renters, people who are having to move and having to change their domicile because they simply can't afford where they are and their income isn't going up, some on fixed incomes or they're

students and then they're having difficulty making ends meet. And the quality of rental space is simply becoming more and more difficult and incredibly expensive.

I have a senior citizen who had to move out of my riding because she couldn't find affordable housing. She was fortunate to find, I have to say, co-op housing that was built by the Knights of Columbus in another riding. And it's good to see that the churches are taking up the challenge of providing affordable housing for people like her. Sad to see that, or sad to not see our government doing anything in that regard. And it's a disappointment that there's not more in this particular Throne Speech for those people who are struggling like that.

Another area, one of my colleagues mentioned earlier, that we don't see anything about is the Housing First initiative, and that's a proven initiative that helps and supports homeless people in our urban areas. And as we know, that problem is growing. Recently in Saskatoon there was a count done, and this has been done before, and it indicates that the number of homeless is actually growing. So when we talk about growth and the growth agenda, that's certainly one thing that should be of more concern to this government, is the growth in homelessness. And sadly, although there's much, many words in the speech, we don't see anything from the throne in regard to homelessness.

Another thing that I've been hearing from constituency, and particularly teachers and people involved in the education system, is the impact of growth on our classrooms. And what we're seeing is . . . Particularly one teacher I talked to recently. She teaches English as an additional language. She has over 40 students in one classroom. Many of them don't speak a word of English and they're being expected to function within the school stream and perform at a grade 5 level, and she is heartbroken at the fact that she can't help them any more than she can because she's just so limited in what she can do. So she is very, very concerned about the status of that program in her school, and I'm hearing that from other teachers as well, that the crowding itself in our city of Saskatoon is untenable and I think it's not just. We have to ensure that these students are getting a quality education. When we have all of this boom happening, it's certainly not happening for the kids that have to go through that. We're inviting newcomers to come to Saskatchewan — we need a workforce; we need people to come and work — but we're not . . . we're very ill-equipped to deal with the consequences of their arrival. And the people that are suffering, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are the children that are going through these programs.

The other issue we're hearing about — and I had a visitor to my office not too long ago, happens to be the president of the University of Saskatchewan — they're very concerned about the University of Saskatchewan's reputation nationally because of the constraints that they're under in terms of funding. And we're talking about serious job loss in the next couple of years if this government holds the line, if this Treasury Board holds the line on the position they're taking in relation to funding for our university. University of Saskatchewan has recently become a leading research university. It's in an elite group of research universities in the country, and they're about . . . They're fearful of losing that status if this government continues to hold back and not ensure that they're funded properly on the research

agenda. That's of concern. And these are people that are just coming and voicing their concerns to me as member of the official opposition.

I'm getting concerns from citizens about municipal spending on advertising campaigns to support the provincial government. And they think that's inappropriate spending of taxpayers' dollars . . . And those are things that we're going to be ensuring that the SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] are hearing from. So that's something that's of concern.

I'm also concerned about some of the things in the auditor's report. And we'll be talking about that more in the days to come, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in particular the chapter on pipelines. What we're hearing is that this government is not following the law when it comes to monitoring the pipelines that are in place. And as you know, with an active oil patch, there's a lot more pipelines that are being put in, they're being licensed, and they're not being followed up. So that's another issue that we heard nothing about in this Speech from the Throne.

We've heard about a new organization that's going to be created called SaskBuilds, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And apparently this organization's going to receive a lot of money to develop partnerships. And that sounds like something that's been tried in the past and hasn't worked out well. So we'll be watching carefully to see whether this particular organization will actually be able to develop the partnerships that this government hasn't been able to do with its previous incarnations of P3-type organizations.

We're also hearing about a promise of a food security bill. When I look at the food security description that we see in this Speech from the Throne, it's talking about crop production, so increasing volumes of production in order to feed a growing population in the world. Food security can mean a lot of things to different people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and what I'm hearing about, when I go to places like Station 20 West and when they opened a grocery store in an area in Saskatoon where finally people are able to access healthy food, food security for a lot of people is just being able to access healthy sources of food.

And that's something that is more and more of an issue in urban centres where it's difficult to find local grocery stores that are going to actually provide healthy food. We have programs like CHEP, the child hunger and education program, and the new grocery store at Station 20 West which was done through the will of the community and a bunch of NGOs who worked really hard to ensure that people have access to this type of food.

Food security can also be of great importance to people with diabetes, and having recently been contracted . . . understand that I've contracted this ailment, I am starting to understand the seriousness of it for people who are not as fortunate as I am, people who don't have health plans, people who don't have access to the medications they need and the food they need to eat properly and look after their health.

One of the things I've recently discovered, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that in order for people to access medication, insulin that will

not cause weight gain, they have to be on a health plan. So most of the people who have diabetes who don't have access to a health plan are having to use insulin that actually causes weight gain. And to me, that's just wrong.

[16:15]

I'm fortunate enough that through the health plan that we have as members I am able to cover off the cost to have the proper kind of insulin to look after myself, and these people just don't have access to that. That's about food security. That's about health security. And I don't see any plan in this speech to help people be healthier and be safer with the growing numbers of people that are contracting this disease.

It's been a real education for me, and I'm starting to appreciate the danger that a lot of people are in when they don't have access to insulin itself. And it's a slow killer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's something that I think is silently creeping up on us as a society. And I really hoped to see more from that in the Speech from the Throne, but sadly it's not there.

Another area that we're hearing about now is the changes to water security. We're hearing about food security; we're also hearing about water security. And now this government has seen fit to change a name. It used to be the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority. It will soon be the Water Security Agency. And a 25-year plan was introduced recently.

Unfortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and Mr. Speaker, since you're both standing there, I don't see anything in that water security plan that's going to help with the critical issue of illegal drainage in this province. This government's response has been to educate people about the effects of illegal drainage. That simply isn't enough, Mr. Speaker. The farmers that are doing drainage illegally already know that they're illegally draining, so by telling them that they should educate themselves, it just shouldn't happen that way, Mr. Speaker. Those farmers and those agricultural producers, I think need to have a water security agency that will have enforcement measures to ensure that the law is being upheld and that other people aren't suffering because of their callous actions.

Another issue I think that we are seeing, and this is in the Quill Lakes area and I've been receiving calls from citizens about that, is flooding. And what's happening in the Quill Lakes area near Dafoe . . . I was just driving back from Tuffnell on the weekend and the water levels in the Quill Lakes basin are becoming dangerously high. We may, if they go much higher, we will see highways that are actually flooded permanently by the water. And the action and the planning in terms of that is only to provide PDAP [provincial disaster assistance program] funding to people that have actually seeded hay lands, but people with flooded pastures aren't receiving any assistance at all. So that's something else that I don't see any solution for in this Speech from the Throne.

I want to talk a little bit about this government. One of the previous speakers indicated that this government is doing what we said we were going to do. And in fact they're doing a lot more than what they said they were going to do, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing about three more MLAs. We're hearing about privatization of some Crowns, and those are things that the

people didn't hear about. They didn't hear about it on the doorstep, and they certainly didn't hear about it in this Speech from the Throne. But we are hearing about thoughts of privatization, liquor stores we're hearing about.

And in particular one thing I'd like to talk a little bit about is the possible privatization of Information Services Corporation. And we heard from the minister responsible the other day that this is not a well-known Crown corporation, and in fact a lot of people don't really know what it does. I had the good fortune of actually working for that particular Crown for a few months in 2003 where I provided services as a Crown land expert in terms of converting the registry of lands to electronic format. Information Services Corporation is an agency that runs registries. So we have several registries that it's responsible for. First and foremost, and most people are familiar with this one, is the land titles registry.

So this is a registry that has all the information historically since the lands were broken, since they were first granted. And it would be my grandpa's homestead patent is there and his first land grant, everyone who was granted land under the *Dominion Lands Act*, all the Hudson's Bay Company lands, all the railway lands. And in fact if you go over to Information Services Corporation's headquarters in northern Regina here, you will see some of the original grants that are actually framed and on display. And one is the grant for Gabriel Dumont's original homestead, which was 160 acres but it was along the river, so it was a long, narrow piece of land. And you can see in Batoche and St. Laurent settlements where those were the style of land grants in those days because access to water was so important for those farmers.

So there's a huge history in our land titles registry of every transaction that's happened in relation to patented land or land that was granted until now. And so there's a wealth of history and a warehouse of history just sitting there and slowly being converted to electronic records.

When you need to buy land, when you want to mortgage land, and you want to register a lien against land, if you want to find out who owns the land, that's where you would go, is to the land titles registry. It's very personal, and it's very part of our history. And in fact the Torrens system itself of land surveys is known throughout the world as one that's very effective.

And one of the things that's really important about our land registry is the guarantee that our government provides. Whenever someone buys land and they get a title in their name, that title is guaranteed. Other jurisdictions don't have that support and they don't have that guarantee, and so you will hear about title insurance. There's a lot of people who have to buy insurance on their title. We don't have to do that here, Mr. Speaker. So that's something I think that's very important and I want to . . . I'm sure the people of Saskatchewan would agree that we want to ensure that the integrity of that guarantee is maintained and that privatization of a land registry, it may not be the way to go.

ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] is also responsible for a number of other registries. And one is the land survey registry which again, for our history buffs, is a found of information for people who are interested in the development of

Saskatchewan. One of the areas I had to do a lot of research in was mineral titles in the city of Prince Albert, which again is very interesting because it was also originally the long, narrow strips of land grants. And in those days, of course, the mineral rights were not helped, backed by the Crown, but they were granted to the individuals. As the city of Prince Albert developed, you see the subdivision layers on the top. But the mineral layers developed at a different way, and so there's a whole interesting world of land surveys and title information that's related to that as well.

The beauty of ISC is what they did is they modernized the registry by tying the geo data, so the land survey data that all became electronic data, and they actually tied it to the land title itself. And that was the glory and, I think, the real innovative progress that was made by ISC when it was first formed as a Crown corporation.

Since then they've taken on some other registries as well. There's the personal property security registry. So if you buy a vehicle maybe, Mr. Speaker, if you buy a new Mercedes or some four-by-four, you know that you can go in and register it and the bank will have assurance that its mortgage or its lien on your property is first and foremost, and so that's why you're getting a cheaper interest rate. You're able to offer security, and there's a registry there that will look after the claims to that property.

Another registry of course, and you heard the minister speak about it the other day, is the vital statistics registry. That's a newer registry that Information Services Corporation has taken over, and it's one that serves a very important public function as well. And since then too, they've also taken on the corporations branch, so all registrations of corporations are now handled by Information Services Corporation. It used to be a function of the Department of Justice. So I think if people really take a look at the work that ISC is doing, it's important for them to understand that this is perfectly fine for a government to handle. And in fact, ISC has had expressions of interest from other governments in terms of using some of those services.

The other thing about ISC is that it actually is kind of a bit old now, when you look at it. It was formed in 2000. The concept and the computing systems that were designed then are now 12 years old, and so it hasn't gone through a lot of renewal since then. And so in terms of what we're hearing from the minister and the CEO of the corporation, we'll certainly be following very closely their comments because they may not be in sync with the reality that is out there, Mr. Speaker.

I want to make a couple of comments about community pastures. This is one issue that is something that I've been hearing a lot about. Recently I've received over 300 letters from people — letters to the Premier and I've been copied on them — and there are a lot of people concerned about what the plan is for these community pastures. I just want to share some messages with you about these pastures and something that I wish this government would think about. We certainly didn't hear anything about it in the Throne Speech.

Ottawa's decision to abandon environmental and conservation stewardship of a unique grassland ecosystem in the heart of the Canadian prairies has been made hastily and without full

understanding of the potentially devastating consequences. At a minimum this plan should be put on hold, maybe for a year or longer, to allow a workable means of protecting this significant national asset to be developed. If this federal plan goes ahead, environmental protections and conservation goals, including sustainable agriculture and several at-risk species, may all be lost. This move will set the stage for these iconic lands to be sold to the highest bidder and for the destruction of this unique ecosystem which supports the burrowing owl, the black-tailed prairie dog, and the swift fox, among other endangered species.

Now we're talking here, Mr. Speaker, about almost 2.5 million acres. This is more than 10 per cent of the protected regional networks that have been set up in the province, which is way below the national standard, by the way. Anyways these 2.5 million acres are some of the largest contiguous blocks of native prairie grasslands, and their future's at stake. Canada's contribution to international agreements on biodiversity, climate change, and protected areas are at risk of being undermined.

For decades the federal government managed the lands and protected them for future generations. And now today you will see carefully managed cattle grazing on the protected lands. And they recreate natural conditions when giant herds of buffalo roamed the open prairie, while delivering an important economic benefit to local community of cattle ranchers. The federal management has ensured that balanced land use that has successfully rehabilitated these fragile and historic lands from near-desert conditions to natural grassland, a landscape with huge heritage and cultural significance for many Canadians. And this fine balance could be thrown to the prairie winds if the federal government walks away. These lands are also under intense exploration for oil and gas reserves.

The Saskatchewan government's plan to sell this invaluable Crown land is ill-advised and irresponsible, and this government is misleading Canadians about protecting it. These promised conservation easements to prevent ploughing or draining of the land can easily be broken, and there's no enforcement of the easements even if they are in place. Many ranchers are only one bad year away from financial distress, and we see this with the recent problems at the XL plant in Brooks, Alberta. Selling the land to ranchers for grazing cattle is no guarantee that it will not be resold and broken up.

And I think one of the most significant pieces of the pasture program that is not understood by the general public is that there are experienced pasture staff out there. Those staff are supported by the best expert advice on pastures managed under the program and, as a result, the pasture land has reached a much higher standard of sustainability, conservation, environmental protection, and balanced views than pastures that are being managed by others.

We also heard the minister speak about how *Species at Risk Act* would still be available if these lands were privatized. Actually that law really only applies to federal land or federal leased land, and although there's a wee provision in SARA [*Species at Risk Act*] where it could be used to apply to private land, that it would take action on the part of the government to do so. The other thing that needs to be noted is that this government has not met its obligations under the *Species at Risk Act* expectations when that Act was brought in. And *The Wildlife*

Habitat Protection Act and *The Wildlife Act of Saskatchewan* do not meet the national standards for those types of legislation. Again nothing in the Throne Speech talking about that.

Once these lands, which are much of the last remaining native prairie on the planet, are sold, they will be gone forever, and the government will have no say in their protection. And that's why it's critical that ironclad conservation and environmental protections be put in place now.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of things that need to be done with the community pastures program. What we're going to urge this government to do is slow down. Ten pastures have been announced. There's still time to sit down with people that are concerned about this. What I'm hearing is that, although the minister's saying he consulted with patrons, what I'm hearing is that he actually just got the patrons, presidents of the patrons' groups and the managers together and told them what was going to happen. There's been no consultation with the patrons, and in fact we haven't heard anything from the patrons on what their views are in terms of the disposition of these.

I think it's a perfect opportunity for this government. There's a chance to be innovative here. There's a chance to make something happen, with a gift from the federal government really, that could continue these iconic lands into the future and be something that we can be proud of and support as a government and as a citizenry.

[16:30]

A couple of other things I didn't see in this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, is comments about the effect of the public service cuts. And again, I've said it before and I'll say it again, I was a proud member of the public service for 17 years before I came into this position. And the notion that a government would arbitrarily pick the number 15 . . . We're just going to pick a number, okay, 15 per cent. Because we just think we can cut the public service by 15 per cent. That's arbitrary. It's ideological, and it's not helping the people of Saskatchewan.

The services that are provided by these people are invaluable to the citizenship of Saskatchewan. And just by arbitrarily making those cuts and then using the lean, capital lean technology to justify this ideological decision I think is a real disservice to the people of Saskatchewan, particularly in times where our revenues are significant and we can continue to provide better services to people, rather than cutting them.

I guess the last comment I want to make before I move into some other areas is my concern that the Throne Speech, in our history, is the first kick at this. This is where the government tells us, through the Lieutenant Governor, what is important for this government and the people of Saskatchewan. And the fact that our Premier actually scooped that by making his announcement at the chamber of commerce sends a very chilly message, I think, to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and that's that the people at the chamber of commerce are more important than the citizenship of Saskatchewan. That's a bad message to be sending out, and I think it's one that the people of Saskatchewan can feel the cold winds blowing.

We know now where this Premier's priorities lie. And that's

really chilly, especially when there's \$100 a ticket that people have to pay in order to gain attendance whereas, in this case, it's free to get into the gallery. And even if it was online, I think the message that it sends is very chilly. And in fact the volume that is coming from the other side tells me that there is a sensitive spot here, Mr. Speaker, and we've hit a nerve on that. I think 50 people watched it online, Mr. Speaker, and that's . . . The idea of charging is distasteful, Mr. Speaker, and obviously it's distasteful to this side as well.

In the campaign promises, again I'm just going to mention one more time that there are promises that were made in the campaign that we haven't heard about. We're hearing announcements of the same thing eight times in a row, and yet we're not hearing about things like the agenda to privatize. So there seems to be an agenda going on here that the Premier has that he isn't disclosing to the people of Saskatchewan. And I think the people need be worried about that, Mr. Speaker.

Just a couple more things to mention before I finish today. What we didn't hear in this Throne Speech — and there's a lot we didn't hear — we didn't hear anything about mental health. We haven't heard anything about long-term care. We haven't heard anything about the HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] epidemic or Alzheimer's disease.

We didn't hear a whole lot about plans for labour, Mr. Speaker, and yet we know that this government is about to introduce some sort of omnibus legislation that's going to radically impact the labour relations in this province. Two lines, I think, it got in the Throne Speech. That's of concern, because we know the agenda's there and yet this Speech from the Throne gives us no indication of what to expect. And what's also missing is the fact that the essential services Act, which was ruled unconstitutional by the courts, hasn't been fixed yet. So we can see where the priorities are as far as labour, Mr. Speaker.

Education, we don't see any real plan to deal with overcrowding, with the impact on English as an alternate language, on support for refugee students. We didn't hear any of that in this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. Of course there were the surprises I mentioned earlier that we again don't see in the Throne Speech — the introduction of three new MLAs, attacking the film industry, the privatization of ISC. This is untrustworthy language, Mr. Speaker, from an unpredictable government. We're just not sure what the role of the Throne Speech is anymore because we're not hearing what the real agenda is, it appears.

So at this point, Mr. Speaker, I think that pretty much wraps up the comments that I'd like to make in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Again it's a disappointment that it was scooped by the Premier in his Growing Forward announcements ahead of the Speech from the Throne. I think the proper place for this announcement is in this Assembly, which has been the role of the Assembly and the role of the Lieutenant-Governor, and to change that is unfortunate and I think it's disrespectful to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

So having said all that, I think at this point I would like to make my support of the amendment introduced by our leader. I would support the amendment that was raised and I'm not going to be

in favour of the Speech from the Throne. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the lead up to our return to this beautiful Assembly for our second session of the twenty-seventh legislature, I couldn't help but reflect on the past year. I took some time to reflect on the learning curve that many of us new MLAs had over the past year. And I would like to take a moment at the outset to acknowledge the more experienced people in the building, colleagues and whatnot, that have taken a little time to show us the ropes around this place. This is appreciated by many, and I can say a very sincere thank you to each of you for your advice, your patience, and your time.

I have been looking forward to returning here. Our return coincides with late fall or early winter — it depends on where you live in this diverse province of ours. As many know, northwest of Saskatoon experienced quite a snowfall last week and it looks like it's going to be here for the duration.

I would like to begin by adding to some comments that were made by our colleague from The Battlefords last week regarding the marvel of this building. I, too, feel honoured when I climb the steps to this great Assembly, and each time I think of and I thank all of the constituents of Rosthern-Shellbrook that I am here to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have some time to enter my comments here to the Throne Speech delivered by Her Honour last week. This Throne Speech this year displays the Saskatchewan plan for growth, a vision by Saskatchewan people for Saskatchewan people. If I could first outline the first six core growth activities that our provincial government will work towards, first we will be investing in infrastructure that is required for growth. Second, we need to educate and train a skilled work force. Third, we will work to ensure ongoing competitiveness of Saskatchewan's economy. And fourth, we will partake in international engagement to support increased trade, investment, and exports. We will take steps to advance our natural resource strength to build the next economy. And sixth and most importantly, all of this will take place within fiscal responsibility. These points summarize the direction that our government will take as we foster our Saskatchewan economy to the benefit of all the people that live here.

As a new MLA to this Assembly and to this government, it pleases me to no end to think of how this plan was formed. Mr. Speaker, it was not formed by the government guessing and deciding what direction should be taken. That would be a booklet. The Saskatchewan plan for growth was formed by something quite the opposite. This past summer, as mentioned in the Throne Speech, government MLAs went out consulting with the people of the province in our constituencies and around. In our constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook, we met with many, many individuals, numerous stakeholder groups, and over 25 local governing bodies. *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: Vision 2020 and Beyond* is a result of input from people in communities that I represent and people in our province. Saskatchewan people were consulted and they have guided this government with this vision, their vision.

One challenge that arose at each local government interaction was the need for a long-term sustainable infrastructure plan. Local governments are faced with similar challenges that we are faced with at the provincial level. An infrastructure deficit from years past compiled with recent growth is very challenging for our local government resources. Frequent and fond mention was made of the recent municipal revenue sharing program that shares one full point of the PST [provincial sales tax] revenue with local governing municipalities. This was asked for by Saskatchewan people, and it was delivered by this government. This results in our municipalities receiving over \$237 million this year, an 87 per cent increase over 2007 levels. This funding is also predictable as municipalities already know their level for the 2013-14 year will grow to \$264 million.

The result of this is in a town such as Hafford, which had a decline in population from 2001 to 2006 at a rate of over negative 10 per cent. That same community from '07 to '11 is now recording growth of positive 10 per cent. With this came the increase in the municipal revenue sharing of 111 per cent. Rosthern over the same time period is negative 8 per cent. From '07 to '11, positive 13 per cent population growth with 114 per cent increase in their revenue sharing. In my hometown of Shellbrook from the time measured, 2006 to five years previous, was negative 4.8 per cent growth, Mr. Speaker. And in 2011, last year, it was recorded at 16 and a half per cent growth, positive population growth, Mr. Speaker.

All of the towns in our constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook experienced growth in the last census, and this is indicative of a province-wide trend. Mr. Speaker, over 80 per cent of our towns in Saskatchewan are now experiencing growth, and this is in stark contrast to only a few years ago. These infrastructure needs are beginning to be approached in our constituency with a provincial grant for a water treatment plant upgrade in Spiritwood, a sewage plant in Shellbrook, and replacement of an access road in Laird.

And I would like to speak to the benefit to the community of Rosthern with the twinning of Highway No. 11 between Saskatoon and Prince Albert. Infrastructure needs in our communities were voiced by those elected locally, Mr. Speaker, and our Saskatchewan government will commit two and a half billion dollars over the next three provincial budgets to infrastructure. We will coordinate and plan at the provincial, regional, and municipal levels, and this will ensure that this investment will assist municipalities with infrastructure investment that is aligned, efficient, and strategic with future population growth and private sector economic growth, Mr. Speaker.

In addition, new and innovative solutions need to be looked at. SaskBuilds will look at new and innovative methods of infrastructure financing, design, and delivery. This government is listening, consulting, and will continue to work with stakeholder groups at the regional and municipal levels to address infrastructure needs as stated in the Saskatchewan plan for growth.

As we grow our Saskatchewan economy and population, it is imperative that we continue to focus on education and skills training for people that live and want to have careers here. Mr. Speaker, a multi-pronged approach is necessary, including

training and retention of these individuals, immigration, and increasing employment of our First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan. If we are to grow to 1.2 million people by 2020, we will require 60,000 additional workers. Initiatives such as the elimination of the wait-list for adult education and reducing the grade 12 graduation disparity of our Aboriginal students are necessary to allow people the opportunity to train for their career here in Saskatchewan.

For myself representing the rural constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook, I have the opportunity to discuss agri-food production with constituents each and every day. Agri-food production and ag-related industries are part of the spinal cord of our Saskatchewan economy. Our ag producers have provided Saskatchewan with the honour of being Canada's top agri-food exporting province, with more than \$10 billion in exports in 2011. This is a result of our province's farm families' hard work, their embracement of technology, and at times their perseverance in the industry. Moving forward, the government will establish the Global Institute for Food Security at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]. This institute will encourage research and innovation in the biosciences.

Mr. Speaker, consultation and collaboration with ag industry groups will be key in developing a crop strategy and continuing to develop business-friendly policies to encourage investment in the biotech and value-added industries. We will also closely consult with these groups to advocate Saskatchewan's agricultural interests in trade negotiations.

Our ag industry always has and always will be experiencing vast amounts of change, Mr. Speaker. Our access to present and future technologies as well as research and trade opportunities are key to our success in years to come. Our government's goal is to work closely with agriculture industry to increase exports to \$15 billion by the year 2020. Rosthern-Shellbrook has many of these industry partners and I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to talk to them frequently. We have numerous agri-businesses operating in various sectors of the industries. We have producers involved in the cow-calf industry. We have numerous large, thriving, state-of-the-art grain farms that employ many people in our towns and villages. We are home to an organic processing plant, a pet food plant, as well as one of Saskatchewan's largest independently owned ag transport companies originated here.

Operating in our area we have one of the province's largest honey producers that also employ and train many people in our towns and villages. Rosthern-Shellbrook is home to one of Canada's largest supplier of pig genetics. A worldwide supplier of pig genetics, Mr. Speaker. This supplier has offices in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, the United States, as well as they have operating production facilities and sales in China.

On October 6th in my neighbouring constituency of Martensville, I was pleased to join colleagues and producers in observing an event that was as large as it was generous. This was the day that 249 combines joined together for the event known as Harvest for Kids. They set a Guinness world record that day, Mr. Speaker, and what a true display of the scope of Saskatchewan's agriculture industry and the generosity of those involved.

[16:45]

To quote Andrew Ross Sorkin's quotation that is in the Throne Speech that was delivered last week:

If you care at all about the future of the world's food supply, you care — whether you know it or not — about Saskatchewan.

And how true this is here.

Our province has moved from being a have not province to a have province. This is in a large part due to the hard-working and generous people that reside and work here. We no longer have the vicious cycle of low economic growth and stagnant employment numbers although people are still voting with their feet — as a matter of fact 80,000 of them in the last five years. With proper planning and commitment to fiscal responsibility, we can continue the more recent virtuous circle of growth that we have in Saskatchewan. Our strong economy can drive population which will provide resources so that we may retain the Saskatchewan advantage. Mr. Speaker, together we will continue to make Saskatchewan the best place to live, to work, and to raise a family.

This government's consultation with Saskatchewan people to develop a plan of growth for our province is the reason why I, on behalf of the constituents of Rosthern-Shellbrook, will not be supporting the amendment and I will be supporting the Throne Speech. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Ms. Wilson: — Hello, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be here, and thank you. So thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about some things happening back home in the constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers, but also to address the topics that have been featured in this particular Throne Speech. This is a good report on the condition of the province and the direction we're going into the future. We can also discuss our government agenda for the coming session and plan for positive growth.

But first of all, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the constituents I represent for putting their faith in me to be their voice. The people that surround me are very amazing individuals as well — the staff in my office that take all the phone calls and are the friendly faces to individuals and constituents in stress. Marcus, Cora, and Joan work in my main office near Prince Albert, and I opened up a satellite office in Big River. I have another hard-working young man by the name of Jason Beebe who works there and I appreciate him as well.

Mr. Speaker, it was a very exciting year for me personally for, right after the provincial election on Remembrance Day, our daughter and son-in-law had a baby girl, Ella, named for my mother. She was born on the 11th hour of the 11th day of 2011. So Ella will celebrate her first birthday this year and we're looking very much forward to that. The day she was born, I was at a Remembrance Day service in Candle Lake honouring the fallen soldiers who gave us freedom.

This summer I was also honoured to attend the Wounded Warriors Weekend gala in Nipawin. It was an incredible military service with veterans who we welcomed and recognized, and I thank the many organizers and volunteers for their hard work and dedication on this momentous event. Mr. Speaker, our standard of living and our rights and freedoms are possible because of all these courageous men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

Another highlight of this year was the birth of our twin granddaughters in June. Laura and Hanna make wonderful additions to our family, which makes five grandchildren in three and a half years. Fortunately they live nearby our farm so I do get to see them grow.

Our ranch has been home to five generations since 1926. The last five years have been a period of remarkable growth for our family as the last five years have been a period of remarkable growth in our province. Mr. Speaker, our most precious resource is our children, and our greatest achievement in Saskatchewan is our growing resource of people. Our Speech from the Throne highlights our increasing population of nearly 80,000 more people, and every Saskatchewan city and nearly 80 per cent of Saskatchewan towns saw their population increase during the most recent census period.

Mr. Speaker, growth has been good for our province. Our government has been planning for this future growth as well, committed to funding a minimum of 2.5 billion in infrastructure investments over the next three years. Meeting the needs of growth will be the focus of this fall session.

Mr. Speaker, as Dave Marit, president of SARM, stated in a recent SARM news release:

The plan reaffirms the government's dedication to help fund the infrastructure needed to foster continued economic growth. This commitment is important to rural Saskatchewan because the growth of the industries driving this province's economy are located in rural municipalities.

He also stated:

SARM is eager to work with the Province to move their plan forward to support economic growth in Saskatchewan. In particular, SARM is encouraged to see increased funding for municipal infrastructure, a provincial water strategy, a plan to improve rural healthcare and a continued commitment to support SARM's Municipal Roads for the Economy Program.

Mr. Speaker, our government will work with our municipal partners to develop a new cost-shared municipal infrastructure program through SaskBuilds to look at innovative ways to fund building schools, roads, and hospitals.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the candidates who put their names forward on a municipal ballot in last week's election. The act of voting is in itself the defining moment of democracy. Congratulations to the incoming officials, and I look forward to working with you. And thank you to all the outgoing officials. We appreciated your public service.

This fall, Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of touring Prince Albert's FMA [forest management agreement] forest product facilities along with some other colleagues from the region. We had a busy but educational couple of days talking to the industry players. The forest industry is a significant contributor to the Saskatchewan economy, and I believe it's a very important source of employment in the North.

Working in partnership with northern communities, our government will support the re-emergence of the forest industry by fostering innovation and new product development and providing a stable and efficient environment for this forest industry. Sakaw represents many major forest industry facilities in our province such as Carrier Lumber in the RM of Buckland of Saskatchewan Rivers where I represent. And one area I found interesting, Mr. Speaker, that was very interesting on our tour, was the cogenerated green energy power production that will provide between 100 and 130 megawatts of green power.

Also this fall, Mr. Speaker, actually it was September 20th, I was honoured to attend and speak at the opening of the Centre of Excellence for Education and Business Development at the Big River's First Nation. This beautiful facility will assist local people to develop and improve their skills. The members of this community will be trained through computer labs and on-site classrooms to contribute to the local economy and help them seize the opportunity available in our growing province. Of the people employed there during construction, 95 per cent were residents of the Big River First Nation. I remember Chief Bruce Morin talking to me and saying, this is great for the community and great for the province.

Mr. Speaker, our government's goal as stated in the Throne Speech growth plan is to have the province lead the country in high school grad rates by 2020, and during the past five years we have invested 3.5 billion in the province's post-secondary education system. Mr. Speaker, ordinary people can do amazing things under the guidance of great leadership.

And one of the things I like about the Throne Speech is its positive tone which in turn I try to live by. I'm an optimistic person. Keeping thoughts positive because thoughts become your words, words become your behaviour, positive behaviour becomes habits, positive habits become your values. As one wise old elder told me, keep your values positive as values become destiny. And I believe this province is destined to become an even better place to live, work, and raise your family, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this government is planning for growth in many directions to help its citizens. This government is investing over \$7.5 million into targeted autism services and supports this year. That is an increase of \$1 million in additional funding over 2011-2012. Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes our role and the importance of building a comprehensive service system for individuals affected by autism and their families. I was very humbled when a neighbour woman pulled me aside recently at a function that we were both attending. She took my hand, Mr. Speaker, and expressed her gratitude over our government's empathy towards these children, as her grandson has autism spectrum disorder. This is what growth means to me: support for our citizens and more opportunities for our families' needs.

Mr. Speaker, this summer I was also welcoming our Minister of Rural and Remote Health to Shellbrook and Big River, where we met with local community leaders to discuss health services. Our government takes very seriously the benefits of growth to improve the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people. And this fall, Mr. Speaker, 24 international medical graduates entered the Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment. The Speech from the Throne expands on our government continuing to fulfill its 2011 commitment to alleviate the shortage of health care workers in rural Saskatchewan and will implement a new team-based approach to providing primary and emergency care in rural and remote settings.

Mr. Speaker, as our internationally known Agribition is about to begin this November in Regina, I must mention our agriculture producers. Thanks to our ranching and farming families, Saskatchewan is now Canada's top agri-food exporting province with more than 10 billion worth of exports in 2011. I am very proud of all my neighbouring farm friends and will continue to support them any way I can. The hours and dedication put forth into raising and growing their products demonstrates the grit and tenacity of its Saskatchewan people.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about duty, responsibility, and public service. This is a quote from Albert Einstein: "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." And I hope everyone in this House remembers it — on both sides, government and opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to support the motion put forward by my friend and colleague from The Battlefords. And I'm also very pleased to support, second . . . seconded by my friend and colleague from Regina Coronation Park. However, Mr. Speaker, I feel I have to say I will not be supporting the amendment.

The Speaker: — It now being after the hour of 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed till 7 p.m. this evening.

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

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CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

Minister of the Economy
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

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Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

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Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

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