



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

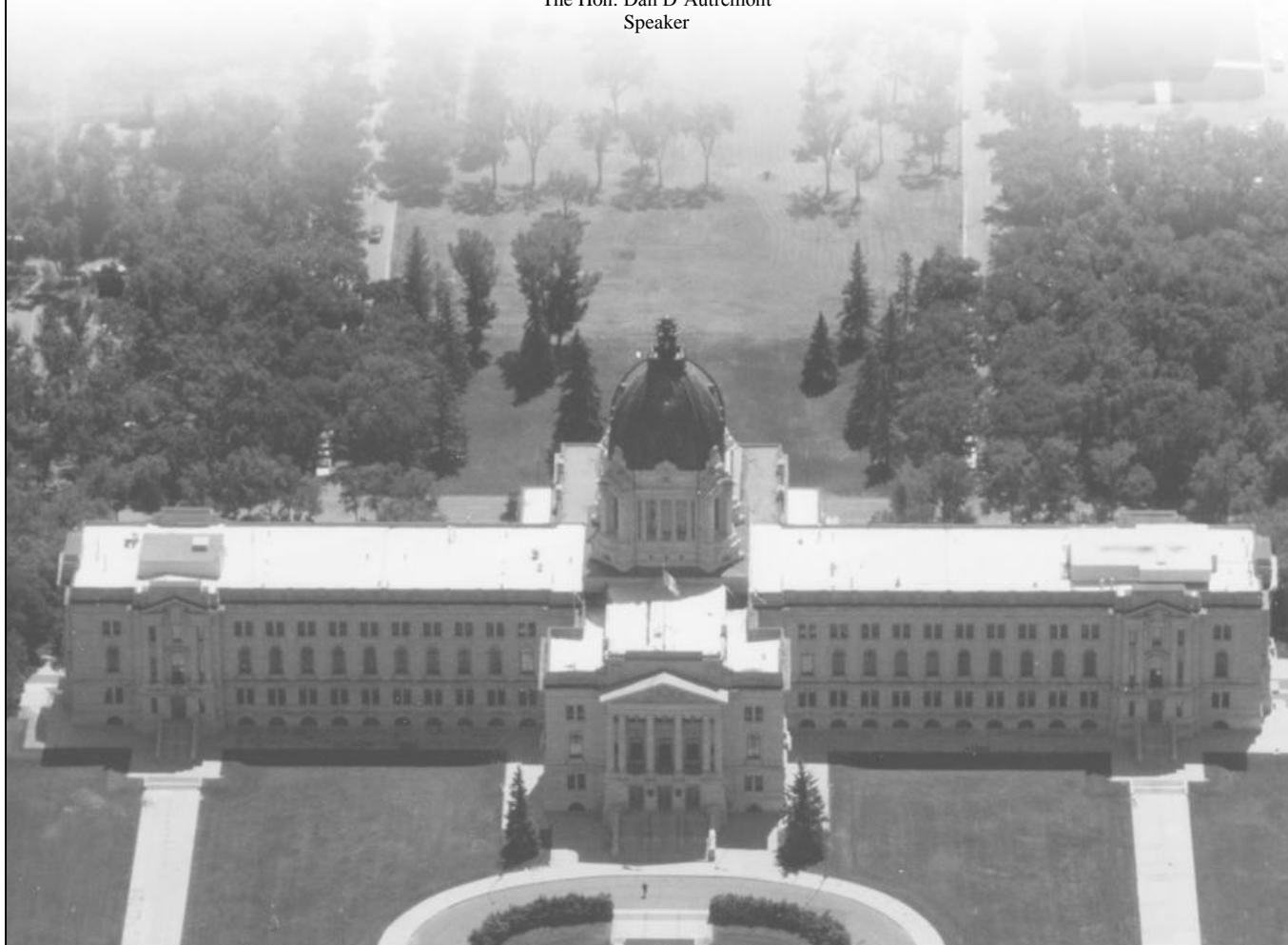
of the

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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Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
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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Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
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Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
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Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
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Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

EVENING SITTING

The Speaker: — It now being after the hour of 7, session will resume. Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Mr. Harrison: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My pleasure to introduce a gentleman, a great Saskatchewan boy. Went to Alberta unfortunately, but we're grateful to have him back here in the Chamber. A member for Calgary-Acadia, first elected in 2008, Mr. Speaker, re-elected in 2012, appointed to cabinet as the assistant Energy minister in 2009, Housing minister in 2010, the Solicitor General in 2011, and currently serving as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General for the province of Alberta, Mr. Jonathan Denis. Also a graduate of the University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan College of Law — and I think I actually still have your *Black's Law Dictionary*, Jon, which I borrowed during law school — and at one point worked in this building as well, Mr. Speaker.

So if I could ask all members to introduce and welcome Minister Jonathan Denis.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — On behalf of the official opposition and University of Regina graduates everywhere, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join in the welcoming of Minister Denis to the Legislative Assembly. We've followed his work in Alberta with great interest, particularly the work around Housing First. We thought that was a fine bit of public policy work, Mr. Speaker, and we'd encourage him to tell his friends on the other side all about it. But that being said, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join in the welcoming of Mr. Denis to his home province's Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Debate on special order shall resume. I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

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.]

Mr. Hart: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's certainly a pleasure to enter into the reply to the Throne Speech. A number of members of the House have certainly put their comments forward and on the record, and I would like to take this opportunity to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, it's always been a tradition I guess for many members, including myself, to thank those who are closest to us and help us serve the people of our constituency and the people of the province. And I'd certainly like to thank my family — my wife, Marlene; our two granddaughters. Certainly they say they miss grandpa when he's away, but I have a feeling that sometimes life is easier when he's here and they're at home able to have supper in front of the TV and watch the programs that they like to watch. But we do manage to get through the days and so on, and as I said, I'd certainly like to thank them at this time.

Also, as all of us know, that we are ably assisted by our constituency assistants who look after the operation of our constituency offices, and I have certainly a very able person in the person of Carol Mellnick who has been with me since I was first elected. And I'm getting to the point where I'm sure the office runs much smoother when I'm not there and Carol looks after things.

An Hon. Member: — Yes, I believe it.

Mr. Hart: — And the member from Carrot River Valley says he knows his office runs much smoother when he's here, Mr. Speaker.

There are a number of things that I'd just like to briefly touch upon in the Throne Speech — some of the highlights, and in no particular order, some of the things that I feel perhaps are important to the province and also to the constituency of Last Mountain-Touchwood.

In the section of the speech entitled building the workforce, our government has put forward, set a goal of increasing the workforce by 60,000 more people employed in the province by 2020. This is certainly a laudable goal. It will be needed to meet all the requirements of the growth and industries in this province, particularly the potash industry.

Part of that growth or increase in the labour force, Mr. Speaker, we certainly will be looking at engaging many more of our First Nations and Métis people in the workforce, and, Mr. Speaker, that is something that we absolutely have to work very hard at doing. We look at the unemployment rates in our province, particularly amongst First Nations people that are living on reserves. It is quite . . . It is not where it should be. And there is good work that is happening and we need to continue that good work and enhance that work.

One of the examples that I could offer up, Mr. Speaker, is in my own constituency at the Punnichy Community High School, which is located in an area of the province where there are a number of First Nations communities very close to that community and who are very involved. The students, high school students from the First Nations are very involved in that school. The Horizon School Division in which the Punnichy

school is located in, they have representation from the First Nations communities on their board and that seems to be working quite well, and engaging First Nations in the education system in that area and the initiatives taken there with the help of our ministry.

I remember when the member from Canora-Pelly was the minister of Education, he was instrumental in bringing forward some initiatives that would engage First Nations youth in skills training. There's the involvement with SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] and SIIT [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies] there. We not only are educating the young people but also providing them with a skill set. And taking it one step further, some of the leadership of some of the First Nations community, and particularly the George Gordon First Nation, has taken the initiative and partnered, has developed a partnership with BHP Billiton to provide them with some of the workforce that they have the need now and will, their requirements in the future. And the whole concept and idea of the partnership is to have young people who have been educated and trained and have the skill set so that they can go to the mine site and take up gainful employment.

Something that I suppose those of us who are not members of First Nations communities perhaps maybe sometimes overlook is that the people, particularly living on our reserves, they would prefer, much prefer to work with some of their colleagues and also work, their place of work needs to be fairly close to their home community as there is very strong family ties. And if we can manage to, if the number of variables that are in place out there, if we could put those in place so that we can accomplish that, it's certainly a win-win. And I think the Horizon School Division and the people of the Punnichy community, the staff of the Punnichy community school along with the residents of the area need to be commended for the initiative and the successes that they have.

Mr. Speaker, as indicated in the education section of the Throne Speech, education is something that is a vital part of the future of this province, and I know under the leadership of the Minister of Education we will see great things happening.

The auditor in her report of June of this year has identified some of the issues that we need to deal with, and I know our minister's very aware of these and has initiatives under way to deal with these, some of these problems. They have been mentioned in the Throne Speech. We need to certainly increase the graduation rate, and in particular amongst the First Nations people, and particularly those young people who are living on our reserves.

In the auditor's report in chapter 2, there's some statistics I think that need to be identified: the percentage of students entering grade 10 and their completion rate. And there's a table, three, four, and five years down the road. When we compare the overall graduation rate of those grade 10 students to the overall graduation rate of First Nations and Métis students, there is a marked difference.

If we look at the school year 2006-2007, if you looked at the first three years — so you would normally think that's the three years that the students on average would complete their 10, 11,

and 12 — the overall graduation rate was 74.6 per cent. But yet if we look at the First Nations and Métis student graduation rates, that was a very low 31.8.

However if you look at a longer period of time, over four and five years, those rates do come up for both categories, but still nowhere where they need to be. The First Nations and Métis students, their graduation rate climbed up to 48.1 per cent, but that's not good enough, Mr. Speaker. I think we all realize that that's not good enough and we need to do better. And under the leadership of our Minister of Education, I know we will be doing better.

And not only those young people who graduate go on, get the skill set or the further education that they desire and then go on to gainful employment and are able to fully participate in our society and in our economy — they're not the only winners. We all are the winners, Mr. Speaker, if that happens, and we all have a vested interest in making sure that this happens, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, with the leadership of our Ministry of Education, I feel very confident that some good things are going to happen in this area, and happen quickly.

Another area that is, of course . . . Health care is certainly one of the sections in the Throne Speech, and Last Mountain-Touchwood is certainly a constituency that has some challenges in that area, particularly with physician retention. Part of the constituency is within reasonable driving time to Regina, and for those people who have their own transportation, accessing health care in Regina is not a problem. The closest point of Last Mountain-Touchwood to Regina is Craven. Well it's not very hard to get into Regina from Craven, but that's for people who have their own transportation, are fully mobile. But you take some of the communities further out, well Lestock is probably the best example, where there was a doctor. The doctor left a couple of years ago and they are currently being served by a group of physicians out of Regina that have clinic days there two days a week, along with a nurse practitioner.

But recently myself and the Minister for Rural and Remote Health had meetings in Lestock and in Balcarres because that's another community that's experiencing real difficulties in physician recruitment. And of course, well we met with the staff. We met with community leaders. And what we were told, and particularly in Lestock, which is a community that's further away from Regina, has a high population of seniors and First Nations people, and there's a real need to enhance and make the physician and health care service in those communities. Because as I said, for those people who have their own transportation and are able to drive to a community and to access health care, it's not a huge problem. But it is for a significant portion of the population of some of those communities such as Lestock where the seniors' transportation, finding somebody to take them to the doctor for appointments or if they need to come in to Regina or Saskatoon, it's a real burden. And in fact some of those people aren't receiving the quality of care that they deserve.

And I know through our ministers, both the Minister of Health and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, that there's a lot of good things. A lot of hard work is being done and I certainly, I'm sure we will be seeing some of the positive results of those efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't at least say something about agriculture, and I think I'll make some announcements on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and he can refute them when he gets up because I understand he's getting up after I sit down here. But the Throne Speech did talk about the important role that agriculture plays in our province and in our province's economy, and how our exports have now reached \$10 billion and our goal is to see that increase to 15 billion by 2020.

[19:15]

And the Throne Speech also mentioned that research is a priority. And it needs to be, Mr. Speaker. If we are going to reach those goals, we need to make some strategic investment in agriculture, in research, such as some of those strategic investments that paid huge dividends in the past.

And one investment, strategic investment that comes to mind was the investment in the Crop Development Centre at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] a number of years ago, many years ago. And that's, that has paid huge dividends. It has resulted in Saskatchewan being the world leader in the export quantities of pulse crops, lentils, and peas, and that was all made possible by some key people coming to work and do research at the Crop Development Centre. One has to think of Dr. Al Slinkard, and he was known as doctor lentil. I can remember when a group of us in our community started growing lentils. Well we certainly did follow the advice, the good advice that we got from Dr. Slinkard and his colleagues at the Crop Development Centre.

If we go back just a bit further and look at some of the initiatives and the investments that were made by both levels of government in the canola industry, and Dr. Keith Downey at the ag research station in Saskatoon. All we have to do is, all you need to do is drive around this province in July, late June and July, and see all the yellow fields out there to realize what a tremendous and valuable crop that canola has become in this province. And it wouldn't have happened if we wouldn't have had those investments in research, because I can remember when we first started out, when I first started growing canola, it was common knowledge or the rule of thumb was you didn't grow canola south of No. 16 Highway, the Yellowhead, because at that time the varieties and agronomic conditions made it fairly risky. But with the development of new varieties and new technology in agriculture, we see Canola grown throughout the province, and it is and will continue to be a major crop in this province and in Western Canada and a major driver in the agriculture economy.

There is mention, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to also just say a few words about Saskatchewan's role in the overall food security of the world. And quite often we take for granted that when we travel this province and travel into our neighbouring provinces that, you know, there's all kinds of good land and good soil for food production, and there should never be a problem with food security in the world. Well we walk into our supermarkets and see the vast supplies of food products on the shelves. You get a little different picture if you do some travelling and visit countries who don't have the large expanses of agricultural production that we do in Canada and in Saskatchewan.

All you need to do is fly over some of these areas of the world and look down on a clear day and see the miles or kilometres and kilometres of desert and rock and it's all brown and it's not green at all, or travel to some of our tropical areas of the world and you see what looks like a lot of forage out there, but yet you see the animals who are vastly undernourished because there isn't anything in that forage that's growing to sustain adequate animal production and so on. So when you have an opportunity to see some of these other areas of the world, it certainly drives home the fact as to how fortunate we are here in Saskatchewan to have the resources that we do have and realize what a key player Saskatchewan is in the overall security of food throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, before I take my place, there's just a couple of other comments I'd like to put on the record and it has to do with, well, with this place that we're all so privileged to work in. We are starting the second century of this legislature, of these Chambers. We have brand new carpet. Perhaps 30 or 40 years down the road, historians will look back and look at what some of us had to say at the start of the new century of this building and so on. And I would just certainly like to offer up a few comments.

You know, we get in here and we do our thing. We stand and we debate and we will heckle across and we'll play this game of politics. And I think sometimes we think that we are the most important people here in the overall scheme of our form of government.

But if you look back, and I've been told that since 1905 there's been 721 members elected to this legislature and, as far as I could determine, the average length of service is about six years. So when you look at that, we really are bit players in the history of our government. There's one or two exceptions, and I think the member from Moosomin would be an exception. He's been here for quite some time and has certainly served the people of this province very well and so on.

But overall, sometimes I think we tend to lose a little bit of perspective, and sometimes we're inclined perhaps not to remember what a privilege it is to work here. Also sometimes we may lose a little sight of the form of government we have. It is an adversarial system, and sometimes we get very enthusiastic about that adversarial part of governing and so on. But it does have . . . There is a cost to that, and I believe the cost is in part reflected in voter turnout.

I think we've all heard it, particularly from our young people, when at election time they'll say, well why should we vote because you're all the same. And you know, that's pretty flippant I suppose, and so on. But I think sometimes some of our actions give cause to that kind of a notion. And we should be, I believe we should be somewhat mindful of that and take seriously the whole voter engagement and the declining voter turnout, whether it's because what we do in this place not only affects those of us that are here currently; it affects other elections, whether it be municipal elections and some of the things that our colleagues do in Ottawa. It does impact and have an effect on the perception of those of us that stand for public office and are elected.

So I would just offer that up. And I would just perhaps, perhaps

like to remind members that our form of government and everything that this room represents is much more important than we are, and that we just all be respectful of one another. And I'm a bit selfish in offering those comments because — and I know we're not supposed to involve the Speaker so I won't go there — but I know when the Deputy Speaker is the Chair, the job's a whole lot easier if everyone behaves themselves, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that I know other members would like to enter into the debate and I would say, just like to say that I will be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great opportunity to speak in reply to the Speech from the Throne in this great Assembly, and one that few citizens ever get to realize.

I'd like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to thank my family for giving me the opportunity to pursue this great opportunity to give back a few years of my life to this province that I love. Also I wish to thank the good, hard-working people of Thunder Creek, salt of the earth, decent people, Mr. Speaker, for providing me with a fourth term in this place, this great Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And in thanking the people of Thunder Creek, I include my constituency assistant, Bev Leaman, for the great work she does for the people of Thunder Creek and the assistance that she provides for me in fulfilling my duties, Mr. Speaker.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to recognize Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Vaughn Solomon Schofield, and thank her on the occasion of presenting her first Speech from the Throne in this honourable Assembly. I am sure that she will present many more, Mr. Speaker. She brings a special level of dignity to the role of Lieutenant Governor.

And my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, who work hard to make this province a better place to live and work and raise a family. I am proud to be associated with my Saskatchewan Party colleagues. Also my legislative colleagues from across the floor. I don't agree with them. Their policies have been devastating for the province and we don't ever want to go back there. They continue to show that they would make the same mistakes all over again that would devastate this province all over again. But I thank them just the same for their sincere service to our democracy.

Mr. 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 towns saw their population increase during the most recent census period. 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 last year alone. Mr. Speaker, these are the benefits of a vibrant economy driven by the private sector.

In contrast, Mr. Speaker, in the previous census, the last one

during the NDP [New Democratic Party] government, over half of Saskatchewan cities and more than 85 per cent of our towns decreased in population. I hope that no resident of this great province will forget what life was like under the NDP: young people leaving to seek opportunity elsewhere, stagnant and dwindling population, high taxes, no development, no money for infrastructure, for health and for social services, for parks, for the arts, longest surgical waiting lists in the country, and a general feeling of despair and embarrassment for this province that we love and that we recognized had so much potential, Mr. Speaker. These are the results of socialist policies of the Saskatchewan NDP in their previous role as government.

In contrast, Mr. Speaker, to that previous NDP government that had no goals and set no targets, our government has released *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*, a vision for 2020 and beyond. And it's referred to in the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, and the plan sets a bold target of 1.2 million people living in Saskatchewan by the year 2020.

Our government has committed to funding a minimum of \$2.5 billion in infrastructure investments over the next three years, Mr. Speaker. At least 60,000 more workers will be required by 2020 to meet the objectives set out in our growth plan. We will add 300 more apprenticeship spaces and work to develop additional apprenticeship training opportunities for students in high school. We will continue to engage with the federal government to increase the annual cap on the immigrant nominee program by 50 per cent from 4,000 to 6,000 and working with First Nations and Métis organizations on ways to improve educational outcomes and increase employment for those great people.

Saskatchewan's business tax rate will be lowered from 12 per cent to 10. We have balanced our budgets in the past, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to do so.

This year, capital investment in Saskatchewan will surpass \$20 billion, a record amount and nearly double the total in 2007 at the end of the previous NDP government.

[19:30]

The potash industry is in the midst of a \$13 billion expansion that will create thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic activity and provincial revenues.

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

More than 1200 kilometres of provincial highways have been improved, but we still have more work to do.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne reflects our plan for growth. Agriculture, more than ever, is a driving force in our economy in the new Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan provides safe, reliable food to feed a growing world population. In 2011, Mr. Speaker, we exported \$10.2 billion in agri-food exports from Saskatchewan, making us the top agri-food exporting province in the country. Mr. Speaker, that \$10.2 billion is a 60 per cent increase from the end of the NDP regime in 2007. Credit goes to our farmers and ranchers, Mr. Speaker, and our

researchers.

Mr. Speaker, we target \$15 billion in exports by 2020. An international market development program will help increase exports. We will establish the Global Institute for Food Security to build on our strong research and innovation sector and further improve production. Research and innovation is vital to our future. In 2012 we put \$20 million into ag-bio research, an increase of 50 per cent since the end of the NDP regime in 2007. And research will continue, Mr. Speaker, to be a priority of this government.

Irrigation is also a priority, with \$30 million in federal-provincial spending since 2008, just four years, Mr. Speaker, for irrigation. In those four years, Mr. Speaker, that is an increase of \$25 million over the entire 16-year term of the previous NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, in the last five years in agriculture . . . I want to talk about agriculture a little bit. It's what I am. I'm a farmer and a cattleman and I'm proud to be. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of this government's contribution to agriculture and the way that this government has worked with our farmers and ranchers over the last five years.

In that time, Mr. Speaker, we've made the largest education tax reduction in Saskatchewan history, record Saskatchewan crop insurance coverage of \$174 an acre now versus \$88 an acre under the NDP at the end of their reign. The five largest Ag budgets in coverage levels in the history of the crop insurance program, committed to fully funding AgriStability and AgriInvest every year, Mr. Speaker, up front. The NDP always used to refuse to do this.

We are creating an international market development program, Mr. Speaker. We've developed and rolled out the farm and ranch water infrastructure program, compensation for livestock killed or injured by predators. The NDP refused to do this too.

A 100 per cent wildlife damage compensation. Mr. Speaker, it was 80 per cent under the NDP. Increased agricultural research funding by 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker, in the last five years. It's up to \$20.4 million in the most recent budget, Mr. Speaker.

Introduced the gopher control rebate, which was not available under the NDP regime, and the beaver control program, also not available under the NDP. Ten new extension offices have been opened under our government, Mr. Speaker. Under the NDP, 31 were closed. One point four billion dollars for crop insurance and excess moisture programs paid out in 2010 and 2011. The Saskatchewan feed and forage program, Mr. Speaker, is another contribution of our government to agriculture. AgriStability administration was moved to Saskatchewan and in a very much-improved processing timelines and reduced complaints and problems with the program. The NDP did not want to administer the program.

Seventy-one million dollars to 18,000 cattle and hog producers in 2009. And that was only Saskatchewan funding, no federal contribution there. We increased funding for rat control. We developed a Crown land sale program to put farm land back in the ownership of farmers. Record revenue sharing, Mr. Speaker, and record investment in highways and infrastructure in rural

Saskatchewan.

And during that same . . . or during the previous government, Mr. Speaker, the NDP refused to address education property tax issues, closed 31 rural ag offices, cut extension services, eliminated the GRIP [gross revenue insurance program] program even after farmers had signed the contracts and ended up having to go to the Supreme Court of Canada to justify their actions, increased crop insurance premiums without increasing coverage in those days. They cut spot loss hail insurance — as the previous minister of Agriculture used to say — twice. Ignored agricultural disasters including a major drought in the Southwest. They blamed the federal government for all their problems.

They lost taxpayers' money in private investments and investments like \$15 million in Channel Lake; \$2 million in Guyana; \$16 million in NST [NST Network Services of Chicago]; \$9.4 million in Persona Inc.; \$24.7 million in Retx.com; \$6.7 million in tappedinto.com; \$3 million in Clickabid.com; \$5.6 million in Soft Tracks; \$90.8 million in Navigata Communications; \$10 million in Craig Wireless; \$17.2 million in Coachman Insurance; \$8.9 million in Ag Dealer; \$35 million in SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company]; \$8 million in mega bingo; \$40 million, Mr. Speaker, in Austar Communications; \$6.5 million in Minds Eye Entertainment; \$2.42 million in Business Watch International. And this one was a bargain, Mr. Speaker, they only lost \$2.2 million in Clinicare, whatever that was.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, those are some of the comparisons. During that time they also closed 52 rural hospitals, closed rural schools, ignored rural roads and highways, and off-loaded costs on to RMs [rural municipality] and farm families.

Mr. Speaker, I think a well known NDPer sums it up best. And most recently, Ian McCreary said in the most recent issue of *The Commonwealth*, the internal NDP newsmagazine that goes out to their members. Here's what Ian McCreary had to say. He said, and I quote:

There are many reasons why progressive people in rural Saskatchewan no longer support the NDP. [He goes on to say.] The Romanow administration made cuts which disproportionately affected rural people. Over 50 rural hospitals were closed. We withdrew from the national farm income support program during the lowest farm income period in the grains and oil seeds sector. The rural road network tax by a rapidly centralizing elevator system began a rapid process of decline.

And he goes on to say:

The end result was that rural people felt abandoned by government. In subsequent elections, rural areas were not represented in government and rural people watched often in disbelief as rural policy was developed in urban centres.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think that those members opposite, as much as I admire them as individuals and I think they're sincere in their mistaken beliefs, I think they would do the same things all over again, Mr. Speaker.

And accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud of the record of this Saskatchewan Party government. And I'm proud of what we've outlined in the Speech from the Throne as things that we'll be doing over the next year. And accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I support the Speech from the Throne and thank you very much.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to enter the debate on the recent Throne Speech. This is my third time to have the opportunity to be able to do this.

It's an incredible privilege to be representing the people of Saskatoon Riversdale and to have a seat in this legislature. It's such an honour. And I work hard every day to try to do this job, and the people in my community, justice.

So I think I've heard from everybody in this House here. I think all of us acknowledge without our support systems, we could not do this work. For us in the Chamber, particularly with young families, that support network becomes even more important. For that reason, I really need to thank all of them. My list is long, so please bear with me.

There's my mom and dad who are always there for us. If a child needs to be picked up, dropped off, fed a meal or a snack, or just nurtured with some grandparently love or some of grandpa Rusty's homemade ice cream, I can totally count on my parents.

There's Blair. Often in my own life I feel like a bit of a general coordinating the troops — who goes where, who does what and when they do it. But in my absence when I'm here in Regina, it is Blair who takes on this role. I couldn't do this job without him being there and willing to do this.

There is my sister, Michelle, who always tells me not to thank her, and I need not to thank anybody. But I think it's very important. So my sister, Michelle, who's like a second mother to my kids and, actually to be perfectly honest, I think she's sometimes the preferred option. If I were being perfectly honest, I suspect she's probably way more fun than I am. And there are my daughters, Hennessey and Ophelia. They're two great kids who put up with all the things that our kids have to put up so we can do this job. And one of the reasons, the big reason I'm here is for my kids. They've made huge sacrifices so hopefully they have a better future and their cohort has a better future. It's also been an interesting time or challenge this year, Mr. Speaker, as Hennessey has just started grade 9 and Ophelia has just started kindergarten. So it's an interesting sort of bookend kind of life that we've got right now.

I also want to thank my staff, who I think do a wonderful job of helping me serve the people of Saskatoon Riversdale so well. I couldn't do it without them either. Vanessa just left on maternity leave a couple of weeks ago to be with her sweet little baby and her two other lovely children. And I will really miss Vanessa tremendously this year but I am very happy that Judy has joined our office. Judy provided years of service to the former member from Saskatoon Nutana, and Judy has been just a delight to have in our office. So I have great staff committed to serving the people of Saskatoon Riversdale.

I also need to mention a huge loss we faced in my constituency just over a month ago. My first assistant, who helped me adjust to this job after my election in 2009 and who also served Lorne Calvert so ably for many years, succumbed to breast cancer after a courageous three-year battle. Yvonne McCowan left behind a family and many friends who loved her dearly. She was a fabulous constituency assistant and a good person who will be fondly remembered and sadly missed. She helped make people's lives better in Saskatoon Riversdale for many years, including my own. So thank you to Yvonne and to everyone else.

Getting down to the Throne Speech, I am going to narrow my focus a bit more than I usually do when I do this. Usually I like to try to touch on as many aspects of the speech as possible, but I think this Throne Speech in particular was fairly thin and devoid of ideas, that I thought a better approach would be to cover fewer points in fuller detail. And if the government isn't going to provide detail, I will.

I'd like to start with Parks, Culture and Sport, but more specifically culture, that was featured at the top of this ministry's section in the Throne Speech. I think the facts speak for themselves, and they say something different than what is in the Throne Speech when it comes to culture. I would like to quote one particular line when the truth has been stretched far beyond recognition. "My government will continue to support arts and culture. From 2007 to 2011, funding for arts and culture increased 35 per cent, compared to the previous four years."

This would leave the reader or the listener with the impression that this government has increased arts and culture funding tremendously. In fact this is a government that is taking credit for the former administration's funding decisions. For the sake of the backbenchers on the government side of the House who seem to easily buy some of their ministers' and their Premier's spin, I would like to provide them with some useful information on Saskatchewan Arts Board funding that might better inform their discussions around the caucus table.

[19:45]

This is all easily accessible data in past budget estimates if they wanted to do the research themselves, but I'm going to talk about some of it here. The NDP budget of '04-05, Arts Board funding was 4.784 million. The NDP budget in '05-06 was 5.284 million. The NDP budget in '06-07 remained the same — 5.284 million for the Arts Board. The NDP in '07-08 funded the Arts Board to the tune of 6.094 million. This is a 14.2 per cent increase. So the NDP four-year total was \$21.386 million. This was a total increase between year 1 and year 4 of 26.1 per cent.

Let's take a look at the Sask Party numbers in terms of funding of the Arts Board: in '08-09, the Sask Party's first budget, 6.094 million; in '09-10, 6.338 million; in '10-11, 6.338 million; and in year '11 and '12, 6.433 million. So the Sask Party four-year total was 25,203. So this was a total increase between year 1 and year 4 of 5.6 per cent, Mr. Speaker. So the four years that the NDP was still in power, there was an increase of 26.1 per cent funding for the Arts Board compared to the Sask Party's increase of 5.6 per cent. So I think they're playing fairly fast and loose with statistics in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker.

The reality is though the Sask Arts Board is not the only place where the ministry spends money on arts and culture. So I'd like to talk about that for a moment. So let's take a look at actual spending taken from public accounts. In the 2004-05 budget, the provincial NDP government spent on the arts — which includes the Arts Board, cultural industries development, SaskFilm, and the film employment tax credit — \$18.76 million, or if you adjust for inflation, 21.256 million in 2012 dollars. So what did we see in this last budget? Our Sask Party government has budgeted 16.183 million for the Arts Board, support for provincial arts and cultural organizations, cultural industries development, SaskFilm, and the film employment tax credit. As you can see, and I think . . . I hope the backbenchers on the government side as well as the minister see that 16.183 million is in fact less than 18.76 million in the 2004-2005 public accounts.

I'd also like to point out that 15.65 million, the lowest amount over the past nine years, was spent in this last fiscal year, 2011-2012 at a time when overall provincial government spending was up. So when this government talks about its support for arts and culture, I think they need to put their money where their mouth is.

I know I've pointed this out before, but again for those backbenchers, the reality is the allocation to the Saskatchewan Arts Board in 2012-2013 is at the lowest level — at the lowest level — in over 25 years in proportion to the overall government budget expenditures, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to point out that the highest amount spent on arts and culture in the period referenced in the Throne Speech was actually spent in the NDP's '07-08 budget of 33.578 million, some of which was clawed back by the current government in its first budget in '08-09. So, Mr. Speaker, there you have it: this is this government's record on arts and culture spending, the support that it references in the Throne Speech.

Also of note . . . And I'm sure they've all enjoyed hearing those statistics, Mr. Speaker, because I don't think they've heard it from anywhere else. Clearly you hear some of the spin, and you would think they were the greatest supporters of arts and culture here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Also of note, the first point under this ministry section reads, "Consultations are proceeding on a new plan to move creative industries forward." So in terms of the creative industry consultations, Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to chat with people from across the creative industries, and . . .

An Hon. Member: — What are they saying, Danielle?

Ms. Chartier: — Well they are saying all kinds of things.

First of all, though, I have to comment that consultation is really important. I'm a huge believer in participatory democracy and good consultation. Public policy should be informed through real and meaningful consultation, when you speak to people who actually know, who have industry-specific information or people know what it looks like where the rubber hits the road, Mr. Speaker. And you should not cut a program, a major program, that has an impact across cultural, the creative industries — has an impact not just for one of the creative

industries, but for all of them. You shouldn't cut a program and then decide to consult, Mr. Speaker. That is bad governance; there's no question about it.

So I think that that's my first point. But what have people been telling me? I've heard from many people across the creative industries who have said they are not confident that these consultations are true consultations. I've had an opportunity to speak with the minister and he has assured me that they are being open-minded about this process, but there are many people who are not trusting of this process and don't believe that they've entered in good faith into this consultation process. People from across the cultural industries have echoed the same concern to me that they felt like when they attended the focus groups that the facilitator was looking for specific answers rather than really asking them what they thought. I've had one individual say to me that she can't believe the future of her industry is resting on these consultations filled with loaded and leading questions along the lines of how should we repurpose the sound stage.

So there have been focus groups in both Saskatoon and Regina and I understand from the minister that the P.A. [Prince Albert] consultations have been cancelled or postponed due to lack of participation. And when the minister and I talked, I suggested that part of this might be because people are distrustful of the process. But I think another part of it, having spoken to people who were invited to the P.A. consultations, it was timelines. People were not given adequate notice to be able to come out to the P.A. consultations. So I think that that's a bit of a problem.

So everybody I've spoken to across the creative industries, actually no one is afraid of real and meaningful consultations and in fact they invite them. They would like the opportunity to strengthen their sectors and look at programs and services offered and how to do it better. The goal is to grow the creative industries, Mr. Speaker, and I believe the people in the creative industries have the information and the knowledge and a lived experience on how best to do this. So it would be nice if the minister and this ministry would take that seriously, Mr. Speaker, and unfortunately they don't feel like this process is one that will do that.

This is rather dramatic, Mr. Speaker, but I have heard people use the term, these consultations are a bit of a *Sophie's Choice*. It's either, which child do you send off, Mr. Speaker, and we have a government trying to pit one creative industry against the other. I have also heard the word cannibalism, reflecting the same concerns in reference to these consultations, Mr. Speaker. The one thing that people have also said to me is it's very difficult to get consensus across the creative industries because they are all such different animals. But the one thing that I've been told that all these industries have been able to achieve consensus on is that these consultations are lacking, Mr. Speaker.

So I think with what this government has done to the film industry, first cutting JobStart/Future Skills, then privatizing SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] and now cutting the tax credit, people across the creative industries are asking themselves, what's next? SaskFilm, the sound stage? When is the government coming for them and their programming and their support to foster a creative industry in

this province?

So contrary to this government's approach, arts and culture are not just about commercialization. Yes, artists deserve to make a living, and the reality is artists are some of the most well-educated people in our society and they make the lowest amount of money. So yes, artists deserve to make a living but most would say commercialization is not the reason they are artists. Arts and culture is about creating, inspiring, challenging, educating, entertaining, and I don't think this government gets this, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to talk about innovation, another heading in this Throne Speech. Coincidentally though, we can also talk about the need for a vibrant arts and culture sector to enhance innovation and attract and retain the best and the brightest minds here. I know the member from Greystone and a former minister used to talk about Richard Florida all the time. This was before my day but I've been told that Richard Florida was someone that the former minister liked to quote and perhaps that's why he's no longer the minister. So I'd just like to read a quote that I hope the minister and the other Sask Party members pay attention to, Mr. Speaker.

So Richard Florida, author of *Cities and the Creative Class*, has this to say:

In reality, people were not making the career decisions or geographic moves that the standard theories said they should: They were not slavishly following jobs to places. Instead, it appeared that highly-educated individuals were drawn to places that were inclusive and diverse. Not only did my qualitative research indicate this . . . but the statistical analysis proved the same [Mr. Speaker].

So I do hope when this government thinks about innovation and thinks about attracting some of the best and brightest minds here, they bear that in mind that a creative and diverse economy and culture here in Saskatchewan will attract and retain those people we need to keep Saskatchewan going forward.

Under the innovation heading, the Throne Speech reads, "Our innovation agenda is based on the foundation of our province's natural resource wealth — providing the food and energy security the world requires." Yes, we definitely have a responsibility to the rest of the world, but firstly we have a responsibility to our citizens.

Today the hunger count came out. We heard that 7,000 people more per month are using food banks in Saskatchewan than when this government came to power. Twelve thousand children are using our food banks here every month, Mr. Speaker — 12,000 children. Seniors and employed people are using the food banks. This is not food security and it is not acceptable this should be happening at a time of prosperity. Food security is one of those words that politicians and policy-makers seem to like but the average citizen doesn't really relate to it. Basically food security is about ensuring we'll all have access to healthy, culturally appropriate food that we can afford to buy.

This, Mr. Speaker, is what Station 20 West and the Good Food Junction are all about. Just a couple of weeks ago we had the

opportunity in Saskatoon to celebrate the grand opening of Station 20 West and the Good Food Junction. It happens to be in the constituency of Saskatoon Centre but it's just across the street from my own community, and has a huge impact on the people I represent, Mr. Speaker. Collective kitchens, the Good Food Box, a real grocery store, community economic developments — this is food security, Mr. Speaker.

Despite the petty nastiness of this government, people pulled together — faith communities, business people, and your average everyday . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The former minister of Health actually is questioning my comment about nastiness, Mr. Speaker. I would say that there are many people in that community who think that that decision was incredibly nasty. There are many people who think pulling the money from a community development project, Mr. Speaker, was nasty, Mr. Speaker. This is about, this is about the social determinants of health and making sure people in a food desert have access to food, Mr. Speaker.

This government actually had the audacity to refer to that community development project as a mall, Mr. Speaker. He should perhaps . . . Perhaps the minister who's heckling me should come visit Good Food Junction and Station 20 West, Mr. Speaker. But this could have and should have happened three years ago. This was not and was never an NDP project, Mr. Speaker. This was a community-driven project, Mr. Speaker. This was a community-driven project and could have happened three years ago, Mr. Speaker. So kudos to all who made this happen.

I have to say there was another part of this that's been hugely disappointing, Mr. Speaker. A few months ago I had the opportunity to casually speak to a board member about the grand opening. One board member was asking me, well should we invite the Minister of Social Services? Yes or no? What do you think? And they really wanted to invite the minister and they were seeking my input. And I told them of course they should invite the minister. It's a wonderful project. I think the Social Services minister should have an opportunity to see Station 20 West and the Good Food Junction. And they really wanted to extend an olive branch and demonstrate to her and her government how important this project is to so many people. And they want to work with her, Mr. Speaker. That's what this board did.

All I know is that she was invited but she was not there, Mr. Speaker, nor were any other Sask Party MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. I have attended enough events, Mr. Speaker, where other MLAs are happy to bring greetings for the minister when the minister is not able to be there. Not in this case. I've been at events where civil servants have brought greetings when no one else could be there, Mr. Speaker. And in fact there was nobody from the government, who had been invited to attend this wonderful community event, Mr. Speaker. I think that this is shameful that no one could show up, Mr. Speaker, to say congratulations. The Minister of Social Services was invited. I have been at many events where the minister has given her regrets but has sent someone else, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Social Services was invited.

[20:00]

In terms of education, I'd like to go to the education heading, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency of Saskatoon Riversdale we see huge issues with the funding formula. I represent schools, I represent schools, Mr. Speaker, with high Aboriginal populations and newcomers to our city. These cuts to this funding formula impacts everyone, but particularly impacts some of our more vulnerable students even more than others. English as an additional language support continues to be a problem.

Cuts to full-day kindergarten. Talk to any early . . . Cuts to full-day kindergarten have been hugely problematic. You talk to any early years teacher interacting with some of these kids who've had more challenges in their short lives than most of us have ever had, Mr. Speaker. They benefit hugely from full-day kindergarten. If they're not ready for kindergarten, Mr. Speaker, they are behind and they continue to fall behind.

I can talk about St. Mary School. We have a wonderful, beautiful new school in Saskatoon Riversdale, which is fabulous. It's great to have a new building, but the reality is the classes are far too big, Mr. Speaker. The kindergarten class, as I understand, there are two classes of 30 students, Mr. Speaker. There are two classes . . . So we have a wonderful building, Mr. Speaker, but the services offered, not because the teachers aren't doing their darndest to be great teachers in supporting these students, but because they are under-resourced, Mr. Speaker.

Pre-K [pre-kindergarten] waiting lists at schools like St. Mark in Saskatoon Riversdale are a huge issue. I'm very happy that the government added one pre-K class. This government always says when we're on our feet, why can't you say anything positive? Well, Mr. Speaker, our job . . . I'm very happy to say that this government a couple of years ago added a pre-K class, but it wasn't enough, Mr. Speaker. There's a huge demand, day one, at St. Mark School, huge demand for pre-K classes. It is not enough, Mr. Speaker. Education needs to be a priority for this government. The reality is, if we don't . . . They're telling me, Mr. Speaker, that it is, but actions speaks louder than words, Mr. Speaker.

SRC [student representative council] budgets. This is just a little, it might seem like a little, silly thing, but SRC budgets, some schools are funded through the school boards, and money has been cut to SRC budgets. How does this impact our kids' education? It does. I know there's been a musical at one school in particular that they have every year which provides incredible skills for our kids and opportunities to learn. So SRC budgets have been cut, Mr. Speaker.

The one thing I'd like to talk about under education which is quite near and dear to my heart is child care. I am very glad this government is committed to adding spaces but it needs to . . . Apparently, Mr. Speaker, I've hit a bit of a nerve because there's been a lot of heckling coming from the other side, Mr. Speaker. So I think . . . I'm glad . . . Well the minister, the former minister is telling me that she's glad I did so well on child care. I'd like to point out that I've been a member here since 2009, Mr. Speaker, so I've had nothing to do with any child care budgets, just to be clear.

I'm very, very glad the government is committed to adding

spaces but they need to do far more than that to properly support families. We need a real early learning and care plan. This system is broken. It doesn't matter when it's broken or how long it's been broken but it is broken, Mr. Speaker. It shouldn't be tinkered with. It needs a massive overhaul, Mr. Speaker. This is 2012. If we want to support people to be educated and to be employed, we must put together a well-informed early learning and care plan. This is about helping address labour force challenges, Mr. Speaker. This is about helping make sure our kids are well prepared for future years, Mr. Speaker.

So there are so many things wrong with our child care system. I'd like to point a few of them out. Child cares right now in Saskatchewan cannot recruit and retain staff. There's tough conditions and low wages, Mr. Speaker. You talk to any director at a child care facility and they will tell you that there are not child care workers coming behind them, Mr. Speaker. There are huge issues around recruitment and retention. They have quotas or they have ratios that they have to fit or meet in terms of staffing, in terms of the number of people and the education they have, and it's geared towards age. And these child care centres have a heck of a time meeting these ratios, Mr. Speaker.

Subsidies. The paperwork that directors and ministry staff must do in order to ensure that families have subsidies is completely onerous. Every month for every child in that child care facility, the director manually fills out an attendance card, Mr. Speaker. That information then goes to the ministry and is then inputted there. We've got all this bureaucracy around this, Mr. Speaker.

I asked a written question last spring, Mr. Speaker, about the range of subsidies that have been paid out for child care, Mr. Speaker. One of the answers to that question, the bottom end range, Mr. Speaker, we paid out a 25-cent subsidy. We paid out a 25-cent subsidy, Mr. Speaker. What the heck is that? It is a horrible insult. It's an insult to families. It talks about bureaucracy that someone is processing a 25-cent subsidy, Mr. Speaker.

We don't even have a good handle on the numbers of families that need child care, Mr. Speaker. It's good to set targets but they should be best on the best possible information. We don't have this. We don't have a centralized waiting list. We don't know who or how many families need or want child care, Mr. Speaker. We don't have this number. And the reality is, here in Saskatchewan we are near the bottom of the pack when it comes to child care and supporting families.

I want to just briefly touch on social services and children in care. I know the one thing that the minister has talked about is foster care. In fact we're relying more and more on persons of sufficient interest instead of foster families. And she mentioned, I believe last year after the Children's Advocate report came out, that that's a trend. It's harder and harder to get foster families today. And you know what? The reality is I'm a big believer. It's ideal to have family and close relations look after kids too. I think foster families are fabulous but if you can have someone who has a direct connection, I think that that's even better, Mr. Speaker. But I have concerns that we are not properly supporting persons of sufficient interest or PSIs to do their job and to raise children the best that they can.

There still continues to be issues with the changes to *The Children's Special Allowance Act* last year that saw PSIs losing money, Mr. Speaker. I worked with a woman just a couple months ago who tried advocating for herself, as the minister has recommended both to me in committee and in this House and to the media — don't worry; if you call, we will make sure that you have the money that you lost. Well this woman, it was two months ago that she came to our office, and only at the prodding of her dad who said she needed, she . . . Her dad thought perhaps we would be able to help and in fact, after many back and forths, this woman has the same amount of money that she had when the changes first happened. But the minister had reassured us that that would have happened when she made her first call several months ago when she lost her money. And that wasn't the case, Mr. Speaker.

The reality is we don't . . . There are many issues around PSIs — respite care. I think the minister often talks about not having a one-size-fits-all solution and I am a big believer in the big overarching policy. But yes, you do have to be sensitive to people's needs. But I think my experience with working as the critic for Social Services, I have many people come to me who are PSIs who say that many things could be changed with the system, Mr. Speaker.

Actually, and there's one final thing that I would like to talk about, Mr. Speaker, that I think that this government actually seems to ascribe to this theory, the abrupt appearance theory, Mr. Speaker. Abrupt appearance is basically about neo-creationism. It claims that, abrupt appearance claims that the first life in the universe appeared abruptly, and that plants and animals appeared abruptly in complex form has occasionally been postulated. I would argue that perhaps this government has taken the abrupt appearance theory and applied it to economics here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. You would think that with this government's rhetoric that the world in Saskatchewan started in 2007. When this government was elected, the skies opened up and the angels sang, and it all started, Mr. Speaker.

So I would just like . . . Oh look, there's a potash mine. Oh look!

I'd just like to point out for them a few statistics, Mr. Speaker. I would like to point out a couple of statistics for all those backbenchers here who I think listen to some of their senior members a little bit too carefully and closely, Mr. Speaker. So looking at our population, Mr. Speaker, the reality is in Saskatchewan we started making positive moves sort of more regularly in the right direction in 2003, and has been going up since July 2006. Believe it or not, that was not under a Sask Party government. And we broke the 1 million mark before the Sask Party government took power. Can you believe that, Mr. Speaker? It didn't all start in 2007.

And you know, there's one more thing I'd like to say to debunk this abrupt appearance theory of the Sask Party. I'd like to read something here, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read a quote here, Mr. Speaker:

People make light of how Saskatchewan is always next year country. In some respects, they're right. We are eternal optimists. And that's a good thing. But next year

has arrived. We are a have province. Our economy overall is performing well, and we're riding the momentum towards bigger things.

So, Mr. Speaker, when was that from? That was from Harry Van Mulligen's, the former Finance minister's March 23, 2005 budget speech, Mr. Speaker. 2005 we were a have province — what a surprise. Oh my goodness, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, with that I hope that this has been a good lesson for the backbenchers on the government side of the House where they're actually getting some accurate information.

But with that, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the government's Throne Speech and I will be supporting the amendment put forward by the opposition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a pleasure to enter in debate in the Chamber, and specifically on the Throne Speech. And such a positive speech as this year's Throne Speech was, Mr. Speaker, it certainly warrants some comments here today. And I'd like to make a few comments later on in my speech specifically about Energy and Resources and the mining and oil and gas industry in our province.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to start off by thanking my constituency assistants in Lloydminster. We have a great office. We have a great team. And it seems like every day we are dealing with some fairly serious issues that need a little bit of attention. And as their MLA, it's a real honour to serve the people of Lloydminster and to have the help of Caren and Marilyn. It makes that work very well.

And also, Mr. Speaker, speaking of making myself look good, I don't want to miss an opportunity of thanking my wife. All of us in this Assembly, with our partners, it's the type of job that if you don't have the support at home, it makes it very difficult. And I am blessed with a wife that is very supportive of me and we've got a couple of great daughters and it is very easy to come to work every day and represent the constituents of Lloydminster.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this year's Throne Speech is one that builds on a lot of optimism, on a lot of hard work after the last five years. And, Mr. Speaker, it's one that comes and builds upon, it looks at the one-year plan for our government for Saskatchewan, and that's important. It spells out some initiatives for this year, which in the budgeting process in the spring the budget will give the money to, to carry those plans from the Throne Speech through in the year.

But, Mr. Speaker, another thing, an important thing that happened earlier this fall is the growth plan 2020. The Premier delivered it in Saskatoon and it is a document, Mr. Speaker, that I think is fundamental to the success of our province in the next, in the next eight years and probably well beyond that. And I know the members opposite have done their best to try and make it seem as irrelevant as possible. They have a long track

record of failed growth plans that after several growth plans, people said, for the love of Saskatchewan, just stop coming out with these growth plans. We can't take any more.

But, Mr. Speaker, this one in particular is one that sets some very clear targets, some very clear goals. It identifies challenges and it puts a road map in front of the government, this government, and then the government following the 2015 election, Mr. Speaker, of what can and should happen to move Saskatchewan forward. Now certainly things will happen that we'll need to accelerate or decelerate or modify that plan, but if you don't have a plan, Mr. Speaker, it's very tough to know where you're going and it's easy to get lost. And this document certainly lays out some important goals.

To look at a couple of them fairly briefly, Mr. Speaker, investing in infrastructure. That is something that our government has taken on from our very first day in '07 as a priority. But it's not something we can say, job well done. It's a job just begun in this province as we start to make up the backlog of work left by the former government as we look at the growth and opportunities ahead of us. It's the infrastructure that needs to be in place to facilitate that growth that is articulated in this growth plan and in the first year of that in this year's Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker.

[20:15]

Developing a workforce. Again, Mr. Speaker, a substantial amount of work has been done in the last five years: record investments in post-secondary, record investments in skills training, in the growth plan, and in this year's Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. Again, spelling that out is fundamental to moving our province forward this year, next year, and over the next several years.

Ensuring competitiveness, Mr. Speaker. Again we have set some very clear targets and very important goals for our province, for our government. And this year will be the first year in the Throne Speech we spelled out some labour legislation. We need to ensure that we have competitive labour legislation, Mr. Speaker, that makes Saskatchewan an attractive place for businesses and for growth and prosperity for the people of Saskatchewan.

Trade, Mr. Speaker. Trade is something that is in my ministry. It is something that we've seen great success over the last five years. We saw earlier this year that we've been tracking ahead of British Columbia. For the first time, Mr. Speaker, in probably close to 100 years, our trade numbers are going to be ahead of British Columbia. They've been ahead each and every month since the start of the year. And we think that that is a sign of prosperity, going forward as our exporters work very hard to push that forward.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a quick story. About a month ago I was asked to bring some comments to the STEP [Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership] annual meeting. And they had a reception. They had brought in buyers from around the world to set up deals with. And I actually flew to Saskatoon to make this event, cutting time a little tight. I only had about 20 minutes to get from the airport to downtown, and it happened to be just before rush hour. Things were getting

quite busy and I found myself in traffic. And I was sweating it, Mr. Speaker, thinking, I can't be late. Why is all this traffic in my way? And at one moment I had to take a deep breath and think, this is somewhat ironic that I'm going to a meeting of exporters that are driving our economy, that are growing our economy, and the prosperity is all around us. And the irony is that it's all around us on the highway.

And that is the new Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech and in the growth plan, Mr. Speaker, both contemplate the growth in our province. And is this something that we want to see into the future? Our party has said clearly, unequivocally, yes. Growth is important and growth is something we will continue to pursue.

Mr. Speaker, when we see where we are today, it is a very exciting time in Saskatchewan. We have the highest population in our province's history, and I think this province more than any is haunted by population stagnation, population loss. In the 1930s, Mr. Speaker, we were, I believe, the third largest province in the country and we roughly had the same population we did in 2007. We now have 80,000 more people living in our province than we did then. And, Mr. Speaker, just in the past year, 20,000 of those people have called Saskatchewan home. We have a workforce that's roughly 60,000 more workers here today than we had five years ago. Mr. Speaker, this is all very positive to the kind of province that the people on this side of the House want to see.

We see building permits at almost record numbers. We see housing starts at a level in the past year that are higher than any year going back to 1983, at about 7,000. In this current year, Mr. Speaker, it's projected to be about 8,500, a substantial ramping up of housing construction and something that is very positive for our province. Incomes in this past year, Mr. Speaker, have increased, one of the highest increases in all of Canada here in Saskatchewan. The people of Saskatchewan are working very hard and they're being recognized for that with the incomes they bring home.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk a little bit about some of the things that we're hearing from the other side of the House from the NDP party provincially and federally and how that isn't helpful. It isn't helpful in Saskatchewan. It isn't helpful for our economy as a whole in Canada. And the first of these that I would like to address is Dutch disease. Mr. Speaker, I think this is one of the interesting issues that plays very well in Quebec, and the NDP are playing it as hard as they can in Quebec. And it's possible they honestly believe the hardworking people of Western Canada, the rich resources that we have here in Western Canada, the competitive investment climate we have here in Western Canada is, in their opinion, is a disease that is harming the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, that isn't true. The NDP are wrong, but what is also wrong is the silence we hear from the other side of the House. Now one of the leadership candidates, Mr. Erin Weir, has come out very publicly and said, I absolutely support the leader, Mulcair. And he absolutely believes in Dutch disease. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Weir is an economist. He's the economist that the NDP provincially utilize on a regular basis to justify their positions. He's the economist, in fact, that they use during the election campaign to cost out their platform. And,

Mr. Speaker, he is also the spokesperson that is saying Dutch disease is real; Dutch disease is hurting Canada, and the strength of our resources in Western Canada, the strength of our workforce is hurting the rest of Canada.

Now many people have come out against it, far more credible, Mr. Speaker, than the members that sit on the far side of the House, than the economists they use, such as Mark Carney, that says this is an overplay, that this is not accurate, that this is a simplistic read of the facts. And, Mr. Speaker, it is. All of Canada benefits from the strength of our resource sector. All of Canada export products, goods, services, people to feed the industry here in Western Canada. And we will make no apologies for the strength of our industry, for the hard work of our citizens and the investments made by industry here in our province.

And as a government, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work very hard to ensure that we continue to lead our country. And whether that means that we work on corporate tax rates, whether that means, Mr. Speaker, that we work with our training institutions to have the appropriate number of electricians, welders, Mr. Speaker, all these are very important pieces of our growth plan and important for Saskatchewan as a whole.

Another one, Mr. Speaker, is pipelines. That's another issue that the members opposite have weighed into, that their federal counterparts continue to wade into. And it's not helpful for our province. The first I would like to address is the Keystone XL. Mr. Speaker, I think it's quite well known that the NDP sent people to Washington, D.C. to actively lobby against the pipeline, that in this House we had a debate. We had a vote on the issue, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan New Democrats voted against supporting the pipeline capacity that would be provided by the Keystone XL. And that's troubling. It's substantially troubling. And I will go into the numbers of it here in a moment.

But the Northern Gateway is another pipeline option, Mr. Speaker, that's being promoted, certainly in Canada, that will take some of the capacity from Western Canada and find a port on the West Coast. There's been substantial work done by different proponents. Another one would be Kinder Morgan. It's currently an oil pipeline that takes oil from Western Canadian oil fields to the coast, Mr. Speaker. And these play a very crucial role in the industry. The members opposite, the federal NDP, the provincial NDP have spoken out publicly against this pipeline as well.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's great to do this here in theory that we can all survive on solar and wind. Mr. Speaker, those are important, and in our province we have worked very hard on wind. But the oil industry is something that is going to be a long-term industry and something that we need to take very seriously. And, Mr. Speaker, the math on these pipelines is substantial. If we look at the price for oil on the high seas, the Brent price which is the price going on the East Coast of Canada, it's about \$20 premium over West Texas. Twenty dollars a barrel, Mr. Speaker, that is being lost to the producers in Saskatchewan. Taxation on \$20 a barrel, on every barrel, is being lost by the people of Saskatchewan who own this resource, and it is entirely due to capacity of pipelines, Mr.

Speaker. In fact we're shipping a substantial amount of our oil by rail today, Mr. Speaker, that we weren't doing several years ago. Rail is not, in theory, as safe as pipelines. It's far more expensive. But you talk to the refiners on the East Coast. They're having to buy Brent priced crude for refining where they can buy West Texas priced crude at a substantial discount in central North America from Saskatchewan oil fields, train it all the way to the East Coast, and it may cost them \$7 to ship it by rail and they're still \$13 ahead from buying Brent oil, Mr. Speaker, from the sea on the East Coast.

Now if the members opposite would reverse their position, support some of the pipeline capacity, the margin between those two would evaporate. The competitive disadvantage we see our industry here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, would evaporate and the industry would grow and be far more successful. But I think that the inclination of the members opposite, of the federal government, are that they don't recognize the oil industry for the strength that it provides to our province, that it provides to our country. And if they can continue to chip away at the Dutch disease, if they can limit the pipeline capacity, if they can ruin the economics, Mr. Speaker, that this industry won't be as substantial as it currently is. And that is going in the face of the growth plan we put forward. It's going in the face of the hard-working men and women that make up the industry in our province and that pay the royalties and the taxes to our province as well.

And, Mr. Speaker, the third way that I see the NDP actively, openly, and upfront attacking the oil industry, Mr. Speaker, is on royalties. And I find this one very interesting. I have watched it very closely over the last couple of years. About three years ago, Mr. Speaker, four years ago, the NDP were very open about raising royalties. Their new leader had just come back from Calgary and he fancied himself a bit of an oilman and he said that there is a lot of money to be taken by government and they should just reach into the pot and grab handfuls of it. And he was ready to raise the royalties on oil, on potash, Mr. Speaker, and on any commodity you want for a spending spree that we all saw him articulate during the campaign.

And, Mr. Speaker, that was a point of view. As we got closer to the election though, Mr. Speaker, the NDP started hedging their bets, and well maybe they weren't quite as sure about oil and they weren't going to talk about that. Potash on the other hand, yes of course they wanted to get their hands in that pot and start pulling money out, but oil they backed away from.

The election comes; the election goes, Mr. Speaker. We're a year past the election and what are the NDP talking about? Substantially raising royalties on oil and gas again, as well as continuing their attack on the potash industry as well, I might say.

And again articulated most succinctly by their chief economist, Erin Weir, and, Mr. Speaker, and not refuted by any of their candidates. When asked pointed questions of the nature, it's all . . . I will have to study that, or I haven't thought of that. But, Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that if their party were ever to get into power that we would be in a situation where the resource industry in this province would be devastated.

And I'd like to quote, Mr. Speaker, from the member from Rosemont, and he sometimes I believe . . . Currently he's in a leadership race and I think he fancies himself as doing quite well. And I think that he's trying to distance himself from Mr. Weir, actually. I think that he is. I think that the member for Rosemont who fancies himself a finance expert — he's the critic of Finance who also happens to be running a massive, red-ink-stained deficit, Mr. Speaker — also had a few things to say a few months ago about Mr. Weir who he now distances himself with.

So the member for Rosemont, when talking about raising royalties, said this. And I quote. I'm quoting Mr. Wotherspoon. "I'll highlight . . ." I'm quoting the member from Regina Rosemont who is actually quoting Mr. Weir, so please follow with me. The member from Rosemont says, "And I'll highlight Mr. Erin Weir, an economist, a senior economist with the United Nations . . ."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm breaking away from the quote. I don't know if Mr. Weir is in fact a senior economist with the United Nations. I find that if he is, that's a very impressive resumé, and somebody that the members opposite would be very pleased to have as their leader. But, Mr. Speaker, I regress and I come back to the quote. So this is back to the quote from the member from Regina Rosemont: "And I'll highlight Mr. Erin Weir, an economist, a senior economist with the United Nations." Mr. Speaker, and I would quote, "Saskatchewan is collecting far too little revenue from potash."

[20:30]

Mr. Speaker, now we have multiple candidates for the NDP leadership quoting each other about raising royalties. It's getting to be a situation, Mr. Speaker, where I think it's all too transparent to people of Saskatchewan. I think that the people of Saskatchewan would say, I've seen this movie before. It's called Bill 42, when they nationalized the oil industry. It's when they nationalized the potash industry, their continual gaze on the resources, on the jobs that are driving this province, that we can dip into that for a little bit of money any time that we want to spend it.

And, Mr. Speaker, that is something that our government has been very consistent and clear on, that we believe in stability. We believe in long-term growth, and we think that these industries will provide that growth to our province.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to tour a new rig in Weyburn, Saskatchewan about three weeks ago. It's a small company. They started in '07 or '08 I believe, Mr. Speaker, with one rig. They now bought a second rig. They built or bought a third rig, Mr. Speaker, and just three weeks ago they built their fourth rig. They had it stood up in their yard in Weyburn and they invited me down to look at it. So of course I went down, Mr. Speaker, I climbed around it. They were good enough to actually let me run the controls and run the equipment up and down the derrick. And it was a great experience.

The young man that was showing me around, it was a guy who was about 30 years old. He had started in the oil industry on a weekend. He was going to become a carpenter. His neighbours had taken him to the rig to work for the weekend because he

wanted a little money when he went back to school on Monday. But Monday came along, Mr. Speaker, and his neighbour who was the rig hand wouldn't drive him home. So he was stuck there. And 10 years later, Mr. Speaker, he's now going to be running this brand new rig. He's worked around the world on drilling rigs over the last 10 years, worked his way up. He loves the oil industry. He thinks that was one of the most fortuitous events in his life when his neighbour wouldn't drive him back to school on the Monday. And he was proud of this rig. He was proud of the work that had gone into designing it. It was world-class; they had thought of a lot of things.

And, Mr. Speaker, coming off that day was just an exciting time that, you know, people in Saskatchewan that grew up here, that survived through decades of NDP rule, that were here when the NDP took the industry and nationalized it with Bill 42, are still here, are still working, and finally are seeing that this province cares about their industry. It cares about business. It cares about the growth and the benefits that it brings to our province.

And, Mr. Speaker, I had a few thoughts as I was driving back that day. And if I could give a message to my friends on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, just a few, a cheat sheet if you will, of important things you need to . . . when you're in an oil province or in an oil town, a derrick is, he may be a guy in your book club, but it's also the thing that stands really tall in a drilling rig. A monkey board you may see at the zoo, but it also is at the top of the derrick. Tongs aren't just for barbecues, and a dog house is where you can warm up and get some work done inside on a rig, Mr. Speaker.

Oil, Mr. Speaker, for the members opposite, it's black. It's sticky. It employs about 30,000 people in our province, and it's a part of our future that this side of the House is going to defend for a long, long time.

Mr. Speaker, I'll be supporting the Throne Speech. I will not be supporting the amendment, and I'm very pleased to enter debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's certainly a privilege to rise any time in this House to speak especially to this Speech from the Throne. I just want to tell viewers across the province, don't turn off their sets. They're not seeing the same replay. I know we're an awful lot alike. It just happens to be the ties are the same tonight, Mr. Speaker. And as Charles Colton said, imitation is the most sincere form of flattery. Thank you very much.

Anyway I do want to say a number of thank yous first of all to the number of people, actually there was quite a number of people that worked in my ministerial office when I was the Minister of Health. I think it was the Ministry of Health that caused the turnover, not the minister himself. But they may say something different. I also want to thank the people that are working in my office now as Highways and Infrastructure and a number of Crowns. They're doing a great job and I want to thank them very, very much for having me. If I seem prepared, it would be them that are getting me the information and making that happen.

I also want to really thank, as I have in other speeches, but particularly my constituency assistant, Nicole Entner-McCullough, who does a great job in our office in Balgonie handling the issues that come in from Indian Head-Milestone and keeping me abreast of those. She does a great job. And so I want to thank her as well as, not last or least but probably most importantly, is my family, Cindy and the boys, for what they do to allow me to do my job. I don't see the boys very often anymore, and when I do they tend to come home. And you know, I'm always looking forward to them coming home but actually, quite frankly, I look forward to them leaving because when they do come home the house kind of turns upside down.

Anyway so I want to thank them all very much. And the boys right now are down in the States. We're ready for the season to start here in about a month or two or three weeks, I guess. And if I could have only been living their life when I was 20. I really do admire them and respect them . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . No, you're right. I wouldn't have, I certainly wouldn't have been here tonight. That's for sure.

So this really is a . . . And I've listened to a number of the speeches here tonight and over the last couple days. And it really is a choice. It's a choice between looking at life in the world through the lens of the NDP or the life in the world through the lens of 48 members on this side — 48 members, not excluding you, Mr. Speaker, from this side — as to where the province is and what the outlook is. It really is a choice. It's a choice of really, quite frankly, backward thinking and negativity compared to optimism and growth.

And you know, it really can be spelled out in the growth plan that was released by the Premier a week or so ago and reiterated through the Speech from the Throne, that growth plan compared to the growth plans that were set out by the NDP. They set in 16 years, I believe, 13 or 14 growth plans. And as the Premier mentioned in the House one day, thank God they didn't get to 18 and 19 growth plans because our population just couldn't stand it. Every growth plan that they released saw a decline in population. They were persistent. They kept calling them growth plans. But every time they released a growth plan, we saw a decline in population.

Since 2007, over the last five years in this province, we've seen an increase of 80,000 people. That is a far cry from what we saw under the NDP, an increase of 80,000 people. Where I grew up in a small town just outside of Regina, about 35 miles outside of Regina — I always have to say it because it's the only way it ever gets mentioned any more — is the town of Lewvan. There is no one that lives there anymore. But when we were fortunate, we got to drive in to Weyburn. And I remember thinking about going into Weyburn, and there was 10,000 people living in Weyburn. In five years we've added eight Weyburns to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That's the difference between this government and the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, in 16 years of government — and for 8 of those 16 years I sat in this House, and I certainly had my criticism of the direction that the government was going — but to the best of my knowledge, and I stand to be corrected, but to the best of my knowledge, we didn't see a community go from a town to a city, which is a population of 5,000 or more. Mr. Speaker, in the

last four or five years, to the best of my knowledge, we have seen four communities go from a town to a city. The most recent was Warman who announced that they were up to that 5,000 mark, Mr. Speaker. There's also the town of Martensville, Humboldt, and Meadow Lake.

Four new cities in the province of Saskatchewan in four and a half years compared to 16 years. To the best of my knowledge not a new city announced, Mr. Speaker, because the population was in decline. It is a choice between growth and growing population, or decline and negativity under the NDP. The people in Saskatchewan saw that for 16 years. I don't think they want to go back any time soon.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of subjects raised in the Speech from the Throne, not the least of which, not the least of which is setting many, many targets. And I honestly believe that a government should set targets and be held accountable to those targets. Mr. Speaker, it isn't that the NDP didn't set some targets in their early days. They set targets such as there'll be no more food banks in this province. They missed it. They set targets that there would be 200 more police officers in this province, and they missed it. So at the end of the years of the NDP government, when asked, how come you don't set a target? The answer was, we're probably going to miss it. And, Mr. Speaker, they wouldn't set targets.

A very bold target, a target that I would vote for 10 times out of 10, Mr. Speaker, 100 times out of 100, is that our population is going to grow to 1.2 million people by the year 2020. A very ambitious goal. A vision for this province. Something for this province to strive for, Mr. Speaker. I believe this government will do it, Mr. Speaker. I believe this province will do it, Mr. Speaker, in spite of the negativity that we hear each and every day from the NDP.

It's absolutely a choice. It's a choice of a growing province that has infrastructure challenges. In the last five years, this government has invested \$5 billion into infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. We could take that \$5 billion, or we could go back where the NDP in the same amount of time invested less than half that amount, Mr. Speaker. They were never planning for growth. All they were planning was for decline, Mr. Speaker. It is a choice. It is a choice between again looking forward to a growing infrastructure, to a growing province, or going back to the old days of the NDP. Again, Mr. Speaker, 100 times out of 100 I'll take a growth plan, and so will the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Keep clapping. I've got to find my next page.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a lot of time so I don't want to spend a lot of time on some of the other issues, but I do want to talk a little bit about highways. Mr. Speaker, we have seen a record amount of money spent on highways. In this budget year we have the second highest budget for highways in the history of the province. And I would like to say that we're only second to, what? Perhaps what the NDP — no — what the NDP spent? No, it's the second highest budget to the former budget a couple of years ago by the Sask Party, Mr. Speaker. This year it's well

over \$600 million that are going into our highways

There is more work to do, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely there is. But let's look at a record of decline and an infrastructure that was crumbling under the NDP. We could vote for that on their amendment because they do want to go back to the good old days of decline and lack of spending, or we can vote for the Speech from the Throne that looks at record investments, in this year the second highest amount of investment in highways in the history of this province.

Mr. Speaker, before I leave the issue of highways, on certainly a very much more sombre note is the issue around Ashley Richards that is talked about in the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, I was very proud of the Premier who was out in front of this. And this tragedy should never have happened. The Premier has charged not only myself as the Minister of Highways, but Justice and the Minister of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] to look at things that we can do to ensure the safety of people that are working within our province and in particularly on the highways.

When you have a record amount of spending, Mr. Speaker, in the province of Saskatchewan, you have more construction than ever before. That's what we're facing. But in order to do that, it takes the men and women day in and day out to make sure that those highways are being fixed. What we need to do is ensure their safety, and that's what the Premier has charged us to do.

We're seeing initiatives already, I was glad to say. And we'll be hearing more actually — I hate to scoop myself — but tomorrow regarding the tripling of fines within the orange zone. Mr. Speaker, right now the fines are double the normal speed limit and they're doubled when they're in the orange zone. We're taking the step to move that up further. It is a deterrent. It doesn't prevent a person once they're in that situation, when they're speeding in the orange zone, but what it does do, what we hope it will do, is make people think twice before they put some worker's life, worker's life in danger through the orange zone because of the deterrent of speeding.

It's only one of many other initiatives that we're going to talk about, but I was very proud of that. And I want to say to employees, not necessarily only of Highways and Infrastructure but that work on our streets through the cities and highways across our province, that we take their safety very, very seriously. That's why our government is reacting and acting and will continue to act into the future.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other areas in the Speech from the Throne, it talks about health care. And I certainly could go on and on about health care and, boy, do our members know that I can go on and on about health care. So I choose not to.

But what I think makes me the proudest is it is a choice again. It is a choice between ideology and putting patients first. Mr. Speaker, we can go back to the old days of the NDP where it was all about ideology, and we will still hear it from their critic and from their government about ideology. There is not a chance that they would have a surgery centre working privately within a public system in this province. Those surgery centres have put hundreds and hundreds of people through, and I would submit that one or two of those people were NDP. And not once

have I heard a complaint from a person that's got their surgery done surgery sooner, albeit through a private clinic, Mr. Speaker.

If it was up to the NDP, and if we ever went back to the those days of the NDP, they would far rather have people linger on the longest waiting lists in Canada because of ideology than serving patients first, Mr. Speaker. This government will serve the patients first every time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I do need to close. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have lived in Saskatchewan all my life, for 26 years, Mr. Speaker. Okay, my numbers are a little bit wrong there, for a little bit longer than 26 years. Mr. Speaker, I have lived in this province all my life. And there isn't a province in Canada — and I've had the opportunity, as many of us have, to have visited each and every province in this great nation of Canada — there is no province that I am more proud of. And I would believe that there has been an attitude change in this province, that people in Saskatchewan are as proud of this province now than they ever have been in the history of this province. And I would submit that if you did a survey right now, people would think our province is number one in Canada.

We never want to go back to the days when it was out-migration by the NDP, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we saw it for far too long. It used to be people would ask you, when you travelled the country, where you were from. And you would say, well I'm from Saskatchewan. And they would say, that's too bad. You say now, where are you from? I'm from Saskatchewan. You know we've been thinking about moving there. There's jobs there. There's opportunity there. It is a province to be in, not to the province to be from. We never want to go back to the province that everybody was from. We want to be in this province, and people are moving to this province in droves.

Mr. Speaker, there has been an attitude change. And it is a choice. It is a choice between going back to the former NDP or staying, looking forward. You can look forward with the 49 here or you can be negative with the negative nine over there. I'm picking the forward-looking 49 here. We never want to go back to those negative nine over there. Mr. Speaker, I'll be supporting the Speech from the Throne and I adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This House stands adjourned until 1:30

tomorrow afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 20:49.]

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