



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

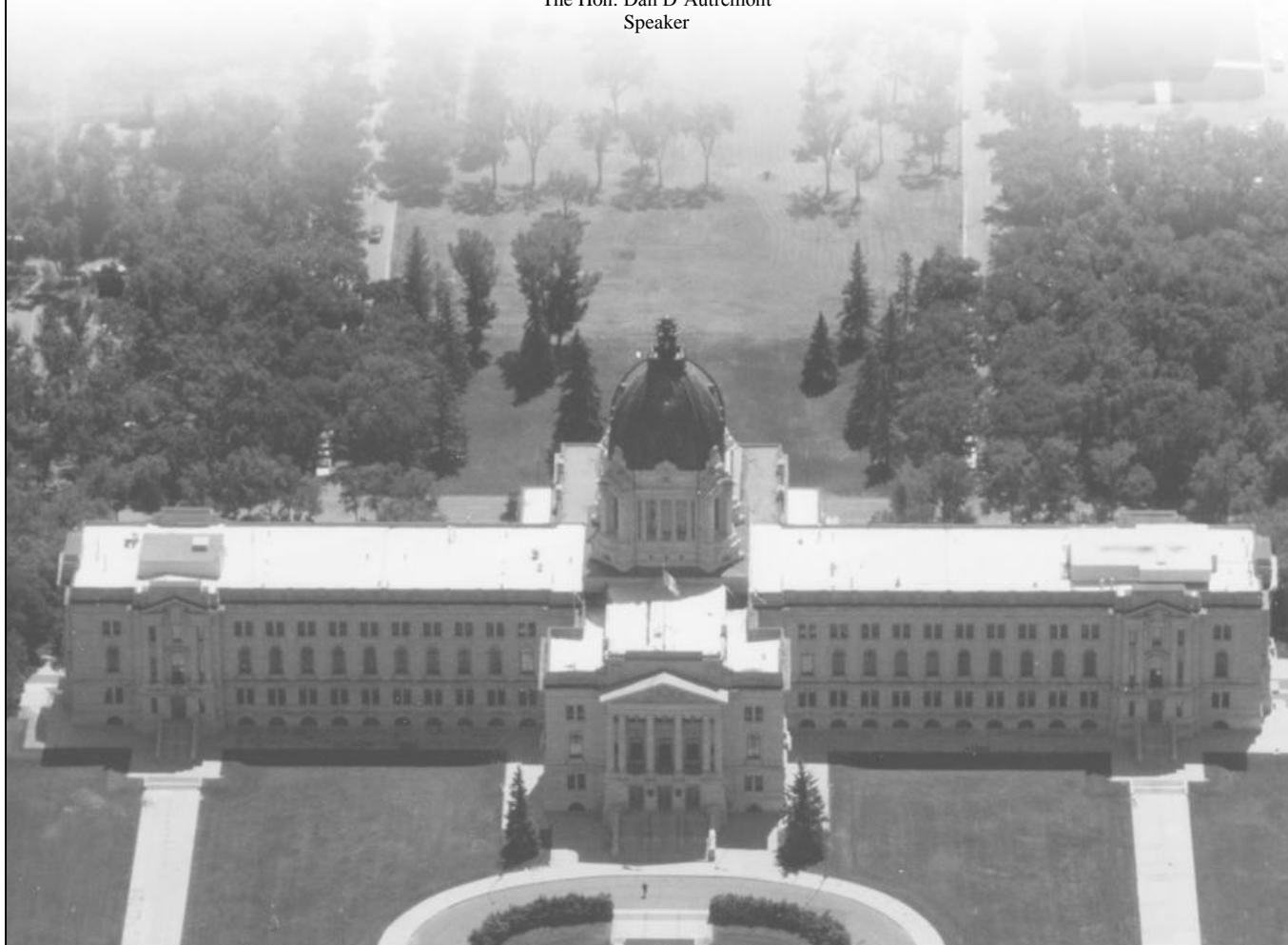
of the

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
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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
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Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
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Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Hon. Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
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McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
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Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
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 met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Corrections and Policing and I were pleased to host the annual meeting of the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of Justice and Policing in Regina over the last couple of days. Joining us in your gallery today are the Hon. Glen Abernethy from the Northwest Territories, the Hon. Robert Trevors from New Brunswick, the Hon. Mike Nixon from the Yukon Territory, and the federal minister, the Hon. Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety, as well as a number of their officials.

Mr. Speaker, we were proud to co-chair the FPT [federal-provincial-territorial] meetings in Regina this week with the Hon. Vic Toews as the Minister of Public Safety, and the Hon. Rob Nicholson, the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, we were encouraged by the discussions over the last couple of days. We had a full agenda that covered a host of issues that were important to the people of Canada and the people of Saskatchewan. Meeting with our Canadian colleagues at the annual gathering such as this was an important piece of our collaborative work together. We had the opportunity to discuss issues that affect all of the provinces and territories and Canada itself. These meetings provide an opportunity for us to meet face to face and discuss ways to strengthen our justice system. And I'd like to thank my colleagues that attended the meetings for their participation.

The dialogue among all the ministers made it clear that we're committed to building safer and stronger communities for Canadians. We met with some very good people this week, Mr. Speaker, and those relationships will serve us very well into the future.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I would just like to publicly thank all the officials, especially the officials from my ministry, who were at these meetings. And they made them a tremendous success.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for my colleagues in the legislature to welcome our guests to our legislature.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Minister of Justice in welcoming all of the ministers and officials from across Canada who have been here as part of the ministers' meeting.

As a former minister of Justice who worked very closely with Minister Vic Toews, I want to make a special point of welcoming Vic here. When I was first appointed minister of Justice, he was the minister of Justice in Manitoba and we worked together very closely on a whole number of issues, especially related to Canada-US border issues, drug issues, and coordination of policing. And I think it's quite important, as the Minister of Justice just mentioned, that the relationships that you develop across our jurisdictions in Canada and the States serve us all well in the long term.

And I know that Vic, even though we often had many disagreements, but we always had good discussion. But we're both proud that our partner in a lot of the Canada-US [United States] border issues, Heidi Heitkamp, is in a very close race for the Senate of the United States in North Dakota, and so we're both watching to see how Heidi does. So I know that Vic's continuing his work, and I want to thank him and appreciate the fact that he's come here to Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Qu-Appelle Valley.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in the House we have 55 grade 10 students from Winston Knoll Collegiate. They're in the west gallery. And accompanying these very bright, intelligent, and probably some of the most gifted students is Mrs. Michelle McKillop, Mr. Dennis Matheson, and Mrs. Cathie Hunchuk. I'll have an opportunity to get together with the students after question period and maybe answer some questions in regards to the dialogue that was undertaken here today. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Howard Willems is a Saskatoon resident who is an advocate for asbestos safety. Howard is also battling cancer and is unable to be in the Assembly today because his health does not allow for him to be here.

But connected to that, Mr. Speaker, a number of individuals who are here in support of Howard. I'd like to introduce Marianne Hladun, who is the prairie vice-president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada and a friend and colleague of Howard, as well as Howard's sister, Audrey Berlovan, Howard's son, Jesse Todd, and Howard's daughter-in-law, Kelly Harmsworth. I would ask all members in the Assembly to join me in welcoming these individuals, these friends of Howard's, to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly a guest whose artistic vision leads a successful Saskatchewan theatre company, a company that has experienced remarkable growth and success over the past several years and which has recently been recognized with a national honour. Mr. Denis Rouleau, the artistic director of La Troupe du Jour, is with us today in the government gallery, Mr. Speaker.

La Troupe du Jour recently won the inaugural artsVest Outstanding Partnership Award presented by the organization Business for the Arts who have partnered with this government to bring the successful artsVest program to Saskatchewan. The award recognizes the dynamic partnership created through the program between La Troupe du Jour and Saskatoon Express, a successful media company in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, this government is proud to support Saskatchewan cultural organizations through programs such as artsVest. Accompanying Mr. Rouleau is Gerry Folk, the executive director of the culture branch with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport. Mr. Rouleau, bienvenue, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in welcoming our guest today.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the opposition I'd like to join in welcoming Mr. Rouleau to his Legislative Assembly. La Troupe du Jour isn't in my constituency. It's in Saskatoon Centre but it is just across the street. And La Troupe du Jour moving to 20th Street has meant a huge . . . has been a big part of the revitalization of 20th Street. So bienvenue, Monsieur Rouleau, and welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce three friends of mine in your gallery. And I'll just ask them to wave when I introduce them individually. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, Nicholas Popowich, and don't let his good looks fool you. This young man is very impressive in so very many ways and I'll be speaking more about him and some of the initiatives he's involved with a little bit later. He has become somewhat of a celebrity.

His mom, Elizabeth Popowich, is very well known in Regina. She is the manager of public information for the Regina city police service. I got to know Elizabeth when she moved to Yorkton in the '80s. I think she was about five back then. And she's very well known and very recognized throughout the province and a really great friend of not only my wife's and mine but very good friends of my brother and sister-in-law.

One other member that was able to come with us and visit with us in the Assembly today is Greg Popowich. That's Nicholas's dad. Greg is an architectural technologist and associate at SEPW architects. And just thank you all for visiting with us today. Their younger son Lucas isn't available to be with us

today. He's in his second year of a degree in musical theatre at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario. And I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is a pleasure to recognize today, seated in your gallery, Kalen Emsley and David Luba, if you wouldn't mind standing. Kalen and David are partners in Regina's Ten Tree Apparel, a company that you'll be hearing more about today. These young men are fine examples of the entrepreneurial spirit that we speak of in a new generation of business leaders that will keep Saskatchewan growing and prospering into the future. I ask all legislative colleagues to help me welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

We know other provinces including British Columbia have brought in several safety precautions through law, including a requirement that workers cannot be alone during late-night, early-morning hours, and if they are required to work, there must be protective barriers such as locked doors and protective glass. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

I do so present. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to present a petition on bringing cell service to underserved areas of northern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed the petition are from all these First Nations locations, and there are hundreds of signatures on each of these petitions. And, Mr. Speaker, I stand today to proudly present this petition in support of expanding cell service to northwestern Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to present petitions on behalf of Saskatchewan residents as it relates to education in our province. The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

The petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

National Down Syndrome Awareness Week

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to draw the attention of the Assembly to a national event that is taking place from November 1st to the 7th. Today, Mr. Speaker, November 1st, is the first day of National Down Syndrome Awareness Week, a public awareness campaign initiated by the Canadian Down Syndrome Society. The campaign focuses on the unique strengths and abilities of people with Down syndrome. Celebrating National Down Syndrome Awareness Week helps to ensure equitable opportunities for all Canadians with Down syndrome.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to make this statement in the House in recognition of a young man that I've known for 22 years, Nicolas Popowich, and this cause that he represents. Nick now lives in Regina; he works at SaskTel's retail store in the Cornwall Centre; he has a girlfriend; he plans to have his own house some day. Nick is an amazing young man by any measure, Mr. Speaker. Nick has a great family and a great life. Nick also happens to have Down syndrome.

You may have seen Nick before. I stated earlier he is a celebrity in his own right. His photo is on billboards across Canada, including two in Regina to publicize National Down Syndrome Awareness Week. The campaign slogan is See the Ability, and Nick is a fine example of ability and potential.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing National Down Syndrome Awareness Week and join me in thanking Nick for his advocacy work for all people with Down syndrome.

[10:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Children's Hospital Foundation Fundraiser

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I was honoured to once again take part in the radiothon fundraiser for the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan. Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation once again teamed up with Cameco to host the seven-hour radiothon that was held on September 21st.

The radiothon raised over \$272,000 because of the generous support of our northern First Nations, many other communities, individuals, and businesses. Cameco was extremely generous in agreeing to match all donations raised, dollar for dollar. This brought the total amount to \$545,873 in addition to the 626,000 raised during last year's event. The radiothon has raised approximately \$1.2 million.

The Children's Hospital Foundation has now raised a total of 11.5 million of their \$25 million goal. The money raised will go towards a new children's hospital to be constructed in Saskatoon by 2016.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Debra Charles from Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation, Gary Merasty from Cameco for their sponsorship and leadership. I'd like to thank all the businesses, organizations, and community members that pledged financial support. I'd also like to thank the incredible volunteers that dedicated countless hours, especially to those who rolled many, many pennies for this worthwhile cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Project Red Ribbon

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. November 1st marks the 25th anniversary of Mothers Against Drunk Driving project, Project Red Ribbon campaign. To honour the 25th anniversary of the Red Ribbon campaign, MADD [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] Canada has asked that November 1st be proclaimed Project Red Ribbon Day.

Each year from November 1st to the first Monday after New Year's, volunteers across Canada distribute millions of red ribbons to the public to attach to their vehicles, key chains, and purses. The red ribbons serve as a reminder, an encouragement to not drink and drive during the holiday season. The red ribbon is a significant symbol. By displaying the ribbon, you are also making a commitment to drive sober. It is a highly visible reminder to make sure that you plan a safe ride home if you will be drinking during the holidays.

MADD Canada and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] encourage people to report any impaired driving you

see on the roads this holiday season. Mr. Speaker, the Report Impaired Drivers program or RID was expanded province wide in November of 2011. Since the inception of the RID program, over 500 impaired drivers have been charged, meaning over 500 impaired drivers have been taken off the road to date. So no matter where you are, if you see an impaired driver please report it to the police.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Saskatchewan citizens to follow MADD Canada's advice and plan a safe ride home this holiday season. Thank you.

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

Avenue Community Centre Awards

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on June 8th this year, the Avenue Community Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity held its annual Affinity Credit Union Community Service Awards.

Through these awards, the Avenue Community Centre recognizes those who've made a significant contribution to the growth and development of a strong, vibrant, and healthy queer in Saskatoon and area community.

This year two youth were presented with Community Service Youth Awards for their outstanding community work — Chance Briere and Humboldt Magnussen. There were also two winners of the Community Service Award — Trish Salah and Jim Komar.

The Special Merit Awards were presented to Festivale Photomedia and Fran Forsberg. A special award was also given to Garnet Woloschuk to recognize his 15 years of great work at the Avenue Community Centre.

Mr. Speaker, October has been named Queer History Month. Started in 1994 in the United States, a high school teacher decided a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history. LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] History Month now provides positive role models, builds healthy communities, and recognizes extraordinary national, international contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating these people who continue to work for justice, respect, and equal rights in our communities. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Estevan United Way Reaches Goal

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House with pride to announce that Estevan's United Way has maintained their ranking as the number one in the country. The organization became the first United Way in Canada to reach its goal for the 35th time in the organization's 36th year annual telethon. Mr. Speaker, the off-air total for the 33-hour telethon was an outstanding \$347,953. This is nearly \$13,000 better than their goal of \$335,000.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some amazing Saskatchewan citizens who made outstanding contributions to help push the Estevan United Way past its goal. Local SaskPower employees donated \$102,000, half of which was raised by the employees, the other half matched by SaskPower. Sherritt Coal and the United Mine Workers of America raised \$92,000. Members of the UMWA [United Mine Workers of America] raised half the amount. The mine matched them. And Eve of Destruction of Estevan Motor Speedway donated \$7,500 with about 75 minutes remaining in the telethon to push the United Way past its goal.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people have always been known for their unmatched generosity. I ask all members to join me in thanking all those who helped the Estevan United Way reach its goal for the 35th time in 36 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Regina Minor Football League

Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to recognize an organization that has a positive impact on many young people in our province — the Regina Minor Football League. The RMF finished the 2012 season this past weekend with the champions being crowned in each age category. The Mustangs won in the peewee division, the Raiders were the champs in bantam, and the Cardinals took home top prize in the atom division.

More important than the winners, Mr. Speaker, over 1,600 athletes played the great game of football from communities in and around Yorkton, Estevan, Weyburn, and of course Regina. The majority of this year's games were played on beautiful new Leibel Field, to which this government granted \$750,000 towards its completion. Last year was the first year that RMF games were played on the field, and this year a new score clock, stands with individual seats, and a coaches' box were added.

Mr. Speaker, being a coach in the league, I know first-hand just how much hard work and dedication it takes to make Regina Minor Football run so well.

I'd like to thank and acknowledge two special people — Len Antonini and Kelly Hamilton. Len and Kelly have taken the RMF to new heights since becoming involved 10 years ago, and it would not be a stretch to say that they have helped to create the best youth football league in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating all of the young athletes who participated this year and in joining me in thanking all the coaches, players, referees, and volunteers for their hard work and dedication this season. Thank you.

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

Company Promotes Environmental Stewardship

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take great pleasure in highlighting the founders of a new Saskatchewan company, Ten Tree Apparel, headquartered right here in Regina. Kalen and Derrick Emsley and David Luba

established the company only eight months ago and have achieved outstanding success.

Ten Tree Apparel not only sells casual clothes but they are great promoters of environmental stewardship. For every item of clothing sold, the company commits to plant 10 new trees to renew forests in Canada, and through WeTrees, a non-profit organization dedicated to reforestation around the world.

Not only is Ten Tree environmentally green. They have partnered with Saskatchewan's favourite green team by producing a line of men's and women's Saskatchewan Roughrider clothing.

The idea is simple but compelling. So compelling, in fact, that on their recent appearance on CBC's [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] *Dragons' Den*, Ten Tree Apparel successfully attracted two new partners, Arlene Dickinson and Bruce Croxon.

Since the show, Ten Trees have also locked up major sponsorship for their Inspire campaign in conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to get kids outdoors. These young people, Mr. Speaker, demonstrate a blending of environmental values and entrepreneurial spirit. They truly represent the intent of Saskatchewan's plan for growth, which is to grow our economy in an environmentally responsible way in order to improve our quality of life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Asbestos in Public Buildings

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Asbestos is a dangerous substance and threatens our health and safety. Howard Willems was a federal civil servant inspecting buildings and was unknowingly exposed to asbestos. He is now battling mesothelioma cancer but is still working to improve the public safety as it relates to asbestos.

My question to the Health minister: does he believe citizens should be able to easily access information about the presence of asbestos in public buildings?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've met with Mr. Willems and have a great deal of sympathy for him. And on behalf of all members, I would like to offer our support and encouragement for Mr. Willems, both in dealing with his health issues and in advancing the issue of asbestos in buildings. It's something that the government takes very seriously.

And our officials tell us that the best assumption we can make is that all buildings constructed prior to 1980 contain asbestos and that we should take steps to try and deal with enforcement and education and trying to deal with best practices around asbestos. It would be impossible to remove asbestos from all buildings but, Mr. Speaker, we want to take steps to ensure that

the asbestos stays encapsulated and we have appropriate methods in place to deal with asbestos once it's discovered.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, today the minister has the opportunity to do something more than extend sympathy. He has the opportunity to change and take some action here.

Howard has received a listing of ministry properties with asbestos through a freedom of information request. The government has this information in its hands, but the information is not easily accessible to the public without prying it from the government's possession. Today I will introduce an amendment to *The Public Health Act* requiring the government to list on a centralized website all the public properties with asbestos.

To the minister: will he support enhanced public safety, support the prevention of cancer, and support the asbestos right-to-know amendment Act?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The officials advise us that they feel the best practices right now are to make the assumption that all buildings constructed prior to 1980 contain asbestos. A number of buildings that were constructed after that or have had renovations may well contain asbestos as well.

The concern that they have with maintaining a central registry is it may create a false sense of security. The assumption should be there that whenever dealing with a building that there is asbestos there and that appropriate steps be taken to it, that people ought not rely on a registry that may be incomplete or may not have accurate information. We know that the vast majority of our schools that were built during the 1950s and 1960s contain asbestos. Our school boards and our school divisions around the province are working at maintaining good practices in that area.

I can advise the members opposite that some of the things that are already in our regulations include things such as identifying and labelling asbestos-containing materials, maintaining installed materials to prevent fibre release, notifying OH & S [occupational health and safety] of high-risk asbestos processes, and have an asbestos control plan to prevent and minimize worker exposure.

Mr. Speaker, mesothelioma is a terrible disease, usually fatal. And I think it's appropriate that the government deal with it carefully and appropriately, and that's what we're doing.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the government has this information. The government should not be secretive about the information. It should be made available to Saskatchewan citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this is common sense legislation. It simply requires a listing of the public buildings with asbestos and some basic detail about its safety. It's not about spending money for cleanup. It simply allows people to make informed decisions. For example, if a tradesperson was working on a government building, he or she could know if they needed to take extra precaution.

To the Health minister: Saskatchewan men and women deserve to be safe when they work. Will he support this legislation?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, a number of property owners have maintained private registries. The various public buildings are on different internal registries. To create a public registry that would create a false sense of security would not be regarded by our officials as best practices. We continue to look at and review the legislation and review what is taking place in other jurisdictions to make sure that we take every step possible, every step practical, and every step that is reasonable to ensure the safety, not only of workers, but people that are in our public buildings.

Mr. Speaker, we know that during the late 1970s, OH & S facilitated an assessment of approximately 75 per cent of the over 700 schools in our province. A high level of asbestos was found in those schools. Fortunately it was encapsulated and not available for public contact. We have taken steps to ensure, since the 1970s, that all of the asbestos remains encapsulated and best practices continue to be followed throughout the province, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, hiding this information, keeping it from the public is backwards thinking. It's the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker, so people can make informed decisions.

The knowledge of the existence of asbestos will improve the health and safety of people other than workers. We can think back to the botched handling of St. Mary's Villa renovations. These residents deserved to know if asbestos was involved with the renovation project. Or we can think, Mr. Speaker, of our children going to school. Surely parents deserve to know if there's asbestos in a building when school renovations are occurring. That's common sense, Mr. Speaker.

My question to the Health minister because this is an issue of public health: will he keep Howard Willems's experience in mind, do the right thing, and allow this Assembly to pass this amendment in short order?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work to ensure that best practices are being followed. We've only received the member's opposite bill just immediately preceding

this session. It would be appropriate for our officials to have a look at the legislation, review it, and try and make sure that we are still continuing to use best practices.

I know that the practice within the ministry is to look across the country to make sure that other jurisdictions are doing things. And if there are things there that they are doing that are appropriate, we would adopt those practices as well. We will certainly look at the member's opposite bill and see whether there's things in there that would be beneficial or that would reduce possible chances of exposure.

It is not our desire to engage in fearmongering or create a false sense of security where somebody may go into a building and do some work or do something where they would come into contact with something where the registry happens to be wrong. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we are always open and amenable to look at new legislation or ideas, whether they come from the opposition or anyone else. We have a great deal of sympathy for Mr. Willems's situation.

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

Public-Private Partnerships

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it seems the Sask Party has adopted the no-money-down pitch you see on TV ads that usually put consumers on the hook for a much higher cost over the term.

At its recent booklet launch, the Sask Party announced a rehashed and failed approach to finance our province's infrastructure. A couple of years ago the Sask Party admitted their failed P3 [public-private partnership] secretariat didn't work for the province and in fact wasted half a million dollars. The recently launched program SaskBuilds is a rehash of that same idea, and this government is risking public dollars.

To the minister: why choose this failed approach? Why risk even more public dollars?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne we talked about a new organization, SaskBuilds, that has been constituted. And it is beginning to do its work. Its work is wide and varied. It is to look at all of the capital needs within the province whether it's in health, education, highways, to look at all the capital needs and develop a capital plan moving forward, prioritize that capital so we understand the need, Mr. Speaker.

And part of the responsibility of SaskBuilds is also to look at the funding models, the different funding models that are available to ensure that in a growing economy, in a growing province — it certainly was not the case under 16 years of NDP [New Democratic Party] government, but certainly has been the case over the last number of years, a province that is growing — to look at different funding models that would be available to meet the needs of the province and the growth that we are experiencing.

We look at other jurisdictions across Canada especially, and we see that P3s have been used in a number of jurisdictions and have been used very successfully. I would also look at it in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, where their brothers and sisters are the government, have used P3s, Mr. Speaker. And it seems to be quite fine in that jurisdiction. We want to explore the different uses of P3s across Canada and see how they will help address the capital needs of this province.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the province needs infrastructure renewal, absolutely. That's why we must be smart and effective with the investments that we make. Mr. Speaker, they've studied this model before. It failed, just as so many P3s have failed all over and across Canada.

An October 14th *Globe and Mail* article on the hidden costs of P3s shared that UBC [University of British Columbia] business professor Anthony Boardman concluded, in a recent study on P3s, "Governments are essentially renting money they could borrow much more cheaply on their own because it's politically expedient to defer expenses and avoid debt." And Simon Fraser business professor Aidan Vining concluded, "They get a service now, and they get someone to pay for it later." As Paul Wilkinson wrote in *The StarPhoenix*, "It's a buy now, pay much more later scheme."

To the minister: why is he putting taxpayers on the hook for excess costs and unneeded risk?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I think we need to do a little bit of a history check for the leadership hopeful on the opposite side, Mr. Speaker. He should realize that of course under the NDP they started a P3 office in 2000, Mr. Speaker, headed up by who other than Pat Atkinson under CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]. Now, Mr. Speaker, I know they're trying to distance themselves from that old administration but, Mr. Speaker, they were pursuing the very thing, Mr. Speaker.

And you don't have to look too far across Canada, in fact we can look next door and see what the NDP finance minister had to say about P3s. I'm sure they should know this information, Mr. Speaker, but I'll reread it. This spring, Finance Minister Stan Struthers from the Government of Manitoba, which is an NDP government, says, "Public-private partnerships can provide an opportunity for the public sector to build projects more efficiently and receive better value for the money being invested."

Mr. Speaker, it's okay in Manitoba. But for some reason for the NDP here, we can't even look at it.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'll quote that same *Globe and Mail* article citing a new U of T [University of Toronto]

study of 28 Ontario P3 projects worth more than \$7 billion:

... found that public-private partnerships cost an average of 16 per cent more than conventional tendered contracts. That's mainly because private borrowers typically pay higher interest rates than governments.

Sixteen per cent more, Mr. Speaker. In these cases, debt doesn't disappear. It simply gets booted down the line and eventually costs us much more. The costs are significantly higher. The Sask Party is ignoring common sense, evidence, and the best interests of the public on this front. Their no-money-down approach reflects nothing more than costly budgetary games to try to manufacture a rosier financial picture.

To the minister: why risk wasting public dollars instead of investing in the infrastructure that we need?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting. I would like to know that party's position then on the recently announced expansion of Highway 914, Mr. Speaker, 914 which is in the Athabasca region.

We heard from the opposition earlier, this week or at the end of last week, Mr. Speaker, that not enough was being done in the North. Well 914 is a public-private partnership. A private company, such as Cameco, is putting up half the funds and agreeing to look after the maintenance into the future, Mr. Speaker. That is a private-public partnership. In the NDP world, Mr. Speaker, that would never happen because in the NDP world there was never growth in this province.

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

Information Services Corporation

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no one in the province can understand why the Sask Party wants to sell Information Services Corporation. This is especially perplexing because the Sask Party government has actually expanded the work that ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] does in its first term. In 2008, the Sask Party government moved vital statistics information from Health to ISC. And in 2010, the Sask Party moved the province's corporate registry database from the Ministry of Justice to Information Services Corporation. More recently, Mr. Speaker, in 2011, ISC undertook new ways to help our potash industry and other businesses who use ISC data to expand and grow their operations.

Why would the Sask Party privatize this profitable and ever-increasingly important Crown corporation?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said on the additional day of question period last week that no decision has been made on ISC. But if there was a

decision to be made, Mr. Speaker, we've made it very clear that vital statistics would not be part of any company moving forward. That would move back into the Ministry of Health. Vital statistics has been modernized from where it was before and can quite easily be transferred back into the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Speaker, but I still find it very curious, and they still won't answer the question. But the former premier, Premier Calvert, answered the question about why was ISC left out of the Crown protection Act, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, the former premier said he just forgot to put it in, Mr. Speaker. And I would ask the members opposite, is that exactly what happened? Did they just forget to put it in, Mr. Speaker, or was it in the Act and they took it out because they had ideas of selling ISC themselves?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear that the only thing that's not on the selling block right now is vital statistics. This is not the position the Sask Party took on ISC in the past. In its 2008 annual report, the former minister said in an opening letter:

My priority in the future remains the same: to ensure that Saskatchewan's Crown corporations remain publicly owned and provide high-quality services at a low cost. This is a promise our government made to the people of Saskatchewan, and it is a promise we will keep.

He then said, "ISC went on to have another outstanding year of business in 2008 and was recognized as one of Saskatchewan's top 15 employers." Why has the Sask Party flip-flopped on public ownership of one of the top 15 employers in this province?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we know that ISC was not put into the Crown protection Act. And it was for a reason, Mr. Speaker, because we know that it was in the Act and taken out. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to talk to her predecessor, Pat Atkinson, who asked CIC to take it out of the Act just before it was to be passed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, they had it in the Act. They took it out for a very good reason, Mr. Speaker. Because if you look at the history of what the NDPs wanted to do with ISC, you can take quotes like for example from Chris Axworthy. Chris Axworthy, who was the minister responsible, said, "Information Services Corp will succeed in tapping into the billion-dollar market of computerized land systems around the world." Mr. Speaker, they had planned on ISC selling its goods around the world. How many sales did they make? None.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The history we're interested in is how this minister is flip-flopping on what a

previous minister in his government has said. It is jarring to hear the minister try to rewrite history. It's more spin and PR [public relations], but it isn't what the record shows.

Just before the 2007 election campaign the current Premier, who was then the Leader of the Opposition, told the media in no uncertain terms "The Crown corporations will not be privatized under a Saskatchewan Party government." Why has the Premier and his entire Sask Party government caucus returned to their 2003 plans for privatization of our Crowns, beginning with ISC?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, if you go to the platform that was in the last provincial election, that the people of Saskatchewan quite obviously liked, Mr. Speaker, you would see that our platform was that we would support and not to change the Crown protection Act, Mr. Speaker. And we're living up to that very commitment, Mr. Speaker. ISC was left out of it.

Mr. Speaker, ISC is a model company in this province, Mr. Speaker. It is doing great work and has done great work with great leadership from the board and its management and employees, Mr. Speaker. We believe that if there was a decision, if there was a decision to have the company go public, that the opportunity to sell, Mr. Speaker, its expertise around the world would be much more successful than it was government-owned, Mr. Speaker.

There are many models of government-owned entities such as the PotashCorp that was publicly owned, Mr. Speaker, then went into the private sector and has been very, very successful. We have not made any decisions, as I've said, on ISC, Mr. Speaker, but I think it has a very good opportunity, if it was to change in the structure, to be very successful in the world market.

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Wotherspoon: — A growing population is something we're all proud of — families from all over the world choosing to build and better their lives here in our province. But in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, the challenges are increasing because there are literally hundreds of more children in our schools going unfunded by that government. This mounts pressures on classrooms. I heard about it from the students and teachers from Winston Knoll that are here today.

The school divisions are short on resources and are rightfully calling for changes. The teachers are strained to meet the needs of every child. This funding shortfall quite frankly impacts all students and classrooms. We've been calling for this to be addressed since budget time. Mr. Speaker, what's the Sask Party's plan to deal with and address growing enrolments in our schools?

[10:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I recognize the member opposite for the question.

Last spring we announced with our sector partners to look at the funding formula. As you know, we have a new funding formula that will address equity in the education system. As you know, previously the foundation operating grant was a system that allowed for inequities all across the province. And the new funding formula is an attempt, and a very good one because we have agreement from our sector partners that it is a good first step in addressing those inequities.

We agreed with our sector partners last spring, Mr. Speaker, that we would look at the process. We know that there are some tweaks that will need to be made. We held a technical briefing on September the 20th, and we received the information from them. And we will go forward to look at how we can mitigate those enrolment pressures, and we know there are some.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's going to require some action of that government, and to date we haven't seen any of that.

We're all excited about an ever more diverse and growing Saskatchewan, but to ensure its success, we need resources in our classrooms. We need to support our diverse classrooms — English as an additional language supports, resources to support First Nations and Métis students' success and the success of all students. Not properly funding education, as is occurring, impacts the learning of all. I've heard from educators all across Saskatchewan that the Premier's plan to spend more on testing instead of investing and supporting our classrooms is backwards.

To the minister: when will the Sask Party take the squeeze on our classrooms seriously and act to support and enrich education in our province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I recognize the member opposite for the question.

Mr. Speaker, our government makes education a priority. It was prioritized in the Throne Speech. It was prioritized in the growth plan. And, Mr. Speaker, I've witnessed it first-hand as I travelled around the province during Education Week, turning the sod in places like White City, Saskatoon, Swift Current. Five hundred million dollars in infrastructure, \$500 million to fill a \$1.2 billion hole, Mr. Speaker, left by 16 years of declining enrolments and difficult decisions to make.

Mr. Speaker, having said all of that, we've made a historical reduction in education property taxes. We promised a new funding formula to address years of funding inequity. We kept that promise. We promised to consult with the sector to help frame the funding formula, another promise kept. And we promised the technical forum, Mr. Speaker, and another

promise kept.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — If the minister's view of making education a priority is to have class sizes bursting at the seams, to have educational assistants cut across this province, to have services cut, to have full-day kindergarten cut, to have early learning in this province constrained, then I can clearly say we have a different idea of making education a priority.

That minister, of all people, should know what the results will be if adequate resources aren't placed in the classroom. And those results will not be positive for students or for our province as they could and should be, Mr. Speaker. Parents and families are worried about the impact of these crowded and strained classrooms. The divisions are calling for changes now — not in a number of weeks, not for the next budget cycle, but now. The matter is urgent. The funding needs to take actual population growth into account because those students are in the classrooms now, their futures impacted today. Will the minister step up, support education, and commit to this needed funding here today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the member opposite — I'll try to keep an eye on the clock; I have 45 seconds — Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing record growth in our province, population in our classrooms. I understand that those pressures are there. I've spent a couple of years in this sector. I know full well the impact of larger class sizes.

Mr. Speaker, our record stands on its own merit. We have increased funding to school divisions by 21 per cent since we took office. We've implemented a record property tax reduction to improve educational, and we are working with school divisions to recognize current-year enrolments, Mr. Speaker, in the funding formula. And I will be seeking a mid-year funding formula as we move forward.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 604 — *The Public Health (Asbestos right-to-know) Amendment Act*

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No 604, *The Public Health (Asbestos right-to-know) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Massey Place that Bill No. 604, *The Public Health (Asbestos right-to-know) Amendment Act* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Mr. Broten: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Potential Sale of Information Services Corporation

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise and speak to this topic today. I'm going to be introducing a motion here in a few minutes.

I just want to talk a little bit about why we think this is an important motion. Certainly the privatization of Crowns is something that's very important to the public of this province. It's part of our proud history as a province, and it's something, I think, that sets us out as unique in the world. And certainly any time discussion on privatization arises, it's something that we're concerned about and we want to look at very closely, Mr. Speaker.

As I indicated earlier in question period, we're very concerned to see the flip-flop of this government on their position about Crowns. It appears to be somewhat misleading, as we know they originally campaigned on keeping the Crowns public. That was something they were proud of announcing. And we've heard it from the Premier; we've heard it from the ministers. And so there's a lot of concern within our caucus, certainly within our party, and I would say within the public at large, Mr. Speaker, who are very proud of the long tradition of public owned companies and publicly held businesses, which make a lot of sense. And they've employed a lot of people and they've supported and provided good services to the people of Saskatchewan for many, many years.

As we know, Information Services Corporation was a new Crown introduced in around 2000, and the sale of that Crown was not mentioned during the election or any Throne Speech. Certainly it was never contemplated by this government, this party, when it was in government. There was never any contemplation of sale. And when the media revealed that legislation's being drafted to privatize this profitable Crown, it was a surprise to everyday families who count on public services and Crown corporations. What we're hearing here is a surprise, and this is not what people voted for.

Information Services Corporation is a very profitable Crown. We have knowledge that it has made \$17.2 million in profit last year and of that \$17.2 million, it actually paid back a \$15.5 million dividend back to taxpayers. The rates are competitive. The service is impeccable and excellent. The people are getting good service from Information Services Corporation. And it just doesn't seem that this makes any sense. It seems like

selling a profitable Crown like this, Mr. Speaker, is a very infuriating case of ideology trumping common sense. Once again we see that coming from this government where they take a position and in this case flip-flopped entirely on a previous position, misleading the public, and that are now considering selling something that's very profitable and very useful to the public. So it just doesn't make sense.

As people . . . Well they may or may not know this, Mr. Speaker, but your relationship, every one of us has a very deep relationship, as it turns out, with this Crown corporation. It starts at birth and it ends in death. When you're born, your birth statistics are all registered now with Information Services Corporation. When you buy property, that record is in Information Services Corporation. When you have . . . I'm just describing to the people, Mr. Speaker, the actual components of this corporation just so it's for the record. And the minister is concerned about vital statistics. We are too, and that's why we're talking about vital statistics at this point in time. It's a very important part of this corporation and we're concerned about what happens to it if the corporation's sold. If it's retained, where is it going to go back to? There'll be no Crown agency that's capable of handling it anymore.

One of the other things that happens: you get a mortgage; that's on the record. If you buy a car or a vehicle and you want to get security on some financing for that vehicle, we have the personal property registry. So as you see, you go throughout your life; there are various interactions with this Crown.

Anyone who starts a business or anyone who's involved in the non-profit sector will be dealing with the corporations branch. And the COBRA [corporations branch] number that they get, the nine-digit number that you get as a corporation, stays with you, either non-profit or profit, for-profit corporations. That's part of your interaction with this Crown and with the registries it maintains.

Of course that's a public registry that people can search and find out information. It's available to everyone that's there. And then as you move along and you get later on in your life, when you pass away, there's again several interactions with this Crown corporation — first of all through vital statistics and your death certificate, but also when your estate is wound up and all the administration of the estate. If you have any property, that's again, you're dealing with Information Services Corporation. This is a very important public organization.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, there's some interesting . . . If you look on the history of land management and land registries in Saskatchewan, there's some very good information that's available from the Saskatchewan Archives Board, and I think this is something that's really been lost since this Crown came into effect, is the importance of the history of the land titles system in Saskatchewan.

If you travel through the province in any area where there was a land registry established — there was probably 10 or 12 land registries that were established — their, first of all the architecture alone of those buildings is something that is a proud monument to the land system in Saskatchewan. And I can think of the Land Titles Building in Saskatoon now on 21st Street, where that's a beautiful piece of architecture. It's

currently occupied by some law offices and they very carefully maintain the heritage aspect of that building.

In 2003 I was fortunate to spend time as a Crown expert at ISC as they converted, and one of the things that's very vital to Information Services Corporation is the abstract registry of Crown land, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure the minister's familiar with this particular registry. Indeed the registrar's responsible for the abstract registry but . . . Actually it's called the abstract directory. It's not a registry. It's a directory. But the registrar of ISC is responsible for maintaining the directory of all Crown lands in the province — all unsold, unpatented lands, including the lands in our mineral layer, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm not sure this is something that the people of Saskatchewan want a private corporation, a monopoly, to be managing. I'm not sure this is something that the Ministry of Energy and Resources would be interested in. They are working very, very closely on the cadastral with ISC to ensure that the staking from mining and that the mining claims can be done more efficiently using the geodata in the cadastral, in the mineral layer. So that's one area I think Energy and Resources would be very concerned about, that this data and this information was handed over and entrusted to a private corporation that could go bankrupt, that could do things that are not appropriate, and there'd be no controls over that. This just doesn't make any sense to sell off something like this that has been a key feature of the orderly development of land titles in Saskatchewan and of mineral development, Mr. Speaker. So these are things that we are very concerned about.

The Dominion government back in the 1870s was very wise, and we had some knowledge in those days, seeing what happened in the eastern provinces about the difficulties with the deed system. The notion of using a Torrens system of land development was very popular in those days and our Dominion land surveyors did an excellent, excellent job of developing the survey fabric of this province. And we continue to develop the survey fabric to this day using the Torrens system.

This is something that has been the envy of the eastern provinces. It's something that has been very important for the entrepreneurs and business developers. It was really important to people like my grandfather who came out and homesteaded in 1909. When he got his land grant after he perfected his homestead application, in 1909 he got his first grant, the homestead grant. And our family farm just celebrated 100 years of farming because of the orderly system of land titles. Of course that followed the successful settling of treaty claims in the 1800s as well, Mr. Speaker.

[11:00]

So we're talking about a vital, historic, successful Crown-run, Crown-owned system that has made total sense for the last 130 years basically since the *Dominion Lands Act* was passed in 1870. Why, why on earth would we ever want to turn that over to a private corporation? It doesn't make sense.

The claims that this minister has that the ISC's having difficulty finding sales with other governments is simply false. We know that they're talking to the Yukon government right now and that they're negotiating and looking at a potential land registry in

the Yukon. The Yukon's not scared of the Saskatchewan government. And in fact this government is seeking out, actively seeking out other registries run by governments because they trust them and they have confidence in them.

For example PRIME [process renewal and infrastructure management enhancement], the project renewal and information management enhancement project implemented by the Minister of Energy and Resources, they are actively working with the Government of Alberta to use their existing registry to use in Saskatchewan to facilitate better handling of royalty collection and well site information and pipeline information and all the things that are in a public registry in Alberta. It makes sense to deal with another government, and it certainly makes sense for ISC to make those services available to other governments. There's no evidence from ISC or this minister that other governments are scared of the Saskatchewan government. It just doesn't make sense.

Furthermore when this government is looking at perhaps establishing a lobbying registry, you'll see in the report of the lobbying registry report that was introduced and accepted by this Assembly last spring you will see that one of the recommendations in that report is that this government look at what the Alberta government is doing in relation to its lobbying registry. And we never ever made the recommendation that the lobbying registry should be sold to a private individual and be handled in a private level. It doesn't make sense.

There are certain things, Mr. Speaker, that is entirely appropriate for a Crown to handle. And I submit, and I think the people of Saskatchewan agree, that a land titles registry, a land surveys registry, certainly the vital statistics — and the minister's clear that's not on the selling block — but also the corporate registry and all of the other services that ISC provides, there's no need for it to be handed over as a monopolistic control by a private company who could do irreparable damage to the system and the reputation of our land titles. That would have huge reverberations throughout the business and the economy. And I think the land surveyors themselves have submitted a letter indicating their concern about this proposed idea.

I know the minister keeps saying that they're not doing it. But then why, I want to know, why he has actually introduced . . . or indicated that legislation's been drafted. That is also concerning, Mr. Speaker, because if legislation's already been drafted, they are obviously presupposing what the end of the result of their audit is. So that's not something that makes me very comfortable.

But a letter dated October 16th, 2012 . . . I'm not the only one, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association, a venerable association that does very good work in this province . . . These land surveyors are of the highest calibre. I've worked with a lot of them in my former career. And they said, they responded to comments made by this minister on Friday in his comments to *The StarPhoenix* on Friday, October 12th. And just to put that in the record, the minister says they are, he's looking at options for the company to move more into the private sector. This is the complete flip-flop, Mr. Speaker, from what his predecessor said in 2008. So that's of concern. Why are they flip-flopping on their promises to the people of

Saskatchewan? He says it gives the company much more room to grow and expand outside of our borders.

He also was quoted as saying, "There is a real hesitation for other jurisdictions to contract a government-owned company." Again there's no evidence of that statement. There's nothing to back it up. And in fact I've given you, Mr. Speaker, a couple of examples of the exact opposite where this government is actually looking to other government registries for services because they have confidence in them. So it makes absolutely no sense what he's saying and he hasn't backed up any of those statements.

What the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors had to say on October 16th to the Premier of this province, they said, "As this proposed privatization process seems to be moving forward rather quickly, we felt that we should respond immediately." And previously to that they said, "The news came to us as a shock as it was for other professionals in this province and more importantly to the public as a whole."

So they go on to give several quotes in support of their position. It's quite a long letter but the final quote I want to read to you right now, Mr. Speaker, is this, the quote:

Before coming to a decision, we trust that the Government of Saskatchewan will seek input from the professions that have an intimate relationship with ISC and of course the public. The ramifications of the sale of ISC will adversely affect the people of Saskatchewan.

So this is something, Mr. Speaker, that there's definitely concern. We are worried about the impact of this on the public's ability to have fair prices. If it's privatized, who knows what it's going to cost to get a mortgage? Who knows what it's going to cost to get a corporation registered? Who knows what it's going to cost to get a land, a survey of land registered? Who knows about the integrity of the system and whether there'll be the back . . . And I think most importantly one of the essential features of the land titles system is the indefeasibility of title. This is also something that's very envied across Canada because this system, the Torrens system and the land registry, has an absolute guarantee that what you see on the title is correct.

And that's a guarantee that's backed up by an assurance fund that is there and available for the people of Saskatchewan in the event that there is an error that causes damage to businesses and to individual landowners, Mr. Speaker. And that includes people with mineral titles or mineral leases registered in not only in the land registry, but it also extends to the Crown abstract directory which this minister hasn't even spoke about.

So I think those are a number of concerns. Unfortunately I have more to say, but the time is running out. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to pass this on to other people to make comments, and I will move a motion that says:

That this Assembly condemn the government for planning to sell the profitable Information Services Corporation.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Nutana:

That this Assembly condemn the government for planning to sell the profitable Information Services Corporation.

Is the Assembly . . . I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past five years, our government has continuously shown its unequivocal support for Saskatchewan's Crown corporations. Much to the chagrin of members opposite, our government has routinely stated its commitment to support *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*. This commitment was made in our 2007 election platform and in our most recent platform in 2011. Mr. Speaker, an evaluation of ISC is being done, and no final decisions have been made.

Mr. Speaker, we have committed to ensuring that Saskatchewan residents have one of the lowest cost utility bundles in the country. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people enjoy lower costs for telephone, electricity, heating, and auto insurance than all other provinces, other than Manitoba. In Saskatchewan our utility rates are \$3,800 cheaper per year than Ontario. And compared to Alberta, our utility costs are approximately \$1,300 cheaper per year.

Mr. Speaker, when our government took office, we inherited a massive infrastructure deficit within our province's Crown corporations. And not only were we faced with a massive infrastructure deficit. Since 2008 our Crowns have had to continuously invest in infrastructure to meet the demands of a growing population and a growing economy, Mr. Speaker. Since our government took office, we have invested \$3.8 billion in SaskTel, SaskPower, and SaskEnergy to improve, expand, and continue to provide high-quality service at an affordable price.

In the first term of the Saskatchewan Party government, we have increased the capital spending on SaskPower, SaskTel, and SaskEnergy by 39 per cent which is more than the 18 per cent increase in spending in the last term under the NDP government. In our first five years in government, capital expenditures at SaskPower, SaskTel, and SaskEnergy will total over 95 per cent more than the New Democrats spent in their final five years. Our government's capital expenditures in all Crown corporations from 2008 to 2012 are 77 per cent higher than the average amount spent over the last 10 years of that . . . under the NDP government.

Mr. Speaker, SaskTel has invested \$1.7 billion in capital expansion upgrades since 2007. Our government has provided SaskTel with \$48 million to develop 56 new digital cellular sites in rural communities. And SaskTel will continue to meet the increasing demands of a growing population, particularly for data and cell service. Over the next seven years, our government will invest \$670 million to upgrade the broadband network and to provide fibre to some of the homes in the province's largest urban centres. Mr. Speaker, these are investments that show our government's indisputable support for our province's Crown corporations, and they are investments that are designed to meet the demands of a growing

province and a growing economy.

Mr. Speaker, due to the unprecedented growth in Saskatchewan, SaskPower is now facing almost four times the amount of transmission construction than it experienced five years ago. Mr. Speaker, SaskPower will continue to maintain a diversified portfolio of power generation sources. SaskPower will pursue a dual strategy of upgrading its aging power generating capacity and transmission lines while ensuring the power system meets the increased demand of one of Canada's fastest growing economies.

To accomplish these goals, \$9.8 billion in capital investment will be undertaken over the next 10 years to expand and refurbish existing infrastructure and to develop new infrastructure that is needed. In 2011 alone, SaskPower invested \$625 million in electrical infrastructure. And in the past five years, our government has invested two and one-half billion dollars in SaskPower's electrical infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, under this government, SaskPower is developing its largest infrastructure project ever, the \$1.2 billion Boundary dam integrated carbon capture and sequestration project.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that Saskatchewan's population is growing at its fastest and most sustained rate since 1921. SaskEnergy has seen its customer base grow by more than 30,000 new residential, business, and industrial customers since 2007, expanding it more than double the 10-year average. We've increased safety spending to \$79 million for 2012 with a further increase to 100 million for next year, the most ever by SaskEnergy. These investments will elevate safety-related system upgrading for SaskEnergy's 81,000 kilometre pipeline system.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's Crown corporations are a vital component of our government's environmental initiatives. SaskPower now provides loans for homeowners that choose to install geothermal heating. These loans are available for new home construction or for retrofits in existing homes and, Mr. Speaker, I know of many, many homes in rural Saskatchewan that are now using geothermal as their main heating source for not only their homes but their farmyards.

SGI now provides a 20 per cent green rebate on the cost of insurance and registration for Saskatchewan people who drive a hybrid or a high fuel-efficient vehicle. And our government has committed to doubling Saskatchewan's wind power capacity by the year 2015.

Mr. Speaker, water is one of our province's most vital resources, and our government is committed to ensuring that Saskatchewan has the water capacity to meet the demands of a growing economy and the growth in our population. In the year 2011, SaskWater achieved its strongest earnings to date, posting a surplus of \$3.5 million due to an increased focus on growing the business and significant project management work with the potash industry.

Mr. Speaker, our government has released our 25-year Saskatchewan water security plan fulfilling a commitment that was made during the 2011 election. For the first time all of the government's core water management responsibilities and technical expertise will come together to ensure our

comprehensive and integrated approach to our Saskatchewan water management system. This plan will ensure the sustainability of and the quality of Saskatchewan's water supplies while protecting drinking and our water supplies from the source to the tap.

[11:15]

Mr. Speaker, our government is merely undertaking an evaluation of ISC and no decision has been made. Since our party was formed in 1999, the members opposite have been fearmongering that our party has some secret agenda. Mr. Speaker, this is simply not the case. Our government has repeatedly and publicly committed our support to *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*. Our government has made record investments in Crown corporations and infrastructure over the past five years. We have committed to continuing investment in our Crown corporations and to ensure that they provide valuable, efficient services at some of the lowest costs in this country.

Mr. Speaker, our supposed secret agenda must be an awfully well-kept secret because the members opposite are the only ones that seem to have heard it. This government believes in our Crown corporations, and we are committed to making sure that they meet the demands of one of Canada's hottest economies here in this province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we are undertaking an evaluation of ISC. There are no final decisions that have been made. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank you for our time here today.

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to join in the debate on the future of ISC and the future of the Crown corporations as the Sask Party certainly has not defended the Crown corporations in any way, shape, or form, Mr. Speaker.

And before I get into the whole issue, I want to make reference to a comment made by the Minister of Education, I believe, when he made reference to 16 years, what were the NDP doing then, Mr. Speaker. Well I'll clarify for the member because the member is fairly new to the Assembly. In the 16 years, Mr. Speaker, that the NDP were in power, it took us 14 years to clean up the last Tory mess, Mr. Speaker. Fourteen years of that 16 years was left cleaning up the Tory mess, where this government paid 2 to \$3 million a day on interest alone, Mr. Speaker, on a \$5 billion budget. We paid 2 to \$3 million a day on interest alone, never mind debt, Mr. Speaker. So it took us a good 14 years, 14 years to clean up that Tory mess of the last 16 years.

So when he uses that argument, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan want to get up and they want to say, yes, that's absolutely true. History will reflect upon the fact that the incredible financial challenge we had when we took over from that government, Mr. Speaker, was a huge, huge amount of . . . it took a huge amount of work and effort by the people of Saskatchewan working with the NDP administration, Mr. Speaker. So 16 years, yes, 16 years we were in power; 14 years

of that, Mr. Speaker, we had the opportunity to clean up that mess. And, Mr. Speaker, we did.

Now today, Mr. Speaker, one of the most valuable tools in cleaning up that last Tory mess, Mr. Speaker, in the last Tory mess was we had to use the Crowns. The Crown corporations came to the aid of the people of Saskatchewan, and they actually helped solve the problems that the Tories created when they were in government in 1980, Mr. Speaker. We had a deficit and, Mr. Speaker, we had a debt in the province of Saskatchewan that was third behind health and education, I believe, or maybe even second to education. I think health care was the highest expenditure, and then the debt, you know, servicing the debt I think was second. In fact it was even higher than the education budget when the NDP took over, and that's the result of the Tory mess, Mr. Speaker, left by that party, Mr. Speaker. They will not rewrite history, Mr. Speaker, because bottom line is these Crown corporations are valuable. The people of Saskatchewan want to make sure that they are there for the future.

The Deputy Speaker: — I'm having some difficulty hearing the member from Athabasca even though he's close to the Chair. I would ask . . . The member from Athabasca currently has the floor. I would ask members to give him the opportunity to speak to the motion. I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. So standing up here again, Mr. Speaker, they talk about the 16 years that the NDP were in power. That minister knows very well the huge debt that we faced. And now he's sitting amongst those that created the debt, and yet he has the gall to stand up today and turn around and blame the NDP for the fact there they were there 16 years and didn't address some of these concerns.

But that wasn't good enough, Mr. Speaker, that wasn't good enough. He was handed a note. And as a new minister, I would expect that he would have a bit of a foresight in terms of how he wants to approach his new role. But no, they give him the old Tory note, blame them for being in power 16 years. It seems to work with some of our right wing people. So let's keep singing that song.

And, Mr. Speaker, it was a great personal disappointment today to hear the minister talk about the 16 years that the NDP were in power, when we used the Crowns to really balance the books and bring back Saskatchewan from the brink of bankruptcy created by the Saskatchewan Conservatives, Mr. Speaker.

Now one of the things that's really important is that Crowns like ISC provide a valuable service, Mr. Speaker. They provide a valuable service. And when the NDP lost in 2007, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't good enough. It wasn't good enough that the NDP left them wads of cash in the bank, Mr. Speaker, \$2.3 billion in the bank. It wasn't good enough, Mr. Speaker. We also left them a booming economy, Mr. Speaker. Oil and gas companies were coming to town. The potash industry was really picking up their investment, Mr. Speaker, and people were moving to Saskatchewan. The population was growing and that was all compliments of the people of Saskatchewan alongside the NDP administration. And history will reflect that,

Mr. Speaker, not messages from the Saskatchewan Party at all, Mr. Speaker.

And one of the biggest weapons that we used in addressing not only the debt and the deficit, Mr. Speaker, but the fact that building this economy, was the Crown corporations. ISC took a lot of investments, and it took a lot of investments from the NDP, Mr. Speaker. And I remember the minister at the time was Eric Cline. And Eric Cline fought to build up the Information Services Corporation. He done a remarkable job, Mr. Speaker, and today they're making profits. I think it's \$100 million over the last five years. That's an impressive Crown corporation.

Why would you want to sell an impressive Crown corporation like Investment Saskatchewan? Because you know why, Mr. Speaker? Do you know why? They came back to finish off Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, so everything is owned by everybody out of the province including the Crowns. That's their job today, Mr. Speaker. Make no bones about it. The people of Saskatchewan know very well what their agenda is on the Crown corporations, and that is to get rid of them and to make sure that they're weakened so they can sell them off. That's their plan. And it's not only liquor stores, Mr. Speaker, it's going to be STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company] next. What's next? The casinos.

ISC is up next. The conservatives want to sell Information Services Corporation. In a heartbeat they'll do it, Mr. Speaker. And the NDP are going to stand up and we're going to fight back and tell the people of Saskatchewan, they betrayed your trust on the Crown corporations. They betrayed your trust when they said they wouldn't sell the Crowns. Guess what? They're slowly selling the Crowns. They're slowly selling the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. They want to get rid of them. They want to sell it to their right wing buddies because after they're done politics, they'll sit on some of these boards that they privatized and guess what? That's their cushy retirement plans and they look important again, Mr. Speaker. So they're coming back to finish off the Crowns and finish off Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So I tell the people wherever I go that despite the fact that they want to say that they're here to protect the Crowns, that's not the plan — not the plan at all. I tell the people of Saskatchewan this. They are going to sell everything. Anything that it is not bolted down, they will have a wall-to-wall sale, including our Crowns, Mr. Speaker, for next to nothing, Mr. Speaker. A wall-to-wall sale.

So how do they finish us off, Mr. Speaker? How do they finish off Saskatchewan? Well one of the things they do is they sell off the Crowns so we have no tools available for the future. What do they do? They're hiding debt, hiding long-term debt dressed up as P3 partnerships, Mr. Speaker. They're hiding long-term debt. The people of Saskatchewan have got to pay that. But they want to sell, buy now and pay later. And the people of Saskatchewan don't want that, Mr. Speaker. They spin facts. They spin their story to a point where people are beginning to say, what the heck is going on there? This is a bizarre government. This is really bizarre.

And, Mr. Speaker, they deny their actions. They deny their actions, and they blame others, Mr. Speaker. Why doesn't the

minister stand up in the Assembly today and say, we are going to do what the Saskatchewan people elected us to do, what we promised to do? What we promised to do was not sell the Crowns.

So one of the biggest things, Mr. Speaker, my message to the Sask Party is: if you promise, you should follow through. You should follow through with your promise; otherwise you're betraying the trust of the people of Saskatchewan.

So what I tell everybody when we talk about the Crowns, you look at the example of Northland Power in North Battleford, Mr. Speaker, a private company from Ontario, I believe. It built that . . . built a power station. SaskPower could have built that, Mr. Speaker. I believe the SaskPower project . . . You had two projects: one for SaskPower; one by the private sector. The SaskPower project come in under budget and on time, Mr. Speaker. Now the other Northland company, I understood, was over budget and there was a lot of problems there, Mr. Speaker. But the point is that SaskPower could have built both those units. But the Sask Party got along and said, we'll bring our company in, our friends in from Ontario. We'll guarantee them a low price for the next 20 years. And guess who's paying for that? We're paying for that, Mr. Speaker, through our power bill.

And that's another example of how this Sask Party has betrayed the trust, has betrayed the trust of the people of Saskatchewan in the Crown corporations, and every backbencher and every right winger over there knows that's the truth, Mr. Speaker. But they'd rather blame us in the past: oh we didn't put it on under this protected list. My goodness. You've got to have a better, more intelligent response than that, Mr. Speaker. I know this is crass politics. But my goodness, you've got to have a better response than that. The people of Saskatchewan ask you.

So I sit here, and I watch them dilly-dally about the Crowns. What are we going to do? Are we going to do this? Or are we going to do that? They're going to have their wall-to-wall sale, but let's not tell anybody. But the people of Saskatchewan are very, very, very sharp, Mr. Speaker. And as they get up and they get angry and they start throwing their hands up in the air and they turn red — they turn absolutely red when we talk about the Crowns. And on this side we refer to that as a severe allergic reaction to betraying the Saskatchewan people's trust in protecting our Crowns, and it's also a severe allergic reaction to the truth, Mr. Speaker. And that's why the people of Saskatchewan are going to send you a message next election. We trusted you to protect the Crowns. You have not done so. Shame on you. And it's time to get rid of you all. Thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Arm River.

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, it's always interesting to follow the speeches always made by the member opposite from Athabasca.

You know, I just want to correct a little bit of record. I will admit that they faced some challenges when they first got elected. But what did they do with them challenges? They made a total mess of it for 16 years. When we had challenges, we

turned this province around. We met them challenges, and we made changes. The people of Saskatchewan will never forget the mess that you guys made for 16 years.

But we're dealing right now with the motion dealing with ISC, and the member from Nutana had mentioned a little bit about the history. And when I was listening to the speech from the member from The Battlefords, he had talked about the original land titles building. I didn't even realize it, that it was in North Battleford in the North-West Territories, being restored right now by I believe some realtors and community-based organizations that are reliving it.

Most of the constituents in my area and throughout the province may not be familiar with ISC until you actually do a land transaction. And you know and they do a very, very good job of it. The people that have dealt with them have commented that they're very impressed with the professionalism and the jobs that they're doing.

You know, and also we're talking a little bit about history. I want to talk about the history of our party's support for the Crowns. You know, when we were in opposition we fully supported the NDP's Crown corporation public ownership Act.

On November 18th, 2004 — I can still remember that day; I was here — *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act* was introduced in the legislature and read for the first time. This Act then received reading on November 2nd, 2004. And I would like to reaffirm today what was the case in 2004 by reading comments made during the second reading speeches. You know, prior to the vote that happened, the member for Cypress Hills spoke on behalf of the Sask Party, and he spoke quite eloquently, I may add. He said, and I quote:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few brief comments on *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*. For the record, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party supports this bill. The Saskatchewan Party supports the continued public ownership of the major Crowns.

In the last election the NDP grossly misrepresented the Saskatchewan Party position on the Crowns, and we've learned from that experience that we must be absolutely clear in stating our position on Crown ownership.

The Saskatchewan Party, like the majority of Saskatchewan people, believe the major Crowns should stay in public hands. We believe that the major Crowns and their employees do an excellent job, providing services to the people of Saskatchewan. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we have no problem supporting this bill . . .

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party believes it is the role of government to provide essential services like power, like gas, like insurance, like telecommunications services, but they need to be directed to the people of Saskatchewan at the lowest possible cost.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party supports *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act* and commits to the people of Saskatchewan that a

Saskatchewan Party government will keep the major Crowns publicly owned while focusing on providing the best possible service to the Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, all the while at the lowest possible cost. Thank you.

[11:30]

You know, our government has further supported the Crowns by investing in the badly neglected infrastructure that was left behind by the previous member. You know, the ex-Liberal that spoke before me — is now an NDP — you know, talked and ranted about how they support the Crowns. But you want to look at how they've shortchanged them over the years and look at how we've invested money.

The SaskPower capital spending in the first three years of our government: 2008, 422 million; 2009, 640 million; 2010, 565 million. Now the NDP government record pales in comparison. They're spending averaged a meagre 280 million annually for the last 10 years that they were in power.

We can talk about capital spending at SaskTel, SaskEnergy, and SaskPower by the Saskatchewan Party government: 2008, 718 million; 2009, 967 million; 2010, 979 million. You know, when we came to power, we discovered that our Crown infrastructure had been neglected for years. In our first five years in government, capital expenditures at SaskPower, SaskTel, SaskEnergy totalled and will total over 90 per cent more than the members opposite, the New Democrats, spent in their final five years if you want to match five years against five years.

We have a record of building our Crowns. The book value of our three major utility Crowns has increased by nearly 53 per cent between 2007 and 2011, and that is pouring money back. That is building SaskTel towers. I can remember when first elected, there was no cellphone coverage. That was our biggest, biggest of calls. SaskPower — I mean how many lines were overhead? They brought . . . We brought a program where we were paying to bury lines in farmyards if they were close to bins, and SaskPower paid for that. The farmer didn't. He just had to pay for the electrical box that was installed above the ground, but all the underground lines in the yard were buried for safety. Those were the issues that we were dealing with, was a shortcoming when we were first elected. And those are the ones we're addressing through our Crowns. We're far from neglecting our Crowns like the member was talking about, opposite. All you have to do is look at our past record. In the last four years you want to compare, NDP government, the value of the Crowns only increased by 23 per cent compared to ours, 53 per cent.

You know, the NDP continues to rely not on ideas and progress but fearmongering and baseless accusations. You know, they've been running on that on the Crowns for how many years. And the people, they're not believing it. They're not buying it. You can just tell by the last election. They know the infrastructure that we're providing out there, working with our Crowns, working for the best possible service for our constituents. Because that's what the people expect to be provided — the best services through the Crowns, professional service.

I mean you look at the people that are in the Crowns. They're

out in our area — our SaskTel representatives, our SaskPower workers. I mean the last . . . I can remember the storms we've had in June, the hours they put in working around the clock to restore power. People, you know, they respect that, and they respect the workers that they were doing, and we respect SaskPower in helping them do that. I mean they met some huge challenges in June with the major storms we've had. It wasn't as bad in our area, but I believe up in The Battlefords, up towards P.A. [Prince Albert], I mean, you know, power out for days. And they were working, you know, around the clock, a lot of them getting no sleep for hours . . . I mean for days, working on that. So that's why we've invested the money in SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SaskTel. That's why we've worked with the infrastructure. We know what they provide, the importance to the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

You know, Saskatchewan Crown corporations are also a vital component to Saskatchewan environmental initiatives. You know, SGI now provides a 20 per cent green rebate on the cost of insurance and registration for Saskatchewan people who drive a hybrid, a high fuel efficient vehicle. SaskPower now provides loans for homeowners that choose to install geothermal heating. These loans are available for new homes, construction, or for refits on existing homes. You know, those are the many ways that our Crowns . . . And we've supported them in environmental ways and also working with the people.

You know, we look at what we did in the last five years we've been in government, the money that we've put into the Crowns, and how we've had to rebuild them because basically the NDP basically stripped most of the capital out of them. They had no infrastructure capital spending left. When we first took power and we're looking at their books, I mean their infrastructure capital was way down here. They were taking that away from them. They did not put the money back into them.

We are putting the money back into the Crowns to get them back into shape so they can provide good service for the people of Saskatchewan and never mind what the member opposite says. The election says what the people believe, that they believe in what we've been doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member's time has expired. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to get up on this very important motion, because people out in the province are deeply concerned about the mixed messages that we're getting from this government. They can't seem to quite get their story straight on their position on the Crowns. Now they want to deflect and they want to spin and they want to create a lot of other stories out there, but they don't want people to be taking a look at what their plan is.

You know, ever since their former leader Elwin Hermanson was caught in the election of 2003 musing about the potential for Crowns, this party, the Sask Party, has learned to be very careful about message management when it comes to Crowns. They don't want to be too clear. They can wrap themselves around the Crown flag, like we're seeing some of the backbenchers do today, just trying to say, oh we're there for the Crowns. But we heard earlier in question period the minister in

fact be kind of vague about, is it just the 13 Crowns that are listed in the Act, *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*, that they're really committed to? Those 13? And the other 57 are really up for sale? We're hearing mixed messages.

And that's what we're hearing when we're out on the doorsteps or at different events. People aren't sure, aren't sure what this government's plans are when it comes to Crowns. Are they truly like what they said in their election brochure? And I have it here, that they're going to keep their Crowns publicly owned to provide high quality utility services for Saskatchewan people at the lowest cost. So does that mean just the utility Crowns that are the 13 or are they talking about the other 57 could be up on the auction block?

And I think my colleague from Athabasca said it very well when he talked about it. It seems this government's position is, if it isn't bolted down, if it's not bolted down it for sure is for sale. We're going to take a look at it. We're going to take a look at it because when you look at their document, and this is it right here. I've got the whole thing right here. Now if they want to refer me to the page but I've got the whole piece, but it says, "Keeping our Crowns publicly owned to provide high quality utility services to Saskatchewan people at the lowest cost." So was that just the utility Crowns they are talking about? Are they just talking about the 13? It's kind of vague. It's a message that's not clear. They do acknowledge in their election platform that they did vote for the 2004 piece of legislation that we had put forward, but they're not talking about whether they're going to honour that or not; they're just acknowledging that they did vote for it.

You know, so there's some real questions we have here, and I think when we're out talking to people, they have questions. They want to know what's happening with this government, because when they were in campaign mode they seemed to be wrapping themselves up around the publicly owned Crowns, and don't worry about anything because we're going to be there for all 70 Crowns. And now they're saying something kind of different. They're kind of hedging their bets, and I think that it's completely right to be worried about it and I think this motion is completely in order, that this Assembly condemn this government for planning to sell the profitable Information Services Corporation.

And we've outlined the fact that this Crown is doing a really good job of the work that people expect, that it's had a strong turnaround. And we remember the early days when things weren't going as well as they might for this Crown, but with good management, it's brought it around and now we see, just for example, that this government transferred over to ISC just a few short years ago, the whole vital statistics from Health. You know, and so what a switch to say, now we might bring it back. How does this fit in to their . . . Does this make common sense? How does this fit into their lean approach to be moving things around like this from one place to another? I mean, I think with a lean approach or maybe a common sense approach, that these folks should take a real common sense approach, is that once you make a plan you kind of stick to it. And when you're moving different departments or different services around, people get used to it. They don't want things sort of shifted here, shifted there, back and forth.

This is critical. You know, we've talked a lot about vital statistics on this side, particularly when we've seen the new initiatives from this government around voter suppression when it comes to photo ID [identification], that they want to do picture ID. That's a big issue. And now you're involving ISC, and how can this be appropriate? And I think that we have some real concerns.

You know when I talk to people that they're very concerned about what this may mean if we transfer this over to a private corporation, if we sell it to a private corporation. It would now . . . People accept that land titles and that type of thing really is appropriate for government service that we understand a monopoly, and in theory we should be having the lowest cost services there. People understand that if you do make a profit in this case, 100 million is very decent, but at least it's going to the people of Saskatchewan in terms of health care, education, highways, those things that we think are very important.

Of course this government is talking about, you know, opening up private liquor board stores because of the concern around costs. Well we know that one of the things around when you have government services like liquor board stores, that the costs at least go back to pay for services for people. And we think this is really, really important.

So there's a real question around the unintended consequences, the unintended consequences of what may happen if this government goes through with its plan to sell ISC. What will happen? What will happen to the business community, to ordinary people when they buy and sell homes, that type of thing, and all the other services that ISC does? So is this a bit of testing the waters, raising the flag, see what happens, and they got caught? And now we're going to have that conversation, because what does their promise really mean? Does it really mean that many of the Crowns are up for sale, that there's over 50 Crowns that are up for sale, that that's the . . . this is the first of a few that's going to be coming down the tubes? Is this really common sense? We have some questions here, you know, and of course we hear from the other side.

And I think my colleague here from Athabasca was very, very good in terms of charting out the past history of where our province has come and where it's going. And we think there's a real potential for this province in terms of demand that's there for our resources, the way that our economy is going right now.

And the question is, and we've seen this — I've raised this many times, particularly around labour law — if it ain't broke, why fix it? And this government seems to be intent on fixing things that aren't broke and they're testing waters here, and this is going to have a real problem. So in many ways this government really does rewrite history. They want to portray things as being broken when in fact they are not broken at all. And we see that the people of Saskatchewan want to have that stability and predictability of a government service that they can count on, that they can count on and not have things be up for the auction block. And you know, we see a catchy title there, Sask builds. Whether we'll see one in the near future, Sask sells . . . You know, when we come to things like the Crowns, the ones, the other 50 or so that this government may consider because they're not in those significant top 13 or so.

[11:45]

But I have some real concerns about it and I know they're shared on our side. And so that's why we think this is a very important motion that we bring forward right off the bat as we enter our fall sitting here. So we have some real concerns and I really want to emphasize that when you see the inconsistency here, the inconsistency between what the backbenchers are saying, that all Crowns are protected. All the Crowns are protected. The campaign really implies that it's only the utility Crowns that are protected. And we have the minister today alluding to the fact that it's really only the 13 that are protected in *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*.

So which is it? Which is it? I think the government is obligated to come clean with the people of Saskatchewan to say, this is our policy on Crowns. Are all 70 protected? Is it just the utilities? Or is it the ones that are in *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*? And this government should stop deflecting, should stop spinning, and come clean with the people of Saskatchewan. This government is notorious, notorious for message management. They want to confuse the public around what a former government may or may not have been doing and what this government is obligated to do, which is to keep its promises and to be clear with the people of Saskatchewan on what they really mean when we talk about the Crowns which people of Saskatchewan hold near and dear and don't want to see changes to. Thank you.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I am pleased to join in this debate today, and I guess I feel a little sorry for myself right now because I had a great speech written out, planning on how to talk about ISC and how it's a great Crown corporation. But right now I've really got to counteract some of the history that the member from Athabasca spoke about a couple of speakers ago, and I'd like to set the record straight in that he seemed to open up the debate a little bit and talk about some things that were, in his mind, factually correct, which may not be to the rest of Saskatchewan. And one of the things is that the government of the day, when they had the previous administration, they always had to clean up everyone else's mess, and then they said, we're going to get to it. We're going to get to it. We're going to get to it.

Well when the member from Athabasca calls himself a hockey player just dabbling in politics, I think one of the reasons he never made it to the big time was that he actually never got his skates sharpened because he was going to get to it. He was going to get to it, and he could only turn left.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that the member talked about some investment into North Battleford. And he said that . . . The member from North Battleford would like me to correct the statement and say that Northland is actually ahead of schedule and they're under budget. So now that we're going to get to our ISC and the motion at hand, Mr. Speaker, and first and foremost we want to make sure that we put our statement on the table that we support our Crown protection Act, Mr. Speaker. That was in our campaign platform, and we do support that. And this speech, this debate, could have been a lot shorter. All

the member from Nutana had to do was call her predecessor and talk about why they left ISC out of the Crown corporation protection Act back when they were in cabinet, Mr. Speaker. I also think the member from Athabasca was at the cabinet table at that time, too. So they can really get their nine members together and figure this out pretty quick.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to talk about that the NDP I think did have designs on selling ISC before they . . . I think that's why they left it out of the Crown corporation Act. Mr. Speaker, that's not only . . . The NDP did sell off interest in the upgraders for fertilizer plants, and some of which did provide funding for the children's hospital that we've committed to building.

Mr. Speaker, so I will correct some of the history that has gone by, and straighten the record out here. In 2003 the NDP dramatically raised rates at ISC. On a \$100,000 house transaction the pre-increase was \$280 dollars, and the post-increase was \$450, Mr. Speaker. That's an average increase to the average homeowner of 61 per cent under their administration. Mr. Speaker, a \$300,000 house transaction, the pre-increase was \$280, and the post-increase was \$1,050, Mr. Speaker. That's a 275 per cent increase on the cost to the average Saskatchewan homeowner under their administration. And they want to talk to us about not respecting Crown corporations. Mr. Speaker, that should be taken with a little bit of a grain of salt.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP claims that our government does not respect and like our Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. But this government continues to invest billions of dollars in Crown infrastructure that the opposition neglected when they were in power. And I know they were going to get it, they were going to get to it. They were going to get to it. But they just never got it done, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP put in a lot of money in failed investments which cost this province millions of dollars. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to read in the record from *Hansard* in November 2004, the then member from Meadow Lake said, "It is believed these investments will achieve great things." You know what followed that statement, was that Navigata ended up losing \$90 million, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there's another interesting statement that we'd like to remind them. As I said, from the yellow sheet, it does set the history straight a little bit from what was spoken from the other side.

And as the NDP planned to lose money, they planned to lose money. And in 2001 the Crown Investments minister Maynard Sonntag said, I bet, and I'll put my job on the line, that we will lose money in the future. Mr. Speaker, does that really make sense? And as one of my colleagues said, he actually did put his job on the line. He ended up losing it, Mr. Speaker.

Can you believe someone, someone whose job it is to protect the provincial purse, the taxpayers' money, not an NDP government's money but the taxpayers' money, can you believe that someone would say, I will bet that the money we invest right now will lose money? Could you imagine a CEO [chief executive officer] saying that to his shareholders? Can you

imagine anyone going into a board meeting and saying, you know what? We're going to throw some money into this, but it's probably not going to work. They should have put it on roulette, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP did have designs to sell ISC. And I believe that that's something that we cannot state enough.

And I'd like to just for the record read some of our investments that we've put into the Crown corporations, which we committed in our election platform that we support the Crown protection Act, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in our first term the Saskatchewan Party government has increased capital spending on SaskPower, SaskTel, and SaskEnergy by 39 per cent, which is more than double the 18 per cent increase in spending in the last term of the NDP. More than 18 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

And I find it interesting that they run around Saskatchewan, well most of Saskatchewan, and say, we believe in our Crowns. We believe in our Crowns. We're going to do this, and you guys are letting them fall to the wayside. Well, Mr. Speaker, that's just not true. It's simply not true. We're investing money so that our Crown corporations can deliver the services to the people of Saskatchewan in a timely manner for one of the best prices in the country, Mr. Speaker.

And it is time to set the record straight on a lot of the myths that are being portrayed, like the myth of our booming economy, as their leader would say from his seat. Mr. Speaker, the government has increased investments at SaskPower by 45 per cent, which is a substantial increase from — well you can guess it, from the previous administration — the 3.3 per cent SaskPower saw in the last term of the NDP government. Three point three per cent, which is a little confusing because as the member from Athabasca said, well the boom began in 1998. Well if the economy was booming in 1998, how do you invest 3.3 per cent into SaskPower? You just kept on stripping dividends from the Crown, taking monies from the Crown so you could factually balance your budget, but you didn't invest any money into the Crowns, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in the first term, in our first term, Mr. Speaker, the book value, the book value of utility Crowns — SaskPower, SaskEnergy, and SaskTel, SGI — increased by 45 per cent. The book value of our Crown has increased 45 per cent, but we don't respect our Crowns. That's a statement that pales in comparison to what . . . In the first term this government spent \$3.8 billion on SaskTel, SaskPower, and SaskEnergy.

Mr. Speaker, one might say — and I may take a statement from our illustrious member from Athabasca — we're just cleaning up your mess. We're cleaning up your guys' mess, Mr. Speaker. That's what he likes to say that they're doing for 16 years, cleaning up mess. And I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we appreciate the mess you guys left behind because people are seeing more and more investments in their Crown corporations, are seeing better service, are seeing more timely service.

Like the member from Arm River-Watrous said, our SaskPower people did an amazing job this summer in fixing downed power lines in Prince Albert, North Battleford. These are hard-working men and women that appreciate a government that's putting money back into their companies. And they're

working hard and they did a fantastic job. And I just want to say thank you very much for the job you guys did during our summer of storms.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about what we've done and now what we're going to do, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government is projecting capital spending of 8.1 billion over the next four years with 7.5 billion projected to be spent on utility Crowns. Mr. Speaker, 7.5 billion will be spent on our Crown corporations. Mr. Speaker, that's not because we don't respect the Crowns, which comes from the other side. I would say not respecting the Crowns would be putting 3.3 per cent into a Crown over the last term, not 45 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, in the first term the government has invested over 1 billion in SaskTel. And I want to talk about SaskTel for a little while because they're doing a great job out in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and that's someplace where I came from. And I found that we have great service out there. And the men and women for SaskTel are providing wonderful service out in rural Saskatchewan. I just want to say thank you on behalf of my family who still lives on the farm out in Rush Lake, Mr. Speaker.

And as time is running short, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that when you guys go, when the NDP goes to rural Saskatchewan, they should maybe tell the truth when they go out and talk about Crown corporations.

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

Ms. Jurgens: — Mr. Speaker, the NDP governed the province with a short-sighted outlook. They lost \$15 million dollars in Channel Lake, 90 million in Navigata, and 35 million in SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company]. What's worse, Mr. Speaker, in 2003 the NDP raised ISC rates from \$280 to \$450 for a \$100,000 house transaction. That's a 61 per cent increase. On a 300,000 house transaction, the NDP again increased rates from \$280 to \$1,050. That's an increase of 275 per cent. To the member from Athabasca: was it an oversight or did your party deliberately leave ISC out of *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, let it be known that the NDP never had any plan to sell any Crown, Mr. Speaker, and that's the position we will take forward, Mr. Speaker. And I also want to add, Mr. Speaker, on Information Services Corporation, to test that member from Prince Albert's resolve in standing up and asking that question, my question back to her is this: if your government sells ISC, will you make sure when they sell it they take the profits from that sale to build a bridge to P.A.?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question for the other side, you know, this morning we've heard three different versions of what their promise is. We've heard the minister allude to just protecting the ones under the Act. We've heard other backbenchers saying they're protecting every Crown. And then we hear and we read from their

campaign booklet that they're protecting the utility Crowns. To the member from Walsh Acres: which is it? Which Crowns are you protecting? Come clean on this.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Mr. Speaker, I love getting up. And thank you for the question to the member from Saskatoon Centre. And I love getting up and talking about what our government promises to do because we promised to do . . . is we do what we say we'll do. And, Mr. Speaker, you can obviously see if you read our campaign platform is that we promised to protect the Crown protection Act, Mr. Speaker.

Read the campaign platform; you'll figure it out, Mr. Speaker. I'd say that a lot of people in Saskatchewan read our campaign platform and really, really enjoyed what they read as you can tell by the configuration of this Legislative Assembly. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, in 2002 the NDP management of ISC was described as "a runaway wreck." The NDP Minister Responsible for ISC insisted that ISC software "would be a world leader in information technology." Yet at the same time, the NDP-managed ISC was posting losses year after year. Finally on January the 9th, 2007 the NDP admitted in committee, "The software was not marketed elsewhere," indicating a complete failure of NDP management.

To the member from Saskatoon Nutana: why was your party's government not successful in marketing ISC software, even though it cost the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars?

[12:00]

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think what's really important here is the discussion that's on the table right now, and that's why this particular government has flip-flopped on its position not to talk about the Crowns. In fact August 21st, 2007, here's a quote from the Premier — the then leader of the opposition, soon to be Premier — and it was from Murray Mandryk. He said, this is a quote, "Would you be willing to support the sell-off of some aspects of Crown ownership?" The current Premier said no. And then he went on to say, "We have said they're not for sale, that they won't be privatized, and that's exactly what we mean".

So I would ask that member why the Premier is now flip-flopping on positions he took at that time?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the member from Walsh Acres a simple question. I asked the member from Prince Albert that if they did sell ISC would they use the profits to build a bridge for P.A.? She didn't answer the question. Now I'm going to ask you a question.

Given the fact that you have quite frankly said, we're here to protect the Crowns, if your government decides to sell ISC, and despite your protest here today they go ahead and sell it, will you resign?

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not going to engage in answering hypothetical questions back and forth Mr. Speaker. And I think it's a great thing and I appreciate our government and I respect all the members of our government. We do what we say we're going to do. And I think the people of Saskatchewan respect us for committing to making promises and keeping those promises, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that before he throws stones over on this side that he maybe go back and read some of his statements and see if they're factually correct, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan has a proud history of Crown corporations, one I had an honour of working with for nine years. They provide valuable utility services for the people of the province and employ a sizeable amount of Saskatchewan's workforce. Our government continues to invest billions of dollars in Crown infrastructure that the opposition neglected when they were in power for 16 years. However their failed investments of the former NDP government cost the province of millions of dollars, including Navigata for \$90 million and \$2 million in supplying power to Guyana.

To the member from city centre: what is the reason for the NDP's failure to include ISC within *The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Act*?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I mean the real question today is, why is this government flip-flopping? They want to get into message management. They know this isn't going the place they want it to go. They're sending out mixed messages. The people of Saskatchewan want to know, what is their position on the Crowns today? That's the question of the day. They're not interested in the spin and deflection that this government is engaged in. It's absolutely the wrong thing for the people of Saskatchewan to be exposed to. Come clean. What is your position?

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the member from Walsh Acres.

You know, he's a bit of history student here. He knows the history of his party. He would know that in the '90s the PCs [Progressive Conservative] and the Liberals, they were quite interested in privatization. That built on the work they did in the '80s, Mr. Speaker, trying to chop up corporations like

SaskEnergy to sell them off. We know that that's what they ran on in '99 in terms of privatization. And we also know that in 2003, privatization was a pivotal issue on which they think that the then Leader of the Opposition, Elwin Hermanson, lost the election. So after 2003, they took the pledge, Mr. Speaker, and said, oh we're for public ownership, full stop period.

I guess my question is this, Mr. Speaker: in 2007, they said they were for public ownership. When did it get an asterisk? When did we hear about this fine print that is only now coming into play?

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

Mr. Steinley: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the member from Elphinstone for the question. And I always enjoy getting up and speaking on what our government has done, what our government will do, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, I really want to re-emphasize that our government spent more money, investing more money in Crown corporations than any other government in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, investing money in SaskPower, investing money in SaskEnergy, Mr. Speaker, that's companies are delivering fine services to our province, Mr. Speaker.

And really, Mr. Speaker, what I really want to know right now is, they never answered the question of why they left ISC out of *The Crown Corporations Act* in 2003, Mr. Speaker. Why did Pat Atkinson, why did the member from Athabasca not include the ISC in Crown corporation Act when they want to protect it? They say they're for the Crowns, Mr. Speaker. I'd love it if they could answer that question.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question for the opposition: as my colleague from Arm River mentioned, on November 18th, 2004, the former NDP government introduced the Crown corp public ownership Act. This bill was passed by both sides of the House. However, Mr. Speaker, the NDP government of the day did not include ISC in the Act. On face value, it would appear the NDP deliberately . . .

The Speaker: — The time for the 75-minute debate has elapsed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for P.A. Carlton.

Motion No. 1 — Impact of Western Canadian Energy and Resource Boom on Central Canadian Manufacturing Sector

Mr. Hickie: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure today to stand up and provide a speech which I believe will be an intellectual speech, a speech of education for the nimble nine across the way, Mr. Speaker, and more so for possibly, hopefully, their leader in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker. Because later on today, I plan to move a motion that talks about how we are in disagreement with the NDP leader in Ottawa of the NDP party in Ottawa that

actually has a contention that an economic boom in the West — the resource sector in the West that supports all of Canada, not just from its resources sector, but in the manufacturing jobs — is in fact what he claims to be a Dutch disease, a disease, Mr. Speaker.

So to start with the whole process today of this speech, Mr. Speaker, I went through lots of different data, a lot of research, Mr. Speaker, moving forward. And you know, it's been an interesting time here listening through our Throne Speech debates about the growth plan that we have for this province, Mr. Speaker, and knowing full well that we have set targets and goals to move forward as a government. Our first term we did that — promises made, promises kept, Mr. Speaker. We don't have a problem with setting a very strong stance and a strong position paper moving to 2020, Mr. Speaker.

But using issues that we see at hand such as the booming economy of Saskatchewan, the resource sector that supports that, but then looking deeper into that resource sector development, Mr. Speaker, we see across this country, whether it be Manitoba, BC [British Columbia], Ontario, Quebec, Mr. Speaker, Northwest Territories, we see . . . Alberta of course comes to mind. We see that the resource sector is booming and also supports manufacturing sectors across this country, Mr. Speaker.

This particular time in our country, like no other time before, it's true to say that we see across governments of any political stripe, across provinces, and working with the national government, the federal government, we see a very strong economy. We see strong dollar support. We see manufacturing sector jobs increasing. We can look at Saskatchewan's own immigration increase of our population. We see people moving here from outside the province and from outside the country, Mr. Speaker, in support of various jobs that we see being driven by a large part by the resource sector in our own province.

This kind of opportunity and activity isn't just in the oil fields or the mines. Mr. Speaker, it's those individuals that service those communities and jobs such as working in hotels, restaurants, car dealerships, Mr. Speaker, those men and women who work in production line manufacturing companies to produce the things that are needed in the mining sector and resource sector.

I don't know where Mr. Mulcair comes off saying that the resource sector boom hurts the Canadian economy and manufacturing jobs down east when it's proven — and I'll reference these articles later on, Mr. Speaker — that things have to get made to support the resource sector. I'm not sure where Mr. Mulcair or his colleagues . . . And I think some of the members across the way and especially there's two leadership candidates across the way that I want to talk about later on that have remained too silent on this issue, I believe. But how would they come to a consensus in their caucus in Ottawa, and I would assume across Canada with their membership, that a resource sector doesn't support or doesn't impact manufacturing jobs?

You can look at any of the oil rig facilities in this province. You can look at the mining sector that I have friends working in. And I've met a lot of the men and women working in the oil fields. I mean they talk about things like the size of their rigs, Mr. Speaker, the opportunity that has to . . . all the support

sector jobs that have to support one operation in an oil patch. I mean people have to build those trucks, they have to build those rigs, they have to supply the cable, they've got to supply the pipes, Mr. Speaker. That doesn't happen unless there's a resource sector boom.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? We've seen across this country over decades that the resource sector has ridden a tidal wave of activity. It's boomed and it's busted for a lack of any other better terms. But guess what, Mr. Speaker? When those kind of things happen, other sectors step up. If there's a bust in the oil field, well manufacturing jobs and service sector jobs will increase because it's been correlated that a rise in the dollar value in Canada in a booming economy also falls when there's a bust in the resource sector. But manufacturing goods and services then become cheaper for other countries to purchase so that sector thrives.

And right now, Mr. Speaker, we have a time that we're seeing the rise in resource sector boom and the rise in the manufacturing boom to support those particular resource sector jobs in the resource sector fields. You know what, Mr. Speaker? I found it very interesting as I was doing research for this . . . I mean I want to thank the individuals from the Minister of Energy and Resources office and the caucus research staff that helped to compile some of this data for me along with some of the research I did. The Internet's a wonderful thing because you type in under the search engines anything to do with resource-economy-based manufacturing jobs or resource economy, and you have a realm of opportunity to pick and choose through different studies and data reports.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, the ones I found that I went through and the researching staff found are all supportive of one thing, that if you have a resource sector increase and boom, you will have a correlation of increased annual wage earnings by those individuals who then support their communities, buy goods and services, and the sector itself has to then, as it booms, has to buy manufactured goods to support the industry, Mr. Speaker. And most of these companies will be looking at internally in Canada to buy those particular, those wares, those products that they need in the oil fields and the mines to actually harvest the resources to put them in the open market, Mr. Speaker.

One report I came across was done by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute. It's actually from May of 2012. They reference a study by two well-known individuals. And this isn't just a . . . I would argue and offer up to the opposition at any given time, and to Mr. Mulcair and his caucus, that when you have a report that's authored by a Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] in economics from New York University, Robert P. Murphy, and a colleague, Brian Lee Crowley, who actually interestingly enough, he holds degrees from McGill and the London School of Economics, including a doctorate in political economy from the London School of Economics . . . I mean these two individuals, these two men who have committed their lives to studying various anomalies, I'll say the economies of various countries, put their names to a report, a study that looked at a summation of the activity in the resource sector that up to this point in time through the boom and bust cycles, has a correlation to future projections.

This particular report that I am looking at and I studied looked at a 25-year modelling of the economic impact of the resource sector boom in Canada. I'm not talking about just Saskatchewan. I'm talking about the boom in Canada across various fields — oil, gas, uranium, potash, different mining sectors. And one thing that they came to a conclusion is that, with oil sands production as their primary look within the oil production aspect of their report, they found — surprisingly maybe to some across the way, Mr. Speaker, and maybe to some in Ottawa because I know that Mr. Mulcair has never referenced this document or have his colleagues, by the way — that the Western resource extraction showers large economic benefits in all provinces. That's one of the primary, fundamental statements as they set out their hypothesis moving forward, Mr. Speaker. And then being that these two learned individuals aren't about just to make statements off the cuff — I mean they do various research and data collection; they do various research and looking through . . .

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you. I am asking leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — The member for Athabasca has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

[12:15]

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With us today in the Speaker's gallery is a good friend and a strong supporter of certainly my past campaigns. And she's lived in Buffalo Narrows, but I believe now she's living in Prince Albert. So I'd like the MLAs and the entire Assembly to welcome Ms. Doreen Gabriel to her Assembly. Because obviously as they travel to the city here to visit us, a lot of people don't think that this is their home and their House, but to assure her that this is your Assembly, and I'm certainly glad to see you here today. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 1 — Impact of Western Canadian Energy and Resource Boom on Central Canadian Manufacturing Sector (continued)

Mr. Hickie: — Well thank you again, Mr. Speaker and welcome to our guests this afternoon, or this morning. I guess it's afternoon right now.

So I go back to, Mr. Speaker, to this report that I'm looking at, and what's interesting is that these two esteemed, learned authors have also considered the impact in this 25-year projection of modelling through the oil sands and other resource

sector developments. What would the impact be on things like pipeline development, Mr. Speaker? Keystone is one that they talk about, and the Enbridge Northern Gateway. So within some of their data and their research, Mr. Speaker, they've found some interesting results. And you know, one thing that they talk about and referencing now . . . What I'll do is I'll talk about some numbers here, Mr. Speaker. I want to focus on Ontario and Quebec.

But one should not lose sight of the fact that when we have a resource sector that's booming and there's potential for development of this resource sector, not just feeding our own economy, our own consumption here in this country, but we're looking at outside countries from Canada's borders . . . The Asian market is thriving right now. They know that they have a massive need and want for our resources. Oil comes to mind, of course, to drive their economy. But we'll talk about uranium later on too and the historic signing that the federal Government of Canada did with the Government of China, talking about how now we can use our uranium resources, can be mined and shipped easier to supply their new emerging need for nuclear power plant and for power generation, the need for uranium, Mr. Speaker.

So there's one thing I want to talk about first of all. This report does talk about various things. One thing they focused on was the employment and, you know, thousands of person-years associated to a 25-year economic modelling from 2010 to 2035. So I'll set that reference point moving forward. And they do acknowledge that a big basis of their data and the resource boom is also tied not just to the economies of Saskatchewan and the West. It's linked to the resource sector, how it thrives and produces wealth across this country, but also because of the fact that our resources are demanded and needed throughout the world, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, we look at . . . Ontario is interesting because, you know, we had an interesting time when we see a federal leader of the NDP Party making a statement. And I've said it before, and of course our Premier did a great job yesterday, as he always does, highlighting various aspects that, across Canada and when it comes to his time talking about budget speeches, and Throne Speeches, addressing those.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? You know, this term, Dutch disease, it really, it just cuts to the quick, doesn't it, Mr. Speaker? I mean it really gets to the point that it's a vile thing, it's disgusting, and it's awful to have, to have something called a disease that is earmarked and targeted at Western Canada. You know what? It's a division. It sows the seed for a division between the East and West, and it's . . . For a person who is a leader of a federal party it does surprise me as to why they, or he and his caucus would be supporting that.

And I would assume that, you know . . . I hate to make assumptions because of my previous job, Mr. Speaker, as a police officer. You hate to assume anything. But when you start to investigate and you start to look at aspects and you start to read information, you start to listen to interviews back and forth as people speak, there are certain things that come out. And you know, statement analysis is an interesting tool, Mr. Speaker. And I can talk more about that if anybody asks. But you know, really it's some things that aren't said, Mr. Speaker. It's when

we hear a federal leader of a party talking about the Western provinces as having a Dutch disease, and that is why he truly believes that manufacturing jobs in what he believes I think is the entire country which is . . . I think to him it's Ontario and Quebec. I want to make a very bold statement here. I think that he thinks that if Ontario and Quebec are the ones that drive everything in this country, well that's his sole focus. That's sadly mistaken.

I know when he came out to Saskatoon to, when Mr. Mulcair came to Saskatoon to talk to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities this last year, this last summer, I know he was questioned as to this comment, and this back and forth, this to and fro that we talk about with our Premier taking a stand for our people in this province as this entire Saskatchewan Party caucus does, Mr. Speaker, that we believe that we will stand up for our people and the people of this province over any leader anywhere that wants to drive a wedge between us and another part of the country — definitely.

But maybe Mr. Mulcair has taken some pause, you know, a sober second thought, have you and mind you, to think about some of his comments because at the FCM [Federation of Canadian Municipalities] conference he was pretty much taking a back, kind of a backpedalling stance that he wouldn't, he wouldn't comment about this with, you know, in a public venue with our Premier and have an argument. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? Again this caucus, this government, this Premier . . . who I might also say I'm very proud to say, you know, he leads the nation when they do surveys as to the likeability, the support, you know, of a premier. I believe, I think my colleagues would believe as well, it's not just because he's a good looking guy; it's because he's a smart guy. You know, he's fighting, he's fighting. He's standing up for the people of our province. And you know what? I think that's an amazing, that's an amazing thing. And people in this country I think are asking questions about Mr. Mulcair because of his statements. And we hear our Premier and our ministers who proudly stand and say that, you know, that they're always going to do what's right for our province, supported by a caucus at all times, in moving their message forward, Mr. Speaker.

Now when you have a federal leader of a party who wants to continuously talk about a disease, well I think it's time that we stick up for ourselves. And we do it every day. And that's why I felt very motivated to volunteer for this. I always say I volunteered for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker. We have a great team on this side of the House of men and women who are more than capable of doing this job and some, I would argue, much more capable than myself given their level of understanding of the topic and their capabilities.

I know my seatmate, I relish the opportunity to hear him stand up for 45 minutes and speak on numerous days. I'm sure he's going to do a great job. He's learning well, Mr. Speaker. We have him in a bit of a huddle here, going on, where we can teach him, we can mould him. He's workable. We can do it. It's okay. I look forward to it. A big old teddy bear. Yes I think we can put our arm around him, and we can teach him a few things and lead him down that golden path as opposed to astray. And he's listening well today, Mr. Speaker, because I know he believes fully on this.

In Regina Walsh Acres and in Regina, there are men and women who live in this city, in Regina, that work in the oil patch, Mr. Speaker. They work in the potash mines. They are supporting jobs. They work in the manufacturing sector. They work for companies who are part of the expansion in our mining sector right now, Mr. Speaker, those dollars coming back to Regina. And what are those dollars going to, Mr. Speaker? The local economy of the city and back to our province.

So this goes to another greater point, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite think that . . . And I believe the Leader of the Opposition across the hall or across the aisle said, this is a myth. This growth plan's a myth. It can't exist. Something's not right with it. It doesn't seem to make sense. Like it's a false document, maybe built on expectations that can't be supported.

You know what, Mr. Speaker? They don't want to see this province continue to grow because under their time . . . And you know what? I think the people of Saskatchewan saw that message in 2007 . . . Being one of, back then, to be one of the few that were elected at the time and, you know, in that particular cycle — newbies I call ourselves — but to learn now that this government had promises. People trusted our platform. They looked at us, and they gave us a chance, Mr. Speaker, because I think for too many years the NDP were underperforming. They were undervaluing the province. They never saw the true potential that it had.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? What we're seeing now is an economy in this province that isn't because of us. I will say that. Our Premier says that. Our ministers say it all the time. We don't go out there and turn the cranks and turn the lights on in the facilities in the resource sector and the mining sector and the jobs. It's the fact that our government supports the economy growing based on sound policies, sound . . . You know, Mr. Speaker, you know what? I get that the member from Saskatoon Riversdale on the other side wants to take part in this debate. I look forward to that. Thankfully someone on that side of the House wants to take part in a debate on the actual disagreement with Mr. Mulcair. I hope that she'll actually . . . [inaudible] . . . I look forward to that.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? I can tell you right now that that particular member from Riversdale should have stood up and ran for the leadership of the party. I'll tell you why, Mr. Speaker. Because she's the one who wants us to talk about this now in this debate. She's okay mentioning things in this debate about how she agrees with Mr. Mulcair. I think that's what she said. Not too late, though, because there are two members on that side, two members, one from Saskatoon Massey Place, one from Regina Rosemont, who have put their name forward to be leadership candidates in their political party.

And I mean I give them credit for that. I don't think I would ever have that kind of aspiration in this party. I know that . . . Not that I have to because we have a great Premier — he's not going to leave us for a lot of years — a great leader. And whenever that does happen, I look forward to seeing what happens on this side. We have some great women and men on this side that are prepared to step in when Mr. Wall decides that . . . or the Premier, the member from Swift Current decides to retire at some point in the future.

But the member from Riversdale is prepared . . . I digress. The member from Riversdale wants to speak from her chair. She'll have a chance to vote, Mr. Speaker, and I truly hope that she votes in favour of this. Because she can show that she stands up for the people of Saskatchewan, unlike her two members, the leadership candidates I mentioned, who are staying silent, Mr. Speaker. They're staying mute on this whole statement. I can't understand why, if you're going to lead a political party, why would you not step forward, put your best foot forward, come out of the chute with a policy that . . . after looking and seeing what's happening in this province. And again I say that it's not because of us. We aren't the ones who are saying do these things, invest more money in these sectors, tell the private companies to hire more people. No, Mr. Speaker. We work with them to ensure that we produce policies. We want to move forward.

We take best practices of other countries, other provinces as well, moving forward on making this economy grow. We do not want to hinder that. We want to expand that. And, you know, it does shock me that the two members on the other side of the House that are leadership candidates haven't been out really talking a lot . . . I mean, maybe I'm wrong. But I mean, maybe my colleagues can help me. I don't think either one of them has said anything about Mr. Mulcair's statements. You know what? And you know what? That's a shameful, shameful thing, Mr. Speaker, because we know that there are two other members on that particular party, not sitting here right now, who are leadership candidates. And one of them who, by chance, happens to be a well-learned, educated man that's running, you know, Mr. Erin Weir just in case I had to, you know, differentiate.

An Hon. Member: — The economist.

Mr. Hickie: — The economist. So, you know, another good point, Mr. Speaker, on this individual, Mr. Weir. He's a front-runner because you know what . . . And I give him, I respect him because he's gone out now, and he's actually made a statement. I don't agree with his statements. I don't think I . . . I don't know if anyone on this side does about supporting Mr. Weir on how he agrees with Mr. Mulcair. In fact, you know, in the *Leader-Post* article of May 14th of this year, it's interesting how he actually came to the defence of Mr. Mulcair. And he says, quote, "It was a good point with his Dutch disease diagnosis." So at least Mr. Weir has taken a stance. He has now put himself in a box, and we respect that. You know what, Mr. Speaker? We know where he stands.

An Hon. Member: — He's wrong.

Mr. Hickie: — So he's wrong. You know what, Mr. Speaker? I have to agree with my colleagues. He's wrong on that particular point.

I don't understand how an economist would be able to actually sit back and agree with Mr. Mulcair. And I don't know Mr. Mulcair's background. I am assuming he's very educated as well. But if an economist who's running for leadership of a political party who would know about supply and demand, chain value, market issues, and those kind of related matters would take a stance that a Dutch disease argument is a good point, I don't know if I would want that individual to lead my

party. And I can sure say very, very succinctly, I don't want him leading my province.

That's for sure, Mr. Speaker, because right there and then, he has now put himself in a situation where he doesn't support the people, doesn't support the women and men who work day in and day out in the mining sectors, don't work . . . that he doesn't support the men and women who work in the support sectors that drive your local economies, who in the hotels and the restaurants, the car dealerships, those kind of things, Mr. Speaker, those individuals that actually put their foot forward, and they invest their own hard-earned dollars to expand their companies to supply goods and services to the sector as well.

So Mr. Weir, I have to say, he's respected because he's come out of the box. He's put himself in a box with a statement. And he goes on to support, you know, he goes on to support Mr. Mulcair. That's fine. I get the allegiance, supporting your federal leader. I get that. I think that's an interesting argument to go forward. I mean we will always support our Premier, our leader because you know what, Mr. Speaker, when a person, a leader of a party comes out with a strong vision — and we saw that release prior to the 2007 election, Mr. Speaker, with a document for the vision of this province — then we see a Premier, a leader who doesn't just sit back on his laurels. He goes out and he now looks at the future.

[12:30]

And you know, I'm like him, Mr. Speaker. I have children who are about the same age as his kids. I know I did this job for one reason: to make this province better when I leave, for my children and my children's children. Because you know what? Because, Mr. Speaker, no one in this room should run for office, get elected, and then sit back and just collect the paycheque. No one on this side of the House does it. I don't think anyone on the other side of the House does it, Mr. Speaker. They serve their constituents.

But when you have a leader of a party who wants to challenge his members — all of them, including yourself, Mr. Speaker — to come up with ideas to provide a futuristic document, a goal, a vision, but then he goes out to the public. He wants the people of this province to be engaged. He asks us as the MLAs to have your own ideas. What are you hearing back home? But before you come and bring me those ideas, I want you to talk to your constituents. I want to know what the people of this province have to tell us. There are some of us who got bad comments. Most of us, I think, got good comments.

They want to keep telling us to pay down the debt, keep that vision forward, don't slow down. Stay out of the way of business though, because we see things happening with you, because they're growing the economy. You know what, Mr. Speaker? A provincial government shouldn't grow an economy and shouldn't do it based on jobs alone. We let the private sector do that because that increase in jobs from the private sector results in the government getting more revenue in. Then we have to support the sector through, and the previous debate today was on the Crown corporations protection Act and some good comments made by members on this side of the House about how we have SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SaskTel, SGI. Everyone supports these, the growing economy, because there's

demands for their services, Mr. Speaker. This government will always look at that as a mechanism moving forward to sustain this growth. But to sustain the growth, Mr. Speaker, it's not with a vision of deeming us to have a disease. I mean I think that just sets a bad example moving forward, and it puts a . . . The people down east, Mr. Speaker, I think, would have something to say about this because . . . I still want to get back to this report. I've digressed. I've gone off on a tangent as I have fun doing, Mr. Speaker.

Because I will say one thing. I would wish that in the time up here and when I'm speaking today and in the future, I'm hopeful that the member from Regina Rosemont and/or the member from Saskatoon Massey Place have a seat in this House and listen and maybe speak to this point. Because if they want to take part in this debate, I gladly put that challenge out to them, Mr. Speaker, because we know that to this point in time, they remain silent on this point. When asked by the media for a comment on Mr. Mulcair's statements, they are evasive in their answers. They won't give a yes or no. I'm thinking that, boy, if I was running for leader of a party, I'd want to have my platform. I'd want to be taking a stance.

And it just shows that I don't believe any of those two men over there, those two members, understand the depth and the breadth of this particular comment, this statement by Mr. Mulcair. They need to stand up for Saskatchewan. They need to put their best foot forward. If they don't do that, Mr. Speaker, then I think it's going to be another message as well, moving forward, that they aren't sticking up for the people of this province. And the resource sector is helping this province grow, Mr. Speaker. It's shameful.

But back to this report. So you know we heard that Mr. Mulcair . . . And I also want to say through some of the research, that former premier of Ontario, Mr. McGuinty — who you know, I have never met the man but I followed him in the media extensively — you know, he has the best interest of his province in mind, I agree, as most, I think all premiers do. I won't say most; all premiers do. But one thing that Mr. McGuinty also said was that this was hurting, this disease, this Dutch disease was hurting the economy, the manufacturing jobs in Ontario.

And I'm a little shocked as to why he would say that because this document goes on at various avenues to look at over 25 years, 2010 to 2035, these two learned individuals who authored this document talked about, just in generally, that Ontario alone will see over 882,000 person-years of employment directly related to the resource economies of our country. Not just Saskatchewan, this is across different provinces who mine and extract resources for consumption locally, but also consumption in the global economy, Mr. Speaker.

You know, and to correspond to that, I mean I was surprised a bit when I read this. British Columbia is a lovely province. I know that it's got some great opportunity moving forward. They of course have the waterfront, the harbour system that we would want to look at using within this actual pipeline development we're hearing about to Kitimat. But even in British Columbia, they will actually see over a 25-year cycle, 426,000 person-years of employment, Mr. Speaker.

Now that's interesting because in and of itself everyone thinks that it's Alberta. And of course Alberta does supply a lot of the resources. We look at oil and gas as their biggest production. But Saskatchewan now is coming into its own right with the massive increase in land sales, the exploration that we're seeing in the oil patch. The potash mines are expanding as well, Mr. Speaker.

So we're seeing these economies that drive the resource sector, as I've already stated, support other provinces because they produce particular goods that are required to support the mining industry, the resource sector. So we may not see men and women in BC who are actually working on the rigs doing their job, or in the mines down in Saskatchewan, but guess what they're doing? They are producing value-add to the actual system because they have to produce the equipment. They have to put together the very specialized tools that these men and women use in these mining sector, resource sector jobs. That is what is going to . . . that's what these numbers mean, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't mean they're actually working on the rigs, working the derricks, and they're down below ground, or they're mining uranium. They're actually supporting the economy, the economies of the resource sector. That's something that cannot ever be, you know, forgotten, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, it's interesting, I'm going to go back and forth with some other stuff to move back and forth in arguments. So you know, what's interesting is that we go back to the statements by Mr. Mulcair that this particular disease, this resource that's booming the economy, that's lifted the Canadian dollar value, is hurting the manufacturing jobs down East. You know, Mr. Mulcair has never been, and I've got to make it very clear I hope he never is, the prime minister of this country because it scares me, it scares me if he's having those kind of thoughts already. But you know what? It's interesting when an individual leader of a party comes out with those kind of statements. I think it gets under, gets under the skin of other individuals who have led the country, who have actually been in that position as a prime minister, you know through, across different political stripes, to stand up and take notice of that particular statement because interestingly enough I was very pleased.

And you know, we go back as political aficionados in our various rights and mechanisms and ways. And some of us actually have studied, some of us have not been able to read all the comments made in the past by other . . . and watch the other political parties federally and everything they've done. But every prime minister I know wants to do what's best for Canada. And they have, within their own political caucuses, they have opinions and they have processes they want to employ and put into place to assure that the economies are working well. They always want to do that as a prime minister.

So what happens when Mr. Mulcair, a potential prime minister, a future prime minister — and I hope he's not, but he definitely wants to aspire for that, I'm sure — makes a statement that he is pitting the West against the East. Well he should have thought that maybe a couple of former prime ministers like Paul Martin or Brian Mulroney might actually have something to say on that comment about this becoming this whole Dutch disease situation. And I want to quote from Canadian Press from June

of this year, June 11th: "The reason our dollar is high is we have a good balance sheet. and we want that." That's from prime minister, former Prime Minister Paul Martin, who was a former Finance minister as well under the Liberal government.

Well you know what, Mr. Speaker, when that individual steps out of what is now a non-political role — he's away from politics as I understand it but he makes time, takes time from his busy personal and professional life — to make this comment. He is recognizing, I will say without having spoken to the man, and one day hopefully I will, I will ask him this question, I'm pretty sure that he meant by that quote that he recognizes that the entire economy of Canada that we see happening and this resource boom that we see in the West — yes, in the West, but there is some development in the East as well, but more so in the West — floats all boats, Mr. Speaker. It's spurring on the economy, the prosperity across this country. So when you have a former prime minister make that statement. He comes out of his, what I believe, now is a very busy life as a businessman or as a speaker or consultant. I mean that sends a message. But yet again Mr. Mulcair still holds on to this process, this visceral reaction to a resource sector that he thinks is cutting and hurting manufacturing jobs down east.

Well it's not the case at all, Mr. Speaker. And I would love to sit down with Mr. Mulcair and have an argument or a debate with him on this one. It's an amazing process to research for these speeches. When you pay attention to the media and you have learned colleagues that can advise you on some of the data, but when you get into the actual, into the nuts and bolts, into the trenches of what some of the data, the research that's produced, you gain a real strong respect, position moving on, to defend a topic that becomes near and dear to your heart, Mr. Speaker. And I'll talk more about that in later times and why I am.

You know, it's interesting though when I talk about another individual who had great success, who was a former prime minister. When he comes up — and this was not solicited by any means as far as I know from anyone in this House, I would doubt; anyone in the West, to be honest with you — because this particular former prime minister has a very thriving . . . I think he's still in the practice of law, has a partner down East. I might be wrong with that. But I know one thing, Mr. Speaker, that he is a well-respected former prime minister.

And here's what happened in a comment, and here's what he said to the *National Post* on June 7th. That's even before Mr. Paul Martin, the former prime minister Paul Martin made this comment. Former Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney said this, and I quote, this is in response to Mr. Mulcair's Dutch disease comment. I quote: "And I think that for any political leader to deliberately sow divisions or suggest that one part of the country is not prospering because another is, is wrong." Mr. Speaker, wrong, wrong.

And you know what? Now we've got two well-respected, learned individuals who were former prime ministers who are now — and I believe, unsolicited — came forward upon being requested by the media to provide an opinion to Mr. Mulcair's visceral and viral comment about this being a Dutch disease and divisive. They are now standing up for the position they held before. They're standing up for their country, Mr. Speaker.

That's what every leader and former leader should do — stand up for the people of a country, people of the province, and make a stand, Mr. Speaker.

So after that, Mr. Speaker, it goes on. It's actually very interesting as we look at some of these interesting comments that come forward. Just in September of this year, we have a federal party who wants to actually talk about a Dutch disease. They want to see us not boom. They want to see the resource sector not thrive. It's shameful. Because they believe it impacts the actual manufacturing jobs down east, they want to choke out the West for the East. Now I was a young man back in the day, but I seem to recall some divisiveness in this issue as well with the resource sector and the oil patch versus the East. And I know that's come to . . . A lot of us have thought about that through this conversation that Mr. Mulcair has had.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker? What really bothers me is that then the leadership candidate, then leadership candidate from the NDP party federally, who I know supports his leader right now, they talk about carbon tax. They want to tax people based on carbon consumption. And you know what? They're not only taking this argument from a stance of, you know, that this is a Dutch disease and it should be choked, it should be funnelled slower, it should be, the brakes should get put on it because, oh my God, Mr. Speaker, the manufacturing jobs in the East are being impacted; which I will go on to prove later on, they aren't. And in fact, they're going to thrive and do better because of this.

But then we have the whole talk about, you know, this cap and trade. And it seems like the federal NDP have this plan to just completely quash, to strangle out the resource economy of this country. And they don't realize, Mr. Speaker, that when it comes to the overall country, as I've already stated, by the person-years that'll be deployed and employed in the sectors and across the manufacturing and the service sector jobs, and notwithstanding, of course, men and women working in the mines and the resource and the oil patch as well, Mr. Speaker, they now look at, they want to talk about taxes.

And we know for a fact, we know for a fact . . . Again I'll go to Mr. Erin Weir, the front-runner in the leadership race for the provincial NDP. And you know what he does, Mr. Speaker? He talks about how he doesn't believe that our structure of corporate taxation moving forward is the right way to do things. We want to see, we want to maybe look at our corporate tax being up from 12 to 10 per cent to make us competitive with our neighbours in the West.

And you know what's interesting is that, again, I give Mr. Weir credit. Within his box, within his silo mentality I'll call it, he sees a need to take a stance on any kind of corporate taxation. He also talks about taxing the small businesses, mom-and-pop operations to drive the economy. And you know, as a party, Mr. Speaker, as a government, we thought that that was completely wrong, and we lowered that small business tax from 4 to 2 per cent. So you know, Mr. Speaker, that was a smart move on our part. That's where the jobs are, and those are the jobs that are driving the economies right now in the resource sector, driving the businesses. It's those operations that are supporting the men and women working in the resource sector. So this is a much more . . . It's a bigger pie. It's a complex issue.

[12:45]

I think Mr. Mulcair . . . and I stand again to say Mr. Weir now understands and supports his federal leader. Good on him for doing that. But again I want to reference the fact that we don't have the two sitting members from the NDP in this province who are running for the leadership — Saskatoon Massey Place and Regina Rosemont — saying anything about this yet. Just even to make a comment that it's under review within my actual . . . my party, my platform development. But nothing. Not a single thing coming forward. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? Again it goes to the fact they have a few months yet to run. I mean, March next year is when they're going to have their vote. And I wish all the four members who are running well. And I wish them all the best. But again we don't see any direction from two members who sit in this House.

And one, by the way, is a Finance critic, the member from Regina Rosemont. And you know what? He doesn't agree with how things are portrayed. I know that by listening to him during question period and some of his scrums he's had about we actually do with our finances. But in the end, not one member of that side, I believe, could stand up and say that our province hasn't done better today because of the resource sector than without it. I mean, they have to be honest, Mr. Speaker. I mean really.

And it goes to a fact to prove or to point out here, Mr. Speaker, is that the potash industry has taken it upon themselves to do a massive investment in the mining operations for expansion because they see the potential of what their particular resource can do for the world. And we agree. It's in more demand than any time before for fertilizer. The potash industry is investing their dollars, hiring more women and men. Again, it's so clear, Mr. Speaker, that a booming resource sector supports the economies across different sectors in manufacturing, goods and service support, and hospitality, those kind of things, as I said before.

It's just too much information to actually, you know, talk about in one day. I look forward to getting up and speaking again to this point, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to supporting the argument moving forward. And again I think it's interesting that, as I move through the different resources, we'll see how all resources are developing in this province and in the West, how they impact other jobs and other industries across this country.

But you know, to go back to some of the other statements that I've talked about already with, in regards to this first study I want to reference today. You know, we're seeing some interesting data come forward as well within the actual . . . And I'm going to talk about billions now, Mr. Speaker, billions of dollars that are actually provincial GDP [gross domestic product] dollars that these particular learned individuals have extrapolated from previous studies and are moving forward within this economic modelling.

Now I have to say too, Mr. Speaker, that today we see oil prices are down. Okay, we see that. But they fluctuate, and we understand that there's going to be an ebbing and flowing of that as we move forward. But a lot of this study that was done, Mr. Speaker, they reference the fact that this is done on the

demand in the world for oil. And they reference oil as one of the biggest factors. They also recognize other parts of the economies as well, resource sector mining jobs. But as they move forward, Mr. Speaker, they recognize this: that the price of oil is going to be set by consumption demand. Simple supply and demand economics, right? We may not have it all. We may not use it all in this country, but they're going to be using it somewhere else. So they're extrapolating this.

They talk about the expansion of using the data for the Keystone XL and for the Northern Gateway pipeline. And what they're saying, Mr. Speaker, this is interesting. Some people might think when you have a pipeline system in place that's going to, you know, flow the oil from the oil sands and Saskatchewan's booming oil industry as well to the world, there would be a glut of that in the market. And you think that by supply and demand economics, you'd have too much supply. Demand would wane and the prices would drop.

These two individuals do not see that as a potential possibility. They see it as just supporting more production, Mr. Speaker, because to drive the global demand for oil specifically — I'll talk about uranium and other things later on as I continue this speech in the days and weeks to come — but you know what, Mr. Speaker, we look at . . . Again, I want to focus on Ontario and Quebec because Mr. Mulcair has gone out of his way, I think he got bad advice from some of his people to come out with a statement that this is Dutch disease. His advisors, I guess, Mr. Weir as an economist would've been one of those individuals that would have advised him on this particular . . .

An Hon. Member: — Front-runner.

Mr. Hickie: — Front-runner again, and there we go. Mr. Weir is connected closer to the federal party, maybe than some of the other people running. But I think he advises Mr. Mulcair because he supports him.

So one thing that's interesting and moving forward that these two authors found out is that this is billions of dollars, Mr. Speaker. Now I'll start with trillions just to give you a highlight. These two individuals predict that the oil sector jobs, oil sands and the oil patch production in Alberta alone from 2010 to 2035, will result in provincial GDP increase of 2 trillion, over \$560 billion. That's Alberta. Now we get that, right? Because Alberta, we understand, has got the oil sands but Saskatchewan's got some too. Let's not forget that. That's an important point here too.

Saskatchewan's oil sands, maybe not as easy to get to, but that's in development, Mr. Speaker. And I think we're going to see that particular industry move forward. But as we look at this particular study, to take it to some other provinces, again I'll focus on Ontario and Quebec. Ontario alone, Ontario will see in 25 years, Mr. Speaker, from 2010 to 2035, their provincial GDP will increase, because of the oil sands and oil production in the West, \$149 billion provincial GDP because of the oil sector jobs in the West. Billion dollars.

You know, and we hear a lot about how Mr. Mulcair, I know that he thinks that the East isn't just Ontario, it's Quebec as well. I think, Mr. Speaker, that particularly his Canada is Ontario and Quebec. But even Quebec, Mr. Speaker, even

Quebec is going to see almost a \$49 billion increase in provincial GDP because of the boom in the West, Mr. Speaker. And it surprises me that, after all these figures are out there, that Mr. Mulcair still clings to, he still has his fingernails digging deep into this thought and this statement, this is a Dutch disease. And it has to be tempered. It has to be treated. It has to be annihilated, Mr. Speaker. It's got to be dealt with.

And I don't know, I'm thinking Mr. Mulcair, we haven't heard much from him on this particular topic over the last few weeks, months maybe. But I'm hopeful that maybe someone from Ontario, from his caucus is listening today to this particular speech how the Sask Party government in Saskatchewan is in complete disagreement at that particular damning statement on how it will impact and could impact without the right vision. Moving forward, it could impact industries in the resource sector, but not in Saskatchewan, not in the West, Mr. Speaker, because every Premier in the West, and I think every Premier in Canada, maybe even now Dalton McGuinty . . . [inaudible] . . . the Premier of Ontario, maybe the new leadership runner there and the new Premier will understand this and will see these results as I'm seeing them.

You have an opportunity in the East to support the West. Choose the opportunity. Be a leader in your province. Support the development of the resource sector in the West, but not so much it just isn't jobs to build the industry out here. You have an opportunity, as this report also talks about, to move forward and support the demand internationally and globally. There is a need for process facilities. There is a need for pipelines in the East as much as the West to move the oil and the resources that way, Mr. Speaker.

They have the Great Lake systems and have the shipping lanes to the East, to international markets, just as BC has it to the West, to the Asian markets, Mr. Speaker. I'm hopeful that though the Premier of Ontario, the new Premier of Ontario in the future, will understand this and recognize that this is an opportunity as Saskatchewan and Alberta has embraced, more so Saskatchewan than Alberta because Alberta had it before. We have seen this opportunity now. We've worked with the private sector. Industries have developed this. They've grabbed onto it, Mr. Speaker. They're moving into the province. They're expanding. We have companies here that are drilling like no other time before. Land sales are up in the oil patch, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing that potential moving on. And even though the low dollar, we still see companies starting here, Mr. Speaker.

We had a problem last year with the floods down in the Southeast, but now that the water's subsided we're seeing drilling activity. We know that the Southwest is seeing the activity as well. The Southeast is working well. We're seeing this time where it's a problem with growth. Oh my gosh, we're seeing investment dollars into the province. We're seeing people . . . Annual wages are higher than any time before. And I would argue, and I know that the Minister of the Economy has stated, weekly earnings on average are up every week. And we know that there is a direct correlation between that and the resource sector jobs, whether they be direct or indirect, Mr. Speaker. That's a very exciting time for this province. And we want to see that grow. Hence our document, our vision, our growth plan for 2020.

We will never, ever lay down and be the whipping boy for the East. I will say that right now, Mr. Speaker. We will defend Saskatchewan. We will defend its people. We will defend those women and men who want to drive the economy based on their expertise. They see that there is untapped resource wealth still in this province they want to work with, they want to get to, Mr. Speaker. The Bakken play down south, we see how it's there as well. We see there's oil shale. There is the whole issue of, you know, still that whole tar sands, or the oil sands I want to call it, up in the, I believe it's the Northeast of the province. So we have shale gas and shale oil in the Northeast by Hudson Bay, I believe. So you know what, Mr. Speaker, is that this government is very strongly supporting this motion.

I would ask the members opposite to take a stance at least, Mr. Speaker, and step out of their box. If they truly believe like we do, that this province's better days are still to come, Mr. Speaker, as our Premier has said, that you know what, Mr. Speaker, that they should stand up for this province. They should step out of their comfort zone, speak up against their federal leader. Take a stance for this province, Mr. Speaker. That's what we want to see. Hopefully they will. Hopefully they'll vote in favour of this motion. I truly believe they will. So that's very important for us to do that.

Because they have to see, they have to know that they have women and men in their constituencies who have family members who are working in industry, Mr. Speaker. They're putting dollars back in the resource sector. They're working the sector. They're in the mines. They're in the oil fields, Mr. Speaker. They're working every day and night to support their families, to make this province the best it ever has been and the best it will be, Mr. Speaker.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to standing up here in the next few weeks to talk about this. I'm very passionate about this. I challenge the two members opposite, or the leadership candidates, to come out and say something now, Mr. Speaker. Because you know what, Mr. Speaker, if they stay within their actual psyche of not sticking up for the province, that's going to hurt their chances. I want to thank the member for Riversdale for stepping up today and taking part in this debate from her seat. I believe she truly believes that her children's future truly is going to be related and going to do well based on the fact that the resource sector booms because that's going to be great, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I think there's lots of other data we should look at. I mean, there's going to be various sectors of the mining that is going to support Saskatchewan, but we know that happens in other provinces too. So we see the opportunities going forward.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, I think that the issue that we talked about today, I mean, again I'll go back to the two former prime ministers who have taken a stance outside of, I believe, their professions right now, their lives, that weren't necessary. They weren't solicited to make those comments by this government, but they truly believe in what's happening right now is supporting the entire country, Mr. Speaker. That's the important factor that can't be lost.

Two former prime ministers, two different political parties, two

different philosophies within their caucuses. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, when they were leaders, they still see that the resource sector supports Canada, even though it's from the West, for the most part, Mr. Speaker. That's a critical part that cannot be lost here right now.

And you know what, Mr. Speaker, is that we will now, I want to take some time to talk about Mark Carney. I think some of us know who he is. I know the two members opposite that are running for leadership sure know who he is because I was able to talk in a member's statement this week about why aren't they sticking up, why aren't they agreeing with Mr. Carney and going against Mr. Mulcair. But they wouldn't. They're not saying yes or no. They're evasive in their responses to the media on this, Mr. Speaker.

So you know what? Mr. Carney was in Alberta back in September, and he took part in a think tank, a forum, Mr. Speaker, moving forward. And he had some interesting comments about Mr. Mulcair's statement as well. And you know, in time I plan to get to more of them. But you know, he says in the September 7th article from the Spruce Meadows round table "Most fundamentally, higher commodity prices are unambiguously good for Canada."

So you know, Mr. Speaker, it's important today that we look forward as I move this motion on that, and I will in the next few weeks, as we get closer and closer to the end of this particular debate, to bring up more comments, more anecdotal evidence of men and women I've met in Saskatchewan who work in industry who in fact are now really driven to stay in industry, want to see a boom because they want to keep their children here as well. Right, Mr. Speaker?

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to move the motion:

That this Assembly expresses its disagreement with NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair's contention that the western Canadian energy and resource sector is responsible for the decline in central Canada's manufacturing sector which Mr. Mulcair has referred to as Dutch disease [Mr. Speaker, Dutch disease].

So, Mr. Speaker, again Mr. Carney, which is interesting, his . . .

The Speaker: — It now being after the hour of . . . Oh, got to read the motion? Okay, moved by the member from P.A. Carlton:

That this Assembly expresses its disagreement with NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair's contention that the western Canadian energy and resource sector is responsible for the decline in central Canada's manufacturing sector which Mr. Mulcair has referred to as Dutch disease.

It now being after the hour of 1 o'clock, this Assembly stands adjourned to Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:01.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority

Hon. Nancy Heppner

Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Russ Marchuk

Minister of Education

Hon. Tim McMillan

Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Trade
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Don McMorris

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for Information
Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Advanced Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General