



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

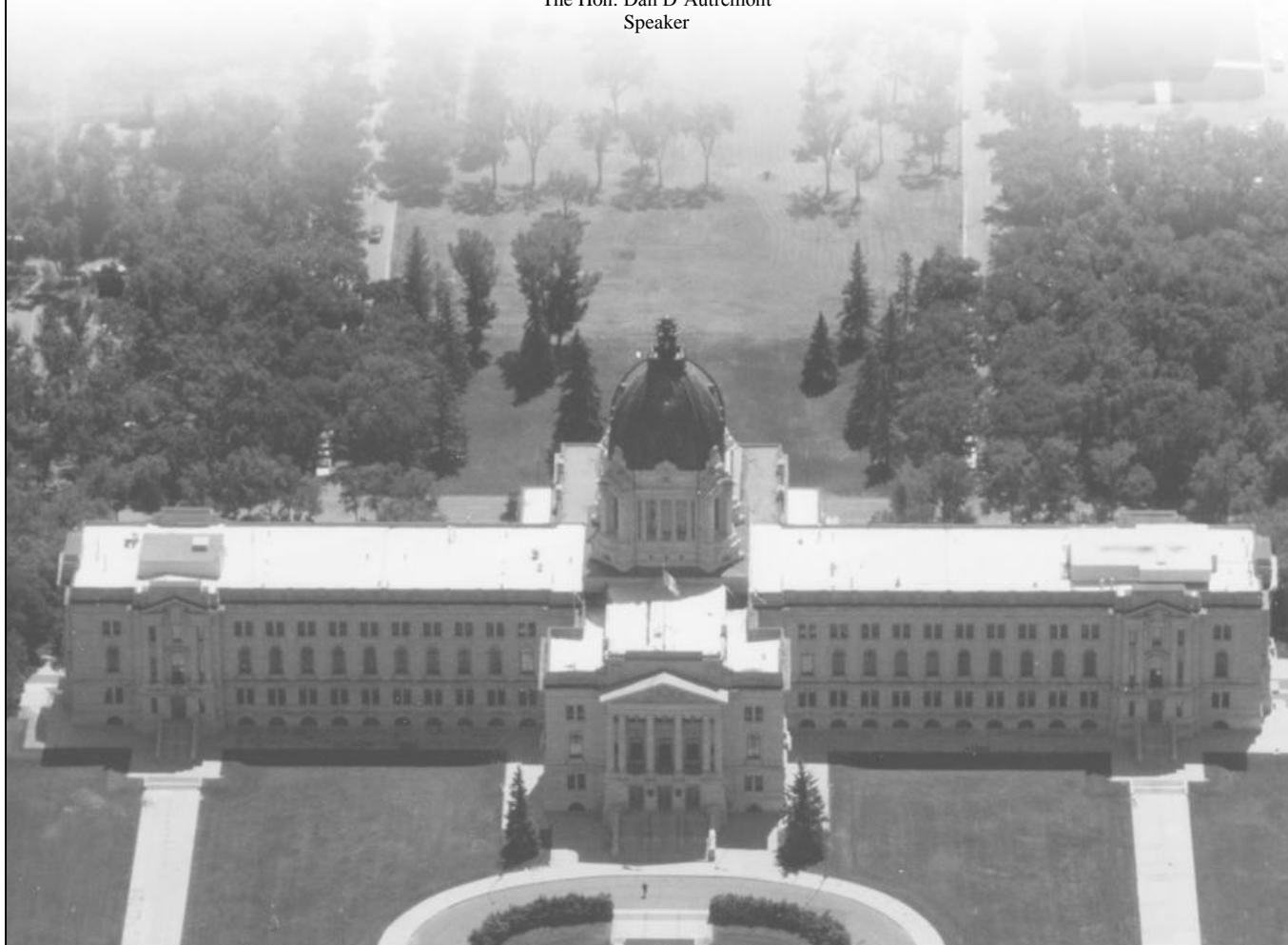
of the

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 — Cam Broten

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
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Hon. Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, 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]

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to make a statement. I'm seeking leave for both myself and the Leader of the Opposition, and when we each finish our statements we will be alternating and reading names.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education has asked for leave for himself and the Leader of the Opposition to make statements. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

COMMEMORATIVE STATEMENTS

National Day of Mourning

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sunday, April 28th marks the National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. This is a day of reflection, a chance to join with over 100 other countries as we think of those who were injured in the workplace and remember those who have died as a result of their job.

It is a day to express our sympathy and extend our condolences to those who have lost a loved one to a workplace injury or illness. The Day of Mourning is also a day for each and every one of us to renew our personal commitment to promoting, creating, and maintaining safety in the workplace and at home.

Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Compensation Board recently announced that they accepted 60 claims for Saskatchewan people who died in 2012 as a result of work-related injuries and illnesses. It is unacceptable that so many have died needlessly. I hope that everyone in Saskatchewan can honour their memory by making safety a priority.

The Workers' Compensation Board also reported that there were approximately 40,000 work-related injuries in Saskatchewan in 2012. Those injuries impact the lives of the injured workers and their families as well as the businesses they work for. We are all responsible for our own safety and for considering and protecting the safety of others at work, at home, and at play. The 60 lives lost in 2012 remind us that when we forget to make safety a priority, the results are devastating.

I hope that on Sunday we can all pause for a moment to reflect on the lives that were lost this year and in previous years and to think about the suffering of those who have experienced workplace injuries. I encourage my colleagues in the legislature to attend one of the vigils that are happening throughout the province on April 28th. To remember and honour these

workers, the Canadian flag on Parliament Hill and the flags at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building will be flown at half-mast.

The names of those we honour today are being read into the official record and will be inscribed in the national registry at the Canadian Labour Congress in Ottawa.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the official opposition, I want to express our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who've died as a result of workplace injuries and illnesses over the past year.

The Workers' Compensation Board has accepted 60 claims for people who lost their lives in the past 12 months due to their work. As we look at that list of 60 names and to read those names into the official record today, we are deeply moved because we know that each and every one of those deaths was preventable. And we know that there are a whole lot of family members and friends who continue to grieve the loss of their loved ones.

Each of these deaths is a stark reminder of the fundamental importance of occupational health and safety. Mr. Speaker, we are mindful as well that an average of 14 people die every year as a result of incidents on our province's farms and ranches. These deaths are not included in the official lists from the Workers' Compensation Board but these people are on our minds today as well, as their deaths serve as a reminder of the importance of farming safety.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job, may we all commit ourselves as legislators to do everything we can to ensure healthy and safe workplaces for every Saskatchewan worker. May we renew our resolve to make occupational health and safety a much higher priority, and may we not give up on that mission until there's not one single name to be read on the Day of Mourning.

I think we owe that to the memory of the 60 workers who've lost their lives at work in the province this past year. We owe it to their families and to their friends and most especially, Mr. Speaker, we owe it to every Saskatchewan worker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members rise while I read the names of those who have lost their lives.

Curt Seidler
Shawn Chomyk
Wesley Althouse
Sean Itterman
Barry Guenther
Glen Salminen
Pat Wagner
Charles Mills
Edward Crumley
Ashley Richards

Tyson Juhlke
Ricky Martin
Howard Willems
Cassell Nightingale
Calvin Hande
James Douglas
Ronald Lornson
Judy Moore
Dale Hermanson
Tyson Jones

Mr. Speaker, the member of the Opposition will read the next 20.

Mr. Broten: —

Walter Stan Sakundiak	Gordon Diggins
Jacob Whitney	Nicholas Fedyk
Curtis Krip	Leo Hoffman
Adrian Regehr	Christopher Reid
Wyatt Penner	Father Joel Rama
Ross Jardine	Don Griffiths
Jan Wyma	Bryce Molyneux
Steven Lachance	Zsolt Varga
Rick Masuskapoe	Jeffrey Tweedie
Edward Wayne Standinghorn	Theodor Lehn

Hon. Mr. Morgan: —

Allan Rudyk	Stan Adamek
Ralph O'Shea	George Brailean
Elsie Nimilowich	James Palmer
Kent Kreller	Curtis Lindbergh
Darren Schmidt	Keith Parrish
Cliff Dawson	Keith St. Paul
David Flegel	Ronald Skogstad
Roy Osolinski	Terry Alexander
Mark Venier	Roy Leech
Winston Lewison	Raymond Cummine

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I express my deepest sympathy to the workers' families and loved ones.

I also express condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have died due to farming and ranching incidents. While those individuals are not included in the statistics compiled by the Workers' Compensation Board, we recognize that they too died as a result of their job. Every year an average of 14 people die as a result of incidents on farms and ranches, making us painfully aware of the risks associated with those jobs.

Mr. Speaker, to commemorate this day, I ask that when all members' statements for the Day of Mourning are done, we observe a moment of silence in this House.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated.

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

The Speaker: — I wish to table, according to section 38 of *The Ombudsman Act, 2012*, the 40th annual report of the Provincial Ombudsman for the year 2012.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — At this time I would like to take the opportunity to introduce our Provincial Ombudsman seated in the Speaker's gallery, Mr. Kevin Fenwick, along with some of his staff. I would ask members to welcome the Ombudsman to

the provincial legislature. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour and a privilege to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly a group of fine students and supervisors from the great community of Kamsack. Specifically 26 grade 4 students from Victoria School are with us today, and I welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

But I'd also like to welcome the supervisors, the adult supervisors which include principal and teachers and bus driver and others along. And I'd like to introduce Mark Forsythe, Kimberly Chutskoff, Jana Thomas, Sherri Hackywicz-Dietz, Ryan Stanko, Andrea Werrell, and George Musqua. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce someone that's very, very special in my life. Seated in your gallery is my grandson, Beau Duckarmie. So Beau, if you'd give us a wave.

Beau is a grade 12 student at the Estevan Comprehensive School. He'll be graduating this spring. And he really enjoys history and he enjoys politics. Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to say that Beau's political views align with members on this side of the House. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming Beau to his legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I want to welcome two special visitors and guests from Manitoba. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, we have Ed Yaknovich from Benito, Manitoba, and Roger Quill from the Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, also of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. And these two gentlemen want to see how the Assembly works today. And I invited them, and I'm really pleased that they did show up.

And for the record, Mr. Speaker, it should be known that Ed always boasts that he beats Roger in Texas hold'em, but in confidence Roger told me he lets Ed win now and then because Ed doesn't talk to him for several days when he beats Ed. So I think it's important that people know the dynamics of these two good friends and these two new friends of mine. And I would ask members of the Assembly to welcome our Manitoba guests here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce two individuals in your gallery. Firstly I'd introduce Lauretta Ritchie-McInnes, my constituency assistant from Yorkton. She's been a CA [constituency assistant] for I think upwards of 18 years now. So when she was 12, I guess she started. And she's just an amazing asset to our office in Yorkton, and her work capacity and knowledge capacity is something I think hard to rival.

With her is her niece from Melfort, Alexis Gerski. She's a grade 4 student at Reynolds Central School in Melfort. She recently received an exemplary report card, so now she gets to take a couple of days off with auntie in Regina. After visiting here today, they're going to the Science Centre, to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] Heritage Centre. Besides being very academic she also plays guitar, piano, softball, is a Girl Guide, likes to hunt, fish, snowmobile. In fact, Mr. Speaker, she has her own Polaris 340 snowmobile and word on the street has it she's a better rider than her brother Cole. So I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, sitting in the west gallery is an old co-worker of mine. Sorry if I said the word old, but Carol Dawson worked on the girls' side of Dales House for, if I said 25 years I'd probably be pretty close, and mentored a countless number of female youth for decades — and really, really great work. And I'm proud to know her and proud for the fact that Carol's here today. And I'd like all members of the Assembly to please welcome Carol to her Assembly. Thanks.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — It's my pleasure to introduce to the Assembly, seated in the Speaker's gallery, a group of 18 grade 3 to grade 12 students from the Sterling North Oxbow Campus in Oxbow. Along with the students is their teachers, Charlene Lewis and Darlene Wayling, chaperones Pam Hodgson, Esther Shimwell, and Jaqui Cooley. I would ask all members to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly.

[10:15]

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand today to present a petition in reference to cellphone coverage for the Northwest.

And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, while the people from all throughout Saskatchewan signed this petition in support of the call for cellphone coverage in the Northwest, the people that have signed this particular page of the petition are primarily from Dillon, Saskatchewan. And I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

School Recognized for Use of Technology

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. St. Mark School in Saskatoon Riversdale is the first designated technological elementary school in Saskatoon, and was the only school in Canada to be named a Microsoft Innovative Pathfinder School for 2012-13.

With students from 46 different countries, St. Mark's principal, Owen Fortosky, had to find a way to deal with the challenge of connecting with numerous English as an additional language students. Mr. Fortosky has found that the use of technology has allowed the teachers of St. Mark School to better connect and teach EAL [English as an additional language] students.

The school has embraced technology. The students have access to lectures via Skype or recorded an uploaded version on the class SharePoint site. St. Mark School students have been focusing on building a global village by connecting with other students around the world. For example, the grade 2 class connected with a school in Colorado on a project about deforestation. Kindergarten students connected with a school in Kenya to share their experiences of Canadian winters, and the grade 6 class connected with students in the Bahamas.

These technological connections allow students at St. Mark's to learn about other cultures, share our Canadian culture, and provide the immigrant students an opportunity to connect with their former homes. These connections are invaluable for all the students, but especially for those for whom English is not their first language, for those who have immigrated to Canada, and for those who have come here as refugees.

I'd like to ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the staff and students at St. Mark's on their commitment to finding new ways to learn and on their successes so far. Thank you.

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

National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. One person donating their vital organs and tissue can save the lives of as many as eight other people and make a difference in the lives of many more. Transplant operations have become much more common, but there's nothing routine about the impact on someone who is waiting for a transplant and the life-saving or life-changing effect when they receive the procedure.

Mr. Speaker, there are dozens of Saskatchewan patients living with the hope that a blood, organ donor, or tissue will become available, and the dread that it may not happen in time. The Saskatchewan transplant program cannot do its good work without the forethought and generosity of donors and their families.

Mr. Speaker, we encourage all Saskatchewan residents to consider organ donation. Most importantly, you need to let your family know of your wishes. Taking action can be as simple as sending an email to friends and family so they know that you support organ donation. That single action could make a world of difference to someone in the future whose life or whose quality of life depends on a transplant.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the provincial government, I thank the Saskatchewan transplant program and our community partners for their good work in encouraging and facilitating organ and tissue donation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Parkinson's Awareness Month

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, April is Parkinson's Awareness Month. Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative disease faced by thousands of Canadians. Currently there's no cure. Movement is controlled by dopamine, a chemical that carries signals between the nerves in the brain. When the dopamine-producing cells die, Parkinson symptoms appear.

The theme for this year's Parkinson's Awareness Month is My Family Lives with Parkinson's. Families can feel the impact from Parkinson's disease. Daily activities and simple tasks can be difficult for the person with Parkinson's and can mean that more responsibilities are placed on the other members of the family. Household chores, planning family events, and helping with personal hygiene become shared tasks.

Parkinson Society Canada is the national voice of Canadians living with Parkinson's. It has 10 regional partners and 240 chapters. The society provides support groups, education support, as well as advocacy on behalf of 100,000 Canadians living with Parkinson's. Funding innovative research helps expand knowledge on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Parkinson's and will ultimately lead to a cure. Every September, there's a SuperWalk in 90 communities across Canada, including Regina.

Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members of the House to join me in recognizing Parkinson's Awareness Month.

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

Prince Albert Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise today to recognize the Prince Albert Sports Hall of Fame 23rd annual induction banquet, which I was happy to attend this past Saturday along with my colleague from Prince Albert Northcote.

After this year, there will be 165 inductees in the Prince Albert Sports Hall of Fame, which recognizes and honours a collection of role models, people who have made remarkable contributions to sport in the city of Prince Albert and surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 2013 inductees and

their categories in the House today: the 1948 Royal Hilltops fastball team for team category; Barry Mihiliwicz for football, builder category; Dwight Bergstrom and Wayne Simpson for alpine skiing, builder category; Ron Horn for multiple sports under the builder category; Darren Whitehead for Special Olympics, meritorious service category; Malcolm Jenkins, community philanthropist, meritorious service category; and Sherry Anderson, curling, athlete category.

Mr. Speaker, whether it's through volunteering as a referee, event organizer, or competing in a sport, these individuals help sports thrive in Prince Albert and area. I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in recognizing all the Prince Albert Sports Hall of Fame 2013 inductees who help make Prince Albert a great place to work, live, and play. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Yorkton Technician Receives Safe Worker Award

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize a local resident of Yorkton who recently received the highest safe worker award in the province. Carey Gleason who is a technician at Terry Ortynsky's Royal Ford in Yorkton received the Safe Worker Award for 2013.

This award highlights the important contributions workers make in eliminating or reducing injuries or illnesses in the workplace, and to recognize an individual who has shown an exemplary commitment to workplace health and safety.

Mr. Gleason was nominated for the award because of the work he has done to help the dealership enhance its safety practices. He has undertaken a number of initiatives to continually improve safety in his workplace, including fabricated a hoist hanger at minimal cost to the dealership to help address concerns about potential back problems in relation to hoisting tires; installing anti-vibration wrap on shop tools to lessen vibration; and regularly reminding technicians about the importance of wearing hearing protection, safety glasses, and safety boots. Carey is a trusted technician and he helps resolve safety concerns, making his role integral to this organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing Mr. Carey Gleason for his efforts in workplace safety and on receiving the important Safe Worker Award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Awards of Excellence

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to rise in this Assembly today to draw attention to the Merit Awards of Excellence, which took place recently in Saskatoon. These awards, hosted by Merit Contractors Association, honour Saskatchewan's open shop construction industry in nine categories.

Two of my constituents, both employees of Peter Crushing and Hauling, were nominated for awards. Ben Rushton of Rocanville was nominated for the Leadership and Mentoring

Award while Brent Schann of Whitewood won the award for worksite innovation in a tie with Dennis Turcotte of Alan Construction in Saskatoon.

Regina-based Coram Construction took home the Merit Employer of the Year while one of its employees, Ian Knibbs, was honoured with the Leadership and Mentoring Award.

Other individual award winners included Cody Diggins of VCM Construction, Chad Leverick and Teresa Darcy of Alliance Energy, Sheldon Ponto of Bexson Construction, and Rick Bond of Quorex Construction.

In addition to these individuals' awards, Mr. Speaker, the Community Builder Award was given to recognize the combined efforts of several members of the construction community in the building of Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in recognizing and congratulating all award winners and nominees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Soccer Team Named Team of the Week

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this Assembly to speak about a very special group of young men. Saskatoon Hollandia Gremio youth soccer team has been named Bank of Montreal's national Team of the Week. This is a group of boys that continually show respect for their peers, display leadership, and carry a positive attitude in training as well as competition. The boys are more than willing to contribute to the community, as they lend a hand whenever and wherever they are asked.

Mr. Speaker, the Gremio under-12 team were not named national Team of the Week solely for their play on the pitch, but rather for their extraordinary efforts in organizing a fundraising barbecue in support of their head coach's mother who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Although the event was hosted on a wet and cold day, the boys fought the elements and their enthusiasm helped raise an outstanding \$2,000.

These boys pride themselves on being good sportsmen. Their actions show that they are well on their way to becoming great leaders of our community. I would ask this Assembly to join me in recognizing the Gremio under-12 men's youth soccer team for their extraordinary achievements on and off the pitch. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Pediatric Health Care

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We keep hearing concerning stories about individuals who are having problems with the health care system. Yesterday we heard from Barbara Blyth, a woman in her 80s with cancer, Mr. Speaker, who broke

her foot and was required to go to a women's shelter, as opposed to something in the health care system.

There's other examples as well, Mr. Speaker. Here's one example: Sydney Dorosh is an 11-year-old girl who has grappled with various serious health issues since she was just a baby. Last November, Sydney travelled to Calgary to get a cecostomy tube implanted in her abdomen. This surgery was a complete necessity to allow her body to function properly and to avoid frequent trips to the hospital. But since that necessary surgery, Sydney has struggled because the province doesn't fund the necessary supplies for the tube to function properly.

My question to the Premier: is it a common sense approach to pay for an invasive surgery for a young girl but then refuse to provide her with the necessary equipment and medication to make that surgery actually worthwhile?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We take very seriously these cases as they are raised in the legislature, as we field them in our constituency offices, or as they come through the Ombudsman, Mr. Speaker, from the various quality care coordinators. As a government we move to extend coverage in terms of important medical supplies and equipment and some new drugs to the formulary. We can undertake to look at this specific case, and we'll do that, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's also important for us to clarify about yesterday's case because I think all the facts should be presented. What happened to the woman from northern Saskatchewan was unfortunate, but the entire story is, Mr. Speaker, that her furnace . . . she was receiving home care and her furnace broke down. So, Mr. Speaker, efforts were made to try to provide a place, an accommodation for her, Mr. Speaker, while the furnace was fixed. It's unfortunate that that had to happen, but I think it's an important and germane fact to be brought forward to this legislature if these specific cases are going to be raised.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, when an 84-year-old woman has cancer, has a broken foot, needs someplace safe and warm to stay in a cold winter, Mr. Speaker, it should be in a health care facility, Mr. Speaker, not in a women's shelter.

Mr. Speaker, the sole function of the cecostomy tube that was implanted in this 11-year-old girl is to administer her medication and saline flushes, yet the province only covers half the cost of several of the items needed for her daily flushes, and the proper medication is not provided.

Sydney's mother, Corry, is here today because she feels left behind by our health care system. She has fought tirelessly, Mr. Speaker, for the health of her daughter. She has advocated to the extended health benefits branch about her daughter's unique situation. And Sydney's doctor here in Regina has advocated to the Ministry of Health for full coverage of Sydney's needs.

My question to the Premier: when a sick child's doctor advocates for coverage of supplies that are crucial for her

health, why is the Sask Party government stubbornly refusing to listen to those concerns?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. This is clearly a very compelling case that he raises, and we'll look into the specifics around it. Coverages vary across the provinces. There are many provinces that don't cover things that are covered here in Saskatchewan. And yes, there may be things that are not fully covered here but are fully covered elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health will undertake to look into this specific case.

Mr. Speaker, again back to the previous case though, the member stood and said the 84-year old woman who has cancer and then a broken ankle needed a warm place to stay. Mr. Speaker, that's what the health care professionals found for her, and I think it's an important fact. These cases certainly should be brought to this legislature. They should be taken to all the different avenues that are available to people, including the one he raises today. But if we're going to have a honest and fulsome discussion, we need to have all of the facts onto the floor of the legislature. And I would encourage the Leader of the Opposition to do that in the future.

[10:30]

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, here are the facts about Sydney's situation and the work that her mother, Corry, has done to advocate for her cause; the work also, Mr. Speaker, that her physician has done in order to have the proper benefits, the proper health measures in place to care for her daughter, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier said that they would be happy to meet with Corry to discuss the situation of Sydney, Mr. Speaker. The meeting is good and I hope they do meet, Mr. Speaker. But this shouldn't be a surprise to the government members, Mr. Speaker, because Corry has contacted, sent two emails to the Health minister's office about this issue, Mr. Speaker, and informs me that she did not receive a reply on those concerns.

So my question to the Premier: when an individual contacts a minister's office about a concern, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier, is it appropriate that a response is not given to her from the minister's office?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it is the priority of this government to respond to emails and letters and inquiries that come in via the telephone or even over Twitter or other social media networks. If for some reason there hasn't been a return call or return email, it's something we would look into. Knowing the Minister of Health and the seriousness with which he takes these cases and the effort he puts into his file, I would be surprised, if this did happen, if it was anything but an unintended, Mr. Speaker, oversight, and one that should be looked into. And we'll do that.

Mr. Speaker, when we took over office in 2007, we inherited a health system, Mr. Speaker, that was under severe crisis. We had the longest wait-lists in the country. We had inherited government from an NDP [New Democratic Party] that had closed down long-term care beds, never mind opened long-term care beds. We inherited government from an NDP government administration — and the former Health minister is sitting right there — who didn't cover these things and all of the other items that we've added to the list.

We will undertake to look at this case, Mr. Speaker. And I would hope that the people of the province will understand, when we do look at these cases, we do that with a serious view to remedy the situation, unlike frankly what the NDP provided for 16 years, which was mostly talk.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, because of Sydney's situation, Mr. Speaker, and the ongoing health challenges, the pediatric intensive care unit here in our capital city is a constant possibility for Sydney. When Sydney's mother heard about the potential closure of the pediatric intensive care unit, she had this to say:

I now have the expense of food, travel, long-distance phone calls, and no family and friends to help. I deal with that when I'm in Calgary, and it is costly, lonely, and makes a difficult situation even harder.

This family, Mr. Speaker, knows the value of the pediatric intensive care unit here in our capital city. And like all Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, they can't understand how the closure of this valuable unit is being considered, especially at a time, Mr. Speaker, when the economy is doing so well.

My question to the Premier: what does he have to say to Corry Dorosh about the decline of health care services under his watch?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, there has not been a decline of services since this government was elected in 2007. Wait times are shorter, long-term care beds are finally being built, 1,000 more nurses practising in the province. There are more doctors than there were under the NDP. So, Mr. Speaker, we know there is more work to do, but certainly there's been clear improvements.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the issue the member raises, whether or not the health region makes certain decisions about the pediatric services offered here in Regina, it won't be about the budget. It won't be about the economy. It will be about the best care for kids, Mr. Speaker.

What the minister has said and what the Leader of the Opposition ignores in his question, because it doesn't fit with the context, I guess, of his question, is that the health region's bringing in some experts to review the standard of care for kids in Regina from the Stollery Children's Hospital. It is the intention of the health region to make sure that that care is at an optimal level.

Mr. Speaker, we are building a children's hospital in this province. We're going to make sure that care for pediatric care in Saskatchewan is first class and a top priority. Mr. Speaker, that may mean some changes in the different health regions, but at the end of the day it will be about the best possible care for kids, better even than it is today, Mr. Speaker.

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

Technology Company and University

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I raised a leaked report from the management of IPAC [International Performance Assessment Centre for geologic storage of CO₂] to its board of directors in March 2011. The report is scathing. The report alleges waste. It alleges gouging. It alleges completely unethical behaviour by CVI [Climate Ventures Inc.], the private company that was built by that government with taxpayers' money.

The government has tried to suggest that the subsequent MNP investigation exonerates players from personal gain. MNP's report certainly doesn't do that. In fact it clearly states that despite requests, MNP was denied access to CVI's records. CVI, of course, was built by the Sask Party government.

Mr. Speaker, why did the minister and government that created CVI in the first place with taxpayers' money not ensure full access to its records with such scathing allegations of waste and wrongdoing?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, we've had this debate in the House for a period of time now. The member opposite well knows the responsibilities here and where they lie, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite makes the assertion that CVI, Mr. Speaker, is something to do with the government. This company, Mr. Speaker, does not.

The Government of Saskatchewan provided funding to the university, Mr. Speaker, to do research on how they would commercialize their carbon research, Mr. Speaker. Funding was provided to the university. They did a study in this regard and, Mr. Speaker, they now have that study.

Now another company, Mr. Speaker, a for-profit company, a company that's not related to commercializing technology — in fact it's an IT [information technology] company, Mr. Speaker — it has entered into these contracts the member speaks of. But in relation to the investment our government has made into the university, Mr. Speaker, these two things are not related. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the MNP report doesn't exonerate anyone from personal gain. Its investigation was hamstrung by lack of access to CVI, the company created by that government with an order in council and with taxpayers'

dollars, Mr. Speaker.

On page 18 of the MNP report, it highlights their attempt to access CVI's books. I quote: "MNP asked Mr. Jaffe if he would allow a review of his books and records to verify his assertion, and Mr. Jaffe refused." They had no access to CVI's books, Mr. Speaker. MNP was stonewalled by CVI, the very company alleged of wrongdoing, the very company created by that government in 2008 with taxpayers' money.

Mr. Speaker, why does that government suggest MNP's report exonerates wrongdoing and personal gain when they must know it does no such thing?

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

Hon. Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, the premise of the member's questions and in fact, Mr. Speaker, the premise of the member's entire argument for the last several months hinges on this CVI issue, Mr. Speaker. If the member is so interested and so convinced that this is a link, Mr. Speaker, I would ask him to reference the order in council that he speaks of. It's a public document. It's an agreement between the Government of Saskatchewan and the university for research into how they can commercialize their carbon capture research, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, that funding went to the university. They did the study. My understanding is the study was done in accordance with this agreement, and the study is now at the university. I do not believe that the university has acted to create a company, a non-profit to commercialize their research. I am aware that there's a private company that started to do IT work. These two things are not related, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the member to review the order in council, and he will have all the answers he will need. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, not a cent of ministerial responsibility or accountability is carried forward by that minister. That government's company, CVI, has stonewalled investigations and audits. That government has stonewalled the public on its IPAC affair and has hid the books of CVI, despite the scathing allegations of waste and wrongdoing. They've denied providing the auditor a full mandate. They failed to ensure access to the needed information. They've denied accountability.

Mr. Speaker, enough's enough. Will this government open its books, invite the auditor, and take its IPAC affair to the RCMP?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, as I said over a month ago now, if that member opposite has additional information that has not been reviewed, he by all means should take it to the appropriate authorities. He's made these allegations a number of times. Whatever he has, we welcome him to take it to the proper authorities.

The report he referenced yesterday was a report done by the CEO [chief executive officer] of IPAC who presented it to the board. The board then took action and that was to get MNP to do a forensic investigation into those allegations.

Mr. Speaker, MNP was unable to substantiate the allegations made by one individual. And they did however issue a report that there was overspending on a contract and the contract was sole-sourced, and that it was, there was a conflict of interest, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a quote from the MNP report is, "Dr. Wilson and Mr. Bailey did not disclose their conflict of interest to the University of Regina. However we have no evidence that Dr. Wilson or Mr. Bailey monetarily benefited from their relationship with CVI."

Mr. Speaker, once the report was concluded, the MNP report, the . . .

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

Future of Tree Nursery

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year's federal budget cut the funding for the province's important tree nursery and shelterbelt program at Indian Head. It's the wrong approach for our province and our country. The tree nursery is in its 111th year of operation. The shelterbelt program provides well-needed trees to producers and farmers who use the trees to preserve valuable topsoil from erosion and protect the land.

Public reaction to this announcement was strong. There was a petition of over 10,000 signatures and countless letters urging the federal government to reverse their decision. In response, I understand the federal Minister of Agriculture confirmed this year's funding but has yet to commit to keeping the tree nursery alive beyond 2013.

To the minister: what conversations has he had with his federal counterpart to save the tree nursery and the shelterbelt programs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. This is a federal initiative to get out of the business of operating the PFRA [Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration] tree nursery at Indian Head. I've met with the people, the group from Indian Head, an area that are attempting to save the PFRA tree nursery. And we had a very good meeting, Mr. Speaker, and they had several concerns with the way that the federal government was getting out of that business. And I related all of their concerns to the federal minister, Mr. Speaker, including their request for a delay and request to clarify the process for private entities to take over the PFRA tree nursery, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Preserving the tree nursery and shelterbelt program is about more than trees protecting the prairie. It's about good environmental

stewardship in our province.

On April 22nd, Earth Day, a coalition of prairie farm leaders announced an action plan to ensure that the tree nursery in Indian Head stays open. This newly formed group is developing a transitional business plan and are looking for provincial government support and involvement.

To the minister: what involvement in the new business model is the province considering as a way of saving the tree nursery and shelterbelt program?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On reviewing this situation with the people from Indian Head, it became apparent that there is a potential business plan for this entity for a private entity. And I think that, hopefully, that a private entity will come forward. And we've actually heard some interest from a major farm group that's willing to be either the entity or part of one. So you know, the province is not going to operate this facility that's being downloaded from the federal government, and we're hopeful that a private entity will take over.

[10:45]

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

Health Care for Seniors

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we've been hearing a lot in the legislature over the past week about seniors' care here in Saskatchewan.

We've been having cases here, Mr. Speaker, on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. There have been call-in shows on the radio as well, whether it's *Blue Sky* or a series that NewsTalk radio is running, Mr. Speaker. And these stories are alarming because they're indicating that the standard of care, the level of care that our seniors, our grandmas and grandpas or moms and dads are receiving in many places throughout the province simply isn't up to the standard that they deserve and not given the dignity that the elders in our province most certainly deserve.

My question to the Premier: what will it take for his government to take the issue of seniors' care seriously so every senior here in this province can live with dignity and have the healthiest life possible?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, we have taken the issue of seniors' care in this province seriously since the day that this government was formed, Mr. Speaker.

First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, we know that we have aging facilities all across this province, Mr. Speaker, neglect by the NDP in not replacing long-term care facilities. In fact worse than that, Mr. Speaker, they closed 16 of those over 16 years, closing 1,200 long-term care beds in their term of government, Mr. Speaker. So we worked hard to address those with 12

long-term care facilities being funded in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker. One of those is already opened — which they voted against those, each and every one, Mr. Speaker.

We have a new, innovative long-term care aging in place concept that has been piloted in Saskatoon, which those members opposed, Mr. Speaker. And we have provided considerable support, Mr. Speaker, to income support for seniors which, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite know full well they ignored for 16 years.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, here's what NewsTalk reported yesterday: "Saskatchewan's health minister admits he's hearing more complaints about long-term care homes but he isn't planning to look at mandating staffing levels."

Mr. Speaker, they're hearing complaints. They're hearing more complaints, but they're actually not listening to those complaints. Because if they were listening to those complaints, Mr. Speaker, they would be looking at the staffing situation that so often causes the heartbreaking situations that we see, Mr. Speaker. Without proper staff, Mr. Speaker, calls don't go answered as they should. Mr. Speaker, individuals don't receive the attention that they need, and people fall through the cracks.

My question to the Premier: why is he refusing to mandate a staffing ratio that ensures that our seniors receive the proper care that they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, is the Leader of the Opposition asking this government to go away from the assessment tools for long-term care staffing that they put in place in the mid-1990s, Mr. Speaker? Is that what the member opposite is asking us to do? We are . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . He won't say. Exactly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what we are doing is we are asking . . . What I've instructed through board Chairs is that the CEOs and the senior management spend the next 60 days on the floor of our long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, in every single one of them across this province to see exactly what is taking place, Mr. Speaker, because we know that there have been some concerns identified. But there are some very good news stories, Mr. Speaker, and we want to be able to replicate what is happening in those facilities all across the province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have invested significantly in long-term care in this province, Mr. Speaker. We have invested significantly in regions to be able to fund long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, knowing full well that more work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker. But I don't think this government needs any lessons from the NDP.

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

Mr. Broten: — From the report yesterday, Mr. Speaker:

Health Minister Dustin Duncan insists setting staffing standards is not something the government is currently considering. He says each health region gets a quarterly report on staffing from each care home and he doesn't see reason for alarm.

Mr. Speaker, no reason for alarm? Tell that to the family, Mr. Speaker, who sees their grandparent not having the dignity that they deserve in their last years and their final years, Mr. Speaker, in life and here in Saskatchewan, people who have built this province. Mr. Speaker, tell the family members that there's no cause for alarm when a call button goes off, Mr. Speaker, and there's not a staff person there to take care of the loved one.

Mr. Speaker, the right ratios need to be in place so that seniors in this province have the dignity they deserve, they have the quality of life they deserve. My question to the Premier: how can they say that there is no cause for alarm when we look at seniors' care here in the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, through the work that is going to be done by the CEOs and the senior management reporting back to me, Mr. Speaker, over the next 60 days, we will be looking at whether or not the assessment tool that was put in place by the members opposite is reflective today of the needs on our long-term care patients, Mr. Speaker.

But in terms of setting a staffing ratio, Mr. Speaker, every resident is unique. Their needs are unique, Mr. Speaker, and every facility is unique, Mr. Speaker. And that needs to be taken into account rather than setting across the board a standard for care, Mr. Speaker, a staffing level. Mr. Speaker, we need to take into account the level of service that is required within each and every long-term care facility, Mr. Speaker. And that's the work that is going to be undertaken by senior management within the health care system, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know how the members opposite can explain their record when it comes to long-term care, Mr. Speaker, when they closed 16 of those facilities, Mr. Speaker, when they closed 1,200 beds, Mr. Speaker, and when they left, Mr. Speaker, seniors in long-term care facilities that were well beyond replacement, Mr. Speaker.

We know we have more work to be done, Mr. Speaker, and we'll do that work.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services was just heckling about SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company]. We're talking about care for our seniors in this province, Mr. Speaker, and that is the level of seriousness we see from government members on this issue.

The minister can give bureaucratic answers about quarterly reports if he wants, but that does absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker, for the seniors and the families in this province.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I think that the seniors of the province would be interested in the answer, and in the question and in the answer. And unfortunately with the general rumble in the Assembly, their hearing aids may not be able to pick them up. So please, let the member give his question and let the minister answer.

I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, here's what else the report said.

The Health minister isn't considering a move towards mandated staffing levels. Instead he says he is encouraging health region CEOs to visit facilities and visit with patients more often to ensure they're receiving a proper level of care.

Mr. Speaker, CEOs can visit facilities if they want. But unless those CEOs are going to answer the call buttons, unless those CEOs are going to provide care to the seniors who need it, Mr. Speaker, there won't be much point. And it's going to be taking up time of staff who actually need to care for residents here in the province.

My question to the Premier: this issue, Mr. Speaker, requires leadership from the provincial level. They can't just slough it off to the health regions. When will this Premier see this is a concern and take real action for seniors here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I find it passing strange that the Leader of the NDP would question whether or not members on this side of the House take these matters seriously. When we sat in those benches and we would raise the cases of individuals in this province who weren't receiving the care we thought . . . what did the NDP call them, Mr. Speaker? What did the current Health critic call those people who came to the legislature? He called them patients of the day, Mr. Speaker, dismissively called them, oh it's another Sask Party patient of the day.

Mr. Speaker, when we took office, we took very seriously the plight of health care in this province. We took very seriously the fact that we were under-resourced in terms of the number of nurses. Now there's 1,000 more. We didn't have enough doctors, and we still don't, but there's 200 more than there were before. Mr. Speaker, we took very seriously the fact that when they were in office they closed 1,200 long-term care beds, 52 hospitals, and the Plains, Mr. Speaker, that we had the longest wait times in the country right here in the birthplace of medicare.

We took all that very seriously. And while we know there is more work to be done, we also know that for five years work has been under way to address all of those issues that were neglected by the NDP. And I think, Mr. Speaker, it lacks credibility now for the new Leader of the NDP to say, well, we've changed. Just trust us. Mr. Speaker, the measure is in the record. We'll stack ours up against theirs any day of the week.

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to move a motion, Mr.

Speaker, by leave of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Would the Premier please briefly explain his motion under rule 59.

MOTION UNDER RULE 59

Combatting Cyberbullying

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Justice ministers from across the country met to discuss some measures that could be taken by the federal government with the support of the provinces to help in the cause against cyberbullying. Mr. Speaker, it was informed in part by the case, the very, very tragic case of Rehtaeh Parsons in Atlantic Canada, and where the government there has certainly led this initiative, as well as the federal Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker.

I can tell you that shortly after that case was well known, that tragic case was well known to the country, our Attorney General wrote to his counterpart in Nova Scotia, offering whatever support we could from the province as they looked at various options to deal with cyberbullying. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think it's worth some support from this Assembly to the Justice ministers of Canada. That support can come in the form of a motion that would read — and I'd like to add a few comments after the motion, if leave is granted — but the motion reads as follows:

That this Assembly supports the effort . . .

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave, pursuant to Rule 59, for an emergency motion related to cyberbullying and the Nova Scotia situation. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The motion reads as follows:

That this Assembly supports the effort of the federal, provincial, and territorial Justice ministers to better . . .

The Speaker: — Mr. Premier, you do not want to read the motion now. You wish to explain the motion and read it at the end. Otherwise your debate will be ended for your part. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'll take your counsel. I was going to go over the motion, speak to it, and then repeat the motion, but I'll take your advice.

Mr. Speaker, as a parent . . . and I'm sure everybody in this Assembly, wherever they may sit, cannot even imagine, cannot fathom the decision that Leah Parsons and Glen Canning had to make with respect to the life of their daughter Rehtaeh.

On the 7th of April they made the decision to take her off of life support because on the 4th of April, Mr. Speaker, this 17-year-old had attempted suicide by hanging. Mr. Speaker, the

spectre of all of this is really, really hard to fathom, not just in terms of what the family has gone through, but that this young life has ended so tragically and so prematurely, and that Canada and Nova Scotia . . . and that Canada is deprived of whatever her great contributions might have been.

Mr. Speaker, we know well why she made this very dark decision to attempt suicide on 4 April. She made it because of cyberbullying. Mr. Speaker, the events are well known, but I think it's important that we canvass them. If we're trying to bring awareness to cyberbullying in this province and in this country, we need to go over what are very, very tragic and dark circumstances around what happened to Rehtaeh.

Mr. Speaker, when she was 15, her mother, Leah, alleges, states that four boys sexually assaulted her. Mr. Speaker, after a year of investigations, the RCMP with the tools currently available determined that there was not enough evidence to support the allegations to lay charges.

Mr. Speaker, we know that a photo was taken of the attack and was circulated around her Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia school. We know that she was said to have been mocked by her classmates. She endured relentless humiliation and harassment. There was a lot of name-calling about her on Facebook. There were text messages that involved that sort of name-calling as well.

Mr. Speaker, since the 7th of April, I think the country has been galvanized by this particular issue, asking the question, as we all do as parents, is there something that we could do better to prevent this from ever happening again, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we are going to have this debate and hopefully support the initiatives of the Justice ministers of the provinces, territories, and of Canada.

On the 9th of April, her mom on CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] News said:

She was never left alone. Her friends turned against her, people harassed her, boys she didn't know started texting her and Facebooking asking her to have sex with them since she had had it with their friends. It just never stopped.

Mr. Speaker, we know that on 22 April, Rehtaeh's parents, Leah and Glen, met with the Prime Minister for 45 minutes. Mr. Speaker, we know that Premier Dexter in Nova Scotia has been leading in this as well and helped facilitate the meeting and what has happened since.

[11:00]

Mr. Speaker, the federal Justice minister, together with the provincial and territorial Justice ministers, yesterday resolved that we should pursue every potential improvement to the Criminal Code that would stop the posting of these kinds of pictures and then therefore hopefully stop the attendant harassment and bullying. And bullying just doesn't seem like strong enough a word, but that's the one that is certainly used. But if we could, through Criminal Code changes, just make it that much more difficult, make it illegal, frankly, for the posting of these pictures without consent.

Mr. Speaker, would that this was only an individual case, one very tragic case, it would be one too many. The sad news though, Mr. Speaker, is we know and I know from, you know, reports that I can get from my own kids who are all teenagers that this is not isolated, that this kind of thing is happening today.

On the 12th of October, 2012, 15-year-old Amanda Todd committed suicide at her home at Port Coquitlam, British Columbia. Prior to her death, Todd had posted a video on YouTube in which she used a series of flash cards to tell of her experience of being blackmailed, bullied, and physically assaulted.

Mr. Speaker, when Amanda was just in grade 7 she made a mistake. She used a video chat to meet some new people over the Internet and she was convinced by a stranger to bare her breasts on camera, and then she was later blackmailed with threats that this photo would be exposed to her friends.

And if you can imagine this, Mr. Speaker, during a week in 2012, in early 2012, the police informed Amanda that the photo was circulating on the Internet. And so, as was the case with Rehtaeh, this photo became a touchstone, a lightning rod for the kind of harassment and bullying the likes of which we can only imagine, we can only possibly imagine as parents, and never mind Amanda and Rehtaeh who went through it.

And so again, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important for all of us as provincial legislators, as those who can affect things not just here in the province but in the country, to canvass all possible options to stop this from happening. At the very, very least, to hold those who are accountable for posting these pictures without consent in a way that they currently cannot be held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, my kids make fun of me because I creep on their Facebook, as they say. Although it's just a friendly discussion we have, it's also an understanding that we have. I as a parent, and like so many parents, we do want to know what's happening in those aspects of our kids' lives, given what is out there today.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would want us to consider supporting the motion and then transmitting the support to the federal Justice minister. I look forward to hearing from the Leader of the Opposition as well. And I think the Attorney General has a few remarks, and then we have a Legislative Secretary who's going to be focused on anti-bullying, and perhaps she will have a chance to enter the debate as well.

But I want to finish with this. Laws are important and public awareness is important, and we should be doing all of these things, Mr. Speaker. But there is individual responsibility here that we need to focus on as well. Each parent has a responsibility to know what's going on in social media with their kids. And as our kids are getting a little bit older, we can have an expectation of them as well for responsibility, especially if we would take the time to have this discussion.

Maybe if there were more kitchen tables around the province that talked about Amanda and Rehtaeh in very graphic terms and told that story, maybe even showed a bit of YouTube video

of funerals, of those funerals and had a discussion, we would know that their lives were not lost in vain. And we would also hopefully understand that our kids can be a great source of hope in all of this. They can help turn it around just as we, as parents, adults, mentors, coaches, teachers can help be a positive influence talking about these things.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful for the leave to discuss it, and grateful for the co-operation of the opposition when we asked if we could have this discussion just before we get into some other business on private members' day.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we will send a strong and clear message to the federal government that they need to look at all Criminal Code improvements that could put an end to this sort of thing, with the posting of these pictures, and also that we would resolve as individual legislators to provide a message to ourselves and to all that might be watching and others that we will talk to about this issue, that we can take some responsibility ourselves, and that we should and that we must, because, Mr. Speaker, Amanda and Rehtaeh's memory demand no less.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would move the following motion:

That this Assembly supports the efforts of the federal, provincial, and territorial Justice ministers to better protect children by combatting cyberbullying, including but not limited to changes to the Criminal Code of Canada that would make it a specific criminal offence to share images without consent.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly supports the efforts of the federal, provincial, and territorial Justice ministers to better protect children by combatting cyberbullying, including but not limited to changes to the Criminal Code of Canada that would make it a specific criminal offence to share intimate images without consent.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier has read the motion and has talked about it, Mr. Speaker, he reminds all of us that this is indeed a very important discussion that we need to be having here in Saskatchewan. And it's a discussion that's happening in many jurisdictions across the country, and it's appropriate to do so because it's such a reminder, Mr. Speaker, about how decisions that are made can affect young people in a way that have fatal consequences.

And, Mr. Speaker, to have this discussion today I think is appropriate. It's timely in the sense that we've seen examples where things have ended so tragically, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is appropriate. So I will be speaking in favour of the motion that the Premier just read. We know, Mr. Speaker, that since hearing about the tragic deaths of Amanda Todd and Rehtaeh Parsons that this issue has indeed captured the attention, and very appropriately so, of people across the country. Because anyone who knows a child, anyone who's been a child, anyone who has children understands how this affects people and how

this is in fact the most important thing that we need to do in protecting our youth here in the province and in the country.

Rehtaeh's father wrote an absolutely heartbreaking piece about his daughter, and I'd like to take a moment just to read a bit of that into the record.

My daughter was three years old when we went to watch *Babe: Pig in the City*. There's a part in the movie when Babe knocks over a goldfish bowl and the fish falls onto the floor and starts flopping around. When this happened Rae suddenly stood up on her chair in the movie theatre and started screaming for someone to help the fish. She cried for it as I tried to reassure her Babe would help (thank God he did) and that the fish would be alright.

That was the nature of my daughter Rehtaeh. She was like that her whole life. I couldn't go for a walk in Halifax . . . without her asking me for change to give to someone in need. She was always looking for people or animals that needed help. She called Animal Control Services on our neighbours because they left their dog outside too long. Her room and her life was always full of little creatures . . .

They say parents need to teach their children. Instead, it was Rehtaeh who was my teacher. My precious gift. She was the absolute best part of my life.

Mr. Speaker, it's impossible to read those words and not think of one's own children. It's impossible to read those words and not think of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, the little ones that we know so well and that we love so much. And so, Mr. Speaker, we need to do everything we can, here in the province and in the country, in order to protect young ones especially, Mr. Speaker, when they've been sexually exploited, bullied, or mistreated.

As a result of Rehtaeh taking her own life, Mr. Speaker, as well as the case of Amanda Todd, Mr. Speaker, people from across the country are wanting more, are expecting more, and we absolutely need to do more as legislators.

Amanda Todd was bullied and assaulted and, seeing no hope for the future, she committed suicide on December 10th. A video Amanda posted on YouTube prior to her death outlined her heartbreaking experience.

Because of the stories of Amanda and Rehtaeh and because of all the stories that haven't received as much attention, people across the country expect and want better for our children, Mr. Speaker. They expect laws to be in place that will hold people accountable who bully and victimize others for their own benefit. It's as a dad, Mr. Speaker, that I enter into this discussion and most certainly support it. The Assembly . . . In the motion, to highlight it again:

That this Assembly supports the efforts of the federal, provincial, and territorial Justice ministers to better protect children by combatting cyberbullying, including but not limited to changes to the Criminal Code of Canada that would make it a specific criminal offence to share intimate images without consent.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that there is a new reality in the world as it relates to social media as it relates to smart phones. Any of us who have regular contact with little ones and have lent a smart phone to them to look at photos or to use an app or anything like that, it's shocking, Mr. Speaker, how easily and how good small children can be at using smart phones, teaching others that are much older, Mr. Speaker, how to navigate them. And watching them use a smart phone, watch them use social media, it's intuitive. They're able just to use it, and it's a new reality.

When we think of bullying, when we think of the types of things that many of us would have seen during our school years, it is very different now. And because it is different, we need to respond in a different way. It's also necessary to respond, Mr. Speaker, because we think about the development of children and judgment and experience, I mean how many of us in this room have sent a tweet or have made a posting or something and then afterwards had a second thought, oh maybe I shouldn't have said that or maybe it should have been framed differently or maybe I shouldn't have used that word. It's so instant but it's so permanent — everything on the World Wide Web, everything that is electronic.

And if we have those challenges as people who are cognizant and very much aware of dealing with the public and what our image should be and how we should communicate with people, we can imagine the challenges that our children will be in as they go through these stages — as they have Facebook accounts as the Premier spoke about, as they have Twitter accounts, as they have a smart phone always in their pocket — able to make decisions which might seem like a good idea at a party, might seem like a good idea in whatever context, but then has horrible ramifications for many years and can spread in a way that we never could imagine just not too many years ago. So it's with that recognition, Mr. Speaker, that we recognize that as technology changes, so too must our legislation in order to keep up with those advancements.

I'm very pleased that the family of Rehtaeh Parsons and Premier Darrell Dexter of Nova Scotia have led this charge to make this matter a priority and to implement changes as soon as possible. And so it is good that this effort is happening in different jurisdictions by parties of all political stripes because this is at the core of why people seek office, of why we want to do what we do in whatever Legislative Assembly or parliament we may be in.

Nova Scotia's also, Mr. Speaker, being proactive in combatting cyberbullying. And I think it's important to have a discussion about, yes, this motion but also the other steps and the components that need to accompany such a motion. And perhaps the Legislative Secretary to the Justice minister will also elaborate on some of this. But I want to highlight some of the steps that Nova Scotia's taking because I think there are certainly lessons and applications that can apply to different jurisdictions.

This year's *Speak Up: An Action Plan To Address Bullying and Cyberbullying Behaviour* lays out a solid timeline for new and expanded actions to combat cyberbullying. It's a multi-year action plan that combines more than 40 actions involving police, schools, teachers, communities, health care providers,

families, and government. So it's comprehensive, Mr. Speaker, and it's going to the places where children are and where change needs to happen.

The plan also makes it clear that there's no simple solution to cyberbullying and that a number of initiatives will be required to deal with the devastating effects on a young person when they're found in this situation, but then most importantly to have a coordinated effort to deal with what has occurred so that people aren't acting in isolation, so that youth feel properly supported — not just feel properly supported, but are properly supported.

[11:15]

Some of the deliverables that Nova Scotia has focused on and has provided a timeline include training for school staff to help identify mental health problems in secondary schools; expanding Nova Scotia's strongest families program to ensure families have access to telephone coaching services that help children and families deal with behavioural or anxiety issues; providing after-school programming for youth for those who may be in a vulnerable situation; providing free access to sport and recreation facilities to encourage healthier children, healthier interpersonal relationships, and better activity choices; and also, Mr. Speaker, looking at curriculum, what is taught in the schools, especially as it relates to responsible digital behaviour.

I very much appreciated the words that the Premier said about the need and the role for parents to be hands-on and to be involved in the lives of their children as it relates to their online presence. That is important, but it's also very complicated. And even with the best intentioned and the most active hands-on parent, things can still happen, Mr. Speaker. And sadly there are also situations where parents may not be as engaged with and paying close attention to the activities of their children as they should be. And so there is a role through curriculum and through the schools to also have this discussion in that environment and provide better information to children.

Hiring an anti-bullying coordinator is another initiative, as well as amending Nova Scotia's *Education Act* to ensure all school staff have a duty to report known incidents of severely disruptive behaviour, as well as creating programming that focuses on diversity including sexual diversity, adapting all of Nova Scotia's Human Rights Commission programs and initiatives to recognize amendments to the Nova Scotia *Human Rights Act* on transgender issues, supporting the development of gay-straight alliances in schools, and increasing suicide risk identification. So that's a bit of a snapshot of the comprehensive approach that Nova Scotia is taking in response to situations that they have experienced and work that they are doing.

But we know that we need do so much more, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to bullying, when it comes to harassment, and when it comes to the protection of our children. And so for this reason, we support . . . for that reason tougher laws are part of the answer. And when there can be steps that modernize our legislation to reflect the current reality, that's a positive thing, and it's for that reason we support the motion today.

But we need to go beyond that. And I imagine there'll be comments about what will be beyond that. But there are immediate things we could do right away. We have had a discussion in the Assembly over the past few weeks about the presence of gay-straight alliances in schools. We've had a discussion about the role and steps that we can take because we know bullying does take many forms. There is the electronic component which we are discussing, but it can be tied into many different aspects.

And we know that GSAs [gay-straight alliance] are one very concrete, constructive way to provide assistance and support to youth in our schools. So we have called for information to be posted on the Ministry of Education's website about the benefits of gay-straight alliances, about how one could be set up, how allies or students or teachers would go about doing that, fitting within the current legislative context that we have in the province and what's occurring in Catholic and public school divisions.

So I think that is a concrete step that could happen. It could happen sooner than later because I think it is based on common sense. Some of the work is going on, but it could provide some immediate benefits and be another example of a tangible action that we could take as legislators to complement the motion that we are debating today recognizing that there needs to be, there must be a very comprehensive and overall strategy to address this concern.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, Rehtaeh Parsons's father had this to say. He said, "My daughter wasn't bullied to death, she was disappointed to death. Disappointed in people she thought she could trust, her school, and the police."

He went on to quote:

I don't want her life to be defined by a Google search about suicide or death or rape. I want it to be about the giving heart she had. Her smile. Her love of life and the beautiful way in which she lived it.

Mr. Speaker, for Rehtaeh Parsons, for Amanda Todd, for every child that's bullied, for our own children, Mr. Speaker, we need to do so much better. It's good that we're discussing this motion here today, but it can't end with this motion. There needs to be a lot more, and there are immediate steps that we can take. So I think, Mr. Speaker, the opportunity to speak to this motion, and thank all members for the opportunity to make some remarks.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in my place today to continue the important discussion on a matter of national importance. The death of 17-year-old Rehtaeh Parsons in Nova Scotia, after having intimate images of an assault distributed on the Internet, has focused the country's attention on the harm that such activity can cause. And so it should be that we should take what action we can as legislators to stop the kind of action that led to Rehtaeh to take this most desperate action.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, our first thoughts are with the family of Rehtaeh Parsons. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and with all the victims of cyberbullying and their families across this country.

Mr. Speaker, Rehtaeh is not alone. Last October in Regina, federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of Justice heard from the British Columbia Minister of Justice of the suicide of Amanda Todd who took her life as the result of the distribution of an intimate image on the Internet. Every day we read in here of other people who are caught up in this web.

We also heard from the Minister of Justice in Ontario and his call for action by the federal government for legislation dealing specifically with the issue of the non-consensual distribution of intimate images on the Internet. Some positive cross-jurisdictional work has already begun as a result of the meetings last October. This set the framework for the meeting yesterday and the foundation upon which we can build.

With all this in mind, Mr. Speaker, this week provincial ministers met with the federal Minister of Justice and the federal Minister of Public Safety to press our collective request for changes to the Criminal Code. That request was first championed by Nova Scotia Justice minister, Ross Landry, the Justice minister from Rehtaeh's home province. We extend to Minister Landry and the federal government our sincere thanks for the leadership that they are showing on this most important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to report that the province was represented at that meeting, and the federal ministers were unanimous in our desire to see the federal, provincial, and territorial working group on cyberbullying accelerate their deliberations. We asked the working group, which was established last October in Regina, to deliver their recommendations by June for consideration by Ministers Nicholson and Toews. By pressing for an early report, the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers are sending a signal to Canadians that we take the issue of cyberbullying very seriously.

This report will not only make recommendations with regard to cyberbullying generally, it will specifically address the issue of the distribution of intimate images without consent. It was acknowledged that within the Criminal Code there are sections of the code that have applicability. However as ministers we collectively feel that there are gaps and that with regard to the distribution of intimate images, whether taken consensually or not, a new section is required where the distribution is without consent.

And, Mr. Speaker, it should not be restricted to minors. Given the harm associated with the non-consensual distribution of intimate images and its nexus with the existing Criminal Code offences, we need to seriously consider whether a new criminal offence should be created to squarely capture it. This consideration must include associated actions. Saskatchewan would also make its case for a takedown provision in the code similar to those for child pornography, obscenity, and hate propaganda.

Mr. Speaker, there's no blinking at the fact of the horrific

consequences that flow from cyberbullying and the distribution of intimate images. As the Prime Minister has clearly said, we need to start calling this type of behaviour what it is. It is not bullying in the classic sense of that word. It is much more than that. We need to recognize that and deal with it with penalties that are commensurate with the potential consequences.

Mr. Speaker, the Internet and social networking have brought tremendous positive educational, economic, and social benefits to society. Today we have the collective knowledge of mankind in front of us and available by the push of a button or the touch of a mouse. We're able to keep in contact with friends and family wherever they are around the world.

But with all advances, these facilities have also created the opportunity for the infliction of real harm. While the justice system has responded to some of these challenges, in some ways it's always played behind the line. In terms of cyberbullying, it is agreed that there is work to be done. The time has come to create liability for the kinds of harmful conduct we are now considering. The time has come to deal specifically with cyberbullying in the Criminal Code, and specifically the non-consensual distribution of intimate images.

Typically, but not always, this destructive action is taken by a depicted person's former intimate partners. For our youth, it may begin with sending an intimate picture, perhaps quite innocently, via smart phone. This is commonly referred to as sexting. In the case of Rehtaeh, it was a distribution of a video depicting an alleged sexual assault. In most cases, the action is taken out of revenge or in order to humiliate or harass the victim, and in some, it is someone's idea of a joke. But whatever the reasons, the consequences can be horrific, as we have witnessed. Of course this action has a multiplier effect by virtue of the ongoing and uncontrolled distribution via the Internet.

Regardless of the motivations of the perpetrator or the mode of distribution, the impact is all too frequently devastating — public humiliation, destruction of reputation, loss of career aspirations, physical harm, thoughts of suicide, and suicide itself.

To quote Justice Harris from the Ontario court:

It seems to me that to argue that a woman who has had her most private and intimate personal images distributed electronically to every friend, relative, and church-attending associate has not necessarily suffered a grave and serious fear-inducing harm is to ignore the perspective of women. The non-consensual sharing of embarrassing pornographic images with a parent, grandparent, [or] close friends . . . must have constituted a profound interference with her physical integrity and a devastating blow to her reputation and self-esteem. As well, the effect of these actions was to deny this victim the right to exercise freedom of choice as to her privacy and sexual integrity.

The publication and wide distribution of these images constituted an action of such catastrophic significance that, in my view, impacted heavily on the life and health of the victim and would have had the same effect on any

woman who found herself in the same position. The inevitable conclusion in the mind of the recipient of this devastating psychological injury (and I emphasize the word injury) [Mr. Speaker] would be that the perpetrator would be someone capable of great harm and would reasonably be a person to be feared.

Mr. Speaker, victims of such abuse suffer a harm that is inconceivable to most of us. It is therefore understandable when such harm is inflicted, self-esteem can be so badly affected that some see only one way out. Some say that further acts of desperation, as was seen in Nova Scotia, are inevitable. That, Mr. Speaker, is all the more reason why we need to act as quickly as possible with all the tools that we have available with the hope of preventing further tragedy.

As I have said, Mr. Speaker, this is a national issue which requires a national response. But this call is only one piece of the puzzle. Public awareness aimed at prevention is also very important. We need to continue to work with our community partners and to educate our youth.

We need to work with our government colleagues as well, and in that regard, we are looking forward to the results of the work that the Legislative Secretary that was appointed by the Premier is undertaking. I have great confidence in her work, and her work will certainly inform this discussion. We look forward to sharing her work with our federal, provincial, and territorial colleagues.

Cyberbullying and the distribution of intimate images without consent are issues that require an immediate response from all levels of government. For a national strategy to make the biggest impact, we must have an active partner and encourage our provincial counterparts to do the same.

Due to unfortunate circumstance, Nova Scotia has taken the lead, but our government is taking up this cause and will stand as a strong ally and partner. The work has already begun, and we must ensure that it continues with the same determination I saw in the provincial, territorial, and federal meetings yesterday.

And so I call on all members of the legislature to stand with the federal, provincial, and territorial ministers of Justice and unanimously pass the motion before you. The collective voice of this legislature will send a strong message, not only to our legislative colleagues across Canada, but it will be a clarion voice to the people of Saskatchewan that we will no longer tolerate these kinds of assaults on our citizens and particularly our youth. We do this with our full and undivided resolve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[11:30]

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, this is an important issue for all of us in Saskatchewan, in Canada, and I think worldwide because the issue of how we treat each other in some of the most intimate situations that we're in becomes very much a place where huge damage can be registered. The comments by the Minister of Justice out of the meeting yesterday reinforces my

perspective as well, as a former minister of Justice, that when you can get the people of Canada in all of their legislative places to work together on a particular issue, we can move very quickly to address some of the gaps that are there.

So I wanted to get up today to make sure I spoke in support of this work but also to tell a little bit about how this affects me personally, how this affects us in this province. About eight years ago, my daughter Ingrid, who's an actor, portrayed a young high school student who was lured into exposing herself on a camera, on a webcam, on the Internet by an adult pornographer.

And this half-hour show, which anybody could watch on renegadepress.com, was one of the most difficult things that I personally ever had to watch because I could see my daughter . . . I knew what was going to happen, but I couldn't stop what was there. But what ended up happening is that she was caught in this web as a young person, very similar to the unfortunate story of Amanda Todd in British Columbia.

We in Saskatchewan had and have this incredible resource of a show like renegadepress.com that was created by Vérité Films, Virginia Thompson and Rob de Lint, that tackles a whole number of these very serious issues that our young people get into. And I think that when we look at making changes to the Criminal Code, which I support, we also need to look at all the other places where we can work with our children, our families, our teachers, to make sure that the whole of our community also has the sanction that may show up — or will show up, I think would be a better way to put it — in the Criminal Code.

One of the most difficult things for the Criminal Code to deal with is the relationships that are closest, and how you try to repair those or restore them or deal with them. We know that in the family violence cases. We know it in the cases of sexual abuse in schools or in residential school situations. And we know how much damage that's caused for generations, but also how much it costs our community.

And the Criminal Code has a blunt force kind of instrument to deal with those things, but it doesn't necessarily always have the ability to try to restore the community, to rebuild the community. And I think what I see and what I hear is a resolve from the Prime Minister to the premiers, to the ministers of Justice, to all of us as legislators across the country to take some steps that we can take in legislatures or in parliament around fixing the laws. But I also see, when I look at the plan that comes from Nova Scotia which they call their *Speak Up: An Action Plan To Address Bullying and Cyberbullying Behaviour*, an attempt to take those next steps and look at the whole community and all of the different places where changes need to be made.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's a big part where we as legislators — not ministers of Justice, but as legislators — can work in our communities to make sure that we support those groups which work in these situations. And it's everything from the transition houses, from the family service bureaus, from our civil servants working in Social Services, in Justice, and in the school system to make sure that they have the tools but also the support from us as leaders in the province of Saskatchewan.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we can take some of these broader, symbolic national law changes in the Criminal Code, but they need to be supported with examples like the 40 action points that are in the Nova Scotia *Speak Up* document. And when we as legislators can also support all of the people in the community that deal with these things, we will then also allow for the conversation that we know needs to take place to deal with some of these specific problems.

The story of Amanda Todd and Rehtaeh Parsons are both just awful. I mean they just rip at you. But they also are a sign that when something goes too far, that all of us will come together to try to make things better. And my plea is that we can do that, using what we're going to start today on a national level. But let's also go back and look at the kinds of things that we can do in the school system, the things that we can do around supporting those people who have been damaged in some other situations like the residential school situation, like sexual abuse situations, and all of those kinds of things because they're all related to this same kind of destruction of our fundamental relationships with those people who are closest to us.

The sad fact is that the bullying and the cyberbullying issue does affect those people who are your close community. It happens in the school, in the classroom. It happens unfortunately sometimes even in families. And it happens in the other communities that you may be involved with, whether it's a sports team, whether it's some other group that you're involved with.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I'm very much in favour of working and making sure that we do the things we need to do on the national level as it relates to the Criminal Code and continue to work at that. But we also need to look right across government, right across our communities to make sure that we support activities that educate and make sure that people understand the devastating effect that bullying and cyberbullying can have in our community. Thank you.

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

Ms. Campeau: — Appreciate the opportunity to speak to this motion. I just want to . . . I guess, you know, the story of Rehtaeh Parsons and Amanda Todd have already been relayed and are on record. And I wanted to talk a little bit about bullying and also in support of the motion and just, you know, kind of reiterate that our government is committed to ensuring that every student feels safe and respected when they attend our schools. And just that bullying is a community issue. It affects not only the person being bullied but it affects their families, their peers, and the greater community. And it is up to us as a community to contribute ideas to the future proposed action plan that will result from the consultations and the research and that we need to have a system in place that addresses cyberbullying to protect our children.

And you know, we talked a little bit about Nova Scotia earlier, but they're introducing a new cybersafety Act and it will create the country's first cyberinvestigative unit and, you know, the cyberscan investigative unit is going to be within the Justice department. And the legislation will also allow victims and their families to seek a court protection order similar to an order

that can be sought by the cyberinvestigative unit, and it can ban a person from contacting the victim, talking about them online, or using any means of electronic communication. Courts could also order computers, smart phones, or tablets to be confiscated. And this is quite imperative, Mr. Speaker. And victims will also be able to file legal action against cyberbullies and, if the cyberbully is a minor, their parents could be liable for damages.

So what we're doing at the ministry and it is my role as the Legislative Secretary, while currently in Saskatchewan, health and safety issues of children and youth are addressed through what they call a comprehensive school-community health approach, and this approach engages schools, families, and community partners to improve student achievement and well-being and caring and respectful schools, provides the conceptual framework for strengthening schools and communities as caring, respectful, and safe learning environments where all children and youth have the right to an education free from all forms of bullying and violence.

So what I will be doing is I'm going to be, within the next few months, travelling around the province and hosting public consultations and meetings with interest groups and individuals to discuss anti-bullying initiatives and strategies and gathering cross-jurisdictional information that will aid the development of an anti-bullying strategy.

In March a draft was put forth by the Ministry of Education. And it was an interjurisdictional review, and it was looking at the provincial actions and approaches of creating safe and secure schools. So you know, work has already been done by the ministry for over a year now so I'm just kind of stepping into this role where the ministry has already laid a firm foundation, and we could just build on that.

So what we'll be doing is providing recommendations to the Minister of Education that will assist in the development of an anti-bullying strategy for the Government of Saskatchewan. And we're also going to be enhancing the website, and I think that's going to be up either today or the next few days where, you know, information on caring and respectful schools and anti-bullying information will be there as well for youth and educators as well as families. And we will be adding quite a few new tabs. And also, you know, somewhere where children can go and they can get the information and, you know, if they don't feel comfortable talking to anybody within their school, where they can get information and numbers to call if they need to speak to somebody. Or just kind of reviewing the processes they can go through and what's in place already to protect them.

So you know, this motion going forward that we support the FPT [federal-provincial-territorial] Justice ministers to better protect children, you know, it's first and foremost, and it's a very important part of our government initiatives. And most of us in this Assembly are parents and grandparents, and we see what our kids are going through, you know. And this generation is very different from our generations where, you know, if we were bullied and we got home . . . And those of us who didn't have computers yet when we were younger, you know, we had a safe haven to go to. But these kids, they don't have that.

Once they get on their phones or, you know, they get home and

they go on Facebook or into chat rooms or go in to chat, you know, it continues. So these kids aren't able to turn off like we were able to in the past. So as a result, you know, it's escalated. I can't even imagine or try and put myself in the place of a child that's being bullied or what they're going through. And being the mother of a teenage girl and, you know, the dynamics of a clique in school, and how important that is and how, you know, that's first and foremost in their world and if they're outside of any clique and they're the target of bullying by multiple people, you know, I couldn't even imagine what they go through or what they feel.

Mr. Speaker, I've spoken to a few people and — well actually quite a few people — and heard their stories about . . . You know, I've spoken to parents and I've spoken to a couple of, you know, a few students. And they've relayed their stories and what their families go through. There was one mother I talked to where she pulled her daughter out of school, put her in another school. But that was the only school that, you know, was in their town when they all went to high school; you know, there was a couple of elementary schools. But you know, she was still facing her bully when she started high school, so now they're talking about moving towns.

So you know, when we think of bullying, it's not just about somebody being picked on in the playground. It affects the greater community as well as families, and it also affects the well-being of these children. And you know, one family talked about how their son, you know, he was very well-adjusted until he started being bullied in school. So as a result, their son has, you know, dealt with depression and difficulties at home now and they don't know what to do about it.

So I think it, my work and the work of the ministry, is quite important and integral to these kids and their families and our greater community, and especially very timely in what's happening now. And these two cases have just highlighted issues that have been under the surface and that have gone on. And there are many other young people who have, you know, resorted to suicide. And I just want to kind of reiterate that there are other families out there who are dealing with this and dealing with a child that they have to bury, which I wouldn't even be able to imagine. I don't even want to think about it. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion.

[11:45]

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly, moved by the Premier, is:

That this Assembly supports the efforts of the federal, provincial, and territorial Justice ministers to better protect children by combatting cyberbullying, including but not limited to changes to the Criminal Code of Canada that would make it a specific criminal offence to share intimate images without consent.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask that the motion be deemed passed *nemine contradicente*.

The Speaker: — This motion is carried *nemine contradicente*. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for leave to move a motion regarding transmittal.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for a leave to move a motion regarding transmittal. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit verbatim transcripts of the motion regarding cyberbullying to the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal opposition leaders, the federal Minister of Justice, and Justice ministers from all the provinces and territories across Canada.

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

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit verbatim transcripts of the motion regarding cyberbullying to the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal opposition leaders, the federal Minister of Justice, and Justice ministers from all the provinces and territories across Canada.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. Monday.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:48.]

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Hon. Bill Boyd

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Minister Responsible for The Global
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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