



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

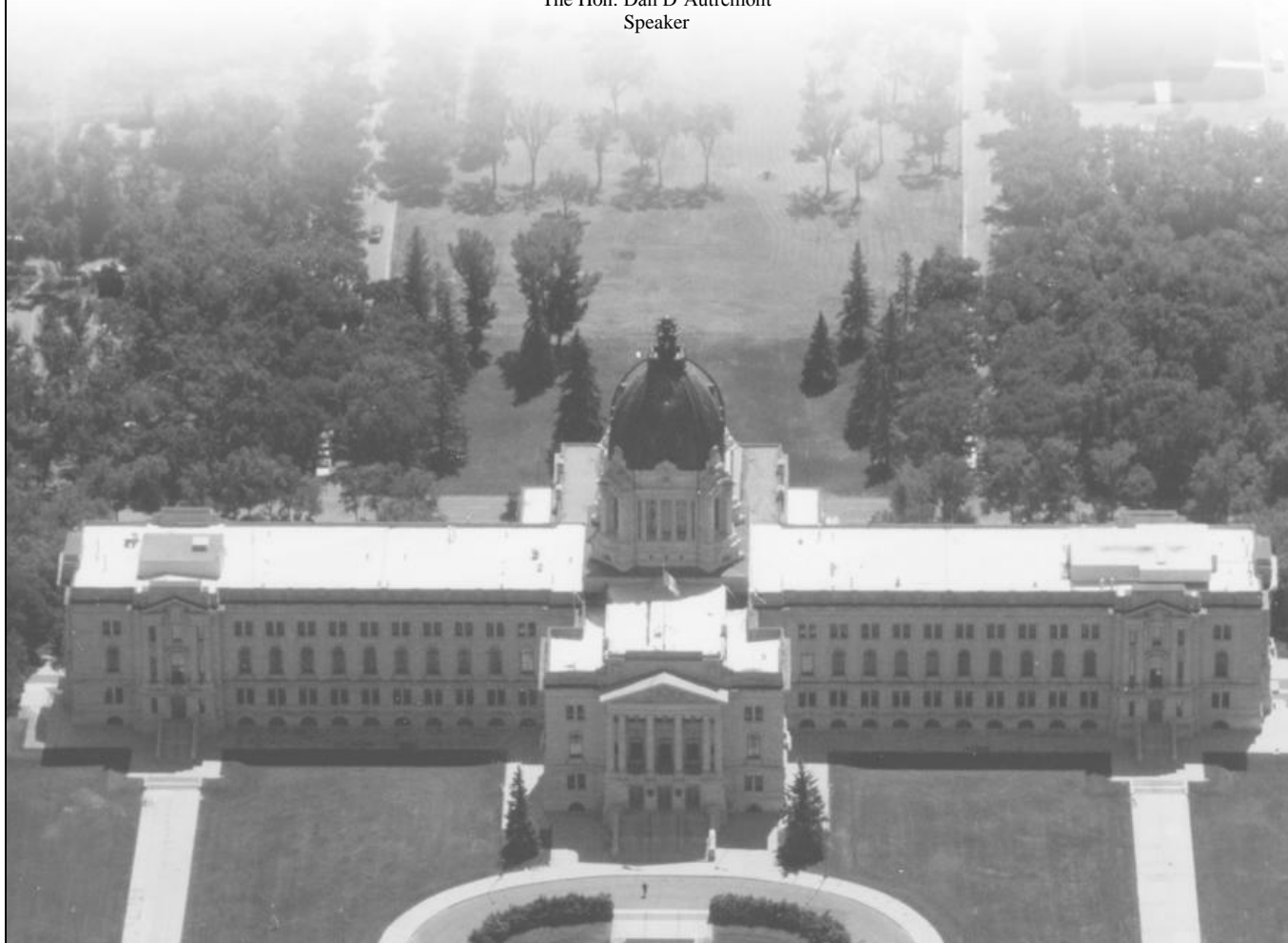
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The 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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
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 13:30.]

[Prayers]

**The Speaker:** — I'd like to remind our guests at this time that they are not to participate in events on the floor, and that includes applause. Nor are they to take photographs from the galleries.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**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 wish to introduce a group of 36 grade 10 kids from Yorkton Regional High School. With them is their teacher, Mr. Perry Ostapowich. And as well with them is another one of their teachers, Mr. Grant Bjornerud, who will be I think more formally introduced later. Who isn't in attendance with them today but I have to call out a little bit is their bus driver, Mr. Pat Rawlick who is a good friend of mine, but he's outside looking after the bus.

With this group a few shout-outs I agreed to do. Tanner Mak, he's a friend of my nephew's and plays hockey with him. Tanner, give us a wave. We also have Nathan Bewcyk. He's a friend of mine. We go to church together, and we see each other around town quite a bit. His family is just a very great family that we know very well from Yorkton.

Also with them is Abbey Schmalz — Abbey, Kirsten MacDonald, and Silken Slater. There's a few I probably missed that I didn't recognize, but I tried to call out the ones that I knew. So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to welcome these citizens to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a group of northern students in the west gallery that have joined us today. We had a chance at lunchtime to meet with them and with the Speaker and the member from Athabasca to greet them. And I just want to let them know that this is your Legislative Assembly and we're pleased you could come. They're from all northern Saskatchewan.

Also the chaperones, teachers, thank you for encouraging them to come here to see how the proceedings work. And truly this is your Legislative Assembly. We are honoured you're here. I hope you learn lots while you're here with our visit. And ask a lot of questions. Enjoy yourself, and don't be afraid of this Legislative Assembly. You own it. It belongs to you. You are the people we serve.

I ask all members to please join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite in extending a warm introduction and a warm welcome to all these students from our northern communities. We have students from Cumberland House. We have students from Stanley Mission, Buffalo Narrows, Montreal Lake, La Ronge, Pinehouse, and I think some additional communities.

Mr. Speaker, these students are part of the youth mentorship program. They're in our capital and their capital over the course of a few days. They're learning about how their government operates. They're learning about our shared history. They're exploring post-secondary educational opportunities and skilled training opportunities, and they're also learning about possible careers within our public service.

And so, in joining the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these students on this great adventure here, in their capital city.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm also very proud to stand up along with the other of my colleagues and introduce the northern students. And I want to say a few words in Cree, which is my native language. And of course many of the students also speak Cree and Dene from northern Saskatchewan.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

And very quickly, Mr. Speaker, I just told them that I'm very happy they're here today, and that they needn't be afraid of anything; that this is their Assembly, this is their great hall of democracy.

And I want to say a special thanks to all the chaperones that are joining them, and especially Corinne Favel. Corinne Favel lived in Ile-a-la-Crosse for a while. A wonderful lady, very strong, spiritual leader in Ile-a-La-Crosse and now in Cumberland House. About the only fault that Corinne has, Mr. Speaker, is she's married to a guy named Butch Favel, and he's a Boston Bruins fan. That's the only problem that she's had in her life. But Butch, being a wonderful guy, needs to make one little change in his life and that's to stop cheering for Boston, and start cheering for Montreal Canadiens. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'm proud and humbled to introduce three people in your gallery representing Street Culture project and, in particular, Street Culture Studios. They're producing music videos and videos.

With us today is Kyle Wood, a.k.a. [also known as] Young Choice. He's a former gang member who came through the Regina Connected Youth program. He's now a full-time employee with Street Culture Kidz and has been gang free for two years. Also with us is Brandon Holts, a.k.a. Lil Baz. He's a

former gang member and client of the Regina Anti-Gang Services program. Baz has been gang free for two years. Also with us is Mike Gerrand. He's the director of programming at Street Culture project, executive producer at Street Culture Studios. He's directed operations for Regina Anti-Gang Services for four years and has been with Street Culture, helping youth in need of service, for two years. Josh Steeves, a.k.a. Kno Tiz — sad he couldn't be here. He's actually working with Westridge Construction today.

Mr. Speaker, these young people are truly, truly inspiring and they need to be congratulated on their positive choices that they've made. And I'd like all members in joining me with this deserving recognition. I'll be talking a little later on a member's statement but again if we could all welcome these three to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Regina Coronation Park in welcoming these three individuals from Street Culture project to their Legislative Assembly. Kyle and Brad, keep up that good work, and keep on turning those challenges that you've had into opportunities for teaching and showing that good way forward for others that have been caught up in gangs.

And I want to say a special word to Mike Gerrand. Now of course Mike comes from a family with a name that is familiar to many in this place. His grandfather served admirably as our Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and certainly a notable person in public life. But it's no mistake, Mr. Speaker, and no surprise that Mike is carrying on that public service and that giving back to the broader community forward because he comes from a family with a great name for it and a great record in terms of serving people right around this province.

It's really good to see these individuals here today in their Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker, so I'd again join with the member opposite in welcoming Mike, Brad, and Kyle to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to introduce third-year English honours students from the University of Saskatchewan sitting in the Speaker's gallery today, and I'll ask them to wave when I read their names. The first one is Ms. Victoria Cowan who has been awarded the prestigious 3M National Student Fellowship, which involves a payment to her of \$5,000, which she indicates she will be able to do with as she wishes but probably use it for student loans. With her today as well is one of her colleagues, Wenona Partridge, who worked Ms. Cowan through the 3M application process.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Cowan is the first U of S [University of Saskatchewan] recipient to receive this award, which is given to undergraduates in Canada for demonstrating leadership in education. One of my colleagues will have a little bit more to say about that in a member statement shortly.

When I met with Ms. Cowan before, in spite of the rapid growth in Saskatoon, we learned that we were both from the same neighbourhood and in fact had lived on the same street. She, being somewhat younger than I, remembered coming to my house for Halloween and was very pleased to remind me that we were not among the families that gave away toothpaste instead of candy.

So I'd like to ask all members to welcome them to the Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a privilege and pleasure to introduce 24 grade 6 students from St. Brieux, Saskatchewan. Would you give us a wave, gang? There's our group from St. Brieux. They are accompanied by Michelle Daubenfeld, their teacher; and Kimberly Martin, Andrea Schaab, Eva Marie Kernaleguen, Audrey Piatt, Tyra Thomas, Cyril Ruiz, and Kurt Hoehn.

Mr. Speaker, this group are smiling loudly because in Batoche, when they come to visit here, they get treated with Dilly Bars so they're smiling from Dilly Bars. So welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleague from Yorkton in welcoming the students from the Yorkton Regional. I also want to acknowledge first Perry Ostapowich. And I think many other members in this Assembly will remember over the years, Perry used to be a teacher in Melville, in the high school in Melville, and was faithful about bringing his class in to see how the legislative process works. And on behalf of all my colleagues, we want to thank him for that. He's carried on that tradition in Yorkton.

I also want to make mention too and special mention, Mr. Speaker, because we don't often get the opportunity to acknowledge members of our family, my son Grant is also a teacher at the Regional and joins Mr. Ostapowich with the class today. So I would ask all members to welcome them here today, and our two teachers and my son Grant.

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

**Mr. Hutchinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Hutchinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, colleagues. It's my great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members my good friend Ken Jones who is seated in the west gallery today with his wonderful wife, Deb.

Give us a wave, you guys, so we can see where you are. Thank you.

Joining them today are Ken's dad and step-mom, Walter and Pearl, who have come all the way from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. And I believe cousin Bob is here from Edmonton as well.

Now Ken has lived right here in Regina for a very long time, Mr. Speaker, almost since our community was called Pile of Bones, I think. No one knows exactly how old Ken is, but here's a clue: he's just retired after a very, very successful and distinguished 40-year career in Saskatchewan's public service.

For four decades, he served the people of Saskatchewan extremely well as an engineering technologist. He started out with the ministry of engineering and mines working on mine projects. Later on he transferred to the Highways ministry to work on roads and bridges, including most recently Regina's brand new west bypass.

He began his career drafting plans with pencils and tracing paper, and finished by creating electronic drawings on state of the art computers. After 40 years, Ken can truly say he's seen it all.

When not at the office, Ken didn't spend a lot of time at home, which I'm told is one of the reasons Deb has such a sunny disposition. Instead, Ken devoted endless happy hours to another of his great passions, photography. Without doubt, Ken has generously volunteered more time providing professional quality records of important community events than the rest of us put together.

To Ken, please accept the congratulations and sincere thanks of a grateful province for a career of exemplary service. And to Deb, many thanks for sharing Ken with all of us so graciously over these years. And to both of you, best wishes from all of us for a long and thoroughly enjoyable retirement. You deserve it. Thanks so much for coming today, and welcome to your legislature.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Ken and Deb and family to their Legislative Assembly. I should, not to give too much private information out about the Joneses, but they come from Cathedral Village, Mr. Speaker. And in terms of the wonderful community that that is, of course it takes a lot of people to make that, make communities great, and Ken and Deb are certainly prized members in Cathedral, Deb doing a lot of work with the Cathedral Village Association and all the wonderful things that happen there. And as the member opposite has pointed out, in Ken's case oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, you don't see him without a camera between him and you. And certainly, you know, be it the Buffalo Days parade or the arts festival or folk festival or, you know, Outdoor Hockey League — it's a family that's contributed mightily to that — this is a couple of people that have contributed mightily to the great things that happen here in the city of Regina and in Cathedral Village.

As well, Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Ken for 40 years with the Department of Highways or Ministry of Highways. He's seen a lot of changes. I'm sure that wasn't the only one, Mr. Speaker. But thank you very much for that service to the people of Saskatchewan, and it's really good to see Ken and Deb Jones here today at their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you, my father, Ron Steinley who is here from Swift Current. Just give a wave, Dad. He's up in your Speaker's gallery, Mr. Speaker. And he's a farmer from Rush Lake and he lives in Swift Current now. And he had the opportunity to meet his MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], and they had a great conversation earlier this morning. And he says maybe the member from Thunder Creek might still be his favourite MLA, but I think now I have to take that mantle away from the member for Thunder Creek. So sorry about that. He lives in Swift Current now, and he's retired and he's enjoying life there.

And I get to introduce another very important person in my life. My wife, Larissa Steinley, is up there. And she's about six months . . . six days away from having our first . . . six days away from having our first son. And I'm a little nervous, Mr. Speaker, and I hope you guys understand why. But we're excited to have our first-born here in the next couple of days, and thank you guys very much for coming. And you guys have a huge impact on my life, and thank you for everything you do for us. Take care.

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'm pleased to introduce three individuals that are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Joining us today, this afternoon, are Mr. Dave Nelson, Dr. Fern Stockdale Winder, and Ms. Anita Hopfauf. Mr. Speaker, as the executive director of the Saskatchewan division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, obviously members will know Mr. Nelson's tireless advocacy on behalf mental health services and those that are struggling with mental health in our province, Mr. Speaker. So we're pleased that Dave could be here this afternoon.

Dr. Stockdale Winder is a practising clinical psychologist. She's also Vice-Chair of the Canadian Mental Health Commission of Canada, Mr. Speaker. I believe she's just finishing two three-year terms on the commission. And we certainly appreciate her being here as well. And Ms. Hopfauf is the executive director of the Schizophrenia Association of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I will be making a ministerial statement at the close of question period, and we had the opportunity to take part in an announcement earlier this morning. And I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming them to their

Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Health in welcoming the representatives who work with mental issues, not just in Saskatchewan but in Canada and I know worldwide through their connections.

We very much appreciate the work that they do here in Saskatchewan and we especially want to honour them during this week. But I think the important thing is that we remind ourselves that mental health issues don't go away. They're here all year round and we need to be very vigilant when we develop our policies in this place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave for an extended introduction, please.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to a group of groundbreaking Saskatchewan entrepreneurs sitting in your gallery today.

Mr. Darrin Craig of Dyna Industrial has designed and developed a roof bolting technology that improves the overall safety and efficiency of roof bolting processes widely used in our mines.

Next Mr. Nick Meiring of Saskatoon Colostrum Company Ltd. is representing the nominee, Dr. Debbie Haines who was unable to be here today. The company has developed and standardized methods that produce a high quality colostrum replacement powder to supplement or replace maternal colostrum that is ingested by calves in their early first critical hours of life.

Next Mr. Greg Sutton and Ms. Marnee Brick of TinyEYE Therapy Services have successfully created and commercialized a world-class telehealth application that enables speech language pathologists to treat patients in rural and remote schools.

Mr. Speaker, these four individuals were recently nominated for the Manning Innovation Awards, one of the most coveted prizes in innovation in Canada. Later today they'll be attending a reception which they have been honoured with this great achievement.

Nominations for decades-old awards such as this don't just go to anybody, Mr. Speaker. These individuals are purveyors of great ideas and proof that Saskatchewan-made concepts are reaching beyond our borders, making an extraordinary impact on this province and indeed the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is safe to say that our fertile land grows some of the best crops the nation has to offer, but when it comes to hard-working and determined citizens of the province, nobody grows entrepreneurs and ingenuity like we do here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of the legislature, I'd like to congratulate Nick, Darrin, Greg, and Marnee on their nominations, and a significant milestone in their careers.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to join with the minister opposite and welcome these award winners here today, or these nominees here today. And certainly it does reflect that strong spirit of innovation that we have as a province. And it's certainly proud for us as a province to showcase these individuals and their contributions. As well these industries that they're involved with span a diverse array of sectors when you're thinking of construction and the resource sector, when you're looking at agriculture and ensuring high-quality, healthy cattle, or when you're looking at education and health as it relates to speech pathology.

So it's my honour to join with the minister opposite and welcome Mr. Darrin Craig, the representative on behalf of Dr. Debbie Haines, Mr. Greg Sutton, and Marnee Brick to their Legislative Assembly to thank them for their innovation and for making us proud as a province. Thank you.

## 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 relation to cellphone service for the northwest part of Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are primarily from Canoe Narrows, but the people that have signed the petition in support of expanding cellphone coverage have come from all throughout Saskatchewan. And I so present.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition calling for better care for the seniors here in Saskatchewan.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

take the following action: to cause the provincial government to immediately undertake meaningful steps to improve the quality of seniors' care in our province, including creating more spaces and more choices for seniors; ensuring higher standards of care in public facilities, private facilities, and for home care; ensuring appropriate staffing levels in senior care facilities; and providing more support to help seniors remain independent in their own homes for as long as they desire.

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of over 50 citizens of this province who are concerned about the fact that northern Saskatchewan's being targeted by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to become a storage site for millions of used irradiated nuclear fuel bundles. These radioactive nuclear bundles would be shipped on provincial highways. Some provinces have already banned the storage or transport of used nuclear bundles. And I'd like to read the prayer. It reads:

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the individuals who have signed these petitions come from the city of Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and the town of Patuanak. I so present.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on Highway 123. This highway provides the only access to the communities of Cumberland House and Cumberland House Cree Nation. This highway was recently voted by Saskatchewan residents as the Canadian Automobile Association's worst road in the province. This highway needs major upgrades and repairs. Mr. Speaker, the people are very concerned for their safety. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize that the upgrades and repairs and maintenance on Highway 123 is important to northern residents and must be undertaken immediately.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Mental Health Week

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, at least one in three Canadians experiences challenges with their mental health each year. May

6th to 12th marks the Canadian Mental Health Association's 62nd annual Mental Health Week.

This is an important time to raise awareness about mental health issues in the community and work together to reduce the stigma that many individuals struggle with in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, creating a community that supports mental illness takes a commitment from both individuals and governments. In our communities we can be listening to our co-workers, families, and loved ones and letting them know that we value their role in our lives. We can work together to build inclusive community organizations and faith groups which can create feelings of connection and purpose.

There is also a role for government in creating supports for healthy communities. An issue that faces many individuals with mental illness is a lack of affordable and appropriate housing. Stable housing allows an individual to create networks of support including medical professionals and community links that enable an individual to stabilize and build a healthier life.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage each of us to take advantage of the many events taking place during Mental Health Week to learn more about how we can support and improve mental health services in our communities.

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

#### 3M National Student Fellowship Recipient

**Mr. Tochor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Victoria Cowan who is here today in your gallery. As mentioned earlier by the Minister of Advanced Education, Victoria is the first U of S student to receive the 3M National Student Fellowship. Ms. Cowan has been a leader on and off campus through her volunteerism as a peer mentor with the university learning centre and a teacher intern with Inspired Minds. Mr. Speaker, the nomination process involved preparing a narrative that outlined Ms. Cowan's vision of leadership in higher education, along with evidence from other students and faculty.

Mr. Speaker, to have her leadership excellence recognized with a national award is an exciting achievement for Ms. Cowan and the U of S. As part of the student fellowship, Ms. Cowan will receive a \$5,000 award and will have the opportunity to discuss her vision for teaching and learning at a major conference in higher education in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

In addition to this recognition, Ms. Cowan has also received the Vera Pezer Award for Student Enhancement sponsored by the University Of Saskatchewan Students' Union. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating Ms. Cowan on this great achievement.

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

#### National Nursing Week

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Always

good to be recognized. May 6th to 12th is National Nursing Week. This is a week to recognize the role that licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and nurse practitioners play in our health care system and in our communities. I should also mention registered psychiatric nurses as well, Mr. Speaker.

Nurses provide a diversity of services in our communities. The work they do ranges from acute care nurses working in our hospitals, to nurses in community clinics across the province, to nurse educators providing vital health education programs in our communities. I'm incredibly grateful for the care that nurses provide patients and family members in the health care system. Many of us have stories of nurses and other health care providers taking time to provide that extra bit of care.

Mr. Speaker, last month prior to the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses annual general meeting, former SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] president Rosalee Longmoore was here in the House with family and colleagues. Rosalee is a strong advocate for the people of Saskatchewan and celebrated 15 years of service to SUN this year. And I just want to say again, Mr. Speaker, we are indebted to her for all her work on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

And we in the official opposition would like to welcome Tracy Zambory to her new role as Saskatchewan Union of Nurses president. We look forward to working with her in the future to address the many challenges that are facing the health care system and in the communities where we live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this House join with me in thanking nurses and other health care professionals for their care, compassion, and commitment to the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[14:00]

### Street Culture Studios

**Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud and honoured to rise in the House today to talk about Street Culture Studios and recognize the recent accomplishments of Street Culture members that join us here today.

As many of you know, Street Culture Project uses many engagement tools in its arsenal to foster relationships with at risk youth. With the help of Mike Gerrand and the recently constructed Street Culture Studios, music and video production has become a prominent tool in this initiative. All the artists who have performed or recorded tracks at the new studio were previously involved in the justice system or entrenched in gang life here in Regina.

The most notable track produced by Street Culture Studios to date is called "Warrior" and has also been made into a music video. Kyle and Brandon as well as Josh, who couldn't join us today, are featured in this song about being a true warrior for First Nations people.

The video was made with a partnership between North Central

Community Association and Street Culture Project through a grant from Heritage Canada. Mr. Speaker, Street Culture helps young people to make positive choices through mentoring and to help them acquire the skills to become productive members of society and, most importantly, taxpayers.

I ask all members to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of these Street Culture members, congratulate them on the successful creation of their music videos. I also invite my colleagues to take the time to check out Street Culture's "Warrior" video on YouTube. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Saskatoon Open Door Society and WeConnect Job Fair

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I had the pleasure of bringing greetings at the WeConnect job fair held at Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon hosted by the Saskatoon Open Door Society. The goal of this event was bringing together newcomer job seekers and employers under one roof with the theme being Breaking Barriers, Building a Future.

The Saskatoon Open Door Society helps immigrants to overcome barriers in finding work and contributing to our province's economy. They provide employment services to newcomers such as programming and employment readiness training. The WeConnect job fair is unique that it focuses on connecting refugees and immigrants with Saskatchewan employers. Out of the 47 companies and organizations present at the job fair, 37 had immediate jobs available.

It was truly a community event reflecting Saskatoon's diversity and a great example of how businesses, supported by government, welcomes newcomers to this great province. Many organizations contributed their time and resources to make this event a success including Nutana Collegiate, Tim Hortons, and Hub City Display, who donated all the booth equipment. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Beulah Gana, Bill Schwarz, and the entire team of the Saskatoon Open Door Society for pulling this event together.

Our government is working hard to help newcomers in this province achieve a better quality of life by supporting organizations like the Saskatoon Open Door Society and events such as WeConnect job fair. Congratulations to all employers and potential employees who attended the fair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Student Receives Doctoral Research Award

**Mr. Norris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the House today to congratulate Cassandra Opikokew. She is a Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] candidate at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy here at the University of Regina. I'd also like to extend the congratulations to her supervisor, Dr. Greg Marchildon as well as the school's executive director, Dr. Michael Atkinson.



Cassandra has just been awarded a doctoral research award by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research worth \$108,000 over three years to further her work in indigenous health and education policy. In addition to her studies, Cassandra is the associate director of the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre and leads the knowledge translation, policy development, and strategic initiatives for this centre.

Having grown up in Meadow Lake, Cassandra is a member of the Canoe Lake First Nation. She plans to use her research to develop an indigenous policy-making model that puts a greater emphasis on Aboriginal epistemology. Using an indigenous research methodology, Cassandra will examine Canadian policy-making processes in fields of First Nations health and education and will conduct a comparative analysis with other select countries.

Mr. Speaker, I'll ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Cassandra on this prestigious award for her research on such a vital issue, especially when it comes to the future of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Privately Operated Liquor Store

**Mr. Hickie:** — Well, well, well, Mr. Speaker. There was an interesting column in today's paper pointing out that Pat Atkinson as a member of the Saskatoon Co-op is now the part owner of one of the first private liquor stores in Saskatchewan. But the irony doesn't stop there. You know who else has a share in the new Saskatoon Co-op liquor store — the Leader of the NDP [New Democratic Party]. That's right, the NDP leader is also a member of the Saskatoon Co-op, and that means he is now the part owner of one of Saskatchewan's first private liquor stores. So is the NDP Labour critic and the new CEO [chief executive officer] of the NDP party, Frank Quennell.

Now we know why the NDP has been so quiet on this issue. They know the Saskatoon Co-op is a great organization and will do a fantastic job of running the new private liquor store in Saskatoon. But at the same time, the NDP leader is chained to his party's outdated ideology, which is completely opposed to any private liquor stores.

It's quite a dilemma for the NDP leader, Mr. Speaker. Does he embrace the future or does he cling to the past? I think the Leader of the Opposition should tell us where he stands on his new private liquor store. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Regulation of Hearing Aid Industry

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2001 and 2006 the previous NDP government took some good steps to regulate the hearing aid industry here in the province. But since that time, Mr. Speaker, we've heard from other people, more people that we need even stronger regulations, especially around the education requirements for individuals selling hearing aids.

Over two years ago, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government acknowledged that by producing draft regulations for *The Hearing Aid Sales and Services Act*. I've corresponded with the minister on several occasions, and back with the previous minister of Health, Mr. Speaker, in speaking to the motivation for these changes, he said in a letter, "... ensuring that safe and quality hearing services are delivered and that vulnerable seniors who are the major consumers of hearing aids are protected." The minister also said, "The desire is to complete the regulatory changes in a timely manner."

Despite that desire for a timely manner and to protect vulnerable citizens, Mr. Speaker, two years later we still do not have the draft regulations in place. My question to the Premier: Why has the Sask Party government been slow walking these regulations for well over two years?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I was able to indicate in estimates just a week ago or so, Mr. Speaker, we have been engaged in consultation with all stakeholders that have an interest in this issue, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, that consultation period did take some time, Mr. Speaker. The first part of that consultation, when it was complete, it was pretty clear that between the various stakeholders that do practise in this industry, Mr. Speaker, that there was a wide gap in terms of what they wanted to see when it came to regulations. That took us to late 2011 into 2012, Mr. Speaker. We've taken the bulk of the previous, this most recent year, Mr. Speaker, to try to bridge some of that gap in between the various stakeholders. And as I mentioned in estimates, I look forward to having regulations in place early this summer.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ron Schick is board certified in hearing instrument sciences and was involved in the hearing aid industry for 14 years. He recently left the industry about five years ago because of his frustration of seeing many individuals in the province who aren't receiving the type of care because of the lack of proper regulations.

Mr. Speaker, he saw individuals not receiving the right type of care, people who should have been referred to a doctor with situations like a severe middle ear infection, mini-strokes, and even a situation of a brain tumour. He saw consumers, Mr. Speaker, who were sold two hearing aids when they only needed one because one of their ears would never actually work. He's become a passionate advocate for better regulations in order to ensure that the most vulnerable seniors, Mr. Speaker, here in this province receive the protection that they deserve.

Good steps were taken in 2001 and 2006, Mr. Speaker, but we need even stronger regulations in order to ensure protection for Saskatchewan people. My question to the Premier: does he agree with the concerns that Ron Schick has identified with the hearing sales industry here in the province and, if so, will those concerns be reflected in the regulations that are coming forward?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, good steps were taken in 2001, 2006, Mr. Speaker, and better steps are going to be taken in 2013. The commitment that I've made to the stakeholders, Mr. Speaker, as well as to the Leader of the Opposition, is that regulations would be forthcoming early this summer, Mr. Speaker. We wanted to make sure that we were doing our full due diligence when it came to putting in place regulations that will have, potentially have an effect on individuals that are already involved in the industry, Mr. Speaker.

But we do share the same concerns that the Leader of the Opposition has raised in the premise of his question. We want to make sure that, Mr. Speaker, that customers of those individuals that need these types of services, Mr. Speaker, can be assured that they are receiving these services by individuals that are fully trained and fully qualified, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we're bringing forward the regulations.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we look at other professions and other people working in the province, we see levels of education that are there to protect individuals and ensure the right level of care is there. Care aids require one year of school. Registered massage therapists require two. Dental hygienists require two years of schooling. Optometrist technicians require two years of school to dispense glasses and contacts. But right now anyone, Mr. Speaker, can come in off the street and sell hearing aids in the province.

Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia have a college requirement. And I think it's a common sense approach, Mr. Speaker, that we would have regulations similar to those provinces in order to ensure our standards are as high as they need to be here in the province.

So my question to the Premier: with the new regulations that will be coming down, as the minister indicates in the summer, will they contain a college requirement as we see in other jurisdictions?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, we are, and I'm certainly well aware of the requirements that are required in other provinces in terms of the minimum two-year standard, Mr. Speaker, on education. Mr. Speaker, we want to see that put in place in the province.

Mr. Speaker, we do know that there are concerns with those individuals that have previously been in this industry, Mr. Speaker, and how do we properly take into account their business experience, Mr. Speaker, and their experience in dealing with clients and customers. Mr. Speaker, that's the balance that we're trying to strike. And I think when the regulations are enacted later this summer, Mr. Speaker, I think people will see that we have struck the proper balance.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the new regulations coming forward, it's important to recognize this can be a benefit to seniors, to vulnerable people in the province. But

it's also important, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the situation that businesses have been put in by the Sask Party government taking so long to bring these regulations in place.

By not knowing exactly what the Sask Party government is going to do, by slow walking this for so long, it's put many businesses in a situation of limbo, not knowing the reality that they will have to face in order for training and to do the planning in order to have the successful businesses that they want and need to have.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party proclaimed May as Speech and Hearing Awareness Month. We know that this is a concern in the province. It's a priority and it's a growing concern. If you look at the previous minister of Health's letter when talking about the motivation for these changes, he said the consumer and senior groups who were consulted voiced support for the proposed changes.

Mr. Speaker, we know what the right thing is to do to protect the vulnerable people here in the province, seniors who are needing hearing aid devices. My question to the Premier: the regulations that come forward, will they ensure that seniors have the level of protection that they deserve and need when needing hearing aid devices?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, we will, as I said, be bringing forward regulations this summer that I think will strike a good balance that will look to protect those seniors and other individuals that require the assistance of hearing specialists or others that are involved in this industry, Mr. Speaker.

I find it a little bit ironic though, Mr. Speaker, at times the Leader of the Opposition is telling the government to slow down when it comes to consultation. In this case, apparently we're not making our decision quickly enough, Mr. Speaker.

But we know that we need to strike the right balance when we put in place the regulations. And I think the Leader of the Opposition will agree, when he sees the regulations later this summer, that the government has indeed achieved that.

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

### Lobbyist Registry Legislation

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, it's now been 517 days, more than 1 year, 5 months since the Sask Party government announced with great fanfare that they wanted a lobbyist registry for the province. A standing committee studied the issue. It received public feedback, and the committee issued a report with 23 recommendations last May. Since then, Mr. Speaker, that report has sat on the shelf.

Apparently in early March, the Sask Party quietly released a short consultation paper which was at one point hosted on the Justice website. But as of 1:20 today, it's gone. That's far from transparent, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if they took the Premier's proposed lobbyist

registry seriously, the government would have improved on the recommendations and brought forward legislation, rather than waiting another year to re-consult. Why has the Sask Party government let a year go by without implementing a lobbyist registry, the same registry the committee recommended last May?

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Well indeed, Mr. Speaker, we did receive the tabled copy of the report. We did have some further consultations that we wanted to conduct on this particular matter, Mr. Speaker. I've spoken to the member from Saskatoon Nutana about this, that there were some concerns expressed with respect to the report.

We felt that it was important that we get some further consultation from a number of parties. We've issued a consultation paper, Mr. Speaker. Those consultations will continue. We will be introducing legislation this fall.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, what the Sask Party government has done is went back to some of the same individuals who have already presented to the committee for their opinions yet again.

Guy Giorno, the Prime Minister's former chief of staff, repeated on April 30th the issues he already pointed out to the committee members last year. Mr. Giorno has real concerns with where the Sask Party government has headed on the lobbyist registry. He says the registry should be thorough and require the government to register non-profits in their lobbying efforts. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Giorno used federal statistics to illustrate that half of all lobbyists are non-profit lobbyists.

The Sask Party's recommendation would exclude potentially half of the lobbying happening here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, that's hardly transparent. Why would the Sask Party government recommend a lobbyist registry which only covers half of the lobbying going on today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to second-guess any of the ongoing discussions and consultations that are going to happen with respect to this piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, we want to get this legislation right. And we think that having some further consultation with a number of individuals and a number of groups who have expressed some concern about the draft report was very important.

I might point out, Mr. Speaker, that one of those groups was SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association]. SUMA and SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], Mr. Speaker, deliver certain programming for

the province, and we thought that it was important that we have further consultations with them. Seems to me to be redundant to have them deal with and work within a lobbyist piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, when they're actually delivering programs for the government.

So we need to think about those kinds of things, and that's precisely what we're going to do through this consultation.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Giorno is concerned that the government's recommendations and its consultation document have no real teeth of enforcement. Mr. Speaker, last year the committee recommended a system of penalties for lobbyists who do not comply. Mr. Giorno states clearly, "The consultation paper makes no reference to offences, prosecution fines, or administrative monetary penalties. In fact, the paper does not mention enforcement at all. This omission is troubling."

And he goes on to say, "When ordinary Saskatchewanians break a law, they are subject to penalties. The notion that lobbyists can break a law and face no penalties is offensive to the principle of equality before the law."

Why is the Sask Party proposing a lobbyist registry with no intention of enforcing it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite seems to be implying that we're going to ignore everything that came forward in the report, and that's simply not the case. We wanted to have some further consultations on some matters with a number of groups. We think that's important. Having further consultations to make sure that we get the legislation right, we think is very, very important. But to assume that we're going to simply ignore the report that was tabled in this legislature is just not correct, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, as we know, the consultation paper that the government recently released made a number of recommendations, but not one of them referred to enforcement. And that's concerning, not only to the opposition but to Mr. Giorno.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has sat on its hands for a year without putting in place the very promise they made 17 months ago. As Mr. Giorno and others have pointed out, the wide-scale exemptions and the absence of enforcement present the people with a watered down approach to lobbying.

Mr. Giorno said, "Lobbying, the right to petition government, is a fundamental democratic right." He goes on to say that good legislation will "... ensure that the right is exercised in a transparent and ethical manner."

Why, Mr. Speaker, is the Sask Party government delaying this legislation? And when they finally do introduce it, will they ensure that the legislation protects the public good?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Mr. Speaker, transparency and lobbying legislation is very important. I find it quite incredible though, Mr. Speaker, for that member to ask those questions, especially given the fact that throughout the course of this legislation we get complaints from the other side about the fact that we don't consult enough. And so when we do consult on a piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker — because we want to ensure that we have some further consultation from those parties that we think are important — that they complain about it, Mr. Speaker. So you know, I find the question to be quite incredible.

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

### Testing Standards and Support for Education

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Parents and teachers continue to be concerned about the Sask Party government's plan to spend millions of dollars on standardized testing. In the committee last week, the minister's officials revealed a new fact when they said 400,000 of those dollars are going to be used for communications. Mr. Speaker, taxpayers are now on the hook for another \$400,000 for spin and PR [public relations] to help the Sask Party justify why it's introducing wide-ranging standardized testing in Saskatchewan schools.

To the minister: why would the government need \$400,000 for spin and PR for standardized testing?

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

**Hon. Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the member opposite for the question. You know, the student achievement initiative that the province of Saskatchewan is undertaking is a comprehensive program, Mr. Speaker. It spans the spectrum from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. It's just not an assessment program, Mr. Speaker. It involves the student engagement, measuring student engagement, Mr. Speaker. It involves early years assessment, Mr. Speaker. It involves identifying those vulnerable children where we can put the proper supports, Mr. Speaker. And all of that requires some information, Mr. Speaker. So the money spent on communication, Mr. Speaker, is a good investment to the program.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, people have real question about \$400,000 when there's so many things that need to be done in our schools. Mr. Speaker, the minister revealed another new fact last night in the committee when he admitted the Sask Party government will be releasing the results of the new standardized tests.

Mr. Speaker, the concern to many people I've been hearing from is they worry that the test results will be used to pit school

against school and to publicly shame students who haven't performed as well as others for a variety of reasons. The minister has been silent, silent about the concern over publishing the results of standardized tests, even though he knows schools will have to be putting out the results in the public. The minister said the ministry will not rank the schools, but he knows very well third parties are interested in just doing that.

Mr. Speaker, does the Sask Party government understand the potential consequences in publishing the results of standardized testing?

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

**Hon. Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the member opposite. Again, Mr. Speaker, I need to assure everyone in this Chamber and the people of Saskatchewan, this program is not about ranking schools. It's not about ranking teachers, and it's not about allocating funding to resources.

Mr. Speaker, this program is a comprehensive, holistic program that will identify the resources and supports that teachers, parents will utilize to be able to support student achievement going forward, Mr. Speaker.

We will continue to move in the direction that will allow us to provide and gather data that will inform that instruction and validate curriculum, Mr. Speaker. It's an important initiative, and we intend to be able to provide results at the individual level so that parents are going to be able to make the decisions that they need to support their children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. But he knows third parties will be out there ranking schools, and he should be doing something about that.

But we know now, Mr. Speaker, that the minister says, and he has said that he intends to spend \$12 million by 2016 to administer these standardized tests. Despite repeated requests from me and many of those who are concerned, the minister has yet been able to provide a credible vision to support this plan.

We in the public have heard from education professors, teachers, parents, education specialists, and families who recognize that standardized testing is an outdated concept that doesn't meet and doesn't benefit students here in our province. The minister's officials also revealed that they've already spent \$950,000 on this scheme last year, and the testing hasn't even started yet. The tally of taxpayers' dollars keep adding up and there's no good explanation of that benefit.

So, Mr. Speaker, to the minister: does he believe that this \$12 million will be well spent?

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

**Hon. Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the opposition critic said this about school divisions and their standards-based testing and approaches to

student achievement, the exact things that we'll be doing at the provincial level, and let me quote, Mr. Speaker:

... this is something that's very important, that we want our students to achieve. And it's great they're making that commitment to do that with the additional resources to make sure that happens and there is a balance between testing and teaching.

Mr. Speaker, and that's exactly what we're doing. Mr. Speaker, the past president of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, Steve Allen, said last May that our new approach to provincial assessment was going to measure students' success by looking at "... how we have grown, where we are doing well, and where we need to do more work," Mr. Speaker. Again, support.

During this time ... and if I may quote from Liam Choo-Foo, director of education with Chinook School Division:

During this time [Mr. Speaker] there was anxiety over this initial change, which was expected. But now I can categorically state that this initiative has been the greatest transformational change in teaching practice that I have witnessed.

Mr. Speaker, that's the kind of support that we need to have going forward for our children, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I do appreciate being quoted because, you know, as a teacher from the Saskatoon Public School Board, we do believe in assessment — not this standardized, wide-based kind of testing. I'd be curious for the minister to quote the current president of the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation]. What does he say about this?

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

**Hon. Mr. Marchuk:** — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our support for education going forward is unquestioned, Mr. Speaker. We've increased operating funding to schools by twenty-three and a half per cent, Mr. Speaker. That goes to supports in the classroom, Mr. Speaker. Over 65 per cent of our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] schools are repaired, Mr. Speaker — \$600 million in the last six years, Mr. Speaker, 263.6 per cent increase over the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to invest in our students. We will continue to invest in our classrooms. We will continue to support our teachers as we go forward, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear what the current president of the STF has to say, now that we know what the real plan of this government is.

But we know last week the minister's officials admitted that Saskatchewan taxpayers will be paying an annual software licensing fee for the standardized testing scheme. The annual

licence for data collection software will be \$900,000, each and every year. Mr. Speaker, this shows this government is more interested in paying for testing, administration, the software rather than teaching and building stronger classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, we've raised many concerns about the K to 12 education here in this Assembly, from packed classrooms to crumbling gymnasiums to the need for better supports for English as an additional language. And the pressures facing students, teachers, and the schools are simply overwhelming.

Mr. Speaker, why does the Sask Party have millions for software for standardized testing instead of supporting the real needs of today's students?

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

**Hon. Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, investment in infrastructure is key to the student achievement agenda, just like investment in infrastructure is key to providing the kind of environments that our children need to grow and learn in, Mr. Speaker.

And our government is very solid on its record. We've increased capital spending in the 2013-14 budget, Mr. Speaker, by \$7.2 million for a total of \$119 million, Mr. Speaker. In the Sask Party's six years, Mr. Speaker, we've invested \$600 million in capital; in their last six years, Mr. Speaker, \$165 million. Mr. Speaker, we've increased spending on new schools and major school renovations by 228 per cent, Mr. Speaker, over the NDP. Mr. Speaker, our record, \$450 million over six years; the NDP, \$137 million, Mr. Speaker. That's our record, and we'll stick with it.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, we know the running tally for this experiment is \$7 million a year, and it hasn't begun yet. But we know in Manitoba in 1999 the government spent over \$10 million for standardized testing for four grades. And that happened just for one year over a decade ago.

To the minister: why does the Sask Party government have \$12 million for standardized testing when there's so many pressures on our classrooms today?

[14:30]

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

**Hon. Mr. Marchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, again our support for pre-K to 12 education in our province is pretty solid, Mr. Speaker. We have the second highest paid teachers in Western Canada, Mr. Speaker. Our record, over 65 per cent of all K to 12 schools are repaired. Again, Mr. Speaker — 155 pre-K [pre-kindergarten] programs under the NDP, Mr. Speaker; 301 under our government.

And, Mr. Speaker, we know that the key to success moving forward is to provide for our early learners as they proceed through the education spectrum. Mr. Speaker, 264 per cent increase in K to 12 capital over the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. In the first year and a half of the Sask Party

government we invested \$272 million, and it took them eight years to get close to that investment, Mr. Speaker. We stand by our record.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

#### Development of a Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week we joined stakeholders and advocates from across Canada in formally recognizing the 62nd annual National Mental Health Week. This important week runs from May 6th to May 12th.

Earlier today, Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of formally announcing a further step forward in how we address mental health services in Saskatchewan. In the company of the Minister of Corrections and Policing at the Canadian Mental Health Association brunch, I announced our government will be developing a provincial inter-ministerial mental health and addictions action plan. Building on the care and services already in place, this inter-ministerial action plan will provide us with recommendations to better serve some of the most vulnerable people in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, good mental health plays a key role in every person's well-being. Improving the mental health of our population is everyone's business. We need to reduce stigma and to get people talking about the issues. Because mental health and addictions issues are often complex and connected, these issues often require the support of various agencies, organizations, and ministries. We are working with other sectors including the Ministries of Health, Social Services, Education, Corrections and Policing, and Justice to move this important work forward. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for their support, in particular members of the Child and Family Agenda for their leadership on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, this government recognizes the importance of providing appropriate and timely access for mental health services. The plan will cover a broad range of mental health and addictions issues including depression, anxiety, suicide, as well as schizophrenia. It will look at prevention, building self-esteem, and resiliency. It will also examine access coordination and how to best meet the mental health needs of the people of Saskatchewan. Some problems can be prevented or perhaps impacts minimized if recognized early with the appropriate supports in place.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, government will announce the appointment of a commissioner who will be leading this important work. Planning is under way to begin a consultation phase, and the action plan and accompanying recommendations are set to be complete by the fall of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, mental health issues affect as many as one in five Canadians in a given year. Sometimes the wait times to access services is much too long, and far too many people suffer alone. Mr. Speaker, this is a transformative and innovative approach to how we think and deal with mental health in the province of

Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to this particular proposal by the minister. Any time that we in this legislature and in the government can look at mental health and addictions issues, I think that's important activity. I know that the person who will be selected as commissioner will work with various government departments. I think it's very important that whoever that is, that they will work and look at the long history of dealing with mental health and addictions issues in this province because there are many things that we have learned over the decades around how to deal with these particular issues. Now there's new ones that are coming here.

One suggestion I would make, in looking at the proposal put forward by the minister, is that there is a clear gap as it relates to issues like housing, jobs, and the economy. And I think it would be appropriate to bring in people from Advanced Education, Economy, even the recreation, culture side, and especially on the housing issues because those are those wraparound things that make a big difference as we deal with mental health issues.

But I am encouraged by this particular effort and I know that all the people of Saskatchewan will want to contribute to this next round of looking at mental health and addictions issues. So thank you.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Chair for the Economy Committee.

#### Standing Committee on the Economy

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on the bill and that the bill be now read a third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister for the Economy has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed.

#### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 83 — *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act***

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for the Economy that Bill No. 83, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Chair of the Economy Committee.

**Standing Committee on the Economy**

**Ms. Chartier:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 81, *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act* with amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on the bill and that this bill and its amendments be now read a third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister for the Economy has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 81, *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act* and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed.

**FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS**

**Bill No. 81 — *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act***

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for the Economy that the amendments be now read the first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — First and second reading of the amendments.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

**THIRD READINGS**

**Bill No. 81 — *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act***

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for the Economy that Bill No. 81, *The Global Transportation Hub Authority Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the chairman for the Human Services Committee.

**Standing Committee on Human Services**

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its third report. I move:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Human Services now be concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Chair of the Human Services Committee:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 430 through 433.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 430 to 433. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish to order the answers to questions 434 through 555.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has ordered questions 434 through 555. 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:** — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:41.]





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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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**President of the Executive Council**  
**Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Hon. Bill Boyd**

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Minister Responsible for The Global  
Transportation Hub Authority  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Power Corporation

**Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff**

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

**Hon. Kevin Doherty**

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Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**

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Minister of Crown Investments  
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Government Insurance  
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