



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

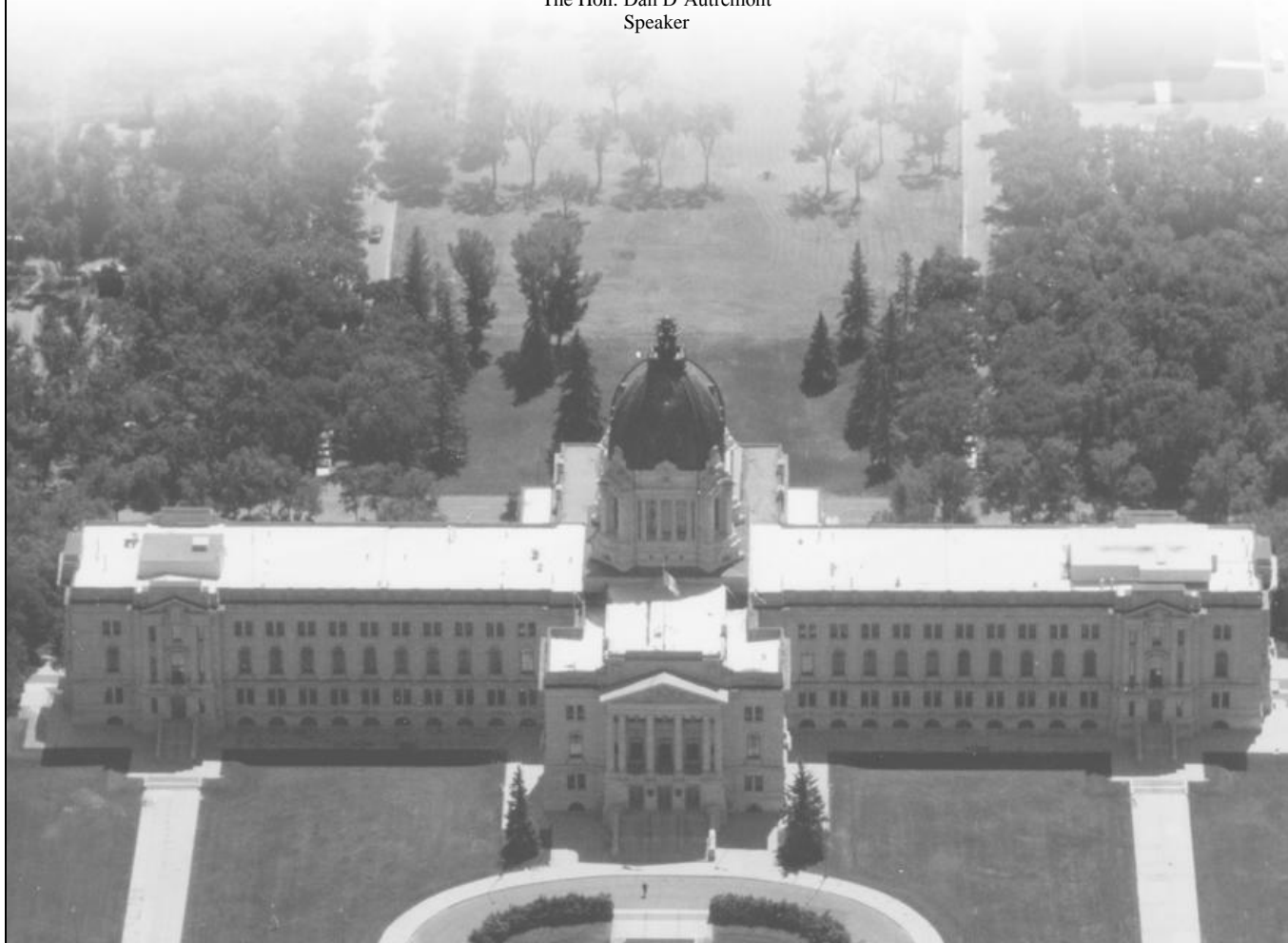
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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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 |
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| 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 |
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| 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]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour and privilege to introduce 31 students from Cardinal Léger School. Give us a wave up there, everybody.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first school that's come from Saskatoon Sutherland since being elected in 2011 and I believe it's the first school from 2007, so I'm very excited that they were able to make the trip down this morning.

We have, accompanied by their teacher Heather Jelinski, we have chaperones Francis Maza, Shaun Pawluk, Mark Fenton, and a very special chaperone who is well known to this House of Ms. Trish Cheveldayoff, which I'm sure the member from Silver Springs will be introducing in a second.

So please welcome, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the House, it gives me great pleasure . . . Oh I'm getting all choked up here . . . great pleasure to introduce two of my favourite people in this whole world. There are others, but these two happen to be here today: my sister Michelle and my daughter, my youngest daughter, Ophelia. I know many of you would have seen Ophelia over the first couple of years I was elected. She was a regular fixture here. She probably is the only child who had a pass to the Legislative Assembly. And I normally wouldn't need, I normally wouldn't need a paper to introduce my own child, but there were a couple of things she wanted me to put on the record, so just about her.

Ophelia is a little girl who has a very eclectic music taste. She loves everything from Peter, Paul and Mary, Pete Seeger — good socialist, good social democrat — all the way up to Carly Rae Jepsen. And her new favourite song, Mr. Speaker, actually is a duo with Chris Hadfield and Ed Robertson. She got to sing on Monday with Chris Hadfield and Ed Robertson from her school. So she loves to sing and dance. She's a gymnast. Her favourite thing happens to be the trampoline, and she uses our bed and the couch as a trampoline as well.

Ophelia is in maternelle [kindergarten] at l'École canadienne-française in Saskatoon. I'm quite proud that she's going to a Francophone school. She's a génération retrouvée [found generation]. And I have to say my vocabulary is still bigger than Ophelia's for now, but her accent is much better than mine.

And I just want to give a big shout-out to my big sister who . . . She's one of the reasons I can do this job, Mr. Speaker. And she tells me never to say nice things about her publicly or she thinks it's inappropriate. But anyway, she's a really important person in my life. So I ask all my colleagues to join with me in welcoming Michelle and Ophelia to their legislature.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's with a great deal of pleasure I want to introduce a school group from Moose Jaw. It's the A.E. Peacock Collegiate, the 35 grade 12 students, if you want to give us a wave. You can see they're all on the right. Not the right right, just the right. So welcome here to Mrs. Kiefer. She's a great teacher in Moose Jaw. And Peacock brings a class every year. In fact they wanted to come last fall and then one of the storms prevented them, so I really appreciate them making the extra effort to be here today. And she makes a point of being here every week with a great class, a great school. They're very involved with the community, Mr. Speaker.

Along with Mrs. Kiefer is an assistant, Nancy McLafferty, and their bus driver, Elma Kaus. So if you want to give us a wave. And I'd ask all my colleagues to make this special group feel very welcome in their legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to join with the member from Saskatoon Sutherland and welcome the school group from Cardinal Léger, not only because my wife and daughter are part of the group, but Cardinal Léger is a very special school to me because, soon after being elected, I had an opportunity to meet with teachers and the principal. And they were very worried about the school closing because the enrolment was, back in 2003, was about 200-and-some. Now today there's 419 students, 31 teachers. And we're always pleased to have school groups here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk just a little bit about my daughter and my wife, my daughter Paige. I'll tell you a little story very quickly. We were going out to Batoche and I asked my daughter to come with me. And she said, what are those sitting on the seat beside you, dad? And I said, those are briefing notes because I need some briefing notes on Batoche and Back to Batoche. And Paige says, I can brief you — she was in grade 5 — I know everything about the Métis; I just learned about it in school. So she briefed me and it was one of the best briefings that I ever had, Mr. Speaker.

And as far as my wife goes, she has a briefing note for me as well. Every Thursday or Friday when I get home, she briefs me on what happened and briefs me on what my duties will be on the weekend.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're always pleased as members when family members can come into the legislature. So I do ask all members to help me welcome Paige, Trish, and Cardinal Léger class and chaperones to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly an individual seated in your gallery. I'm speaking about Elder Mike Pinay.

Now Mike Pinay is a proud member of the Peepeekisis First Nation up in the File Hills country, but really an individual that has done good work throughout the province in terms of treaty education, in terms of cultural liaison work. I won't get into his rodeo background, Mr. Speaker, but certainly I've had the opportunity to see Mike work some pretty important things over these years.

And he, in addition to all the other sort of work that he does in terms of treaty education, Mr. Speaker, works as an elder in the Regina Catholic School Division. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, he's played a very important role at Sacred Heart Community School and is very interested in what's happening with that school, Mr. Speaker, and in terms of making sure that the full complement that should be there for infrastructure, you know, such as a gymnasium, is brought to bear.

So I'd like to ask all members to join with me in welcoming Elder Mike Pinay here on Treaty 4 territory to his Legislative Assembly. Ta wow.

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

Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming Elder Mike Pinay to his legislature. We know that he does extremely important work in a number of communities, helping to ensure that the work that's under way across those communities is informed by wisdom and humility. And so I'd like to join the member opposite if I could and ask all members to join me in welcoming Elder Mike Pinay.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

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

To 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 Nation, also known as Dillon, and the neighbouring communities of Michel Village and St. George's Hill; English River First Nation, also known as Patuanak, and the hamlet of Patuanak; and Birch Narrows First Nation along with the neighbouring community of Turnor Lake, including all the neighbouring communities in each of these areas.

And, Mr. Speaker, the most amazing thing about this petition that's asking for cellphone coverage to the Northwest, it has

been signed by people from all throughout Saskatchewan. On this particular petition, Mr. Speaker, there's 250 names and these are all primarily people from the community of Turnor Lake. And I'm so pleased and proud to present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of some residents of the province of Saskatchewan. Northern Saskatchewan is 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. And some provinces have already banned the storage or transport of used nuclear bundles. So I'd like to read the petition:

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, this comes from citizens from the northern village of Patuanak, Saskatchewan. Thank you. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition asking for the repaving, repairs, and maintenance of the north road, Highway 102, from La Ronge to Sucker River. This road is a major highway used by buses transporting our students to schools, tourists for camping and fishing, and by the mining and forestry industry. Mr. Speaker, 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 repairs and maintenance on the La Ronge north road, Highway 102, is important to northern residents and must be undertaken immediately.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by many La Ronge and area residents. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

d'Lish by Tish Café

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, for individuals who have visited my constituency of Saskatoon Nutana, they will know it's a diverse, vibrant community. And I'm privileged to represent a constituency with many active small businesses.

This January my constituency became even richer in its diversity with the opening of a new business, the d'Lish by Tish Café, and this is a café I try to get to as often as possible when

I'm not in the House.

Tish Paget delivers hardy, homemade food in a cozy atmosphere that feels like sitting in Tish's kitchen. She has created a space where people feel like they're coming to her house for a bowl of soup or a home-baked muffin. There's clearly a lot of love in her food and we see this in her commitment to creating a community at the café. Every Wednesday night there's an open jam session led by Paul Gitlitz, and Tish also uses social media like Facebook to let her customers know what the soup of the day is.

In addition to the incredible work involved in owning and operating a café, Tish is a tireless volunteer at her children's school. And just today she's cooking her last hot lunch at her children's school to cap off 10 years at the helm of the hot lunch program. This program has helped to build a new playground and put Smart Boards in every classroom while feeding the kids high-quality, nutritious lunches.

Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members of the House to join with me in celebrating the success of the d'Lish by Tish Café. I invite the other members of the House to make the time for a bowl of Tish's soup the next time they are in Saskatoon. They won't regret it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mother's Day

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this weekend will be a very special one for women across this province as we celebrate Mother's Day. Mother's Day traditionally falls on the second Sunday in May, the time of year when we see new life emerging all around us in the season of birth and renewal. It is a time to thank those who brought us into this world and for all of their work and sacrifice in the most important job in the world.

Mothers are the anchors of our families, dedicating themselves to being our most important role models, nurturers, and teachers. Motherhood involves passing on the values and life lessons our youth need to become outstanding Canadians. As our province continues to grow, it is important for people to remember where they came from. And days like this remind us to pause and give thanks to the people who are responsible for where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like this Assembly to join me in recognizing the hard work and loving support that mothers have been and continue to provide to all of us in our daily lives. We will always appreciate your years of dedication to making us the best children we could be. And in particular, happy Mother's Day to my mom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Early Childhood Educators Month

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May is Early Childhood Educators Month. This is a chance for early

childhood educators to speak about the value of their work as well as advocate for accessible, affordable early learning programs for children.

Research overwhelmingly confirms the importance of early childhood experience in healthy child development. High-quality care can positively influence a child's life. High-quality care includes stable, consistent caregiving, appropriate adult-to-child ratios, and staff who are well-trained in early childhood development and school-aged care. This also includes decent wages and working conditions for early childhood educators. We are pleased to see the Saskatchewan Party government supporting early childhood initiatives such as increasing spaces. This is an important first step in supporting children to grow and develop into healthy adults.

Mr. Speaker, a useful practice that other jurisdictions are implementing is an online child care registry. This simple, common sense solution helps both parents and government. Registering online for licensed child care means parents don't have to put their names on multiple wait-lists in multiple facilities. It allows families to make decisions with clear information. For government, a registry provides a picture of the demand for child care spaces and allows for them to be able to address gaps and allocate child care spaces in a way that addresses the concerns of communities.

Early learning educators have many ideas and solutions for the concerns that are facing this sector as well as the challenges that children and families are facing in communities. Mr. Speaker, I would invite my colleagues to join me in thanking early childhood educators for their work in caring for and advocating for children. Their input is invaluable when it comes to building supportive community for our children. Thank you.

[10:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Swift Current Physician Leads Simulation Training Centre

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. When Tami and I first moved back to Swift Current around 1991, I guess, we lived on the south side of town and were able to frequent a great community grocery store there, convenience store operated by the Lee family, Dick and Johanne Lee and their kids. And we met young Tara Lee through that frequenting, became friends with the family. Well, Mr. Speaker, young Tara Lee is now Dr. Tara Lee, practising in the city of Swift Current. She is the project lead and site director for the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] rural family medicine program that is located in Swift Current. And there was a very special official opening she was a part of recently in my constituency of the Lee/Irwin Simulation Training Centre.

Mr. Speaker, this project became a reality as a result of a major donation by her uncle and aunt, Jack and Louise Lee, of about \$100,000. They referenced Tara when they made the donation in the announcement. They said:

We are very proud of her accomplishments, her hard work and dedication that she has given to Swift Current and

area.

We made our donation in honour of my father, Lam Lee, and Louise's mother, Irene Irwin. I don't think Tara's grandpa ever imagined he would have a doctor in the family. I know he would be bursting with pride had he been able to witness all of this.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Tara Lee has been confident for some time that a local training centre would provide a great benefit to the Southwest. It employs the latest equipment and technology and also maintains a mobile unit that can be sent out to rural communities around Swift Current. Mr. Speaker, it is a great project for health care in the Southwest. It's being led significantly by Dr. Tara Lee and, Mr. Speaker, we thank her and her family for their support for this important training centre.

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

Women Entrepreneurs Week

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today in celebration of this province's accomplished and thriving women entrepreneurs as we celebrate May 6th to 12th as Women Entrepreneurs Week in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan women entrepreneurs are leaders, risk takers, role models, and major contributors to our province's prosperity. Their success and entrepreneurial spirit is unmatched and as their enterprises grow and expand, they are helping to create jobs and opportunities for the hard-working people of this province, adding great strength to our growing Saskatchewan economy.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses make up 98 per cent of all businesses in this province, and I can proudly say that Saskatchewan's self-employed females are 31,100 strong. Thanks to the assistance of organizations like the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan, women in every corner of this province are realizing their business goals through access to loans as well as pathfinding, business training, and advisory services.

The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in this province. As we look to the future, we can trust that our women entrepreneurs will foster that spirit as they continue to leave a great mark on this province's business landscape and our Saskatchewan economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in recognizing Women Entrepreneurs Week. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

World Catholic Education Day

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise to recognize that, across Canada and throughout the world, World Catholic Education Day is being celebrated today. Mr. Speaker, Christian-based Catholic education has served parents and their children in most nations throughout the world for centuries.

In Canada, Catholic education makes an important contribution to our Canadian identity and culture, serving the nation through faith-based leading and learning. Catholic education has helped define Canadian society through its deeply rooted teachings of personal responsibility and social justice, service to the community, and ongoing promotion of respect and dignity of all persons. Catholic education is founded on the Biblical values of peace, justice, and respect — values that are inherent to our Canadian identity. Accomplishments over the past 170 years of the Canadian Catholic school system, both English and French, have been an integral part of the growth and spirit of Canada.

Congratulations to all who are involved in Catholic education in our province as they join with their colleagues throughout the world who today are celebrating World Catholic Education Day. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing World Catholic Education Day and thank educators, administrators, boards, and volunteers for their commitment and contribution in delivering this important Christian educational opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Relationship with Rural Saskatchewan

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, at least the NDP [New Democratic Party] is consistent about one thing. They ignored rural Saskatchewan when they were in government, and they're still ignoring rural Saskatchewan in opposition. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition spent three hours in Premier's estimates — not one question about rural Saskatchewan, not one question about agriculture, not one question about the rural economy, not one question about rural hospitals, not one question about Saskatchewan's towns and villages and rural municipalities. It's like rural Saskatchewan doesn't even exist to the NDP.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's why the NDP barely exists in rural Saskatchewan. That's why they didn't elect one rural member in the last election — not one, Mr. Speaker. The good news is rural Saskatchewan does have great representation in this Assembly, and it's all on this side of the House. So the NDP leader can go ahead and keep on ignoring rural Saskatchewan, and rural Saskatchewan will keep on ignoring the same old NDP.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

IPAC-CO2

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, to date that government has offered up dismissal and deflection instead of answers and accountability on the IPAC [International Performance Assessment Centre for geologic storage of CO₂] affair. Yesterday however, the Premier shifted his dismissal and deflection to attack, Mr. Speaker. He attacked the opposition. Instead of taking any responsibility for the IPAC affair his government has overseen, he cherry-picked an email from a civil servant and went on the attack.

Mr. Speaker, we welcome the full disclosure of every detail on the IPAC affair. The Premier should as well. And that's exactly what we've continually called for — accountability and answers instead of a slow leak of information. Mr. Speaker, how can the Premier not finally believe that it's time for real answers and accountability as it relates to the IPAC affair?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that all members of the House would want all the details on this particular, on this particular deal known to the public. And I would think that member who's been raising questions would also want all the details raised. So what a shock and surprise it is that he never shared with the Assembly, even though he's got colleagues who served in the cabinet, what a surprise it is that in October of '07, before the election was called, while the NDP were in power, it was the NDP government that approved \$100,000 for Climate Ventures Inc., Mr. Speaker.

He's been saying over and over — and we've got the quotes; I guess we'll deal with them this morning — that this is a Sask Party company that was started. It was a Sask Party initiative. We've been saying it was an initiative of the university that received funding. And, Mr. Speaker, that apparently was true. The funding began when? Under the NDP, Mr. Speaker. I think that's a pretty important detail.

In terms of the other matters with respect to IPAC, those have been the subject of investigations, a forensic investigation. The Provincial Auditor of course looks at the U of R's [University of Regina] relationship with this particular . . . with the entities around IPAC, Mr. Speaker. Those details are available to the public.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier also went on the record suggesting that the MNP investigation exonerated those with noted conflicts of interest from personal gain, repeating a claim that's been made by the CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] minister, a claim that simply isn't true.

Of course if the Premier simply read the MNP report, he'd see that it does no such thing. In fact the report makes clear that MNP didn't have access to CVI [Climate Ventures Inc.] or CVI's books in a way that would have been able to validate the claims as it relates to personal gain. They were stonewalled, Mr. Speaker.

To the Premier: why is he unwilling to provide the answers and accountability that people deserve as it relates to the IPAC affair?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the premise of the member's question is wrong. Here is the MNP report. This is from the conclusion, section 7.0, page 21:

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.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — This is where the Premier continues to play fast and loose with the facts, where he talks about no evidence. The reason there was no exoneration that was able to be had, and certainly they deserve a full review in this as well, is because they were denied, MNP was denied access to CVI's books. And it states it very clearly in the MNP report. The Premier should know that. To date the Premier's ducked and weaved on this file. Now it seems, as sort of a new strategy, that it's about going on the attack, Mr. Speaker.

But the Premier's been consistent on one thing on the IPAC affair. From the very beginning of this scandal, the Premier has failed to support providing a full mandate to the Provincial Auditor, and he's failed to send and deliver any of the information he has to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], failed to provide accountability. Mr. Speaker, rather than cherry-picking dribs and drabs of information for political spin, he needs to do the right thing. Enough is enough. Will the Premier finally here today call in the Provincial Auditor and send all information to the RCMP?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor is the auditor of record for the University of Regina. Mr. Speaker, her investigation, her study of the U of R affairs would have included the relationship with the entities that the member is concerned about, that we should all be concerned about.

Mr. Speaker, let's review the facts. A couple of years ago when it came to the attention of the government that there was concerns around sole source and conflict of interest, what happened? Mr. Speaker, a board was appointed because, previous to that, all of the affairs of these entities were run by the University of Regina, not the government. So a board is appointed. The board has government members on it, government representatives. It's government representatives and other board members that identified the problem, reported it back. The government stopped the funding.

Then, Mr. Speaker, investigations ensue. There's a forensic investigation. I've already quoted from the report. And in the meantime, the NDP want to ignore the facts. Because here's a quote from the member that just asked the question, from not long ago: "Mr. Speaker, the Premier's pet project, Enterprise Saskatchewan, helped create Climate Ventures Inc. in 2008." Will he now apologize to the Assembly for this fact? This is factually incorrect because we know today that Climate Ventures was started by — who? — by the NDP in 2007.

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

Workplace Fatalities and Injuries

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week marks Occupational Health and Safety Week, and five years since Mission: Zero was introduced here in

Saskatchewan. But in that time we've seen far too many fatalities and injuries in our workplaces. In 2008 there were 31 workers killed; 2009, 34; 2010, 45; and in 2011, 37; and this last year, 60. That's 207 workers killed on the job, Mr. Speaker, since the government introduced Mission: Zero. And while the goal is laudable, the fact remains the number of workplace deaths has increased under Mission: Zero. And that's a tragedy for our province, and for the families of these workers is immense.

Mission: Zero does not appear to be effective at reducing workplace deaths in our province. Mr. Speaker, what is the government's plan for improving occupational health and safety so we never need to read 60 names into the record on the Day of Mourning again?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I can speak for all members of the Assembly when I want to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family members of someone who's lost a worker and a loved one. I think every such death is a tragedy, and not just a tragedy for the family but for the entire province.

One of the worst days of the year in the legislature is the day that we stand up and read the names of those that have been lost. I can advise the House, Mr. Speaker, that 19 of the deaths this year were from asbestos-related injuries where the exposure had taken place often decades earlier. We have created an asbestos registry which we think will reduce or minimize the likelihood of that happening as well.

Mr. Speaker, I can also advise the House that 10 of the fatalities were from motor vehicle accidents. We have formed an all-party committee to study traffic-related accidents. It appointed the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Carlton. We've also renewed and updated the occupational health and safety legislation, which is now part of Bill 85, and I would ask the members opposite to support that legislation.

[10:30]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of conversations about Bill 85, and I appreciate the offer there. And we could talk further about that, if the minister wants to talk about Bill 85 and how we can make that as effective as possible.

But we know Mission: Zero is the right goal to have, but the fatalities have increased even with this goal and plan in place. And as the province with the second-worst rate of workplace injuries in the country, clearly the current plan needs more efforts by this government. The Workers' Compensation Board says these injuries and these deaths are preventable, and sadly WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] has seen more claims of injuries in 2011 and '12 after a period of improvements. And the highest numbers of claims come from health authorities, hospitals, and senior care homes.

Mr. Speaker, does the government know why these tragedies in

these workplaces is increasing, even under Mission: Zero?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite asked about steps the government is taking. We have as well reviewed and updated our legislation with regard to protection for late-night workers. I thank the members opposite for their support on that initiative.

We are working with Workers' Compensation Board to try and identify causes and try and improve the injury rate. The injury rate in our health care systems is largely caused by lifts and sprains, strain type of injuries rather than traumatic type of injuries. We have added a significant number of dollars towards providing lifting equipment to help people move patients. Part of it is a factor of aging baby boomers. Part of it is a matter of training. And we've met with the Minister of Health, with the deputy minister of Health, with a number of the health authorities to try and ensure that they understand the importance of driving down this rate. Even though they're not traumatic injuries, they are nonetheless injuries. It is not good for workers to be in that place. Our injury rate has continued to drop but nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, there continues to be work to be done.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The high number of workplace injuries for young people is a growing concern for many families. Of particular concern was the number of young men who are injured, often in their first job. We see a high number of injuries, Mr. Speaker, almost a quarter of injuries to men were injuries by young men. And for young women the rate is also way too high. Clearly young people need to know the working conditions in this province are bar none the best in the country and are strictly enforced. Mr. Speaker, what is the ministry going to do to lower the rate of injuries for young workers here in Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We introduced amendments to the occupational health and safety legislation in spring of 2012. That Act is now part of *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. We've had significant consultation regarding regulations around that Act. We would like to have that bill passed so that we could finalize the consultation with regard to the regulations and implement those things that are there.

I can advise the member opposite that we have had a number of inspections and prosecutions that have increased in the last number of years. And I'll give you some statistics. Workplace inspections increased from 3,621 in '06-07 to 4,578 in '11-12. Notices of contravention increased from 4,480 to 6,086 in the same time period. And prosecutions increased from 30 during the last year of the opposition to 73 in the most recent time period.

Mr. Speaker, we have more work to do. We will continue to do that work. And what the most important thing that could

happen, Mr. Speaker, if we pass Bill 85 and we allow the process to continue on under way, so that we're able to do the prosecutions and do the things we need to do to make sure that our workers are safe in our province. And I think all members want to see that happen.

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

Repairs to School Infrastructure

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, for the students and staff at Sacred Heart Community School, the blow of losing access to the school's gymnasium has been immense. It's lowered student morale and it's been a challenge for the teachers and staff to find as many opportunities for alternative activities that went on in the gym as they can for these students. Everyone knows, Mr. Speaker, that physical activity is essential to help students learn and stay healthy. And that's especially apparent to the parents and elders in the community of North Central, who want to see the students of Sacred Heart Community School succeed.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party says the Sacred Heart gym may be able to access some funds to get fixed, but that likely won't happen this school year. How can the Sask Party let the rest of the school year roll out with no plan for fixing the gymnasium at Sacred Heart Community School?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. As has been stated in this House, our officials are continuing to work with the separate school board to deal with the issue of the gymnasium facility at Sacred Heart School. We realize the importance of physical education activities for our children. We understand the impact, that healthy bodies and healthy minds go together, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue to work with the separate school division. It's important to note that our investment in capital in education is a record that we're very proud of and a record that we will stand on going forward, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, Mike Pinay is a respected elder in the community who has had a positive and profound impact on students and staff at Sacred Heart. He has joined us here today in the gallery. As an elder, Mike knows that for Sacred Heart — the largest elementary school in North Central with 450 students, 75 per cent of whom are First Nations and Métis, Mr. Speaker — Mike Pinay knows that access to physical activity is good for the mind, body, and spirit of these children.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pinay also knows, because he has worked in the school providing leadership to these students, that the school has been due for an upgrade for years. It's not a recent problem, Mr. Speaker, it's a compounding problem. While the attendance is actually improving at Sacred Heart, the morale of students is waning. They need access to physical activity, Mr. Speaker. They need their gym, like any other students would, Mr. Speaker.

Why can't the Sask Party listen to the respected people like Elder Mike Pinay who has advocated passionately for the best possible education for these students?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize the contributions of Elder Pinay. He and I have done many, many initiatives together over the years. We know each other quite well, and I respect his guidance and influence in some of the decisions that I've made over the years, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've come a long way in the last five years. You know, we inherited a \$1.2 billion deficit when we took government in terms of infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, over 70 per cent of our schools are at least 40 years old, so both replacement and new schools are necessary. Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite hadn't neglected schools for the 16 years in government, we may not be in the position that we're in today, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've said, we've come a long way in the last five years, and we will continue to invest in infrastructure as we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McCall: — I'll tell you one thing, Mr. Speaker: when we were in government, the students at Sacred Heart had a gym. I'll tell you that much, Mr. Speaker. The enrolment at Sacred Heart is up over 100 students in the last four years alone and the problem is, for these First Nations and Métis students — 75 per cent of them, Mr. Speaker — the lack of attention for pressing replacement of their gymnasium is hurting their education.

Mr. Speaker, these students, along with their teachers and staff, are closing the achievement gap. They're reading more. They're studying more, and students are improving their attendance. Elder Mike Pinay has seen them, Mr. Speaker, and we need more elders like him throughout the school system in the province to provide that leadership. But we also need to make sure that education matters in closing the gap for First Nations and Métis students at the schools where they attend is a real priority of government.

Why is the Sask Party government neglecting an important school, one focused on improving the lives and education of First Nations and Métis students, in their budget?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it might be interesting to note that I did my practice teaching at Sacred Heart School. That was some time ago, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, again I very much respect the guidance and the influence of Elder Pinay. It's important for everyone in this Assembly to know that in the Regina area alone, Mr. Speaker, over the last number of years, our government has provided \$131 million for school infrastructure in the Regina area alone, Mr. Speaker. That funding has provided for 121 renovation projects, seven early years projects, Mr. Speaker, and 10 major capital projects, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know, I know the importance of a gymnasium. I know the importance of physical education for the well-being and for the academic development of our children, Mr. Speaker. A healthy body and a healthy mind go hand in hand. I recognize that, and we will continue to mitigate the situation at Sacred Heart School, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. McCall: — It's interesting, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we had the Statistics Canada results released. And of course in the province of Saskatchewan, one of the features of our population is that there's a young and growing First Nations and Métis population. And we know that very well, Mr. Speaker, in a place like North Central Regina, and we know that very well in a school like Sacred Heart Community School where, of the 450 students at that school, the second largest school in the Regina Catholic School Division, 75 per cent of those students are First Nations and Métis.

And you know, you go through the exercises where the task force reports out to this government, and you see the response of that government. You hear of another task force being launched to consult with young Aboriginal students, young Aboriginal people throughout the province. And at the same time, Mr. Speaker, on the other hand, out in the real world, you've got something as fundamental to the education situation for young First Nations and Métis students as the gymnasium at Sacred Heart going wanting.

Why are the priorities of this government so screwed up, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Mr. Speaker, the situation at Sacred Heart School can't be fixed overnight, Mr. Speaker. We know that. My officials are working with the separate school board to mitigate that situation, Mr. Speaker, and we will continue to work with them to ensure that the situation is alleviated there, Mr. Speaker.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, it's important for everyone again in this Assembly to note that we've spent or we've budgeted over \$22 million in this budget to deal with and to address issues around First Nations and Métis achievement, Mr. Speaker. That's for all of the children in our province that attend our schools that are First Nations and Métis children, Mr. Speaker. It's not just for one school, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Testing Standards and Student Assessment

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier admitted yesterday the Sask Party government hasn't been able to communicate very well why it's spending \$12 million on standardized testing. I asked the Minister of Education in estimates about the academic studies he was using to justify this expensive system. The minister provided a list of 11 articles and books defending the position, but he hadn't read them.

So we took at the list and asked some professors with a keen interest in the topic for their views. Dr. Paul Orłowski, and Dr. Marc Spooner, professors of education at our universities said of the list, and I quote:

You will see that the Saskatchewan government has not read any of the works they cite. Only one (by Phelps) intimates there may be some value in teaching to standards (although even this one does not focus on standardized testing).

Mr. Speaker, why would the Sask Party government cite these 11 sources as proof that standardized testing works when experts say they do not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I want to clarify when asked the question in estimates about whether or not I'd read them all, I had said I had not read them all, that I was familiar with some of them, in particular the Phelps study, which is the one that the member opposite referenced to, that Dr. Spooner et al. have agreed that there is some value in, Mr. Speaker.

They don't agree with standardized achievement, the high-stakes model. That's true, because this study talks about formative assessment, Mr. Speaker, which is the direction that our ministry is going with the student achievement, Mr. Speaker. And we'll continue to work with this sector. We'll consult with our teachers. We'll consult with our school boards. We'll consult with our school trustees association, Mr. Speaker, and we will communicate the student achievement initiative as we go forward, Mr. Speaker.

[10:45]

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

Mr. Forbes: — Let's talk about that one. Let's talk about Phelps. And this is what the two professors said about that article, and I quote:

It is the only reference in the entire list that seems to support using standardized testing, but because it is looking at studies starting with those conducted in 1910 [1910], the conclusions might be about something entirely different than mandatory standardized testing in schools today.

Mr. Speaker, this is 2013 not 1910. If the Sask Party government is using 100-year-old research to justify their highly computerized standardized testing system, something is not right. Mr. Speaker, why can't the Sask Party government spell out exactly what they're using to justify \$12 million in taxpayer dollars being used for standardized testing?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Marchuk: — Talk about cherry-picking, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the article spans hundreds of studies between 1910 and 2010, Mr. Speaker. That is a considerable list of research that one can go through to validate and to justify the

formative approach to student assessment, Mr. Speaker.

I want to remind the members opposite that our pilots are happening today. The feedback that we're getting from our teachers, from our sector, are happening today, Mr. Speaker. The results are dramatic. And we will continue to work with the sector to bring that information forward so that all the students in our province can benefit from that kind of formative, holistic approach to student achievement, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, one article was called *Inside the Black Box: Raising Standards Through Classroom Assessment*. And here's what that the professors had to say. I quote: "It is not in support of standardized testing."

The minister also referenced a book called *How the World's Best Performing School Systems Come Out on Top*. And the professors say, and I quote, "This book has nothing to do with standardized testing." And they go on to say, "This is anathema to what the Sask government is doing, regarding the cutting of professional development days to accommodate more classroom hours."

Mr. Speaker, why did the government include these sources in order to justify their \$12 million spent on standardized testing?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister just referenced, we're using pilots in the field, in the classroom, today. The balanced literacy program, which is a standards-based initiative, the balanced literacy program has seen grade level reading improve in the Chinook division over four years by 20 per cent.

We see standards-based achievement programs and pilots working in Melfort. We see them working at Albert School, right in this city, where grade level reading in grade 2 is being maximized, Mr. Speaker. It's at that level. That's the basis for which we're proceeding. The early years evaluation program, standards-based, working already in the province, delivering results — that's the model we have at Albert School.

Why are the members so ideologically opposed to doing what's best for our students, what is working today? Mr. Speaker, we will leave the member to his lists and his studies. We'll go with what is working today in the classroom and export it to the rest of the province, Mr. Speaker.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Programs that Support People with Disabilities

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am absolutely honoured and privileged to enter into this debate about what we are doing for people with disabilities in

Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we inherited an absolute mess. We inherited a long list from the opposition for 16 years where they did very, very little, if anything, for people with disabilities in our province.

When we took government in 2007, there was the 440 wait-list — 440 people with disabilities that were completely ignored by the New Democratic Party. This is the New Democratic Party that is quoting and standing on their podium saying, we represent the people. We look after the people of Saskatchewan. Just trust us. But what happened, Mr. Speaker? That trust has been eroded. And I think you can tell that trust has been eroded by the 49 people sitting on this side and the nine members sitting across there, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted to talk a little bit about what we're doing as far as people with disabilities. The Premier has appointed the member from Coronation Park as Legislative Secretary for people with disabilities, working with the Minister of Social Services but also other ministers, Mr. Speaker. This whole program, people with disabilities, does not just reside within Social Services, Mr. Speaker. It goes across the spectrum. That Legislative Secretary is going to work with all ministries to make this the absolute best place in Canada for people to live with disabilities.

Personally, Mr. Speaker, since being elected I've had the privilege of working, basically with all autism services within Saskatchewan: Autism Services in Regina, who just recently opened the art centre; Saskatoon Autism Services; Above and Beyond Autism Services. I've worked with all of these groups because they represent a very specific group of people with disabilities, the people that have the autistic disabilities are on the spectrum, everything from Asperger's to very mild autism.

Mr. Speaker, these people out there are very capable of contributing to the growth within Saskatchewan. We want to make sure that we can take people with autistic disabilities and move them into meeting their full potential. They never had that opportunity under the previous government, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, also this hits me on a personal level, not just on a professional level. My daughter has an intellectual disability, Mr. Speaker, and it's something that I have been working very hard with my family. I was very fortunate, Mr. Speaker, that I had the support of family and of friends to be able to help my daughter's development. But when my daughter was two years old in 2001, the government of the day did not do anything to support that. We had to actually take our daughter outside the province and outside the country just to be able to get the diagnosis that she needed, Mr. Speaker. Those were the very dark days within the Government of Saskatchewan back in 2001, Mr. Speaker, and it was very, very shameful that the New Democratic Party. I also wanted to put a personal thanks out to my family, and especially my mother, who was there day in and day out taking care of my daughter while my ex-wife and I were out working, trying to support the family. So thank you very much for that, mom.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you about some of the things that we've done since 2007. First, and the most important thing that I think that this government has done for people with disabilities, was create the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program. The SAID program separated

the people with disabilities out from everybody else that was within Social Services. These people, on an annual basis, would have to go and reapply to Social Services to make sure that their income was guaranteed. They were treated like employable people. They were treated just like in the norm, thrown in with everybody else. We wanted to make sure that we recognized that people with disabilities were treated in a different way.

We wanted to make sure that they were given respect, Mr. Speaker, that they were given all the tools necessary. And we also wanted to make sure that the support structure in and around the people with disabilities was there. Some of the things that we did is we increased the SAID benefits to a maximum of \$3,000 a year for all 10,000 recipients of the SAID program. We just hit that mark about a week and a half ago, and I was able to attend with the minister to be able to celebrate that moment. We have also increased . . . Sorry, we've increased inheritance exemptions for the SAID recipients as well.

One of the key highlights — and this is a huge, massive number, Mr. Speaker — 832 per cent more has been invested in increased income assistance for people with disabilities, 832 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's unprecedented. And I wanted to credit certainly the Minister of Social Services and the former minister of Social Services for taking that forward to the cabinet and making that happen, Mr. Speaker, because it's absolutely critical.

Now let's talk about what didn't happen previous to this, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP just completely ignored the demands, completely ignored. It was very, very disappointing that the New Democratic Party did not do anything to support the people with disabilities. I want to talk a little bit about, Mr. Speaker, about Gayle Dixon from Saskatoon. When she was on the previous program with the New Democratic Party, Gayle was basically not able to have anything to herself. She didn't have any means. She didn't have money. She scraped by month to month working within the Social Services program.

Now Gayle owns a small house and lives there with her service dog, Daisy. Gayle has multiple disabilities and has never been able to work. Gayle was one of the first people to go on the SAID program, Mr. Speaker. And when the program was expanded in 2012, Gayle said she got the first SAID cheque and she had a big, stupid grin on her face. Mr. Speaker, Gayle says now that the SAID program has given her one thing that the opposition could never give her — self-respect.

When she was on the SAP [Saskatchewan assistance plan] program, a family member told her that she was ashamed of Gayle because she was receiving social assistance. Now she no longer needs to be ashamed, Mr. Speaker. Gayle says, "It's like I earn my money now because of my disability. I didn't do anything wrong. I shouldn't feel ashamed. SAID gives me respect and now I can take care of myself." That's what this program does, Mr. Speaker.

What I wanted to also talk about briefly is how we are able to do these programs, Mr. Speaker. I think that's very critical to talk about. We can't just have programs out there and be spending money, even though it's the right thing to do. We have to have the economic engine behind us to be able to drive these programs, Mr. Speaker.

Some of the economic indicators that are going on in Saskatchewan have been spoken a lot about on this side of the House. They've been spoken about in the media and several other places across Canada and yes, Mr. Speaker, around the world. Saskatchewan has arrived. Saskatchewan population has grown by 21,690 people in 2012 to an all-time high of 1,089,807, Mr. Speaker.

We have also received, for the first time in our history, a AAA credit rating. This credit rating was Standard & Poor's and it's, "The upgrade was warranted because of low and declining debt burden, rebounding economy, strong liquidity and moderate support from the federal government." The province operating capital after results will continue to improve and strengthen the economy, operating revenue growth, and liquidity that remain strong.

Mr. Speaker, we also had last year \$32.6 billion worth of exports. And as the Premier said many times, not too bad for a place that doesn't have a port. We have surpassed British Columbia. Our forecasted economic growth year over year for 2013 is going to be 2.6 per cent while the Canadian average is only 1.7. Our labour market is increasing. We need people to be coming to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. All of these economic indicators, Mr. Speaker, are signals that we are allowed to do the programs that we can do, that the ministers can take the programs for people with disabilities forward to cabinet, and we have the revenue to support that.

We are not going to be spending money that we don't have. We want to make sure that this economic growth that we have is growth for a purpose. And one of the main purposes and something that's near and dear to my heart is people with disabilities and the SAID program, Mr. Speaker.

Now I want to talk about this absolutely shameful list we inherited of the 440 list, Mr. Speaker. Those members over there should just absolutely be ashamed that they had 440 people and then they have the gall to come out and say, well what about this one person that we are working within the system right now? Yes we recognize that there are still people out there with disabilities, and we still need to get them into some of our day programs and our homes. But we had taken a 440 list and eliminated it in five short years. It's 16 years . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Plus an extra, thank you, plus an extra 250 people that were in the queue that we wanted to make sure that once the 440 list was done, that we didn't have another 250 there. So we expanded it out.

[11:00]

Mr. Speaker, this is how we are within government. Government's not always the most nimble thing, but do you know what? In this we reacted very quickly with both ministers, the current minister and the previous minister, to make sure that the people on the 440 list were taken care of.

I want to give you some of the stats, Mr. Speaker, because I think it's worth talking about. \$23.9 million in capital investment, bricks and mortar, to make sure that people with disabilities are taken care of. We have newly expanded or enhanced services in 41 communities. That's critical because that's not just in the big cities of Regina and Saskatoon. This is

all across our province. People with disabilities just don't concentrate in the major centres, and we have to make sure that we take care of them across the board, Mr. Speaker.

And some of these people on the 440 list, they had very complex needs. These weren't just a matter of finding somebody a place to live, Mr. Speaker. There was infrastructure had to be put around there, lifts, and all of the people in the training staff that needed to be done, that needed to be there to be able to take care of them.

We increased, funding increased by 110 per cent for group homes for people with intellectual disabilities, 110 per cent, Mr. Speaker, basically ignored by the opposition. Very upsetting.

I wanted to read you a quote from Amy McNeil from SARC [Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres]:

SARC is very proud to play a supporting role in the wait-list initiative through the four-person team assisting SARC member agencies and their expanded services, SARC's executive director Amy McNeil said. The wait-list initiative was a wonderful example of the partnership between the Ministry of Social Services and SARC. It is evidence of what can be achieved when the Government of Saskatchewan, SARC member agencies, and SARC collaborate to work towards a common goal — creating common capacity to provide individuals with options to meet their needs now and into the future [Mr. Speaker].

Mr. Speaker, one other thing that I wanted to touch on briefly — I see my time is running out — I wanted to talk about employment, Mr. Speaker. A lot of the people that were sitting on that 440 list had the potential to contribute to Saskatchewan and to the Saskatchewan economy, Mr. Speaker. We wanted to make sure that they had abilities, or had the means to be able to go and work at Cosmo in Saskatoon. I will quote from a letter dated April 8th to Minister Draude:

In recent years we had lost many of our trained staff to positions to health and education. This significant increase will make a difference as our retention. It now allows us to appropriately compensate trained front-line staff members who will work with people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, this is what it's about. We're not just doing the bricks and mortar. We're not just throwing money at it. We are making sure that there is an entire package there, Mr. Speaker, of the bricks and mortar, of the support staff, as well as support from the government in supporting community-based organizations, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is one thing that I really want everybody to understand, that this government is taking care of the most vulnerable people within our province.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to work with my colleagues in supporting people with disabilities, with the Ministry of Social Services, other ministries as well, as well as the appointment of the Legislative Secretary, my good friend from Coronation Park who will be speaking on this later. But at this time I would certainly like to move the motion:

That this Assembly commend the government for

implementing programs in support of people with disabilities, such as the Saskatchewan assured income for disability program and addressing the 440 wait-list for persons with intellectual disabilities; and further

That this Assembly support the government in its future initiatives that will move Saskatchewan closer to the Saskatchewan plan for growth's goal of making this province the best place in Canada to live with people with disabilities.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

That this Assembly commend the government for implementing programs in support of people with disabilities, such as the Saskatchewan assured income for disability program and addressing the 440 wait-list for persons with intellectual disabilities; and further

That this Assembly support the government in its future initiatives that will move Saskatchewan closer to the Saskatchewan plan for growth's goal of making this province the best place in Canada for persons with disabilities.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to wade into this motion, this debate on the government and its work around disability issues. And I have to start by saying that part of the motion, I have no difficulty with. I've commended the government on the SAID program. Definitely there's been some very good work done with respect to people who have intellectual disabilities.

I don't believe, to the best of my knowledge, there's ever been anybody on this side who said that SAID wasn't a very good program and that that wasn't a move in the right direction or that addressing and providing residential services and day programming for people with intellectual disabilities wasn't a good thing. The \$62.5 million I believe was a very good and very important investment. I have no problem saying the government has done some very good things. I've said it in estimates; I've said it in my budget speeches; in the Throne Speech response that yes there's some very good work done on this front.

And I'm very pleased actually that the government has launched a strategy or the process by which a strategy will be created. I think that that's absolutely imperative because, as the government goes on . . . I'm a big believer in not doing things ad hoc, Mr. Speaker. And I think that there will be many things that we discover in the consultation phase where there are many areas that need serious work. The area of respite services, Mr. Speaker, the area of FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder], particularly around adults, are huge holes.

But I think the difficulty that I have is that it is important . . . I've never had the privilege of sitting on the government

benches, and it is a privilege, Mr. Speaker. It is a tremendous privilege to be in this Assembly and to have that opportunity, I'm sure. But I know that this is a file that there will always be more work to do, and the minister gets up and says that. But that is why there will always be more work to do and it's important to remember that for those people who don't yet have services and have been waiting, some of them . . . We had a case here with Devon Birns last week since 2006, who has been on a list since 2006. And Devon isn't an isolated case.

I had the opportunity to work in the disability community. Actually when I was finishing my social work degree, I did a practicum for SACL [Saskatchewan Association for Community Living] called Adopt an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], which connected people with intellectual disabilities and their family to their elected members in sort of a non-threatening environment. MLAs went into people's homes or in a comfortable spot to find out, just get a little piece of what was going on in people's lives.

And I talked to people, Mr. Speaker, who have been waiting for services for many years and don't have them. There's a case of a woman whose son was on the 440 list, and at that particular point in time, they didn't need services. And I understand that they're considered being served. It's not that they don't want or need services now. But they were considered served.

I think my difficulty is that the 440 list was a snapshot in time, and the government has done good work in providing services for those people. But it is not the role of government to boast about its work, especially when there are still so many people in so many areas that need work and support, Mr. Speaker. That is my big challenge here.

And when in opposition we raise issues where there are huge holes or gaps, we're told that we're bringing one or two rare cases. For every one or two rare cases, there are many people behind them, Mr. Speaker. This is an area that needs serious work.

And in estimates a few weeks ago . . . I've had trouble wrapping my head around the 440 list. What does this mean? I remember when I became the critic last year, Mr. Speaker, I knew people who had been waiting for services, who weren't getting services, and they didn't quite understand this. So in my questions I was trying to get the feel for . . . Sorry, I'm all over the place, Mr. Speaker.

If you read the headline from April 22nd, 2013, "Waitlist initiative completed — Government fulfils commitment to citizens with intellectual disabilities" . . . I'm a former reporter, Mr. Speaker. I was a reporter for 12 years. And I can tell you the first thing that people look at and often the only thing that people look at when they read things are headlines. So when people read a headline like "Waitlist initiative completed — Government fulfils commitment to citizens with intellectual disabilities," that would leave the impression for many people that everybody is served. Everybody has what they need. That is the impression that this government has chosen to leave. This is about public relations and spin, Mr. Speaker.

"Waitlist initiative completed — Government fulfils commitment to citizens with intellectual disabilities." So many

people, so many people, Mr. Speaker, saw that headline, saw that headline and the impression with the general public is that oh, everybody with intellectual disabilities have what they need.

So that was my goal in estimates. I was trying to understand this, Mr. Speaker. Because a year ago when SACL was here for their mother's breakfast with MLAs, talking about some of their issues, they were pointing out respite services in rural Saskatchewan particularly are huge. You have women. You have families . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member is speaking from his seat, Mr. Speaker. I asked many questions in estimates, and I asked the questions in estimates about respite services, Mr. Speaker, because I've heard from many people that respite services in rural Saskatchewan are a huge issue. You've got families under huge pressure who are doing the best to provide the care for their children that they can, and they don't have the supports that they need. So respite services didn't really fall under the 440 list.

We've got adults, particularly, with FASD, and FASD is an intellectual disability, Mr. Speaker. And I asked what supports are out there right now, Mr. Speaker, for those adults with FASD because adults with FASD need ongoing, regular support and contact to live a fulfilling life where they can contribute to their community. They need, as the minister said and people in the field would say, they need an external brain. They need someone reminding them once a month that they pay the bills and once a month that they pay their rent. People with FASD, particularly adults, need very intensive supports, Mr. Speaker. And the answer that I got was that, well there's cognitive disability funding for them. Which is true, Mr. Speaker, but for someone who has FASD to apply or access cognitive disability funding is incredibly difficult.

So the challenge here I think, Mr. Deputy . . . Mr. Speaker. Why do I always do this to you? Mr. Speaker, I think the challenge here is . . . Sure. Yes, I commend the government on \$62.5 million and dealing with one list — a list — and have done some very good things. Like I said, I think SAID is a great program. And dignity in not having to apply for a program when you do have a profound and lasting disability is very important. Those are good things, Mr. Speaker. And a strategy on disability issues is a very good thing.

But I do not believe it is the role of government to be the bearer of news on that front. Let other people talk about the good things you're doing. And I know . . . Let that work speak for itself, Mr. Speaker, because people in the disability community . . . Yes, there are people with services. But chatting with someone today actually, who wasn't on the 440 wait-list, her exact quote, she had said — she had written this — but she had said this in a conversation with me today:

When the 440 list was announced, I was thrilled, then absolutely devastated. I was near despair. My God, they did not put my son on it, and he has near complex or complex needs with his care. Anticipatory grief set in. And all I thought, we've got him till we die or he dies or when I think he should be assessed for long-term care.

So this is a mother who has been looking for services since 2007 and was very panicky. And her adult son, she had some very big concerns, and she doesn't believe her adult son should

be living in long-term care.

And we have to note when the government talks about more work to do, we have young people, we have people with autism who are living in the hospital until . . . three people in a hospital in Saskatoon until they get long . . . until they get residential placements, Mr. Speaker. We have people living in Parkridge in Saskatoon, five-year-olds, Mr. Speaker, who live in long-term care because they don't have the residential services. A five-year-old is living with seniors, Mr. Speaker. So there is much, much more work to do.

That doesn't take away from the good work that's been done. There's no doubt about that. But it is not the place of a government, when there are so many places where work needs to be done — does not take away from the good work's that been done — but it is not the place of the government to boast about a record, particularly when there are so many people waiting to be served: people with autism, people with FASD, people who are looking for respite services and a bit of time to gather their thoughts and their lives. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the government's motion.

[11:15]

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak to the motion by a good friend and colleague from Saskatoon Sutherland, and I will be, I will be seconding and supporting this motion.

In the past few weeks, there have been a number of announcements for people with disabilities — a number of them — and all of them we should be proud of. First there was an announcement of the strategy, and I was particularly honoured and proud to be named by the Premier as the Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Social Services, for disabilities. And I want to thank the minister as well and the previous minister of Social Services for all their work on these files. I'm looking forward to this role, and I look forward to speaking with and learning from people in the disability community.

Now in terms of the consultations . . . And we as a government, we've always been criticized by the opposition. And one of the lessons I've learned in the past year and a half is to have a thick skin, and you can't please everybody. I also reflect on what it means to be a critic. It's an important role in a democracy, but being a critic comes with an equally important responsibility. It's a responsibility to be accountable and transparent with your accusations. It's easy to criticize a government, and that comes with the territory. So it's easy to demand . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. I wonder if the members would mind quietening it down so I can actually hear the member speaking. I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Docherty: — I can stand here and proudly say that we've been accountable and have been transparent. You might not agree with all the policy decisions that we make, but we tell the

truth. What about the accountability to be honest with the people of the province in the role of critic or, in this case, opposition? The burden of this standard should be equally as high. The public has the right to know that both sides of this House are accountable and transparent and not misrepresenting the facts. Mr. Speaker, the people of this province spoke with their ballots in the last election, and they'll speak again in the next one.

These are the words that I hear from the members opposite: increasing disconnect, common sense, dismissive, stubborn, congratulatory spin, not with reality, failing on the front, lack of consult, don't listen. Mr. Speaker, every single one of those terms we can refute on every single day in this Assembly, and it's shameful.

Well that is amazing because guess what? What we're going to do with the disability strategy, we're going to consult and listen. For at least the third time during this spring session, I'm going to reference the doom and gloom prophesying of the opposition. Not sure if it's Nostradamus they're channelling or Henny Penny or Chicken Little. Because the glass is half full. And in your world, the sky is falling in the world of opposition. It's not always time to sound the alarm bells.

Well the people of this province don't feel the calamity of doom and negativity. They feel a sense of hope. They don't cry.

If you want to sit and cry wolf, this is what you're going to get. And also you're not the nimble nine. Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't call them the nimble nine, but a more apt description might be the Nostradamian nine. Wow, Mr. Speaker, nine prophets of doom. Oh look, the sky is falling. Maybe they need to look at the licence plates of this province and realize in this province our sky is living. But I'm not sure if their slogan would be the land of dying skies. Anyway maybe you forgot the line, maybe they forgot the line, hope is better than fear.

And on that hopeful note, I would like to talk about some of this government's accomplishments and announcements and, in particular again, about the disability strategy and that announcement. Absolutely, absolutely so proud, couldn't be more proud in terms of that announcement. And as I said, I mean our government is committed to developing a comprehensive disability strategy in consultation with members of the disability community. This will support the Saskatchewan plan for growth and the goal of making Saskatchewan the best place in Canada to live for persons with disabilities.

I had the great opportunity to go to Huston Heights, an independent adult facility who have independent living for people with disabilities. And in regards to the SAID program, they cried. People looked at me and said they were so happy and thankful for the opportunity not only to have some hope in their lives but to feel some level of inclusion. And that's one of the pieces that all people with disabilities are hoping for. They want to be full citizens. They want to be included in society. And absolutely with our announcements and all of the initiatives that we've been a part of, we are including them, and they feel this. And we should be absolutely proud of this.

Now in terms of the disability strategy, we're going to focus on

the priority areas specified in the plan for growth and the Speech from the Throne: accessibility, affordability, and availability of housing, transportation, employment, education, support for community inclusion, support for caregivers, and including respite for families and caregivers. This inclusive strategy will consider needs of children and adults with physical, sensory, psychiatric, cognitive, or intellectual disabilities and will be created in consultation with community partners from across the province. And this disability strategy, again as mentioned with my friend from Saskatoon Sutherland, will be inter-ministry, an effort by the Ministry of Social Services led.

Also in terms of consultations, we're going to start with a citizen consultation team, and that citizen consultation team will be created to provide the perspective of individuals with disabilities, their families, and supporters, in the development of the strategy. And beyond the citizen consultation team, we're going to go from there to priority working groups. Six working groups will be created for the identified priority areas which I've already mentioned, and these priority areas, related consultation findings, with the potential for solutions, would be reviewed later. Then stakeholder association meetings will follow those two pieces, Mr. Speaker, which again proves and shows just how consultative we are. Public consultations again will follow that, and that is absolutely fantastic.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition has a record of many, many lost opportunities in terms of this file. They've ignored the demands for a separate assistance program. They've allowed the wait-list to grow. In 1992 it was zero. In 2008, it was 440. Mr. Speaker, I think that was 16 years. That's correct. If you subtract, that's 16 years. That's amazing. They failed to increase the shelter rates for people with disabilities for 13 of their 16 years in power. 832 per cent more has been invested in increased income assistance for people with disabilities in this government's last six budgets than the NDP's last six budgets.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, it seems that the members opposite must have taken the people of this province hostage with their rhetoric and their misinformation, and I wish they were, at a minimum, half-truths. On behalf of this province, release us from your bonds of rhetoric.

What about what the community says? DISC [Disability Income Support Coalition], the NDP's disability framework ignores the deep, pervasive, long, long-held poverty that so many people with disabilities face. Some DISC members are boycotting the discussions because of the lack of consultation, the lack of action. DISC's view of our government post-election in their letter to us was, to Premier Wall:

We also want to thank you for the commitment you have made to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities — for a long time these individuals have been ignored and undervalued . . . the increased benefit rates you have promised will help them to move towards a better standard of living and will allow them to be more actively involved in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I can go on in terms of letters thanking us, commending us on our initiative. I could keep going. Well the executive director of the SACL: "I'd like to acknowledge and

applaud the government for their pledge for better living for individuals and disabilities." Hope's Home: "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you." And . . .

An Hon. Member: — Maybe you should table copies.

Mr. Docherty: — I could. I have nothing but copies. Yes. We created SAID in 2009, added over 10,000 people, and we've given more than \$3,000 more per year in benefits. Now what did the NDP do? Ignored the demands for a separate, more dignified income assistance program for people with disabilities. They allowed the wait-list for services to people to grow to 440 people. And, Mr. Speaker . . .

An Hon. Member: — Did nothing.

Mr. Docherty: — Absolutely. The motion from the member from Saskatoon Sutherland, I will be seconding that and supporting that motion, Mr. Speaker, absolutely. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased and honoured to be able to stand up today to respond to the motion by the members. And before I do that, Mr. Speaker, I want to very basically point out that I want to spend a bit of time doing an analysis of some of the services that are lacking in northern Saskatchewan. And before I get into that, I want to point out that it in no way, shape, or form does it diminish some of the challenges that southern Saskatchewan has because obviously there are many people that live in southern Saskatchewan that do need the recognition and certainly need the supports that every disabled person should get, Mr. Speaker.

I want to steal a line from one of the politicians from many years ago, when the politician made the comment that this isn't a good country for any of us unless it's a good country for all of us. That I think really resonated with a lot of people because obviously, from our perspective in Saskatchewan, this shouldn't be a good province for any of us unless it's a good province for all of us — if I can copy that line, Mr. Speaker — and especially the people that have disabilities, Mr. Speaker.

There's no question that as I look at the headlines for southern Saskatchewan, and I'll give you the example — and this is what really annoys me, and certainly it doesn't surprise the people of Saskatchewan — that this billboard government spends more time patting themselves on the back and putting up billboards, which really don't do anything to resolve overall the challenges many people face in the disability community.

And, Mr. Speaker, some of the headlines that we see in the newspapers as we look at this, for example one of the headlines I have, and I quote: "Government called out about eliminating wait-list," Mr. Speaker, and another headline, "Valley View residents and families facing uncertain future." And that's of course the Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw. "Saskatchewan Hospital replacement delayed, changed," another headline, Mr. Speaker. And the list goes on and on of some of the headlines that we see in today's paper about some of the challenges that the disabled community face, and yet you see the Saskatchewan Party government busy patting themselves on the back at every opportunity that they have and certainly putting out billboards,

you know, to that effect.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say that there's a lot of work that is needed. There is no question about it. While the Saskatchewan Party had the opportunity, had the money, had the booming economy, Mr. Speaker, they could have done some very exciting things for the disabled community, and all we're seeing is a piecemeal effort here and there, Mr. Speaker.

And I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that you look at northern Saskatchewan as a whole where we have a lot of overcrowding because of the growing communities, and you look at many of the people in northern Saskatchewan. There is estimates of 700 people with disabilities that live in northern Saskatchewan. They're living in crowded homes, Mr. Speaker, and some of the awkward things that this government has done really hurts a lot of disabled people all throughout the province and certainly in northern Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the things I think is really important is that the disabled community really has strived to become full and productive partners to the extent that they can, on every occasion, on every level, and at every meeting. There's no question that, from my perspective, I think that we have to develop a matrix of support systems and programs to ensure that the disabled community, the people that have disabilities — and there's a wide range of definition of disability, Mr. Speaker — that we need to be able to put in measures that would really counter some of the challenges that they face and that would really eliminate some of the barriers that they face. And that matrix of supports need to happen on a continual basis, and we need to exhaust every avenue of support towards the disabled community so that they are able to participate as much and as fully as they can, Mr. Speaker. That's the important thing that we have to constantly strive for.

So one of the things that's really important that I would encourage this billboard government and this back-patting party over there to make sure that they do one thing, and that's to listen to the disabled community, Mr. Speaker. From northern Saskatchewan's perspective, as I mentioned, there are about 700 people in northern Saskatchewan that have been basically coming forward and have deemed themselves to have some disability of some sort, Mr. Speaker. And a lot of them live with extended families. They live with their parents yet. And some of them have the ability to go on their own. And I really recognize their initiative and their incentive, Mr. Speaker, and that's something that we always constantly strive to recognize. And I do that as a MLA.

But, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many challenges. When you see this particular government start telling people that have been renting homes for a number of years . . . And some of these homes that they've been renting for a number of years house disabled people. Some of these homes have disabled homeowners. And now this particular minister and this government is saying to all these people that have rented for years, guess what? You don't have the option of home ownership. We're eliminating that program. From now on you'll be renting forever.

[11:30]

Now, Mr. Speaker, part of the disabled community live in some of these housing units. And even though they're crowded, some of these homes are what they consider their own. And for the minister to come along and arbitrarily tell people, you'll never, ever, ever own your home; you're going to rent off us forever, she's saying that to a large group of disabled people as well, Mr. Speaker. And then they come along and they start back-patting themselves on programs that they have put together on a piecemeal basis.

And, Mr. Speaker, there certainly isn't, there certainly isn't the commitment needed to make sure that the matrix of supports towards making disabled people become much more productive and independent people as they strive to be. The support simply from the Saskatchewan Party is not there, Mr. Speaker.

I want to certainly mention a few folks in northern Saskatchewan that have worked really hard, worked really hard in trying to promote development and opportunity and awareness, Mr. Speaker, of some of the challenges of people in the disabled community in northern Saskatchewan. And what I would say is the champion of many of these people, and I say it on a constant basis, is a gentleman by the name Gary Tinker. Gary has been working over the years for the past 20, 25 years, striving and fighting and even walking great distances to bring awareness to the disabled issues in northern Saskatchewan. And having a decent home, having supports around the community, having educational opportunity, having the support mechanisms when necessary — these are the issues that Gary has brought to the forefront. And, Mr. Speaker, he has been really, really a strong advocate, has been talking about some of the issues.

And what has Gary said in the past? What has Gary said in the past about the program support and some of the challenges that they face, Mr. Speaker? And I would point out, these are some of the comments that Gary has made. And one of the comments that really sticks in to my particular head, Mr. Speaker, is the one that Gary talks about is funding. And the quote I have here is that:

Ever since the new government came to power, the Saskatchewan Party, our funding has been changed a lot lately over the last seven years. Basically what I'm trying to say to the public, we're only getting \$60,000 in programming for the whole North because we deal with the whole North with people with disabilities, with the whole North.

Mr. Speaker, and the other point that he raises:

I don't know what has happened with the government people, with the new people. I don't understand why they didn't consult with me when these changes came through. We only have \$60,000, and that's it. And that money is gone by the time the new money comes in.

And I'm assuming, Mr. Speaker, it's for the following year.

So, Mr. Speaker, there's got to be a better answer in northern Saskatchewan. There are people out there that are in wheelchairs, Mr. Speaker, that need to have accessibility issues addressed. There's educational opportunities that many in the disabled community are striving for, Mr. Speaker. There are

housing options that the disabled people ought to be able to take advantage of. And when you're hearing the Minister of Social Services crying crocodile tears on some issues and then turning around telling the people who have been renting off the government for years, you'll never have the opportunity to own those homes . . . Why? Because the Saskatchewan Party's in power, and that's it. You're going to rent off us forever and ever and ever, Mr. Speaker.

And that decision impacts and affects a lot of young working people. It affects a lot of disabled people, Mr. Speaker. And I say, shame on that government for taking the opportunity of home ownership away from the many people in northern Saskatchewan that deserve that opportunity. But this minister sits here and steadfastly rejects any notion that some of these people in the North — and many of them are disabled — that she denies them the opportunity to have home ownership as part of their pride and joy.

And many disabled people, many disabled people have that option to become home ownership. And when you see that kind of activity on one front, and you don't see the opportunity for training and programs and opportunity for disabled people on many other fronts, then you can see, Mr. Speaker, this government and the entire caucus across the way are simply about spin, about PR [public relations], about billboards, Mr. Speaker, when in fact the people of Saskatchewan know better.

They are simply not there for the long term. They're simply not there for the disabled community. They're simply not there for many, many organizations that have been telling them, when you had the opportunity, you could have done something and you failed on that front miserably, Mr. Speaker. And the disabled people of northern Saskatchewan and the province certainly know that. So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I don't support this motion.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's certainly an honour for me to stand in this Assembly and support the motion brought forward by my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Sutherland, seconded by the member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to begin by just going back to a letter that was referred to by the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, where the member speaks about a family who were, as she said . . . And I do have the letter with me that talked about being absolutely devastated and near despair when their son was not on the 440 wait-list.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be speaking about the 440 list in a few moments. But I want to point out the fact that while the 440 list was there — and is a list that this government or this party when it formed government had to deal with — since that 440 list, there's been 215 individuals over and above the 440 that had to be dealt with who have had services provided.

And the individual that the member from Saskatoon Riversdale refers to, in fact March 17th, 2012 . . . And I acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, that the family lobbied on behalf of their son, but they have a right to lobby. And as a result of their inquiries, the

community living service delivery service began to deal with this family, and a transition to Cheshire Homes started on March 17th, 2012 and has been completed, was completed this year, March 31st of 2013.

So I think it's important for all of us in this Assembly to not only just get one part of the story, but the full part of the story, and the fact that this young gentleman that the member from Saskatoon Riversdale spoke about is now in Cheshire Home and is receiving the care and attention . . . And in fact, Mr. Speaker, the family that was advocating for and as they began to look at it, are very appreciative of the work and effort of this provincial government in reaching out to people with disabilities, which includes their son. So I think it's important for that to be on the record, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of serving in this Assembly for a number of years. And when I was first elected, I happened to be elected to a government that also reached out to people with disabilities. And I can tell you of the number of group homes that were developed and built across Saskatchewan. Certainly there were some in the Moosomin constituency. I can tell you about the Kin-Ability centres that were built at that time, and the Sarcan recycling depots that were built.

And, Mr. Speaker, many members including yourself will acknowledge and are aware of many of these services and facilities because we've had the opportunity of going into these group homes, going into the Kin-Ability centres and into the Sarcan depots. And I can tell you, if anyone wants to take a moment and walk into any of those facilities, you're welcomed with open arms. As you get to converse with people who are dealing with disabilities, you realize that these individuals want to be individuals as well. They don't want to be institutionalized. They don't want to be just in a facility where they just sit all day and sleep all night. They want to have the ability to provide for themselves. They want to have the ability to participate in society.

And I believe, Mr. Speaker, not only did the government of the day back in the '80s remember and think of people with disabilities and provide services and endeavour to provide those services, but since forming government, this Saskatchewan Party has certainly as well and, under the leadership of this Premier, have said to people that are living with or have the individuals with disabilities, we will do everything that we can to ensure that you have the ability to have the assistance that's needed to provide for your child. But also we are telling individuals with disabilities, you are important. You are an important sector of our society and that we will recognize the fact that, regardless of your disability, we want to ensure that you have the greatest opportunity to live your life in dignity.

And, Mr. Speaker, I just want to . . . I think there was a comment made at the most recent Saskatchewan prayer breakfast where our speaker was Mr. Gordon Elhard. And he brought out something that I've never thought of before. We talk about hope. We talk about people having hope. And he used an acronym, and he used that in his classroom and he used that when he was dealing with teachers. And this is how he expresses hope: HOPE is "helping other people excel." And I think as a government we can take a hold of that acronym, helping other people excel. What we're doing for people with

disabilities, Mr. Speaker, is helping individuals with disabilities excel or achieve their greatest potential. And I believe that's very important, Mr. Speaker.

As I said earlier, not only did this government recognize that there were a number of people on a waiting list, waiting for help and assistance and care — and that waiting list was 440 individuals — in the few short years that we've had the privilege of forming government for the . . . well the last little over six years, not only did this government address the 440 wait-list, but this government also recognized that there were more than just 440 people that needed care and needed assistance. In fact 215 to date, 215 additional individuals over the 440 have received care and not only received care but given the ability to become productive individuals regardless of their disabilities. So, Mr. Speaker, I think the record of this government speaks for itself, that we're thinking of and recognize the importance of helping people with disabilities and helping the families with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I note the fact that — and what we have done as a government — not only are we forcing people to rely on social assistance, but we're also recognizing the ability that these individuals have the . . . are given the opportunity to provide for themselves. I've walked into Kin-Ability centres and I've chatted with people with disabilities. And I have had people wrap their arms around me and say thank you and talk about what they've been able to do.

They've received this cheque. They got a cheque, Mr. Speaker. They got a cheque. They weren't just handed something and provided everything for . They got a cheque, and they were able to spend it in a way that they felt made them feel more like an individual, like an important contributor to the province of Saskatchewan. And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, if that doesn't get your attention, if that doesn't bring a few tears to your eyes as you recognize how privileged we are . . .

When you have your health, when you have your mental health and your physical health, we take this all for granted. But people living with disabilities don't have all those opportunities. And to be able to give them the ability of perceiving themselves as being important and that we recognize that and that they have the ability to play a productive part in our society is important.

I think it's said well by Ian Wilkinson, the executive director of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, who's worked in the field for 27 years, "In the last several years, I have seen policy improvements, funding increases, and a raised profile for disability issues that I have not previously witnessed in my career." Mr. Speaker, I think that couldn't be even said any better than that right now.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the privilege, many of my colleagues, many people in this Assembly have had the privilege of working with people from community-based organizations, individuals who are out there working to help and assist people with disabilities. And we've been reminded of the fact that the wages in that sector have lagged behind for so many years, and the difficulty that these organizations have had in finding the personnel because of the lack of salary.

And over the past few years, Mr. Speaker, there's been a

significant increase in the salary levels which has made it much easier. While we haven't achieved utopia, if I could put it that way, as of yet, Mr. Speaker, we certainly have created a better environment for people living with disabilities in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there was a period of time when there was really a . . . There was a period of neglect where issues were left on the back burner, where people with disabilities felt that they were not important. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, in the few short years we've had the privilege of forming government, we've had the opportunity of turning that around.

And as a result, we get letters . . . the Premier's received letters like this. We want to thank you for the commitment you have made to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. For a long time, these individuals have been ignored and undervalued. The increased benefit rates you have promised will help them to move towards a better standard of living and will allow them to be more actively involved in their community. Thank you.

[11:45]

The Speaker: — Time has expired. Next speaker. I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to be able to rise to speak to this particular motion after the member from Moosomin, because I think the member from Moosomin understands about how one serves humbly, how one serves our neighbours and our people. And he identified that this is about helping other people excel. That's what this whole area is about. And you do it in a humble fashion.

And the difficulty that we have had over the last number of weeks is that unfortunately the humble service of people like the Minister of Social Services and others who work in this area has been taken over a bit onto the hyper-spin side. And that is where people get a little uneasy.

The member from Moosomin was quite right to talk about all of the good things that happened around these particular issues in the '70s and the '80s and the '90s. And, Mr. Speaker, we all know that the province had a real difficult corner to get around in the '90s related to the economic conditions and the finances of the province.

But I think also what the member from . . . All the members that have been around here for a while will recognize that these particular issues that are of concern here — the people with disabilities, whether it's intellectual disabilities or whether it's fetal alcohol spectrum disorder related issues or physical disabilities — that they were always working to figure out how to do things better. And, Mr. Speaker, what's very difficult for those of us who worked in the previous government is when there's not a recognition that the work that is being talked about now, which is good work, when it's not recognized that it built on things that happened in the previous decades.

And, Mr. Speaker, the discussion around how to provide special money — as the member from Moosomin said, the cheque that goes to individual disabled people — was a long debate and a

long discussion, because one of the challenges always was there were some people who didn't want to say, I'm disabled, so they could get some money, but they needed the money. There were others who said, no I'm okay with that because that's part of who I am, and let's figure out how to do this. And so there was a lot of discussion to make sure that there were services provided around that.

During that time people were getting assistance, but it was assistance that wasn't always as specifically designated. And clearly there continued to be new facilities being built, but obviously there weren't enough, and I think that's probably still the case now as we hear various things coming forward. But it's about how do we serve people in our community and how we do it humbly. And it's that humble part, I think, that the Premier got wrong when he did the press release, because then people say, well you know, he . . . The list is gone. That's what the headline is. And people say, well I went to his office four times and I didn't get any response. Well that's what you trigger when you go and try to put this stuff up on a high pedestal.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what we're talking about here is, how do we as the people who are in charge of managing the money of the province, how do we make sure that those people who need the assistance of government receive that in the best way, in the most appropriate way?

Now when I was listening to some of the things that are said, people talked about Sarcan, and Sarcan is a very important institution in our province. And I know many of you now take your electronic items to Sarcan and that's added a whole layer of work for people that really need this kind of work. And, Mr. Speaker, that was not the obvious choice of the electronics industry. They pushed very hard to have somebody other than Sarcan do it, and I know that I said, as the Minister of Environment at that point in Saskatchewan, we want to make sure that Sarcan has this kind of work. And after a lot of fuss and a lot of push from the industry, they finally said, okay, we'll do that.

Well last year we had the five-year anniversary of that particular decision and we all know that it's added a whole layer of other good jobs for people so that we can make sure that they, in the community, have a place that they can be proud of and where they're doing things. We need to keep doing those things. We need to keep doing them in a way where we build on what the people we succeed, or that we follow, have already done before us.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think it doesn't serve anybody very well when you dismiss the good work that's been done by the communities before us. And it's especially true when it relates to social services issues and health issues, because I don't think there's anybody in the room that doesn't want to make sure that our resources are used in the most appropriate fashion.

Now where are some of the areas where we need to continue to work? And I know that it's quite interesting to hear the Minister of Highways talk about challenges as the minister. I know the Minister of Health uses that word fairly often too, and I know that the Minister of Social Services uses that word. Because when I was in government, there were a lot of people would raise the question, oh you're always talking about challenges,

but that's the nature of the work that we do in government, is that we look for the challenges and we want to make sure that we address some of those.

So some of the challenges we have now, we have much work to do around fetal alcohol spectrum disorder people whether they're young, whether they're teenagers, but more importantly when they're adults . . . [inaudible] . . . And so some of that work is based on the work that was done 10 years ago on setting up a Western Canada system of looking at how these issues are dealt with. You look at the need for home care in all parts of the province but especially in rural areas. Respite care, we know that that's an issue that needs to be dealt with. And it also relates to people who are helping and providing care to the disabled that we're talking about here, the mentally and physically handicapped people.

And so all of these things are about how do we use our resources now. Now the job, as we all know, when you're in opposition is to ask the questions where there are gaps and where there are things that need to be dealt with. And we will continue to do that because that's our job. But you also need to recognize that we're doing that because we can do better. And that's the point, that's the point — that everybody can do better and we can do better than what our parents or grandparents did. We can do better than what some other institution might have done.

But the point is, how do you do that in a way that you do it in a humble and a service way. And I think that's where sometimes people get it wrong. And I think that's maybe what's happened over the last few weeks, is that the Premier got it wrong and that's a problem for all of us.

The Deputy Speaker: — Time for debate has expired. I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the member from Saskatoon Sutherland: what is a better use of taxpayers' dollars in your opinion: slick PR announcements where ministers dislocate their own shoulders patting themselves on the back, or really supporting housing and programming for the intellectually disabled and their families?

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's nothing about a slick announcement, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's about 440 real people living in Saskatchewan that we need to deal with. You pat yourself on the back over there, member from Athabasca, because you know what? We're actually getting it done. You guys talked about it, you keep talking over there, but you know what? We need a little less conversation and a little more action. Thanks very much.

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

Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you. The NDP record on disability issues is absolutely shameful, Mr. Speaker. During their time in government the NDP chose to allow wait-lists for services for

people with intellectual disabilities to grow to a shocking 440 people. Now the members opposite were really good at making announcements. They were really good at creating wait-lists, but they forgot one part of it, Mr. Speaker, to actually do something about it.

To the member from Riversdale: why did your party feel it was more appropriate to let vulnerable citizens languish on a list than to provide them with the crucial services they needed?

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to say to the member opposite, thank you for the question. And also, would it not be better to ensure that everybody on that 440 list actually has received services, or people who have been waiting for services since 2006 actually have received services, before you boast that everybody else, that everybody else . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . 2006. This government has been in power since 2007. That's six years of this government in power where people with disabilities have continued to wait for services, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question is for the member from Regina, and the question is this. I know that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Regina Coronation Park. I think that's . . . if he's concerned about that.

But basically the question is this: I know that he has been involved in these kinds of issues for his whole career, and I know that he knows what's happened in Regina. And can he not explain to us how the NDP government worked on these issues, the previous Conservative government did, and that all of the work was done in a way where people were concerned about the community?

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

Mr. Docherty: — Thanks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thank the member opposite for the question. I have absolutely no problem understanding, but when I said the word thank you, it's probably something you probably hadn't heard for 16 years. So in terms of the disability community, they have said thank you. And I have noticed this and it has been part of it, it has been part of the career, but in the last five, six years, all I've ever heard from people with disabilities is thank you. And in particular, and in particular, it does . . . it is in recognition of the SAID program and the 440 wait-list. So yes, I do recognize it because I've heard it, and it's because of this government. So thank you.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government strives to make this province the best place in Canada for persons with disabilities. Since November 2007, our government has increased funding for services for people with

intellectual disabilities, including 110 per cent increase for group homes, 81 per cent increase for day programs, 61 per cent increase for supported independent living, and increased funding for approved private service homes serving people with intellectual disabilities by 27 per cent in the last two years alone. Eight hundred and thirty-two per cent more has also been invested in increased income assistance for people with disabilities in our government's first six budgets than the NDP's last six budgets.

To the member from Regina Lakeview: how could your caucus present six consecutive budgets that failed to adequately fund programs and services for people with disabilities?

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

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the Minister of Finance knows, and I think other members over there know that this whole program was a part of the transformation of the Social Services or Community Services budget, and that there was money that was there providing services to these people beforehand. And the information that you've been given is accurate in that it talks about disabilities, but it was a transformation of money that came after many years of discussion in the Calvert and Romanow governments. So I think that the member needs to check the information she gets before she gets up and asks the question.

[12:00]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the member from Regina Coronation Park: Jennifer Birns and her brother Devon were frustrated by the news release two weeks ago after being on a list since 2006. They came to the legislature for help. There are others who have stories not dissimilar to the Birns's and who are constituents of the members opposite. Do the Birnses and others not deserve better than having their government try to discredit and dismiss them?

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

Mr. Docherty: — Our record stands for itself. And thanks for the . . . Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thanks to the member opposite. But our records stands on its own, stands for itself. We absolutely are going to listen to every single person that walks through the door and has an issue.

And in regards to the last . . . I mean, honestly, the 16 years that previous to our being in power and in government, the CBO [community-based organization] sector absolutely sat and was wondering where was their government of the time, pre-2007. So I had to sit there, I had to sit there for 16 years and explain to people, I'm terribly sorry, your government has let you down. In the last six or seven years, our government has not let us down. Thank you.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Our government has increased funding by a total of 110 per cent for group homes for people with intellectual disabilities. Additionally total group homes spaces for people with intellectual disabilities in our province has increased by 25 per cent. Our government has made a priority of ensuring this vulnerable group is taken care of and have a safe place to call home.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is in far contrast to the view of the last NDP Social Services minister, who was quoted saying, there is no mandate under law to provide services for intellectually disabled people. Under the NDP, intellectually disabled people were regularly being dumped in hospitals, nursing homes, and jails.

To the member from Regina Riversdale: do you still share this view as your former . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Saskatoon Riversdale: do you still share this view?

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no doubt there's been some very good work done around the area of intellectual disabilities here in Saskatchewan. There's no doubt about it. But is it appropriate to grandstand and boast when there are still so many people who have not been served, who are still languishing in hospitals and long-term care homes, Mr. Deputy Speaker? That is the question. There are still people languishing with intellectual and physical disabilities in hospitals and long-term care. And that is not appropriate on a file as sensitive as this. You should not be boasting when there is much work to do, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the member from Moosomin: why does the members opposite think that the disabled people of northern Saskatchewan do not deserve a chance to own their homes and live a full dignified life?

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think for the past 16 years, and that member was part of the government at the time, a lot could have been done for the people in the North.

But I also want to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the record that has been spoken about today has also proven that this government works to work with people and address the needs of people across this province, not just in the large urban centres or rural Saskatchewan, but northern Saskatchewan as well. We've increased funding to over 120 CBOs in the North, Mr. Deputy Speaker, added community service worker positions in La Ronge to assess needs and provide ongoing case management. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think the record of this government will stand for a long, long time about how it cares for people with disabilities.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Our government is moving hard to ensure that Saskatchewan is the best place to live for people with disabilities. The Saskatchewan assured income for disability program is an example of an initiative our government has taken forward . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Time for the 75-minute debate has expired.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

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

Motion No. 5 — Allocation of Spending on Education

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. After my comments, Mr. Speaker, I'll be moving my motion. And I want to first of all point out to the people that may be listening to this particular debate that we're going to be speaking for some time on the whole issue of standardized testing, Mr. Speaker, something that the Saskatchewan Party government certainly sail as their flagship initiative.

Standardized testing for Saskatchewan is now one of the things that the Saskatchewan Party government want to say they brought in, and they do it with great fanfare, Mr. Speaker. They brag about it wherever they go. They pat themselves on the back that this government is going to bring in standardized testing, Mr. Speaker, for the people of Saskatchewan.

But I'll tell the people of Saskatchewan one thing. We have to do an analysis very quickly about what the Saskatchewan Party government is really about, Mr. Speaker, the history. And I would point out, based on the position that they've taken on standardized testing, Mr. Speaker, it is in their philosophical beliefs that they have to do this, Mr. Speaker, when nobody else wants it.

We're talking common sense from our perspective as an opposition, Mr. Speaker. And that's why I forwarded this motion today, to tell the people of Saskatchewan that we in the NDP think there's better use of educational dollars out there than spending \$12 million on standardized testing that the minister had mentioned the other day, Mr. Speaker.

And what's even a worse waste of money, Mr. Speaker, is spending \$400,000 to put together a slick public relations campaign, a billboard advertisement to show that they're going to do this PR exercise, wasting valuable educational dollars, Mr. Speaker. But on the NDP side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we think that is absolutely the worst idea ever, Mr. Speaker.

And let me tell you what I think is probably the norm across the way, Mr. Speaker. This is a government, the Sask Party government, that doesn't know where it's going. It is a rudderless ship, Mr. Speaker. It has no idea what it's doing. It has no idea what it stands for. And it certainly doesn't know where it's going, Mr. Speaker. That's an absolute, very obvious

from our perspective, and very obvious from our vantage point.

First of all, these guys are privatizing our Crowns by stealth. We all know that that's happening, Mr. Speaker. And now we find out from the Provincial Auditor that we're going to be in debt \$19.1 billion by next year — \$19.1 billion, next year, is our debt. Well didn't these same guys, didn't these same guys put out a billboard a number of years ago saying that they're actually reducing debt by 40 per cent? Then the auditor says, oh, oops, it's actually 19.1 billion we're in the hole.

Then we're going to war with our working men and women. They're not addressing the housing needs, Mr. Speaker. They're certainly . . . They're squandering. They're squandering the opportunity to build a prosperous and long-lasting economy for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, because they don't know what they're doing.

And now we see the debt going up for government. University debts are going up. Municipal government debts are going up, Mr. Speaker. And their latest scheme is the P3 [public-private partnership] scheme, Mr. Speaker. They're going to put money into P3s to build hospitals and roads and schools and they're going to punt that debt down for our kids to pay, our grandkids to pay, Mr. Speaker.

And now their latest foray into politics, Mr. Speaker, is standardized testing. Standardized testing is something that they want to do, Mr. Speaker. So you look at the history of the Saskatchewan Party. That's why I'm on this side of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. We know they don't know what they're doing, and the people of Saskatchewan are going to quickly find that out, Mr. Speaker. They are going to quickly find that out that the Saskatchewan Party's ship is rudderless. They have no direction as to what they want to do, but they are guided by one thing, their philosophical belief in the privatization of our Crowns, of putting Saskatchewan back into debt, Mr. Speaker, of making sure they take care of their insider and their rich friends, Mr. Speaker, at the expense of Saskatchewan's future, Mr. Speaker.

I think one of the things that's really important, Mr. Speaker, is that if you look, if you look at standardized testing as a whole — and we've had this discussion, Mr. Speaker — if you look at standardized testing, Mr. Speaker, and you say, okay if that's what the Saskatchewan Party want to hang their hat on, this standardized testing concept, you know, Mr. Speaker, then hopefully there'll be some other complementary efforts, Mr. Speaker, to support that call for standardized testing.

But now you look at some of the examples that they have undertaken. English as a second language program — that's gone, Mr. Speaker. Several hundred educational assistants — gone, Mr. Speaker. The Aboriginal employment development strategy — gone, Mr. Speaker. The Aboriginal education support system — gone, Mr. Speaker. Respect for our partners like STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation], like the Saskatchewan School Boards Association, parents — gone, Mr. Speaker.

And we see schools falling apart, Mr. Speaker, and no support towards our school system. I heard an example of that today, Mr. Speaker. Support for a long-term plan for our school

system to bring the infrastructure up to par — gone, Mr. Speaker. And all the Saskatchewan Party can do is talk about standardized testing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what's really important is I look at the minister today, and certainly I respect his background. He's been involved with education for a number of years, and he ought to know, Mr. Speaker. He ought to know that the teachers and the School Boards Association and the many people involved with education say one thing to him: that if you're going to insist on standardized testing, then you must bring on the supports necessary to build a solid base of support for our students so that they can excel in education, Mr. Speaker. He should know that.

But what happens, Mr. Speaker, is this minister refuses to stand up and fight for the right thing. All he's pushing is standardized testing. Standardized testing — that's all they're saying. And in the meantime our schools are falling apart. And in the meantime our teachers are being taken for granted. And in the meantime it puts a lot of strain on the education system as a whole.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they're not addressing, they're not addressing the key, core issue when they talk about standardized testing. And the minister was asked about standardized testing. Where did you get this concept? Who likes it? And who wants it? And, Mr. Speaker, all the minister could say in question period, the response to the question by my colleague from Saskatoon, was the evidence is evident. That was his response. The evidence is evident.

Well we need to see that documentation. We need to see the reason why they brought standardized testing in. And, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party, the Premier and cabinet and the minister, have failed to provide the documentation to the Assembly, to the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association], to the STF, and to the parents. Where is their evidence that standardized testing is something that the people of Saskatchewan want and it's something that we should have?

Now, Mr. Speaker, as they run up the flagpole their standardized testing flag, what's happening, Mr. Speaker, is you're seeing a deteriorating school system where you have gyms such as Sacred Heart's gym here locally that cannot be used by the students. And you're seeing teachers being taken for granted, Mr. Speaker. And you see a number of initiatives at the school level being wiped out. And all they can respond to some of these challenges, Mr. Speaker, in the time of economic prosperity, in the time of economic prosperity, all they can talk about across the way, the Saskatchewan Party, the minister, the Premier, and the entire cabinet, is standardized testing. And that's shameful.

They all have to know that there's a lot more work to build up a solid base of educational opportunity in this province as opposed to talking about standardized testing only. The people of Saskatchewan don't want it. The teachers are telling the government that they don't want it.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's better use of resources, better use of those valuable \$12 million that they're spending on this program plus the \$400,000 for their PR and their spin campaign. There is better use of that twelve and a half million

dollars than forcing something down the people of Saskatchewan's throat that they don't like, that they don't want. And, Mr. Speaker, about the only party and about the only group, the people that like that standardized testing, Mr. Speaker, is that 49 people across the way. And I urge the backbench to talk to your teachers, talk to your school board rep, and speak up for your constituents. A lot of people don't want that, Mr. Speaker.

Now we talk about some of the issues that hamper some of the students' success, Mr. Speaker. A lot of the process — and I spoke to an educator today — a lot of the processes that hamper students' progress to achieve all that they can achieve, Mr. Speaker, a lot of them are external. There are external pressures on students. We know that, Mr. Speaker. We know that very clearly — things like housing. A lot of families live in crowded housing. You know, and there's a lot of challenge, and I'm doing my own experience of northern Saskatchewan because that's where I'm from. I understand northern Saskatchewan quite well.

[12:15]

You look at family responsibility, Mr. Speaker. A lot of the kids that should be in school sometimes help out families with things like chores, babysitting, and even sometimes work to bring extra income into their homes.

You look at peer pressure, Mr. Speaker, peer pressure to not go to school, to find a job, a quicker job, a quicker buck. And all these factors, Mr. Speaker, do provide external pressures on the students in terms of their ability to do the work at school, the concentration level. And of course, Mr. Speaker, the most important thing is attending school to begin with, to be able to be there and to attend school.

Now, Mr. Speaker, look at the other issues, some of the challenges that people talk . . . For example, drug abuse. Is that a challenge that affects our students? And the answer is, yes it does. A lot of people may be involved with illegal drugs and they try and get the students involved. There's that pressure on the students as well. There's no mechanisms to support that student. We need to find ways to support that student better.

Now one of the things that's really important . . . And so we talk a bit about the attendance aspect, which is really important on this front, Mr. Speaker. But the whole notion, the whole notion of standardized testing is you want to be able to nourish the teachings into that child — that this person is not simply a robot; that this a human being, that this human being needs to be nurtured in many, many ways. And what is happening is that a lot of the times the teachers can recognize that. The teachers can recognize that sometimes they have to excite the kids to get them to come to school — that sometimes it's your basketball practice, sometimes it's your drama opportunity, sometimes it's your chess club, sometimes it's a computer club that'll take you to school. So you've got to have that exciting agenda at the school to be able to attract students there, Mr. Speaker. And you cannot stifle the imagination and the opportunity that these students deserve and want by simply having a standardized testing approach.

So what happens — and I think one of the points that was raised

with me just today in terms of this standardized testing notion — is you're teaching to the test. You're teaching kids to the test and that stifles personal growth and that really inhibits teachers from becoming more involved with that student, Mr. Speaker. The teachers are building a person. They're building a human being. They're building an exciting individual, Mr. Speaker. And if you just limit the teacher to teaching to the test, you going to stifle a lot of some of the other opportunities that that child may want, that that child may need and that child deserves as a prerequisite to leading a health, happy, productive life for many, many years.

Mr. Speaker, we have to allow these students to think for themselves and think out of the box. They've got to flourish, they've got to prosper, and they've got to be able to be exciting and engaged individuals and students. And, Mr. Speaker, if you put them in that box of standardized testing where the teachers themselves are simply teaching to the test, then, Mr. Speaker, you are doing a great disservice to not only that student, but to the parents, to the School Boards Association, and especially to the teachers whom you've stifled from really doing what they do best, and that's building us a bright future to educating our young boys and girls.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that as the minister and the Premier in the Saskatchewan Party government come along and they talk about standardized testing, my only argument is, who asked for this? Who asked for this standardized testing process to begin? And when you hear they're spending \$12 million on a standardized testing program when schools need work, when our teachers need assistance, when you see gyms being closed because they're in very poor condition, and when you see no excitement happening on the education front from the Sask Party, the biggest question we have is, who asked for the standardized testing to begin and to be part and parcel of what Saskatchewan is? Mr. Speaker, absolutely no one. That party was driven by its philosophical beliefs to have the standardized testing and, Mr. Speaker, they used some far-off study dated in 1910 to justify some of the things that they're doing.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan have one resounding message to the Sask Party. We don't want your standardized testing. We simply don't think it's a proper thing to do, especially if you're not affording the supports in other areas that are necessary to bring up and to challenge our kids and to bring up the marks that is hopefully being achieved through the standardized testing model that the minister is talking about. And I underline hope, Mr. Speaker, because what's going to happen is you're going to have a lot, a lot of kids that are going to be falling through the cracks as a result of the standardized testing.

Now, Mr. Speaker, but this is certainly concurrent with how this government has treated the education system in our province. We see universities' tuition rates going up. Mr. Speaker, the first time in years we've seen the teachers go on strike. I think it was . . . [inaudible] . . . that they held a rally out here, that they went on strike over that long period of time because they simply had enough of the Sask Party and the way they treat the teachers and our schools and our school boards, Mr. Speaker. And the list goes on.

Now the other point I think is really important, Mr. Speaker, and that's something that a lot of people seem to have missed, Mr. Speaker, and the fact that when you look at the whole notion of the result of standardized testing, the minister's saying, oh we're going to see this for our own internal purposes. What happens if a number of schools or a number of regions have difficulty in passing the standardized testing process, Mr. Speaker? What happens then? Are they going to identify what we know already, that there are external pressures that inhibit the child's ability to learn — such as housing, peer pressure, drugs, local community problems — all those issues? Those are external pressures placed on that student.

So if they're not able to pass the standardized testing, Mr. Speaker, and the schools are struggling with that, what's going to happen? What's going to happen after that, Mr. Speaker? I'll tell you what's going to happen. Absolutely nothing, because nothing happened before standardized testing to justify standardized testing, so you can bet your bottom dollar, Mr. Speaker, that nothing's going to happen after the standardized testing is implemented. All they simply want to do is to be able to be critical of our teachers. What they're going to do is to try and separate school divisions and separate communities and create confusion, Mr. Speaker. That's what they're going to do.

And secondly, Mr. Speaker, they talk about trying to bridge the gap between First Nations and Métis students and that of the general population.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what kind of authority does this government have if they implement standardized testing to make sure standardized testing is applied to the First Nations school? And then after they apply it to the First Nations school, what are they going to do to resolve the external pressures on that particular school? Absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker.

That's why the teachers out there are saying, why put this process in place if you guys don't know what the game plan is before the process and after the process, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely no one wanted standardized testing because it places an unfair disadvantage on our students. It really, really judges the teachers' performance, which I don't think is fair to the teaching profession, Mr. Speaker, and it inhibits future growth of our young people, which is essential to the success of our province overall, Mr. Speaker.

So once again, the people of Saskatchewan are telling this government, we don't want standardized testing. And the minister's experience in education should demand that he stand up. As the minister he should demand to stand up and say, as a person that was involved with education to the extent that he was involved, we and I don't fundamentally believe, believe that standardized testing is the way to go.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, we see him standing up in the Assembly, question period after question period, fumbling through an answer that he doesn't have. Why, Mr. Speaker? He's being told by the conservative-run bench, you will do this. You will do this, otherwise you're out of cabinet. And, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly my point when I say you're stifling free thinking. You're stifling really progressive thinking amongst our young kids and even to the point where it's affecting ministers, Mr. Speaker. And that's the analogy that I want to make.

Across the way the minister should have said, look we want to make sure our children are educated to the best level possible. We want to make sure that they're free thinkers. We want to make sure that they're exciting. We want to make sure that they're positive. We want to make sure that they're in school. We want to make sure all these positive things happen, Mr. Speaker, but there are external pressures on that student. We need to recognize that. So let's address the external pressures, such as a crumbling school, such as a crumbling school. That would improve attendance. That would improve student performance. That would improve attitudes in our school. That would make all the world of difference, Mr. Speaker. But instead the minister fumbles through the answer and he says, the evidence is evident that standardized testing works. Nobody asked the minister for that.

So my point is the minister ought to stand up and do the right thing and say, based on his educational background, based on his experience, discussions with the school board, discussions with the teachers, discussions with the parents, and maybe involve the students once in a while, Mr. Speaker, that he would find that's got to be the silliest idea ever, to impose standardized testing with no backup plan, Mr. Speaker.

Now I had the opportunity to attend a few functions with STF, Mr. Speaker. And one of the functions that I attended, they got a nice gift — I mentioned this earlier in the Assembly — they got a nice, decorated box placed at each of their settings at the table at this conference and a gift from the Government of Saskatchewan. And what it was, Mr. Speaker, was when they spent money replacing this ugly green coloured rug here from the original red, they cut up little pieces of carpets, little pieces of carpets, and they put them in this nice tiny box with bows and said, here's a gift for the teachers. They gave them a piece of rug from the Assembly.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that the teachers were not impressed with that gift. That is, that is the primary problem, Mr. Speaker, is that as a token of the Sask Party's appreciation towards the teachers, they cut up little pieces of rug, of the old red rug here, and they sent it to each of the teachers for a gift,. And then they turned around and said, oh now we've got another gift for you. It's called standardized testing, Mr. Speaker. That's what it's called, standardized testing.

Now I want to say one thing, Mr. Speaker. What's really important, in northern Saskatchewan when I was growing up, attending school, I can tell you right now that as a young student what I wanted to do was . . . I was told to go to school by my father. You're going to go to school every day, and if you're not in school, you're going to go to work. But the choices I had was school or work, and I chose to go to school to make sure I got my grade 12.

But when I went to school, Mr. Speaker, when I went to school, we participated in a number of sports. Basketball, volleyball, track, we played them all, Mr. Speaker. And not only did I play in those sports, Mr. Speaker, but I also took French, Monsieur le Président, one year. Then I joined the chess club, Mr. Speaker. And then, Mr. Speaker, we went on school trips. And do you think for a moment that all these extracurricular activities that the teachers afforded me when I was in school, did it have an effect on my attitude and my attendance at

school? Absolutely it did, in a very positive way, Mr. Speaker. In a very positive way the teachers of Ile-a-la-Crosse or that taught in Ile-a-la-Crosse, they had a positive effect and benefit on our lives.

And today for me to come along and say, oh we're going to put standardized testing in place now, that is absolutely, Mr. Speaker, in the worst way, that's a betrayal of what the value is behind showing the value to our teachers and the value of our education system overall, Mr. Speaker. It is a betrayal. It is a departure from what I think the minister ought to believe in, which is timely, concise, and continual investment to make sure that Saskatchewan has the best education system in the country, something that we can be proud of. And standardized testing is not going to achieve that, Mr. Speaker. It's going to inhibit that opportunity.

Now what's also really important, Mr. Speaker, is when we talk about the universities in general because you want our students going to U of S and U of R, Mr. Speaker, and going to SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] as well. Mr. Speaker, as we see even those institutions going deep in debt and as you see the fact that they've got to grapple with this debt and layoffs occur, people are saying, well universities, you know, how important and valuable are they to Saskatchewan? They absolutely are, Mr. Speaker. It's not just the fact that they have a history, that they're a very proud institution in this province but the fact that they have quality education.

And as you begin to burden our universities with debt and as they begin to grapple with that debt and start firing quality teachers, those people leave and go to other areas. And thus you affect the quality of education at that particular location. And that's the whole issue that we're trying to bring up here within the NDP is the fact that you've got to make sure you have timely investment to build on the quality education we have now because if you don't, some of the quality instructors will leave. Some of the programs will shut down. And that is a deterioration, deterioration of our entire education system right from kindergarten to grade school to university and technical trade level, Mr. Speaker.

[12:30]

So the Sask Party's got to figure this out. And about all they've been able to do, Mr. Speaker, all they've been able to do is talk about standardized testing, which nobody wanted. And that's an absolute shame, Mr. Speaker. The minister should free himself of the shackles put onto him by that Sask Party government and fundamentally stand up and say, I do not believe in standardized testing, and the only way that he could support standardized testing is if he put all these support mechanisms in place.

Because what's going to happen to our teaching staff? What's going to happen to our schools? What's going to happen to the First Nations and the Métis people, Mr. Speaker? What's going to happen to a number of people in Saskatchewan that'll be affected negatively by what the Sask Party philosophically believes is important to do when they implement this standardized testing? Twelve million dollars we could have spent somewhere else, \$400,000 on PR and spin.

Mr. Speaker, I say again very loudly and clearly here today that the people of Saskatchewan, the school boards, the parents, the students, and our institutions that have for years provided good quality service and a good education to many of our families, Mr. Speaker, they did not ask for standardized testing. And why can't that minister, that Premier, and that government get it through their head that this is a wrong thing to do, Mr. Speaker? This is a wrong thing to do because (a) they never put the supports in place to address the challenges that threaten our school system, and (b) they're not prepared to do anything after they do the standardized system testing, Mr. Speaker.

So again if you look at all these things, look at all these issues, our role as a government is to try and attract kids to school. Our role as government is to try and enhance extra learning. Our role as government is to respect the players — such as STF, the teachers, the individual teachers, and the school boards — who are taxed with making sure that their school does the right thing. We need to respect those players, Mr. Speaker. And when we arbitrarily come along and we say, we're going to put the standardized testing in place, and guess what? It's going to cost \$12.4 million the first year. When nobody asked for this at all, Mr. Speaker.

So from every teacher across the province, to every teacher, I say this: remember who implemented the standardized testing model. It was the Saskatchewan Party government. To every teacher across the way, Mr. Speaker: as opposed to respecting your rights and supporting your ability to teach our children, they send you a piece of rug from the Assembly. To every teacher across the way that encouraged, that encouraged students to learn not just the math and the sciences and the grammar but to learn chess, to learn basketball, you know, to learn drama, all the extracurricular activities, they have not respected that kind of work.

And about all you can expect from the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker, is standardized testing, something that nobody wanted. And today, now we sit here and wonder why this government is doing this. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't make any common sense at all. They are being driven by their philosophy, Mr. Speaker. And at the end of the day, I think what they want to do is rank our teachers. They want to rank our schools, and they want to rank our kids. For what purposes? I don't know, Mr. Speaker. After they finish their ranking, how are they going to treat some of our schools, our teachers, and our students? And I can almost guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, based on the conservative philosophy, they're going to take care of their own and forget the rest, Mr. Speaker. That's what I believe is going to happen.

So I point out to the people of Saskatchewan this simple fact: the Saskatchewan Party is going to force standardized testing down your throat. They have a minister that has an experience in education that refuses to stand up for the people that he worked with for many, many years. Why? Because he's told to sing from this song sheet and do not deviate from any notes. And that's exactly what he's doing, which I think is a shame, Mr. Speaker. He ought to think one thing, and it's that he ought to be given the free rein to do what he thinks is necessary to educate our kids to the point where we're leading the whole nation. I want to see that for my grandkids and for my children, Mr. Speaker. We want to all see that.

But if you put in the penalty-filled proposition attached to standardized testing, you're going to scare off students. You're going to isolate a great number of students that have difficulty passing these tests. You're going to ostracize some of our school systems and some of our school boards and some of our communities by putting this in place. What's the whole purpose of judging each other, Mr. Speaker, when we can work as a collective to build a stronger educational system that'll serve Saskatchewan for many, many years to come.

So on this part, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really important that people have to know that there is a way that you can defeat the Sask Party when it comes to standardized testing. You speak up. You speak up and do the media as teachers or parents or kids. Get organized, get organized. Go to television or radio. Talk to your MLA. Come to the Assembly. Speak to your school board. Speak to your MP [Member of Parliament]. Speak to whoever you can speak to, Mr. Speaker, and tell them we never asked for standardized testing; why are you implementing that?

And what's really important, Mr. Speaker, is next time the election comes around and some Sask Party guy comes along, mention to them the P3s. Mention to them the \$19.1 billion. Mention that they can't fix our highways, Mr. Speaker. Mention the escalating cost of P3s as I mentioned earlier. Talk to them about the challenges that the U of S and the U of R and SIAST all face. Talk to them about the record debt that all the municipalities are facing now, Mr. Speaker. Talk to them about all the programs that we enjoyed once as a province. Why is it gone?

And the last point you'd say is, Mr. Candidate, why did you guys implement standardized testing when absolutely nobody wanted it? You ask him that, Mr. Speaker. You ask him that. And when they're at your doorstep, if they . . . [inaudible] . . . give you some solid answers — answers we have not gotten in this Assembly because they don't have an answer — then I think the people of Saskatchewan will make up their mind come that day, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan, once again I'll say it as loud as I can, they did not want standardized testing, especially the money wasted on it.

I don't know how many more ways I can explain to the minister that that's an absolute shame that he's standing up advocating for that when he knows deep down, based on his experience, that there's different ways that you can challenge the system. There's different ways you can build a stronger education system. And one based on shame, on making sure you're telling the teachers to teach to the test and that you stifle future growth, that's not the option, and that's not the way to go.

And I say today that the same notion, as they stand in their front benches, Mr. Speaker, I don't know who's pulling the strings over there, but this minister ought to have free thinking. And he ought to stand up and he'd say, enough of this philosophical BS. It doesn't make any sense. It doesn't make any sense.

The Deputy Speaker: — I would ask the member to be careful with his remarks and use parliamentary language in debate. I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — So, Mr. Speaker, I apologize for that

language, but I have very strong feelings about this, Mr. Speaker. As you look at what they're attempting to do, it is a system based on shame. It stifles opportunity for the student and for the teacher and, Mr. Speaker, there is no supports whatsoever. I don't know how many more times I've got to say it. But what I point out, that from their philosophical position, it doesn't make any sense, any sense at all, any common sense at all, why they're implementing standardized testing.

I have no idea where this came from, Mr. Speaker. But I am sure that the minister fundamentally and principally doesn't believe in this, but he is forced to sing from that song sheet. Because had he been doing a more astute job at being the Minister of Education, he'd stand up for the teachers. He'd stand up for the school board. He'd stand up for the parents. He'd stand up for the students and say, here is a better way to achieve better results. Here's a better way to achieve better results as opposed to putting in this standardized testing which nobody wanted, Mr. Speaker. Again, nobody wants the standardized testing, and yet he insists day after day of getting up and saying, it's a good thing. And he's wasting valuable resource dollars, valuable education dollars to put forward this nonsensical strategy called standardized testing, Mr. Speaker.

And again, you look at all these issues, all of these issues. Again, I tell the people of Saskatchewan, the Sask Party's honeymoon is over. We're starting to see that they're doing a lot of things that are not proper, whether it's P3s which increase our debt, whether it's the debt overall, whether it's going to war with our working people, privatizing the Crowns, not fixing our roads, taking home ownership away from many people, Mr. Speaker, squandering the opportunity left to them by the NDP and the people of Saskatchewan because the Assembly don't know what they're doing, Mr. Speaker.

And the worst part, Mr. Speaker, is wasting valuable resources, valuable dollars, Mr. Speaker, on things like standardized testing. Where did that silly idea come from? And what's worse, Mr. Speaker, is why is that minister, given his history with education, supporting that silly concept? That's what's really confusing and what is totally beyond many of us that watch what goes on with our educational system.

So, Mr. Speaker, from my perspective as a member of the NDP, I will tell the teachers that you have great strength. I will tell the teachers that they have a great strength, Mr. Speaker. I will tell the students that they're the future of Saskatchewan. I will tell the school boards that they are tasked with the responsibility of putting forward strategies that deal with silly ideas like standardized testing, with no control. But they will have control, Mr. Speaker. That control will come back.

And I will tell the students above all else that the Saskatchewan Party has now squandered and stifled your opportunity to become really people that are thinking out of the box, being able to think on your own, being able to build on your imagination, simply because they're making you conform to a box called standardized testing. You're being placed in that box by the Saskatchewan Party government, and I say to them, shame on them.

But to the school board, the parents, the teachers, the students, your opportunity to speak up and grade this government on

their silly notion of bringing forward a standardized testing program will come at the next election. And they come knocking on your door, you close that door and say, no we're not talking to you. You didn't talk to us on the standardized testing. We're not talking to you about politics. We're going to vote NDP. We're going to make sure you guys never, ever have a chance to put any of these philosophical, nonsensical plans in place.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think there's a lot more I want to say. There's a lot more I want to say, a lot more that I want to say. And there's going to be a lot more . . . The people of Saskatchewan is going to speak and speak up in volumes and speak en masse, Mr. Speaker, to ensure, to ensure that the Sask Party get the message, Mr. Speaker.

And the whole notion, the whole notion of these people across the way . . . I wonder if they took a standardized test, Mr. Speaker, I wonder how many of them would pass a standardized test. And I can almost guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, half of them would fail. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because they were able to maintain their attendance at school because they had extracurricular activities. And today now their flagship of standardized testing, half the Sask Party caucus, I can guarantee you, would fail at standardized tests. And yet it's something that they want to pin their hat on.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to do the motion, and the motion reads as follows:

That this Assembly urge the government to reallocate the \$12 million being spent on standardized testing towards reducing classroom sizes, expanding English as an additional language support, supporting more educational assistants, and rebuilding crumbling school infrastructure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. I'd ask the members to come to order please. The member from Athabasca has moved the following motion:

That this Assembly urge the government to reallocate the \$12 million being spent on standardized testing towards reducing classroom sizes, expanding English as an additional language support, supporting more educational assistants, and rebuilding crumbling school infrastructure.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of committee this afternoon, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — Before I would entertain a motion of adjournment, I would invite . . . We have a motion before the House, and I'd invite a private member to move adjournment of debate . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, okay. The

Government House Leader has moved adjournment on debate of the motion. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — I'll recognize the Government House Leader.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The House Leader has moved that this House does now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:45.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

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

Hon. Ken Krawetz

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Minister of Finance

Hon. Russ Marchuk

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Hon. Tim McMillan

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

Hon. Don McMorris

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
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Services Corporation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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