

SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

# DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD) Published under the authority of The Hon. Dan D'Autremont Speaker

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NO. 66A WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013, 10 a.m.

#### MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D'Autremont Premier — Hon. Brad Wall Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone Saskatoon Sutherland
Merriman, Paul	SP	
Michelson, Warren	SP SP	Moose Jaw North Rosthern-Shellbrook
Moe, Scott	SP	
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP NDP	Saskatoon Southeast Regina Lakeview
Nilson, John Norris, Hon, Poh		
Norris, Hon. Rob Ottenbreit, Greg	SP SP	Saskatoon Greystone 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
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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

**The Speaker**: — I'm advised that Her Honour is here for prorogation.

#### PROROGATION

[At 10:02 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took her seat upon the Throne. Her Honour was then pleased to deliver the following speech.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislative Assembly, people of Saskatchewan.

Nearly one year ago I delivered to you my government's vision for the second session of the twenty-seventh legislature of the province of Saskatchewan. As this session draws to a close, I can confidently say that my government continues to move forward with "Planning for Growth," the title of the 2012 Speech from the Throne.

The growth Saskatchewan has seen over the last several years is unprecedented. Last month we learned that Saskatchewan has grown to over 1.1 million people for the first time in our province's history. That represents an increase of over 100,000 people since 2007 — the year that my government took office. Our children are staying in Saskatchewan, our expatriates are returning, and people from across the country and around the world are flocking here to share our success.

Saskatchewan now has the lowest unemployment rate and our wages are growing at one of the fastest rates in Canada. Our exports put food on tables and energy in communities around the world. Last year Saskatchewan surpassed British Columbia to become the fourth largest exporter in the country. It seems that Regina's mighty shores are eclipsing even the port of Vancouver.

The hard work, resilience, and dedication of Saskatchewan people have allowed our economy to lead the nation. In fact, 15 per cent of workers in Saskatchewan are self-employed compared to 9.5 per cent nationally. The entrepreneurial spirit and determination in our province means the best is yet to come.

Last year my government released *The Saskatchewan Plan for Growth: Vision 2020 and Beyond*. It is a plan that outlines my government's goal of a Saskatchewan with 1.2 million people by 2020. It is a plan that seeks to balance economic growth with social progress, a plan that will ensure an improved quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents.

Our goals are bold. My government believes that Saskatchewan can:

- Lead the country in grade 12 graduation rates by 2020;
- Eliminate wait times in emergency wait rooms by 2017;

- Invest \$2.5 billion in infrastructure over the remaining course of this term; and,
- Cut the provincial debt in half from its 2007 levels by 2017.

Over the past year, much has happened in our Assembly that will help these goals come to fruition. On March 20, my government tabled its sixth consecutive balanced budget. One of the biggest challenges of a growing economy is providing the necessary infrastructure so that our growth is not impeded.

To this end, my government is investing \$847 million in infrastructure projects this year, including:

- \$119.6 million in capital funding to advance a number of school projects.
- \$164 million for health care facilities, including the Moose Jaw Hospital and continued work on long-term care facilities in 11 communities.
- \$576 million to improve our province's highway network.

My government does not believe in growth solely for the sake of growth. My government believes in growth so that Saskatchewan will be the best place to live, work, start a business, and raise a family. In order for our province to be all of those things, we need to make sure that we take care of our most vulnerable citizens.

This year my government increased support benefits for the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability program and the Seniors' Income Plan. More than 10,000 people will receive increased monthly benefits through the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability program. And by 2015, people with disabilities will receive \$4,200 more per year through the SAID program.

The Seniors' Income Plan benefit is now \$250 a month, up \$160 a month or 178 per cent since 2008. Caring for those who have helped grow our magnificent province with dignity and respect is a priority of my government. This is why my government has invested \$2 million in an innovative home care pilot project in Regina to allow our seniors, the people who built this province, to live in their own homes for as long as possible with the dignity that they deserve. My government has also provided \$800,000 in funding for a new transition house in Melfort – the first of its kind built in Saskatchewan since 1989 – and the expansion of women's shelters in Regina and Prince Albert.

The future of our province is dependent on the success of our youngest generation. This is why my government has increased overall education funding by 6.7 per cent from 2012-13, including the first ever mid-year enrolment increase of \$17 million to help school divisions address the challenges of growth.

During this session, my government made some important legislative and regulatory changes including:

• *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* – a comprehensive bill that protects workers, promotes growth, increases accountability, and indexes the minimum wage;

- *The Information Services Corporation Act* which allowed for a successful share offering where 45 per cent of Saskatchewan residents and over 275 employees now own shares in this profitable corporation;
- *The Traffic Safety Act* which tripled the fines for those speeding in construction zones and enabled law enforcement to utilize photo radar in construction zones, increasing the safety of our highway construction zones; and,
- *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act* which modernized 70 different liquor regulations in the province, many of which hadn't undergone a comprehensive review for decades.

These are just a few of the many highlights of the past legislative session.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to discharge you from further attendance of the second session of the twenty-seventh legislature. Saskatchewan farmers start planning for seeding the moment the harvest is in the bin. Let the end of this session be the start of your work for the coming session.

In relieving you of your duties, I also wish to congratulate you on the work you have completed over the past year and to commend you for the diligent and empathetic manner in which you have approached your duties.

**Hon. Mr. Elhard**: — Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until later today, the 23rd day of October, 2013 at 2 p.m. The Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 10:11.]

## GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

### Hon. Brad Wall Premier President of the Executive Council Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

#### Hon. Bill Boyd

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

#### Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

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

#### Hon. Kevin Doherty

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

#### Hon. June Draude

Minister of Social Services Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

> Hon. Dustin Duncan Minister of Health

#### Hon. Donna Harpauer

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

#### Hon. Nancy Heppner

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

> Hon. Ken Krawetz Deputy Premier Minister of Finance

#### Hon. Tim McMillan

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

#### Hon. Don McMorris

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

#### Hon. Don Morgan

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

> Hon. Rob Norris Minister of Advanced Education

#### Hon. Jim Reiter

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

#### Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Randy Weekes Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Gordon Wyant Minister of Justice and Attorney General