

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