



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

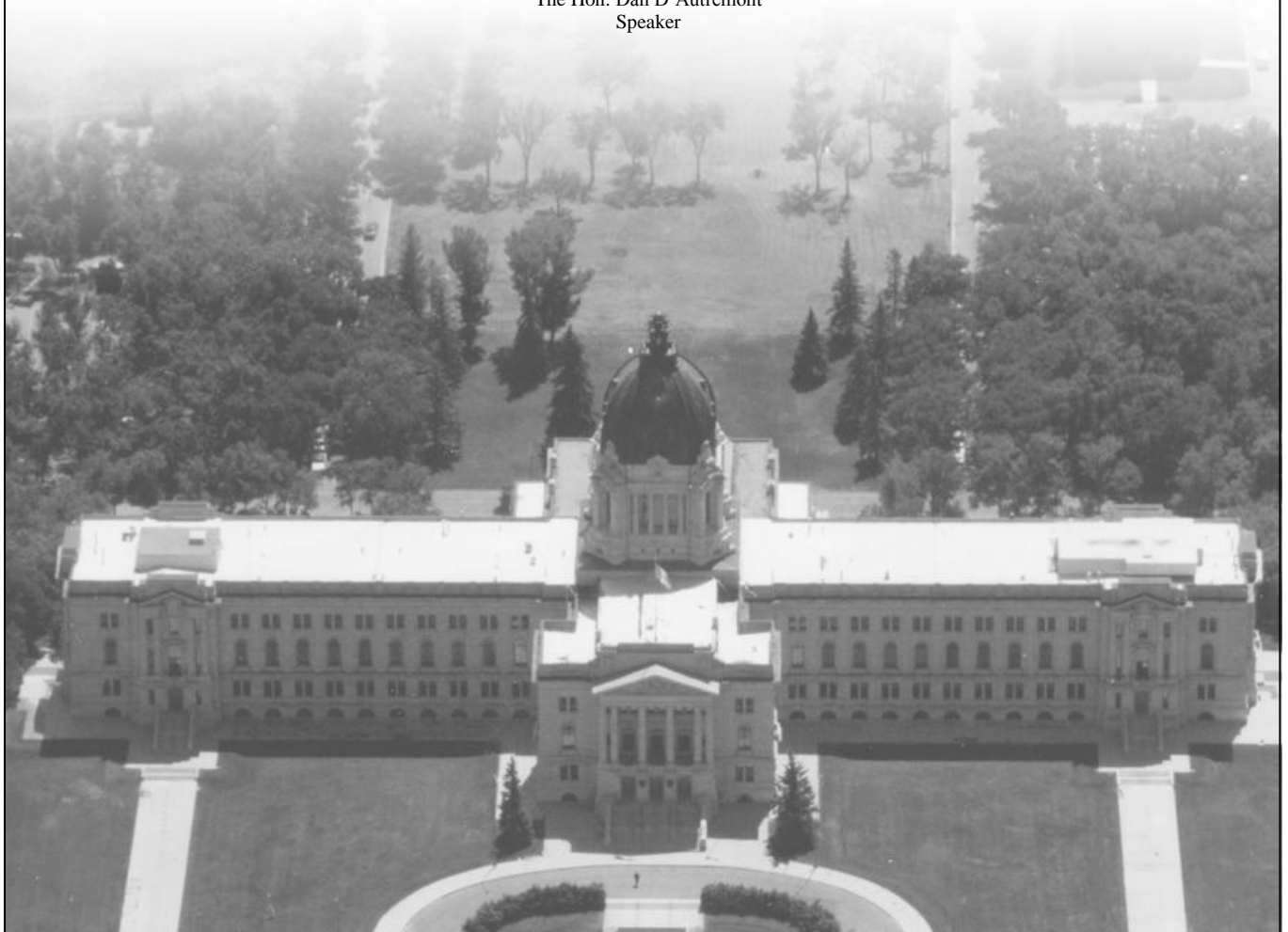
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, 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, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Hon. Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it is my pleasure to introduce to you today Caitlin Taylor seated in the west gallery — Caitlin, you just give us a wave here — and joining Caitlin is Chelsea Coupal from my ministry, Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Mr. Speaker, Caitlin was our 2013 Saskatchewaner, and she did a fantastic job representing our province this past summer by showcasing all there is to do and see in Saskatchewan during the summertime. She helped achieve the Saskatchewaner project's ultimate goal. She helped to break down Saskatchewan stereotypes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that Caitlin did some videography of her travels around the province. And I saw a short clip of it, her video this morning at an announcement that we did — I'll speak a little bit to later on — but she visited all the corners of the province and engaged in social media with people from, not only across the province, but across Canada and indeed the world, Mr. Speaker.

Now Caitlin's taking a little bit of time off. She tells me she's going back to university in January, and she aspires to be a journalist. And so we wish her well on that endeavour, and we just want to thank her for all of her hard work this past summer, Mr. Speaker, in promoting all the great tourism attractions that we have in this province. Thank you so much, Caitlin.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and on behalf of the official opposition, we too want to thank Caitlin, our Saskatchewaner, for all the work she's done and all the places she's visited. And we know that she got an opportunity to see some of the wilds of Saskatchewan but now she's going to see the wildness of question period, which is an experience that everyone should encounter. So good luck to you on your future studies, and we look forward to the happenings for this year's Saskatchewaner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased today to rise in the Assembly and introduce two individuals who are from my constituency. We have Judy Hamilton, who is a long-time resident of Fishing Lake, and Phil Frohman, who is her partner. They are here today with Lenni, and I know that they are very interested in the workings of the Assembly. And I'm always proud to have somebody from the constituency here, so I'm asking everyone to please help me

welcome these individuals to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members, it gives me great pleasure to introduce Ms. Phyllis Jones, who is here today at her Legislature today to receive the 2013 Council of the Federation Literacy Award which will be presented a little later this afternoon. Joining Phyllis today is her husband, Ken Jones.

The Council of the Federation Literacy Award was created by Canada's provincial and territorial premiers in 2004 to recognize the importance of literacy as an essential building block for a vibrant society and economy. The award is presented to individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement, innovative practices, and excellence in literacy.

Phyllis Jones embodies all of these qualities. For the past 24 years, she has volunteered at the Regina Public Library and helped numerous adults achieve their personal literacy goals. For the past 11 years, she has led weekly English language tutoring sessions for recent immigrants, assisting them with the transition to life in Canada. This incredible commitment to literacy is truly worthy of recognition, and I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming these special guests to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, it's my pleasure to welcome Ms. Phyllis Jones and Ken Jones to their legislature to recognize and congratulate Ms. Phyllis Jones on her recognition, her award, and for her life of leadership in literacy in our province. And we recognize the power of literacy for a family, for a community. We recognize the bridge that it provides from often despair and challenge to hope and opportunity. And your life's work, through the Regina Public Library, working with so many newcomers that have come to our province exemplifies that and certainly provides an extended opportunity to many.

So thank you so much to Ms. Phyllis Jones for her life of leadership and the very important recognition, winning an award on behalf of the Council of the Federation Literacy Award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I would like to introduce a resident from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, Terry Abadiano. Terry's been a resident for . . . has been employed at SaskPower for 37 years. He's now retired. He's got the opportunity to now come and observe the Assembly. So thank you very much, Terry, for making time to come today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I would like to introduce Mr. Dave

Kerr, who is seated in the west gallery, to all members of this Legislative Assembly. If you can give a wave, Mr. Kerr, that would be appreciated.

Dave is a rancher from Lashburn, Saskatchewan. He is also finance Chair of the Saskatchewan Forage Council, and I met with them earlier today. I ask all my colleagues to join me in welcoming Dave Kerr to his Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Mr. D'Autremont: — I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to you 38 grade 10 students from the Gordon F. Kells High School in Carlyle seated in the Speaker's gallery accompanying their teachers, Mrs. Dawn Jones and Ms. Brenda Beaver, and parent chaperones, Mrs. Tammy Forcier, Mrs. Starley Meisner, Mrs. Nickie Doty, and Mrs. Dorothy Harvey. I would ask all members to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for reasonable funding so all Saskatchewan students can do well. And we know that students who need support from educational assistants and other resources are not getting this support because of chronic underfunding. New Canadian students are often not receiving as much support as they need for learning English, and the Government of Saskatchewan has chronically underfunded student support. And their agenda must change to reflect the real priorities of Saskatchewan classrooms today.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the government to immediately increase financial support for all Saskatchewan students, including resources to limit class sizes, to provide resources for students with special needs, to support English as an additional language, and to provide more support for Aboriginal education.

And, Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to rise to present petitions in support of replacing the gym at Sacred Heart Community School on behalf of concerned residents right here in Regina. We know that this vital infrastructure to a community, to students, and to this school was not addressed for many years despite calls from the community and the school board to that government, Mr. Speaker. And we know that that caused the significant deterioration of that gym and caused the closure of that gym. And now we need to work together to ensure a new gym for Sacred Heart School. And the prayer reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Sask Party

provincial government to immediately commit to the replacement of the gymnasium of Sacred Heart Community School.

And the petition is signed by concerned residents here in Regina. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Many northern residents benefitted from the rental purchase option program, also known as RPO. These families are very proud homeowners in their communities. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly cause the Sask Party government to restore the RPO rent to own option for responsible renters in northern Saskatchewan, allowing them the dignity of owning their own homes and building community in our beautiful North.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good residents of Air Ronge, La Ronge. I so present.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to present a petition for a private bill on behalf of petitioners from St. Thomas More College. The prayer of the petition requests to amend the Act of St. Thomas More to reflect the role of St. Thomas More College society and to make other incidental changes to the Act. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to amend *An Act respecting St. Thomas More College*, being chapter 6 of the *Statutes of Saskatchewan, 2001* accordingly.

And as your duty bound, your petitioner will ever pray.

The petition are signed by the president, chief financial officer, Chair of the board, governors of St. Thomas More, and I'm pleased to present it on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Leader.

Commitment to Our Shared Futures

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, on Friday the city of Saskatoon permanently raised the Métis and Treaty 6 flags in front of city hall, and over the weekend the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations held its annual cultural celebration and powwow. I congratulate the First Nations and Métis on these significant events.

I enjoyed my time at the powwow, and frankly I would love to see this legislature fly the Métis and treaty flags. But as I said in

my remarks at the powwow, the true measure of our commitment to our shared futures is not just whether we show up at events or make token gestures. Rather the true measure of our commitment to our shared futures with the First Nations and Métis is what we actually do. It's whether we seek to bring people and communities together or whether we choose to exploit division and misunderstanding. That is the true measure of our commitment to our shared futures. And that's also a measure of our commitment to building a stronger Saskatchewan for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis on the flag raising and the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] Pow Wow. And I hope both of these events serve as a reminder to all members of what really matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this House today to bring attention to Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is its annual campaign to increase awareness of this disease. Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women and has affected many people across this province.

Mr. Speaker, while most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps to have a plan to detect the disease in its early stages and encourage others to do the same. We have lost too many mothers, grandmothers, daughters, sisters, and neighbours to this illness. Mr. Speaker, this disease may have the power to take away a woman's health, but it will never be strong enough to take away her heart, her spirit, and her love.

We are making progress in the fight against this illness. Early detection, effective treatment, innovative research, and unconquerable spirits are turning the tide in the battle against breast cancer.

Today I want to remember all of the brave women who have been touched by breast cancer and all those who have lost loved ones. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month and all those who have been affected by the disease. Thank you.

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

Treaty 4 Flag Raised at Board Office

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Thom Collegiate and the students of Ms. Kim Sadowsky's native studies 10 class for successfully spearheading the effort to fly the Treaty 4 flag at Regina Public School's board office. The ceremony took place at the J.A. Burnett Centre on October 15, 2013 and was attended by trustees, elders, administration, students, and parents.

Treaty 4 was entered into between the Crown and the area First Nations in 1874. It is critical that this agreement to share territory in exchange for various commitments and provisions,

including the well-being of the children in generations to come, is understood. It is encouraging to see the leaders of tomorrow in co-operation with the Regina Public Schools, the Treaty 4 First Nations promoting Treaty 4 education and treaty education and better recognition of First Nations and Aboriginal voices in the province.

Building a full understanding of who we are as treaty people is invaluable. The treaty relationships between First Nations and the Crown are important to all Saskatchewan residents, whether Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. As provincial legislators, we too need to know and remember our shared history and value our cultural differences, and this must be reflected through our actions.

I call on all members of this Assembly to commend and thank the students of Thom Collegiate, Regina Public School's board and administration, and Treaty 4 First Nations for their leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Prairie Football Conference Championship

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon there was another epic battle between the two Saskatchewan football clubs when the Regina Thunder played the Saskatoon Hilltops in this year's Prairie Football Conference championship.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give huge congratulations to the Regina Thunder on their monumental 21 to 16 win over their rivals in Saskatoon. This is the third time in four years the two Saskatchewan teams have met in the championship. And this is the Thunder's first Prairie Football Conference championship victory, so it was a very special win for all the players, coaches on the team. The Thunder were led by the Prairie Football Conference champ MVP [most valuable player], Asher Hastings, who threw for over 300 yards and a touchdown.

Now that the Thunder has secured this win, they will be the hosts for the Canadian Bowl on November 9th when they compete against the Vancouver Island Raiders. If the Thunder are successful in defeating the Raiders, it will be the 32nd time a team from Saskatchewan will have won the national championship. I'd like to especially recognize Coach Scott Macauley on his team's win in his first year as head coach.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to congratulate all the players, coaching staff, and medical staff on their team win and wish them the best of luck in the Canadian Bowl next week. Go Thunder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Integrated Health Centre Opens

Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to attend the grand opening of the new

Parkland Integrated Health Centre in Shellbrook. It was an exciting day for residents of Shellbrook and the surrounding communities, and it was a milestone for our province's health care and long-term care infrastructure renewal plan.

Mr. Speaker, in 2009 we announced a plan to replace 13 long-term care facilities in our province. This new integrated facility replaces the Parkland Terrace Nursing Home as well as the Shellbrook Hospital. The success of this project is an example of our commitment to renew health and long-term care infrastructure in the province.

We have invested tremendous resources to strengthen our long-term care infrastructure to ensure our long-term care staff have an efficient workplace and residents have a safe and comfortable place to live. We are ensuring health care providers have the work environment they need to provide quality care. This infrastructure project provides strong evidence that having high-quality health services in rural areas is possible.

Mr. Speaker, our government continues to deliver our promise to put patients and long-term care residents first, and it's committed to improving the health care infrastructure in the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

Twining of Highway 11

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in this Assembly today to share that a major milestone to support Saskatchewan's growth was reached last week as the last section of twin lanes on the busy Highway 11 corridor between Saskatoon and Prince Albert opened to traffic. I had the pleasure to attend the event to celebrate the completion of this project, along with my colleagues from Prince Albert Northcote and Batoche.

Mr. Speaker, Highway 11 is a vital link between Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina which serves our province's resource-rich North and supports significant mineral and timber resource development, manufacturing, and tourism.

The second set of lanes will provide for increased capacity, reduced logistics costs, and improved access for local industries, while at the same time making for a much safer and more efficient drive for shippers, tourists, and other motorists who use Highway 11. The increased use of this highway reflects the growth of our province in recent years. Having the infrastructure to support this growth is key, Mr. Speaker, and this is what this project is.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in thanking the Ministry of Highways and their partners who contributed to the completion of this project that opens up traffic to beautiful northern Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Saturday I had the pleasure of presenting in the 30th annual Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ABEX [Achievement in Business Excellence] Awards gala at TCU Place in Saskatoon. I was joined by my colleagues from Saskatoon Southeast, Saskatoon Greystone, and Moose Jaw North.

The ABEX Awards, which stands for achievers in business excellence, have gained prominence as the most highly esteemed symbols of business excellence in Saskatchewan. They highlight pivotal business elements of provincial prosperity and are the only business award that honours all private sector enterprises in Saskatchewan, regardless of size or activity.

I was honoured to present Affinity Credit Union with the Aboriginal Business Partnership Award on behalf of SaskEnergy. Affinity Credit Union is a leader in delivering financial services and also values the cultural diversity of its members. Additionally Affinity brings a strong sense of community and connection to Saskatchewan's heritage and strives to enhance social, economic, and environmental well-being for its members and communities.

Other ABEX Awards winners included Ron Carson, Anderson Pump House, Diamonds of Detroit, Alliance Energy Ltd., Superior Cabinets, Bioriginal Food & Science Corporation, Shercom Industries, KDB Investments, Prairie's Edge Development Corporation, LB Distillers, and Wilhelm Construction Services Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Affinity Credit Union and all other 2013 Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce ABEX Award winners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Issues Raised by Nurses

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We learned this past weekend, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan's nurses have grave concerns about the safety not only of residents in long-term care facilities but also of patients in hospitals. So my question is for the Premier: does he share the nurses' concerns or does he stubbornly dismiss them?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the first term and now longer, Mr. Speaker, of this government's administration, this government has been very successful in signing a partnership agreement with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, Mr. Speaker, that set out a goal of hiring 800 new nursing positions over the first term of government.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to the House that not only did we achieve that, but we exceeded it by more than 200, Mr.

Speaker, so that there's now more than 1,000 more nurses in Saskatchewan providing terrific care to the people of Saskatchewan, to our patients, Mr. Speaker. Through our partnership, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully renewing that partnership in our negotiations that are upcoming, we look forward to having a fulsome conversation with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses to address concerns that they would have.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the very specific question was whether or not this government shares the concerns that have been raised by our province's nurses. According to Tracy Zambory, the president of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, a lack of staff in emergency departments in regional hospitals means more and more patients are transferred to Saskatoon and Regina. This is what Zambory says: "The pressure is immense in Regina and Saskatoon. What nurses are telling us about the pressure is that they are very fearful for patient safety. They are very fearful that there is going to be a tragic event happening."

So my question is for the Premier: is he also very fearful for patient safety or does he think that Saskatchewan's nurses are overreacting?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government will endeavour to do what we have already done over the last six years, is take the concerns of all of our health care providers very seriously, Mr. Speaker. That's why, Mr. Speaker, when we read quotes before the 2007 election from then president Rosalee Longmoore talking about the nursing shortage under the NDP [New Democratic Party] where she said, and I quote, "There is no light at the end of the tunnel unless it's a train. These staffing levels are dangerous," Mr. Speaker, that's why this government took action. We hired 800 additional nursing positions, Mr. Speaker. In fact we exceeded that by an additional, roughly 200 more than that, Mr. Speaker — more than 1,000 nurses in the system that weren't there before when the NDP were in government, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the pressures on regional centres, Mr. Speaker, we are working to address the emergency room situation that we find in our province, Mr. Speaker, which could only be said to have been exacerbated, Mr. Speaker, by 52 rural hospitals and the Plains here in Regina closing.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, nurses have expressed that they are very fearful about patient care, about patient safety. That was the question, Mr. Speaker.

The main reason our province's nurses are very fearful for patient safety is what they identify as "dangerously low staffing levels in acute and long-term care facilities." I'll repeat for the government's sake — they are very fearful, Mr. Speaker, because of dangerously low staffing levels in long-term care facilities and in hospitals.

My question to the Premier: does he agree with the nurses that staffing levels are dangerously low, or does he stubbornly dismiss these concerns?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, unlike the previous NDP government before us, Mr. Speaker, we will take concerns that are brought forward to us, Mr. Speaker, both through our partnership discussion, Mr. Speaker, which has been very fruitful for the people of this province and for patients within the system, that has led to over 1,000 new RN [registered nurse] positions within the system, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I can talk specifically about long-term care, Mr. Speaker. When the members opposite were the government, when that government was turfed out of office by the people of the province, there were 1,206 RN full-time positions, Mr. Speaker. Today, with the equivalent number of beds within the system, Mr. Speaker, 1,324, Mr. Speaker.

Do we have some areas that we need to address? Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. But the record is vastly different from when the members opposite were the government. Mr. Speaker, in fact when you look at, in the hospitals across this province on a nurse to bed ratio, it has improved 11.5 per cent since the NDP left office, Mr. Speaker. More work to do, and we'll do that through our partnership with SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] and through ongoing negotiations.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's amazing how this government loves looking back, Mr. Speaker, ignoring the reality, ignoring the reality of what Saskatchewan's nurses are saying today, that they are very fearful for patient safety in Saskatchewan's facilities. Here's a quote from the *Leader-Post*: "Zambory maintains that the increased drive to reduce inefficiencies in health care is being done without enough attention paid to the impact on patients."

So here's the current reality, Mr. Speaker. Here's what nurses are saying today. They are very afraid about patient safety, that staffing levels, Mr. Speaker, are dangerously low and that this government's drive to cut corners is affecting patient care. Yet this government stubbornly refuses, Mr. Speaker, to admit that there is a problem, stubbornly refuses to listen to the nurses that are speaking today about the quality of care, about the safety of care for patients in Saskatchewan. My question to the Premier: will he listen to these nurses who are on the front lines of our health care system or will he choose to ignore them?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, through, as I said before, through the very successful partnership that we have with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses as well as the engagement that we have with front-line nurses, Mr. Speaker, front-line health providers . . .

An Hon. Member: — How's that working for you?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — We take those concerns very seriously.

And I just heard from across the way, how's that working for you, Mr. Speaker.

Well I'll give you an example. Between 1996 and 2001 under the NDP, we lost 451 nurses. Mr. Speaker, in the last six years, we're up 1,000 nurses. So I think it's working pretty well, Mr. Speaker, knowing that we have more work to do, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we've seen both in long-term care and acute care, Mr. Speaker, we've seen increasing numbers of health providers, Mr. Speaker, through a successful partnership with SUN, through ongoing negotiations with both that organization and others, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that we have a long ways to go still to claw ourselves out of the deficit in terms of infrastructure and staffing that were left by the NDP, but after six years, we've made significant progress, Mr. Speaker. And I think it shows a track record that this government can get the hard jobs done.

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

Combatting Bullying

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the government said it would wait until Anti-Bullying Week in November to release its report and its action plan. The minister told the media, and I quote, "We've got Anti-Bullying Week coming up and we thought it'd be an appropriate time to try and announce it."

Now I'm sure I'm not the only one who finds it outrageous that this government would choose to put its own PR [public relations] tactics ahead of meaningful anti-bullying tactics. My question to the minister: will he admit it's a mistake to keep delaying action and will he please just table the government's strategy?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend we had heard media reports of another suicide of a young person that was bullied in the city of Regina. On behalf of all members, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to offer our deepest condolences and sympathy to the family.

The Legislative Secretary, the member for Saskatoon Fairview, has been travelling across the province and has been conducting hearings, meeting with students, parents, teachers, and community stakeholders. The date for submissions is actually open until the end of this month. Because we know that this is a time-sensitive matter, they are working at gradually assembling the information as it comes forward.

I can advise that they have heard from over 1,000 students, parents, teachers, and community stakeholders. In addition to that, we have received some 66 written submissions. But, Mr. Speaker, we are still receiving written submissions until the end of the month and one of the groups that we have not heard a submission from, written or otherwise, is from the members opposite.

The Leader of the Opposition had this to say on Twitter and . . . I'll give that answer later on, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the final consultation meeting for the Legislative Secretary was held on June 13th. But here's what the minister said last week to the media, and I quote: "They've done their work."

So it's been 138 days since the final consultation meeting, and the minister has admitted that the work is done. But he said the government is waiting for Anti-Bullying Week in order to unveil the report and their strategy. And that's simply unacceptable. The need for action is urgent. My question again for the minister: will he admit that it's a mistake to keep delaying the action, especially since the consultation period has long been done?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Secretary is doing the work as she receives the information. She has indicated that it is open to receive submissions until the end of this month. We are working with her and will have the response from the government released at the same time. We will not wait for any particular deadline. We will get it done as soon as is practical. But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the members opposite that they are still accepting submissions until the end of the month.

The Leader of the Opposition had this to say on Twitter over the weekend: "Absolutely heartbreaking. I am committed to working with the government to ensure Saskatchewan does a better job of combatting bullying." That was the member for Saskatoon Massey Place, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, we're still missing the NDP submission. We'd be glad to receive it. He has till the end of the month. We look forward to receiving it.

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

Special Care Standards and Staffing

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Premier refused to explain why he removed the minimum care standard from the special care home regulations. The Health minister attempted an explanation but it was absolutely bizarre. He claimed that the government removed the minimum care standards so that they could institute personalized care. To the minister: what does he understand to be the definition of minimum?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for her question. We do require minimum basic standards aimed at promoting health, safety, and comfort of each resident. Mr. Speaker, I don't think I have the time in a one-minute answer to go through the entire 193-page document that the government released in the spring, released to the

public, Mr. Speaker. But unlike the previous care requirements, these minimum standards are personalized and the outcome is focused. It's outcome-focused rather than time-based, Mr. Speaker. In other words, they focus on things like assisting in good personal hygiene, effective medication management, and proper nutrition, among other things.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A minimum standard simply establishes the floor. It says that you must at least achieve this particular level of care. So it is pathetic for this government to try to claim it removed the minimum standard to allow for personalized care.

It's been two years since this government watered down the regulations, yet we sure don't have that wonderful personalized care that the minister claims was the rationale. Instead, seniors are being woken up at 5:30 in the morning and being left to soil themselves because there are not enough staff. To the minister: will this government admit it made a mistake by removing the minimum care standard and by removing any reference to sufficient staffing?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the wording in the regulations that was removed two years ago that spoke to the minimum in regards to time, Mr. Speaker, dates back to when the regulations were put in place in 1966. Mr. Speaker, this was at a time, in 1966, where typically as compared to today it would be level 1 and level 2 care, Mr. Speaker, where it spoke to two hours or 45 minutes or even 20 minutes a day, Mr. Speaker, as the standard.

Mr. Speaker, I find it interesting to know that when we moved to a different assessment model in the 1990s under the former government, Mr. Speaker, and when they got rid of level 1 and level 2 out of our long-term care, Mr. Speaker, and closed 1,200 beds, why they didn't adjust, Mr. Speaker, the hours, the minimum hours in the regulations to take into account the level 3 and level 4 that long-term care would now serve, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this was an antiquated way to provide standards. Mr. Speaker, we think that there is a better way to do it, Mr. Speaker, in a more personalized fashion.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Health minister actually tried to claim that the government changed the regulations to ensure that each resident gets "adequate care at all times." He went on to say that adequate care is measured in part by residents having clean and trimmed fingernails and toenails. That is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker. The reality is that seniors are being told to soil themselves, they're missing their baths, their bed sheets are not being changed, they are being served cold meals — all because there is not enough staff. To the minister: does he honestly think the residents are getting manicures and pedicures when there is not enough staff to even

help residents to get to the bathroom?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as I've mentioned in previous answers, we know that staffing is an issue within long-term care, Mr. Speaker. But we know that within a stable number of long-term care beds in this province, Mr. Speaker, we have dramatically increased staffing in long-term care, Mr. Speaker, knowing that some facilities do need some help, Mr. Speaker, and we're looking at that through our Urgent Issues Action Fund, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Regina Qu'Appelle though has indicated in recent days, and I quote, "Ten years ago, it was not at all unusual for residents to be left in bed for the day at the Wascana Rehab Centre when we were short-staffed. As part of our cultural shift journey, this no longer happens," Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I think that the member opposite is perhaps trying to blend two issues. One is the care, the personalized care, Mr. Speaker, that is evaluated on a quarterly basis so that we can adjust what care levels they need, with contingency plans in any facility, Mr. Speaker, that would have difficulty filling a particular shift. Those are two different issues.

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

Provision of New Schools

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this government seriously considered a P3 [public-private partnership] school approach back in 2008, but it backed away from that. It didn't like what it saw. So my question to the minister: what changed since 2008?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the province is in a great place. It's growing exponentially year over the year. The last quarter has seen the most growth this province has ever seen. We have seen infrastructure challenges and so we're looking at all the ways that we can address those infrastructure challenges. Part of that is a P3.

Now we know the opposition is totally opposed to P3. What is interesting now is they've certainly latched on to the school piece and they're opposed to bundling of schools. We don't know if they're opposed to every other P3, but we know that they're opposed to school bundling.

The member opposite says, what has changed from 2008 to 2013? In 2008 in Saskatchewan, just after the NDP lost government, 3,500 less students per year in our schools, to 2013, 2,140 increase in students in our schools, Mr. Speaker. That's why our infrastructure is challenged and that's why we have to look at other possibilities to make sure all the schools are possible that we need in this province.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the minister likes to talk about the situation in Alberta, but the truth is that the first batch of schools used a bare-bones design that had classrooms and little else. Daycare centres, community associations, and extracurricular activities were essentially shut out. So my question to the minister: is that the kind of bare-bones design he has in mind for the new schools that Saskatchewan needs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I really find it quite interesting that the member opposite would talk about the experience in Alberta on a negative light, especially after, you know, his leader was on Gormley not very long ago and talked about . . . wanted to use a common sense approach and wanted to do smart investing into education, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, he should have tuned into Gormley today, Mr. Speaker, when they had the people from Alberta talking about what they have experienced in Alberta, Mr. Speaker: \$240 million worth of savings, Mr. Speaker; a total of 40 new schools built, Mr. Speaker. It has been an excellent experience. Instead of having one bundle and going wrong, they've had bundle number two, bundle number three, and they're on their fourth bundle, Mr. Speaker. I think we've got a lot to learn from Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, this government isn't scared to look over the border and look at what is done in other provinces to make sure we have the infrastructure we need here in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we know the experience in Alberta has been fraught with challenges by way of community access. The private providers in fact wouldn't allow portables to be added to schools and, as I say, many of those extracurricular activities and community programs were shut out. And we know the cost from the experience in Nova Scotia where, when the Conservative government canned the P3 program, they actually saved \$2 million per school, Mr. Speaker.

But last week at the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] luncheon, the Premier said he was proud of the fact that a grade 6 tuba player was able to influence the design of the band room in Swift Current's new school. I agree. That's great. Communities should have direct influence into the infrastructure that matters to them. But my question to the minister is: how can that kind of local input happen if this government just bulk buys cookie cutter schools?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting listening to question period and the dynamic duo over there, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition said earlier in question period he doesn't want to look back; we shouldn't look back. And then the Education minister quotes something from Nova Scotia . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, critic. Sorry. Did I say minister? Mr. Speaker, the critic for Education quotes Nova Scotia from 16 years back, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to

look back but then they quote Nova Scotia 16 years back.

The truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, since 2004, P3s across Canada have been very, very successful. This opposition party is ideologically opposed to P3, Mr. Speaker. They get their QP [question period] speaking notes straight from the Water Watch, Mr. Speaker, and that's their speaking notes.

Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. If you listen to the people from Alberta, what the Leader of the Opposition said on Gormley was heresy, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. They are grabbing at straws because they have nothing else to grab for.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I would expect the people of this province to expect of us to at least look at the experience of other jurisdictions where P3s have been brought forward and to assess what's gone on. And when we do that assessment, when we look through the common sense lens that we've spoken about, what we know is that it costs way more.

And it's not just New Democratic parties that are recognizing this. It's also provincial auditors. It's also a Conservative government. And then we recognize the many challenges by way of the needs of communities not being accommodated. Yet this government stubbornly dismisses those concerns. So my question to the minister is this: what kind of due diligence has his government done on this plan or is he simply plowing ahead because of ideology?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we've heard day after day petitions read on schools that are needed, especially from the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, we're moving forward with a plan to ensure that those schools are built. Nine facilities, Mr. Speaker, under the P3 model.

But again I challenge the opposition: is it the fact that we're bundling schools? Are they totally opposed to P3s? Because, Mr. Speaker, if they are and he's used his colleagues, other NDP governments . . . I don't think he's read all the quotes from other NDP governments, Mr. Speaker. For example, what did his famous federal leader, Thomas Mulcair, say, Mr. Speaker? A public-private partnership can be the right solution in certain cases. They don't quite claim to be on the same page, Mr. Speaker. What about the Manitoba NDP Finance minister, Stan Struthers? Public-private partnerships can provide an opportunity for the public sector to build projects more efficiently and more effectively. Better value for their money invested.

Mr. Speaker, the only NDP party that's on the wrong side of this issue is the one sitting across the aisle.

[14:15]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, on top of the evidence and

experience of P3 schools costing more, forfeiting community control, access, and influence, the Saskatchewan Construction Association and local companies, as well as the design community, have weighed in, sharing their real concerns about being shut out of the building process. To the minister: how can he simply brush off these concerns?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Infrastructure.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet with the Saskatchewan Construction Association and we were certainly able to go over our plans moving forward for P3s, Mr. Speaker, and it certainly I believe answered a lot of their questions.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite seem to be in quite a laughable mood. But, Mr. Speaker, in the last eight years, we have put more than \$600 million into the infrastructure of schools, Mr. Speaker, and we built 20 new schools. These bundling of schools will be on top of the investment that we've already made. And once those contractors heard that, plus they have the opportunity to participate in the new P3 bundle, Mr. Speaker, I think that they feel that there is more work, lots of work ahead for them, especially when you look at what other construction companies have said from other provinces, that it has been a good experience. Mr. Speaker, the only ones that are dead set against P3s — and the Construction Association, and go ask them, they're not against P3s — the only party that is, the only people that are, are those nimble nine sitting over there.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Saskatchewan Wanderer Program Expansion

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today our government announced an expansion to the Saskatchewan Wanderer program to a year-long position. This expansion will be a one-year pilot project that will be a joint effort between my Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, the ministries of the Economy and Agriculture, as well as Tourism Saskatchewan. One of the advantages of a growing province is our ability to invest in and expand programs like this one.

Mr. Speaker, more people live in Saskatchewan today than in any other point in our province's history. Our population recently exceeded 1.1 million people and we expect this growth to continue. Now is the perfect time to have the Saskatchewan Wanderer, a well-recognized provincial ambassador, show off Saskatchewan to not only potential visitors but potential residents. Since the summer of 2011, previous wanderers have demonstrated how we play in Saskatchewan in the summertime. However, we are going to have the 2014 wanderer demonstrate how we work, how we live and play in Saskatchewan all year-round.

The main goals of this project remain the same: we want the wanderer to break Saskatchewan stereotypes; we want to encourage people to visit and to live in our province. This program will help highlight the amazing quality of life we have

to offer. We will have the opportunity to showcase all of the amazing recreational, cultural, and travel opportunities.

Along with experiencing our province's wonderful tourism attractions, the wanderer will showcase some of our province's career opportunities. They will learn more and share information about Saskatchewan's thriving industries, including agriculture. They will show the world that it's easy to achieve your career goals, complemented with a vibrant quality of life.

The position is being hired through a traditional application process. While applicants will still be required to apply using short videos, there will be no public voting. There will, however, be a rigorous interview process. Representatives from all involved ministries and Tourism Saskatchewan will form a panel that will select the final candidate. Applications open Monday, November 4th at noon and close Monday, December 2nd at noon. The job is a 12-month position. The wanderer will start in January 2014 and will wind up in December of 2014. This is a pilot project, Mr. Speaker. The new format will be tested for one year. If it works well, this will likely be the new format in future years.

Mr. Speaker, we want to thank Bennett Dunlop Ford and CAA [Canadian Automobile Association] Saskatchewan who have agreed to sponsor the year-long 2014 Saskatchewan Wanderer project. Our hope for this pilot project is to further showcase what Saskatchewan has to offer. People are choosing to visit Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and they are choosing to stay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're very pleased to see this expansion of the Saskatchewan Wanderer program to a year-long program. Saskatchewan is an incredible province with so many amazing things happening throughout the year, and so expanding this program in order to highlight more of those things is really a common sense thing to do.

I also like that the program will be expanded to have the Saskatchewan Wanderer focus not only on how we play here and all of the recreational aspects of our province but also to include how we live and how we work. What's really unfortunate is that the Saskatchewan Wanderer won't have an opportunity to highlight our province's film industry because it's been forced out of the province. Perhaps this government will correct its mistake to allow that to happen.

But again, we're pleased to see this program expanded and certainly hope that it is successful in breaking down Saskatchewan's stereotypes and encouraging people to continue to visit and live in our great province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask for leave of the Assembly to move a motion regarding absences.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to move a motion regarding absences from the Legislative Assembly. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Leave of Absence

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly:

That leave of absence be granted to the members for Saskatchewan Rivers, Saskatoon Eastview, and Saskatoon Nutana for Thursday, October 31st to attend the 35th Canadian regional seminar in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador on behalf of this Assembly.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that, by leave of the Assembly:

That leave of absence be granted to the members for Saskatchewan Rivers, Saskatoon Eastview, and Saskatoon Nutana for Thursday, October 31st to attend the 35th Canadian regional seminar in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador on behalf of this Assembly.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask for leave to make some motions about committees.

The Speaker: — The member for Regina Lakeview has asked for leave to make motions about committee substitution. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Committee Membership

Mr. Nilson: — I move:

That the name of Warren McCall be substituted for the name of Cathy Sproule on the Standing Committee on House Services.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Lakeview:

That the name of Warren McCall be substituted for the name of Cathy Sproule on the Standing Committee on House Services.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the name of Trent Wotherspoon be substituted for the name of Danielle Chartier on the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Lakeview:

That the name of Trent Wotherspoon be substituted for the name of Danielle Chartier on the Standing Committee on the Economy.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That the name of Danielle Chartier be substituted for the name of Warren McCall on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Lakeview:

That the name of Danielle Chartier be substituted for the name of Warren McCall on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Makowsky, seconded by Mr. Merriman.]

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter back into the debate from the throne here today. Following up from my entry into the speech, I'm cognizant of the fact that I did speak for the better part of an hour on Thursday and was able to cover a lot of what really matters to the people, families, and communities within Regina Rosemont, as well as touching on some of the general feelings

and sentiments towards the Throne Speech. So I don't intend to be very long here today, Mr. Speaker. I want to make sure I'm giving space to all members to be that voice for their communities.

But I would say that from last Thursday till now I've had the opportunity to continue to listen and to meet with community and to discuss what was or wasn't in the Throne Speech at community events, and throughout the entire weekend in fact. And it seemed to me that the general consensus was that this was an incredibly flat Throne Speech, that it certainly didn't contain an exciting vision for the future and didn't embrace the opportunity that we have before us. And I think we're reminded so often that we have such a special opportunity in this province right now with the demand on our resource economy and the hard work that Saskatchewan people, entrepreneurs, and families are providing, and that this should be the day and the time that government is building on that opportunity, that government is extending opportunity, that government is diversifying our economy to ensure stable, long-term prosperity for the future. And we certainly didn't see that in the this Throne Speech.

So what I heard throughout the weekend about the Throne Speech was that it was a bit of a non-event, that it was flat, that it lacked a vision. I know that was highlighted by *The StarPhoenix* editorial suggesting that the Throne Speech had no vision, and that as Bruce Johnstone has rightly pointed out, that this government truly has had a poor economic agenda. We have a special time in Saskatchewan by way of the Saskatchewan economy, but that government truly has struggled to put forward plans that build on that opportunity, diversify our economy. And we didn't see that being addressed in this Throne Speech.

We've focused in, as the New Democratic Party official opposition, on a few critical areas. Of course many across the province have been hearing us bringing attention to these matters, being their voice, addressing what matters to Saskatchewan families. But we didn't see the action that we needed to in those priority areas — seniors' care and long-term care and the inadequate supports and the failure to provide dignity of life and quality of life to those seniors, our parents and grandparents, all across the province.

We didn't see any meaningful action to address the failure to support the classroom, the failure of this government to support education. And this is critical to our economic and social well-being. I believe that the backbone or the foundation of any strong economy, of building a future, is your education system.

And it's incredibly disturbing to see the continued lack of support by this government and the continued actions of this government that are actually harming the good work going on in classrooms all across the province, harming the potential of young people — the cuts in education, the cuts to educational assistants, the larger class size, the complexity that educators are dealing with in the classroom, the complexity and challenges that students are facing in the classroom, and the complete dismissal of the voice of parents and students and teachers and school boards on this front, Mr. Speaker. We didn't see anything in this Throne Speech to make amends or to make reparations or to address those challenges.

As I say, we've been focusing on diversifying the Saskatchewan opportunity, on extending opportunity on building long-term stable prosperity well into the future. And we didn't see that in this Throne Speech either. We're willing to give credit where credit is due. We're pleased to see attention that we've called for to be provided to adult basic education. There just simply shouldn't be a wait-list for adult basic education in our province. This is critical to unlocking the potential of an individual, their family, but also our province.

[14:30]

Just the same, we need to be aggressive and strong in our actions for apprenticeship. And we see some steps on that front. I'm not sure yet that we have the plan in place that Saskatchewan people deserve or that employers and entrepreneurs in the Saskatchewan economy needs.

When I look at the scan of the needs and what matters to the families and communities throughout Regina Rosemont, they are certainly, they certainly share those concerns on senior care, the failures of this government in the classroom, and the importance of education to our province and to the next generation, or the diversification of that economy.

Some of the unique and localized issues we didn't see any action on — and I went through those on Friday, but just to place them back onto the record — is that we never saw anything to provide supports for the community of Dieppe, for example, who had their school closed down because of inadequate funding by this government just a couple years ago. And it's a shame, Mr. Speaker, to see Dieppe School shuttered, Mr. Speaker, at a time when we have growing populations throughout our student population. We need to be utilizing our educational infrastructure. And I know this government announced, you know, a P3 school plan. We've been calling for new schools. We'd like to see those open quicker in a more cost-effective fashion.

But those P3 schools, that plan doesn't do anything to open the doors of Dieppe School, reopen the doors in my constituency. And recognizing just how important a school is to a community, that it's the hub for the community, and when I look at Dieppe, I know how vital and how important it is to the families, to the recreation, to the cultural offerings, to the arts offerings of Dieppe. And we'll continue to bring attention to the inadequacy of funding of this government that forced the closure of Dieppe School. And we'll continue to propose that this government come to the table to work with the school board and bring forward the resources it needs to provide that school back to the community. It's in great shape as a school, in good shape by way of the infrastructure. And certainly the people of Dieppe deserve nothing less.

I'd also, didn't see any attention, any address of the challenge that I continue to raise in this Assembly, and that's the inundation of Dewdney Avenue with heavy-haul truck traffic. Without a doubt, this is comprising the peace of mind, safety, and security of those that are utilizing Dewdney as a transport artery connecting families to work, connecting families to sport, connecting families to recreation, but it's also dramatically and unacceptably impacted the life of those living directly on Dewdney Avenue.

And I've sat in the houses, Mr. Speaker. I've heard the cupboards shake. I've felt the homes shake, Mr. Speaker. And the real concerns of those along Dewdney Avenue, the property owners, need to be heard about the potential degradation and cracking of their foundations; about the noise and disturbance to their peace of mind; about the impact on their property and potentially their values; and most importantly about the safety of their children, of their families, Mr. Speaker, which we need to make sure we're addressing before there's a crisis.

And the provincial government has a very important role here to step up to the plate, to bring forth the resources and a willingness to work with our municipal partners to ensure that the issues here are addressed in a way that's acceptable and satisfactory to the community.

I also haven't seen anything in this budget, we speak about the important role for care for our seniors, didn't see anything to be addressed for Pioneer Village, which provides very important care for many seniors, many residents. And those residents, parents and grandparents, come from all across the province, and the workers work incredibly hard, but the building itself is past its time. And it needs to be rehabilitated or probably, well, more properly be rebuilt, Mr. Speaker. And we haven't seen any commitment from this government to do just that, and it's an important, important support structure for the entire province. And we'll continue to be that voice.

We've spoken about health care in the broad sense, impacting an entire province. But of course as I mentioned on Thursday, Mr. Speaker, in northwest Regina, the challenge of getting a family doctor is significant. When I'm sitting with the family doctors, the GPs [general practitioner], and chatting with them about some of the pressures and challenges they're facing, they're suggesting to me that there's a pending crisis by way of the age and looming retirement of many general practitioners throughout northwest Regina. We need to do a better job.

When we know that families need that vital support in our hospitals, in our emergency rooms, we need to make sure that they're not going into places that are understaffed and overcrowded, where beds aren't available to them, Mr. Speaker. We need to make sure that they can go in with confidence that the health professionals and health services that they deserve and need are going to be there for them and that the space itself will provide them a space of dignity and a place to have their health care needs addressed, Mr. Speaker.

So those are many of the local pieces that I touched on last week. Of course I went on in greater length recognizing all the good work within the constituency, recognizing the special opportunity, the special time we have in Saskatchewan right now, and recognizing that if we're not going to be making those investments now in education or in seniors' care or in diversifying our economy to ensure stable, long-term prosperity for the long term, when are we going to be doing it, Mr. Speaker? If we can't do it during this special time of economic activity and strength, when are we going to be making those investments?

And I think of this in education in such a significant way and, you know, looking at all of the needs. And I found it so interesting. And I heard from so many up at the STF council on

Friday, meeting with many educators and asking their perspective on what they thought of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. And what I heard was that of all of the needs and pressures and challenges that our teachers and our students and our parents are facing, that the Throne Speech fell entirely flat, that it was vacuous on addressing the challenges within the classroom, the needs within the classroom, the social infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. We had it popped upon us, the P3 school plan, Mr. Speaker, by this government.

And we've been calling for many years for new schools to be constructed. We would suggest that government choose the most common sense approach, the most cost-effective approach in a way that reflects the needs of a community, Mr. Speaker, and that doesn't bring forward needless delays. And that's why we don't support the costly, risky private P3 school agenda of this government. So we need the schools, but we also need to have the investment into the repairs that are needed of the school infrastructure, the classroom infrastructure in the existing schools all across the province. None of that was in place, Mr. Speaker, in the Throne Speech.

And away from the hard infrastructure of education, we have to recognize, Mr. Speaker . . . And I've listened to teachers. I listened to parents, I listened to students in every corner of this province, and I'm hearing from them a significantly increased class size, Mr. Speaker, resources that have been constrained or cut, hundreds of educational assistants that have been cut by that government, and a class that brings forward challenges and complexity and also tremendous opportunity, Mr. Speaker. But we need to make sure that we're supporting those professionals, those students, those parents, those communities. And this budget doesn't go any distance to doing that meaningful work.

So as I look at the Throne Speech, you know, it's a disappointing Throne Speech — all of this opportunity and government failing to build upon it. And then I was disappointed to hear the speeches of members opposite who have spoken to date — we'll see what tone and tenor we hear moving forward — but no humility provided. Getting up and sort of perpetual back-patting of themselves and government. Maybe they're tripping over themselves, Mr. Speaker, to put apples on the Premier's desk in a hope and an attempt that they might become a cabinet minister one day, Mr. Speaker. But I don't think that's what those backbenchers have been put there to do, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that's what this government was put there to do. It's not to gush over the Premier and to back-pat a government and look in the rear-view mirror and to have sort of this very partisan tone and approach.

What they should be doing is to have some humility, to have a rightful pride in the good things that are going on in the province, the hard work, Mr. Speaker, but then also to be that voice for constituents in every corner of this province — whether it's in Prince Albert, whether it's in Lloydminster, whether it's in Estevan, whether it's in Swift Current, whether it's in Saskatoon, Regina, or any spot in between — Mr. Speaker, being that voice on what matters for Saskatchewan families. And I hope that the speeches that we hear today by members opposite maybe will reflect that sincere voice, the sincere needs.

But it seemed to me in just two speeches from this government

that they're choosing an approach of sort of a partisan approach that's out of sync and out of step with Saskatchewan people who aren't partisan in the sort of way we see here. They're people who care about their communities, that care about their province. They care about their families, and they want to see common sense leadership to address their needs.

We have a lot of good going on in this province, Mr. Speaker, for which we're all proud of. Saskatchewan families and workers and entrepreneurs, school boards, and teachers and students are working harder than ever before to fulfill the opportunity within communities and for their families. But this government clearly isn't holding up its end of the bargain, Mr. Speaker.

So on the issues that matter to Saskatchewan families, we'll be that voice. We'll be that voice. We'll bring that voice to this Assembly, and we'll work constructively to bring forward solutions that matter to Saskatchewan people.

But at this point in time and being cognizant of the fact that many others would like to get into the Throne Speech discussion, and certainly I welcome and encourage that as well, I'd like to move an amendment to the motion. So at this time I move, seconded by the member from Athabasca:

That the motion be amended by adding the following:

And that this Assembly condemns this government for its lack of vision, for its actions and often failure to act, which are making education and seniors' care worse; and for its failure to deliver a smart growth strategy which includes diversifying our economy so that our prosperity is sustainable for the long term.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont has moved an amendment to the motion, the following amendment:

And that this Assembly . . .

That the motion be amended by adding the following:

And that this Assembly condemns this government for its lack of vision, for its actions and often failure to act, which are making education and seniors' care worse; and for its failure to deliver a smart growth strategy which includes diversifying our economy so that our prosperity is sustainable for the long term.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand here and second the motion that my colleague has presented.

Mr. Speaker, there's no question that, from our perspective as we listen to the Throne Speech as the opposition, one of the important points that we want to raise is that, to the people of

Saskatchewan, that if there is certain things that the province and the government is doing well, then certainly from our perspective as the opposition, we want to make sure that we look at it and certainly look at it very thoroughly and make sure that the benefit is there for Saskatchewan. So if there's things within the Throne Speech that are of significant benefit to the people of Saskatchewan, then the practical part of the opposition will certainly support that, Mr. Speaker.

I think some of the things that we want to certainly focus on is how the public in general is going to be served by this government. And certainly the tone set out in the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, we wanted to see what the media had to say about that, the immediate reaction that the media had to say about that, Mr. Speaker. And I would point out that the big headlines today or that day, when the Throne Speech came out, was really from *The StarPhoenix*. And the editorial talked about how poor the Throne Speech and the tone for this next session was presented by the Saskatchewan Party government. This government, Mr. Speaker, this government has stubbornly forgotten to listen to the people. They push forward their own agenda, and quite frankly they have underperformed despite all the great assets that they inherited from the previous administration and from the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to quote one particular part, Mr. Speaker, of that editorial by *The StarPhoenix*. Now one has to understand that *The StarPhoenix* is totally neutral. They don't show who they vote for. They work independent. They're not persuaded by anybody. So this *StarPhoenix* board, the editorial board, penned an editorial. And basically the bottom line that they had, Mr. Speaker, and I think it hits the nail on the head, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "What's frustratingly weak is its vision for Saskatchewan."

[14:45]

Now, Mr. Speaker, that's *The StarPhoenix* editorial out of Saskatoon. And, Mr. Speaker, the opposition certainly agrees that the Saskatchewan Party was given every opportunity to make Saskatchewan a solid place to live for many, many years. And what we're seeing, Mr. Speaker, after a few years, six years, they have disappointed a number of sectors and a great number of people throughout this great land. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is some of the things that we're quickly picking up as we travel as an opposition, that quite frankly the people in Saskatchewan understand that this government refuses to listen. They don't consult, Mr. Speaker. They're stubborn, and they just plod forward with their own agenda and their own plan as to what they think is best for Saskatchewan people. And, Mr. Speaker, that is not the way that the Saskatchewan people want to see their government act, and they have certainly advised the opposition of that, Mr. Speaker.

So again *The StarPhoenix* today, quite frankly, let out what I think the people of Saskatchewan are starting to feel about this government, Mr. Speaker. Quite frankly they are frustratingly weak in its vision for Saskatchewan, and that is going to spell trouble for many people in the province. And we in the opposition want to make sure people know exactly what *The StarPhoenix*, in our view, has talked about when they talk about the frustratingly weak position and vision that the Saskatchewan Party government

have for the people of the province and of course of our future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I look at . . . I want to pick on one particular point here. The government's speech certainly has a disappointing tone. We understand that. It is disappointing, Mr. Speaker. And I know that this government does not plan to hold up its end of the bargain when it comes to things that Saskatchewan families need, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan families.

And they're talking about the care for seniors, Mr. Speaker. That's really important. We're going to be talking about that for a number of days here during this fall sitting. We're talking about the education challenges, Mr. Speaker, when we hear teachers complaining on a steady basis, Mr. Speaker, how this government has underperformed when it comes to support towards our education system, Mr. Speaker.

And we also want to talk about a number of issues in our own area. And I want to talk a bit about how this government has failed many Saskatchewan families in my particular area first of all, Mr. Speaker, and then I want to go on a broader base of the province overall.

I would say that from my perspective, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that this government has recently done that has really hurt northern Saskatchewan communities, Mr. Speaker, is their plan to throw many working families out of Sask Housing units, Mr. Speaker. This is going to have a dramatic negative effect on many working families in northern Saskatchewan. And this is kind of the reaction that they have when they see this Throne Speech and then they see the actions of this government, being stubborn and throwing out working families. And I want to explain this to the people of Saskatchewan, how this is impacting and affecting people in the North and I think affecting people all throughout the province.

Mr. Speaker, over time, over time — and I'm glad that the Minister of Housing is in the Assembly — but over time, many of our families are talking about trying to build themselves up over time. Many young families, as they're gradually getting together, starting to get married, starting to have children, then obviously they'd need a home. So a lot of times in northern Saskatchewan they have what they call a social housing unit. They rent this unit off the local housing authorities, and then they live in those units and they pay rent every month, much like they'd pay rent at the apartments that we stay at here in the city, or other places that rent apartments.

But, Mr. Speaker, in northern Saskatchewan there isn't a housing market. It's not as if there's a huge demand for housing. There isn't an open market, so to speak, so many times people that have certain rental units in these communities . . . They're only a defined amount. There's only a defined number of units that's available for renting. And, Mr. Speaker, many, many times families are crowded in these units, and they often have a tough time making ends meet.

So as the young families are starting to build up, many of them will go to school. And we see reference in the Throne Speech about cutting the wait time for adult basic education. But we support that, Mr. Speaker. We think that's a great idea. And why wouldn't we support the fact that we want to see more adults become more proficient in math and science and reading

and so on and so forth, Mr. Speaker? So obviously it's something that we would support.

But in northern Saskatchewan some of the people that rent, the families that rent these units, as they go through adult basic education, which they have, and as they take training and as they get jobs and as they get employed, Mr. Speaker, you're starting to see that these families are becoming more and more independent. And one of the things that I think worked very well in northern Saskatchewan was the government of the day came along and told these families that, instead of us renting these units to you for the rest of your life, why don't we look at the rental purchase option? Why don't you buy the house off the government and we will sell it to you based on its fair value, fair market value, and then we will be out of your hair? Then you can own your own home. You can become independent. You can do what you want with your family. You can pay your own taxes, pay your own maintenance, look after the house and the property, and you could actually be an independent family, Mr. Speaker.

So some of that work was being done, and many of these families were quite excited. So whether it's the mother or the father that started going to school, started training — and these things take time with young kids and young families — and as they earned more income, Mr. Speaker, they were hopeful that one of these days that they would own their home. Like every other homeowner in the province, home ownership was something that many of those northern Saskatchewan families wanted. And, Mr. Speaker, that's something that they strive for and that they desperately needed.

Now what happened, Mr. Speaker, and this particular Throne Speech talks about supporting families and they do the exact opposite, Mr. Speaker. What happens now, Mr. Speaker, under this government's watch, is they're now telling those families that have taken years and years to build their lives up, to get a career, and they paid in those years rent — month after month they paid their rent to that housing authority, and they continued to raise their families in these units — now this particular government is coming along saying, oops, we've changed our mind. We're not going to let you buy those units anymore. We're not going to give you the option of renting off us for 10 or 15 years, and we're going to make sure that you don't ever own your own home. That's what this government's done, Mr. Speaker, to working people in northern Saskatchewan.

Now many of these working families, whether it's the mother or the dad, if they began working after years of training or years of taking the ABE [adult basic education], then training and finally getting a job, this government comes along and saying, we're not going to let you buy your house anymore. In fact we're going to increase your rent because you have a good job.

So many of those families that may work at the mine, finally getting into the mine, finally getting a decent salary, finally being able to pay for things that their children need and they desperately need, this government comes along saying, we're going to start charging you rent based on your income, whether it's 2,000 a month or 2,500 a month. We're going to charge you that for a house in northern Saskatchewan that sometimes is not in very good shape. It's not worth the money that people are paying, but you're going to pay it. That's what this government

has done, Mr. Speaker.

Now is that helping working families? Absolutely not. And this is one example, Mr. Speaker, of how this government has simply come along and said to working people, you're making too much money; you're becoming too independent, so we're going to shackle you a bit more. We're going to make you pay 2,500 or 1,500 a month, whatever amount of money you make, and guess what? You'll never own that home again. You'll never own that house. You'll never have the opportunity of owning that house. That's what this minister and this government's done to many working families, Mr. Speaker.

So as they ride off into the sunset one of these days in their political careers, that they can take from northern Saskatchewan, that they denied working people the opportunity to buy their home. Why, Mr. Speaker? No one can ever guess why. And that's one of the questions that I have in the Assembly today, Mr. Speaker, is why would they go and work against working families? A working mom and dad would have the opportunity, the opportunity to own their own home. This government has snatched that opportunity away from them, and I say shame on every single one of them, Mr. Speaker.

Now people that work in the mine . . . And I've explained this to some of the mining companies. I've told some of the mining companies that some of your employees are being penalized by this government because they're making a decent salary. Why doesn't the government give that family the opportunity to buy out that house at fair market value, get rid of government involvement in their particular house, and give them the opportunity and the dignity to finally own their own home, to finally own their own home, Mr. Speaker? And they'll pay for their house.

And what happened, Mr. Speaker? This government has said no. We're not going to do that anymore. And any option of the remote housing program to support families that want to build their own homes using their own money and having the government support them to a point where they can become independent and not be on social assistance the rest of their life, to become taxpayers — that's what they strive to be, Mr. Speaker — that program is also gone.

The RRAP program [residential rehabilitation assistance program] to help seniors get their houses properly insulated so there isn't mould in their walls, so that they're able to have a nice clean and warm house to live in, that program is also gone, Mr. Speaker. We phoned for RRAP applications. We were told by Prince Albert that there's no money in RRAP. It's all gone. And this was a few months ago, Mr. Speaker.

So between the remote housing program, the home ownership program, the renovations program, help for seniors, help to recognize the young working families, Mr. Speaker, this government has turned their backs on those people that are Saskatchewan people, and I say shame.

Every single day, every single day the member from Cumberland and Athabasca are going to be making comments about housing in northern Saskatchewan, of how you have turned your backs on working people and how you have denied them so callously the opportunity to buy their home at their fair

market value and that you're forcing them to pay rent that are sometimes as much as 15 to 2,500 a month, depending on what they make, for the rest of their lives, Mr. Speaker. Why would a government do that? And they turn around and talk about trying to help Saskatchewan families and, on this side, we say hogwash. There's no, no evidence whatsoever that shows that this government is doing anything to help Saskatchewan families. And that's one example from one constituency that I say today it's a crying shame. So every time that we hear a family had to move out of a Sask Housing unit, we're going to give credit where credit is due, and it's going right to the Saskatchewan Party government.

The Sask Housing minister is fully aware of the problems in northern Saskatchewan. And we're going to see, Mr. Speaker, we're going to see whether she supports those working families and whether she does the right thing and reinstate that program and give them the opportunity to own their own homes. Otherwise every word that she utters in here about caring, about compassionate efforts to help a Saskatchewan family will ring hollow unless we see action from that government and that minister to correct this massive injustice to working families in northern Saskatchewan when it comes to owning their own homes or building their own homes or fixing up their own homes, Mr. Speaker. This is really important, and that's why I tell people this is a serious matter in northern Saskatchewan. And Saskatchewan families are hurting because of this government's indifference when it comes to housing.

And, Mr. Speaker, on their behalf I say shame. Shame to that government. Shame to that minister. And you can do the right thing and start fixing the problems that you created because you're ideologically driven to make sure that people who are out on the streets and working families don't get the respect that they deserve when it comes to owning their own homes, Mr. Speaker. And I say shame, again.

Now I sit here, Mr. Speaker, and this is the reason why I get so upset when I see these kind of things happening is because we know that the Saskatchewan Party inherited all kinds of great news. We know that they inherited all kinds of great news. When they first got into office, Mr. Speaker, the first thing that the Premier said when the media interviewed him as the elected Premier, well the cupboards are bare, he said. That was his comment. And then a few weeks later he said, well we didn't really find the cupboards too bare.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this party, this government, this government inherited the biggest surplus, the biggest surplus of any government in the free world, Mr. Speaker, in the free world. They got the biggest inheritance. And when they come into office, Mr. Speaker, they come into office, they had all this money in the bank. They had all this money in the bank. They had a growing population, Mr. Speaker. They had a growing population. They had a booming economy, Mr. Speaker. They had a record spending in health and highways, Mr. Speaker. Things were going really good, Mr. Speaker. Things were going really good. And they came along and they formed government, Mr. Speaker. And now for absolutely everything, every bit of good news, we hear them, oh it was us.

[15:00]

They're bragging and boasting it was us, Mr. Speaker. It was us. And you know, it's people are sitting there smiling, and they're being very, very polite. But for a government that brags and boasts about all their spending and all the great things that they're doing, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are saying, you inherited all that great news. All the heavy lifting was done before you guys assumed office. All the hard work was done before you came along. But don't forget, Mr. Speaker, the one thing that we often say in the opposition here when it comes to that government is please don't mess it up. That's the bottom line, Mr. Speaker.

Now the right wingers over there, the right wingers are saying, oh you know, we developed profit. We developed all this great news. It was us. It was us, they say. Mr. Speaker, people in Saskatchewan know it wasn't them. The whole province knows it wasn't them. In the six years that they assumed office, Mr. Speaker, they have been spending dollar after dollar after dollar, Mr. Speaker, and they have been flying out all over the province, and they've been assuming all this great news.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I did see a picture of the Minister of Agriculture, on their website, getting off a combine. That's pretty good optics, you know, but we in the opposition, and I think the vast majority of people of Saskatchewan are starting to sense it and they're starting to feel it, that this government, this government's always boasting and taking credit for things they didn't do.

Now the only thing missing when they see that Minister of Agriculture come off his combine is the only thing I saw — well I didn't see but I was expecting — was the Premier to come sauntering up to the Minister of Agriculture and saying, so how long did it take you to combine the whole province. That was the optics that they wanted to impress the people of Saskatchewan, you know, with the PR and the slick campaign that they do. That was the only thing missing, was the Premier coming out of the side shot and saying, well thanks to the Minister of Agriculture for combining the whole province.

The fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, it is the farmers that built this economy, that helped build the economy, Mr. Speaker, and it'll continue being the farmers. Now the impression the Minister of Agriculture wanted to give was, coming out of the combine, was he just finished combining the whole province based on some of their speeches in the Assembly, and we should thank him for that.

Now the only thing that was missing again was the Minister of Agriculture and, oh, on the way down from combining all throughout the land, we fixed a bunch of roads too. You know, while we fixed a bunch of roads, we brought about 20 more companies in as well.

Like, Mr. Speaker, this self-promotion, the self-promotion of this government, you know, the constant, the constant PR and the slick advertising and the constant message that they send out to people, you know, I just sit there, Mr. Speaker, and I shake my head because the bottom line is they had absolutely nothing to do with the booming economy, the growing population, and the great resources that the government currently enjoys. They inherited all that great news, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Saskatchewan know it. They know

it, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why when I sit here and I listen to the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker — I'm going to listen to the Throne Speech responses from those guys — I'll guarantee you one thing: there'll be a lot of back-patting. Yes, we've done it boys, boys and girls. We've done it, you know. And I sit here, and the right wing, the biggest single joke here, Mr. Speaker, is the right wing is claiming credit for an economy that they didn't create. They're claiming credit for an economy that they didn't create. They're claiming credit for their resource boom that they had nothing to do with. They're claiming credit for the growing population which they had nothing to do with, Mr. Speaker. So the more and more that they pat themselves on the back, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan know that's foolishness. They know that's foolishness.

And on our side when we talk about smart growth, Mr. Speaker, we're talking and make sure that absolutely everyone in this province is in engaged, Mr. Speaker, and that we don't go after working people in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that we work with them to own their own homes. Give them the dignity of home ownership. That's part of smart growth, Mr. Speaker. It's not penalizing those people by rebuilding their lives, Mr. Speaker. As soon as you get a little ahead, right away this government, this minister, slaps them back in line saying, oops, sorry, you're going to rent the rest of your life; you'll never own your own home. And that's a crying shame, Mr. Speaker. It is a crying shame.

Now I sit here, Mr. Speaker, and I look at some of their examples of how they're going to build nine new schools. I think it's 18 schools that's in the mix, if I'm not correct. But, Mr. Speaker, their experience on P3 . . . I listened to the Minister of Infrastructure today talking about P3 and, Mr. Speaker, from what I understand is the federal government is actually asking these guys for advice on their fighter jets and their choppers under a P3 scenario. They're also asking advice as to how do you guys do the school things in Saskatchewan?

Well I tell you there's a lot of New Democrats laughing their heads off throughout the land, and I almost guarantee you that the people that are involved with accounting saying, do not ask advice from the Saskatchewan Party government on P3s. And please, if you look at some of their experience on how they've procured some of their portable classrooms, don't let them anywhere near the fighter jets procurement process in Ottawa. And for heaven's sakes keep them away from choppers because, Mr. Speaker, based on that minister's performance on procuring portable classrooms, we'd give him a big, fat F.

An Hon. Member: — What's that?

Mr. Belanger: — A big, fat F. And they don't have the answers. As much as the minister wants to stand up here and yell out stats and boast and point his finger, they do not know the challenges attached to P3s.

And as my colleague the member from Regina Rosemont pointed out, the quote that he used — and I'm not sure where he got the quote from — but the line that I think is really important is debt is debt is debt. That's the bottom line. Debt is debt is debt. And I've sat here, and I watched him as they were

glowing about their P3 partnership. Nobody spoke about the debt, Mr. Speaker, that it's going to leave the province. Nobody spoke about the debt.

So here you have a party, a government that inherited all this great opportunity, inherited a growing population, a booming economy, a growing population. Things are just moving along really good, Mr. Speaker. And now they're so addicted to their spin that they want more PR. They want to look like they're God's answer to government right across the world. So what do they do, Mr. Speaker? Since they're running short of money they decided, well let's go do a P3 deal. This way we'll announce that 18 schools today, but people will pay for them in the future. This way we can get more press coverage. Isn't that a novel idea?

So, Mr. Speaker, they inherited all this great news, and now they want to saddle the future generations with more debt, but they want to get the credit for building those schools when it's going to be future generations that'll be paying that debt. So I go back to the point, debt is debt is debt. And no matter how many of them stand up today, and their response to the Throne Speech is more back-patting — look what we did; look we've done — I've got a news flash for the Saskatchewan Party government. Number one, you had absolutely nothing to do with this great economy, the growing population, and the money in the bank. You had absolutely nothing to do with it. You simply inherited it, Mr. Speaker. That's the bottom line. And secondly, as you go down the P3 path, you're going to be saddling future generations with debt, Mr. Speaker.

And third, Mr. Speaker, while you have the opportunity, while we have the opportunity here in Saskatchewan, we within the NDP want to see that economy boom for another 30 years, and that's why you have to engage as many partners as you can. That's all of what we talk about on this side under smart growth. And smart growth includes things like engaging the teachers. Smart growth includes things like respecting our seniors by giving them dignity and quality of service in their homes and in the public homes as well, and that includes bringing more companies into our province, Mr. Speaker. But it also includes them engaging the Aboriginal people, Mr. Speaker, the Métis, the First Nations. They're a part of our province, Mr. Speaker.

And this is why I get so angry sometimes as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] when I look at some of the ads that the Sask Party's running, Mr. Speaker. Why are you being so . . . Why are those ads so divisive? They should be . . . They should bring people in.

The people of Saskatchewan in my view, Mr. Speaker, they're a very gracious people. There are a lot of solid people in this province. There's a lot of good people in this province that know that in order for us to survive, we've got to work together. I think our motto as a province is "from many peoples, strength," Mr. Speaker. And the First Nations people and the Métis people as well as many other people from all walks of life in this province really live by that theme. I think the Saskatchewan people are deserving of a government that doesn't use those divisive tactics to try and politically gain at the expense of unity and harmony of the people of Saskatchewan.

And when I see that kind of action, Mr. Speaker, that's not smart growth, Mr. Speaker. That is just pure crass politics, and that's a shame. And that's why I think *The StarPhoenix* editorial basically said, what's frustratingly weak is its vision for Saskatchewan. This government does not listen to the people. They're stubborn. They simply look after themselves and their friends. And, Mr. Speaker, the bad thing is the people of Saskatchewan are going to pay for that for many, many years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm sitting there . . . I'm sitting here, and I can tell the people of Saskatchewan — I want to use Meadow Lake as an example since the Meadow Lake MLA seems to be chattering away there — when we sat down, Mr. Speaker, I remember one year in government we had to put \$14 million, I think it's \$14 million, and covering the operating loss of the Meadow Lake pulp mill, Mr. Speaker, that pulp mill. The NDP government of the day had to pay millions of dollars each and every year. That was the agreement that the former government put in place. So the government of the day, the NDP honoured those payments, and we paid all the operating loss of the pulp mill at Meadow Lake, Mr. Speaker, year after year after year. That was what was set up, and the NDP honoured those commitments and those payments, Mr. Speaker.

Did that have an affect on our bottom line? Did that have an affect on our budget? Absolutely it did. Absolutely it did, Mr. Speaker. But it was the right thing to do to keep the economy in Meadow Lake strong. They brought in the OSB [oriented strand board], Mr. Speaker. They brought a new school. They brought a bunch of services into Meadow Lake. And, Mr. Speaker, that was the right thing to do. But people ought to know, the fact is there was commitment made, and we followed those commitments to ensure that certain sectors were included in our overall strategy when it comes to northern Saskatchewan.

Now I listened the other day to a couple of the comments made by a few people across the way. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, sitting on this side of the Assembly is certainly a . . . Sitting on the government side of the Assembly certainly provided me with a lot of information over time.

And I can remember the discussions around the royalties when we talked about how we wanted to attract more companies to Saskatchewan. And I remember the one time we went into Lloydminster, and when we were in Lloydminster, there was a bunch of folks from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers — CAPP was their association's name — and they spoke glowingly about the royalties that Saskatchewan put in place and the then Premier Calvert saying he's going to bring the oil patch to the kids as opposed to sending the kids to the oil patch in Alberta.

And, Mr. Speaker, we've seen a huge shift. And I'll tell the right wingers across the way, that was when Stelmach was the premier of Alberta, and he was talking about the royalties and how he was going to relook at them and rejig them. And industry said, no, we're off to Saskatchewan; we're going to invest in Saskatchewan. And today, Mr. Speaker, we see the benefits of some of that work being done by people like Eric Cline, Eldon Lautermilch, Maynard Sonntag, Lorne Calvert, Mr. Speaker, a couple of members that are still serving here today. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, there was no MLA from

Melfort around there. There was no Arm River guy around there. I looked around. I don't remember those guys being in that room.

And today now they pat their backs, and they say what a great job we're doing, how good we are, and fantastic thoughts that they have and the great work that they have done. And, Mr. Speaker, we know every single common sense person in this province knows that you don't build, rebuild a province in six years, that you don't pay down debt 40 per cent overnight as the member from Saskatoon Sutherland asserted the other night. Overnight they paid it, Mr. Speaker. People are much more brighter than that, Mr. Speaker. About the only people, about the only people that seem to believe and continue to spin is they continue to believe amongst themselves that they're this great answer to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the 49 members across the way.

And I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, that our day will come when the people of Saskatchewan will realize that this fake government really can't get a lot of things right. They can't get anything right, Mr. Speaker. And that's why the Throne Speech, the Throne Speech, everything from saddling debt on, things like P3s, you're putting the debt onto future generations. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's a crying shame.

[15:15]

You're kicking out working families out of housing units that they can't buy. That's a crying shame. That you're trying to isolate First Nations and Métis people away from everybody else through some of your advertisements. That's a crying shame, Mr. Speaker. That you're not engaging the universities, the teachers, enough to extend to building a brave, bold, new economy that can last for years, that's a shame, Mr. Speaker.

And these articles that we have, the editorials in *The StarPhoenix*, the editorial in *The StarPhoenix*, Mr. Speaker, is somebody that's totally neutral, and they sense that this government just can't figure it out. They just can't figure out what to do with all that opportunity. And yet what they do well is they spin and they self-promote — bunch of slick PR messages that people of Saskatchewan are increasingly getting tired of. And Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan do not like a government that brags about something that they didn't create but continues to brag anyway. And sooner or later, that stuff catches up to you.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know there are families in northern Saskatchewan that are going to suffer because of the housing program changes that this government is making. They are waiting for the opportunity to come to the Assembly and talk about how they need to get this government to figure it out and get it right. And so far, Mr. Speaker, I get so angry, I get so angry when I see some of the activities happening that really impact working families in northern Saskatchewan. You know, they just simply don't get it.

The member from Saskatoon Silver Springs begins to rant, Mr. Speaker. I can almost guarantee you that he owns his own home. He owns his own home. But there's probably about 50 families in northern Saskatchewan wouldn't mind the opportunity he enjoys right now — home ownership. They

wouldn't mind that opportunity to own their own home like he does, Mr. Speaker. What's wrong with the Saskatchewan family in the northern part of our province owning their own home like the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs does? Absolutely nothing. It's fairness. And it's fairness, Mr. Speaker, right to the core.

And that's why today when the Minister of Housing tells people, you're going to rent off us forever; I don't care what you make, that's why it's patently unfair. And that's why the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, is something that we cannot support. And that's why on this side of the House, we're going to get up every day and challenge the government for the things that they're doing wrong, Mr. Speaker.

And they're doing plenty wrong, whether it's going to war with the working families in northern Saskatchewan, going to war with the working people, not recognizing the teachers, Mr. Speaker, isolating the Aboriginal community. That is not what Saskatchewan's about. You weren't given a mandate to govern based on dividing us. You were given a mandate to govern to build a bright, bold new future by uniting us all in a common cause, and we don't see no evidence of that whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, no evidence of that whatsoever.

So you can stop bragging about your highways. Stop bragging about the growing population because you had nothing to do with that. Stop bragging about all the money you have in the bank — you're barely making a balanced budget, Mr. Speaker — and start thinking about what the Saskatchewan people really need. They need a government that thinks beyond the next two years, Mr. Speaker. They need a government that thinks beyond self-promotion. And, Mr. Speaker, what they've got to figure out is that the words that they speak in this Assembly, the responses they have to the Throne Speech will ring hollow.

I'm going to sit here and listen to them rant and rave, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to sit here and listen to them rant and rave. And they laugh. They laugh. And the bottom line I can tell you right now, every single one of them will be bragging. They'll be bragging, oh we've done this. We've done that. They'll be marketing their leader, their Premier. They'll be marketing this. They'll be marketing that.

The bottom line, to this current government, Mr. Speaker, it is industry. It is farmers. It's the working men and woman. It's the universities. It's all the people of Saskatchewan that are building this province. It is not government. That's why we tell you today, stop back-patting yourselves because you look silly and, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan do not like that.

Now one of the members from Martensville chirps from her seat, Mr. Speaker. And I used to watch a lot of politics on TV, and I remember Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister of England. There you go. They're clapping. They call her the Iron Lady, Mr. Speaker. Why did they call her the Iron Lady? Because she made so many cuts because the government of Britain was in a lot of trouble, England overall. They cut and they cut and they cut. And the reason why, the reason why they cut, Mr. Speaker, is because the country was going broke, she said. The country was going broke.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1991 when the NDP were in power and

the NDP had to cut because we're going broke, all of a sudden it was not acceptable to the right wing. So Margaret Thatcher can do it on one hand, but the NDP can't do it because if the NDP do it, then it's wrong. So that's why the logic behind the right wingers is completely silly, Mr. Speaker. They didn't even know what they're doing half the time. So my point to them is that while it's good for Margaret Thatcher to be called the Iron Lady for making all these cuts, but as soon as the NDP do it, well it's wrong. That's how silly this Saskatchewan Party is when they're trying to figure out the logic of where they're coming from, Mr. Speaker.

And I was going to talk a bit about the Senate, Mr. Speaker, just the Senate overall. You know, and I know this is not the place and the venue for it, but clearly I think . . . Quite frankly, I'm just wondering, Mr. Speaker . . . I remember a couple of years ago when my colleague, the member I'm seconding the motion for, threw me under the bus when he said I had failed accounting now, Mr. Speaker, in high school, so don't look to me for financial advice. And he was right. I did fail. I did fail high school accounting.

But, Mr. Speaker, they threw a couple of senators under the bus over there. Now I wouldn't mind seeing them go and talk to those senators, the same senators that were out campaigning for them, Mr. Speaker, because we know a lot of those guys hold federal Conservative cards. They've got Conservative cards over there. Quite a few of them have them, Mr. Speaker. And I know that some of those senators were out there helping them campaign and fund raise.

Oh and all of a sudden, a couple of days before the problem hit, the Premier was talking about going to Ottawa and fixing the Senate. What a great opportunity to make the headlines. I'm going to go and fix that Senate, he said. He didn't bring it up at the first ministers' meeting. He casually mentioned it. And he was told no, none of that's going to happen. And now as soon as the senators get in trouble, they throw them under the bus too. Oh we don't know them. We don't know them. Well didn't they speak at your convention? Oh I don't remember that. You know, and we sit here saying, well come on, you guys. They're your cousins. No, they don't remember any of those guys now. And as far as reforming the Senate? You don't hear the Premier speak about that.

My theory is, my theory is is that whenever there's an opportunity to be in front of the parade or to be PR, the slick PR machine that they want to be, well why not jump in front of these issues? The only problem is, they shouldn't jump in front of the Senate bus. Wait till it passes you by. And what happened was, as the Senate bus is running over the senators that are in trouble now, Mr. Speaker, we see now no word from the Sask Party. No word from the Premier. No word from the right wingers over there; those that have federal Conservative cards. They're not talking about the Senate no more. Oh, those rotten senators. That's what they're saying now. We don't know them. We don't know them.

I wouldn't mind seeing, Mr. Speaker, the response they might get on some of the senators' families and friends when they're out campaigning next time. You knock on their door. Hello. How are you? You know, I wouldn't mind seeing that, Mr. Speaker — what they'd be told in some of the places that these

senators are from. I would like, I would pay for a front seat for that reaction because I know some of the families of some of the senators are probably saying holy, I thought we were all one big family at one time, and now we don't have . . . What's happening here? Are you trying to disown us? I wouldn't want to be in any of the MLAs' shoes today, going knocking on some of the senators' families' and friends' doors this next election, Mr. Speaker. Because they threw, they threw these senators under the bus. They threw the senators under the bus. And, Mr. Speaker, the bus is running over them, and these guys are simply getting off the way. They're getting off the way.

And as far as Senate reform, I'm sitting at home and I hear this press release, that the Premier of Saskatchewan's going to go and fix the Senate. And I said, well what the heck is that about now? And, Mr. Speaker, I guess he did go try fix the Senate. But he said, we should fix the Senate. And everybody around the room looked at him and that was it — didn't fix it. Why did he tell the people of Saskatchewan that he could fix the Senate? It's all about PR. That's all it was about. They're trying to change the channel. They're trying to change the channel, Mr. Speaker. And that is exactly my point, Mr. Speaker, that the government has to be serious about things that matter to the people of Saskatchewan instead of jumping in front of parades, Mr. Speaker.

You have to understand that you've got to manage the economy that you've inherited and manage it well, Mr. Speaker. This government has not had a major problem right now since they've been in government because they've spent the money. They've made all the announcements, and they've been running this PR campaign, Mr. Speaker. But the people of Saskatchewan know it; the people of Saskatchewan know it. We all know it, Mr. Speaker. And I'll tell you, one after another different groups and different areas and different sectors and different cities and towns and villages, they're beginning to realize that the Saskatchewan Party government doesn't listen to the people of Saskatchewan.

And recently all we've seen from this particular government, Mr. Speaker, is not only the PR and spin, but now they continue going to war with the working people. And now they're beginning to sell off the Crowns, Mr. Speaker, and Information Services Corporation is a good example. And while they're quietly sitting back undertaking their own ideology on things like the Crowns, on education, and on finances, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are continuing to sit here and saying, what's going on? There is a seed of mistrust that's quickly growing amongst the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why I say today, that's why I say today, Mr. Speaker, when I look at some of the measures taken under *The Election Act* for photo ID [identification], the increase in the MLAs, Mr. Speaker, the advertisements . . . We got a pamphlet in the mail talking about all the accomplishments that the Sask Party government is taking credit for. All that, Mr. Speaker, it tells me one thing. Why is the current government protesting so much against the NDP opposition? What is it in their minds, in their psyche, that they continually protest against the NDP, the opposition, and the different groups out there, Mr. Speaker? I don't have the answer to that, Mr. Speaker, but I know somebody out there does. Now what I want to tell the people of

Saskatchewanland is this, very simple: we have a government that inherited all the great news. They inherited everything, Mr. Speaker. Their timing was impeccable because the population was growing, economy was getting strong, money in the bank, and they came along. And six years later, six years after the fact of bragging, we now see through the Throne Speech that you want to put more debt on to the future generations through things like P3s, Mr. Speaker. They're ignoring working families. They're going to war with the teachers, Mr. Speaker. They're going to war with northern people. They're going to war when I think overall, with the mindset of many that think that we should unite our province, not divide it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think, I think the people of Saskatchewan will see the folly in this particular government's ways and now will say, Mr. Speaker, as you hear from their responses, as we hear from their responses, Mr. Speaker, how much PR and spin they're doing for their own benefit. And I'll say again, Mr. Speaker, the silliest thing that I heard in the last couple of days in this Assembly was the member from Saskatoon Sutherland when he said, we paid down debt 40 per cent overnight. You know, Mr. Speaker, we're sitting here and all of us . . . And I'm sure quite a few accountants had a good laugh at that one. So how could you pay down debt overnight 40 per cent if, as your leader says, the cupboard was bare?

So, Mr. Speaker, I certainly, if I was a lawyer I'd tell the defence . . . [inaudible] . . . today that I rest my case, that these guys don't know what they're doing. So on that notion, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to second the amendment to the Throne Speech as presented by my colleague. And I would ask the people of Saskatchewan to watch, to watch how the self-promotion will begin from the government opposite.

And Halloween's four days away, Mr. Speaker, and what I wouldn't mind seeing . . . and if these guys want to go do a little bit of trick-or-treating, I don't know what they're going to dress up as, but they'd better do part octopus because they're pretty good at patting their own backs, you know. And I don't know what it'd look like, but it's got to be part octopus, it's got to be green, it's got to be self-serving, it's got to lack vision, Mr. Speaker, and it has to have no vision for the future. So limited thinking, Mr. Speaker. And I'm not sure what the trick-or-treater will look like, but I can tell he's going to be godawful ugly, Mr. Speaker.

[15:30]

And the bottom line is, the bottom line is we don't need a government full of PR, full of spin, full of fancy words that, in *The StarPhoenix's* own words, clearly lacks vision. It's frustratingly lacking in its vision, Mr. Speaker, and that's really, really important. And on that note, Mr. Speaker, I will say to the people of Saskatchewan, this opposition is going to grow. It is going to grow.

And what we're not, what we're not going to do, what we're not going to do is start taking economic advice from the economic midgets across the way that yell, it was us that created it; it was us that created the economy. News flash again: it was not your government, it was not the Sask Party MLAs that created the economy, the growing population, and the money in the bank. It was the farmers. It was industry. It was

the corporations. It was good royalties. It was a solid government. It was a dedicated people, and it was a united people.

And, Mr. Speaker, the NDP have an exciting plan that's going to continue building over time, and it's going to be called smart growth. And in that smart growth we will build a brave new Saskatchewan . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — There seems to be a lot of members trying to enter into the debate. Currently the member from Athabasca has the floor. I'm sure all members will have an opportunity to enter the debate. I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And what I would point out, Mr. Speaker, is that we are going to build a brave, bold new economy that brings everyone together, that brings absolutely everyone together, Mr. Speaker. We're not for the divisive politics of the current government. They're six years old, Mr. Speaker, six years old, and they look old and tired already, Mr. Speaker — six years old. And I can't figure out from the Throne Speech what their great vision or what their great plan is. I just simply can't see it, Mr. Speaker.

So on that note I tell the people of Saskatchewan, stay strong. Continue building our province, as I asked all the different groups to do, and don't worry. Divisiveness will not rule this particular Chamber nor our plans for the future. We will bring absolutely everyone together.

And in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, what we've been asking for is a simple, simple one-word effort from this government — respect. We want to travel on safe roads. We want our children to have a future through training. We want to have decent homes.

And, Mr. Speaker, northern Saskatchewan, I can tell you right now, as the member from Cumberland can allude to, we generate a lot of wealth for the province. We are sharing that wealth through our mining initiatives, Mr. Speaker. And people in the North are getting angrier and angrier as you kick out working families, as you ignore the northern road situation, as you ignore the suicide amongst the young Aboriginal people, Mr. Speaker, or the dilapidated schools, Mr. Speaker. As you continue to ignore that sector of the province before a number of reasons why the Sask Party are doing, the people of the North will eventually say, okay, if you don't want to govern for us all, we're going to govern for ourselves. We will work with the mining companies and we will use the resources that the mining companies generate out of the North to look after our own problems.

Now does that build a united province? Absolutely not. But as long as this government continues to ignore certain sectors of people, certain geographical areas, Mr. Speaker, they do a great injustice to this great province whose motto, provincial logo, is "from many peoples, strength."

So on that note, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to second the motion on the amendment on the Speech from the Throne from my colleague, the member from Regina Rosemont. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Jurgens: — Well thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is an honour to participate in this Throne Speech debate.

Twenty-three months and three weeks ago the people of Saskatchewan asked the Saskatchewan Party to govern this province. At that same time, the people of Prince Albert Northcote hired me to be their voice and to bring their message to this legislature. This Throne Speech is a clear indication that their voice is heard and their message matters.

Mr. Speaker, this position of governance cannot be done by oneself nor in isolation. There is a team behind each and every one of us. Therefore before I continue, I will take a few moments to thank just a few of them. Mr. Deputy Speaker, one person that has been unwavering in his commitment to me is my husband, Al, this man with the patience to see and experience, well maybe one or two of my strengths and oh a whole lot of, I'd like to call them less than stellar strengths but let's just call them weaknesses. He chooses to stick by me. Thank you, Al.

My children and their spouses deserve a great big thank you. They have never questioned my abilities nor my willingness to be a part of a team that is taking Saskatchewan into the future. As well, there is a team back in Prince Albert, in my MLA office, that keeps the office running smoothly with the day-to-day activities. Thank you, Trudy, Brent, and Donna. Mr. Speaker, one more thank you to my team of colleagues on this side of the House that helps me to be the best MLA there is for Prince Albert Northcote. Thank you for pushing and pulling me when needed and for accepting me as part of the team that is leading this province into the future.

Two messages people consistently and continuously tell me are: keep the economy strong; be fiscally prudent. These messages are woven throughout this Throne Speech.

Let's hear what a few others are saying about it. For example, Wayne Mantyka says, and I quote, "This Throne Speech maintains the government's focus on a growth plan [that is the] . . . as the province pushes forward with expanding the economy and dealing with the issues that growth brings." Wayne Mantyka, CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd.] Regina, October 23rd, 2013.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech is based on our government's *Plan for Growth: Vision 2020 and Beyond* which sets a foundation for a future with a strong economy and a balanced budget. This is so very different from a province that was ruled by the NDP, an NDP that is stuck in the past. The foundation of our future is based on consultations with our constituents and clearly sets out our plan to ensure Saskatchewan continues to grow and that our government continues to meet the challenges of growth. This Throne Speech is another step towards our future. Mr. Speaker, we all know that setting a goal is the first step to achieving that goal. It is the implementation of action that actually achieves that goal.

One goal we set in our plan for growth is, well, in a single word, it's growth. For example, our government set a goal of

1.2 million people living in Saskatchewan by 2020. Well, how are we doing? In just six years, we now have more than 100,000 new citizens that call Saskatchewan home and, Mr. Speaker, at a rate that is unprecedented in Saskatchewan's history. It sure looks like we are moving forward and achieving that goal. Contrast this with the NDP's plan for . . . Well, a plan for nothing, no growth. In fact, when the Saskatchewan Party government set a goal for growth, what did the NDP say? They dismissed the forward-thinking vision and in fact one NDP MLA, on March 24th, 2003, said, and I quote, "Well it is so over the top, it is so farcical, Mr. Speaker, that it flies in the face of reality."

An Hon. Member: — Who said that?

Ms. Jurgens: — That was an NDP MLA. No need to tell him because . . . Mr. Speaker, today we see a pile of NDP MLAs seated in this Chamber that wholeheartedly support that backward thinking. Well maybe there's just nine of them. Just nine.

An Hon. Member: — The negative nine.

Ms. Jurgens: — The negative . . . Let's look at another contrast, and I will quote from page 2 of the Throne Speech:

While most of this growth has been driven by Saskatchewan businesses, my government will continue to play its role by encouraging further diversification of our resource-based economy, marketing our province throughout the world and maintaining a competitive tax and regulatory environment that encourages new investment and new jobs.

Let's see, what did the leader of the NDP say? He says, and I quote, "To me, this Throne Speech is disappointing; it's looking backwards." Said on October 23rd, 2013. Mr. Speaker, to find something negative about our province at a time when we are moving forward and we have a goal that is an inspirational vision for the future, to find negativity is so typical of the NDP.

The NDP continues to plan for, well, nothing, Mr. Speaker. No increase in the seniors' income supplement for 16 years and no plan for assisting those with long-term and enduring disability. Let's contrast this with our record. By 2015 the benefits under the seniors' income plan will have tripled since 2007. Today more than 11,000 Saskatchewan citizens with a long-term and enduring disability are enrolled in the Saskatchewan assured income for disability program, or SAID, as we call it. These are just two of the many examples of how our government's plan for growth is about improving the quality of life for all Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 23 months and three weeks ago, through consultations with about 8,000 people living in Prince Albert Northcote, I discovered that the number one concern was crime and the desire to have a safe community. Mr. Speaker, we see on page 15 of the Throne Speech, and I quote, "Helping the victims of crime is a priority for our government." This year the Ministry of Justice has allocated more than \$3 million for police-based victims services programs which provide information, support, and referrals for victims of crime. As well, Mr. Speaker, there is a committed team of people in

Prince Albert Northcote, and indeed in Prince Albert, that took the lead to the future where Prince Albert would be a safer community. They created the first of its kind in Canada called the Community Mobilization partnership. In P.A. [Prince Albert] we call it the Hub. This team of police, community organizations, government ministries, and human service agencies foster a closer co-operation among them to reduce crime.

Our government financially supports this innovative initiative that leads, helps to improve the quality of life for our communities. As the Throne Speech points out, Mr. Speaker, there are some very impressive results from this innovative initiative. Since 2011 overall crime has fallen by 18 per cent. Violent crime is down by 38 per cent, and property crime is down by 20 per cent. One word can describe these results — impressive.

This leadership role in getting at the root causes of crime is being followed by many communities all across Saskatchewan. The people of our province can hold their heads high because we have shown ourselves, our communities, and our province that working together is the best way to keep moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, through continued consultations with my constituents, I heard, make it easier to connect to extended families and businesses in the North. Our government heard that message and then took action. As this Throne Speech indicates, the Crowns are partnering with the private sector to bring telecommunications infrastructure to the North. SaskTel, Huawei, and the Athabasca development corporation are partnering to bring four new cellular sites to the communities of Fond-du-Lac, Stony Rapids, Black Lake, and Wollaston Lake. There are 566 kilometres of new fibre being placed to bring high-speed bandwidth to the North. This partnership between SaskTel, SaskPower, and Cameco is a clear example of doing things in the new way in our new Saskatchewan to improve the quality of life for all our people.

[15:45]

Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech is a clear indicator of how our government is systematically working on the priority areas set out in our growth plan. However, Mr. Speaker, we know there are some challenges to growth. And I now will take a minute to quote from *The StarPhoenix* editorial on October 24th, 2013, and I quote: “To have the government commit in the second half of its mandate to address those challenges is perhaps the most responsible course it can take.”

Talk about meeting the challenges of growth. Businesses could employ more, even more people. But as we all know there is a shortage of skilled labour. An educated workforce will help to produce that skilled labour and is key to help keep Saskatchewan competitive.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are working with educational institutions and employers to create 1,000 new training seats this year. Talk about success through working together. Crown corporations will also expand opportunities for apprentices and fund training seats at SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. People are seeing the opportunities available to

participate in this new Saskatchewan and they desire to improve their skills. They have applied to the adult basic education or, as we call it, ABE program, in record numbers. To reduce the backlog, our government is adding 700 new spots to the program. This increases the total of the seats to 8,580. Note that that is a 46 per cent increase since 2007 and it is an important step towards eliminating the ABE wait-list.

Housing is another challenge of growth that the NDP never had under their stuck-in-the-past plan for nothing. We have committed \$344 million to expand the housing supply by 12,600 units and repair or update about 24,000 units by 2016. Prince Albert continues to benefit from our eight-year housing plan. The latest renovation in Prince Albert Northcote and in Prince Albert, we will see the conversion of Pineland Apartments into safe, affordable housing units.

Prince Albert is also benefiting in the area of health care. Our government is taking steps to reduce pressure on the long-term care system by launching new home care pilot programs in Saskatoon and in Prince Albert. The Pineview Terrace Lodge, with an increase in number of beds, is right in the middle of being built. We are amending *The Personal Care Homes Act* to allow for the public disclosure of inspection reports. In the months ahead, we will announce details of a program that will enable some seniors with complex issues to receive house calls from physicians, nurse practitioners, and other health care providers.

Mr. Speaker, as described earlier today, my colleagues from MLA Batoche and MLA Carlton and I celebrated the official opening of Highway 11. Now Regina and Saskatoon are connected to Prince Albert with a twinned highway. This improves the flow of goods, people, and services to Prince Albert.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are challenges to growth, and we are meeting them head-on. This Throne Speech is a clear indicator of the steps we are taking to meet those challenges.

The NDP are opposed to growth. That is clear when they voted against the plan for growth, vision 2020 and beyond. Today, Mr. Speaker, the NDP have a plan for . . .

An Hon. Member: — Nothing.

Ms. Jurgens: — Well nothing. Exactly. Nothing.

Let's compare month seven of each leader's tenure. As we can see and hear, at month seven for the NDP leader there is no plan, a plan for nothing — no policies, no action, no plan. At month seven of our leader's tenure — our leader who is now the Premier of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker — at month seven our leader released an economic action plan and released new policy ideas, new policies such as reducing the small business tax, a policy that helps to create a business-friendly province. And now we see business owners looking for skilled labour.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on — should I go on? — about the excitement and innovation that the people of Saskatchewan are contributing to our province's bright future. For example we have an accountable government, six balanced budgets. We're introducing a new lobbyist Act. And we'll establish an

independent officer of the Legislative Assembly to oversee its records.

This summer, Mr. Speaker, I attended the first opening of a provincial park for — how long was it, Mr. Minister? — about 20 years, something like that. So now we have focused on creating the best experience possible for park visitors by investing 44 million in our provincial park system since 2008. Mr. Speaker, this is working well. As an example, we have a record 3.7 million visits to our provincial parks.

We also have an artsVest program in the province. And, if you remember back to my inaugural speech, artsVest was launched in Prince Albert in one of the most beautiful buildings in P.A., the E.A. Rawlinson Centre, just prior to the election. Well we see that this program is . . . We are partnering with the private sector to provide \$2.4 million to help arts, cultural, and heritage organizations.

What else can I tell you about this wonderful Throne Speech that is looking forward? How about competitiveness? Is Saskatchewan competitive? Absolutely. We have one of the fastest growing economies in the country and the lowest unemployment rate. That sounds pretty competitive to me. We have infrastructure investment. We have housing investment. We have post-secondary education investment. We've a plan, plain and simple, a plan for growth.

An Hon. Member: — You'd think people would move here.

Ms. Jurgens: — I think people are moving here. We've got more than 100,000 people that moved here in the last six years.

So in closing, Mr. Speaker. I must say that it is so exciting to be part of a thriving province with a strong economy and six consecutive balanced budgets. Our people are resilient, determined, and optimistic, and can meet any challenges the future may bring. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion for the Throne Speech, and I do not support the amendment.

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

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is also a pleasure for myself from Prince Albert to stand today and talk about our Throne Speech, and a great Throne Speech that it is yet again. It's a visionary document planning for growth.

I'm not sure what it would ever be like to plan for decline, but on the other side of this House, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure around that cabinet table and treasury board boardroom, for years they struggled with that question. How do you plan for decline? And you know what? I would have thought that, although in opposition with a new leader, their previous leaders under that party always had a vision at least to project a growth plan to give to the people in this province. It may not have been something I would have agreed with, to be sure, but it was a plan that people could look at, compare to, at the time, the opposition, which was the Sask Party, and then make a decision moving forward.

Well here we are today, Mr. Speaker, with a visionary for a Premier who looks at the growth of Saskatchewan. We took on

a challenge to raise the population of this province, and in six short years, we hit the mark — 1.1 million people, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully we have a plan for growth that shows 1.2 million people by 2020. Now, interestingly enough, I wasn't around in this House back in the day when the NDP was in government, and I want to thank the members who endured those very long sessions as opposition members, listening to the rhetoric from this side of the House when they were in power. But I want to quote, interestingly enough, from an NDP MLA, former MLA, Mr. Harry Van Mulligen, who said in this House in March 24th of 2003:

They [in reference to Sask Party] propose to increase the population of Sask Party by 100,000 over . . . I forget what number of years, Mr. Speaker.

Well it is so over the top, it is so farcical, Mr. Speaker, that it flies in the face of reality.

I can't understand how a learned man like that would even say that, Mr. Speaker. That was probably the reflection of the NDP caucus, ministers at the time, that how dare an opposition party back then, under a newly-minted . . . well a future-mentored leader, a future Premier, focused on talking about a plan for growth then, Mr. Speaker.

So after our Premier becomes leader of the Sask Party, what does he do? Does he sit around and complain, point fingers at the government of the day, criticize them on a regular basis without, without referencing a plan for the future, Mr. Speaker? Not a chance. In short order the leader of the Sask Party at that time, the current Premier, put forth an economic action-type kind of a paper which he published, released on the University of Saskatchewan campus, talking about his vision, the vision of this party moving forward, Mr. Speaker.

Now that's what every leader should do. If you want to eventually form government and show to the population of a province that you have what it truly takes to be a Premier with the support of your caucus members and colleagues, you would think after losing an election and then getting a newly-minted leader that the opposition party would do the same thing. We would have seen in this tenure to this date some sort of an action document, a plan, a visionary paper of some sort, Mr. Speaker.

But I guess we have. When we look back at what the current leader of the NDP authored what we call the tree book, which was a policy paper, a policy paper just prior to the last election, Mr. Speaker, who some on the opposition side say that that was no way, shape, or form a document to be used as a jumpoff point for the election platform they developed after. Well, Mr. Speaker, I find that difficult to believe. Because when a party authors a policy platform document, a policy forum document like that, that's exactly what forms — or should form — the basis for your platform in the upcoming election. And in this case, we on this side believe it did.

And what did the current leader pen, author, sign? A \$5 billion spending spree, Mr. Speaker. A \$5 billion spending spree, all based on NDP policy development, that would have driven this province, if they would have governed, into a massive deficit hole.

So I ask the Leader of the Opposition today and the members on the other side of this House, what would you do with the revenue of this province? What would you do if you were in fact going to be in power and be the government? Well nothing. To this day, nothing. In fact, as I understand it, that tree document is off their website. There's no reference to it whatsoever anymore, Mr. Speaker. I would have to think if I was on that side of the House in opposition, Mr. Speaker, that I would be seeing what's happening in this province and asking my leader, why is it we haven't got our act together to show an alternative to the Saskatchewan Party?

It's fine to get up in this House and point fingers and criticize the government of the day for what they believe is a nonsense document, a backward-looking document, rehashing of old ideas — which I would have to say is completely false, Mr. Speaker. But then to say that and not put forth an alternative, it's like having an argument saying, yeah, but. But what? There's nothing to say against us. They want to talk about not messing it up. Don't mess it up, Mr. Speaker. Well the member from Athabasca uses that quite a bit. He says, don't mess it up.

[16:00]

Well I'd hate to see how he defines messing up. We see a province that's grown by 100,000 people over six years, leads the nation in economic development. It's top . . . We're a AAA rating by S & P [Standard & Poor's], Mr. Speaker. We are the envy of small countries in the world who would kill to have what we have here — for a balanced budget, for resource wealth, and for a leader who is on now the world stage talking about how to take a province that was never even close to a million people under the NDP, now we're looking at 1.2 million for a growth plan, Mr. Speaker.

I don't understand how the members opposite can stand there in their place and debate a Throne Speech that's a visionary document. And we've had numerous throne speeches which were visionary documents, and every time a Throne Speech comes up, we have goals set. Ministers take on those challenges. And I'm very proud to say the ministers on this side of the House get those things done, Mr. Speaker. They get the job done. They see it, as well as we do in the backbench, that we see a province that's growing. And they challenge our officials to hit the mark every time, and they do, Mr. Speaker, time after time after time. I want to thank the ministers for the job well done.

So now we'll get into more of a personal note for myself, Mr. Speaker. We talk about the potential for growth, the growth plan for this province. And I want to talk about two very important people in my life, my daughters Alyssa and Mackenzie, who I'm very proud to say are now in both in university at the University of Saskatchewan and doing very well. In fact they just finished mid-terms last week. And I was with them on the weekend, and they both feel very confident they did very well which is very . . . it's a moment of pride for my wife and I as we talk to them about their future. Because in Saskatchewan right now, both of my daughters have the vision to stay in Saskatchewan. They believe fully that they have an opportunity to fulfill future obligations and goals and have a professional life in Saskatchewan.

An Hon. Member: — That wasn't always the case.

Mr. Hickie: — That wasn't always the case. Thank you very much to my seatmate. Because when I decided to seek office and run for the nomination back in 2006, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to see a province prosper. I wanted to see a province where my daughters could in fact benefit from a government opening up opportunities, giving them chances like no other time before, Mr. Speaker. And I'm very proud that this government has done just that.

We are giving opportunities to the young people in this province to stay, to raise a family, where for years they would graduate from university and technical schools and have to move out of Saskatchewan to get a job. In these last six years we've seen people come back to Saskatchewan to definitely help with that extra 100,000 growth over six years.

But we're also drawing people from other countries to Saskatchewan to seek a future because they want to come to a place . . . although I'm sure that first winter is quite a shocker to quite a few of them that come from the very warm Asian countries, however, and the African countries. But they have opportunity that at no other time before in their lives, I'm sure, they can provide for their families. They have opportunities to do multiple different kinds of jobs in our province, and it's ripe for the picking, so to speak — opportunities like never before.

And now I go back to my daughters' future. You know what? There was one thing that my daughters knew they would do in high school. They would go on to university. And there's one thing about our post-secondary education plan since we formed government under the ministers and the Premier that we wanted to do a couple of different things. We wanted to give our students an advantage.

So you know what, it's an interesting dilemma to come into where you have a chance when you have resource revenue again. That has been a godsend to be sure. We take credit for setting the table for new policies and development to spur on business, to spur on growth. But we also never lose sight of the fact that we are a resource-blessed province, and we've benefited from those resources, Mr. Speaker.

We saw, since 2008, a \$4.6 billion increase in investment into post-secondary institutions and students. That's amazing when you look at my daughters' future when they were in high school. Looking forward, they saw that they had an opportunity to stay in Saskatchewan to go to school. And now with the investment and the continuous investment in their education through the Saskatchewan advantage scholarship, which helps, to be sure, when the parents are paying for the tuition. It definitely helps, but they will get it all back because they are going to stay in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, after they're done. I'm going to remind them that that money should come back to their parents, but I'm not sure if it will, Mr. Speaker. I like it. I think it's . . . Yes, I'm going to try. My members on this side are mocking the fact that maybe it's a pipe dream, but I'm going to try.

There's many things that we've been able to contribute as a government, Mr. Speaker. We started off small. I remember being privileged and had the honour to be on treasury board

when we first formed government. And I saw a lot of action plans, talking to the ministers who presented at the time, that were great news releases by the NDP. They were great news releases to encourage support for the 2007 election. Well you know what, Mr. Speaker, very few of those projects had any significant funding allocated for the future moving forward.

So on that first two budgets that I was a part of in treasury board, we saw a very aggressive plan to put our platform, again supported by a policy document prior, into place, which we did, Mr. Speaker. Again a visionary document. Good public policy formed a platform for this party, which we took as soon as we formed government and assigned every minister responsible tasks to see those come to fruition before the next election. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? We saw many infrastructure projects in this province, highways specifically, that were short-funded, unfunded, or in fact when you have highways churned back into gravel, that again is I guess a party that was planning for decline. Heaven forbid you should refurbish or build new roads using pavement, thinking that your province might grow, might grow. But oh no, Mr. Speaker. They were chewing pavement up, putting in the gravel. And our Premier and our ministers of Highways and Infrastructure have done a great job in planning for that growth.

Again it's a visionary thing. It's a living, breathing document that challenges ministers and officials and treasury board to fund all these different initiatives. But we don't look at it for growth for growth's sake. We invest properly in this province, Mr. Speaker, addressing the needs around some of the most aggressive, growing communities in the country. I look to Martensville and Warman, Saskatoon. That area is booming in such a way that I think in my lifetime I will see those communities join together. And I believe that the mayors and the reeves of the area and the mayor of Saskatoon are working on that whole regional plan, moving forward to ensure that dollars are invested properly.

And it's one of those things that this province is able to see happen because of a government, I truly believe, that looks at every measure possible to again encourage economic development, encourage growth, and then support it moving forward, Mr. Speaker, with a plan, again a plan. And I believe if you were to look back at the Premier's paper when he first became leader of this party and took his vision at the time, moving forward today, you'd be able to say check, check, check, check, check. Been there, done that.

And it's one of those kind of documents, Mr. Speaker, that again is never just put away to gather dust. It's looked at and referenced ongoing by the leader, by the Premier now. And it's still one of those documents that has to be referred to as we move forward the next plan for growth — things we've done, things we look back on. And we don't look back and pat ourselves on the back. We look back and thank the people of this province for supporting this province day in and day out, working hard every day, contributing to local economies, helping out in the local communities by volunteering. Saskatchewan has one of the best volunteer bases in the world, I believe, Mr. Speaker.

One thing I find interesting is again this government has taken on the challenges of building for the future. We see our Crown

corporations having to invest like no other time before to support the growth of this province. Again I look to the other side. Where was your plan for growth? Where was it? You had to be planning for decline because you failed to invest in the resource, in the Crowns to expand, thinking that this province would never grow. Again a burden placed on our ministers and the Premier but a job tackled and taken on by the presidents of the Crown corporations as well. And kudos to them and their staff for accepting that challenge and moving forward and seeing that we needed to build out on projects so we could support growth again.

That ties into my next part of my speech about the SaskBuilds, the new organization that was just founded recently to pursue an advantageous mechanism for infrastructure dollars to be spent, developing an action plan to address our shortfalls, Mr. Speaker. Now we know that with our province growing, we've seen families come to this province. We're seeing many families like my seatmate starting, which is great. Some of my colleagues are having many, many, many grandchildren. It's helping out. I look to my colleague from Saskatchewan Rivers in that. Thank you very much to be a grandma all these times over. Tell the kids to keep up the good work.

And one thing that we see and we've seen — and treasury board members can attest to this and ministers can as well — that it is costly to build projects. We recognize that, Mr. Speaker. We take on that challenge. We expect that the taxpayers of this province want to see value for their dollars. And we need to build schools. We need to put money to infrastructure. We need to expand our Crown corporations' infrastructure as well. We need to put more roads into place so we can expand our communities and make it easier access for the economies of our province to reach a market.

But on the issue of building schools, why not — and I challenge opposition members to stand up and debate this with me — why would you not look at every opportunity that's been used in other places in this country and in the world to maximize your taxpayers' dollars to develop a plan to address the ministries that have a need for infrastructure? We look to the schools. We see and we've seen in the first four years of government and now this next term, we've been funding new schools in this province. They're costly measures, Mr. Speaker. So why not look at an opportunity to bundle schools, talk to industry leaders who've done it, talk to the people who are experts in the field, and look at private-public partnerships as an option?

I'm a taxpayer like everyone else in this room is. My daughters will be taxpayers in the future. Why would I not want to see their future and their tax dollars spent judiciously? I don't understand why the opposition members, especially the Leader of the Opposition, stands in this House and criticizes an opportunity that we see in this bundling concept moving forward with P3s to build schools, one of which, after 51 times standing in this House with petitions to actually ask for a school in his riding, it is going to get built under this model, Mr. Speaker.

And now he stands here and he criticizes the government for using taxpayers' dollars in such a fashion that we can build joint-use facility schools in not just one area in the city — in multiple areas, multiple ridings, multiple communities. I ask the

Leader of the Opposition, if you have a better way to do it, let's see it on your website. Publish a paper. Get up and talk about it somewhere. But today we hear nothing. We see finger points. We say it's a bad idea where you need to put more eggs in more baskets. Well how do you do that? Let's hear it. Let's see it. Let's have something tangible from the opposition, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to see — and I've always asked people who want to debate with me — an answer to your debate. You have a point. How would you solve that issue? You can't say, yes but, and we'll do it this way, but don't have an absolute, positive way to get it done or an option. We're losing that from the opposition side. We need to be pressing and he needs, as a leader, to show the people of this province if he truly wants to govern. If he wants to somehow in some way in the future be on this side of the House to govern as a premier, then you've got to step up and you've got to be a leader now. Where's your document? Where's the document from the opposition showing the future?

If it was the tree book, it's \$5 billion of spending that we can't afford in this province, Mr. Speaker, and the people of this province saw through that last election. And I know if that's the same document that they want to publish again with that same frivolous spending spree, from a polished document into a platform, I'd gladly say, bring it on. And I will campaign on our record over a \$5 billion spending spree.

The people in this province want to see year after year a vision from a government. They want to see and talk about some plans that have worked, absolutely, because it's the budget time for the government. It puts actions into plans — plans into actions, sorry. But we have to keep on moving forward. We want to keep on showing the people of this province that we have a plan for growth, which we do. We're seeing again a Throne Speech outlining expansion of things started. We look at what's happening in Prince Albert with the Hub, how, in Prince Albert, how they've got together with ministries and policing and law enforcement agencies to tackle the issues that happen in communities together, in a team approach.

[16:15]

Why would we not want to talk about what's the success story and then model that moving forward in this year with another challenge for the ministries to look at expanding the hubs in this province? It's a working model, Mr. Speaker. Why would we not want to say it's a good thing to look back and say, our credibility lies in our success, therefore we move it forward.

The opposition says we're looking backwards. Well if that's an example, I'm okay with that. I'm okay in looking backwards, looking at our success stories and then modelling that moving forward, Mr. Speaker. And this government has that as part of their action plan in the Throne Speech, to keep looking at what's been working in this province and action that and move it forward to ensure that we can still support our communities with not just growth for the sake of growth.

We recognize there's challenges with that. But I, on this side of the House — I'm sure my colleagues agree — would prefer to . . . And I've heard it from a couple of my colleagues in media

releases and during media scrums. I'd much rather have the opportunity to plan for growth than to have to plan for decline and to make choices that would be in the negative interest of my province if I was to be a government. I'm very happy to be on this side of the government and in this side of the House whereby every day it's difficult, I understand, that for the members in government, for the cabinet ministers, members of treasury board to balance all these ideas and all these different challenges we have.

But you can do that when you have a Throne Speech like we see presented by the Premier and the Lieutenant Governor this year, as other years. It's a plan. It'll be attacked. It'll be addressed in the budgets as we move forward, Mr. Speaker. And I think that when it comes to that issue, our government is well situated to prove to the people of this province that we don't govern for government's sake. We govern with a plan, taking advice and counsel from those around us at all times, our constituents, as the member from Northcote referenced, telling us what we're doing right, what we're doing wrong. And we do make mistakes and we'll learn from those mistakes, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell you right now that I've heard from my constituents that we have actually done more for this province that they've seen than most of them can recall ever happening on the good side under the NDP government, which is interesting.

On Friday I took part in the opening of the final stretch of the No. 11 Highway along with my colleagues from Batoche and Northcote. I could not believe how much positive media play we got from that story alone, and then around town this weekend, how people were so happy to finally have that last part of the highway opened up. And they did it in such a fashion they were happy because it brings safety to them. It brings safety to their families. I heard that on the weekend.

Again I go back to my daughters. My wife and I . . . Oh and I'm remiss. I should have said to my wife, thank you for your support as well. I've got to tell you, without her — our spouses — none of us could do these jobs that we do. Without family support behind us, we could never do these jobs. So I'm sorry. I'm remiss on that. I want to bring that up again. Sorry, Charlene. I'll make sure I get you on the record now. Thank you very much.

And we're both, we're both very happy that the No. 11 Highway is twinned so my daughters can drive back and forth, when they aren't having fun in Saskatoon, to come see us on the weekends. And to my girls, we'd like to see you more often. I know you're having fun, but we want to see you more often back in Prince Albert. Oh they're working hard. They're studying hard.

The other thing that this Throne Speech does and provides to our province is that we are seeing a government where international players, international Crown corporations, other international governments, are asking ministers and the Premier to visit, talk about the ideas, how to best partner with our government and our province and our corporate partners in this province to be a part of this growth, this momentum, and to partner with us not so much to gain just financially but to have an opportunity to be a partner moving forward to ensure that we can actually sustain this growth moving on, Mr. Speaker. That's

what we're after and now we have international engagement to the same point.

And I want to thank the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership team who've worked diligently internationally, along with the ministries as well, and the officials who have gone on trade missions and other recruitment missions as well to bring interested corporate dollars and people back to our province to sustain us and to fulfill our obligations that our corporations are seeing now. Companies need staff. They need people to work, and that's whereby they're seeing the opportunities.

But again the investment in our post-secondary education, more seats in our SIAST model of education, which is going to become a polytechnic institute, I understand, as well as part of our Throne Speech vision allows for more students.

And I want to talk about the North, the SIAST campus in Prince Albert. I was part of a housing opening in our first term that was specifically built and designed around the northern students who could come to SIAST, spend time, get educated, and then most, I believe, went back up north to work and fulfill job opportunities in the mines. So why would, why would we not want to continue that kind of momentum, offer more training spots and more seats for our members . . . sorry, not our members, our citizens to take part in the economy of this province in any way, shape or form? And we're going to foster that through . . . some have to have additional education — the adult basic education first — because they have a vision for the future.

I spent last Tuesday afternoon in a university political studies class talking to the students about what we do as MLAs and ministers and what we do as a government. It was interesting to see half the class were mature students. That says something. And a couple of ladies there I know actually tackled the challenges of having to go to get their basic education, now were in university classes. They're making a better life for themselves. One lady I spoke to is looking at a degree in psychology and she's got an eye toward social work and it's a great calling, great calling. But there again too, it's because of a government that has already expanded opportunities and will continue to do so to meet the challenges and needs of a government of a province.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we don't govern for the sake of governing. We recognize that there are needs that have to be met and this government will do that. And every year, year after year we do that through a Throne Speech and of course the budget that comes out in March from the ministers as well.

There is a lot more to say, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to say, but we have many more members on this side — and I'm very happy to say that as well — many more members on this side that want to have a say on what's going on and talk about the Speech from the Throne.

I guess in closing what I want to say is this, and I'll repeat myself and hopefully the point will come across to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure . . . I hope it will. Right after the Throne Speech he was very critical in my local paper that myself and my colleague from P.A. Northcote had no

response prior to the Throne Speech to the reporter. And it didn't surprise me. We had no vision. We had no future goal for Prince Albert and the area. And of course that extrapolates into the entire province by his own words and by his own actions in that paper article.

I challenge him though to look at the article and anywhere in the article, anywhere in the article and anywhere since then where he has said, this is my plan for growth. This is how I would tackle the challenges of growth. This is what my caucus has agreed to. This is what our party has agreed to moving forward. And you know what? I'm sure there's going to be something that comes up between now and the next election. But I challenge him to come out with it now. Because if you've got something good to say, why hold back? Bring it on. If you've got a plan for smart growth . . . I believe one of the members opposite criticizing our bundling plan says they would do the schools in a smart way. Well what's the definition of smart way? Let's hear it. It's not . . . There it goes again. It's, I would do something different, but . . . Well, but what? Let's hear it.

So I close my remarks today asking for another tree book. Let's call it a blooming flower, maybe something that could be expanded upon in the future by the member opposite, by the Leader of the Opposition. Maybe a small, little seedling with some ideas. Give us an idea of what you want to do. You want to govern one day. Let's hear it. Let's have it in paper, Mr. Speaker, and I will gladly look it over. I'm sure that it'll involve lots of spending, because for some reason they're in tune with a big deficit budget plan over there and billions of spending, Mr. Speaker, with no real plan.

So in closing, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the Throne Speech and I will not be supporting the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible] . . . rise in the House today and speak in regards to the Speech from the Throne. Before I begin to touch on some of the highlights of the speech of the throne, I would like to thank some very important people in my life: my husband Terry, my family who have been very supportive, ensuring that I have the ability and the time to do this job. I also would like to be able to thank my executive. They have been very supportive and have helped me ensure that I meet the needs of my constituents. And I'd also like to thank my constituency assistant, Kelly Zazula. Kelly does an absolutely wonderful job of ensuring that the needs and concerns of the constituents of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley are brought forward to my attention.

This past year I've been very busy meeting the needs of the constituents in Regina Qu'Appelle Valley and also attending numerous events throughout the city of Regina and also within my constituency.

This past summer, along with my husband Terry, I had the pleasure of travelling and visiting a couple of very important sites to us in France. We went to Dieppe. We went to Juno Beach and Arromanches, where D-Day took place. The reason

why we felt it was very important, very timely for us is that there is a lot of talk about a condo project being built on the beach of Dieppe where the battle took place. And that is very important to us, in that my father-in-law, William Samuel Ross, was one of the young soldiers, Canadian soldiers, from Saskatchewan that was captured at Dieppe and spent the Second World War in a prisoner of war camp. And so for us it was really very poignant and very important to us to be able to go and see and experience the beach before standing, say, in a parking lot of a condo development saying, I wonder what it was like.

So for us it was very important that we do this in a timely manner, which also brings to mind that when we visited the Canadian museum at Juno Beach, it was really very eye-opening for us in that I know, as a child always attending and participating in the Remembrance Day ceremonies, I always viewed the veterans as just old people. And you know, you'd see them wearing their uniforms, but you never, ever really understood that in fact, when we went to Juno Beach and we saw the film clips of the Second World War, these were young men that had . . . were full of excitement and full of optimism. And so it became very real for us in that respect. So I know that this year, November 11th, on Remembrance Day, will have that much more special meaning for us.

A few highlights from the Throne Speech that I would like to discuss would be our health care. Health care is a very important topic that comes to people's minds whenever we ask them, are we doing a good job? Is there something we could be doing different? They do bring it to our attention. And so that's why in fact it was one of the first topics that was covered in the Speech from the Throne.

And this past summer our government, through the leadership of the Minister of Health, charged the CEOs [chief executive officer] of the health regions to go out and visit each and every long-term care facility. And I think that this really shows strong leadership in that, you know, a lot of times you can have administration passing back information, but in fact for our Minister of Health to charge the CEOs to go out and personally visit and see exactly what the status of our long-term care facilities, I think that that's a real turning point. It also, you know . . . because we have made the commitment to build 13 new long-term care facilities, but it's important that we know exactly what the status of the existing ones were. And so I think that the only way we can make things better is if we have full, comprehensive knowledge because we know we have a changing population base in this province. We know we have a fairly large component of seniors coming along, so we have to in fact be ready for that challenge. And so I think that this showed a real strong leadership in finding out exactly where the status of our long-term care facilities are.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, this past spring my mother had the opportunity to be a resident of Josie's house which is a long-term care facility, also palliative care, in the city of Yorkton. And I must commend the employees there who looked after my mother, Bertha Masurat, while she was passing away. The care and the attention that they provided her was just wonderful, and our family members really appreciated the kind of dedication that

people who work in long-term care provide the residents. Because long-term care facilities are very different than hospitals. Hospitals we go in, we have an operation, we go home. For long-term care facilities, that's their home. So it's really incumbent upon us to ensure that our long-term care facilities are very comfortable and very welcoming, not to just the residents, but also to the family members who are providing the moral support and also the physical support for a lot of their family members.

I also would like to talk about education. I think that our, again our government has really focused in on what's important and education, and especially education in looking forward to building new schools. The city of Regina is absolutely thrilled to be the recipients of three new schools that are going to be built with our P3 program. And in fact, within my constituency, in the northwest corner of the city we are going to be receiving one of those new schools.

From the last election to today, within Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, we have 2,095 new homes that have been built. So when you look at that you realize, average of two point something people per household with children, it's absolutely imperative that we address our education with new schools being built. So we are very fortunate and I think the city of Regina is very fortunate that we focused in on building schools to be able to educate our children, but to build them in a smart way, in that with the ability to save money, but also to build more schools in a timely manner. I think that shows a lot of leadership.

And if we look at the title of the Throne Speech and we realize that it's meeting the challenges of growth, well building new schools is meeting the challenges of growth. So like I said, we're very fortunate in Regina northwest to be able to get one of the new schools. There's another one going to be built in Harbour Landing and then also one in the southeast. So those are the corners of the city that are growing at a very rapid rate, and so it's really important that we address that.

Another thing that our government focused in on in this Throne Speech was anti-bullying. And one of the . . . The Legislative Secretary, there's been a Legislative Secretary tasked with the very important role of doing the research. She's gone across the whole province interviewing stakeholders to ensure that we can put together a plan that is real and that it resonates but that it also has some teeth, that it has the ability to make a difference. Because as we know anti-bullying, coming up with strategies is again not easy by any measures, but in fact it is something that we're not afraid to address. I mean, we can make all the laws in the world, but if we don't go out and put this into practice and we don't have our schools put it into practice, then it's just words. There's no action to it. So I think that we should all be very proud of the work that our Legislative Secretary has done in that.

This past summer the member from Wascana Plains and myself hosted a workshop for self esteem for young girls. And it was . . . The whole theme of it was building strong young girls so that they can grow up to be strong women. And that by itself is a step forward in coming up with strategies for anti-bullying because when we talk about strong girls growing up to be strong women, we have, again, focused in on how do we have

safer communities.

And so one of the things that we've done, and I think we can be very proud of, is that we've built another transition house in Saskatchewan, and it's in Melfort. And again it shows a government that realizes there's a need and goes forward and works very hard. We roll up our sleeves and we figure out how do we best meet some of the challenges that we have in our communities. And all of us — each and every one of us — want safer communities, and so I'm very proud that we have built another transition house for women and children in Melfort. But also our government has provided more funding for the transition houses in the other cities because again the sad part is there's a growing need. With a population, a growing population, the sad part is we also have a growing need for our transition houses.

Just this past weekend I had the opportunity of attending SOFIA [Support Of Families In Affliction] House's 25th anniversary here in the city of Regina. It was a beautiful event, well attended, and it was a celebration on the hard work that the women and counsellors at SOFIA House have undertaken for the past 25 years. And so I felt very honoured and very pleased to be able to celebrate with them this anniversary.

And one of the young ladies that stood up and gave a testimonial of her life before having to move into SOFIA House, and then the support that she received from the counsellors at SOFIA House, it was wonderful to hear. And you could just hear the strength within this young woman that she overcame a lot of . . . just a very bad situation. But in fact it made her stronger. So we felt very proud of her and also very pleased that our government was there to be able to help provide some of that funding for that kind of facility.

Mr. Speaker, I was a businesswoman for over 23 years, selling real estate in the city of Regina. And whenever I would meet with a client, we would, depending on what they were choosing to do, whether it was buy or sell, or what have you, in real estate, a lot of times we sat down and I gave them a to-do list. And that list helped them achieve their goals. That's what this Throne Speech is.

This Throne Speech is a to-do list; it's a to-do list from our government. And there's such valuable information. And like I said, it's kind of our north star, as someone has said. It gives us the opportunity to say what's important, where do we have to focus in, and how do we then govern for the people of Saskatchewan. Because as each and every one of us had the opportunities to go and spend time with our constituents, they're more than prepared to share with us their hopes and their dreams for this government. And so that is the whole basis of where the Throne Speech comes from. Plus also our Premier has put together a plan for growth because this is a province . . . It's a have province. It's a province where we have a growing population. Our economy is booming. We have to ensure . . . As has been stated many times over and over by our Premier, we don't want growth for just growth's sake but rather in fact growth which enables us to provide for each and every one of our constituents, the people of Saskatchewan, a better life.

So I will be, I am speaking and voting in favour of the Throne Speech and will not be supporting the amendment from the

opposition. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although many members do this, I don't take it lightly, is thanking the people of Yorkton and those that we work with for the opportunity to be here. Firstly, the people of Yorkton for the opportunity to serve them in this House. My office staff is I think second to none. We all have very good office staff. I'm very appreciative of the staff I have. They're very skilled, they're very dedicated, and their depth of knowledge is something to be rivalled, and the service that they give to the people of Yorkton is really commendable.

Also one member of my office staff, Sarah, she's a part-time girl. She comes in. Her and her husband, Dan, are doing a great job in trying to grow the province. They've had one little boy already, Casey. They're expecting another boy very soon. In fact I phoned her this morning in the office to see how things were going, and no news yet. But pretty soon, we'll be 1.1 million and one because of Sarah and Dan. So thank you very much to them.

I also have to thank again the staff of this building that help us every day with information, research, and all the duties that they fulfill for us here in this House, all the caucus staff, or all of our caucus as well, including the leader and the deputy leader and all of our ministers, and all the colleagues that fulfill so many different demands and jobs in this House.

I really want to thank the Deputy Whip. The old Whip pointed out I better thank the Deputy Whip, which I do. The member from Dewdney is just a real big support metaphorically and not metaphorically. He's a very big support, and very blessed to have him helping out with this job, which can be quite trying day in and day out. Did I point out how humble he is?

I also want to join with the other members, and I know the member from P.A. Carlton, he sort of dropped the ball thanking his wife, but I really do have to thank my wife, Leone. She is always there, day in and day out, supporting me in this building, supporting me at home when there's that need, going to events when maybe it isn't the most, you know, the most timely thing to do. But always there for that support. I'm so thankful to her support and her love every day. Also my kids . . .

[Applause]

Mr. Ottenbreit: — That's for sure — just a big hand for Leone. My two daughters, Katelin and Rayanne are just a great support as well. Katelin is taking her nursing in Regina here right now, the combined SIAST/U of R [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology/University of Regina] course. So looking forward in the next couple of years — she's well into her third year — looking forward to her becoming, I think will be one of the most caring and dedicated nurses in this province, just knowing her heart and her dedication to people. It really is commendable. And I really hope she does attain her dream of dealing with and serving especially medically fragile children who need help, I think, and a legacy to her brother and what she saw him go through.

Also my daughter Rayanne whom I am happy to report is happily married. She just got married this last July 13th. We had a destination wedding, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We went south of Yorkton for our wedding, all the way to Melville, 25 miles south, great little facility there which is . . . It's I think an indicator of what this Throne Speech is about, you know, preparing for growth. The city of Melville, stagnant for many, many decades; Yorkton, in large stagnant for many, many decades.

We were able to have the wedding in that facility there that was built just a few short years ago — the Melville convention centre — just a great little place, a beautiful arena with a walking track and facilities for exercise, a really nice little convention centre. In fact, it's so beautiful, when they were, my daughter and son-in-law were challenged with a place to actually hold their wedding, they actually ended up — under my suggestion, I'll admit — was in the entrance of the rink. It is such a beautiful facility, just an enormous amount of glass and stainless steel and tile. It really did make for a beautiful backdrop for their marriage this past summer. So I'm so thankful for that facility. I'm so thankful again for my daughters. And I'm also thankful for the new member of our family who has been around for a number of years already, Austin Krahenbil, my new son-in-law. So I'm really blessed to have all them in my family.

Two very important people to me, my mom and my dad, I want to thank as well. My mom, I've had the opportunity to introduce her in this House and recognize her in this House before. I've never had the opportunity to introduce or talk much about my dad. And I'm going to choose this time to do a little bit of that right now. In large I am who I am today and I believe what I do believe today and my philosophies are largely from my mother and largely my father. He's in fact one of my biggest supporters. He is one of my best go-to guys when it comes to valuable advice, and he always has been.

[16:45]

And not to say we've never had trouble. My dad, he's a disciplinarian to be sure, and not that I never needed it. But I can't say I have never got a . . . I never got a tune-up I didn't deserve, likely, and I am so thankful for his love and guidance and what he's contributed to me, and everything that I am today and in large who I am and why I'm here again.

Their guidance example is, I think from my personal perspective, second to none. Again they're not perfect by any stretch of the imagination. My dad was not perfect, but boy I tell you, I can never say anything but great things about my parents and my father.

I've always tried to I guess glean positives from them. Again we all have negatives, but I always tried to glean the positives and try and make those as part of my personality and my beliefs and again my philosophies. I never recall a time or occasion when they told me to think a certain way or believe a certain way. Just you know, what you pick up from people around you — friends and relatives and again parents — really does I think impact any person. And I know it impacted me in large as a young child and as I grow through life and still have a very good relationship with them and see them as much as I can.

For example, they taught me the difference between right and wrong, where many people today, I believe they don't really think there's a right and wrong. But I definitely got taught what was right and wrong. I got taught how to treat people, taught what respect was, work ethic, how to take advantage of opportunities, make opportunities for myself, but also create opportunities for others, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and to take the opportunities to help others when you see them in need. And that I think is very important and again as it pertains to our government, as it pertains to our budget, as it pertains to our Throne Speech.

I think what I'm getting at is there's a lot of connection, there's a lot of similarities between how I was brought up, what I believe, what our government believes, our policies, and some of the things, the initiatives we put forward. For example, by their example I soon . . . I think only now I can kind of describe what I couldn't really describe as a youngster, but the difference between socialism and a social conscience. And I think so many people today, they have a real problem identifying that. So many people that are more socialist think that they're the only people with a social conscience where, on the other hand, my experience, what I saw growing up in my own home, my own family, my own father was a strong business mind, a strong entrepreneurial mind, but someone with a strong social conscience, always willing to help somebody who needed help, always willing to give back to his community. And I think that's one thing I've really tried to get from both of my parents, and I've tried to hang on to that.

What I saw from my parents, my dad, was that, you know, how hard working and being successful can and usually does go hand in hand with having a social conscience and giving back. As I got older, again what I kind of attained from them was, you know, experienced life taught me that I could never, never personally be a New Democrat. And not to criticize members across. I believe everybody has their own choices in life. You chose to believe what you want, and that forms who you are and how you go through life and how you pursue life. But really early on and without, you know, them really mentioning different parties, different political views, just again from experiencing what I experienced through living with my parents, growing up under my parents' guidance and family members' really I guess formed me as a youngster.

I can point to one story in particular, and if my dad was watching I think he'll get a giggle out of this; he was right in the middle of this story. But again not to criticize members across, not to criticize anybody's beliefs. And the reason I feel comfortable telling this story is because we went on a trip to Germany here a couple of years back, a CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] trip. And I got to visit quite at length with the former member from Coronation Park, Mr. Kim Trew. And you know, some things that we talked about really, really struck me. His beliefs — although I might have been critical of them, and maybe I still might be possibly a little bit — but him telling me his story of growing up on co-operative farms and basically a socialist-type background, I got a good respect for him. I can understand where he's coming from. I didn't believe his philosophy. I don't believe I would ever have the same philosophies, but I got an understanding of where he's coming from and a respect.

So keeping that in mind, I want to tell you a story about an experience my father had, would have been probably in the early '70s. And what happened was my mom and dad, they were again quite entrepreneurial. They got . . . To try and own their first home in Yorkton, they bought a duplex. So half of the duplex was a rental property. And this individual and his wife, they were from Czechoslovakia under the former Russian or USSR [Union of Soviet Socialist Republics] rule. And they basically immigrated, or what they would term is they escaped from communist Czechoslovakia. So they ended up living in half of our duplex.

And my dad would go out on the road with them every now and then. He was a veterinarian and his wife was a former gymnastics coach. And they would go out on the road, and they ended up visiting a family member who was strong New Democrat supporter back in those times and I think — well he was — right to the time that he unfortunately passed away. And what happened was they were there visiting. My dad was in the kitchen with his sister and all the children. I think five kids were still at home at that point. And my dad's friend or our neighbour that was living in our duplex was in the living room talking with my uncle, and a very nice conversation that everybody seemed to be having. All of a sudden there was a turmoil in the living room. My uncle was very upset, and he threw this individual and my father out of the house. And there was no time to explain, no time to find out what exactly had happened.

So as they're driving down Highway 22, my father asked this individual, he said, you know, what the heck went on? It seemed like it was quite a good conversation. What went sideways? And what this individual said was, it impacted me quite a bit because what he said was, we were having a great conversation about family and life and life in Czechoslovakia and life in Saskatchewan and Canada, but when we started talking politics, he started describing his New Democratic Party. And all I said to him was, well I understand exactly where you're coming from. We have the same thing in Czechoslovakia. It's called communism.

And again, Mr. Speaker, not to ridicule anybody but to point out that that statement that that individual said when I, you know, I got wind, I got to hear the story, even as a 9- or 10-year-old boy it impacted me that, you know, for him to draw that connection from the 1970s New Democrats, which I don't think are too far from away from now because I mean the manifesto is no longer on the website, but I mean they still follow, they adhere to a lot of those same beliefs and rules. But what that individual who escaped the life he was, and his wife, what they escaped out of Czechoslovakia to come here and draw those comparisons really made me question what this New Democratic Party was about.

And you know, for that reason, it did strike me and it made me pay attention to politics I think even as a youngster. And as life went on, I paid more attention. I got involved in business, different organizations. I started looking really closely at how rule under the New Democratic Party had affected our province and how we were really held back. We didn't grow in population. You know, we have far surpassed our goals of 1.1 million in 10 years. We've done it in six. And not to say the Sask Party has done it, but the people of the province have done it, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And you know, just to . . . All those stories, all those, you know, parallels that I could draw, that I have watched over the years, that I have drawn, just there's no way I could ever, ever be a supporter or be a member of that party. And I'm very happy to be a member of this party and this leadership team and this government.

And you know, when I look at again talking about philosophies and all the rest of it, it's so easy for me to identify with this party, with these people. The leader, the deputy leader, I had a lot of great visits with him before I decided to run for the party. I had the opportunity to meet the leader, now Premier back then, and I could just identify so closely. So many similar philosophies. So many similar beliefs. Such a similar vision for this province, knowing that we could really attain so much more that I knew I was doing the right thing. And there was no going back once I really started learning policies, learning more about the members, and learning about what this party stood for, what the people stood for. And again I could never be anything in this province but a Sask Party member, which brings me to the 2013 Throne Speech, "Meeting the Challenges of Growth."

And I've said this for many years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'll probably continue to say it as long as I'm in this Assembly, is I understand there's challenges of growth. I've experienced it in my own life, in our business. There's challenges when you're growing your company. Growing population, you need infrastructure and education and all the rest of it. But I'd said over and over again, I'd rather deal with those challenges of growth than the hardship of decline, and I think I'll say that again to my last day in this Assembly.

Again talking about some of my beliefs and philosophies and how I drew them from my parents, specifically my dad. My dad was a . . . He had a pretty tough upbringing. He actually left home. He was born in 1935 in the Grayson district south of Melville, if anybody knows where Grayson is. He left home at a very early age, about 15 years old. He left home, went into the workforce and, you know, worked a few odd jobs what ended up leading him to a stint in the navy. He served five and a half years in Her Majesty's Royal Canadian Navy first . . . well for a time in Winnipeg, for a time in Churchill, and he did serve for about two and a half years on the minesweeper, Her Majesty's ship, *Fortune*.

And that's a very interesting story in itself, Mr. Speaker. If anybody is not familiar with minesweepers, post-World War II, built specifically out of non-magnetic materials because, as many know, mines were magnetic. Some were magnetic, would be attracted to some of these ships' hulls, so they had to have non-magnetic hulls to go out and either decommission or detonate some of these mines. So a risky job for sure but again, you know, putting others before oneself. And that's why I see a lot in my dad, where over the years he has done that, whether for his family or for the community and even in his time in the Royal Canadian Navy on that minesweeper and serving around the world on that ship, again putting himself along with his shipmates in harm's way for the better of others.

He ended up, I think shortly after the navy or maybe he was just mustering out of the navy, he met my mom and they ended up . . . They got married. He worked a few different careers. For a time he was a milkman, and then he worked Dominion Bridge

at a union job for quite a while. And I think a lot of his experience in there sort of, you know, informed me a bit about, you know, that sort of thing — a labour-type environment, a union-type environment, and non-union-type environment and, you know, learning a lot of the ins and outs of that from him as well.

He ended up . . . They lived in Regina back then. They had my brother, and 11 months later they had me. Must have been cold a couple years I guess, those winters. And eventually he wanted to get into business — he was, again like I said, very entrepreneurial — wanted to get into business, so we ended up moving to Weyburn and getting into a business with a partner for a short time, expanding into Yorkton and then eventually moving. We had I think the third — yes, the third — son was my brother Grant. He was born in Weyburn. Then we moved into Yorkton where we lived from 1969-1970 on, where him and my mom finally had my sister.

You know, again they got into business in Yorkton — Yorkton and Weyburn. Moved their family to Yorkton in the early '70s, ran both businesses in Weyburn and Yorkton for a time, then eventually just in Yorkton. And you know, one thing I . . . Not that he said in so many words, but looking back, really, really was what he would be teaching me was or I would be getting information from him is that he didn't need government to help him out. He needed a government to be out of his way to be successful in business.

And you know, they had many tough years where mom actually had to work a full-time job to pay men's wages — again putting others before themselves. They wouldn't, you know, wouldn't have it any other way. They would do without themselves to make sure their men were paid. But you know, he showed me that work ethic again, investing in your business over and over again to build it up. So over a period of about, you know, two decades or so, worked very hard, built it up and built it into somewhat of a successful business before I took it over, and then my brother came on as a partner to help me out once he was done his professional hockey career.

And again, you know, sort of the attitude or some of the information or, you know, the philosophy I would get from him I think is again reflective of our government, of our party, of our Premier. And the leadership on this side of the House is setting that environment for business and getting out of the way of business so they can just do the best they can and create an economy and create opportunities for those people in the province.

You know, another thing I really learned from my dad, and I'll probably get into it more in depth a little bit later, but looking out after those that have trouble looking after themselves. I used to see many times, you know, people that dad would hire on at our business were people that some would say were unemployable, but he would always give them the opportunity of a job and bettering themselves there.

The Deputy Speaker: — It now being 5 o'clock, this House stands recessed till 7 p.m. tonight.

[The Assembly recessed from 17:00 until 19:00.]

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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

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

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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