



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

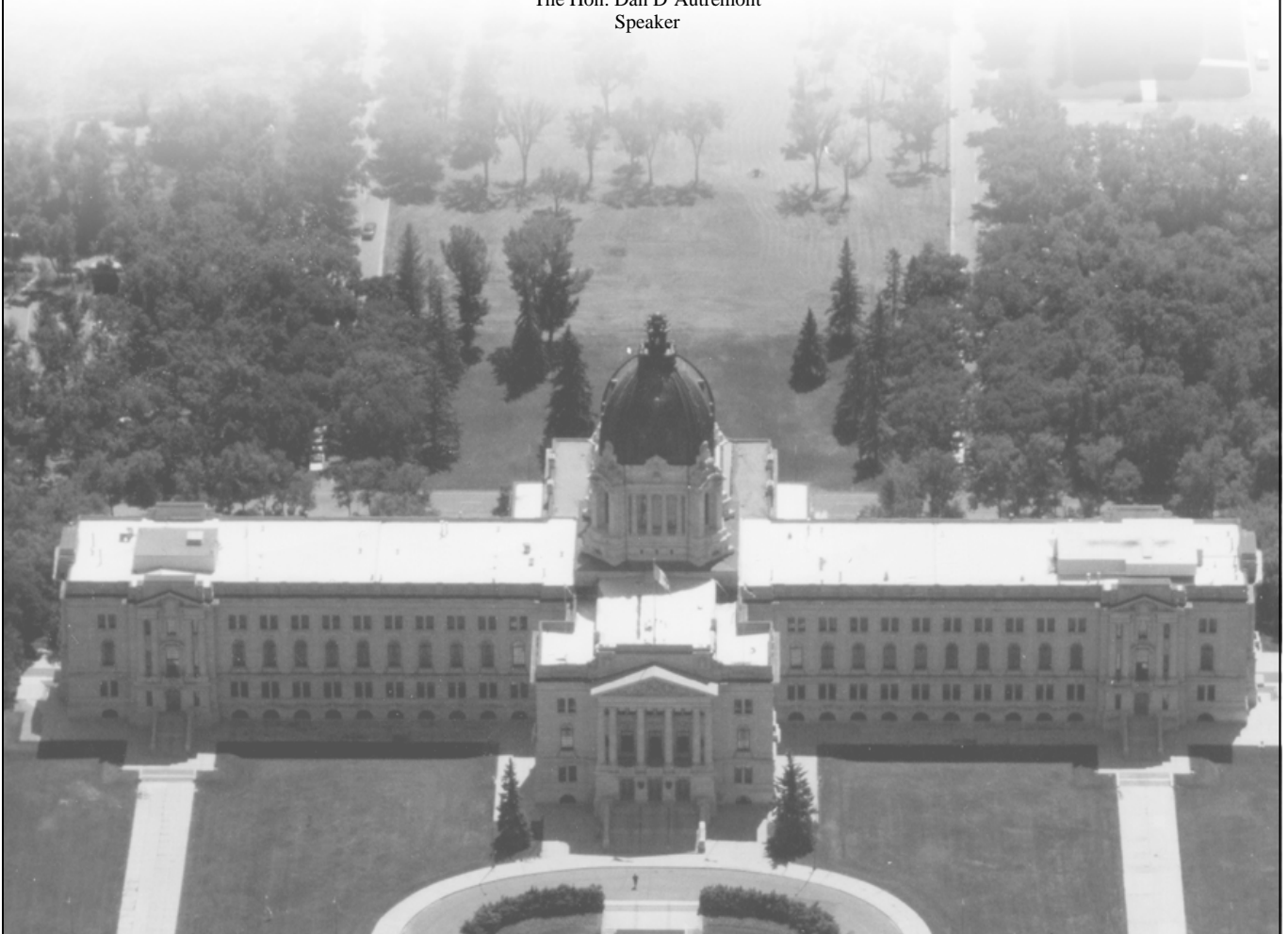
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

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



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, 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]

### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — In accordance with section 38 of *The Ombudsman Act, 2012*, it is my privilege and duty to submit to you the 41st annual report of the Provincial Ombudsman for the year 2013. I so table the Ombudsman of Saskatchewan report.

As well I would like to introduce to the House our Provincial Ombudsman, Ms. Mary McFadyen and her staff: Janet Mirwaldt, Kelly Chessie, and Leila Dueck. Would all members please welcome them to the Assembly.

I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I was going to deal with the National Day of Mourning leave.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Education has requested leave to do a statement on the annual Day of Mourning. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### COMMEMORATIVE STATEMENTS

#### National Day of Mourning

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. Across Canada, groups will gather to remember those who lost their lives from workplace incident or illness.

Our flags are flying at half-mast here at the Legislative Building and vigils are being held throughout the province. Mr. Speaker, the Day of Mourning is a time to respectfully honour and mourn those lost and to express our condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues who are grieving. It is impossible to imagine the pain the families must deal with every day.

The Day of Mourning also serves to remind us about the importance of workplace health and safety. While we can never bring back those who lost their lives, I hope we can learn something from their loss. Each and every one of us is responsible for safety. We all need to take care of each other.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues here in the legislature to renew their personal commitments to safety and to remember each day to consider safety in all they do. I ask everyone to make sure that they renew that commitment, whether or not a person is the employer or the employee. Regardless of the industry you work in, the size of the company you work for, please consider the health and safety of everyone and make protecting them a priority.

Saskatchewan continues to have the second-highest workplace injury rate in Canada despite continued efforts to fight those

statistics. We know that it is more than just statistics. The numbers don't convey the lives affected, the financial and emotional turmoil, or the short- and long-term effects of each injury.

Our goal continues to be Mission: Zero — zero injuries, zero suffering. Safety quite simply should be what we do around here, a part of personal and workplace culture. We all need to arrive home safely at the end of the day to spend time with family and friends, enjoy our leisure hours, and be active members of our communities.

In 2013 the Workers' Compensation Board reported that 35 people lost their lives in 2013 as a result of workplace injuries or illnesses. Some of those people suffered from, and untimely lost, their battles with health issues caused by exposure to asbestos years ago. We have learned from their suffering and through education and legislation that we can reduce and eliminate those risks. For others though, their lives were tragically cut short by preventable accidents. None of these deaths should've occurred.

The names of those we honour today are being read into the official record and will be inscribed in the national registry at the Canadian Labour Congress in Ottawa.

I would ask that all members please rise while we read the names of those who lost their lives.

Jason Cluney	Gordon Ambrose
James Castro	Julius Ngilangil
Kelly Kornberger	Lyndon Lerat
Nathan Sandfly	Thomas Ruszkowski
Jesse Scott	David Stadnyk
Andrew Hann	Lawrence Yuzik
Justin Knackstedt	William King
Dennis Solonenko	Larry Hazelwanter
Larry Myden	Alfred Eberle

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite will read the next 17 names.

**Mr. Forbes:** —

Marcel Perreux	Robert Fry
Gordon Carson	John Boxall
Herbert Bunn	Art Landry
James Dietrich	Mervin Bodnarchuk
Kenneth Coombes	Garry Chadney
Jamie Jijian	Christian Schlaht
Bruce Little	Helmer Oakley
Gordon Wruth	Robert Hain
Harold Fahl	

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Not included among those names are the approximately 14 people who lose their lives working on Saskatchewan farms and ranches each year. Today we honour their memories as well.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends who are grieving their losses. Mr. Speaker, to commemorate the Day of Mourning, I ask that we observe a moment of silence in this

House.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Policing and Corrections.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce 28 grade 3 and 4 students seated in your west gallery. The students are from St. Gabriel School, Mr. Speaker. They're accompanied by their teacher, Yvonne Reding, and their chaperone, Iris LeBoldus. I ask all members to join me in welcoming these young students to their Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join here today and introduce a group seated in the east gallery. I'm talking about the group from Transition to Trades who have joined us here today with staff: Jessica McFarlane and Michael Ripplinger. Mr. Speaker, if I could just very quickly read the names of the participants into the record. We're joined with Arianna Becker, Ashley Bruneau, Devon Ausland, Joeleoj Itong, Magnus Baer, Mohammed Abdalbyine, Robel Tesfu, Shaynna Englot, Solomon Munro, and Zack Quewezance.

Transition to Trades is a really excellent program helping young people to get connected to not just to the community of North Central — that's a vital part of this program — but to jobs in the building construction industry. And it's really good to see these young people here today. I have the opportunity to meet with them later, Mr. Speaker, and I'll be interested to get their take on the proceedings here today.

So please join with me in welcoming this group from Transition to Trades here to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to welcome two guests today who are representatives of the Ahmadiyya movement in Islam. They are certainly no strangers to this Assembly, and it gives me great pleasure to see them every time they are able to visit. With us today are Nasser Malik and Musaddaq Hayat.

Mr. Speaker, the Ahmadiyya movement in Islam carries a simple message: love for all, hatred for none. As our province continues to grow and we welcome people from around the world of many different faiths, one of the biggest challenges facing all of us is to remember the values we share are stronger than those that would seek to divide us.

I want to thank these individuals for taking the time to come here today and for their efforts in contributing to humanity and

peace in our world. And I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly, and also thank them for coming down on what I understand were some rather difficult roads. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Labour in extending a welcome to the two guests in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, from the Ahmadiyya community. Certainly what the minister says in terms of the community promoting tolerance, acceptance, multiculturalism within Canada, it's greatly appreciated for the work that they do and the message that they spread throughout communities. And I'll particularly say their Canada Day celebrations in Saskatoon are always a highlight of a good day as part of the July 1st activities. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these guests to the Assembly.

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

**Mr. Makowsky:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the member from Wascana Plains in welcoming Ms. Reding's class. A lot of familiar faces in that class. I've been able to coach several of them on occasion. And there's one person that's very special to me in particular: my middle son, Ryan, is in that class. So if he wants to maybe give a little wave, Ryan. No? He's a little shy like his old man, so that's all right. It'll be interesting to ask him which of my jobs he likes attending more, my previous one or my current one. So we'll ask him that later. So welcome to Ms. Reding's class. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — I'd like to ask for leave for an extended introduction.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Athabasca has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my extreme pleasure to welcome one of the guests from St. Gabriel School. I want to join my colleagues in recognizing the entire class, and of course the chaperones and the students. But there's one special girl I want to say hello to, and that is my grandniece, Ava Ledingham. Ava is obviously here to learn about laws, Mr. Speaker. And it gives me a great honour as the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Athabasca to recognize her and her class today, but to also pay tribute to her brother Lincoln and her sister Sophia and of course their dad Blair.

And I just want to point out that these three children are the children of my late niece, Chantelle Desmarais, and to let them know that we're certainly glad to have them here today, and to point out to Ava that she doesn't realize how rich that she really is because she's got a great dad, a great uncle, a great brother, a great sister, and a great set of grandparents. And, Mr. Speaker,

she doesn't realize that she's related to 80 per cent of my constituency. So Ava's very, very rich in the sense of having a very, very big family. But to point out to Ava and to her brother and her sister and her dad that there's 80 per cent of my constituency that always has prayers for her.

And we wish her, as a young lady, courage, determination, and confidence as she enters her adult life, and to point out as she looks at this Assembly transcript in the years from now, Mr. Speaker, all I want to say to her is, God be with you. God bless you, and confidence in your future, Ava. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to join the member opposite in welcoming members from Transition to Trades here in their Assembly. We know how significant this program is. In fact it was the topic of a very significant documentary put together by CBC's [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] Geoff Leo just last year. And so I would ask all members of this Assembly again to join the member opposite in welcoming these industrious citizens of Saskatchewan to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — Reading and receiving petitions.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Holidays. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a petition against Saskatchewan health care laundry privatization. And we know that in May 2013 the Government of Saskatchewan announced its plan to privatize health care laundry in Saskatchewan, handing it over to a for-profit, Alberta-based corporation, K-Bro Linen. And we know that as a result of the decision to privatize health care laundry, six non-profit health care laundry facilities will be closed within two years in the communities of Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Weyburn, Regina, and Saskatoon. And we know that the privatization of health care laundry will mean that fair-wage jobs will be replaced with poverty wages, and public accountability will be lost. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly be pleased to cause the government to reverse the misguided decision to privatize Saskatchewan's health care laundry which will result in the devastating loss of over 300 jobs in the communities of Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Weyburn, Regina, and Saskatoon.

And moreover, the privatization of health care laundry will misuse vital taxpayers' dollars by taking money out of Saskatchewan's health care system to boost the profits of an Alberta-based corporation; and furthermore, the privatization of health care laundry will put patient care at risk as Saskatchewan's health regions lose direct control over laundry, and thereby will have a significantly reduced

ability to quickly and effectively respond to infectious outbreaks in health care facilities.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I do so present. Thank you.

[13:45]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the lack of safety on Dewdney Avenue and the inundation of heavy-haul truck traffic on Dewdney Avenue. They recognize that this heavy-haul truck traffic, semi traffic is a result of actions of this provincial government, and they recognize that any further delays by that government to ensure safety are entirely unacceptable. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the provincial government to immediately take action as it relates to the unacceptable danger, disturbance, and infrastructure damage caused by the heavy-haul truck traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of the city centre, to ensure the safety and well-being of communities, families, residents, and users; and that those actions and plans should include rerouting the heavy-haul truck traffic, receive provincial funding, and be developed through consultation with the city of Regina, communities, and residents.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of 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 benefited from the rental purchase option program, also known as RPO. These families are very proud homeowners in their communities. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this government stubbornly ignored the call to maintain this program. Instead it cancelled the RPO. That means the dream of homeownership is destroyed for many families in the North. And the prayer reads:

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

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

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand again today to present petitions on highways, Mr. Speaker. And this particular highway, the petition is being served for the

community of Patuanak and also the English River First Nations. And reading the prayer that reads as follows:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to ensure that the provincial government commit to repairing and upgrading Highway 918.

And of course, that is the road that services Patuanak and the English River First Nations. And the people that have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker, are primarily from Ile-a-la-Crosse. And I so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition for real action on climate change. The residents of the province of Saskatchewan who have signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada; that Saskatchewan's emissions have continued to grow to 74 million megatonnes, as reported by Environment Canada in October 2013, and show no signs of decreasing; that slashing programs such as the Go Green Fund and EnerGuide for Houses energy efficiency programs have set the province on a backwards course. So in the prayer that reads as follows, they:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacts a real plan and allocates appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens from the city of Saskatoon. I so submit.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Holocaust Memorial Day

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today marks Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. It is during this time that the world remembers and reflects upon the atrocities of the Holocaust which shall never be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the world continues to remember and mourn the six million people who perished at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. It is also necessary that we resolve to never forget the pain, suffering, and strength of an entire people.

Mr. Speaker, though the horrific events at the concentration camps leading up to and during World War II are nearly unspeakable, the world cannot afford to not talk about the abhorrent consequences of hatred and anti-Semitism. The concentration camps of Auschwitz, Treblinka, and Dachau will stand as an eerie reminder of the cruelty that humanity is capable of and the consequences of allowing hatred to guide human action.

When we take the opportunity to mark this important event, we are focused not only on remembering the plight of the victims but also ensuring that we continue to educate ourselves and others about the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this Assembly join me in remembering all those who suffered and were lost during the extremely dark days and the dark times of the Holocaust, and resolve to never forget. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### National Day of Mourning

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, since 1985, April 28th has been recognized across Canada as the International Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. The purpose of the Day of Mourning is twofold. We have an opportunity to remember and honour our fallen workers, but it is also a time to renew the commitment to prevent further work-related injuries and deaths.

A private member's bill established April 28th as the National Day of Mourning in 1991. For over two decades, Canadians have been joining people across the globe to honour the men and women who have been injured or killed on the job.

Meanwhile, in the last two decades, we've also seen the number of deaths on the job rising. Youth and inexperienced workers are often facing the highest risk. It saddens me, Mr. Speaker, to report that since last April 28th, 31 people have died on the job in Saskatchewan.

As legislators, it's crucial that on this day we commit to legislation and action that better promotes health and safety practices. One death is too many, Mr. Speaker. And I call on members of the Assembly to use our positions of influence to continue supporting workers' rights and safety. I ask also that everyone pause and remember both those who have lost their lives and to also commit to fighting for the living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Child Welfare Legislation Review

**Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House to talk about a very important development in the child welfare transformation strategy. Today marks the beginning of the child welfare legislation review engagements. Beginning today and continuing until June 30th, 2014, service providers, First Nations and Métis organizations and citizens, other child welfare stakeholders, and the general public in Saskatchewan will engage in the ministry in one of three ways: face-to-face engagement sessions, written submissions, and online engagement.

The online engagement component is a survey anyone with an interest in child welfare in Saskatchewan may complete. This questionnaire can be accessed through the Government of Saskatchewan's website.

*The Child and Family Services Act and The Adoption Act, 1998*

are the two pieces of legislation that are being reviewed. These two Acts not only guide the ministry in their daily work but also form the foundation of the child welfare system here in Saskatchewan.

The protection of children and their overall well-being is a priority that we all share, and reviewing and updating our legislation is a critical step towards transforming the child welfare system in shaping the future of children and families in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Earth Day

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, April 22nd, was Earth Day. This day of recognition has been celebrated in Canada for over four decades, providing an opportunity to raise awareness about the health of our planet and to call for action in ensuring a greener future.

It's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that we're not meeting these challenges in Canada. Environmental issues must be met head-on, and we will not see progress if we continue to see stalling on a much needed action. We were reminded of this last week with the release of the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Even with some progress, we have collectively fallen short on the urgent action necessary to avoid the devastating effects of climate change.

Here in the province, we are at a pivotal point in our province's climate journey. This government continues to forgo the opportunity to be leaders in the fight against climate change, missing the opportunity to be good environmental stewards while also maintaining a strong and growing economy.

It is not an either-or, Mr. Speaker. It's the ability to balance these expectations that defines our value as leaders. Earth Day reminds us of our need for a comprehensive plan to reduce emissions, shift towards greener options while ensuring our natural resources are developed sustainably. Mr. Speaker, it's up to us to ensure our children have better economic opportunities than we had and to leave our earth in a better condition than we found it.

I call on members to recognize this important day and to call on our governments to take action in facing the reality of climate change and our ecological crisis.

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

### Administrative Professionals Week

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week was Administrative Professionals Week, which included Administrative Professionals Day on Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker, none of us could do our job without our admins and our constituency assistants. They make sure that we are on time, that we are prepared for all our meetings. They organize our schedule, and they are the first point of contact for our

constituents and for the public. In short, Mr. Speaker, they make all of our lives so much easier, and we do appreciate them for it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our government to say a big thank you to all of our admins who work in our caucus office, our ministers' offices, and our constituency assistants.

I would like to say a special thank you to Terry Lynn Carefoot, who keeps our caucus office going, and I would like to say a personal thank you to Marcus Abrametz, my constituency assistant, without whom I would find my job very hard to do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me saying a very big thank you to all administrative staff here in the building and to all of our constituency assistants. All of you truly keep this province running. Thank you very much.

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

### Prince Albert Mintos Win Telus Cup

**Mr. Hickie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was an exciting week of hockey in Moose Jaw with the national midget AAA hockey tournament, the Telus Cup, being hosted at Mosaic Place this past week.

The top five teams from all over the country, along with the host team, Moose Jaw Generals, gathered together to play their best hockey of the season in hopes of capturing the national title. But it was the Saskatchewan AAA champions, the Prince Albert Mintos, who stole the show as they won their third Telus Cup title in a very memorable fashion. They clinched the title last night in triple overtime, breaking the record for the longest game in Telus Cup history.

Dakota Boutin scored with just 1:24 left in the triple overtime period to give the Mintos a 4-3 victory over the Châteauguay Grenadiers in the exciting championship final. It was over 100 minutes of intense hockey, making it a treat for the crowd and a game that players from both sides will remember forever. The sticks of Boutin and both goalies, who each made over 60 saves, will be going into the Hockey Hall of Fame for their part in making history at the Telus Cup tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Prince Albert Mintos hockey organization, Coach Ken Morrison, a good friend of mine, on their Telus Cup victory.

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

### Saskatchewan Children's Hospital

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday myself, along with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Advanced Education, had the pleasure of attending a great announcement at the Royal University Hospital. The Minister of Health announced an additional \$20 million investment to add 24 in-patient beds to the children's hospital of Saskatchewan, for a total of 176 private in-patient beds. This

will increase the overall size of the hospital by 11 per cent, or approximately 38,000 square feet, and bring the total provincial investment in the children's hospital of Saskatchewan to over \$235 million.

This investment was made because of historic population growth in Saskatchewan. For the first time, more than 1.1 million people call Saskatchewan home. We saw our population grow by 100,000 in just six short years. This is why we are adding beds to the children's hospital. Mr. Speaker, that population growth would have never happened under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. Year after year, we saw people leaving Saskatchewan in droves.

I was surprised, Mr. Speaker, not to see any opposition MLAs there for such a great announcement. We later learned that the Leader of the Opposition was doing interviews in a different area of RUH [Royal University Hospital] after the announcement. Why wasn't the Leader of the Opposition there to attend this announcement? Was it because he couldn't stand in for an announcement that would have never happened under the NDP? Mr. Speaker, will the Leader of the Opposition stand up here today and declare his support for the children's hospital of Saskatchewan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Temporary Foreign Worker Program

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier: when did the government learn about the servers who lost their jobs because of the abuse of the temporary foreign worker program in Weyburn?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, in consultation here just now with the Minister of Immigration and speaking on behalf of myself personally, the day that the story broke is when the minister first found out about it, and that's when I first heard about it as well.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's an interesting answer that the Premier provides because Sandy Nelson and Shaunna Jennison-Yung lost their jobs last month and were replaced by temporary foreign workers.

Sandy and Shaunna contacted the Ministry of Labour about this on April 7th, and they spoke, Mr. Speaker, with the Minister of Health, the member from Weyburn, on April 11th. So well before, Mr. Speaker, the story broke in the news, before it was in the media coverage, this government was notified about this, Mr. Speaker. They were notified about a specific abuse in the temporary foreign worker program about Canadian citizens, about Saskatchewan residents losing their jobs and being replaced by temporary foreign workers. So my question is for the Premier: why didn't the government, why didn't the

government do anything when they learned about this abuse of the temporary foreign worker program?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I repeat again for the hon. member, I first heard about it when this particular story broke. That was his first question. That was my first answer, and it remains the answer.

Mr. Speaker, I can also inform the House that even when the individuals involved met with the MLA expressing these concerns, they were actually unsure at that time whether those who were staying on the job at the restaurant were in fact nominee program participants — in other words, part of the permanent residency stream — or in fact TFWs [temporary foreign worker]. Even those folks were unsure of that yet.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say that the investigation from the federal government's on the way. I know the minister responsible for this file, the member for Kindersley, has already written . . . Last week when we became aware of this story, he wrote immediately to the minister in charge of the file in Ottawa, offering the support of the provincial government's integrity unit that we have within the immigration offices of the Government of Saskatchewan and encouraging the federal government to ensure that the rules of the temporary foreign worker program are followed here and across the country, and that is that it is a last resort program. Canadians must be offered the job first, Mr. Speaker. We'll get into this perhaps in subsequent answers. There's certainly a role for the program, a program properly enforced, and that was our encouragement to the federal government.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, I asked when the government learned of the two servers losing their jobs because of the temporary foreign worker program, Mr. Speaker. But the Premier said that he learned, as well as the minister, on the day that it broke in the news.

The women, Mr. Speaker, emailed the Ministry of Labour on April 7th and they met with the Minister of Health, a senior member of cabinet, on April 11th. Yet Sandy and Shaunna heard nothing back from the government or from the minister, Mr. Speaker, until the story was in the news and getting national coverage. My question to the Premier: why didn't this government take the issue seriously when it was brought to their attention?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, a labour relations issue was brought to the MLA for Weyburn-Big Muddy. The issue was followed on by the member, Mr. Speaker, and by ministries of the government.

I want to be very clear again. While the hon. member is looking to torque the facts again in this House, let me be very clear. Let me be very clear. Those who were initially making the complaints were not 100 per cent sure, just as the government was not 100 per cent sure, that it was a TFW situation. There



are other people in this province today working. They're a part of the nominee program. They're part of the federal stream of immigration. And it's our information that the individuals were not completely certain this was a temporary foreign workers issue.

The matter was however dealt with, with respect to the fact that it might be of provincial jurisdiction. And then when the issue was made public — and by the way, my understanding is the investigation will now be under way by the federal government — but now when the CBC story was made public, Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister responsible to immediately write to his counterpart in Ottawa to ensure that they knew we supported their enforcement of the actual TFW principles of the program, and also we'd commit our resources to helping them in any investigation and the enforcement of the principles of that program.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, what a dismissive approach we see from this government, Mr. Speaker. They are notified. The Ministry of Labour is emailed on April 7th. A senior member of cabinet is notified about this on April 11th, Mr. Speaker, but they do nothing when they are told about this. And now, Mr. Speaker, they heckle and they blame the servers, Mr. Speaker, for not taking the right action when in fact they brought it to the government members' attention.

Under this government, Mr. Speaker, there has been a 300 per cent increase in the number of temporary foreign workers in Saskatchewan — a 300 per cent increase. There are nearly 12,000 temporary foreign workers in our province now. So my specific question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: how many other cases of abuse have been brought to the government's attention, and did the government do anything to follow up on those issues?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, none that I'm aware of. That's not to say employees perhaps have not brought forward concerns either to MLAs or their members of parliament, because this is a federal program.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to caution all members of the House, want to caution all members of the House to recognize that the temporary foreign workers program, when it's operated based on its principles, this federal program plays a role in jurisdictions where there is an acute labour shortage. I wonder if the hon. member is aware, Mr. Speaker, that in 2012 there were 2,001 temporary foreign workers who became permanent residents through the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program. Fifty per cent, Mr. Speaker, made up of students and workers because there are also students in this category. And I would expect that that Leader of the Opposition and that party would want to support those students as they come here and enter the stream to become a permanent resident.

By the way, in 2013 . . . Well the deputy leader doesn't want to hear the facts. There are concerns we have with the temporary foreign worker program but, Mr. Speaker, there are also attributes of the program that are good for the province of

Saskatchewan. In 2013 there were 2,461 temporary foreign workers who became permanent residents through the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program. That's 55 per cent. We want the program in force. It must be Canadians first. It must be a last resort, but let's not forget that many of these TFWs become permanent residents, welcome residents to the province of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, temporary foreign workers, Mr. Speaker, provide, Mr. Speaker, service in the province. And the exploitation of temporary foreign workers, Mr. Speaker, is unacceptable.

I met with Sandy and Shaunna in Weyburn last Thursday, Mr. Speaker. They don't blame temporary foreign workers. They blame a temporary foreign worker program that is too easily and too often abused. And we see examples now, Mr. Speaker, when concerns are raised with this government about abuse, they don't follow up; they don't pay attention; they don't listen to the concerns being raised, Mr. Speaker.

Sandy and Shaunna, Mr. Speaker, they want to ensure that temporary foreign workers are not exploited. And they want to ensure that Canadians are never passed over for jobs, Mr. Speaker. Far too often, Mr. Speaker, the temporary foreign worker program is abused.

My question to the Premier: what is the government doing to put a stop to that? What is he doing to ensure that temporary foreign workers are not exploited in the province? And what is the government doing to ensure that Canadians are not passed over for jobs?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the two individuals met with the member, their Member of the Legislative Assembly, on the 11th. And five days later they got a call back from Labour Relations, Mr. Speaker, because this side of the House takes these issues very seriously.

Now it's important to point out that this is a federal program and so the things that we do are typically in support of or in advice to the federal government. What we have done in this regard is, as soon as I became aware of this issue, we asked the minister to write to the federal minister expressing our concern about any abuses of the program — it must be a last resort — and also our offer to help in terms of investigation.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked hard on this side of the House to make Saskatchewan a welcoming environment for new workers. Mr. Speaker, when we were in the Philippines this fall we signed an important MOU [memorandum of understanding] with that government in terms of preferred status from the Philippines for people from that country coming to work in our province. They signed that MOU with us, Mr. Speaker. Why? Because we have the strictest and toughest protection for foreign workers, for new residents coming into the province of Saskatchewan. In fact I think we were heralded in that regard by the Canadian Labour Congress.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, Sandy and Shaunna, the two servers from Weyburn, say that they were not contacted back by government, Mr. Speaker. What they are advocating for, and what concerned people in Saskatchewan are advocating for, is that temporary foreign workers not be exploited and that Canadians are not passed over for jobs, Mr. Speaker, that temporary foreign workers are not filling jobs that Canadians should and could be filling, like this government used temporary foreign workers, Mr. Speaker, for a cashier position at a Liquor Board store.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier said that he's not aware of instances of abuse being raised with the government of the some 12,000 individuals who are temporary foreign workers in the province. Does the Premier stand by that remark?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, we have learned in this session to check the facts very carefully as they're presented in this House by the member that was just on his feet. I will repeat exactly what happens here in terms of the sequence of events.

The two individuals met with their MLA, contacted their MLA first on the 9th of April. They then met with the MLA, with the Minister of Health. The MLA for Weyburn-Big Muddy met with them April 11th, two days later. And then on April 16th they did receive contact from the Labour Relations Board to investigate it.

But of course this is a federal issue. This is the issue of the temporary foreign workers, one that we take seriously. And we're working with the federal government, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that it's enforced, but also to prevent perhaps what is the position of the NDP, and certainly some of their friends in labour, for the complete scrapping of the temporary foreign workers program, Mr. Speaker, which would bring many businesses to a halt in the province of Saskatchewan, which would stop I think the helpful process of seeing 55 per cent of those who are classified as temporary foreign workers in 2013 become permanent residents right here in the province of Saskatchewan.

These are the facts of the matter. It's important to lay them out before the House, Mr. Speaker. It's important to send a signal to the federal government that the program must be enforced, but unlike perhaps members opposite or at least their allies, there is a role for this program to have more permanent residents in Saskatchewan and also to keep our economy moving forward.

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

### Education Funding and the Lean Initiative

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, right before the Easter break this government received a scathing letter from the Saskatchewan School Boards Association. Our province's school board trustees raised major concerns about the negative impact of that government's budget. And school board trustees specifically raised concerns about the lean initiative clawback that this government has imposed on our schools and

classrooms. My question is for the Premier: has he reversed this lean initiative clawback that he's imposed on students yet?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we received correspondence from the president of the Saskatchewan School Boards Association shortly before the Easter break. I indicated then that I was looking forward to having a meeting with the president and, Mr. Speaker, I can advise the members opposite that that meeting will take place later this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, we will address the concerns that they've raised. We expect our school divisions to effect efficiencies as we have throughout government. Mr. Speaker, we had targets that we set. They were discussed with the various school divisions and we will work with them to ensure that they are able to fulfill their mandate as providing education in our province. Mr. Speaker, we have made substantial increases, as I mentioned last week, with funding throughout the province and, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work to meet those goals.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, this government has continually refused to focus on the basics, the things that really matter to success for students, things like overcrowded classrooms, schools that desperately need repairs, and students that aren't getting the one-on-one attention they need. So it's no wonder why elected school board trustees who are desperately, desperately trying to focus on what matters to students are incredibly frustrated by this government's lean initiative clawback. So to the Premier: why on earth hasn't he reversed this lean initiative clawback yet, and why is he dismissing the concerns of the elected school board leaders across this province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the education budget in our province is nearly \$2 billion. There is no reason why we should not look for efficiencies in that sector. I can advise the House some of the efficiencies that we've already used and already developed, Mr. Speaker.

Prairie school division has reduced students' wait times for speech-language pathologists by a half. Students' occupational therapist wait time in the division dropped to seven weeks where it was previously 18 weeks. In Regina Public School Division, we made hiring staff more efficient, reducing application processing time by 75 per cent. The Light of Christ School Division used lean to improve student attendance and improve transitions from elementary to high school.

Mr. Speaker, we'll make no apologies for wanting to make our school system more efficient and more effective and to ensure that we're able to commit resources fully to the front line where teachers are doing very good work throughout the province. And, Mr. Speaker, we're not taking any lessons from the members opposite in this area.

[14:15]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] letter says:

Boards may not always agree with the budget decisions made by the provincial government. However, as shared leaders in education, they firmly believe they should have been consulted with and informed in a manner which enables them to proactively prepare for a potential impact resulting from the province's actions.

This government shouldn't have imposed the lean initiative clawback in the first place. But if it was considering doing so, it should have had the decency to consult the elected school board leaders of this province in advance, and for that government to learn the consequences of their actions from school boards before springing it on school boards at budget time, announcing this surprise clawback. But the Premier and the Education minister didn't bother to do that.

To the Premier: why won't he just admit that this was a mistake, scrap the lean initiative clawback that his government has imposed on schools, classrooms, and students?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to advise the members opposite that each and every year we've raised the funding that's gone to school divisions. Since November 2007, there's been an increase of 26 per cent in operating funding. Total pre-K [pre-kindergarten] funding is now in excess of \$1.8 billion.

Mr. Speaker, in 1993 and 1994 the NDP had their own method of clawbacks. They actually reduced the operating grant from the province. In 1995 they gave school divisions zero per cent. This was at a time when there were over 20,000 more students in our education system than there is today. According to a June 2001 enrolment paper produced under the NDP, they predicted that by 2010 there would only be 140,000 students in the province. There were in fact 160,000. Today there's over 170,000. The NDP didn't plan for growth. They planned for decline.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to do that. We've had record investment. We've had over \$700 million on school projects big and small, 43 major capital projects, 22 brand new schools, and 25 major renovations.

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

### Children's Hospital

**Ms. Chartier:** — The government finally acknowledged last week that its first redesign of the children's hospital was flawed. The first redesign occurred when the government brought in its high-priced lean consultant, John Black, to shrink the children's hospital. This government ignored concerns from front-line health care workers who were adamant that the proposed hospital was too small, and when we asked questions about this in the fall, the government scoffed. But now the

government is scrambling to re-expand the design.

To the minister: how did the lean consultants and the government get their first redesign of the children's hospital so wrong? Why didn't he listen to the front-line workers, the real experts, instead of listening to John Black?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm really pleased to be able to talk about the children's hospital and the design that's been approved, the additional 24 beds that will bring us up to 176 beds, private beds, that I think will serve the children and the families of Saskatchewan for many years to come.

I do want to, though, correct the member opposite in the lead-in to her question. Certainly December 3rd I believe was the date of 2013 in this very Chamber where I acknowledged that the children's hospital steering committee was looking at whether or not the numbers were adequate just in terms of the projections that were used back in 2009 to 2013 and 2012 when the project was approved. But very clearly, Mr. Speaker, this is a very good news story. It's because this province is growing like never before, 100,000 people which the members opposite said would be impossible to grow in 10 years. Mr. Speaker, the truth of the matter is we've grown that large in just six years and we're going to continue to grow as a province.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — The government keeps saying that the lean consultants helped with the flow of the building, but now we've learned that the lean consultants planned for the hospital to be entirely paperless. That's not happening. So now the government is not only scrambling to expand the hospital; it's also scrambling to figure out where the paper files will be stored. Yet we've received an internal memo that shows the government knew about this problem as early as February 2013, so it's baffling why this government still hasn't fixed the lean consultants' mess yet. To the minister: why not?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly the children's hospital is being designed for an electronic health record. That is still very much the case. However the complete electronic health record, knowing that this is a large project as we're trying to roll out electronic health records, as has been the case for many years, it is a complex system. It's not going to be in place when the doors do open at the children's hospital.

That being said, we do know that there are currently no facilities in Canada today that are completely paperless. The intention is to get there. The intention for the hospital is to be set up that way. But certainly we are making our way down that path, and we will come to a day where the children's hospital, as well as a number of facilities, will be paperless. But that is a journey we are embarking on.

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

Riversdale.

**Ms. Chartier:** — This government ignored concerns from front-line health care workers. It listened to its \$40 million lean consultant, and it shrunk the children's hospital. And this government knew that it wouldn't be able to have a paperless hospital, yet it kept plowing ahead with the lean consultant's plan anyhow. Now it is scrambling to fix both problems.

Last week the government released drawings showing a "potential area of expansion," and it hasn't adjusted the flow of the hospital to account for paper files yet. To the minister: how can this government be confident that its estimate of a \$20 million cost overrun is accurate when it doesn't even have new blueprints done up yet?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note at the beginning just to say that certainly we want to move to a paperless system. That's what eHealth is all about. A number of provinces are moving towards an electronic health record. Currently there are no facilities in Canada that are completely paperless. The intent is to get there. But we are working our ways towards that, and that is a part of this process.

But I think it's just striking, a couple of things: first of all, to hear members opposite talk about the work that this government has done to design a children's hospital. It's pretty clear, Mr. Speaker, when people of Saskatchewan look at this government, they see a government that is prepared to build, design, build, and fund a children's hospital in this province — something that we never saw from the members opposite — and a government, Mr. Speaker, that is willing to look and hear from front-line workers to make changes to the design to improve it.

Mr. Speaker, this is coming from a party opposite, and I quote from a very senior member of their government, almost 11 years ago to the day. I quote:

... I find really interesting, that they say — that is the Saskatchewan Party opposition says — they say that not only will they stop, stop these population trends; they're going to reverse them ... So dramatically that they propose to increase the population of Saskatchewan by 100,000. Well it is so over the top ...

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

### Environmental Protection

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, a new report out from Environment Canada last week reconfirms that Saskatchewan's greenhouse gas emissions are still going the wrong direction.

When we asked the government in committee to reveal its climate change plan, the minister couldn't do so. He seems to hope that public awareness is all that is needed to reach his promised reduction goal of 20 million megatonnes of pollution. But this government has slashed green spending in the budget.

It's cut climate change funding by 82 per cent, and it has refused to implement its own carbon levy through the Technology Fund, despite promising to do so since 2009 and despite paying a consultant to put together a business plan for it. The minister has finally admitted he's not optimistic about his government's plan.

To the minister: the public deserves to know. Will this minister come clean and tell us what his real emission targets are?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the member. It's always a pleasure to talk about Saskatchewan's environmental record and the environmental sustainability that's taking place along with the economic stability as well.

Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware of the document that was released by the federal government last week. In fact the information that it shows is that our emissions are down 3.37 tonnes per capita since 2007. So again, I've said in this House before, our record is much better than the record under the NDP.

We've also talked about the many initiatives I wish I had time to go into. But I think most importantly is a quote here from ... Well I'll quote it:

Certainly that's a huge step forward, and I don't want to minimize the efforts that have been made on that front. I think it's incredibly important, and [we] certainly ... see other jurisdictions doing that as well.

Who is that from? None other than the member from Saskatoon Nutana, the NDP Environment critic.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that the House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:26.]

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