



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

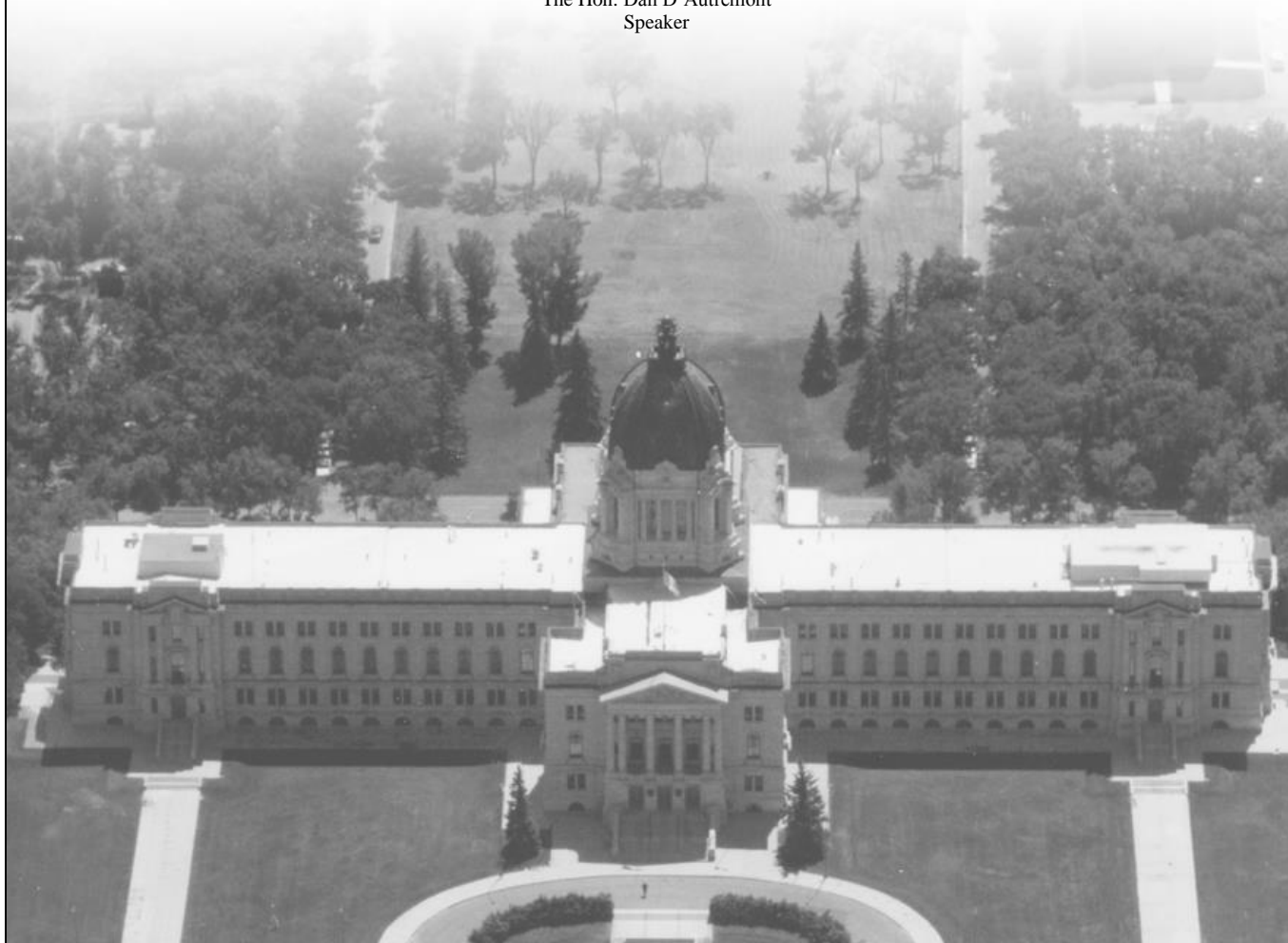
of the

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, Hon. 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, Hon. Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, 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
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Hon. 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, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — I wish to table the library report pursuant to section 80(3) of *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007* in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You'll be introducing the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow in a minute, but right now it's my pleasure to stand here and welcome all the students from Moose Jaw that are in the west gallery this morning, Mr. Speaker. In particular on our left-hand side is the 17 students from A.E. Peacock, if you want to just give us a wave. They're the high school grade 12 students from Peacock. We'd like to welcome you here.

Mr. Speaker, you'll recall that earlier this week we recognized the Peacock boys for winning the 3A provincial football tournament. But I also know that the girls, the Peacock girls were in the medal contest for the volleyball last week as well, so you can see how active a school that Peacock is. And I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly this morning.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce 21 grade 1 students — give us a wave — from Cornerstone Christian School in Moose Jaw. As well, they're accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Troy Breikreuz, and their chaperones Ms. Christine Breikreuz, Ms. Caroline Behrms, and Ms. Karlene Benallick. And I apologize if I butchered any of those names. And of course, they couldn't get here today without the safe driving of their bus driver, Mr. Tom Goodhand. So I'd like all members of the legislature to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to introduce three guests in your gallery: Carmen, Warren Hanson, and their son Seth.

Mr. Speaker, I met these people just last night at the Premier's Agribition reception here in the rotunda, and true to Saskatchewan, it took us about one minute to find out that we knew the same people. And when I found out that they were coming to the building to help Seth study some different forms

of architecture, I invited them to join us. So I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming Carmen, Warren, and Seth to their 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 that calls for greater protection for Saskatchewan citizens from developers who default on fixed-price contracts with the Saskatchewan government.

And we know that in September this year this government walked away from a new 48-unit, low-income affordable housing project in Regina, allowing a private developer to instead take control of and then rent the units at full market price. And when asked to explain how this government could allow the private developer to back out of a fixed-price contract without any penalties, the Minister of Social Services said, and I quote, "You're assuming there's these desperate homeless people," showing how disconnected this government is from the realities within our community. Mr. Speaker, 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 recognize that there are indeed desperate homeless people in our province and to immediately reverse its policy of now allowing private developers with whom the government has close relationships to default on fixed-price contracts for affordable housing projects.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Prince Albert. I do so present. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue and to condemn the failure of their action to address this urgent safety concern. Certainly we continue to press that government to build that west bypass in a timely way, but there are important interim actions that are required to ensure safety for those on Dewdney to get those heavy-haul trucks off of Dewdney Avenue. 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, many constituents, and those directly on Dewdney Avenue. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Homelessness is a major problem in La Ronge and parts of the North, and it is getting worse. Shelter is a basic need for everyone, but under this government it's getting harder and harder for people to find adequate housing, especially families, seniors, women and children who face abusive situations. The problem is getting worse because of the rising level of poverty and the skyrocketing home ownership costs. And the prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Saskatchewan government to build a homeless shelter in the Lac La Ronge area to meet the needs of and addressing homelessness in the Lac La Ronge area.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many good people of La Ronge and area. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise in my place today to present a petition in reference to the Prince Albert bridge. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to guarantee that a second bridge that serves central and northern Saskatchewan, and as well as the city of Prince Albert, will receive a serious commitment from senior government.

And, Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this petition are from La Ronge, Air Ronge, and Langenburg. And I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of safe staffing levels in long-term care. The petitioners point out that many aspects of long-term care are deteriorating under this government, that the Government of Saskatchewan actually recognize the need for safe staffing levels to provide hands-on care to residents. They point out that the government is failing to fix the basics in long-term care, including rejecting the further urgent request from long-term care facilities for increased and needing staffing levels.

The petitioners point out that the government has removed the regulations requiring a minimum standard of care for seniors, resulting in neglect; and that chronic understaffing in long-term care facilities results in unacceptable conditions, including

unanswered calls for help, infrequent bathing, and a rise in physical violence amongst residents. They finally point out that fixing the basics and achieving real improvement in long-term care services requires a firm commitment to actually listen to front-line health care workers, residents, and their families, as opposed to failing to properly listen to their concerns. 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: to cause the government to commit to the creation of safe staffing levels for all valued members of the health care team and to reintroduce actual numbers of staff to match the level of care needs and the number of residents under their care in long-term care facilities.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Saskatoon. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition condemning this government's dangerous smart meter program. In the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to take responsibility for its failure to act on readily available information about safety concerns with its smart meter program, including through the immediate resignation of the Minister Responsible for SaskPower and a fully independent inquiry into the concerning chain of events that severely compromised the safety of Saskatchewan families.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Regina and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of better health care in Saskatchewan. The folks that have signed this petition wanted to bring to the attention of the Legislative Assembly the following: emergency room wait times in Saskatchewan have doubled since 2010. The government's own statistics show that patient safety is getting worse, and the government's own surveys show that the majority of doctors, nurses and other front-line health care workers are frustrated with the quality of health care. And of course the government is spending untold millions of dollars on its lean project, including a \$40 million contract with an American consultant and flying in Japanese senseis for \$3,500 per day.

I'll read the prayer. They:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to recognize health care is getting

worse under its watch and begin fixing the basics by listening to health care workers, patients, and their families; properly maintaining hospitals and care facilities; and focusing its resources on front-line care instead of spending millions on its lean pet project.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by members of my constituency, Saskatoon Nutana. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatchewan Powerlifters Excel at World Championships

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I'd like to correct. It was the grade 4 and 5 students from Cornerstone Christian School. Sorry about that.

On another note though, on November 3rd to 8th, the International Powerlifting Federation World Open Championships were held in Aurora, Colorado. Six Saskatchewan athletes took part in the competition, which also included more than 200 lifters from 35 countries.

Melanie Ziffle of Moose Jaw finished in sixth place overall, lifting a combined total weight of 43.75 kilograms which included a bronze winning medal 100-kilogram bench press.

Shantelle Szuch of Moose Jaw finished eighth overall, lifting a combined total of 445 kilograms which included a national-record-setting 180-kilogram dead lift.

Rhaea Stinn of Moose Jaw finished third overall, lifting a national-record-breaking combined total of 587.5 kilograms, including a silver-medal-winning 152.5-kilogram bench press and a bronze-medal-earning and national-record-setting 212.5-kilogram dead lift.

Aaron Ziffle of Moose Jaw finished in 14th place overall, lifting a combined total of 790 kilograms.

Ryan Stinn of Moose Jaw finished in fifth place overall, lifting a national-record-setting 985 kilograms including a national-record-breaking 372.5 kilogram squat and a national record lifting 375 dead lift.

Ryan Fowler of Weyburn finished in 10th place overall, lifting a combined total weight of 890 kilograms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the legislature to congratulate all these Saskatchewan athletes on their impressive performances in the powerlifting world championships.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Camp Hope Opens at Montreal Lake

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in this Assembly today to recognize the opening of a new camp in the Cumberland constituency. On September 17th, Camp Hope officially opened on the Montreal Lake Cree Nation. It will help ensure that

future generations will be able to learn and embrace their First Nation culture and heritage. Camp Hope is operated by Montreal Lake child and family services.

The camp was built through the vision of community members who wanted to create a place to help at-risk youth by providing training outlets to develop family and community. This camp will help the community of Montreal Lake by keeping youth busy with sports, cultural activities all year round. This camp is now a site that the community can use to develop positive family units and build stronger, more vibrant community.

The leadership of Montreal Cree Nation have stated that they see this camp as a means to build a stronger Cree Nation. Located in the traditional territory of Montreal Cree Nation, the camp facility will be offered year-round to both band members and to those who wish to rent the facility.

I ask all members to join me in thanking the board of CFS [child and family services], the volunteers, and all the community members whose hard work has made this exciting new program possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:15]

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

Saskatchewan Manufacturing Week

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in recognition of Saskatchewan Manufacturing Week this week. This week showcases the people, the technology, and management tools that help promote manufacturing in our province.

The manufacturing sector, along with agriculture and resource production, greatly contribute to making Saskatchewan's economy diverse. This industry is keeping Saskatchewan as one of the growth leaders in Canada. The manufacturing sector is responsible for thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in exports, and establishing the made-in-Saskatchewan brand as a mark of quality around the world.

Manufacturing Week is profiled with events around the province. Some events include the Business Opportunity Expo, Saskatchewan manufacturers safety leadership summit, and school tours and speakers in our major centres.

Mr. Speaker, this sector employs more than 28,000 people in highly skilled jobs throughout Saskatchewan and generates over \$15 billion in shipments last year. Our government is continuing to help this sector stay strong. The manufacturing sector received a major boost earlier this week with the launch of the Manufacturing Centre of Excellence. Our government has committed a total of \$1.5 million over three years to this centre. This investment is important in sustaining and increasing the competitiveness and innovation of Saskatchewan manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing Manufacturing Week and to thank the numerous organizations that help make this week a huge success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Fundraiser Puts Faith and Values to Action

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 15th I had the pleasure to attend a fundraiser for the Anglican diocese of Regina's Living the Mission project at St. James the Apostle Church.

The project raises funds from parishes and community to help address inequality in our city. One of the great projects supported by St. James the Apostle is the REACH [Regina Education and Action on Child Hunger Inc. (Regina)] program which helps to ensure that everyone in our city has access to healthy and nutritious food. St. James the Apostle has made their kitchen available to REACH as well as raising dollars for their important work in feeding the hungry in our city.

Another important aspect of the fundraiser was the celebration of an important milestone. It was 30 years ago that the priest at St. James the Apostle, Malcolm French, was ordained. Since coming to St. James the Apostle, Malcolm has been a leader in the congregation and for the broader community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all members will join with me in congratulating Archdeacon Malcolm French on the 30th anniversary of his ordination and to thank all members of the St James the Apostle community for putting their faith and values to action to make our city a better place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Sod Turned for Habitat for Humanity Builds in Prince Albert

Ms. Jurgens: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that on November 14th I had the privilege of attending a Habitat for Humanity home dedication and a sod-turning in Prince Albert. These homes will enable two hard-working families to experience home ownership for the first time. I'm also pleased to announce that our government was able to assist Habitat for Humanity and these families by contributing a total of \$115,000 to the building of both homes.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to point out that both homes are being constructed for Habitat through CORCAN, a special operating agency of Correctional Service Canada. Through certified vocational training programs, inmates learn skills in the home construction industry by building homes for Habitat partner families in need. This is an outstanding example of how communities can work together to make affordable housing a reality for Saskatchewan families.

Mr. Speaker, partnerships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity are critical as we strive to meet our province's housing challenges and to help families share in the rewards of our growing economy. Our government will continue to do our best to keep Saskatchewan strong and to make life more affordable for everyone.

I ask all members to join me in celebrating the work of Habitat

for Humanity in Prince Albert and across Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Pimâcihowin 4Success Project

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise today to recognize an important project that was recently launched on the Beardy's and Okemasis Willow Cree First Nation. The innovative project is called Pimâcihowin 4Success.

It provides training opportunities to high school students at the Constable Robin Cameron Education Centre on the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation. The educational trades technology initiative was first launched in September of this year and is intended to be a long-term program which will educate students in non-academic areas. Pimâcihowin 4Success combines classroom instruction with hands-on experience building and repairing homes.

Mr. Speaker, one of the many goals of the program is for students to develop knowledge and skills which will help them find employment after graduation. It is also hoped that the students who complete the program will be able to contribute to the First Nation by repairing and maintaining the homes of their families and neighbours.

Pimâcihowin 4Success also teaches students important life skills, helping to improve high school graduation rates on the First Nation. The first class of students to be accepted into the program included 15 students in grades 11 and 12.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the teachers, staff, and students at Beardy's and Okemasis Willow Cree First Nation who helped to start the Pimâcihowin 4Success project and wishing them continued success.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Seniors' Care

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP [New Democratic Party] recently stated their position that "The reality is that poor quality of care is the norm . . ." in our province's long-term care facilities. Well, Mr. Speaker, under the NDP government, my mom and dad both spent time in residence in long-term care. When my mom first went in, she was in respite for two weeks but because no bed was available in the Lakeside Manor care home in Saltcoats, she was put in Foam Lake for a month. And I might add, the care was good there. But to say the least, she wasn't impressed. But that's how the system worked then and that's how the system works now.

Mr. Speaker, I don't give this statement to disparage the long-term care system under the NDP, but simply to highlight how the system works. And, Mr. Speaker, from what my family witnessed, the long-term care providers working with our seniors are truly special individuals, hard-working and compassionate. That was the norm then, and on this side of the House, we firmly believe this is the norm now.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we understand that there's still more work to do. And if there are specific issues that need to be brought to light, this government welcomes them. But, Mr. Speaker, we think it's completely inappropriate that the members opposite blame the front-line staff by saying poor quality is the norm. Mr. Speaker, we know that these employees are dedicated to the best care for our seniors and so do we.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Expenses Incurred by Lean Initiative Consultant

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Health minister has repeatedly claimed that the contracts the ministry has entered into with John Black will span three years and a quarter, and cost \$35 million all-in. But my question is for the Premier. Why did the Minister of Health have a separate contract with John Black before that, in which the key deliverable was simply to pitch himself for the massive cash cow contract?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, certainly as I've indicated in the past, what was initially going to be a four-year contract is going to be exited sooner than that. The contract will end June of 2015. It will see the government spending \$35.5 million over that time frame, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure what the member opposite is, the Leader of the Opposition is referring to. Mr. Speaker, frankly I don't think his question made a lot of sense. But, Mr. Speaker, that's the way the contract will run and it will end June of 2015.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this minister doesn't even know about the contracts that he entered into with John Black before the whopper that we're facing right now. In April 2011, the Health minister signed a \$35,000 contract with John Black for him to pitch himself. Just two months later the Health minister upped that same contract to \$85,000. And this was still just for John Black to pitch himself. But now it also included, it also included John Black hosting senior government leaders in Seattle as part of the big pitch. So again to the Premier: how on earth can he justify Saskatchewan taxpayers having to pay for John Black to pitch himself for a massive cash cow contract? Why couldn't he have at least done that on his own dime?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly prior to entering into a four-year contract, we had engaged with outside consultants including John Black and Associates as well as other consultants, Mr. Speaker — not unlike what the members opposite did in Five Hills Health Region in 2006 when they entered into an agreement for, I believe a two-year period with an outside consultant, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, there were a number of individual contracts that were signed with several different contractors, consultants, over a number of periods that spanned the NDP in Five Hills in 2006, 2007, and early in this government before we finally did decide to commit to a four-year contract with

JBA [John Black and Associates].

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, over and above the initial \$85,000, the Health minister gave John Black an additional \$50,000 for a presentation and an interactive workshop back in the spring of 2011. So now that is \$135,000 plus expenses, Mr. Speaker, handed to John Black just so he could make the case with a fat cash cow contract. My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier. How on earth can he justify that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, certainly what we had done in this province . . . And I'll remind the members opposite that part of this started in 2006 under the NDP government when the minister of the day gave approval for Five Hills Health Region to enter into a two-year contract that would see Five Hills Health Region spend about point two per cent of their budget on lean initiatives in that health region. Something about Christmas trees. I think the members opposite might remember that.

Mr. Speaker, then when this government was formed in 2007 we further looked at lean, used lean as a part of transforming how we do blood inventory in the province and other small, one-off initiatives. We engaged with a number of consultants, including JBA, and then made the decision, Mr. Speaker — because of the good work that we'd seen, because of the significant savings and the improvements in the system — that we should investigate and move forward with a four-year contract, which now essentially will be a three-and-a-half-year contract with JBA.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, these are contracts from the minister's own ministry. He should know what he has signed and what he has paid for, Mr. Speaker. But it just gets worse. In early 2012, the Health minister entered into yet another contract with John Black worth \$500,000 to do the initial planning for the full \$40-million contract.

Then the Health minister, Mr. Speaker, wasn't satisfied with that. He upped it to \$800,000, still just for the initial planning. But then, Mr. Speaker, internal documents that we've obtained show the minister upped that amount yet again, this time to a whopping \$2.5 million, still just for the initial planning.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier, and he could answer this. Why was John Black paid for initial planning for the major lean contract several months before, before the RFP [request for proposal] for that contract was even tendered?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. But as I've said before, Mr. Speaker, that the province of Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Health had engaged with a number of consultants going back to 2006, 2007 under the NDP for some one-off specific projects, Mr. Speaker. We had done the same after 2007 in engaging the work of consultants on

some projects such as blood inventory, Mr. Speaker. But then we also made the decision that we wanted to implement a further plan to deploy lean across the entire health care system, Mr. Speaker. We looked for advice from other consultants, Mr. Speaker, in how that would look, what that approach would look like, before doing a full RFP to find the consultant that would eventually deliver that for the province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, if you look at the different versions of the contracts, the contracts from the minister's ministry, if you look at them, which jump from \$800,000 to \$2.5 million, the only difference, the only difference is that on-site Japan kanban training was changed to off-site Japan kanban training. Now, Mr. Speaker, we know that on-site Japan kanban training happens here in Saskatchewan. So my question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier. Where was this off-site Japan kanban training and why did it cost \$1.7 million?

[10:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Once again, Mr. Speaker, we have engaged services for specific projects with other consultants like the blood inventory project, but also with JBA for projects such as the children's hospital and the 3P [production preparation process] planning that did take place, Mr. Speaker.

We also did planning around strategic deployment of lean throughout the system, how we would ensure that the system was thinking and acting as one, Mr. Speaker, as we were going to deploy lean throughout the entire health care system, Mr. Speaker, which eventually did lead us to tendering the project out. Mr. Speaker, that will see us, through this contract, spend \$25 million with this particular consultant.

But I will remind the members opposite that this began in 2006 with a \$400,000 contract in Five Hills to begin some lean work — something about Christmas trees that members opposite will remember, Mr. Speaker. And we decided to proceed down a similar path initially and then expand it out provincial wide.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, zero answer to the question. My question is to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. He should know this. It's his government signing the cheques, Mr. Speaker. For the 1.7 million extra dollars taking kanban training from on-site to off-site, where was the off-site Japan kanban training and why did it cost so much more?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly we had engaged with the work of JBA initially, at the outset of embarking down the four-year contract. We'd also used JBA and other contractors, consultants for other work, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that early on in this work, we did send officials to Seattle to visit places like the Seattle

Children's Hospital as well as Virginia Mason, Mr. Speaker. That is my understanding of where those meetings would have taken place.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: was Seattle the only place where Japan kanban off-site training took place, Mr. Speaker? Who went on that training, and why did it cost \$1.7 million?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Again, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the members of the House that this government, when we looked to further deploy lean throughout the entire system, we wanted to look at other high-performing systems, health systems and other industries, Mr. Speaker. That's been a part of the learning opportunity that we've had in places like Seattle, Mr. Speaker, but as well as the Mayo Clinic, Mr. Speaker.

I'm now pleased to be able to say, Mr. Speaker, that the Mayo Clinic has signed on to our fellowship. So, Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to learn best practices from organizations, Mr. Speaker, that I think are highly regarded in not only health care but other sectors in terms of their work on quality improvement, reducing errors, reducing waste, and finding efficiencies within the system.

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

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the answers are not clear. But this is what we know so far, Mr. Speaker. This government paid John Black a whole lot of money in the lead-up to handing him a \$40 million cash cow contract. The RFP for that massive four-year contract was tendered in July of 2012. The contract between the Health minister and John Black was signed at the end of August 2012, but they backdated it, Mr. Speaker, to May 1st, two months before the RFP was even tendered. My question to the Premier: why?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we, as I've indicated before, had worked with JBA, John Black and Associates, Mr. Speaker, in looking at how to deploy lean throughout the entire health care system, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was individual projects signed in 2011-2012 that would've related specifically, for example, to the children's hospital 3P projects, that would allow us to move that project forward, Mr. Speaker, in a more efficient and effective way.

Mr. Speaker, there was also the contract to look to how to deploy strategic deployment throughout the entire health system, Mr. Speaker, something that obviously JBA had experience with in other organizations, Mr. Speaker. That's why we, Mr. Speaker, wanted to deploy this throughout the entire health system, Mr. Speaker.

And to date, Mr. Speaker, I think what this has shown us is that this has shown us a path for improving quality, improving efficiency within the system, Mr. Speaker, and focusing on

patient safety, which I think all people of this province should expect from government.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, my question's to the Premier. They signed the contract at the end of August, Mr. Speaker, but then they backdated the contract to May 1st, two months before the RFP was tendered. My question to the Premier: why was the contract backdated?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well again, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this was what we chose to do in terms of wanting to deploy lean throughout the entire health care system, knowing, Mr. Speaker, and we will be the first to admit, that lean wasn't first, in fact, brought to the province by this government. In fact a \$400,000 contract was signed by the NDP government in the Five Hills Health Region in 2006. That continued on in 2007.

We then looked, Mr. Speaker . . . When we formed government we saw, Mr. Speaker, that there was a lot of benefit to this. Mr. Speaker, we thought that this was something that we wanted to improve upon and see if we could further find some efficiencies within the health care system, knowing, Mr. Speaker, like all jurisdictions, that we need to come to terms with what I think will be lower increases in terms of the health budget as what we are being used to in Canada, Mr. Speaker. But that means that we need to find a more efficient system. We need to focus on patient quality and patient safety, Mr. Speaker. And that's what lean is bringing to the system.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, these answers do not make sense, and the Premier's unwilling to state why they backdated the contract.

The government entered into a massive contract with the American lean consultant, a consultant that even senior administrators say lacks respect, tattles on leaders if they dare question, gossips, and undermines, Mr. Speaker, and an American lean consultant whose quality of training has been blasted by front-line health care workers as well as senior administrators, Mr. Speaker, because they say the training isn't even based on adult teaching and learning principles.

And now we find out, Mr. Speaker, that this government — it's a bit of a surprise to the minister, it sounds like — but this government paid the same toxic consultant to pitch himself and do the initial planning. Now this government, Mr. Speaker, they tailor made their lean contract for John Black, even though the Health minister has admitted John Black doesn't even tailor his approach for Saskatchewan's needs. It's absolutely ridiculous and it is an absolute waste.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. If government desperately needed a high-priced lean consultant, why wasn't there an actual competition? Why did they pay John Black fat stacks of cash before they gave him the fat cash cow contract?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Again, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, there was a competitive process that did lead us to hiring John Black and Associates, Mr. Speaker. But there were initial work that was done using other consultants, but as well including JBA, prior to entering into a four-year contract, Mr. Speaker. That was all work that we had contracted, Mr. Speaker, using JBA, as members opposite had used other consultants, including the \$400,000 that they agreed to in 2006.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I can say is when we look to improve the health care system in this province, Mr. Speaker, we're looking at ways of making a more efficient system, making improvements in quality care and in the service that we deliver, Mr. Speaker, not unlike what leading organizations such as the Mayo Clinic are trying to do, Mr. Speaker. We've had an opportunity to have a conversation with the Mayo Clinic, Mr. Speaker. They are on this path, Mr. Speaker. I think if it's between, choosing between the path of the Mayo Clinic and the path of the NDP, I think the people in this province know the path that this government's going to take.

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

Standards in Care Facilities

Ms. Chartier: — It's so frustrating, Mr. Speaker, to keep finding out about even more money shovelled into the pockets of this government's toxic American lean consultant, especially when we keep hearing shocking and heartbreaking stories about what's happening to seniors in care facilities. Talk about misplaced priorities.

This week the Premier was asked about restoring specific, regulated minimum care standards and he said, "This might be a change across the country. The pendulum might swing back to more specific standards." My question is for the Health minister. Why is this government so concerned about what it perceives to be the trend across the country? Why isn't it listening to the stories that are coming forward here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly I am listening to those stories, and when I have an opportunity to meet with families, Mr. Speaker, when I have the opportunity to hear first-hand from them, certainly this is something that we take very seriously.

I can tell the members opposite we do look at this issue very seriously. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in long-term care facilities in this province, we monitor, I can tell the public that we monitor seven quality indicators. As a comparison, Mr. Speaker, Ontario monitors only six. Alberta monitors only one, and in fact the ministry has recently been contacted by Alberta Health to look at what in fact we do monitor and how we monitor that information.

So I will say, Mr. Speaker, while there is more work that we need to do to improve the care that we provide in long-term care and to address, Mr. Speaker, some of the concerns that have been raised, Mr. Speaker, I think in part it is important for me to

say that there are in fact other provinces that are looking at what Saskatchewan does in terms of monitoring in long-term care, Mr. Speaker. And we are pleased to share that information with those provinces.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Here's what the BC [British Columbia] Seniors Advocate has to say: "It is vital that we have care standards, that we have regulations. And if you look across Canada, Saskatchewan is a bit unique in the approach that it has taken." The BC Seniors Advocate says Saskatchewan is an outlier in that we have only extremely general guidelines for seniors' care. So the Premier and the Health minister should stop waiting around for some pendulum to swing. They should realize that we are far behind other provinces.

To the minister: why is it so hard for this government to admit it made a mistake when it got rid of regulated minimum care standards in 2011, and why won't it bring regulations back?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't had an opportunity to speak with the BC Seniors Advocate. In fact from the coverage that I've seen, Mr. Speaker, I'm not exactly sure what she's referring to. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have looked at a copy of BC's home and community care policy manual and, Mr. Speaker, my opinion — and I believe the ministry's opinion as well on this — is when you compare our special care home standards, our guideline policy document, and the BC home and community care policy manual, in fact, Mr. Speaker, ours is in fact more detailed than what is in place in British Columbia. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure exactly what BC's advocate is referring to.

But I think, Mr. Speaker, what's more important is in terms of monitoring in long-term care, it's not just monitoring that's important. It's the action that needs to take place, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, in 2006-2007, 5,623 seniors in care fell while in care. What was done at that time, Mr. Speaker? I can't find anything. What took place though was in 2011 we put forward a falls collaborative, and since that time we've seen a 25 per cent reduction in the number of seniors that have fallen in long-term care.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Internal documents show that the Health minister's own chief of staff said this government's guidelines for seniors' care are "good but extremely general." The internal documents show that he kept asking officials if there was anything more specific. A senior official wrote back, "I do not believe there are more specifics unless that is done at a regional level."

But this week the Premier says the government would only consider more specifics if the pendulum across the country would swing in that direction. Well, other jurisdictions already have specific regulations in place. To the minister: what's this

government's next excuse going to be? Why won't it just regulate minimum quality of care standards?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the member opposite from Saskatoon, when he sat at the cabinet table, I wonder what the excuse was when in 2006 the province of Saskatchewan reported that 5,623 seniors in care fell. What was the response at that time from the government opposite? There was no response, Mr. Speaker. Not an enhancement in terms of front-line staff, not a falls collaborative, not a policy that was put in place, Mr. Speaker. And the numbers show that.

The average was 5,600 a year, year after year after year. In 2011 this government took this seriously. The minister put in place a falls collaborative, and since that time that number averages 4,400 — 1,200 less a year than when the members opposite were the government, Mr. Speaker. That's the approach that we take. Unlike the members opposite that do a lot of talk, this government's about action.

[10:45]

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, it's this government that cut minimum quality of care standards. We had them until 2011.

The BC Seniors Advocate also says that it's important for the government to be able to monitor how care is being delivered. But we know that is not happening here in Saskatchewan. An internal email from a senior official to the minister's office says:

We typically don't receive specific reports from regions regarding how they are managing the day-to-day care that they provide. To some degree, even if we did, we really don't have the internal capacity to manage all that information and to analyze it.

So not only do we have just extremely general guidelines in place, but this government isn't even paying attention to the day-to-day reality in care facilities. To the minister: how is that acceptable?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite will know that the NDP removed from the Act the ability for the ministry to inspect long-term care homes in 2002. Why? Because they stopped inspecting homes back in 1996, Mr. Speaker. That is the record of the NDP, Mr. Speaker. That is the record of closing 1,200 beds, of not properly staffing long-term care facilities, of closing 19 facilities across this province.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Okay. I recognize the minister. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, what this government has

done in its approach is look to renew long-term care facilities, Mr. Speaker, 15 across this province. We've added front-line staff, 750 full-time equivalent for the same number of residents as were when the government changed in 2007. We've added funding, \$10 million, Mr. Speaker, that will add over 700 pieces of desperately needed equipment for beds, for mattresses, for lifts and slings and tubs, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is work that we have engaged on on this side of the House. This is where, Mr. Speaker, I think it shows a greater priority on seniors' matters. And that is just what we've done on long-term care, Mr. Speaker, not to mention what we've done on personal care home subsidies, on the seniors' income plan, Mr. Speaker, on a whole host of areas which were ignored by the NDP.

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

Ms. Chartier: — After hearing from Margaret Warholm's family, from Emily Krushelnicki's family, from Jessie Sellwood's family, and from the Santa Maria care aids, all just in the last several days, it is shocking that this government still has its head in the sand when it comes to the seniors' care crisis. These are not isolated stories.

To the minister: how many heartbreaking, tragic stories does he need to hear before he will finally recognize that we need regulated minimum quality-of-care standards? We need appropriate number of staff that are actually on the front lines, and we need a seniors' advocate.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, well again I will just, I think, point out the record of this government as a comparison to the members opposite when they had the chance to fix these problems. While we will say that there's more work to be done, I think what it shows on this side of the House is that we've put in place actions, Mr. Speaker, to improve this, opposed to what the members opposite proposed.

Mr. Speaker, I look back when the members opposite were the government of the day, and the only thing that I can tangibly point to, what they thought was a fix for seniors' care in this province, Mr. Speaker, was to dramatically increase the rates seniors were paying in long-term care to the point where a senior would have to go on welfare to be able to afford long-term care, Mr. Speaker. That's the approach of the NDP.

That's not the approach that we take on this side of the House. We're building more long-term care facilities. We're adding new capacity to the system in terms of staff, in terms of equipment, Mr. Speaker, and in terms of the support that seniors that don't reside in long-term care, the support that they deserve and receive from this government.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 165 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*

Loi n° 2 de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved first reading of Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 166 — *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved first reading of Bill No. 166, *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 167 — *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Local Government Election Act, 2014*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments*

Act be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved first reading of Bill No. 167, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 168 — *The Government Relations Administration Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The minister has moved first reading of Bill No. 168, *The Government Relations Administration Act, 2014*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day it is my pleasure to submit supplementary estimates accompanied by a message from Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

The Speaker: — Would you please rise for a message from the Lieutenant Governor. The message is as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary estimates November of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2015, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly. Hon. Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

Please be seated.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to questions 522 through 527.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 522 to 527.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Support for Local Businesses

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and it's my honour to be here this Thursday to start off this week's 75-minute debate. Today's topic is about buying local and supporting our local Saskatchewan manufacturers. There's a couple, you will know, Mr. Speaker, that I've brought in a couple of bills or the opposition has brought in a couple of bills in this session, and we're really hoping that the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — The member isn't sitting that far from me, and I cannot hear a word she is saying. If you have conversations, please take them outside of the Assembly. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much again, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for trying to listen carefully to what I'm talking about today. We know this is an important topic and is something that is worthy of consideration.

As I indicated in my opening comments, our opposition has introduced two bills in the House, private members' bills that we think are very worthy of supporting, and we're really hopeful that this government will see fit to support these bills. There isn't really anything controversial about them at all.

The first bill is our buy-local day bill and the second bill is a bill entitled the procurement bill. I should get the right name for it, Mr. Speaker. It's *An Act to encourage the Patronage of Local Businesses, Suppliers and Services*. That's Bill 607. And Bill 608 is *An Act respecting Fairness for Saskatchewan Businesses in Government Procurement*.

And certainly we heard some interesting ways this government does procurement this morning, Mr. Speaker, when we hear that they would produce an RFP for a massive contract for efficiency programs in health care, and they already had decided who the recipient of that RFP would be and actually backdated the contract to prior to the RFP process. So that just shows kind of a concern about how this government is doing procurement, and certainly we'll have more to say about that in this debate, Mr. Speaker.

Just a few points initially about the buy-local bill. It's Bill 607.

We're encouraging government members to support this. What it does is it just says the first Saturday of every month is Buy Local Day. Nothing controversial, nothing threatening, nothing scary, and I think it just really means that we support our local businesses and we show that local business is important.

There's a number of reasons for that, Mr. Speaker. We know that for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$73 stays in the province. That just makes good sense, Mr. Speaker, and it shows that we should be encouraging our local businesses and encouraging people to shop local. Now we know that for every \$100 spent in an out-of-province business, only 43 stays in the province. So less than half stays in the province. We know that our leader went out, he consulted, he talked to local business groups and he's actually listening to their concerns, and unlike a government here that just listens to their friends and insiders.

I just want to share with the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, a couple of things that are going on, actually this weekend, on November 29th. As you know, our neighbours to the south are celebrating Thanksgiving this weekend and there's a new trend happening in the United States and it's called Shop Small. And there's a hashtag if anybody wants to check it out on Twitter. It's called #ShopSmall. And this is . . . Actually I'm having difficulty with the loud voice of the member from Walsh Acres. So it's difficult to make my point, Mr. Speaker, when he's hollering at one of my colleagues. But at any rate, I guess he needs to get something off his system so we'll let him continue to beller over there.

But what I would like to talk about is what's happening in America on Saturday, and it's also happening here in Canada. In the United States of America it's a program called Shop Small. It's sponsored by a large, large corporation called American Express which is I think somewhat ironic, but I guess they accept American Express cards in small stores in neighbourhoods in the United States. But the byline of this is:

Be Part of An American Story, shop small in your neighbourhood on November 29th.

[It says] The story of America is written in every small business. It's written in the cafes where we meet our first loves. And in the boutiques where we buy our babies' clothes. On Nov 29, be there for the businesses that are there for you to help write the next chapter.

So I think that's a good approach that the United States has for an annual event on November 29th.

We also have a corporation here in Canada who has started their own version of the Shop Small and it's called Shop The Neighbourhood, and this is sponsored by the Yellow Pages Group. So what it says here on some of the information that I found online:

Shop The Neighbourhood is a Yellow Pages Group initiative, a campaign to encourage local shopping and support for small businesses culminating in a local shopping day on November 29th [2014].

[11:00]

It's taking place obviously during the busiest shopping weekend of the year in the States and the busiest shopping season of the year. Shop The Neighbourhood raises awareness of the large-scale push from retailers online across the borders which moves dollars away from the small businesses, which directly impacts the health of our neighbourhoods and our communities.

So these are some really interesting initiatives, I think. And certainly the shop local bill that we've introduced supports that and just merely asks that we, as a Legislative Assembly, recognize the importance that small businesses play in the economies of our towns and of our cities and of our communities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would say that I live . . . In my riding is one of the best shopping districts probably in the province, if not in Canada, and it's the Broadway district. The Broadway Business Improvement District works very hard to promote the local businesses, and there's several dozen local businesses about a block and a half from my home in Saskatoon. And it certainly is one of the reasons why I chose to live in that part of the city, Mr. Speaker. I can walk. I can walk to the grocery store. I can walk to cafes. I can walk to clothing stores. And I can walk to shoe stores and coffee shops.

So it's something that's really important to the people that live in my neighbourhood in Saskatoon Nutana, and it's certainly a lifestyle choice that we make when we purchase property there. And I'll have to say, Mr. Speaker, the property prices are not cheap and a large part of that is because it's such a desirable location to live — the proximity of a wonderful shopping district of local businesses, interesting businesses. I talked last week, when I made a few comments on the bill, I talked about The Better Good which is a good example of a store on Broadway Avenue that really makes an effort to purchase and retail locally made products and also products that are green, Mr. Speaker.

So if you go on the Facebook page for Shop The Neighbourhood Saskatoon, it's hosted by the Broadway district, and it talks about why they're doing this. And they said this is "an event to promote local commerce . . ." "Shop The Neighbourhood is a free national initiative of Yellow Pages which supports small businesses and reminds Canadians how local shopping makes a difference in all of our lives." They go on to say, "Small businesses are our economic backbone, they create jobs, funnel funds back into the community, keep decision-making power localized, and generally contribute to building healthy, striving neighbourhoods."

So, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all members and all people who are going shopping this weekend to go on Twitter and take advantage of these buy-local, Shop The Neighbourhood days. In Saskatoon the hashtag is #shopthehood. The United States hashtag is #ShopSmall. And this is all happening right here this weekend, on November 29th, across Canada and across the United States of America.

So again this kind of bill is one that really helps as a Legislative Assembly, as a government to tell local businesses that they matter, to tell local businesses and local consumers that supporting local stores and businesses is something that should be honoured, something that should be respected, and that we're

encouraging people at least once a month, on the first Saturday of each month, to think about it ahead of time and maybe shop local.

I know, Mr. Speaker, when I grew up in a small town, there was some key institutions in a lot of small towns that really make a difference to the lifeblood and economy of that town. In my hometown, you know, when I grew up, there were at least two banks, maybe three; there was at least two grocery stores, maybe three. And the ones that are left — and you will see this throughout the communities throughout Saskatchewan — we still see the credit union is there and the Co-op. And these are locally owned, community-owned businesses that support the people in their banking needs and also in their grocery store and hardware and gasoline needs.

That's a story that's repeated across Saskatchewan. People are proud of those local institutions and they support them and they buy local, and I think that's something that we want to continue to encourage. And there's nothing wrong with the Legislative Assembly like this encouraging that by just setting aside the first Saturday of every month as a Buy Local Day — simple, easy, encouraging, positive. And there's absolutely no reason for this government to not support this bill.

I went on the Internet and found some information about why buying local is important. And it's from the *TIME* magazine actually, from 2009. It says:

At the . . . basic level, when you buy local more money stays in the community . . . “That means those purchases are twice as efficient in . . . keeping the local economy alive.”

There's an interesting quote here from David Boyle who is the New Economics Foundation researcher, and he says, “Money is like blood. It needs to keep moving around to keep the economy going.” And that's the end of the quote.

The article goes on to say when money is spent somewhere else — at the big supermarkets or non-locally owned services like online retailers, he says, “It flows out, like a wound.”

So certainly this article in *TIME* magazine supports why buy-local campaigns are very, very important functions. And when we have a campaign . . . I mean people buy local. I'm sure all the members make an effort to buy local in their communities. That's what we do. We're community-minded people, and I think on both sides of the House that's something we take very seriously. But when you have a campaign or elevate the discussion at the level of a piece of law, then what it does is it brings the . . . It's like a reminder to the community. It alerts the community that there may be gaps in the local market and that if you want to keep your economy alive and thriving, that you should make an effort to support those local businesses.

And certainly I mean, I remember that discussion growing up as my small town was starting to lose stores and lose banks and lose grocery stores. And you know, the idea of supporting your local economy is something that's critical in a lot of smaller communities here in Saskatchewan and, I would think, across Canada.

And of course, shop local is not just limited to small communities. It's also important in places like Saskatoon on the Broadway district where we support those local stores and, you know, go to Jimmy's coffee place, Museo, on Broadway Avenue where he selects the beans himself from a buyer that he has a personal relationship. He goes and visits the farms where he buys the coffee beans, Mr. Speaker, and he actually roasts them right locally in his store. And it's some of the best coffee in Saskatoon for sure. Although, to be fair to the other Broadway merchants, there's a number of fabulous coffee shops, including the Roastery with Vince and Aileen Barilla. And their kids grew up with my kids and played soccer together. Their manager, Jennifer Lee, is a good friend and now through the relationships we built, we go skiing together.

So there's all kinds of benefits to shopping locally that go way beyond the economics of it as well, you know. And it's like, you think of the TV show *King of Kensington* where the lead star was known by everybody in the community and those relationships get built up.

Just to touch very briefly, Mr. Speaker, on the second bill, and I know other of my colleagues will talk about it as well. It's about procurement, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the concerns that have been raised to our leader by business communities here in Saskatchewan about being shut out of contracts. This is something that's very concerning, and many of them are being forced to lay off workers now as a result of being shut out of these contracts.

In my own experience, Mr. Speaker, for many years — well a long time ago now, 25 years ago — I was a seasonal worker. I worked as a tree planter. And a friend of mine runs a tree planting company. He's been in the business for 30 years now. And the current procurement policy of the Government of Saskatchewan has significantly damaged his business in Big River.

And as we know, Big River is a community that has suffered a lot through the downturns of the softwood lumber industry, and there's a lot of difficulties in that community. People are having to go work out of the community in places like Fort McMurray, and there's a shortage of good labour positions in the Big River community.

And when we see the procurement policy enabling large-scale tree planting companies from Ontario come in and snap up all the work simply because they had the lowest bid, there's no account being taken in by this government of the impact on the local economies where these small businesses have operated for decades, Mr. Speaker. I think it's shameful and I think it's concerning. And I think it shows that when this government says Saskatchewan first, I don't think they really mean it, Mr. Speaker. I think it's an easy slogan to throw up on a billboard, and it's an easy way to sort of try and tell people that they care about Saskatchewan. But when you see these kinds of procurement policies, you know Mr. Speaker, that this is not helping Saskatchewan people.

This procurement process that they have right now, it's lazy. All they do is they open the bids, look for the lowest bid, and that's the end of it. It doesn't take into any account other things, other factors that are important. We know that Saskatchewan

businesses need a level playing field. And we know that other provinces do the same.

So why is this Premier so excited to be the champion of free trade when it isn't working and other provinces aren't getting behind him in that parade? He's a cheerleader, but there's nobody behind him, Mr. Speaker. And I think Saskatchewan businesses are hurting. And I think at this point, I'm running out of time, so I want to make sure that I make the motion. And I would like to move:

That this Assembly call on the government to support *The Buy Local Day Act* and *The Fairness for Saskatchewan Businesses in Government Procurement Act* as tangible steps to support local businesses and put Saskatchewan first.

I make that motion, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Nutana:

That this Assembly calls on the government to support *The Buy Local Day Act* and *The Fairness for Saskatchewan Businesses in Government Procurement Act* as tangible steps to support the local businesses and put Saskatchewan first.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Prince Albert Carlton.

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an interesting debate to be part of because we know and we've heard from the member opposite some interesting information for sure. However, I would have to propose that what's happening in this province already, clearly from what we're hearing from CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] and from our own statistics, is that this government is in fact recognizing that the economic engine in this province is small business.

And we're also looking at the fact that as the province is growing, we are taking these small businesses, their products. They've increased their capacity to provide services and goods to this province not just at the local level, but we're talking about through the government procurement process as well, Mr. Speaker.

You know, one thing that should be focused on, and we started back in 2006 during the campaign and 2007 after we got elected, is that those people who take the risk — the small business, the ones who are medium-sized businesses to expand to large-sized businesses — they wouldn't make those commitments unless they felt that this province was ready to take that leap of faith.

And the government of the day in 2006, we know for a fact was driving business out of this province through high taxation rates, through not looking at and listening to those men and women who were working in this province to make a sustainable living for themselves and their families by providing goods and services, taking those risks to start up and then to expand.

One thing we do know, Mr. Speaker, is that this government saw that there was a need to consult, broad-based consultations, talking through the chamber of commerce and CFIB as to what we could do to ensure that those businesses already in place could not just survive but could thrive, Mr. Speaker.

And one thing we heard loud and clear is that, through the chamber of commerce and CFIB, is that the status quo on business taxation for small and medium businesses wasn't going to happen, shouldn't happen, wasn't going to make this sustainability possible. Because if we were to lower taxes, those same dollars could be reinvested into those small companies, medium-sized companies to expand at their own risk. I might add, Mr. Speaker, so they could in fact gain the potential opportunity to then procure or be part of the procurement process for the province. And one thing we do know is that we see that we have businesses already supplying to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And you know what? The member from Athabasca sits in his seat and chirps, talking about that we haven't done enough for this province now that we have all this, all this growth. Well I'll tell you what, Mr. Speaker: it takes a lot of gall to say that, knowing full well he was part of the government, part of the cabinet table that discussed taxation, discussed what they could do to keep, you know, nickel-and-diming the small businesses in this province, the mom-and-pop operations who had saw their families, their sons and daughters leaving this province at record numbers to do business in Alberta because there was not a favourable environment in this province at the time. You know what? Which is really disappointing that he would now, you know, sit in his seat and tell us that we're not doing enough when clearly he had the opportunity at the cabinet table before the 2007 election to do that.

So what this government has done, Mr. Speaker, is we have taken the consultation. We have taken the advice from CFIB and from chambers of commerce, from municipalities as well, talking about how to make this particular part of our, you know, economic engine even better. So what did we do? You know what? We looked at the red tape that this province had through legislation regulations that was hindering, hampering, tying the hands of those businesses, those same Saskatchewan-grown businesses, Mr. Speaker, that wanted to take part in the new economic prosperity that was started in 2007. So to do that, we were able to look to them for advice.

Well you know what, Mr. Speaker, things like the taxation rate of small, medium businesses, dropping that from 4.5 per cent to 2 per cent, I can say for a fact that in Prince Albert when myself and the local MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] met with our chamber of commerce, that was the best thing we did to drive local businesses: their expansion rates, the opportunity to in fact reinvest those dollars, to hire more women and men, hire more of the students that were in our city as well, and area, Mr. Speaker, to again take part in what was happening in the economy in our province, not just local but provincial as well, Mr. Speaker.

[11:15]

And you know what? We heard that from members of the chamber of commerce who were business people, who were

chartered accountants, who told us that it was about time, because they saw their businesses that they were working for as accounting businesses reinvesting those dollars clearly because they saved money. It wasn't just going in their pockets for their own profit; they were putting money back in businesses to expand and hire more staff, Mr. Speaker. And that was very important.

So those are the kind of things that a government should do: take advice, take direction from those women and men on the front lines in this particular economy who are talking about being able to provide more jobs and increase the economic engines that are already there and driving the economies locally and provincially.

So yes, Mr. Speaker, a government listened. The government listened and took steps to make those things happen. So what happens now is we're seeing in fact that, you know what? We have the highest concentration of small businesses in the nation, with 97 small businesses per 1,000 people. And I would like to think, in fact I can make a bold statement today that I would believe that none of those businesses would take those chances unless they knew that they could benefit from buy local already, Mr. Speaker. Clearly that's opportunity for them. They wouldn't risk that at all to get into a business and then to think to themselves, well how are we going to make our living? We have buy local already, Mr. Speaker.

For a government to have to support or put in an Act, a law, to demand that is ludicrous. We're taking away the basic common sense principle of the women and men in this province — myself, my family, my friends — who at every opportunity buy local. Yes, they do, Mr. Speaker. I do that all the time. And we see those local businesses again giving back to communities through charitable donations.

I was just at a ribbon-cutting ceremony along with the members from Prince Albert Northcote, Rosthern-Shellbrook, Sask Rivers as well, talking about the Pineview Terrace Lodge and care facility, and the Minister from Rural and Remote Health was there as well. Clearly we saw local donations not just meet but exceed what was asked in a very, very short time frame — just a number of weeks, Mr. Speaker. That tells you that these businesses that gave that money and families who own businesses saw that it was a good thing to give back to the community. But they did so because they are seeing that they in fact can make a living, make profit in this province as locally-run businesses, and that's a good thing, Mr. Speaker. We should never just simply think that we have to put a law in place demanding that people spend money locally when in fact we're seeing that happen, not just in my riding or in my city of Prince Albert but in other cities and communities large and small alike in our province, Mr. Speaker.

You know, one other thing we should look at is that, the procurement piece that the members opposite talk about. That seems to be the driver for this impetus, this need for this legislation for some reason. You know, in 2013-14, the three-year procurement average of goods and services tendered to executive government by Sask businesses was 81 per cent. It was a 12 per cent increase compared to the three-year average from 2006-07. Interestingly that is when that opposition party was in government. So clearly we're seeing evidence to the fact

that we in fact are seeing procurement in this province for local businesses is rising. And again to the point, we're seeing, CFIB tells us in their reports that there is a new positive outlook: businesses are not just only, are starting in this province, they're actually expanding.

You know, Mr. Speaker, and there's an interesting survey that was done back in February of 2014. One of the questions was, how confident are you that your provincial government has a vision that supports small business? Sask ranked first, Mr. Speaker, out of all the provinces in this country.

Businesses in Saskatchewan are most likely to report confidence that their provincial government has a small-business-friendly vision. Get out of the way — that's our motto. Let businesses thrive. We will remove red tape; we'll get out of the way. We're not going to put in more laws to demand that we have a buy-local day. Clearly we want to support business generation, start-ups, and expansion.

You know what? How likely would you be to recommend starting a business in your province, from current members of CFIB to new people. If I was to . . . and I'm going to be leaving government in the future . . . You know what, Mr. Speaker? The trick is, how likely would it be for me to maybe start a business in this province, again, first again, Mr. Speaker, first amongst all the other provinces in this country? That tells you this government has the policies in place, has the rules in place, removes red tape. And so we can in fact see businesses start, thrive, survive, and make themselves committed to this province, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, it's actually . . . I'm really pleased to enter this debate here today. And this is a good one for the people of Saskatchewan and I know it's sort of an encouraging sort of discussion. You know, we all need to recognize that there's tremendous strength in our province by way of our resource economy, by the incredible entrepreneurs of this province, by those that invest and create jobs in our province, Mr. Speaker, and the hardworking people of our province. And if we look at the period of time for which we've experienced a boom, Mr. Speaker, we see a lot of opportunity in this province.

But this debate here today is about talking about, how do we further strengthen and diversify that economy, and how do we extend that opportunity for the long haul? How do we make sure that we can take the current position and build from some of the strength and extend that opportunity and make sure that we're stronger over the long haul, balancing and providing strength to that economy? And these are really important pieces.

I thought the comments from the member from Nutana as it related to the Buy Local Day and that initiative and the importance of it and that culture of buying and supporting local were really, really good points. I thought her conversation about how she interacts with the main street businesses of her community and our province, and those entrepreneurs who are innovative, who are making investments and really creating vibrancy to our communities as well . . . I always think that the

main streets in many ways, of a community, create the — fixing my collar here, Mr. Speaker — create a sense of vibrancy and quality of life that's important to all of us.

And I know, whether you're in a small town or whether you're in the downtown or whether you're in those pockets of commerce within each of our communities, it's those people that build relationships with the community and bring forward products that we should really be doing our best to celebrate and to support. And you know, I really never want to be within a community for which you didn't have that strength of main street small business, those entrepreneurs who are providing opportunity. And we know it's good economics as well because we know that when you put a dollar into a small business, the return back to the broader community is significant.

So I'm really proud of the piece of legislation that was put forward on the buy-local legislation. I want to recognize Sasklandia and their leadership, a really impressive group of entrepreneurs who are speaking to ways that we, as a province, can be stronger for tomorrow and, quite frankly, more vibrant as well. And I think in many ways it's these small businesses, these entrepreneurs who create a point of pride for our community, a quality of life that will assist us to be as strong as we can be over the long haul and to retain many of those people that might have located and moved to Saskatchewan over the course of the last decade, for example, because it's those quality of life factors that are so important.

So the buy-local piece is common sense. It's good economics. It's a good celebration of the impressive entrepreneurs, the small businesses in our province, and it's something that certainly we should all be supporting. And really, one day is symbolic and important, but it's in many ways what you'd want to drive is a culture of change in some fronts and a recognition of how important it is to support those local entrepreneurs and to build thriving main streets and hubs in our cities and our towns, Mr. Speaker.

I'm also really pleased that we've entered the discussion in a meaningful way as it relates to the flawed procurement policy of this government, the flawed trade policy of this government, to make sure that we're levelling the playing field for Saskatchewan businesses and, importantly, ensuring better value for taxpayers. And right now as you would know, Mr. Speaker, the province of Saskatchewan is really out of line with the rest of the provinces or most other provinces who have different sorts of policies that level that playing field and recognize the importance of those local companies.

And you know, when you look up at the manufacturers in this province, when you look at the construction companies in this province, what you need to recognize is not only that that company that's here, which is very important, and the leadership and the ownership that's here and investing in Saskatchewan, but they're also investing in capital, investing in land, investing in infrastructure, and hiring people, Mr. Speaker. And when they're hiring people and creating that employment, that's incredibly meaningful within our communities. It's the fabric of our neighbourhoods in many ways, those individuals, those workers then that have employment here in Saskatchewan, who are paying property taxes, who are paying income taxes, and who are also probably doing some buying

locally, Mr. Speaker, and doing all the other things they are within the community, whether that's being involved in the sports, culture, and activities from all other fronts.

So it's about making sure that we build on opportunity as a province. The current process that the province follows is simplistic. It's naive. It's out of line with the other provinces, and it puts Saskatchewan companies at a disadvantage. And it just doesn't make any sense to have steel manufacturers in Saskatchewan in layoff mode, reducing workers when there's this unlevel playing field and a door that's open to the rest of the world to come in and take those contracts, Mr. Speaker.

And all we're calling for is a levelling of that playing field with a more sophisticated process, a process that would certainly put Saskatchewan people first, that would also level the playing field for those businesses but also put some protections in place on these processes. For example, when we're talking about the legislation that we've put forward, there'd be a better analysis as well. It wouldn't just be the simplistic initial price that the current government's looking at. There'd be better recognition of the quality of that good or service, the product history, the supplier experience, the warranty, the delivery schedule.

And I think of even something that maybe, you know, this will improve things, not just to ensure better local participation but better protection for taxpayers. And I think of this whole wasteful debacle with the smart meters through this Sensus outfit from the United States, Mr. Speaker, where millions of dollars have been wasted and where people's lives and property have been put at risk. Had these simple measures of this procurement policy, this legislation we're putting forward here today been in place, I suspect that government would have never been able to go forward with a manufacturer that had fire issues going on at that same very time in Philadelphia.

These are very important issues, Mr. Speaker. And when we're talking about procurement, it's most important of course that you're deriving best value for your taxpayer, for the public, but it's very important that we have a level playing field and recognition that it makes a heck of a lot of sense to have local companies engaged in the delivery of our infrastructure. It's one of the reasons as well that we're concerned with the approach of this government when it comes to these bundled P3s [public-private partnership], and we listen to the Saskatchewan construction industry when they state concerns with the potential impact or likely impact of shutting out Saskatchewan construction companies.

So when we're using public dollars and public projects through our Crown corporations and through the government, it makes sense that we make sure we derive better value for taxpayers, and it makes sense that we level that playing field and strengthen ourselves economically. Because as I say, we have tremendous strength as a province through our resource industry, through our resource revenues, through the exceptional entrepreneurs and leaders in this province in small, mid-size, and large businesses in this province, and very importantly by the incredibly hard-working people of Saskatchewan. That's where the strength of our province comes from.

But we should be taking this opportunity of strength, this boom

we've had, and not just simply be hands off and cheerlead as we see with this current government in selling out the interests of Saskatchewan people. We should be taking that strength and actually building, building strength, building diversity for the long haul, Mr. Speaker. And that's what's going to allow us to maximize the opportunity that we have before us as a province.

Far too often I see this government far too willing to sell out the interests of Saskatchewan people and businesses, this complete hands-off, laissez-faire approach with a bunch of cheerleading over things that typically they're not directly involved with, Mr. Speaker. What I think we need to rightfully do is put the credit where it's deserved, some of which is totally outside our control, our resource wealth, Mr. Speaker, and then the exceptional business leaders, entrepreneurs in this province, and the hard-working families. And then for government, their role and responsibility is to build from those circumstances, in this case build on those opportunities and build a better future for all Saskatchewan people.

And this is very critical on the economic front. These bills are very much about building a stronger, more balanced, more diversified economic future for Saskatchewan with vibrant main streets and strong, thriving local businesses. It's also a matter of acting in the interests of Saskatchewan people and companies and not selling out, not acting like Boy Scouts when it comes to trade, Mr. Speaker, but acting in a way that puts the interests of Saskatchewan people and businesses first.

It's my pleasure to enter the debate here today, and I hope that we have the support of . . .

[11:30]

The Speaker: — Next speaker, please. I recognize the member for Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it certainly is an opportunity to stand up and talk on this particular bill. And I find it rather ironic that this is presented by an NDP opposition that actually drove out more business out of this province than they ever attracted.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, who introduced the bill and started speaking on this is a proponent of it, and yet she's talking about this shopping program that's in the United States. She's talking about the local shopping in the 'hood in Saskatoon. Well I would like to encourage local shopping too, as long as it's all in Moose Jaw because that's my local area.

We have to be very careful when we start talking about local shopping because local can be a variety of different things. Local for a manufacturer is much different than local for the local coffee shop. So I think the whole premise is rather a misunderstanding on their part and a lack of understanding on what we are doing as a government in the business sense, and it really reeks of ignorance on what's happening in this new Saskatchewan.

Of course we want to encourage local purchasing and shopping locally, but we have to define what local really means because it could be municipal community or it could be provincial. It

could be even nationally across the nation as far as local, depending on the product, depending on what the market is asking for.

But supporting local shopping really is talking about building an economy, and that's where everybody wins. When you've got an economy that is performing well, that's when the local initiatives in all aspects of business are doing well.

And our government is strong in building our economy. Building an economy is supporting business. It eliminates the barriers for any kind of growth. Lowering taxes — business taxes, corporate business taxes, all small business taxes — is part of building economy. Hiring more people, bringing more people into the province, building economy — that creates more local business and supports local businesses.

When you have more people investing in the province, more businesses being formed, more businesses being expanded, you're hiring more people. More employees are having families. They're shopping for groceries, for clothing. They're building schools. That's all part of the economy. It's all part of local. And in every point in Saskatchewan, every location in Saskatchewan has seen some benefits from a stronger economy. And that's really what this should be all about is, how do we keep the economy of Saskatchewan moving forward for the growth of all people concerned?

The NDP's idea of economy growth is let the children grow up and then have them move out of the province. At least that was their policy for decades when they were in power. It's hard to sustain economy or local businesses if you have no people coming in. And that's exactly what . . . But our government certainly supports the local businesses. This government supports local growth. Businesses investing in business is really what it's all about.

We encourage the growth through our population. We've attracted expats to come back to Saskatchewan. We've engaged in the foreign workers recruitment. One of the biggest things is the graduation retention where we keep young people in the province working, growing businesses, and moving in that respect, to think of business opportunities and consequently developing businesses and hiring more people. We promote job creation. We have created a business atmosphere for employees to be attracted into our province. The lower personal income tax helps those that not only own business but the workers themselves.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the local economy, local buying, that's what chambers of commerce do. They encourage local, encourage business developed in their own communities. They promote business through networking and different resources that they may have. And they make recommendations to us as government as what is good for business. And we listen to that because that's the essence of all Saskatchewan is small business. They may talk about Christmas store-hours or offer business-related presentations to their members. This is part of building their community, but this is not what our government, what government, the provincial government is about.

The place of government is not to look at telling people where to make local purchases. It's develop that atmosphere of

business development and encourage business to promote here, and it grows the economy, thereby helping smaller businesses.

Mr. Speaker, when I look at, even just in Moose Jaw, by just attracting K+S to set up a new potash mine just north of the city has been a tremendous benefit to Moose Jaw and the entire area, Regina as well. K+S was one of the businesses that was drove out of this province by the NDP government when they took over the potash industry, but they're back, Mr. Speaker, and the president of K+S says they're back to stay. Why? It's because we've got an atmosphere for business development, to encourage business in this province, and they're there.

What does it mean? Well it means bigger housing developments in Moose Jaw as well as Regina and Bethune and all the area around there. We've got other places like Lynco that have started businesses in support the potash industry. And there are numerous other benefits as far as stores, expansions, schools, all those kinds of things that we have to do because there's a bigger population. And it all comes from developing that economic base in our province and obviously leads out into the business sector.

This government supports local businesses and purchasing business with our Small Business Week. We have the Red Tape Awareness Week, Women Entrepreneurs Week, Co-op Week. There's challenges for sure, absolutely, but that's why we try and promote business. One of those aspects is Priority Saskatchewan. It was brought in just to protect the interest of our Saskatchewan businesses.

Mr. Speaker, we support the Saskatchewan business and continue to work with them on a variety of avenues. One of those is what's happening this very week with Manufacturing Week. This week we focus on manufacturers in Saskatchewan and celebrate Saskatchewan's manufacturing expertise. The success of businesses in our communities throughout the province is achieved, and we celebrate them with the training opportunities, the career opportunities that are presented in Saskatchewan simply through one sector in the manufacture area, and that's only one sector.

Manufacturing has become a key component to Saskatchewan's unprecedented economic growth. And that's just part of what we want to promote in Saskatchewan, part of building an economy, part of the purchasing powers that the people of Saskatchewan have, and they do a lot of it right here locally.

When we talk about manufacturing, in 2013 the shipments of manufacturing was \$13 billion to the Saskatchewan economy, a great influx of business which employs a lot of people. Between 2003 and 2013, Saskatchewan manufacturing exports grew from 2.5 billion to 5.5 billion. Mr. Speaker, that's unprecedented across Canada but we should encourage that. So that's some of the things that this government is doing just supporting manufacturing.

We're doing more for the farming sector. We're doing more for the resource sector, all to build an economy that supports everyone in the province. And we, to define it and specify that we have to have a local business, a promotion day, really takes away from the whole aspect of an entire province doing well.

And when you're talking about buying locally, the other thing you have to remember that if somebody from another town comes over and buys something from your store, are you going to tell him, you can't because this is buy locally day; you have to go back to your own? I don't think so. The whole idea is to build the economy and build it on every aspect. Mr. Speaker, that's what we're doing.

Another thing that's happening this very week is Agribition is on. And that attracts 800 foreign buyers from all across the world to come into Saskatchewan. Do we tell them that, well we're buy locally, we don't want to sell you, to sell to you? No, I don't think so. We want to encourage everybody. We want to build this economy. And that's really what this whole thing is about, building a strong economy where everybody can grow, can participate and benefit from the growth that we see in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, I can't support the motion that was made by the opposition.

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

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand in my place today to offer my support to the motion that is being proposed. And, Mr. Speaker, it's important that the motion itself, in terms of suggesting and promoting a buy-local day, I think that some of the issues that are really important and near and dear to some of the small businesses in our communities would really appreciate this kind of recognition and of course this kind of support.

The other thing that's really important, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, is the sound procurement policy that we've been advocating as an opposition. I think our leader and our deputy leader have done a tremendous job in reaching out to these organizations that are promoting Saskatchewan. And they're doing their very best to make sure that they get advice from them and they get direction, and that they bring forward a legislative agenda that makes sense and a plan that really supports local businesses throughout all of our communities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I find amazing in some of the stats, some of the stats that were shared in our caucus room, Mr. Speaker, is that for every \$100 that is spent locally, for every \$100 that is spent locally, \$73 stays here. And that's a really important fact that people out there ought to know, Mr. Speaker, and something that the Saskatchewan Party government should know. And for every \$100 that is awarded to out-of-province contracts, Mr. Speaker, a paltry \$43 stay within our local economies. So it's really important to note, Mr. Speaker, that it makes sense, it makes sense to really promote and to strengthen a buy-local effort, really important to promote and strengthen the whole procurement practice so that Saskatchewan-based businesses can benefit.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we often talk about the importance of strengthening Saskatchewan's economy for years and years to come. We in the opposition clearly know that the Saskatchewan Party government inherited all the boom and the growing population and this great economic time. Everybody in Saskatchewan knows that, Mr. Speaker, but that's not the point. The point is everybody knows that what we're advocating on this side here is to ensure that governments do the right thing.

The basic principle and tenet of a good, solid government is to make sure that they recognize three important factors that I think need to be recognized here in Saskatchewan.

Number one is we have to have an exciting private sector opportunity provided in the province, Mr. Speaker, that we have to invite corporations, large corporations. We have to invite small businesses, Mr. Speaker. And some of these efforts, procurement policies and the shop-local day, Mr. Speaker, being proposed by the opposition through this motion, does exactly that, Mr. Speaker. We think we have to make sure that they continue spurring on economic activity, investment, Mr. Speaker, and really make Saskatchewan a safe place for many people to invest, large or small businesses, Mr. Speaker.

And when you look at some of the stats, Mr. Speaker, that 98 per cent, 98 per cent of Saskatchewan's businesses have less than 50 employees, Mr. Speaker, so they make up for a tremendous economic opportunity for Saskatchewan. And from our perspective as an opposition, the buy-local day taps into that sentiment and encourages the small local businesses that are out there that are working hard each day. And sometimes they don't get the recognition of the large corporations, Mr. Speaker, but certainly they've done their part. And, Mr. Speaker, small businesses throughout our province really, really do a lot of work, not only in creating jobs but paying taxes and vitalizing our communities all throughout our land.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we look at the notion of how shop locally is valuable to the local industries, Mr. Speaker. You can see the fact that 98 per cent of our businesses in Saskatchewan have less than 50 employees, and they do offer a tremendous value to our economy overall and to our communities and of course to their employees in the service that they provide.

[11:45]

So it's important to note that within the opposition we believe, to build on this economy, you have to focus on local and small businesses as well. You cannot be negligent in some of their efforts. And, Mr. Speaker, between having an exciting private sector, an exciting private sector that invites investment from all throughout the world, Mr. Speaker, you also have to have a focus on the small-business community as well. We understand that, and that's the reason why today we're proposing this motion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we also have to make sure that the Saskatchewan Party government sticks up for Saskatchewan-based businesses. And that's one of the reasons why our deputy leader has been critical of the government's lazy process, the government's non-visionary effort on their procurement policy, Mr. Speaker.

We have heard from a company called Weldfab. They've been in the news a number of months ago, and they're talking about the fact that they're losing jobs because the Saskatchewan Party government can't find the time to figure out how best to protect their interests when it comes to providing service.

Mr. Speaker, it's important that we have leadership from the government to protect Saskatchewan's interests, Mr. Speaker,

as opposed to just appearing to do so. That's exactly the point that we find when you look at the buy-local day that's being proposed in this bill, and also the fact that we think we have to have some sound procurement policy that take into account Saskatchewan-based businesses, that someone has to defend them, Mr. Speaker. And somebody that should defend them should be their own government, Mr. Speaker, but we see that the Saskatchewan government has failed. The Saskatchewan Party government has failed miserably on that front.

And that's one of the reasons why, Mr. Speaker, we're seeing this particular company in the news decrying the fact that the government has not done enough to support their local businesses. And they don't want special treatment. Nobody wants any special treatment, Mr. Speaker. But this particular company, they want to be able to be on the level playing field, to be able to compete for Saskatchewan-based contracts as opposed to be thrown under the bus because the government could not figure out how to do the procurement policies properly, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why we look at, when you talk about an exciting private sector, Mr. Speaker, we've got to have that in Saskatchewan. We New Democrats understand that. That's the reason why we're proposing this bill today.

And secondly, Mr. Speaker, we've got to have sound procurement policies that is focused on and that our companies can depend on when it comes to awarding contracts for Saskatchewan opportunities. And that's what's really important, Mr. Speaker, is that we see these particular areas that are lacking from the Saskatchewan Party side, and that's why, as an opposition, we consult, we ask for advice, and we bring forward ideas of this sort. And, Mr. Speaker, I go back to the notion that's, why should we have buy-local day, Mr. Speaker? As I mentioned, for every \$100 we shop locally, 73 stays right at the local level as opposed to \$43 when it's a non-Saskatchewan-based company that we give the business to.

And, Mr. Speaker, what's also really important is that if you look at the notion when we talk about the three components that I often mention, and the fact that having an exciting private sector, having sound Crown corporations that provide good, affordable service to families and to businesses and, Mr. Speaker, having a professional, dedicated labour force that we've had throughout the province, those three pillars, Mr. Speaker, those three pillars of having an exciting private sector, of having functioning Crown corporations that provide affordable service to people, and of course having the dedicated and professional labour force, those are really important aspects of a growing economy, Mr. Speaker. And on all three fronts we see the Saskatchewan Party again failing miserably, and it's a shame, Mr. Speaker.

And that's one of the reasons as the opposition when we think about the history of the people that brought in all the investment — and I'm talking about some great leaders like Eldon Lautermilch, like Maynard Sonntag, like Lorne Calvert, Roy Romanow, Eric Cline; the list goes on, Mr. Speaker — as to how those people worked very hard to bringing about a good, sound investment policy for Saskatchewan. And today, Mr. Speaker, we see that investment pay off in dividends. And that's why it's important that we in the opposition continue

telling the people of Saskatchewan, we need to make sure the economy stays strong for years to come and every single effort, whether it's a solid procurement policy design or whether it's a buy-local day effort, all adds to the net sum of making sure we strengthen Saskatchewan's economy for years and years to come. Every effort must be undertaken. Every stone must not be left unturned, Mr. Speaker.

And again I'll point out in my closing comments that one of the biggest challenges we're going to face, Mr. Speaker, is the growing tax bill being created by the Premier's pricey projects, their triple P attitude, Mr. Speaker. That's going to hurt businesses because you're . . . [inaudible] . . . going to be paying more taxes for all these projects that are being announced, and that increases debt. So increased taxes, increased debt is going to hurt our economy for years and years to come. And that's thanks to the Premier who likes to have all the attention showered on him. And guess what? Somebody else is paying that bill. And, Mr. Speaker, that is also a challenge to the economy of Saskatchewan, and we really need to do something to address that particular issue.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'll wrap up my comments by saying I applaud the effort by our leadership on this side to talk about local businesses, buy local, and get the procurement process figured out. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate on this important motion in front of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. Give you a little bit of background: I come from a business-minded family. We had a small business growing up in Esterhazy. It was a plumbing and heating shop. So I've been kind of exposed to, growing up, what it was like to be in business under the NDP, Mr. Speaker.

And to prepare for this debate I thought — you know what? — probably one of the best indicators of future behaviour is past behaviour, and I'd like to hear a little bit more from actual business owners what it was like to be operating a business under the NDP. So, Mr. Speaker, I had a chance to talk to a friend of mine up in Saskatoon, Rick, and he had this to say about just . . . We talked about the motion, but I preambled it with him as that the NDP wants to help small business. And he kind of had a double take and he said, "I don't trust them. They will never change their ways. You're kidding me. That the NDP thinks things were better for small business under their government. I don't trust them."

Mr. Speaker, that was the sentiment when they started talking about what the NDP did to small business in this province. He continued, "How do they think we will believe them now? They chased all the business owners away in the '90s. Now they want us to believe they want to help? Forget about it." Mr. Speaker, that is the experience of actual business owners in Saskatchewan that had to compete against the government in business.

I also talked to Rodney. After explaining the motion, that the NDP would like people in Saskatchewan to buy 12 times a year locally, it was pretty profound what he said. And so this is what

the NDP wants: that you buy locally once a month, so 12 times a year. He said, "What about the other 354 days of the year?" Mr. Speaker, think about that. Why isn't the member from Regina Rosemont shopping more than just 12 times a year locally?

He went on to say, he went on to talk about, the NDP wants to help small business. Rodney was, you know — not to get too partisan into this debate — but he kind of wanted a context thing. You know, how did the NDP do in other parts of government? And he wanted to ask, you know, how do they help in health care in this province? And the question is, you know, poorly, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately what we inherited in health care was a pretty good indicator of how the NDP managed this province. We had the longest wait times in Saskatchewan's history. We had shortages of nurses and doctors.

Rodney went on to ask, you know, how did they manage the debt in this province? They drove it up, Mr. Speaker. Rodney went on to ask, how did they manage with taxes? Well we all know that we paid the highest taxes in the Dominion of Canada under the NDP. They starved the highways budgets. They drove mass exodus of people out of the province. They left a destructive infrastructure deficit that we're still dealing with, Mr. Speaker. This is how the NDP managed things in the province. Mr. Speaker, the leopards can't change their spots. The last place you want the NDP is anywhere near the policy of the economy of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

This was a dark time in our province. A lot of people had to leave, and one of the people that had to leave was my brother. He graduated from engineering from the U of S [University of Saskatchewan]. He's out in Calgary right now, and he's doing pretty well for himself. He's an engineer. He's a partner in a junior oil company.

And I gave him a call last night and I said, you know, got this speech coming up, a debate about how the NDP would manage things if they ever got back in power. And he said, don't let it happen. And it was like, it was bad, and it drove him away. And my brother was like, you know what? In their shop they were talking to some of the senior members of that company and they said . . . You know, I asked him how did they view Saskatchewan? And he said, you know what? They used to think that, "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here." That is what business thought of investing in Saskatchewan under the NDP. I'll re-quote that, "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here." That is what outside interests thought of investing in Saskatchewan under the NDP.

And you know what? That's not that long ago, Mr. Speaker. That was in the '90s. Once again, best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour, Mr. Speaker. And we all know what happens when the NDP forms policy. It's bad for Saskatchewan.

The second part of the motion is on procurement, and this is important, Mr. Speaker. The people of this province need to understand the hole in infrastructure that we inherited under the NDP. They starved every part of this province for 16 long years, Mr. Speaker.

We're making those investments in the capital across the boards, and we're starting to see some improvements. But let's look at what the brain trust of the NDP and the cabinet of the day . . . It included the member from Saskatoon Centre, Regina Lakeview. They were members of that cabinet. And how did they look at procurement? Mr. Speaker, they introduced the Crown Construction Tendering Agreement. Well what did that do to the province? It drove up cost. It drove business away.

And that was an interesting one. I had the chance to talk to my dad about that. And being a small shop in town, he wasn't unionized, and he couldn't bid on any of the work because of the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, I went on to talk to my dad about how business was in the '90s under the NDP, and he said it was stark. He talked about working long hours. And it wasn't to provide for the family; it was to provide to the government. That's a sea change philosophy over here as we don't think business should be out there working so hard and investing in and growing their business for the benefit of governments. They should be doing it for themselves, their ownerships, and the investors in their company, Mr. Speaker.

I talked to another business owner from Yorkton and he said, "For 16 years I hated competing against my own tax dollars." Mr. Speaker, we have a long list of failed NDP investments from NST [NST Network Services of Chicago] Chicago to . . . My favourite one is Clickabid, a failed Internet auction business, \$3 million. That's their local policy. Coachman Insurance, an Ontario company, lost 17.2.

Mr. Speaker, you have to look. How the NDP really feels on business can be summed up in one sentence, "I liked the product so much, I bought the company." Look no further than the failed nationalization of the potash industry. They liked business so much locally that they took companies away from their owners. That's the ultimate buy-local NDP campaign.

Mr. Speaker, it's local businesses that drive this economy, and if they would like to learn a little bit more about the NDP policy, all they have to do is go into their website and find out everything that they would like to know about the NDP. Unfortunately there's no real policy on that website.

You spend a little time, you'll be able to . . . Search real hard, you'll be able find, however, the *Regina Manifesto*. This is the heart and breathing document of what the NDP are. What was the prime goal of that document? Was to eradicate the system of capitalism and replace it with a planned economy of socialism, Mr. Speaker. That's the NDP. They would eradicate capitalism in this province. And somehow the voters of Saskatchewan are supposed to believe right now the leopards changed their spots. Now they're all for local business, Mr. Speaker.

Unfortunately I believe this province is smarter. We saw it in the 2011 election. I think we'll soon hear from the people of Saskatchewan, and in less than two years, what they think about this leopard that has not changed their spots, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you want to look at . . .

[12:00]

The Deputy Speaker: — The time for debate has expired. Questions. I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Manufacturing has become an important part of our economy. The total value of Saskatchewan's manufacturing shipments for 2013 was approximately 15.2 billion, a new record for the province, up from 14.2 billion in 2012. On this side of the House we recognize the value of manufacturing industry and see the highly skilled workers that it has brought to our province.

The NDP has no plans about how to help the manufacturing sector because they have no plans for the economy. In fact they have no plans and no policies on anything. To the member from Saskatoon Nutana: Saskatchewan's economy is strong. Our province has a plan to keep the momentum growing. Why should the people of Saskatchewan trust a party too timid to present its plan to the province?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the member for her question. We know how important it is to support local businesses. I'm very proud of the work that our leader has done in this area, coming forward with positive proposals in this Assembly, positive ways to support Saskatchewan business and to truly make Saskatchewan first, not like what we see this government doing at all.

I think it's shameful what we see this government doing, when you look at manufacturers themselves coming forward and saying, we're getting killed here. And it's because of the policies of this government. Also we know that we have people like Marilyn Braun-Pollon, on November 5th was tweeting in favour of the legislation. And are they telling us that this is something that they're opposed to? How can they not support these bills, Mr. Speaker?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, really pleased to have two positive initiatives on the table here today to increase the strength of our economy and support the local entrepreneurs and companies in this province who make such important investments in this province. My question to the member from Eastview is: does he support the Buy Local Day?

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

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. What I believe is we should support local business every day of the year, Mr. Speaker, not 12 times a year, Mr. Speaker. I believe we should lower small business tax, and that's exactly what we did in 2011, from 4.5 to 2 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's how you support local business. And I say, I'm ashamed the member would allude that we don't support local business.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Mr. Speaker, our government will not be taking lessons from the members opposite when it comes to helping out local businesses on proper procurement and tendering practices. When the NDP were in government, they adopted the Crown corporation tendering agreement. This agreement required companies working on contracts with Crown corporations to hire 75 per cent unionized employees. That meant that non-union contractors would have to toss aside their own people and hire from a union-approved list in order to make a bid. This alienated many Saskatchewan workers and builders in small and rural areas, who were not able to work on their own local projects. That is the shameful record of the NDP.

To the member from Saskatoon Nutana: why should the people of Saskatchewan trust a bill centred on business procurement from a government that went out of their way to cripple local business in rural Saskatchewan?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, as the members of the Assembly know, the current procurement policy is not helping Saskatchewan businesses. We've had story after story after story where it's failing Saskatchewan businesses, and it's definitely not putting Saskatchewan first. The bill that we propose is a fair bill that will avoid the lazy procurement policy that this government currently has and take into account all of the things that are necessary to truly put Saskatchewan first. These people should be ashamed of not supporting this bill, and I do hope that they will turn around their attitude and support these two bills.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. We've seen all across the province the Texas-plated trucks with SaskPower stickers on the side, and then the whole debacle that ensued in this province with the smart meter mess, Mr. Speaker, and the wasted money and the safety that was put at risk. We know that there's steel manufacturers that are in layoff mode instead of being able to have a level playing field for government and Crown contracts. My question to the member from Moose Jaw North: how could he not support an improvement to the procurement policy?

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

Mr. Michelson: — Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak again because there's a couple of things, and I've pointed it out. Mr. Speaker, in the last four months I've been traveling to different parts of the province talking to a number of manufacturers. Seventy-six, as a matter of fact, is the number that I have talked to.

Mr. Speaker, in all that time, there wasn't one manufacturer that had anything negative to say about the government. They have concerns. They have issues, and they'll tell them to us. But at

the end of all of their list of concerns, they will say, but we really appreciate the position of the Saskatchewan government. The Sask Party government is going . . . We like what they're doing. It's much better than what was being done under the NDP. Mr. Speaker, we're doing better.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would be interested to hear what the NDP's plan is for the economy instead of just getting piecemeal of proposed bills and fearmongering. Maybe they don't have an economic plan for Saskatchewan because the past NDP government was so terrible at managing their own investments. They lost over 90 million in Navigata Communications, over 40 million in Allstar Communications, 35 million in SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], and the list goes on and on.

The total amount of taxpayers' dollars that the NDP wasted was over 329 million. The NDP has a shameful track record of failed investments and wasted money. To the member from Saskatoon Nutana: can the people of Saskatchewan expect you to revert back to your old practice of competing, competing with local businesses?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thanks to the member for his question.

What I'm really interested in finding out is how many of these individuals will have the courage to support these two very important bills? They're valuable bills. They're positive bills. They're feel-good bills. There's no reason for these members not to support it.

And certainly, we'll want to let our colleagues in Saskatoon know and perhaps the member from Saskatoon Eastview that when I can tell his constituents that he does not support Buy Local Day, how bad is that, Mr. Deputy Speaker? I think it's shameful that he is not going to be able to support local businesses by supporting this bill, and I'm embarrassed to be in the constituency next to him.

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's been interesting listening to some of the debates here, and it's interesting one voice was not present in the debates. There's an individual over on the other side that's been appointed to be the czar or the wizard or the Mr. Fix It on procurement here in Saskatchewan. And so it was interesting that the member from Meewasin was not part of this debate, given that this is very much in his wheelhouse. I guess my question is to the member from Saskatoon Eastview. Why not?

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

Mr. Tochor: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. And

when we're talking about procurement, I'm going to look at what we're doing, Mr. Speaker. We've got Priority Saskatchewan has now passed through over 90 meetings representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders including construction industries, trade associations, chambers of commerce, municipalities, and public sector organizations.

Our colleague has been having those meetings. We're working towards improving the procurement in this province, Mr. Speaker. But you know what? The best thing that we . . . We look at what the NDP has put forward and what we're talking about. We'd also like to talk about the CFIB, and our colleague from P.A. [Prince Albert] spoke about how Saskatchewan did — so the same stakeholders and businesses that the NDP believe that are so against it.

Right now in Manitoba, an NDP Manitoba, how likely would you recommend starting a business in your province? The NDP Manitoba — dead last, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The member from Athabasca noted on March 26th, 2014, and I quote:

Well of course the NDP want to make to sure that we manage our money well, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure we manage our money well and not have any tax increases. That's one of the fundamental points of building a good . . . economy . . .

Yet at the most recent NDP campaign, they passed a resolution that states: “. . . an NDP government would ensure fair taxation on business and high income earners by increasing their amount of income tax.” Clearly your party still supports business-killing practices.

To the member from Regina Rosemont: is the NDP prepared to release their plan on growing the economy today, or will they just continue to hurt small businesses through their tired and true method of overtaxation?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we've got a bunch of bombastic sort of questions, revisionist history from members on serious matters to Saskatchewan companies. We need to build an education system that works for Saskatchewan people. We need to level the playing field for Saskatchewan . . .

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 1 — Boundary Dam Integrated Carbon Capture and Sequestration Project

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Ms. Eagles.]

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I am honoured to follow up on this proposed motion by my good friend, the member from Estevan, is putting through. And I'll read it through here again as to what it is. This motion says:

That this Assembly supports this government's commitment to the Boundary dam integrated carbon capture and sequestration project. This innovative facility is the first of its kind and is a tangible step in addressing the production of greenhouse gases worldwide. Further, its innovative technology supports Saskatchewan's resource industry which is vital to the prosperity of our province.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very good motion, and I can tell you something about it. Back when this was originally announced, originally announced by the NDP, they thought it was a great idea to have it. But then in 2007, what did they do, Mr. Speaker? They cancelled it. They scrapped it. Their Environment minister sits there and talks about what a great job that they would do if they were in power. They actually went and scrapped it, Mr. Speaker.

You know, and that's the difference between the people on that side of the House and the people on this side of the House. Mr. Speaker, they talk lots, but when there's action to be taken, what happens? It's done by this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that plans and a Premier that plans on moving this province forward.

Let's go back and take a look at this, Mr. Speaker, back when Lorne Calvert was premier. Now this is according to the NDP's own numbers: Saskatchewan's emissions were 62 per cent above the 1990 levels. And Lorne Calvert is quoted as saying, “We have both a record we can not be proud of in terms of our emissions . . .” That was in the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* on April the 5th, 2007. So what did they do? They shut down their project for carbon capture at the Boundary dam.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great project. It's known worldwide. I had the opportunity, I've had the opportunity actually to visit the project two times. I went there this spring when The Energy Council was here and the executive of The Energy Council went out. There was a senator from Wyoming was absolutely amazed. Now we all know that Wyoming produces close to 50 per cent of the coal for the US [United States] power plants. And this senator was absolutely amazed that there was something there. He even said they were actually going to be appropriating money to look at some way of carbon capture for coal-burning power plants. And the catch was he said, we don't have to reinvent the wheel. You're doing it here.

And at the grand opening, Mr. Speaker, there were people there from 20 countries, 20 countries to come and take a look at what

is a world leader on carbon capture and sequestration. Mr. Speaker, it was amazing. Like, I mean, the Chinese were there. The Chinese are building a coal-fired power plants, one a week. They're very interested in this, along with all the rest of the people all over the world. And that kind of a project the NDP shut down.

[12:15]

Now they've got four people over there that were cabinet members at that time, that are still on that side of the House that were cabinet members. What was their cabinet thinking? Here was a great project for Saskatchewan, and they went and shut it down . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . This thing, I think my partner here has said a problem. Probably right; they weren't thinking because they don't have a plan. And they've proved all along that they haven't followed a plan.

Saskatchewan is due to growth, is growing, is growing very quickly, Mr. Speaker, faster than it ever has, growing the population, growing the industries that are here. And we need constant, stable power. And most of our power, Mr. Speaker, comes from coal, and that's a well-known fact. So the federal government is putting down regulations on, that are going to be coming up in 2015. And it's going to be the maximum CO₂ you can emit is 420 tonnes per gigawatt hour.

This plant, this plant, Mr. Speaker, is going to produce only 140 tonnes of CO₂ per gigawatt hour. Mr. Speaker, this is a world-setting plant, and it's right here in Saskatchewan. And that's why it's proving that the Saskatchewan Party government is literally light years ahead in things that the NDP could never even think of. Well, let's put it this way. They would think of it; they just wouldn't act on it. But that's standard procedure for them.

Mr. Speaker, but they did do some things. You know, they wanted to talk about the environment, how they're going to protect the environment. I want to go back to what they did. They decided to get Al Gore to come up and talk about the environment. Yes, they got Al Gore, multi-millionaire, coming up here to talk about the environment. And SaskTel, our great telephone company here in Saskatchewan, the NDP decided that they should put in \$208,000 to the cost of that event. Those four members that were sitting in cabinet, what were they thinking to have Al Gore come over here and tell us we should be shutting down all of our power?

I've got news for you, Mr. Speaker: we have to have that baseload power. We had a group in here one time talking about how we should go all renewables. And I'm not going to say that we shouldn't have renewables in the mix. But, Mr. Speaker, you know after the fellow was done talking, and talking about how they, you know, everything should be on renewables — in other words, wind and solar — I questioned him. I said, you know, California has a problem with power. And they have a lot of brownouts in California. But California's actually relatively warm, so you know, if they get a brownout it's not a real big issue. But you know something, in Saskatchewan in February when it gets down to 40 below, and we don't have hardly any sunlight at that particular time, and when it gets to 40 below, the wind doesn't blow. I asked him which rotating power outage would he want at his house? Because, Mr. Speaker,

Saskatchewan needs baseload power. And they don't only need baseload power for the households, it's also for industry.

One of the mining companies came and talked to us. And they said they lost \$20 million, \$20 million in productivity because of the simple fact that SaskPower had to call them up to tell them to slow down. They couldn't, they did not have the power to operate in the middle of the winter at full bore.

So, Mr. Speaker, we definitely need this power in this growing province which is moving forward. Going back to various different things such as the wind object which seems to be one of the biggest things that their Environment critic is coming forward with, you know, yes it can fit into the mix. But I can tell you right now that if you wanted to get rid of all of your coal-fired power electricity it would be disastrous. Your wind turbines would not cover hundreds of acres. It would not cover thousands of acres. It would actually cover hundreds of thousands of acres to have up wind turbines to run our province. And that is not a very good use of the land in Saskatchewan. And not only that, we have no way of really storing the power. That has not been developed yet. And people can sit there and say, well you can have batteries. Well, I'm sorry, the batteries have not been developed yet that you could possibly use.

But, Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Nutana who is the Environment critic criticized the Boundary dam project because it was too expensive and unproven. Well I've got news for you. It is proven and it actually came in, Mr. Speaker, on budget.

So when you go back and look at all these different things that have been done, this is a great project. Now you know I could sit there . . . The NDP wants to criticize everything, period. Like, I mean, they looked at lean and they said, ho, this isn't working. Let's just keep doing the same thing we were doing before. Well the same thing they were doing before, Mr. Speaker, was firing nurses, firing doctors, shutting down hospitals — just 52 hospitals in rural Saskatchewan plus the Plains. And there's an acronym for that and it's called CAVE, and it's citizens against virtually everything.

But, Mr. Speaker, you know I wouldn't want to be that critical of them — well maybe I would — but I'd rather call them de-growthers. Now de-growthers is a word, and I don't know if many people have heard about that before, but de-grow is when you don't want to have things move forward. And Eldon Lautermilch was a great one for that because he didn't want to see any growth in Saskatchewan. You know, he claimed that the more people that left, then there's more left for the rest of us here. Mr. Speaker, that is de-growth.

When we are seeing this industry move forward, when we are seeing all of the things happening here in this province, the amount of manufacturing, new mines — you know, mines that the former NDP or mining companies the former NDP kicked out of Saskatchewan — now they're coming back here again. They're going to need power and they're going to need power 24-7. And the way that we can produce power 24-7 is with our coal-fired power plants. And with that technology, we also turn around and we can enhance our heavy oil recovery.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's a win-win situation for this whole

province of Saskatchewan and Canada in general. Let's face it; those poor people down east need our equalization payments. So consequently, you know, Quebec and Ontario, they're kind of in a little bit of a bind now.

But speaking of Ontario, they decided to shut down a bunch of their power plants and now they've got themselves in a real bind, Mr. Speaker. That's fine. We don't mind seeing the manufacturing moving out here to Saskatchewan. Who knows? Maybe some day we'll have a car plant out here too. The one thing we won't have is we won't have box plants and we won't have shoe plants like the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] government tried to run a number of years ago.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know that we've got, you know, there's some of the earth muffins out there that don't really like coal-fired power plants. We've got Greenpeace and the David Suzuki Foundation . . .

An Hon. Member: — Sierra Club.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Yes, Sierra Club, various ones . . . Well I had to kind of chuckle here. I just happened to be watching on Sun News the other day and anyway they . . . David Suzuki flew all the way back from Malaysia just so he could go and support the sit-in over the pipeline over in Burnaby, British Columbia. Mr. Speaker, what a joke. Like I've got news for you. Jet planes don't fly on solar. Well actually they do fly on wind in a sense but they've got to use power to get there. And, Mr. Speaker, the thing is about all these wind-fire power plants . . . And I actually was just reading a book on wind power, and in the US just to stop, just to hold what the CO₂ is at the present time from power plants, they would actually have to build — without shutting a power plant down — they would have to put up wind turbines on an area the size of Germany every single year just because of the increase of power the people need in the US.

And this is . . . Actually the member across the way is asking, which book? I could certainly give it to him to read if he'd really want it. I just can't think of the name of it offhand but it's a very good book and very interesting. And if the member's interested, I think it would change his tune quite a bit. Mind you, I have to admit, the book doesn't have any pictures in it so I don't know how he would figure it out.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have to have this baseload power. And the way that we have baseload power within Saskatchewan is coal-fired power plants. This is innovative. It's fantastic, and this is number one in the world. This government and this Premier have moved this province forward to innovation that has never been seen before in Saskatchewan since the days of probably Walter Scott. But, Mr. Speaker, when you look through all of these different things that are happening here, when you take the so-called environmental end of it coming or the rhetoric coming from that side how we can just operate on wind and solar, it does not work, Mr. Speaker, and it will not work in this province.

You know, there's an old saying. If the Internet goes down, you're back to 1975 because the Internet is a great thing. But you know something, if the power goes down — which it would with wind and solar if we relied strictly on that — if the

power goes down, you're back to 1875, Mr. Speaker. And that's not a scene that I want to go to, and I don't think anybody else in this province really wants to go and see.

Mr. Speaker, we all know what happens when the power goes out for only a matter of a few hours. And I can tell you right now that just even a few hours in the middle of our Saskatchewan winter is not good. I remember one time it went out back in Carrot River for a day when it was about 40 below — of course this was back when the NDP was in power — and it froze up. It froze up waterlines in a bunch of the houses. The cattlemen had all their stock troughs freeze up.

Mr. Speaker, baseload power is what we need. We've got 300 years coal supply within this province. Let's find a good way to use it. We've got the cleanest power plant, the cleanest power plant in the whole world sitting right here in Saskatchewan, put in and invested into by this government. And I give the federal government some credit too because they invested in some of that.

Not only that, since we're using the CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery, we're turning around and we're getting taxes out of that end of it too, making Saskatchewan a growing province, something that obviously the NDP never thought of. And especially . . . I had to kind of chuckle. The member from Athabasca was talking about Eldon Lautermilch and being, being one of the top people in Saskatchewan. And to come up with a statement such as what he did, you know, it's got to be pretty embarrassing for them.

And it's got to be pretty embarrassing for them when they look across over here and see all these innovations happening, whether it's lean in our hospitals, moving our hospitals forward, whether it's, you know, actually building hospitals, building schools, building . . . hiring more nurses, hiring more positions. It's got to be, it's got to be pretty embarrassing for them to look across here. And I think the jealousy is probably even there the way they whoop and holler at times.

But, Mr. Speaker, I guess I actually can't speak for too long today because I'm going to be cut off, so we have an agreement. But I will, I do want to speak on this again in the spring sitting because there's all sorts of things I can talk about, about the fantastic things that are happening in Saskatchewan, and especially with the Boundary dam project. So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to adjourn debate.

The Speaker: — The member has moved adjournment of debate on motion no. 1. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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. on Monday.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:30.]

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

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