



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

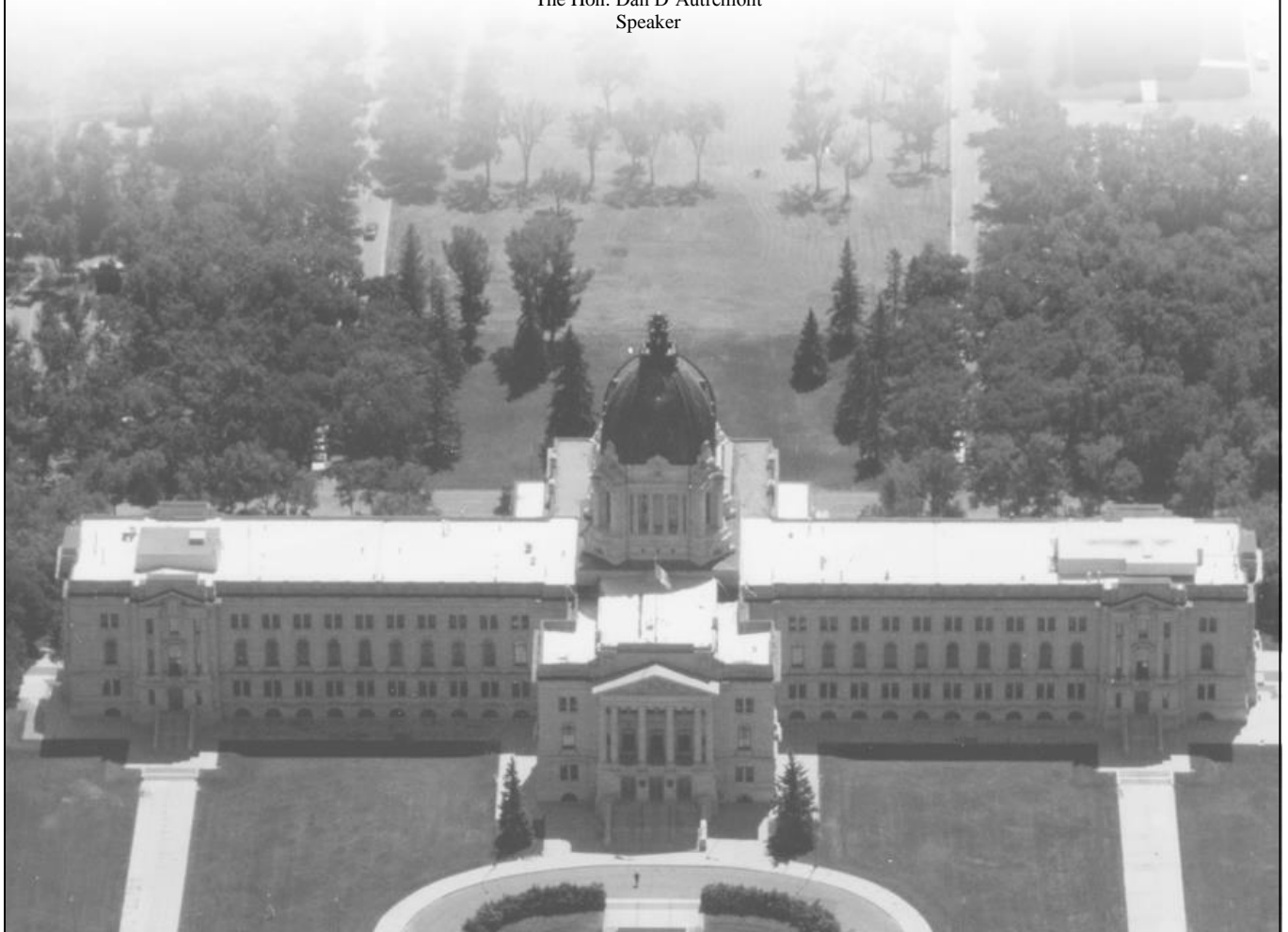
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

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



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, 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
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
Vacant		Prince Albert Carlton

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

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

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to make a statement regarding a clarification.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to make a statement regarding clarification. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

#### STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

##### Community-Training Residence Program

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I provided information to this Assembly regarding the community-training residence, based on information I had received from officials. The information I have received was incorrect. I have since learned that there will be or are violent offenders and sex offenders at the community-training residence. As a result of this new information, Mr. Speaker, and the community concerns, I have directed my ministry that Dale's House will not be used for the community-training residence program. The community-training residence will remain in its current location.

I apologize to the Assembly, and I would like to thank all the community members who reached out and raised their concerns to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

##### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, obviously we have a great number of guests with us today in the Legislative Assembly, and so we won't be introducing all of them or any of them individually, but I do want to welcome them on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, on behalf of members on this side of the House, welcome them to their Legislative Assembly for budget day.

Many of the people here are representing other groups in the province, stakeholders, third parties that deliver important services across Saskatchewan, that deliver important services to the disabled, that deliver services in health care, who provide education across the province, who provide post-secondary education, who provide local leadership and stewardship for our municipalities both rural and urban. And so we're grateful that they're here.

This budget that will be presented represents a partnership, and we're grateful for their presence here, but more importantly for

their ongoing partnership in delivering what we would . . . what we all aspire to, which is the best possible quality of life in a growing province of Saskatchewan. So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask through you to all members of the Assembly that they would join with me in welcoming all of our guests to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I too would like to join in and welcome all of the guests that are here in the Chamber and at the Assembly today, Mr. Speaker. And I'm saying that not just because we enjoy having a few more people sitting on this side of the House for one day, Mr. Speaker, but I'm saying that because of what the Premier appropriately points out, that in this Chamber we have a real cross-section of the province — folks involved in business, in the arts, education, health care, and so many other sectors.

And I know everyone in this room, Mr. Speaker, believes in the potential of this great province and loves it dearly, and that's why they're here today. So on behalf of the official opposition, I welcome all guests here to the 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 in support of education. And we know that education is one of the most vital services the government provides to its citizens and that this government has failed to deliver a long-term plan and vision and the necessary resources to prioritize the delivery of educational excellence. And we know that we must build the best education system for today and for Saskatchewan's future. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately prioritize education by laying out a long-term vision and plan with the necessary resources that provides the best quality of education for Saskatchewan, that reflects Saskatchewan's demographic and population changes, that is based on proven educational best practices, that is developed through consultation with the education sector, that builds strong educational infrastructure to serve students and communities long into the future.

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

Mr. Speaker, the people presenting this petition are from Moose Jaw. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions created on Dewdney Avenue by this government and their failure to respond and ensure safety for residents and users. 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 are signed by concerned residents of Regina. I so submit.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition. Homelessness is a major problem in La Ronge and in other 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 skyrocketing home ownership costs. 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 addressing homelessness in the Lac la Ronge area.

Mr. Speaker, this is supported by many northern leaders and signed by hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of northern residents. 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 needs to recognize the need for safe staffing levels to provide hands-on care to residents; 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. The prayer reads, Mr. Speaker:

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

safe staffing 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 from folks from across the province: Swift Current, Abbey, Stewart Valley, Regina, La Ronge, Cupar, Esterhazy, Prince Albert, Big River, Saskatoon, Warman, Gull Lake, Morse, Moose Jaw, Estevan, Weyburn, Ponteix, Mankota, Martensville, and other places as well. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured today to rise to present a petition for real action on climate change. And the individuals who have signed this petition want to bring to the attention of the Assembly the following: that Saskatchewan produces the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in all of Canada and that the Saskatchewan government has failed to tackle climate change, reduce emissions to the province's own targets, or put in a real plan to protect the natural environment. Since 2009 the Government of Saskatchewan has reduced climate change funding by 83 per cent, including another 35 per cent cut in the 2014-15 budget. I'd like to read the prayer. It goes:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enact a real plan and allocate appropriate funding in the provincial budget to tackle climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, helping families transition to energy-efficient homes, and encouraging everyone in the province to take real action to protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions were signed by folks from Spruce Home, Prince Albert, Macdowall, Regina, Moose Jaw, and Saskatoon. I so submit.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

### Miller Comprehensive High School Makerspace Program

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Teaching innovative thinking in our classrooms is something that is often easier said than done, but the makerspace program at Regina's Miller Comprehensive High School seems to be doing just that.

Reminiscent of an early tech start-up in the Silicon Valley, makerspace is a room filled with 3-D printers, motion-sensing computers, Arduino electronics, and various robotics. Available to students grades 9 through 12, makerspace was opened by Miller teacher Jodi Wilton at the end of January. Up to 20 students can be in the room at one time, and students are free to tinker with whatever project or piece of equipment they want. Various classes can access the room throughout the day, as can school clubs and other groups outside of regular school hours.

Mr. Speaker, we all remember the days when computer science was on the forefront of innovation. Teachers like Jodi Wilton have brought innovation back to the classroom, letting the students choose to learn what interests them the most. Mr. Speaker, student success is about student engagement. This, Mr. Speaker, is 21st-century student engagement.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Jodi Wilton and her colleagues at Miller Comprehensive High School for pushing the boundaries and truly providing opportunities that engage the next generation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Seizing an Opportunity

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, we've all heard stories of people who win the lottery or inherit a big fortune, and just a few short years later there's not too much to show for it. Oh sure, they know they've spent a lot of money because it's almost all gone. But then they look around; they can't really see where all the money went.

That's a bit like this government. It inherited a fortune and a strong economy, but it's been spending up a storm. But so many people from Saskatchewan haven't felt the benefits of all that spending. People are waiting far too long in emergency rooms, and they're crammed into hospital hallways. We keep hearing about a quality of seniors' care that is far from acceptable, and our kids' classrooms are overcrowded and under-resourced.

Despite record revenues, this government hasn't invested wisely in health care or seniors' care or education. It hasn't saved a single penny for the future, and it sure hasn't invested properly in things like renewable power or our cultural sector. So no wonder more and more families are wondering where all the money went. They're feeling the cost of living squeeze but they haven't experienced the benefits of this government's massive spending.

In today's budget this government has an opportunity to get its priorities straight, to cut spending on its own wasteful projects, and to start focusing on what really matters to Saskatchewan families today. We hope this government seizes this opportunity because we believe it's never enough to simply have the province doing well. We should always ensure that people and families are doing well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Preschool Program Treats Symptoms of Autism

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to recognize some of our guests seated in the gallery for their outstanding work with preschoolers with autism. I recently met with parents who have their children in the Little Tots program in Saskatoon. They told me about the 12 preschoolers attending Little Tots, an applied behaviour analysis preschool that provides 20 hours of programming a week.

This program, that is completely tailored to each child, makes sure that each child gets what they need for treatment. I had the opportunity to talk with some of these parents and they have noticed a huge difference in their children.

Mr. Speaker, there is no cure for autism and it is a lifelong disorder, but symptoms are definitely treatable. These 12 preschoolers are being taught fine motor skills, language and communication, socialization, and self-help skills. All of these skills are broken down into simple steps, making it easier for the child to follow along and learn in a way that works for them.

This government believes that programs such as the Little Tots will give our children the best start in life. That is why this government has increased funding for autism support by 1,400 per cent since 2007. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in thanking Kelly, Brandy, and Janine for their amazing work with the Little Tots program in Saskatoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Budget Suggestions

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The opposition New Democrats have been pushing this government to diversify our economy. Our natural resources are a gift, but we can't keep putting so many of our eggs in just one basket. We need more eggs and more baskets. We need to encourage growth in knowledge-based fields like research, science and technology, and in arts and culture including film and television.

We're grateful that this government changed its mind and agreed to support the legislation put forward by the Leader of the Opposition for a monthly Buy Local Day. We hope this government will also change its mind on the bill put forward by our Deputy Leader which would fix this government's procurement policy so that Saskatchewan businesses don't keep losing out to out-of-province corporations. We want this government to restore our film employment tax credit, and we want them to finally get serious about education and training opportunities for First Nations and Métis people because we know the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] economists say that we're missing out on a \$90 billion economic opportunity by failing to do that.

These are a few tangible steps that this government could take today to boost and diversify our economy and to ensure that our prosperity is sustainable over the long term. We hope they'll do that today, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

### Community Connections Celebrates Cultures

**Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you. On March 15th, my colleague, the member from Regina Northeast, and I were able to attend our fourth Community Connections annual event held at the Glencairn Neighbourhood Rec Centre, celebrating the growing multicultural character of Regina. This year's event was titled

This is Our Community a Celebration of Cultures.

Community Connections began in 2012 with the Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Community Connections grant program. The Regina Public Library used this grant to partner with the Regina Open Door Society, the Dewdney East Community Association, and members of the community to create the first Community Connections event. With hundreds of people in attendance, the event offers a fun afternoon of free, family-friendly, multicultural performances by local artists and performers, ethnic food, and a chance to meet and visit with neighbours. Community Connections is known for attracting citizens from across the city, and many in attendance are brand new to our country. Mr. Speaker, events like Community Connections are continuing to make our community strong and our newcomers feel welcome.

I'd ask all members in this Assembly to join me in congratulating all the hard-working volunteers on another successful event. It was a real pleasure to meet all the wonderful families and welcome new Saskatchewanians to our neighbourhood this past Sunday. Thank you.

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

#### **Moose Jaw Students Perform at Carnegie Hall**

**Mr. Lawrence:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise in the House today to congratulate the 11 students from Vanier Collegiate Chamber Choir on being invited to perform at Carnegie Hall. Last year the choir took gold at the WorldStrides Heritage Music Festival in New York. Their gold rating at the festival earned them an invitation to perform with other students in the festival at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Speaker, the four-day event began last Friday with the Vanier Chamber Choir heading to New York to join some of the best student musicians from around Canada and the United States to perform at Carnegie Hall. The students performed as part of the National Youth Choir and rehearsed with the world-renowned musical educators like André J. Thomas. They practised hard during rehearsals to learn the music that they were given for the prestigious performance.

Mr. Speaker, it is always great to hear how the young people of our province are ambitious and hard working. I believe we will be hearing about these students' musical careers in the future. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Vanier Collegiate Chamber Choir for making it to the Big Apple to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Population Growth in Saskatchewan**

**Ms. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an exciting day for many reasons, and this government has more people than ever to share that excitement with. Saskatchewan is continuing to grow, and our population has topped 1,132,640 people for the first time in our province's history. This morning Statistics

Canada reported Saskatchewan grew by more than 17,000 people in 2014.

This past year was the eighth straight year that our population has grown by more than one and a half per cent. This rate of growth is one of the highest in Canada, second only to Alberta. Saskatchewan was also one of three provinces that had positive net interprovincial migrations, as every other province lost more people to other provinces than they gained overall.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't seem that long ago when the members opposite were calling such growth farcical. Yet this province has more to offer than ever before. People across the world are seeing that, and wanting to make Saskatchewan their home. We will never go back to the days of buying our children luggage for graduation presents because they had to move away to find jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all of the newcomers to Saskatchewan this past year and wish them all the best in making this their new home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

#### **Provision of Seniors' Care**

**Mr. Broten:** — Last year seniors' care facilities put forward 250 pages of urgent requests. Now the total value of those urgent requests was just \$18.5 million. This government rejected a whole bunch of those requests, Mr. Speaker. Does the Premier remember the exact amount of the urgent requests that his government just completely rejected?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, going through a process over the last year and a half, we did work with the health regions and CEOs [chief executive officer] and the senior managers within the system and our board members to work through what are the issues within long-term care that we need to address, Mr. Speaker. We did indicate at that time — in mid-year, it wasn't in the budget — but through the work of this government, the cabinet and treasury board, we found \$10 million, Mr. Speaker, that went towards purchasing over 700 pieces of equipment needed: lifts, slings, mattresses. It also went towards some training programs. It went towards, Mr. Speaker, improving the food delivery in a number of our long-term care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I think though, what is important to note, that this government recognizes that we need to do more in long-term care. We have done a tremendous amount in long-term care in adding over 700 additional full-time equivalents in our long-term and integrated facilities, Mr. Speaker, and we are rebuilding the long-term care stock in this province which was neglected for many years.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, apparently the Premier doesn't remember the amount of the request that they just rejected from

the care facilities, or perhaps he doesn't want to talk about it, Mr. Speaker. But here's the answer: this Sask Party government rejected \$8.5 million in urgent requests put forward by seniors' care facilities. And we've been hearing from facilities across this province, Mr. Speaker, that it has just kept getting worse and worse. And we have heard as family after family after family has come forward to this legislature to demand better from this government, Mr. Speaker.

Now I wonder if this government can put aside the self-congratulatory back-patting for just one day, for just one day, and acknowledge that this government could have done so much more for seniors here in this province, especially given the record revenues that they have raked in year after year. My question to the Premier: will he at least acknowledge that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure the member opposite that this government from day one, from November of 2007 recognized the state of seniors' care in this province, recognized the importance of continuous improvement for seniors' care in Saskatchewan for the reasons that the member opposite has mentioned.

We found the system, Mr. Speaker, with too few staff. One thousand nurses short, that's what the province was. We were short in terms of care aids in long-term care. The previous government had shut down facilities, had closed long-term care beds, Mr. Speaker. That's what we found.

You know, I noted in members' statements, the member for Nutana asked the Leader of the Opposition's question for him, where did the money go over the last number of years? Well here's where some of the money went. Some of the money went to build 13 brand new long-term care facilities in the province of Saskatchewan. Some of the money went to fix the deficit left behind in terms of health care human resources: 2,600 more nurses practising of every designation. That's where some of the money went, Mr. Speaker. Four hundred more doctors practising in the province, Mr. Speaker. Capital improvements in long-term care. Urgent and emergent funds here now when the previous party in power simply ignored the issue. Their answer on long-term care was to jack up fees for long-term care residents by 90 per cent, Mr. Speaker. We're never going back to those days.

We know that continuous improvement is needed. Mr. Speaker, in a few moments the Minister of Finance will confirm that this remains a priority for the government, that the effort, the ongoing effort of dealing with what was left behind by members opposite continues on this side of the House.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, when we see the actions of this government, we see evidence, Mr. Speaker, that they have had their head in the sand. They've had a dismissive approach about the concerns when it comes to seniors' care here in the province. When you speak with families, when you speak with front-line workers, they say if staff have been added, what they see are folks sitting behind computers. What they see is more

administration. What they see are more lean consultants following front-line workers with stopwatches, Mr. Speaker. That is the reality that we have heard time and time again.

Let's look at the Saskatoon Health Region, for example. In their urgent request, they said that they need 450 care aids to provide better care. They modestly requested 38. You know what, Mr. Speaker, what this government gave? Nineteen. We can look at lifts. Saskatoon Health Region said they needed 1,700 lifts. Again they only asked for 100, Mr. Speaker. You know what they got from this government? Fifty-six. This government's record on seniors' care is absolutely appalling. With record revenues, Mr. Speaker, this government could have made smart investments, and we should have some of the best seniors' care in Canada.

My specific question to the Premier is this. When can we expect all of those urgent requests, the ones that the health regions submitted last year, when can we finally expect those requests to be filled?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, increasingly the people of the province of Saskatchewan have questions for members opposite and the member who just posed the question in terms of what they would do differently. He just characterized the government as basically making no, quote unquote, smart decisions in terms of long-term care.

Here's what's happened here recently and since 2007: health regions have received 10.04 million to address priority issues in long-term care; 3.7 million in the '14-15 budget for an Urgent Issues Action Fund; 4.5 million for Home First/Quick Response pilot programs, Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. We might hear more about that later this day. Since 2007 full-time equivalents have increased by nearly 800 in long-term care and integrated facilities. Those are care aids. Those are people providing care for seniors. I wonder what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would say about the nature of that decision.

We've funded 15 new long-term care facilities in the province of Saskatchewan; 350,000 for expansion of Alzheimer's. SIP [seniors' income plan] increase, the seniors' income program neglected by members opposite for our most vulnerable seniors for 16 years, has received in increased benefits, now 260 a month or 180 per cent increase since we took office, Mr. Speaker. There's a personal care home benefit now in the province that didn't exist under them.

There is more work to be done but, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of this province understand that when it comes to talk about seniors' care, they'll ask members opposite and the Leader of the Opposition. When they want action on seniors' care, they'll look to the record of this government and what's upcoming in the years ahead.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, I would encourage the Premier . . . I would remind him of his constituents who came to the legislature just yesterday, Mr. Speaker. They came here concerned about their loved ones living with Alzheimer's

because of the short-staffing that they see with their loved ones. They asked the question, how is it that their health region, this government had money for 13 lean consultants, Mr. Speaker, to be following health care workers around for three weeks with stopwatches, but they had no money to have enough care aids on hand in order to provide dignity and safety for their loved ones? That's the question that Saskatchewan people are asking.

The Health minister himself has said before, Mr. Speaker, that they have to actually check where the money's going because they're not sure it's going to the front lines. And that's backed up, Mr. Speaker, by what front-line workers and patients have been saying, Mr. Speaker. When senior care facilities put on their concerns, put up their concerns for urgent requests, they talk about how little hands-on care that they can actually provide to residents.

So let's look at Heartland Health Region as one example. They're struggling to provide two and a half hours of care per day to residents. We know in Regina the amount is about 2.9 hours per day. These are incredibly uneven levels across the province and they're also incredibly inadequate, Mr. Speaker. And I don't think that's acceptable. It wouldn't be acceptable if my grandma needed care, and I believe it's not acceptable for any senior in the province.

My question to the Premier: when will we finally have minimum regulated care standards, Mr. Speaker, and appropriate regulated staffing levels here in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, there are standards of care for senior care in the province of Saskatchewan. We constantly have to stand in this place and correct the record when the Leader of the Opposition is done asking a question.

Here's another important correction. Mr. Speaker, what we found out yesterday, in terms of what's happening in Swift Current, is that under this new model pilot project there are more continuing care aids than before; the model that the opposition would have us, I guess, return to. There are actually more continuing care aids providing care.

Now the commitment yesterday I made when I met with those constituents, and I made it here in the House as well, is that when this pilot project concludes, if we're not finding that more care aids provides better care, well, Mr. Speaker, we won't continue with it. We will continue to pursue ways to improve care for seniors in the province of Saskatchewan.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, I think the best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour for both sides of the House. In the past, those members didn't train enough nurses, didn't train enough doctors, left the province with a shortage. In the past, those members, when they had a chance to do more than talk about something, what did they do? They closed long-term care beds in the province. That has changed in the last seven years.

Admittedly, there's more to be done. But what has changed is that we are now building long-term care facilities in the

province: integrated care open in Kipling, a facility open in Radville as well, Mr. Speaker, very recently . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member for Athabasca is chirping from his chair, where's the money? Well part of the money went to a care home in Radville and a care home in Kipling and 13 other long-term care facilities. We paid \$3 billion off of NDP [New Democratic Party] debt. We're doubling infrastructure spending in the province. That's where the money went. We're increasing tax relief for Saskatchewan people.

The member wants to know where the money went. It went back in Saskatchewan people's pockets where it belongs. It went to long-term care and to health investment. And I look forward to answering more questions.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier's constituents didn't drive all the way to Regina and share their stories in the public, Mr. Speaker, because they think it's going well and they're satisfied, Mr. Speaker. They're here because they see the very real concerns with the model and the resources that this government is putting in place.

We talk about minimum care standards. It's ridiculous for this government to suggest that there are minimum care standards in place. Otherwise we would not have horrific story after horrific story coming to the legislature. You know, we should listen to the chief of staff of the Health minister who admitted in an email, Mr. Speaker, that what's in place with this government after they pulled the minimum regulations in 2011 are now extremely vague and general guidelines, Mr. Speaker. And it is clearly not working.

We think of Adrian Seaborne, Savannah Gunderson, Emily Krushelnicki, Jessie Sellwood, Margaret Froess, Lorne Rowell, Irene Hohne, Art Healey, Fern Chingos, and Margaret Warholm. These are just some of the people who have come forward and shared their horrible stories, Mr. Speaker, and our heart breaks for them, Mr. Speaker. But we need a government that pulls its head out of the sand and actually realizes what its actions have done and the reality for so many seniors here in the province.

My question to the Premier: how many more families have to come forward with their tragic stories? How much more heartbreak and sadness do we have to see before we can see this government bring in regulated staffing levels, minimum care standards, and better investments when it comes to seniors' care here in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the health care system in this province each and every day works hard to provide care for over 8,700 residents that are in our care in a loving and compassionate manner that meets their needs, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to put on the record, as the Premier has already, that we do have minimum standards in this province, Mr. Speaker. We have a document that is 193 pages long that clearly reflects and outlines what the rights and responsibilities



of not only the facility and those that operate it, but also of the residents, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that in this province that despite having, I think, a significant number of new facilities being built across this province — the Premier outlined 13 that were announced; Swift Current is going to replace three outdated facilities; Samaritan Place, a 100-bed facility that also allows for partners to stay together even if one of the partners doesn't need long-term care, which the NDP opposed that project, Mr. Speaker — we have roughly the same number of beds that we did seven years ago under the NDP and we have nearly 800 additional full-time workers. We take staffing seriously, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that there was the ability for the Ministry of Health to inspect long-term care facilities, but that ended under the NDP when they stopped inspecting and then actually repealed that standard.

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

#### Funding for Education

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, the real needs in health care, in seniors' care have been woefully neglected by this Sask Party government despite record revenues, and that's a direct reflection upon the misplaced priorities of that government. We see this in education as well.

School boards and teachers and support staff are doing the best they can, but they don't have the kind of partner they need in that government. With record revenues over the past number of years, we should have the best schools in the country, and we certainly shouldn't have overcrowded classrooms and schools propped up with two-by-fours and two-by-sixes and a top secret list of \$1.5 billion of needed repairs.

How can the Education minister explain the disconnect between the government's record revenues and the growing challenges in our schools? Why have they failed to get the job done where it counts the most?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An interesting question from the government that chose to leave us with over a \$1 billion deficit on capital in schools. Interesting question from the members opposite that closed 176 schools. They neglected the schools that they didn't close. We've invested almost four times what the NDP did into the schools in our province. Mr. Speaker, something else that they did: they drove 35,000 students out of our province.

Mr. Speaker, under this government, we've increased operating funding by 26.5 per cent. We've increased capital spending by 268 per cent. We've increased child care spaces by 53 per cent. We've increased pre-K [pre-kindergarten] spaces by 104 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we've undertaken a historic consultative process called Student First to make sure that we commit resources, we commit capital, and we commit people where they need to be — in the classroom for the students of our province, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, like we see from that Ed. minister all the time, it's more boasting and back-patting, and a real failure to look at the realities in classrooms across Saskatchewan. The Prairie Spirit School Division sent out a letter to parents this week saying that their per-student funding has been cut every year since 2012. Here's what the school division identifies are the implications of the Sask Party government's decisions: fewer staff working directly with students, less funding to support students with diverse needs, less funding to support extracurricular activities, less funding for student programs, and less funding for building and maintenance needs.

And by the way, this is the very school division that found five of their schools not structurally sound, that are now propped up by two-by-fours and two-by-sixes. And everyone in this room would know these issues aren't isolated to just that school division, Mr. Speaker, there are issues right across the province. What does the Education minister have to say to parents and students and teachers facing these kinds of cutbacks?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to correct some factual things that was in the release made earlier. Mr. Speaker, the newsletter claims there will be a \$6 million reduction. In fact that has never been the case. There has never been a case where Prairie Spirit received less than they did before. Mr. Speaker, in fact they've received increases each and every year since we formed government.

Since November 2007, that division has received a 27 per cent increase in operating funding, outpacing their enrolment growth of 18 per cent. That is over and above \$90 million in capital to build new schools and repair existing ones. Mr. Speaker, there may have been a deficit in capital over there, but it was caused by those members over there.

Mr. Speaker, 2007-2008, Prairie Spirit received \$79.135 million; 2014-2015, \$100 million, Mr. Speaker, an increase in 7 years of 27 per cent. Mr. Speaker, we'll make no apologies with regard to our record with Prairie Spirit. I can go on, and I've got other things that I can provide as well, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Costs and Benefits of the Lean Initiative

**Ms. Chartier:** — This government has been neglecting what really matters in health care, seniors' care, and education. At the same time, it has been pouring untold millions into wasteful pet projects like the John Black lean project.

Earlier this week, we showed that this government is still taking health care workers off the front lines and forcing them into John Black lean training which involves memorizing Japanese words. Yesterday the second Health minister said that health care workers have told him "... they don't know how they would communicate with staff as efficiently, as effectively as

they have been trained through lean processes and using some of the Japanese terminology.” Really? Does this minister seriously think that it’s easier for our health care workers to communicate with each other in Japanese?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the members will know, since 2008 we’ve invested \$40.5 million in lean initiatives in this province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have saved approximately \$125 million since that time. Mr. Speaker, when we’re endeavouring to ensure that our health care system is more efficient and able to serve a better quality of product, Mr. Speaker, we have looked towards other industries to see what is best practices.

Mr. Speaker, I will say this though, that in terms of the quality of the product, the service that we can provide, Mr. Speaker, lean has been an important tool. But it’s one tool. We have to ensure that we have the proper facilities. That’s why we’ve invested over \$1 billion in health care capital in this province. We have to ensure we have the front-line staff: 425 additional physicians, Mr. Speaker, in this province; 2,600 additional nurses in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that we are operating in an efficient way, Mr. Speaker. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we are doing so in this province. We’re demonstrating that in this province, and we’ll continue to do so in the future.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — This government has spent untold millions flying in senseis from Japan to Saskatchewan to provide bizarre training to health care workers. It has sent over 800 health care workers to the United States for John Black lean field trips which include a tour of an airbag factory in Utah. This is the kind of nonsense that that Sask Party government has prioritized.

And this government is still forcing the 45,000 health care workers in our province to memorize Japanese words. And yesterday, Mr. Speaker, we learned why. The second Health minister said this government believes it’s easier for our health care workers to communicate with each other in Japanese rather than English. That’s what he said. Could the minister please explain how this makes any sense?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I’ll give another example of why we’re doing this work in this province. Mr. Speaker, for the in-patient mental health recovery support program — I believe this is in Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region — for a patient that was accessing services, Mr. Speaker, they would wait two to three weeks after having services as an in-patient, then being discharged, their follow-up care, they would wait on average two to three weeks, Mr. Speaker.

After redesigning that process, Mr. Speaker, resulting in double of the capacity without a single increase in resources, Mr. Speaker, patient intake per nurse doubled from two to four.

Patients now start their program immediately upon discharge, Mr. Speaker, instead of waiting two to three weeks.

Now I think, Mr. Speaker, I think that’s what we should be doing in health care. I think we should be lowering our wait times. I think we should be improving our systems and our services, Mr. Speaker, and I think we should be acting in a more timely way. This is just one example of why we’re doing that work. I would hope the members opposite would agree that that’s good work to do.

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

### Government Usage of Consultants

**Mr. McCall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Ministry of Central Services has dramatically ramped up its use of consultants, 168 per cent since 2008, alongside the 228 per cent government-wide that’s taken place under this government’s watch.

The independent Provincial Auditor has criticized this, saying that the Sask Party government’s approach leads to money being spent unnecessarily and inefficiently and at a much greater expense for taxpayers. The auditor even says that in 70 per cent of the cases, this government isn’t documenting why the consultants are being hired. How can the Minister of Central Services possibly explain why the government is hiring so many consultants without even documenting the reasons?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Central Services.

**Hon. Ms. Campeau:** — Mr. Speaker, the auditor would like to see a more formalized process, and the ministry has prepared a draft of a new policy called consulting procurement guidelines. The guidelines outline how to measure consultant performance and the need to do so. This new policy is currently in draft, but we are hoping to provide these new guidelines to employees who hire consultants at the beginning of April. Work on these guidelines began in February.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Let me repeat the point, Mr. Speaker, because it speaks volumes to how this government has been treating taxpayers’ money. The independent Provincial Auditor said this government has dramatically increased spending on consultants, and 70 per cent of the time this government is not even documenting why those consultants are being hired. So there’s not even a proper paper trail for why the consultants were hired or what exactly they’re supposed to be delivering.

This government has created an all-you-can-eat buffet for its friends in consulting companies, and Saskatchewan people are being stuck with the tab. Again to the minister: how can she possibly explain why this government isn’t even documenting the reasons why it’s hiring the consultants in the first place?

[14:15]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Central Services.

**Hon. Ms. Campeau:** — Mr. Speaker, under that government,

they had as many as 343, 344 FTEs [full-time equivalent] working on IT [information technology]. We have reduced that by 43 per cent and have also reduced our consultants by 33 per cent. And we've never had as many as 100 IT consultants on the IT file like that government had.

Further, given the hiring restraints, I have instructed when IT consulting contracts come up for renewal, an evaluation and determination of whether they are required is done to ensure base services are maintained. Since December the Ministry of Central Services has terminated 12 IT contracts for a total contract value of \$2.1 million, Mr. Speaker.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Crown and Central Agencies.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*, bilingual, without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister for Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this bill be now read a third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the minister.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### 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*

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Crown Investments that Bill No. 165, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Third reading of this bill.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this bill be now read a third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Crown Investments has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 176 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Crown Investments that Bill No. 176, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Third reading of this bill.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### TABLING OF ESTIMATES AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to submit the estimates and supplementary estimates accompanied by a message from Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

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

The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31st, 2016, and supplementary estimates - March of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31, 2015, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly. The Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

You may be seated. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

### MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGETARY POLICY (BUDGET DEBATE)

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, and visitors, I'm honoured to rise today and present our government's 2015-16 budget. This is my fifth and final budget as Finance minister. I'm going to still be around for a little while yet, but this does seem like a culmination of the 20 years I've had the privilege to serve in this Assembly.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many, many people I need to thank. The people of Canora-Pelly constituency who elected me five times, thank you for your support. The many individuals and organizations I have met with over the years as an opposition member, as Deputy Premier, as Education minister, and most recently as Finance minister, thank you for all of your ideas and advice. The many hard-working professional public servants I have worked with, the Ministry of Finance officials led by an extremely capable deputy minister, Clare Isman, thank you for your hard work and dedication. The staff I have worked with over the years in my ministerial offices, thank you your for hard work and for putting up with me.

And of course the Premier and my colleagues in the Saskatchewan Party caucus, thank you for your counsel, your patience, your support, your good humour, and for giving me the opportunity to serve as Finance minister of this great province. It has been the greatest opportunity, the greatest challenge, the greatest privilege, and the greatest honour of my career.

Mr. Speaker, I would even like to thank the members opposite for all those years in government for showing me what not to do and, as opposition, for performing the important democratic duty of holding government accountable.

And I would like to thank my family. I could have done

precisely none of this without you.

[Applause]

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I wasn't going to bother getting new shoes for this year's budget, but my family insisted that I should have new shoes for my last budget, so I am standing in new shoes today because of my family. And that seems fitting because I quite simply wouldn't be standing here at all today without the love and support of my family. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to see everyone in the Chamber today. Welcome to all of you. I'm especially pleased to welcome friends and relatives from many different communities in Saskatchewan but especially those who have travelled from the Canora-Pelly constituency and more importantly from my hometown of Invermay and Rama. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to introduce some very special guests. Seated in the west gallery are my son and daughter-in-law, Bryce and Olivia Krawetz, and my precious granddaughters Willow and Scarlett. Hi, girls. On the floor of the Assembly, seated behind the bar are my brother and sister-in-law, Dave and Marlene Krawetz, from Big River, Saskatchewan, and some long-time friends who have travelled from Calgary, Alberta to be here today. I am pleased to welcome Barry and Pat Slusarchuk. And the most important person in my life, my wife, Gail, thank you for your support and encouragement. There I'm done.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I stand before you and before this Legislative Assembly to announce my fifth and final budget as Minister of Finance, honouring tradition, confident in our economy, proud of the budget I am about to deliver for the people of this province and tremendously excited about the future of this great province.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues will tell you I use a lot of numbers when I speak, so I want to set the stage for today's budget with two important numbers. The first one is \$100.08. One year ago today, that was the spot price of a barrel of oil — \$100.08. Today a barrel of oil sells for less than half that. Obviously this number presents some pretty significant challenges when building a budget. In a moment I will outline how our government is meeting those challenges.

But first I want to note one other number, an even more important number: 1,132,640. That's the new population of Saskatchewan announced just this morning — 1,132,640. Mr. Speaker, that represents growth of more than 122,000 people in the past seven years, and it means Saskatchewan's population has now grown more during the term of our current Premier than during the term of any other premier since our first, Walter Scott, a century ago. That's the strongest period of growth since the earliest days of our province.

This number tells us, while our budget faces challenges, Saskatchewan is strong. Our economy is strong. Our people are strong. And this budget is all about keeping Saskatchewan strong. Despite the falling oil price, Saskatchewan's economy is more diversified than ever and well positioned to meet this

challenge.

Now government does not drive the economy but, by making the right decisions, governments can create the right conditions for economic growth. Or as we've seen in the past, governments can make the wrong decisions, such as raising taxes and failing to invest in infrastructure, decisions that lead to economic decline and population loss. We have chosen a different path. We're determined to avoid the mistakes of the past and make the right budget decisions that will keep Saskatchewan strong. Here are some of those decisions.

One, we will keep taxes low. Over the past few years, our government has delivered the largest tax cuts in Saskatchewan history, and this budget contains no new tax increases.

Two, we will continue to invest in infrastructure. Our government has already made record investments in infrastructure, and this budget invests an unprecedented \$3.3 billion in highways, schools, health facilities, and Crown sector capital.

Three, we will control operating spending. This budget contains just a marginal increase in spending of 1.2 per cent, and 10 ministries and agencies have seen their budgets reduced.

Four, we will help the private sector create jobs. This budget contains new tax incentives for new job creation and continues to support increased training opportunities for our young people.

And five, we will balance the budget. I am pleased to say for the fifth time as Finance minister, this budget is a balanced budget: overall revenue of \$14.28 billion, up just 1.2 per cent from last year; overall spending of \$14.17 billion, also up just 1.2 per cent from last year. Saskatchewan's 2015-16 budget is balanced with a surplus of \$107 million.

Mr. Speaker, in order to get to balance without raising taxes, we had to make some tough decisions. That meant keeping our operating spending under control. This budget continues our government's track record of investing in what matters most: in Saskatchewan people and in the types of infrastructure that our people value and depend upon most, such as schools, highways, and health care facilities. At the same time, we have made some difficult but necessary choices on the spending side with the goal of keeping Saskatchewan strong. That means some areas funded by government will receive less than they might have hoped for once again this year.

[14:30]

Our government's commitment to control operating spending in this budget actually began last month with the Premier's announcement of a wage freeze for all senior government officials, including MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and cabinet ministers throughout the 2015-16 fiscal year. Across government the wage freeze is expected to save about \$15 million.

Mr. Speaker, investment in health, education, and social services and assistance continue to be priorities of our government, accounting for nearly three-quarters of all expense

in this budget. The overall operational spending lift in those key areas is just under 2 per cent. Categories outside those priority areas are budgeted to spend 0.6 per cent less this year. In addition, the active families benefit, graduate retention program, seniors' drug plan, Saskatchewan employment supplement, and the research and development tax credit program are being changed to ensure their ongoing sustainability.

The income threshold related to the seniors' drug plan is being lowered from about \$80,000 to about \$65,500, ensuring the benefit is sustainable and continues to help those seniors with less income.

The active families benefit will be income tested, available to families with net incomes below \$60,000 to ensure it continues to benefit those families who need it most.

The graduate retention program will become a non-refundable tax credit while remaining the most aggressive youth retention program in Canada. Post-secondary graduates who stay in Saskatchewan will still be able to receive the full amount of their tuition back, up to \$20,000, through a reduction in their provincial income tax. They will now have up to 10 years instead of seven to use this tax reduction.

The Saskatchewan employment supplement is changing to keep the benefit affordable and still help families with younger children, those who need it most.

The research and development tax credit will now be fully non-refundable, and the rate is being reduced from 15 per cent to 10 per cent of qualifying research and development expenditures. These changes will also help to maintain a sustainable level of support for innovation and research activities in the province.

On the revenue side, a change is being made to the potash production tax. The total amount of deductions which potash producers receive from their capital spending will now be utilized over a longer period of time. As a result of this change and overall growth in the potash industry, potash revenue is expected to be up nearly \$400 million this year. This change was made following consultation with the potash industry, and I note that this industry continues to show tremendous confidence in Saskatchewan. Major capital expansions are continuing, and just last week Mosaic announced a further \$1.7 billion investment in the K3 mine at Esterhazy, making this the largest potash mine in the world and creating as many as 600 new jobs during construction.

This interim step, taken this year, will be followed by a broader review of the entire potash taxation and royalty regime. However, any further changes resulting from a review must balance the excellent investment and operational environment for this sector, which is so important to the provincial economy, with the need for a fair return for the owners of the resource, the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, instead of controlling operating spending, our government could have made a different choice, a choice we have seen in the past. We could have raised taxes. But that would have been bad for Saskatchewan people and bad for the economy, and this budget is about keeping Saskatchewan

strong. As a result of controlling operating spending, this budget contains no tax increases — no personal tax increase, no business tax increase, no education property tax increase, no increase to the fuel tax, and no reduction in revenue sharing with municipalities which could have contributed to higher taxes at the municipal level.

This budget provides \$265.3 million in revenue sharing — the largest grant ever provided to Saskatchewan municipalities — an increase of \$8.3 million compared to last year, and an increase of \$138 million, or more than 108 per cent, from the 2007-08 budget.

In total, since 2007 our government has delivered more than \$5 billion in tax relief. As a result, a family of four pays no Saskatchewan income tax on their first \$49,155 of income, the highest tax-free threshold for a family of four in Canada. And a family of four with \$50,000 income has seen their provincial income tax cut by more than 95 per cent since 2007, from about \$2,300 to less than \$100 in 2015. A single senior with an income of \$25,000 is now paying only \$16 in provincial income tax for 2015.

This year consideration was given to increasing education property tax, but we decided to keep the mill rates the same. Since education property tax reform in 2009, mill rates have only been lowered. Mill rates have not been adjusted to keep up with inflation, growing enrolments, or the increased cost of school operating over the past several years. In fact the share of operating funding provided by the government has risen to 65 per cent with education property tax providing 35 per cent, surpassing our government's goal of 60/40.

While there is no increase this year, rebalancing may be necessary in future years in order to ensure a sustainable and equitable funding base for the critically important education sector. I can assure the people of Saskatchewan that we will never go back to the days of 40/60.

Mr. Speaker, our government had another choice to make in this budget. Do we stop building? Do we stop investing in infrastructure as we have seen governments do at times in the past? Or do we continue to show confidence in Saskatchewan's economy today and continue building for the needs of tomorrow? We chose to keep building Saskatchewan.

Controlling operating spending also allows us to continue our government's unprecedented investment in infrastructure. This budget begins a four-year, \$5.8 billion commitment — the Saskatchewan Builds capital plan — to build and maintain needed core infrastructure such as schools, health care facilities, municipal infrastructure, roads, bridges, and highways.

This budget provides more than \$1.3 billion for core infrastructure in 2015-16, the largest infrastructure allocation in our province's history and an increase of almost 50 per cent from last year. This investment is in addition to the \$2 billion in capital investment forecast this year by the commercial Crown corporations, largely SaskPower, SaskTel, and SaskEnergy.

Including this budget, our government has now committed more than \$3 billion to core government infrastructure since 2013-14, exceeding the growth plan commitment to invest 2.5 billion in

infrastructure from 2013-14 to the end of 2015-16.

We are continuing to build roads and highways. This budget commits 842 million in 2015-16 to building, operating, and maintaining highways and transportation infrastructure, which will bring the total over the past four years to more than \$2.7 billion, exceeding the \$2.2 billion commitment in the growth plan. This includes \$211 million to begin construction on the next phase of the Regina bypass, the largest infrastructure project in Saskatchewan history.

This budget also provides funding for significant twinning projects: 23 million for the twinning of Highway 16 east of Saskatoon to east of Clavet, 11.4 million for twinning Highway 7 from Saskatoon to Delisle, 7.6 million for twinning Highway 39 from Estevan to Bienfait, and \$1.2 million for initial work on twinning Highways 6 and 39 from Regina to Estevan.

This budget also includes funding for interchanges at Warman and Martensville, and passing lanes on Highway 7 from Delisle to Rosetown, and on Highway 5 from Saskatoon to Humboldt.

We are continuing to support municipal infrastructure investment. This budget commits \$74.5 million for municipal infrastructure in 2015-16 with plans to invest over \$400 million over the next four years. Including provincial, municipal, and federal contributions, more than \$1 billion has been invested in municipal infrastructure in Saskatchewan since 2008.

We are continuing to build and renovate schools. This budget provides \$248 million in capital in 2015-16 for K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] schools, up over \$150 million compared to last year. Mr. Speaker, that allocation is the largest we have ever put in place for school construction and renovations in our province's history.

In 2015-16, construction will begin on nine joint-use schools, potentially through a P3 [public-private partnership] procurement process in the high-growth communities of Martensville, Warman, Saskatoon, and Regina.

Construction will also begin on three new schools approved for planning last year: Connaught elementary and Sacred Heart both here in Regina, and a new school in St. Brieux. This year a major renovation project will begin at Hague High School. And this budget also provides more than \$28 million to complete eight other school projects started in previous years in the communities of Saskatoon, Martensville, Weyburn, Langenburg, Gravelbourg, and Hudson Bay. Over the next four years, almost \$900 million will be invested to build and renovate schools.

Beginning this year, school divisions will no longer be required to contribute the local share costs of major school capital projects. This policy change means the province will fund 100 per cent of the capital costs for major school projects, including those that have been announced but have not begun construction.

We are also continuing to make a significant capital investment in our universities, regional colleges, and other post-secondary training institutions. This budget commits \$46.6 million in capital in 2015-16 for advanced education and training,

including 23.6 million for maintenance and the balance for continued construction of the Southeast Regional College, the Trades and Technology Centre at Parkland Regional College, and the Academic Health Sciences facility at the University of Saskatchewan. The four-year plan forecasts almost \$185 million for advanced education and training capital.

We continue to invest in hospitals and other health care infrastructure. This budget provides \$256 million for health capital, an increase of over \$161 million from last year. Some of the key projects include \$65 million to continue construction of the Swift Current long-term care P3 project which is expected to be complete in spring 2016. And it includes funding in 2016 for construction of the replacement of the Saskatchewan Hospital at North Battleford, potentially using a P3 procurement model. Several other major projects are under way, including the new hospital in Moose Jaw, planning for rejuvenation of the Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert, planning for a new acute care centre in Weyburn, the new Leader integrated care facility, and the Kelvington integrated care facility. The four-year plan is to invest more than \$700 million in health facilities.

[14:45]

And this budget will continue to support tourism by investing over \$13 million in capital projects at Saskatchewan's beautiful provincial parks, including new campgrounds, new campsites, and the electrification of existing campsites.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Builds capital plan is an ambitious plan to address the growing infrastructure of a growing province. And it required our government to ask an important question: is now the time to borrow for capital projects? Interest rates are at historically low levels. Over the past seven years, our government has paid off more than 3 billion of the province's operational debt, resulting in cumulative savings of nearly \$1 billion in interest.

Last September, Moody's Investor Services upgraded Saskatchewan's credit rating to AAA, the highest rating possible. Moody's said the upgrade, and I quote, "... reflects the province's fiscal discipline and sustained low debt levels, which underscore prudent financial management practices."

Saskatchewan now enjoys the highest possible ratings from both Moody's and Standard & Poor's. Overall, our province has achieved one of the highest credit ratings of any jurisdiction in North America, and the second lowest tax-supported debt-to-GDP [gross domestic product] ratio among the provinces.

Mr. Speaker, our population continues to grow, as do our capital needs. Just as a growing family moves to a larger house when a mortgage can be managed, the province's resilient economy, positive outlook, and sound fiscal management leading to strong credit ratings now provides a solid foundation from which to borrow in order to build. We looked at perhaps stopping or pausing some projects, but delaying much-needed projects would just mean higher construction costs in the years ahead, and the infrastructure gap would continue to grow.

As well we believe that continuing major capital construction

projects this year through the Saskatchewan Builds capital plan will have a positive impact on the economy, creating jobs and sending a strong signal that Saskatchewan is confident we will weather the downturn in the oil sector. We chose to continue building Saskatchewan.

So our government will borrow an estimated \$700 million to invest in core government capital during 2015-16, taking advantage of the current low interest rates. The balance on the capital plan will be funded with available cash including \$106 million from the proceeds of the 2013 sale of Information Services Corporation, public-private partnerships, and federal transfers.

A key aspect of the borrowing plan is the debt repayment plan. It's okay to have a mortgage on your house as long as you are able to manage the mortgage payments. We will manage our payments. Amounts borrowed to finance infrastructure assets will be separately identified, and at least 2 per cent of the value of the borrowed amount will be set aside and invested each year to ensure sufficient cash will be available to repay the debt as it comes due.

Borrowing for long-term capital needs for tangible assets such as schools, hospitals, and highways that Saskatchewan people need and will use for decades is much different than borrowing for annual operations. And, Mr. Speaker, let me be clear: our government will not borrow for operating.

To help keep Saskatchewan strong and also fulfill our growth plan, our growth plan commitments, this budget also introduces two new tax incentives, the first one aimed at job creation, the second with a goal of generating more capital investment. Saskatchewan is already Canada's largest per capita exporter, and we're going to build on that strength.

The new manufacturing and processing exporter tax incentive supports the growth plan goals of doubling Saskatchewan's exports and having 60,000 more people working in the province, both by the year 2020. This incentive will provide tax credits to eligible corporations that increase their number of full-time employees. In addition to the traditional manufacturing and processing sector, the incentive will also apply to corporations involved in the commercial development of new economy products for export including interactive digital media and creative industry products. The incentive will also provide tax credits to eligible corporations that increase the number of full-time employees who do work typically considered to be head office functions.

The second new tax incentive is an income tax rebate for primary steel production, supporting the growth plan commitment to encourage new capital investment. The income tax rebate will provide an incentive for eligible primary steel producers that make a minimum capital investment of \$100 million in new or expanded productive capacity. We believe these incentives and the overall strength of Saskatchewan's economy will continue to lead to new job creation in our province.

Our government remains committed to ensuring our young people have the skills and training they need to take on those new jobs. This budget provides for various training

opportunities to help develop a skilled workforce, vital to a growing province. In fact, Mr. Speaker, when asked about the number one challenge businesses face in Saskatchewan, owners and executives say loud and clear it is about finding and keeping skilled workers. And it all starts with training.

We are continuing to invest in the training of nurses and doctors with the provision of nearly \$27 million, which is up more than 10 per cent from last year, to fulfill three medical training commitments: 100 medical training seats, 120 medical residency seats, and 20 new nurse practitioner seats.

This budget also helps Saskatchewan people complete their adult basic education or ABE, enhancing their employment prospects and quality of life. This year 200 additional ABE seats will be added, bringing the total to 8,780 through a total investment of more than \$25.6 million in 2015-16. As a result, we expect to meet our growth plan commitment to eliminate ABE wait-list in 2016-17.

Our diverse economy also needs more skilled tradespeople. This budget provides \$1 million in additional funding to help add 300 more apprenticeship training seats this year. This brings the total number of training seats to 7,000 in 2015-16 at a total cost of about \$23.2 million.

This budget also includes more support for Aboriginal students and training programs. We are increasing the operating funding for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies by more than 22 per cent in this budget to a total of nearly \$2.2 million in 2015-16, to better align SIIT's [Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies] funding to other technical institutes.

Overall this budget provides more than \$210 million for targeted program funding for First Nations and Métis people, including a significant portion for training and employment initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to supporting students, and this budget includes a \$1 million increase in provincial training allowance, bringing the total to more than 32 million to cover living costs associated with the additional ABE seats while people attend training. We are also providing \$3.25 million in total for the apprenticeship training allowance to support the increase in training seats. The Student Aid Fund, including grants, bursaries, and student loans, amounts to \$32.5 million in this budget. The Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship which lowers tuition for every Saskatchewan high school grad is \$9 million, an increase of \$2.3 million from last year.

There is \$5.5 million for a number of other scholarships and \$6.5 million for the Saskatchewan advantage grant for education savings. Our commitment to students supports accessibility to post-secondary education and the future of our province.

Health spending by the Ministry of Health, health regions, and agencies such as the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency will increase by about 1.1 per cent in this budget to \$5.5 billion. That includes \$3.3 billion in regional health authorities, an increase of \$55.7 million compared to last year for operating funding and for targeted initiatives. Much of the increase in operational spending in 2015-16 will go to increased compensation for

health care workers, the people on the front lines who ensure the system is providing the best possible care to Saskatchewan people.

Seniors' care will be improved, with \$10 million in targeted new funding in the 2015-16 budget, bringing the total to \$14.5 million specifically for enhanced seniors' care initiatives. Funding includes a \$3.5 million increase dedicated to enhance the HomeFirst program, bringing the total commitment to \$8 million, and a \$2.8 million increase for dementia behaviour units in Regina and Saskatoon.

In addition, \$2 million in this budget will provide increased choice and flexibility in care options for home care clients; \$1 million will improve quality and safety in long-term care; and \$700,000 will develop a new geriatric program in Regina.

This budget includes \$3 million in additional funding to help reduce emergency department wait times and improve patient flow. And it includes almost \$300 million for the drug plan and more than \$157 million for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

This budget provides \$3.7 billion for education spending, which includes the budgets of ministries responsible for the pre-K to 12 and post-secondary education, along with boards of education and other government entities that provide job skills training and other educational programming. That \$3.7 billion allocation represents a 2.8 per cent increase in education spending compared to last year. It also means that education spending under our government has grown by more than 32 per cent since 2009, the year the province began to set education property tax mill rates.

This budget includes nearly \$1.87 billion in total school division operating funding, an increase of 2.9 per cent. That includes nearly \$960 million for teachers' salaries, which includes increases based on the recent settlement, and it includes 965,000 for the initial operating year of the teachers' self-regulating professional body.

This budget includes more than \$661 million for post-secondary operating funding. That includes operating increases of 1 per cent for universities, affiliated and regional colleges, and 2 per cent for technical institutes and federated colleges.

Spending on social services and assistance to help provide for those most vulnerable in our society, including seniors and people with disabilities, will grow by about 3.2 per cent this year to a total of \$1.2 billion. This means that under our government, spending on social services and assistance has grown by more than 34 per cent since 2008.

This budget continues our government's unprecedented investments on behalf of Saskatchewan people who are most vulnerable.

[15:00]

For example, it provides more than 200 million, an increase of almost 27 million or 15 per cent, for the Saskatchewan assured income for disabilities program, the SAID program. This fulfills our platform commitment to increase benefits each year for four years and also responds to strong program demand.



This budget provides more than \$159 million for the Saskatchewan assistance program, the SAP program, up 4.4 per cent as a result of cost-per-case increases and program uptake.

This budget provides more than 160 million to assist people with complex and emerging needs. It provides more than 62 million, an increase of more than 5 per cent, for out-of-home care for children in need of protection. And for the eighth consecutive budget, we will increase the monthly benefit under the seniors' income plan. A \$10 a month increase on July 1st, 2015 will mean that since 2007, seniors' income plan benefits will have tripled to \$270 a month after being frozen at just \$90 for the previous 16 years.

Mr. Speaker, those are just a few of the many, many examples of how we are making much needed investments in the areas of health, education, and social services to improve our quality of life and keep Saskatchewan strong.

As we announced in 2014-15, Saskatchewan has moved to a single summary budget and financial reporting, consistent with the recommendation of the Provincial Auditor. Over the year we have transitioned a number of our reports, including first and third quarter summary reports for the first time ever. We indicated last year the transition will take time and that our work is continuing.

One new change in this budget is the separate presentation of the pension adjustment to account for the pension expense on an accrual basis. This new presentation highlights and explains the adjustment.

In this budget, spending on the broad themes of health, education, and social services and assistance accounts for nearly three-quarters of all government expense. Spending in these areas is forecast at \$10.4 billion in 2015-16, up 1.9 per cent from last year, but that is an increase of nearly 68 per cent since 2007-08. Over \$4.3 billion more being spent on health, education, and social services, that's where the money went.

This year we will continue to fully fund agricultural business risk management programs like AgriStability, AgriInvest, and crop insurance. In fact the Minister of Agriculture recently announced enhancement to the 2015 crop insurance coverage, lowering producer premiums while increasing coverage levels. Overall, while this budget required our government to control operating spending, this budget maintains funding levels that ensure government ministries and third party sectors can continue to sustain important programs for Saskatchewan people.

So there you have it, the 2015-16 Saskatchewan budget: a budget that keeps taxes low; a budget that controls operational spending; a budget that continues to make much needed investment in schools, highways, and hospitals; a budget that will help Saskatchewan businesses create new jobs and ensure our young people have the training they need to fill those jobs; a budget that is balanced; a budget that will keep Saskatchewan strong.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt this is a challenging budget, but the good news is Saskatchewan has never been in a better position to meet this challenge. More people live here than ever

before. Our unemployment rate continues to be the lowest in Canada. Exports are at an all-time high. Businesses continue to show tremendous confidence in Saskatchewan's future through major capital investments. But what gives me the most confidence is our people, Saskatchewan people: cautious yet confident, humble yet self assured, hard working and compassionate, and always optimistic about our province's future.

So as I conclude my final budget speech, that is why I can say with confidence that Saskatchewan will meet these challenges: because Saskatchewan is strong and our best days are still ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Lloydminster:

That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance:

That the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, it's my honour to briefly respond to the budget tabled today and hopefully provide the rest of the story here today, Mr. Speaker.

First, I really would like to welcome all the people from across Saskatchewan that have joined us here today in their Legislative Assembly and to thank them for not only joining us here today but for what they do every day in building the strength that we all cherish in this province that we so love. We have community leaders from every corner of this province, municipal leaders, business leaders, leaders in education and health care, working men and women, so many good friends and family also.

Our perspective on this budget has been informed by listening, by focusing on what really matters to the people and families across Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we've just listened to the budget here today. This year this government is planning to spend more than in any year previous, more than \$14 billion. The provincial budget shows that Saskatchewan can afford to fix seniors' care, build a better education system, and make life more affordable for Saskatchewan families, but they aren't going to. This government won't pass the benefit of higher revenues on to hard-working middle-class families.

As they have for years, this government is planning to spend it as fast as it comes in. And, Mr. Speaker, in order to do that, they're asking families to pay just a little more and to get just a little less. This government hasn't chosen to cut waste. Instead we see them holding back on the things that matter to Saskatchewan people.

There are a few things that stand out as bad calls for us as the opposition. The seniors' care crisis is being ignored. The funding that's announced in this budget won't even address the

so-called urgent issues identified by the health regions over a year ago. The needs in crumbling hospitals are being ignored. There's lots of numbers being announced, but there's only \$28 million set aside to repair health care buildings, and that's a tiny fraction of what's needed.

The government is actually kicking 6,000 middle-class seniors off the seniors' drug plan. The graduate retention program is being walked back on students. Parents will no longer get the Saskatchewan employment supplement once their kids are over the age of 12, and everyone in this room can identify with the costs of raising a 12- or 13- or 14-year-old.

Once promised and desperately needed, child care spaces are not going to happen, and the problems in our schools, particularly class sizes and the ratios of teachers and educational assistants to students with additional needs, is not going to get any better in this budget. This government is actually slashing English as an additional language supports on top of that, straining classrooms even further.

The government is still refusing to put a smart procurement policy in place. That means that Saskatchewan taxpayers are not getting the best value and that Saskatchewan companies are too often losing out on local work to corporations from Ontario, Quebec, and all across the United States and beyond. You know, just think of the long-term care project, the P3 in Swift Current. It's a P3. It's being built with Alberta rebar, Ontario mechanical, and Quebec steel. We're not maximizing the economic benefit we could here in this province.

It's also disappointing to see the Growth and Financial Security Fund, the so-called rainy day fund, being depleted through a period of high revenues. In 2009-10 this account had \$1.35 billion in it. This year the government will drain another \$255 million from it, and we'll be down to just \$200 million at the end of the year, all of these dollars being drained at a time of high revenues.

We could be so much better. After a decade of resource wealth, we could have better schools with smaller class sizes. We could be covering ambulance fees rather than having the highest ambulance fees in the country. We could have excellent, well-staffed seniors' care homes that serve good food and take care, good care of people. We could have long-term savings, a heritage fund, a long-lasting benefit for future generations. We could have policies in place that promote and recognize the value of local business, entrepreneurs, and economic diversity.

Instead we see this government continue on a path of high spending but with low return for Saskatchewan families. This budget is about misplaced priorities instead of focusing on what really matters: opportunity for young people, affordability for families, and security for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, because Saskatchewan families and the people of this province deserve better, the official opposition won't be supporting this budget. And while I'll have more to say on this budget tomorrow, a more detailed analysis and critique, it's been my honour to join debate here today. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I move that debate be now adjourned.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Regina Rosemont has moved

adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### Resumption of Budget Debate

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That debate on the motion that the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government be resumed on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That debate on the motion that the Assembly approves in general the budgetary policy of the government be resumed on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

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 very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — Before I place the question on the adjournment, I want to first say thank you to our guests who have joined us here today and for your co-operation in observing the rules of the Assembly. I now would like to extend an invitation to our guests to join the members for tea in the Legislative Library to your right as you leave the Assembly and in room 218 to the left. I would also ask that you allow the cabinet ministers and the MLAs to exit before you do.

At this time I will place the question. The Government House Leader has moved that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. This House stands adjourned to 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:15.]

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