



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

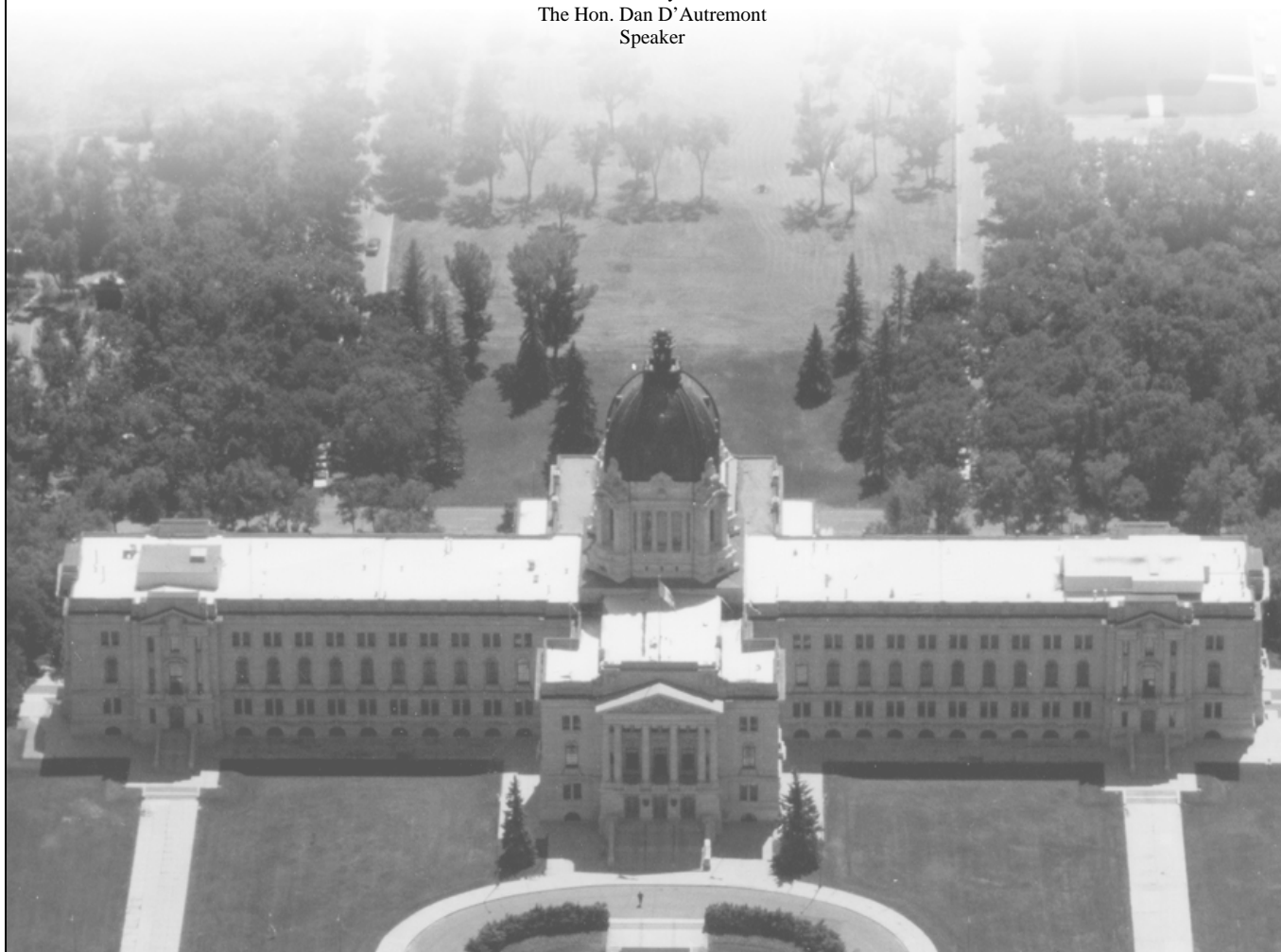
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Mr. Parent:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce 38 grade 7 and 8 students and their teachers Sarah Myers and Kayla Fraser, along with their chaperones DeAnn Eckdahl, Dixie McKay, Alayna Sirman, and Maureen Wrennick. These students are from Caswell Community School, seated in your west gallery, Mr. Speaker. I invite all members to welcome these students to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Meewasin to welcome the folks from Caswell School. Being the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Centre, I miss this school by about a block on 29th Street. You folks are on 30th. It's the school I used to teach at. So welcome very much to your legislature, and I'm glad to see you're all here. Thank you so much.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the two previous members in also welcoming the school from Caswell, as I represent part of the Caswell neighbourhood and live in Caswell. I see a few faces from Mayfair swimming pool in the summer as well in the crowd there, Mr. Speaker. So I just want to extend my welcome to this group and thank them for studying hard and for being good members of our community. Thanks so much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce someone that's very special in my life and that's my daughter, Trish. She's in the Speaker's gallery. And it's just good to have her up here today, and we get to spend more time together. We just don't get enough of that, Mr. Speaker. But I would like all members to join me in welcoming Trish to her Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Rural and Remote Health.

**Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce to you a number of guests seated on the floor behind the bar on the government's side. They are all representatives of First Steps Wellness Centre here in Regina, Mr. Speaker, and they're here on a wheelchair awareness day,

disability awareness day which some of us members are taking part in. This is why I'm still sitting down and in a wheelchair today and happy to take part.

With us today are Jessica Frotten, Nicholas D'Autremont — I'm sorry, it just says Nicholas D., Mr. Speaker — Chris Lesanko, Owen Carlson, Faye Lesanko, and Ilonah Evangelista. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to welcome these fine people to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite and the minister in welcoming these representatives of First Steps Wellness here today to their Assembly, and for us to take part in wheelchairs in the legislature. Certainly, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your co-operation today to have us partake and have a small glimpse into some of the practical challenges facing those that are in wheelchairs.

It's my pleasure to welcome to the Assembly Mr. Owen Carlson, executive director of First Steps Wellness; my friend, Chris Lesanko, a real leader within our community as well; his mom, Mrs. Faye Lesanko, down from Sturgis here for the Assembly here today; your son, Nick D'Autremont; an incredible athlete representing us at the Pan Am Games, Ms. Jessica Frotten here today; and as well Ilonah Evangelista, a caregiver that's here with us today. And I believe one of the therapists is sitting up in the Assembly, I see her now, is Sandi Marshall. And she's seated there with Roland Lafrance.

And I simply want to say to each of these individuals with just in a bit of an extended welcome to Owen and Chris. Owen, you're doing an exceptional job of running that organization that makes a difference in people's lives. And to Chris, this is a pretty remarkable guy, Mr. Speaker, arguably the best lacrosse player in Saskatchewan or Canada in his time, Mr. Speaker. Not so long ago when he was a university student as well and an education student, he played in Vermont, played in Bishop's and in fact was Bishop's Athlete of the Year, Mr. Speaker.

And watching somebody come through life and have an incident like he has, and to be in the position he is now, to be giving back to his community and giving back to so many others is nothing short of inspirational. Somebody that certainly has demonstrated perseverance, strength, and courage in ways that I think that I can only imagine, Mr. Speaker.

So it's my pleasure to welcome these leaders to their community, and it's with thanks that I offer to them for what they do in our province every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join in welcoming Roland Lafrance. Roland is a constituent of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, but you know, Roland's really a constituent of the city of Regina. He is an absolutely incredible volunteer. Whenever there's a need within the community, Roland is there. He puts his hand up. He's first

to volunteer, and he's made such a difference to the city of Regina. So thank you very much, Roland, for all the work you do. Thank you for being my friend, but also thank you for being a friend to the city of Regina.

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

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the House, seated in your west gallery today a young gentleman by the name of Mitchell Cooper. Mitchell is not a stranger to this building, of course, having worked for Corrections and Policing over the last several months. He is now working in a law firm in North Battleford, and he's already starting to be active in our community and making a difference. And I would just like to ask everybody to welcome Mitchell to his Legislative Assembly.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of better schools here in Saskatchewan. And we know that many of our schools are rundown, unsafe, or uninspected, and this government refuses to release information on the \$1.5 billion of known repairs that are needed in our schools. And this government has a plan to rent schools from private corporations that's expensive and reckless, and none of this is acceptable given the record revenues this government has had over the last eight years. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on this government to immediately stop ignoring schools and start prioritizing students by capping classroom sizes, increasing supports for students, and developing a transparent plan to build and repair our schools.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to raise petitions once again in the Assembly here today as it relates to the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue, and their failure to address those unsafe conditions and ensure the safety of the users and the families along Dewdney Avenue. 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 Saskatchewan citizens once again. I so submit.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present yet another petition on the second bridge for Prince Albert. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will pray.

Mr. Speaker, the people that have signed this particular petition are primarily from Moose Jaw. And as I presented page after page of petitions, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to stand in my place today to present another petition and another page of this long story. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition in support of maintaining hyperbaric services at the Moose Jaw Hospital. The petitioners point out that the people of Moose Jaw have worked hard for many years through fundraising and community activism in order to procure a hyperbaric chamber for the Moose Jaw Hospital. They point out that hyperbaric treatments are essential for the proper treatment for many people living with diabetes, cancer, and other conditions. They talk about how the existing hyperbaric chamber is the only unit of its kind currently in operation between Edmonton and Toronto, and that hyperbaric services will no longer be offered in the new design for the Moose Jaw Hospital because of the changes to the hospital design initiated through the John Black version of lean. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly require the Sask Party government to reverse its decision to scrap the hyperbaric chamber and to instead ensure that this service continues to be provided in the new Moose Jaw Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Moose Jaw. I so present.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of safe staffing levels in long-term care. In the prayer that reads as follows, the petitioners:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the government to commit to the creation of safe staffing levels for all valued members of the health care team and to reintroduce actual numbers of staff to match the level of care needs and the number of residents under their care in long-term facilities.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by good citizens from the fair city of Swift Current. I so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of retaining Yarrow Youth Farm. And the individuals who have signed this wanted to point out that this government has closed Yarrow Youth Farm and created an open-custody wing in Kilburn Hall which is a secure custody unit for youth considered at greater risk to their communities. The provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has declared he cannot endorse such a rationalization, as low-risk teens could be influenced and pressured by close proximity to high-risk youth who may be involved in serious crimes or gangs, and that Kilburn Hall has a more institutional environment that could intimidate and alienate teens that have committed minor offences. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the government to keep Yarrow Youth Farm open, to ensure a caring home environment for youth who have committed minor offences and provide support to help these young people redirect their lives by setting more positive goals.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by individuals from Saskatoon. I so submit.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Wheelchairs in the Assembly Day

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, a few MLAs are trying to get around in wheelchairs today to experience first-hand the challenges encountered daily by persons in wheelchairs. This program, which was initiated by the First Steps Wellness Centre, includes a full day in which the Speaker, the Minister of Corrections and Policing, Minister of Rural and Remote Health, Minister of Education, the member from Rosemont, and myself will be experiencing what it's like in a wheelchair for the day.

Mr. Speaker, it has not been easy. Doors are hard to open. Carpets are hard to manoeuvre, and I believe the Minister of Rural and Remote Health has already taken one spill today. First Steps Wellness Centre is hoping to fix all that. They're a non-profit organization leading in spinal cord rehabilitation.

Their programs are well beyond what is currently being offered through most rehabilitation programs in Canada. Through rehabilitation they are giving hope to people who have suffered from spinal cord injuries. Their efforts can and have improved the lives of those living with spinal cord injuries.

As we are finding out today, living in a wheelchair is not easy. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the First Steps Wellness Centre for all the amazing work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to sit in my place today to recognize and take part in Wheelchairs in the Assembly Day. This is an important initiative that has been organized for some time now by Owen Carlson, Chris Lesanko, and their team at First Steps Wellness Centre here in Regina, along with you as Speaker.

I must also say thank you to Chris, Owen, and the First Steps Wellness team for their truly inspiring and leading-edge work providing quality of life and function to so many in our province. This is important work to support. This day is an opportunity for us as legislators to spend the day using a wheelchair and to gain a better understanding and to have a small glimpse of what life is like for people living with mobility issues in wheelchairs.

For most people, Mr. Speaker, using a wheelchair isn't something that they do to raise awareness or to support their community. It's the reality that they live with every day. It is important that we, as members of the Assembly, ensure that the laws we pass and the government services that all Saskatchewan people rely on are accessible for everyone and to take into consideration the specific needs of those who are using wheelchairs.

It's also important for us to recognize the perseverance and strength of those in wheelchairs, Mr. Speaker, and so I ask all members to join me in thanking Owen Carlson, Chris Lesanko, the team at First Steps Wellness Centre, Jessica Frotten, who I see is here today and also taking part, and all other people who have helped make this year's Wheelchairs in the Assembly Day such a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Recognition for Marshall Volunteers Remembering Lloydminster Fire Chief Todd Gustavson

**Ms. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the selfless fire and EMO [Emergency Measures Organization] volunteer service providers of Marshall and to remember Chief David Todd Gustavson of the Lloydminster Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I recently had the privilege to attend an award ceremony and fundraising event for the Marshall volunteer fire and EMO services. Jason Humby and Gordon Friedrick were among those presented with awards. Jason Humby received the

Good Samaritan Award for pulling an unconscious neighbour out of a septic tank and administering CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] until the ambulance arrived. Gordon Friedrich, who will turn 89 this fall, received the Emergency Services Award for his decades of dedication to the volunteer EMO services in Marshall and area.

Mr. Speaker, on April the 10th, memorial services were held in Lloydminster for Fire Chief Todd Gustavson. Firefighters and EMO service providers from across Saskatchewan were all in attendance to honour and pay their respects. Fire Chief Gustavson was just 53 years old when he passed away suddenly.

Firefighting runs in the Gustavson family as Todd's father and grandfather served on the Lloydminster Fire Department. His son Calem is currently with the department. Chief Todd served for 37 years and spent his last 17 years as the fire chief.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking the volunteer fire and EMO service providers of the Marshall area for their exemplary service and in celebrating the extraordinary life of Chief Todd Gustavson. He will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Earth Day Hopes for Environmental Progress**

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again in the Assembly today in recognition of Earth Day. This year marks the 25th Earth Day in Canada and I hope that all members will be able to take part in some Earth Day event in their constituency perhaps over the next few days.

Maybe this is the year that we actually make some real progress on the promises made by this government on environmental issues. I've had the chance to review some of the other Earth Day members' statements that have been made in this Assembly over the last few years and there certainly have been lots of eloquent words and speeches. What's been lacking, Mr. Speaker, over the same period of time is any action addressing climate change in every sector of this province except power generation.

Saskatchewan continues to have the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions in Canada and this government's incredibly expensive carbon capture project only addresses less than 2 per cent of our emissions. Now this government promised in 2009 that the time for talk was over and it reintroduced the reduction of greenhouses gases Act. Six years later, Mr. Speaker, no action, no tech fund. Then the government announced it would bring in its Environmental Code which would include a chapter on climate change, the most important issue facing our environment today.

When the minister introduced it in the fall, where was the climate change chapter? Nowhere to be seen. Time and again this government has shown that when it comes to climate change, they're all talk and no walk. The time for further studies and consultations is over.

I ask all members to join me in marking Earth Day today and in urging the government to take real steps now to address our province's shameful record on climate change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

#### **National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week**

**Mr. Doke:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people from all walks of life are in need of organ transplants. For some a transplant will mean a better life. For others, a transplant will save their life. As part of National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week, I ask members to join me in encouraging Saskatchewan people to consider becoming a donor.

Over the last year, there has been about 90 people waiting for a new kidney at any given time. During 2014, 30 Saskatchewan people received a kidney transplant. Eighteen of those 30 transplants were made possible by deceased donors. During 2014 there were 112 cornea transplants, up 250 per cent from the year before. Yet at the end of March 2015, there were still 66 patients waiting for a cornea transplant.

Mr. Speaker, one organ can save up to eight lives. One tissue donor can improve the lives of more than 75 people. Fill in a donor card, put a sticker on your health card and, most importantly, talk to your family about wanting to be an organ and tissue donor.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a giving province filled with people who want to do the best for one another. Becoming an organ or tissue donor is perhaps one of the greatest gifts you can give back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Homesteading Constituents Featured in Television Series**

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Discovery Channel will be airing a series this month titled *Sons of Winter*, starring the Barks Family from the Nipawin-White Fox area.

Tara and Randy Barks, along with their three sons, Dale, Shane, and Kole, are homesteaders. They have rejected modern living, choosing to maintain a pioneer lifestyle in northern Saskatchewan.

For years the Barks have sustained themselves by running a trapline and catching such animals as lynx, wolves, beavers, and martins. Togetherness has always been the key for survival for the Barks family. However, Mr. Speaker, this winter will be a very different one for the Barks. The two oldest sons, 20-year-old Dale and 19-year-old Shane, will venture alone in the wilderness for 90 days and, Mr. Speaker, they will do so during some of the coldest months of the year. During this rite of passage, the boys will become woodsmen while they battle the elements, forage for food, and establish their own traplines. Meanwhile Randy and Tara will be left behind with 15-year-old Kole to care for the family trapline.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join with me in wishing the Barks family the best of luck in their new series, *Sons of Winter*, airing next Tuesday night, April 28th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Administrative Professionals Day

**Ms. Jurgens:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The staff working in our offices that hold everything together often do not get enough credit for the exceptional work they do, which is why I'm pleased to stand today to recognize Administrative Professionals Day.

In all types of offices across the province, admin professionals are heavily relied on for their organizational, IT [information technology], management, and people skills. They are truly the face of our organizations and often the first point of contact anyone has with our businesses. As any business owner or employee can tell you, first impressions matter and truly can make a difference for the success of your organization.

Celebrated since 1952, this worldwide observance serves to remind us that these office professionals are the backbone of many of our organizations. Admin professionals are often the innovators of our business processes and the organizational engines of business in our economy. With such diversified skills, I can truly attest that the professionals working in this building alone often go above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you to all of them.

I would like to give a special thank you to all of our MLA constituency assistants who manage our offices even when the MLAs are down here in Regina. Your hard work is definitely appreciated. I would ask all members to join me in applauding our fantastic administrative professionals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Release of Information Concerning Worker

**Mr. Broten:** — There are serious allegations of a significant breach of privacy on the part of a senior staff member in the Premier's own office. Will the Premier agree today to turn all files and emails over to the Information and Privacy Commissioner for a full investigation?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, there are provisions in legislation that allow for the release of certain parts of information. Mr. Speaker, procedures were followed according to that provision in provincial law.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, I think that's something that the independent officer of the legislature should determine, not the

Premier's office, Mr. Speaker, that leaked the information in the first place.

The Premier's own office was involved in a serious breach of a citizen's privacy because it leaked confidential information about an individual citizen. It couched that leaked information in a whole lot of innuendo in a clear attempt to sully this individual citizen's reputation. And I'd argue, Mr. Speaker, that this looks a lot like, it looks a lot like an attempt by the Premier's own office to put a big chill on front-line health care workers speaking out.

The Premier's office needs to turn all files and emails over to the Privacy Commissioner immediately, and it needs to turn all files and emails over to the Ombudsman as well, as this is directly relevant to her investigation in seniors' care. Will the Premier commit to doing that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the reason certain actions were taken were precisely the opposite of what is being depicted by the member that just asked the question.

The subject began when the Leader of the Opposition, in his preamble to questions on behalf of a health care worker asked, I think twice or maybe three times, to ensure that the position of the government was that this individual would not face any retributions in the workplace for coming forward. I gave my assurance on all three occasions. Subsequent to that, the Minister of Health gave his assurance on a number of occasions. Mr. Speaker, that's a promise that I made. That's a promise that the government made.

Subsequent to that, not just a few days ago, I found out that the Saskatoon Health Region had in fact suspended the same individual, with pay, pending the investigation of some complaints. Mr. Speaker, I wanted the people of this province to know that we keep our promises, not just to this individual but to every other health care worker in the province. So I felt it was very, very important that the government, that the government make it known that this individual was facing some disciplinary action, was suspended with pay for reasons completely outside his attendance here at the legislature and him raising issues, Mr. Speaker. And that's exactly what happened.

There are provisions in legislation that allow for the disclosure of certain kinds of information if it's in the public interest. We believe it is in the public interest to send a signal to all health care workers that a promise that we have made will be kept, that the promise that there will be no retribution for anyone raising any concerns about health care will be kept, and that this particular instance, this suspension without pay had nothing to do with what was raised in the legislature that day.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier can review the *Hansard* record. I asked if Mr. Bowden would receive punishment, Mr. Speaker, or retaliation for speaking out, for speaking out and coming forward, Mr. Speaker. And it's no wonder we have to ask those questions because we see how this

government approaches health care workers who do speak out, Mr. Speaker, by the way that they have released this information. My question to the Premier: was it his decision to leak this information? Yes or no?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I already answered the question. Moreover, we took the action we did precisely because he, on the floor of the legislature, took the unique approach of asking on three occasions for this individual, if this individual could be protected, to ensure that there would be no workplace retribution. I gave that undertaking not just to this Assembly, not just with respect to Mr. Bowden, but to every health care worker in the province.

Then we found out that there was a suspension with pay for this individual. That concerned me because I want to make sure that employees of the health care system, that others that want to step forward have the complete freedom to do so. So we took the actions that are provided for in legislation. I hope he's read it because he's here on the floor asking questions about it. We took the allowances in the legislation to make sure certain general information was provided so that the people of this province and health care workers in the province would know that we kept the promise, that we will keep the promise, that no one will face any workplace discipline at all just for coming forward and expressing concerns about health care in the province.

[14:00]

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, what we're hearing is that this government, with the Premier's authorization or direction, because he is saying this is a great thing that they did, they intentionally leaked information to a select handful of reporters about this individual, Mr. Speaker. Now forgive me if I don't want to take the Premier at his word here, Mr. Speaker, that they were just well intended with all of this and it was, oh, just to clear the air. No way, Mr. Speaker. This matter needs to be handed over to the Privacy Commissioner, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Premier: will he do that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure what the Leader of the Opposition knows about the particular file in question, but I would say frankly I don't know the details either. I know the generalities, certainly. We know the generalities, and now they're available to the public so that they would understand that no action was taken as a result of this person coming forward. The Saskatoon Health Region has said as much.

So is the Leader of the Opposition saying they're not telling the truth? Is the leader . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well he makes some sort of inaudible interjection. That's the implication he's making.

The health region has been unequivocal. The health region has said, these actions were taken, not because of anything that Mr. Bowden did in the Assembly, but because of workplace

complaints, Mr. Speaker, possibly from, possibly from colleagues, Mr. Speaker. We don't know the specifics.

The legislation which I would have assumed he would have read before coming in with this line of question, the legislation of the province of Saskatchewan, *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* says pretty clearly in section 29 that certain personal information can be disclosed if it's believed to be the disclosure would be in the public interest of the province. I think it is in the public interest of Saskatchewan that every health care worker would know they can come forward and express whatever concern they want without fear of retribution in the workplace.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, this explanation from the Premier is absolutely unbelievable. It is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker; they're trying to spin this now. We have seen the disgusting actions that we saw with how they leaked this information. We've seen how they treat our front-line workers, and we have the Premier admitting that it was his decision to release this information. He thinks everything is fine. This needs to be handed over to the Privacy Commissioner. It cannot be left in the Premier's office, who leaked the information in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I have another question. Does the Premier think it's fair that First Nations seniors are discriminated against by our current ambulance fee system?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to allow the Minister of Health to answer this particular question and the subsequent line of questioning, but I think it's very important to stand in my place here and state for the record, Mr. Speaker, that there is certain disciplinary action under way with respect to the individual that has nothing to do with him appearing or attending to the Legislative Assembly. I have an assurance of that, and that would be the only reason why we would take the extraordinary action that we've taken to make sure it is understood by all — those who observe the proceedings of this legislature, those who are involved in health care delivery in the province — that indeed they can come forward and do so freely.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, whether it's letters to the editor or other workers that the members have quoted that they have brought forward, Mr. Speaker, there clearly has not been the kind of retribution, the kind of depictions that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to paint. That's not how we have conducted ourselves in government. Maybe that's how members opposite acted when they were in the government, but we have not, and we will not.

We'll take, actually, extraordinary steps to send a signal that we will allow for certainly any criticism or complaint of the health care system free of any retribution. What we will not allow, Mr. Speaker, what our policies do not allow, what the health region policies do not allow is for any action on the part of a worker, any worker — now I'm speaking generally — to have a negative impact on the health and welfare and well-being of either patients or their colleagues, Mr. Speaker. On that we stand.



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

### First Nations Senior and Ambulance Service Fees

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier's actions on this file are appalling.

My question, Mr. Speaker, specifically related to whether or not it's appropriate that First Nations seniors in this province can be discriminated against in our ambulance fee system. People throughout Saskatchewan were saddened to hear the story of Louisa Moberly, and they were horrified to see the photos of this 79-year-old woman who was badly injured after repeated falls in a care facility.

Now her family has learned that when Louisa gets transferred back to the care facility closer to home, she will receive a huge ambulance bill. The federal government doesn't cover the cost of return ambulance transfers for First Nations people in our province. And First Nations seniors, they're excluded from the provincial program that caps ambulance fees for all other seniors. To the Premier: why should First Nations seniors like Louisa Moberly be treated differently than every other senior in the province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, the ministry's working with the region. We're reaching out to the family to determine what eligibility that she may have for ambulance coverage. Mr. Speaker, there is some coverage that is available for inter-facility transfers under the payments that are made by the federal First Nations and Inuit health benefits, Mr. Speaker. If that is not an applicable benefit, Mr. Speaker, then from her age she would be eligible, it is my understanding, for the seniors' capped program in the province, Mr. Speaker. She may be as well eligible for low-income supplementary health benefits, Mr. Speaker.

That's why we were reaching out with our health region and with the family to determine which benefits that she may be eligible for, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that she has the ability to, if she does wish to return back to La Ronge, that that is in fact going to happen.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, this minister needs to get briefed on what programs are available to people like Louisa because that is not the case with respect to what she is being offered. It's bad enough that Louisa's family has to worry about their mother's health after she suffered multiple falls in a care facility, Mr. Speaker, and was badly injured. We've seen the horrific photos. But now on top of that, the family has to worry about getting a massive ambulance bill because Louisa is a First Nations senior and is treated differently than any other senior in the province would be treated.

This government's very own EMS [emergency medical services] report in 2009, in 2009, identified this as a problem. And that report recommended that this government step up to the plate and better meet the needs of First Nations patients.

My question to the Premier: why didn't the government follow through?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we're going to do and what my office is going to do is work with the family and the health region to determine what exactly she may be eligible for when it comes to benefits, Mr. Speaker. I feel you'll, Mr. Speaker, you'll forgive me if I don't exactly take the Leader of the Opposition on this matter.

In fact what happened just a couple of days ago, Mr. Speaker, in this House the Leader of the Opposition was talking about the ambulance system when it comes to families for pediatric services, because of the changes made in Regina to Saskatoon, being left with large ambulance bills. In fact, Mr. Speaker, he wasn't correct when it came to that matter.

Mr. Speaker, the ministry's critical care policy was changed once the changes were made in the city of Regina. Ambulance costs, whether those be road or air ambulance, and support for a parent or guardian are covered under our policy, Mr. Speaker, by the Ministry of Health. As well, Mr. Speaker, we also pay for accommodations and reimburse for meals for people that are sent to Saskatoon for pediatric intensive care services, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition was wrong on that account, Mr. Speaker. We will look very closely at Louisa's case to see which benefits she may be eligible for in the province.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the government's very own 2009 EMS report highlights how First Nations seniors in this province are suffering, how they're falling through the cracks, and how the lack of programs here, Mr. Speaker, are hurting Saskatchewan seniors. Louisa should be able to count on the same kind of support that a non-First Nations senior would be able to count on.

There are many things wrong with our current ambulance fee system, Mr. Speaker, and there are many things that I want to see fixed. The cap, or the fact that First Nations seniors fall through the cracks and don't qualify for the cap on ambulance fees that every other seniors qualify for is one of the worst shortfalls in our current ambulance fee system, and it needs to be fixed.

My question to the Premier: will he today commit to fix this problem?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, we're working with the health region to determine which programs that Louisa may be eligible for, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that may be through the programming through the First Nations and Inuit health benefits because there is some coverage for inter-facility transfers, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing if that's applicable as well as our seniors' program. If that's not the case, Mr. Speaker, she may be eligible for low-income supports through our family health

benefits or supplementary health benefits, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's the work that's going on right now to determine which coverage may be in place.

Mr. Speaker, I will again remind the House that the Leader of the Opposition stood in his place just a couple of days ago and said that programs aren't in place, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to families being transferred for pediatric intensive care from Regina to Saskatoon, that ambulance bills weren't covered, that families were going to be out of pocket for lots of dollars, Mr. Speaker, when in fact the policy was changed for critical care transportation, Mr. Speaker, that in fact covers those families and in fact goes above and beyond that to cover things like accommodations and per diems and meals, Mr. Speaker. So in this case we're going to look very closely into the facts to see what exactly Louisa qualifies for, rather than rely on the Leader of the Opposition.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, when these concerns are being raised about ambulance fees and the problems that it presents to patients, we continue to see a dismissive approach from this government, pretending that everything is fine and everything is okay, Mr. Speaker.

Well he doesn't have to just take my word on this, Mr. Speaker. We can also listen on this issue of how First Nations seniors are falling through the cracks, Mr. Speaker, from Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, chief of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and the Chair of the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority who is speaking out about this unfairness today. She says that First Nations seniors are declining ambulance transfers after surgery or treatment because they are afraid of the massive bills that will arrive.

This needs to stop, Mr. Speaker. First Nations seniors in Saskatchewan deserve the same dignity and respect that every other senior in our province gets. My question to the Premier. Why won't he commit to fixing this today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, again, Mr. Speaker, we are working with the health region and the family to determine which programs Louisa may be eligible for, Mr. Speaker. Through the federal First Nations and Inuit health benefits, there is some coverage available for inter-facility transfers, Mr. Speaker. If that's not applicable, Mr. Speaker, then she may be eligible under our seniors' program, Mr. Speaker. If that's not an applicable program, Mr. Speaker, there may be benefits under the low-income program through the family or supplementary health benefits, Mr. Speaker.

But we are very much not dismissing this issue. That's why we're working directly with the ministry, the health region, and the family as well, Mr. Speaker, to determine which programs she may in fact be eligible for, Mr. Speaker. And again, I'm not going to take the word at this point from the Leader of the Opposition, based on what we just heard in the last couple of days when it came to, Mr. Speaker, the PICU [pediatric intensive care unit], the pediatric intensive care transportation policy from Regina to Saskatoon, because he stood in his place

and said there was no program available, when in fact, Mr. Speaker, we made those changes. And in fact in this case there was a program available.

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

### Protection of Children in Care

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday in question period I asked about the number of children who died in the care of Social Services last year. The minister wouldn't answer the question, but she did give me the answer last night in committee. She said 16 children in care died last year, not counting the children that died of natural causes. Mr. Speaker, for far too many years, we've lost far too many children in care and it needs to stop.

To the minister: with all the recommendations from the Children's Advocate and the findings of the coroner's inquest, why isn't this government doing a better job protecting our province's most vulnerable children?

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reviewing the number of child deaths over, literally over a decade, the numbers have been fairly consistent, so it isn't getting worse. However no death is acceptable. Some of the deaths are from natural causes. Some are from accidents, and there's other rationale. However, Mr. Speaker, there's always that one, such as the case that we've just heard about recently, where it's not acceptable and more needs to be done.

That's why this government has taken it very seriously and increased the funding for our child and family services by 156 per cent over and above what the members opposite spent when they were in government, Mr. Speaker. That's why this government has implemented an electronic system in order to track the children and also to help the workers to do their work. That's why this government has increased the number of front-line workers. That's why this government has increased the amount of funding to foster families, and we've increased supports that we put into our foster homes.

Mr. Speaker, that's why this government's invested in and supports the families to keep them whole before they go into crisis, and that's why the number of children coming into care is going down, Mr. Speaker. We are working very hard. We'll continue to work with the Children's Advocate to try to prevent future issues from happening because they're not acceptable. But we don't want to go back to the funding of the NDP [New Democratic Party].

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, 16 children in care died last year. That means since 2010, 97 children in care have died, not counting the ones from natural causes. And that's heartbreaking. And while the Children's Advocate acknowledges that there has been some progress, he says that this government has a long way to go when it comes to protecting our vulnerable children. So, Mr. Speaker, when you have a long way to go, slow progress is not acceptable.

To the minister: what will it take for this government to start properly protecting our most vulnerable children?

[14:15]

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, from the Children's Advocate most recent report, he has said that there is progress that's being made, and indeed of the 18 recommendations, we've implemented 12 of those recommendations. We have five that are in progress and one that's under consideration. Mr. Speaker, we've put in a number of systems within our child protection services that has strengthened the system.

It will be a continuous progress that needs to happen in this particular file, and it should happen. We need to learn from each and every time where there seems to be a gap, and we need to do better. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to do so because these are the important citizens of our province. But we don't want to go back to the underfunding of the NDP where we had less workers, more children in our care, and not enough supports for the families before they came into crisis.

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

#### Sour Gas Emissions

**Ms. Sproule:** — A senior government official says this government has known the extent of the sour gas problem since 2013, yet we're only learning about it now. To the minister: why has the government kept this under wraps?

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

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, the oil fields of Saskatchewan are changing in terms of a number of things. Certainly the nature of H<sub>2</sub>S gas, or sour gas, are being discovered in much more frequency than there has been ever before in our province. That's precisely the reason why we are stepping up dramatically the number of inspections in Saskatchewan.

There were some 10,000 facilities last year in 2014 that were inspected. There were a number of violations; as a result of that, enforcement actions. There were 21 enforcement actions, 2 suspensions, and some shut-ins as well related to sour gas. Our government takes this issue very seriously. We would look to increase even beyond that inspections if it is felt that it's necessary.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, that response is in disconnect what senior officials are saying. A senior government official admits that the problem here is a lack of focus by the ministry. There are rules in place that say oil facilities should not emit any gas or vapour containing sour gas at levels higher than 1,000 parts per million. But clearly those rules are not being followed, not even close.

This government's whole approach has been a hands-off one:

loosening up regulations, relaxing enforcement, and just letting industry police itself. To the minister: will he admit that this horrible sour gas situation shows the need for stronger regulations and more stringent enforcement?

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

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, I think we better check the record as to what the official indeed did say because I don't think that's what the official said in any way, shape, or form, Mr. Speaker. I think what the official indeed said was is we are stepping up investigations.

We are stepping inspections in great measure, Mr. Speaker, and that there is certainly a need, given the fact that we see a changing oil field, the nature of the oil fields here in Saskatchewan. We will certainly continue to do that, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to issue violation notices if there are violations in the oil fields of our province, Mr. Speaker. We believe that we certainly want to see the protection of health and safety of Saskatchewan citizens is our number one priority when it comes to the oil fields of Saskatchewan.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I will quote from a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] news story posted yesterday that said:

[The official] said it's been caused, in part, by a lack of focus by the industry and the ministry, which is the regulator.

"There's been sites that have not received the attention they should."

So it's clear that that's what the senior official is saying. Here is the response from this government. Back in 2013, what did they do? The previous minister of Energy and Resources wrote a letter to oil and gas operators in the province as a gentle reminder to comply with the law.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it's obvious a gentle reminder is not proper enforcement. To the minister: why hasn't this government properly beefed up the enforcements?

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

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Mr. Speaker, what the official was referring to is the fact that there hasn't been enough inspections in the past. He is certainly saying that in 2014 there were 10,000 inspections. In 2015 we've already started on inspections in significant number. We will be looking at at least 10,000, perhaps more, in this year.

Mr. Speaker, in this budget we have committed \$2.19 million to expand the regulatory oversight and enforcement into investigations. We have also been in contact with all of the oil producing companies in the areas of concern, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that there is compliance, and we'll be continuing to, through all regulatory efforts, ensure that the safety of workers in those areas is paramount.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

## SECOND READINGS

## Bill No. 178

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Krawetz that **Bill No. 178 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into this debate on *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*. Of course this follows the budget that was recently brought down last month. And of course the minister does go through . . . and I always try to do, is take a look, and these bills can be very technical. Because obviously it's things that we can't see, we don't see in the fall, we see following the budget, and rightfully so.

So this is a kind of thing that we'll have to take a look at, and we'll have to make sure we fully understand the implications of this. Clearly though it's part of the procedures of the process because we can't have this too far out ahead of ourselves, the fact that would defeat the purpose of the budget.

So, Mr. Speaker, there will be a lot to think about and talk about but, you know, it's interesting. As I look about the choices this government made in its recent budget, I do have to make some comment on that. And I do think and for example, you know, when we were recently talking in the last couple of weeks in the 75-minute debate, where the government really extended its hand again to self-congratulate itself on the budget and the tax cuts and that type of thing.

And really when we see what's happening here in the province, in many ways a good news story because more and more people are coming here. They're working hard. They're wanting to make sure they make ends meet, and it's an exciting place to be. There are many opportunities in all sorts of ways. Not necessarily the film tax, people working in the film industry though. That is a little bit more challenging. And so we see what the choices of this government has been and the implications of not consulting, not doing the proper thinking about what really makes a province great and vibrant. And clearly they missed the boat a few years ago when they introduced the film tax credit. And this is the kind of thing that we always have to be on guard.

And so when we take a look, and we'll be taking a look at this bill here, and wanting to make sure we fully understand the Ps and Qs, and make sure all the t's have been crossed and all the i's are dotted. And I know they're anxious to get to work. They must have a plan for this weekend. We'll get it to committee soon enough, but I want to make sure we have time to fully understand, fully understand this bill because we don't want to see the fiascos that we've seen from this government in

previous years.

And I think of just that one example, the film tax credit, where even the Chamber of Commerce was saying, you know, really you should have really thought more clearly on this. And we're still seeing, we're still seeing the ramifications of that. We're still seeing the ramifications of that. And it's hard to, it's hard to let those kinds of decisions go by. I know this government would like to forget it, but people don't forget it.

Last night even on CBC there was a fellow trying to do a film in Prince Albert. He's actually from Prince Albert, and he wants to come home and make this film, but he needs to get a crew together. And he's wondering what kind of crew can he find in Prince Albert these days, or in Saskatchewan, that are qualified really to work on a film. And it's a tough thing. It's a tough thing. It's something that you live with when you make these kinds of rash decisions.

And yesterday, you know, I think about in terms of labour where we've had labour legislation now that took eight years, eight long years to go through the court system and we're still not seeing what the end bill will be. I know this government will like to downplay that ruling. This is the inconsistency of this government where you have, you know, you have a massive bill coming from the Supreme Court where they ruled that you will have to pay costs. And we'll be back here in December. Mark my words, we'll be back here in December with supplementary estimates because they haven't really thought through their budget. They have not thought through their budget. There's been no money set aside in the budget for that Supreme Court ruling. There's been nothing.

They're saying, well we don't know, we don't know what the costs were for ourselves, let alone what the costs were for the other side, the labour unions, what they paid. I mean how can you even have a benchmark if you don't even know how much you paid yourself? These folks were running on an open tab for the last eight years for legal services on Bill 5 and 6. They don't know how much that cost the province of Saskatchewan, and we don't know what the other shoe will cost. What will the other shoe cost? And that's got to be part of this budget process.

I mean if there isn't some . . . I mean here we have something that's coming down the line and this government, in its reckless way of just having an open tab for lawyers on this, saying, we have an ideology that we want to put through, and that is that this bill will go all the way to the Supreme Court and whatever it costs, we will pay. And now we are having to actually pay double because we have to pay the other side.

This is what we're finding out in estimates. This government is not prepared. So when we have bills like this before us, we want to make sure we take a close look at it, that we take a close look at it. And so we will have a good discussion in debates because we want to raise concerns.

And those are always interesting, Mr. Speaker. I find it interesting when we stand up and do our adjourned debates because what happens is, you know, you see what really the other side responds to, you know. And in many ways they kind of like, they like to downplay the film tax credit and what a fiasco that was for this government. And we won't forget that

because, you know, some people have said past behaviour is a good indicator of future behaviour. Now who said that? Who said that? Past behaviour is a good indicator of future behaviour. And you see reckless behaviour like the film tax credit and like the Supreme Court ruling, and these folks don't even know how much it's going to cost. They have no idea. They seem to treat the government coffers as if it's an open tab, especially when it comes to law costs or lawyers' costs. And I'm amazed at that. So we will take some time. We will take some time to think this through.

I do want to get to a couple of other points I want to make because I know we want to get to committee this afternoon. But the point is about being affordable. Often when we talk about tax and tax reform, we want to make sure it's affordable for the people who live in Saskatchewan.

I just want to make sure I get on the record two concerns that I have. And one was the fact during the budget debate we did not have, and the Minister of Finance did not mention, the anti-poverty strategy. And that's something that's pretty key. And it's been pretty key because it was part of the recommendations from the Children's Advocate that this government do something about poverty here in Saskatchewan.

When we look at the tragic circumstances now that we know since 2010, 97 children have died, a large part of that is related to circumstances of poverty and early childhood education, and we know that this government did nothing for early childhood education. It did not even mention poverty in the budget.

So when we talk about tax reform and income tax, that is a big thing. We know for a fact that this government has seen since it's come to power a 17 per cent increase in the caseloads in social assistance and SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] and TEA [transitional employment allowance].

[14:30]

This is something that should be concerning, should be concerning this government. And we also know that this government leads the country when it comes to food bank usage, leads the country when it comes to food bank usage. That is something that we need to take seriously, and while this government just thinks it can just focus on one side of the ledger.

I've got to tell you this is all about, this is all about the people of Saskatchewan and everyone, you know, because today I asked questions about children who died in care — 97 children who died in care — and they're important.

We hear the Minister of Social Services say herself and we agree, both the minister and I agree that those children are valuable and they're most important, but we cannot forget them. And when we talk about bills like this, the questions will be, how are they served? How are they served? How are they served? We cannot just take this off as one-offs.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know that many on our side will have lots to say about this, and we'll get this to committee in due time, but I will want to adjourn the debate for today. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 178, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 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. To facilitate the work of committees both this afternoon, I guess just this afternoon, I would like to move that we do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:32.]



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Parent .....	6979
Forbes .....	6979
Brotten .....	6979
Eagles .....	6979
Ottenbreit .....	6979
Wotherspoon .....	6979
Ross .....	6979
Cox .....	6980

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Forbes .....	6980
Wotherspoon .....	6980
Belanger .....	6980
Chartier .....	6980
McCall .....	6980
Sproule .....	6981

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### Wheelchairs in the Assembly Day

Merriman .....	6981
Wotherspoon .....	6981

##### Recognition for Marshall Volunteers

##### Remembering Lloydminster Fire Chief Todd Gustavson

Young .....	6981
-------------	------

##### Earth Day Hopes for Environmental Progress

Sproule .....	6982
---------------	------

##### National Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Week

Doke .....	6982
------------	------

##### Homesteading Constituents Featured in Television Series

Wilson .....	6982
--------------	------

##### Administrative Professionals Day

Jurgens .....	6983
---------------	------

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Release of Information Concerning Worker

Brotten .....	6983
Wall .....	6983

##### First Nations Senior and Ambulance Service Fees

Brotten .....	6985
Duncan .....	6985

##### Protection of Children in Care

Forbes .....	6986
Harpauer .....	6986

##### Sour Gas Emissions

Sproule .....	6987
Boyd .....	6987

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 178 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*

Forbes .....	6988
--------------	------

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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