



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

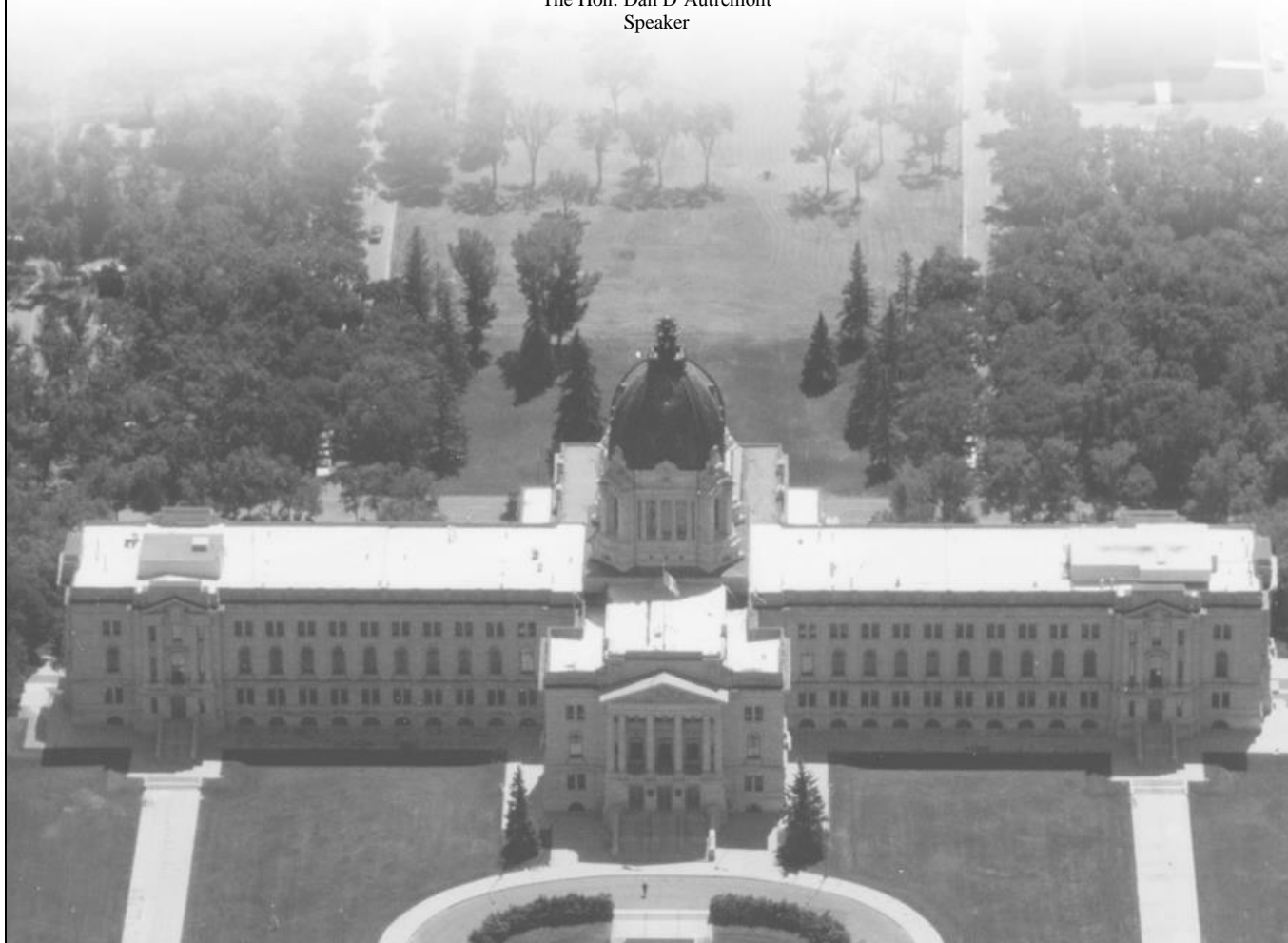
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thanks very much. Mr. Speaker, there's a special guest in your gallery that I'd like to introduce to members this morning. He's certainly been introduced before. He'll be familiar to members on both sides of the House because of his service to the province of Saskatchewan at the local government level. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you, Dave Marit who's joined us today. Dave still farms with his brother at Fife Lake. He was indicating to some members this morning they're kind of getting ready for seeding. We hope that can begin in earnest.

He's been involved in local politics since 1993, Mr. Speaker, which speaks to staying power and great experience in the fact that he's getting a little older. He was elected to the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] board of directors in 1999 for division 2. He was elected vice-president in '04, president in 2006, and I think provided exemplary leadership for SARM and for the province of Saskatchewan in that capacity until very recently.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report to the House that he was successful in winning the nomination in the Wood River constituency for the Saskatchewan Party, and he will represent us in that particular seat in the upcoming campaign. He and his wife, Lois, recently moved to Assiniboia. They have two kids, Jordan and Katelyn . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well the member for Athabasca is chirping from his seat. I assure him he'll have plenty of opportunity to debate our guest when he is on the floor of the legislature, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** — If he's still here.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — That's assuming that he's still here, Mr. Speaker, absolutely. Dave and his wife, Lois, recently moved to Assiniboia. They have two kids, Jordan and Katelyn and a granddaughter, Lily. I'd ask all members to join with us in welcoming Dave to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, some individuals seated in the east gallery. I'm talking about a group of 24 students from grades 3 and 4 from Connaught Community School, École Connaught.

You may be wondering, Mr. Speaker, what's happening. How is it that McCall is introducing students from Connaught? Well Connaught is currently located at the old Wascana School site while the site for Connaught Community School has been cleared, but we'll see what evolves there yet, Mr. Speaker.

But it's good to see these students here from Connaught Community School. They're accompanied by teachers Sage Fox, Stephanie Bruce, Wendy Jago, and by parent chaperone and Cathedral Village all-star Sheila Josza, who's well-known from such events as the Cathedral Village Arts Festival and certainly is a pillar of that community. I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming these individuals to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for support for better schools here in Saskatchewan. And we know, the people, the undersigned residents want to bring to your attention the following: that far too many of our classrooms are overcrowded and under-resourced; and the Sask Party government eliminated hundreds of educational assistant, EA jobs; and that students often don't get the one-on-one attention they need. 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 support for students, and developing a transparent plan to build and repair our schools.

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

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens as it relates to the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue with the inundation of heavy-haul truck traffic without a safe route or planning to ensure safety, Mr. Speaker. 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 other parts of the North, and it's 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, skyrocketed 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.

And it's signed by many good people of northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of maintaining hyperbaric services at the Moose Jaw Hospital. The petitioners point out, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Moose Jaw worked hard for many years, through fundraising and community activism, in order to procure a hyperbaric chamber for the Moose Jaw Hospital. They also 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 they point out, the petitioners point out 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. The prayer I'd like to read:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that 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 from Moose Jaw. I so submit.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of safe staffing levels in long-term care. Mr. Speaker, 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 re-introduce actual numbers of staff to match the level of care needs and the number of residents under their care

in long-term care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by individuals from the city of Swift Current. I so present.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of retaining Yarrow Youth Farm. The individuals who signed this petition wish to bring the following to our attention: the government has closed the Yarrow Youth Farm and have created an open-custody wing in Kilburn Hall, which is a secure custody unit for youth considered a greater risk to their communities; the provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has declared he can't 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, these petitions are signed by individuals from Saskatoon. I so submit.

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

### Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, last night I had the pleasure to attend the 2015 Saskatchewan Literacy Awards of Merit. Every year the Lieutenant Governor awards a number of distinguished volunteers and individuals who dedicate their time and energy to helping others to develop literacy skills.

KPMG was recognized with a Business Leadership in Literacy Award for its long-standing support for Read Saskatoon. KPMG employees regularly volunteer their time and expertise with Read Saskatoon, and their ability to help those struggling with financial literacy is particularly valuable for those who struggle to read.

Mark Williment was also recognized for his years of work as a superintendent of the Northern Lights School Division. Mark's lifelong commitment to improving literacy in northern communities is an inspiration to us all. Dr. Helen Christiansen received the Volunteer Service Award for her 11 years of volunteer tutoring at the Regina Public Library.

Finally, Lucinda Nielson was recognized with the Cameco Literacy Learner Award for her perseverance and dedication to lifelong learning. She left school when she was in grade 3 to help out at home and had very limited literacy skills. But in 2005 she linked up with a team at Read Saskatoon, and in May of last year she earned her GED [general equivalency diploma] at the age of 79. Mr. Speaker, she's still taking post-secondary school now at the age of 80. Her speech was just lovely.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating these award recipients and thanking everyone at the Literacy Network for all the work they do to promote literacy in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Saskatoon Organization Provides Autism Services**

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 16th was the ribbon cutting and open house for Autism Services of Saskatoon. As an organization dedicated to supporting individuals who are living with ASD or autism spectrum disorder, as well as their families, this organization does amazing work for people with disabilities. Yet the 8.1 million in annual funding provides Autism Services . . . is annually working to change this. Funding for Autism Services of Saskatoon includes ASD consultants, ASD support workers, rehabilitative therapies, respite services, and training for service providers as well as parents.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken about the complexities of ASD and how it affects each child and each family differently. Organizations like the Autism Services of Saskatoon are helping families and individuals live life to the fullest with their diagnosis. There is no cure for autism, but it is a condition that can be managed. This government continues to believe that we need to work closely with health authorities and our community partners to create autism services that work best by everyone affected by ASD.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in congratulating Autism Services of Saskatoon on their open house, as well as thank them for the amazing work that they do in our city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Sarazine Ratt Celebrates 103rd Birthday**

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to recognize a constituent of mine, Mrs. Sarazine Ratt. Born in Knee Lake in 1912, she celebrates her 103rd birthday this year. Sarazine learned to read and write in French at the Beauval Residential School, and when the policy changed to exclude Métis students, she left and learned the traditional livelihood of the Denesuliné from her parents.

Denesuliné Yate was her mother's language, as her father's language was Cree, and she learned to speak both fluently and she learned to read English from the books brought home by her children.

She married Frank Nezcroche and they built a life together at Knee Lake. Every year, Frank and Sarazine would leave for Cree Lake where they spent the winter trapping, using snowshoes and dog teams. Sarazine and Frank adopted three times and cared for many foster children.

As they got older, Sarazine and Frank found portaging between Knee Lake and Patuanak difficult, so in 1965 they moved into Patuanak, also known as English River First Nation. Sarazine began teaching Denesuliné Yate at the local school. She sold moosehide moccasins and clothing she sewed to add to the family income, but their main source of food was still from the land. Frank died in 1990, but Sarazine still lives in their house.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in sending thanks to Sarazine Ratt and congratulate her for her lifetime of contributions and the role she has played in preserving Cree and Denesuliné languages and cultures in Saskatchewan. Thank you.

[10:15]

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

#### **Competition Showcases Trades and Technology Skills**

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last weekend I had the pleasure of attending and bringing greetings at the 17th Annual Saskatchewan Provincial Skills Canada competition in Moose Jaw. Competing events took place at the Saskatchewan Polytech, Moose Jaw and Regina campuses, as well as A.E. Peacock Collegiate, Central Collegiate in Moose Jaw, and the Saskatchewan Pipefitters Joint Training Board in Regina. We had the honour to have Mr. Mike Holmes, Jr. as guest speaker at the opening ceremonies this year.

Mr. Speaker, the competition brought together 440 secondary and post-secondary students and apprentices from across the province. Skills Canada Saskatchewan's Olympic-style competition provides a forum for students to compete and showcase their skills in numerous trades and technology areas from welding to machine shop to 3-D [three-dimensional] animation. Mr. Speaker, it was truly an amazing event to see the enthusiasm and the pride of work demonstrated by these students.

One of the goals of the competition is to bring a showcase to Saskatchewan prospective employers with the skills levels of our future workforce in the skills and trade field. It also demonstrated the vast number of career opportunities available in the trades and technology sector, Mr. Speaker.

The gold medal winners in each competition will now go on to represent Saskatchewan at the Skills Canada national competition which will be held in Saskatoon in May.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating all the students who competed in this year's Skills Canada Saskatchewan competition.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Mortlach Saskatoonberry Festival Wins Tourism Award

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the 26th annual Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence Gala was hosted by Tourism Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that the Mortlach Saskatoonberry Festival, which takes place in my constituency, won the Community Event of the Year Award. The festival is a delicious celebration of community and is organized by the Mortlach Community Development & Agriculture Society and is run by local volunteers. It includes a full day of activities and samples of tasty Saskatoon berry treats. Turnout has grown substantially over the past seven years with as many as 3,000 people attending from all over, including other parts of Canada, the United States, and even Europe and Japan. This is a great opportunity for local businesses, street vendors, and community groups.

Mr. Speaker, our government applauds the achievements of all the Tourism Awards of Excellence recipients. Their hard work and innovation make Saskatchewan an inviting and memorable destination for tourists around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Mortlach Saskatoonberry Festival and all of the Tourism Awards of Excellence recipients. I would also like to thank them for being such great ambassadors for our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### North Central Facility Named Mâmwêyatitân Centre

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Friday I, along with many of my colleagues, had the pleasure of attending the name unveiling for the new North Central shared facility in Regina, a facility and community very important to me personally, but of course to all of us as well.

Most members will be more familiar with it as Scott Collegiate, built in 1924, the second high school in Regina. As beautiful of an old building as it is, it is certainly showing its age and is in need of replacement. Talk of building a replacement facility began in 2003 when members opposite were in government. However, Mr. Speaker, that's all it really was, just talk. I'm very pleased to say that progress has begun on the new shared facility, a facility that will house a high school, child care facility, city recreational complex, public library, and community policing centre.

With significant input from community elders, this facility will be called the Mâmwêyatitân Centre, which is Cree for "We all come together." It will indeed be a centrepiece for the North Central community.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite, to their credit, recognized it was time for Scott Collegiate to be replaced. But once again, Mr. Speaker, they only did what they were good at: lots of talk, no action. On this side of the House we are doing what we do best, and that's get the job done, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

### Wholesale Trade Grows in Saskatchewan

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise today to announce that in February, Saskatchewan's wholesale trade reached 2.5 billion, an all-time record high for the province. On a year-over-year basis, this represents an increase of 25.9 per cent. According to Statistics Canada, Saskatchewan had the largest percentage increase among the provinces and well outpaced the national average of 5.5 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's wholesale trade growth between January and February truly stood out when compared to the rest of Canada. In Saskatchewan, wholesale trade increased by 7.3 per cent, representing the highest percentage increase among all provinces.

Mr. Speaker, this growth in wholesale trade is indicative of how our province's broad-based economy is continuing to expand and it's helping us to continue to build a strong Saskatchewan. Our robust and diverse economy puts Saskatchewan in the unique position to be able to absorb short-term challenges such as those currently being faced in the energy sector while continuing to grow and build for the future. Financial analysts are predicting that not only will Saskatchewan continue to grow in 2015 but that our province will continue to show strength over the long term.

Mr. Speaker, it's a great time to be living in our province, and we truly have what it takes to ensure we keep Saskatchewan strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Release of Information Concerning Worker

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the care aid whose privacy was breached by the Premier has lodged a formal complaint against the Premier and the Premier's chief of communications and operations. Will the Premier commit to fully co-operate with this investigation?

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. Under section 29 of the relevant Act, there was no breach.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier is dreaming if he thinks that is accurate. The Premier's entire argument yesterday, Mr. Speaker, was that he believes, he believes that leaking confidential information about a private citizen was necessary in order to protect the Premier's reputation and get him out of a conundrum. Conundrum is the exact word that the Premier used. He was in a conundrum, so he ordered the leak of confidential information about a private citizen.

Nothing whatsoever in the legislation allows for a breach of privacy to protect the Premier's reputation or to help the

Premier out of a conundrum. Will the Premier agree today to turn over all relevant emails, text messages, phone records, and other documents to the independent Privacy Commissioner?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, we're used to a lot of things from the member opposite. We're used to him representing facts in ways that we later find out aren't correct. We're used to, I think, the extreme use of rhetoric in certain situations. We saw it I think yesterday in the scrum when he was comparing this whole situation to what happens in Russia, if you can believe that, Mr. Speaker.

The conundrum that I . . . And he's also now misrepresented, I would say, or not dealt fully and clearly with what exactly I said yesterday. And he does this. He cherry-picks a word here and there.

Here's the conundrum the government faced. The conundrum was this: that member, for some reason — he's not done this in the past — asked as a preamble to his questions about Mr. Bowden's inquiry here at the legislature three times if he would be protected from any retribution in the workplace for raising these concerns. I made that promise. I gave the commitment on behalf of the government. So did the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker. So the conundrum that I was talking about was, how then do we ensure, in light of the fact that the health region has taken steps to discipline him because of complaints received, had nothing to do with his intervention here at the House but because of that, the conundrum for the government is, how do we make sure that other health care workers understand there will be no retribution for anyone that comes forward and raises concerns?

He knows that's the record of the government because, as concerns have come forward, either in letters to the editor or in to this Assembly, there has been no retribution. There have been no consequences in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, what the health region takes seriously and what the government takes seriously, and I wonder if the Leader of the Opposition takes this seriously, is the well-being of patients and colleagues, the health and well-being and welfare of patients in the system or residents in long-term care, and colleagues in the workplace. Mr. Speaker, we do take that very seriously. So does the region, and the appropriate action has been taken. The appropriate action was also taken with respect to information as outlined in section 29 of the relevant Act.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, I asked three times because the Premier's answers were weak and because we now see how this government treats individuals like that. Peter was the first care aid that came out publicly, Mr. Speaker, the first one that would put his name out there publicly because of the concerns that he saw, and that's why he needed protection.

My question was to the Premier, which he did not reply to or give an answer. Will the Premier agree to turn over to the Privacy Commissioner emails, text messages, and documentation, yes or no?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, first of all, he's now not even remembering his own questions in the Legislative Assembly because he asked for assurance three times. He asked it in the first question when he raised this gentleman's case. In the very first question before he went on with the actual case he was raising, he stood up in the House and said, was there assurance from me personally, from the government, that someone could come forward without retribution. And you know, it's all over *Hansard*. He can read it in *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker. He should know what he said, but it's in *Hansard* if he's not clear about that. My answer was unequivocal each time, but he asked it each time.

I mean I don't know what the Leader of the Opposition knew or was asked to do on behalf of this individual, but I would just say this, that the proper procedure was followed, Mr. Speaker. The proper procedure was followed. There's clear provision in legislation to allow us to ensure the public interest in terms of disclosure. This was general information that was provided, Mr. Speaker, and of course we'll co-operate in any way with any inquiry by the Privacy Commissioner.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — When did the Premier learn that the care aid in Saskatoon was suspended?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I believe it would have been several days after the fact. I understand the suspension might have happened late last week, and I believe I heard about it earlier this week. Mr. Speaker, I could get the exact date for the member.

The bottom line is this: when I heard this information, I was concerned because an undertaking had been given in the Legislative Assembly about the assurance that workers should have with respect to raising concerns in the House. And when I heard about this, I was wanting to ensure that that promise was kept. Mr. Speaker, I'm comfortable with that.

I hope also that the Leader of the Opposition would agree with the health region that a lot of this could be settled, including important issues of the workplace that was affected, a lot of this could be settled with finality if Mr. Bowden would agree with the region's request that he release his file. Obviously the region can't do it. Obviously the government can't do it. Neither should either of those parties do it. But Mr. Bowden should want that, should want to be able to set the record because it's his position, and it's shared by the Leader of the Opposition, his position is, the only reason he's facing discipline is because he came to the legislature. Yes or no? I think that's the position of the NDP [New Democratic Party].

I'm saying that is not the case. The health region is saying that is not the case. The union contract prohibits this from happening, Mr. Speaker. The answers to all of these questions can be resolved if the gentleman would release his file. I hope that he does that. And I hope the Leader of the Opposition would also support any action by the health region that ensures

a proper workplace, a safe workplace, either at Oliver Lodge or anywhere else in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, Peter is having his first meeting with the region today because that's how due process works. That's how rules are followed, Mr. Speaker, and that's how the privacy of individual citizens is respected, something that we have not seen from this Premier. My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: the information, the private, confidential information was leaked on Monday. Is that the day that the Premier became aware of the information?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the government knew on Monday what had happened here because of the situation that has caused this event, the situation being assurances requested by the Leader of the Opposition and then given by myself that this gentleman would be protected in terms of his workplace from any implications of him coming to the legislature. But, Mr. Speaker, the health region itself has been pretty clear about what can cause an investigation of anyone in the health care system, and that relates directly to the health and well-being of patients or residents under care, and colleagues. That will always be the priority of the government.

Mr. Speaker, the provisions in the Act that would allow for a sharing of information are pretty clear about the public interest. I think it's pretty clear that it's in the public interest that health care workers know they can come forward without retribution and raise concerns, as they have on countless occasions with letters to the editor.

Mr. Speaker, here's something else about the public interest. We want to make sure we have workplaces — and I remember events not very long ago when members opposite were in charge — we want to have an environment in the public service free, Mr. Speaker, free of anything that would harm or in any way take away from the health and welfare and well-being of patients in care and colleagues. That will always be a priority of this government. That is in the public interest, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the Act requires due diligence and caution. The Premier said he learned earlier this week. We know that the information was leaked on Monday. Is it correct, or what is the turn of events, Mr. Speaker? Did the Premier learn about the suspension on Monday, and was it leaked that Monday morning?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the answer of course to this question was just provided in the last answer. I would just say though again with respect to this particular issue, the member keeps using the word leak. The information was provided, was provided per . . . Well we hear them. We hear them chirping, Mr. Speaker, about legislation that's been on the books in this

province for a long time, where there is a specific provision for information to be provided if it's deemed to be in the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, long before Monday, long before Monday, this government deemed it to be in the public interest that it ought to, that the government and all of its partners, health regions ought to conduct themselves in a way that no one would face retribution or any implications at all from coming forward and expressing concerns about health care in the province of Saskatchewan or their workplace. Mr. Speaker, that is in the public interest.

There was due diligence that has gone into that priority that we have made for the province of Saskatchewan, and it was on that basis that a decision was made not to leak but to provide background to media, background to media so that people would know in this province that nobody, not Mr. Bowden, not anyone else has ever faced workplace consequences because of coming forward as he did. Neither will they as long as we have the chance to form government in the province.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, it is not in the public interest for the Premier to engage in politically motivated leaks. That is absolutely clear. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: how is it that he came to learn about this information?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't know the specifics of what's in this gentleman's file. I know in a general way what the concerns were, and they were generated by complaints — I think that was provided — generated by complaints of colleagues. And that's why I would counsel some circumspection on the part of members opposite and the Leader of the Opposition.

I think we want to always be ensuring that while people need to be able to freely express concerns about health care being provided in their workplace, we must also ensure that first of all there's a freedom to do that and, secondly, that those workplaces are free from anything that would take away from the well-being and the welfare of people in care, and colleagues, Mr. Speaker. I think that's very important.

Let me just say this. This government will take action to protect those things. We want to ensure, and its partners in the health regions will need to ensure that the workplaces are safe, that the workplaces are also not taking away anything from the well-being of people. While the members are chirping opposite, Mr. Speaker, I think they should be taking that particular issue very, very seriously.

Again, I hope the Leader of the Opposition would maybe reach out to Mr. Bowden and encourage that he provide the information in the file so that we will know all the details about this, about the investigation. Mr. Speaker, I think that would be instructive. You want to talk about who's playing politics with the issue? Absent the facts in this line of question, we would answer that question: it would be the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the question was, how did the Premier come to learn of this information? Who did he talk to?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, it was a conversation with the staff in the Premier's office who would've been informed I think by the health region and the Health minister's office.

Obviously we had stated a concern for this particular individual in terms of what might happen going forward, seeking to protect his position of coming forward into the legislature. Well it's true. This is all . . . This is the fact. We wanted to make sure that there was nothing that any, any partner of government or government itself would do, any action that we would take that would clearly indicate that there had been a workplace repercussion for him coming forward.

Mr. Speaker, and so when that person was suspended with pay, we would want to have known that, and then we want to have sought assurances. This is important. Then we would've wanted to seek assurances that whatever decision had been taken in terms of disciplinary action, the suspension with pay, that those actions were having nothing to do with him coming forward. I think that's what the member opposite would want the government to do. That's exactly what we did.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Did the Premier or the Premier's office seek this information from the health region, or was it offered up by the health region to the Premier?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I've just checked with the Health minister. We can provide the information to the member on that particular question. I don't have the immediate details.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, because the Premier gave a very ambiguous answer about that yesterday in a scrum when asked about how he knew about this information, saying that he asked because he wanted to know and then talked about, well there was some sort of follow-out report that came. So which was it? Did the Premier's office ask the health region for the information, or did the health region offer up this information to the Premier?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I sought assurances from government, from our government and from the region long before any of these events unfolded. The Leader of the Opposition on three occasions when this gentleman's case was being raised asked for assurances that he would be protected from workplace repercussions. Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, when we give a promise like that, we seek to ensure that that promise is kept. The request was made that a promise that I gave on the floor of the legislature would be kept by the health

region immediately after those questions were first raised in the House.

Because of that, I would expect the region, I would want the health region, if then disciplinary action was taken, to be able to let the government know that it had been taken and, more importantly, to let the government know that it had nothing to do with him coming forward, Mr. Speaker, because we gave that promise. On this side of the House, those commitments, those undertakings, not just in this legislature but wherever we are in the province, they matter. They matter to me, Mr. Speaker. And I wanted to make sure, the Health minister wanted to make sure that Mr. Bowden's case had nothing to do with him coming forward.

I am satisfied that that happened without seeing the specifics because I haven't seen them. And if the member has, he might . . . You know, that would be interesting. But I have not seen the specifics. I have sought and received the assurance and general information from the health region that the government's commitment was made, not just made but kept. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm confident that that's exactly the case.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, we see again in the Premier's remarks here, it's about protecting the Premier's reputation, solving his conundrum as opposed to ensuring the privacy of private citizens is upheld. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Premier: with whom did the Premier discuss the details of this case before deciding to breach the confidential, private information of a private citizen? With whom did he consult?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the NDP have just tweeted something out, and it reads as follows: "Note: NDP has seen file & is satisfied it appears Bowden is suspended specifically for speaking out about seniors' care crisis." Have you seen the file, and is that your opinion? Is that your view, the NDP position, that this is the only reason that he's been suspended with pay?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, we have seen the same information that this government has released to the people. For the Premier to do this, Mr. Speaker, and cloud the issue is unbelievable. My question to the Premier: before he decided to breach this individual's private information, Mr. Speaker, with whom did he consult?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, his party, his caucus, the people that work for him and that are accountable to him have just tweeted, "Note: NDP has seen file & is satisfied it appears Bowden is suspended specifically for speaking out about seniors' care crisis." Well they're asking why we're not answering questions. This is a confidential file. This is a confidential file. So how did it come into their possession?

Now that they've seen the whole file . . . because that's what

he's saying. That's what they've just tweeted. Now that they've seen the whole file, is this true? Is it the NDP's position that whatever has happened with Mr. Bowden, the investigation is solely because he came forward in the legislature?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, this is pathetic what the Premier is doing right now. We have seen, Mr. Speaker, the same information that the Premier breached and sent around to the media. It's clear that is the case, Mr. Speaker. I said this yesterday publicly, for crying out loud, and now, Mr. Speaker, for them to pretend that this is breaking news . . . Give me a break. My question to the Premier: who did the Premier consult with before he decided to release this information?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, what is pathetic, what is pathetic in this legislature is a line of questioning from the Leader of the Opposition about the confidentiality of information when . . . And apparently now he said he said it yesterday, and they're tweeting it out that they have the file, that they've seen the file.

Mr. Speaker, I again ask the member to put . . . I asked the Leader of the Opposition to state for the record if he has seen the entire file because I haven't. I had a general briefing about it, but I have not. If he has seen the entire file, will he, again, stand in this legislature today and say that he believes that the only thing Mr. Bowden did to receive this discipline was come to the legislature and present his concerns about seniors? Is that his view? He's seen the whole file. Does he believe it's all about him coming forward and has nothing else to do with other workplace incidents?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, what I have seen is the email that was sent to Peter with the concerns that have been raised. I have not seen Peter's file, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Premier: did the Premier consult with the Ministry of Justice before he decided to release the information?

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Thank you. I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, in the course of question period, his story's changed fairly substantively and on a material, on a pretty material issue to this particular case. Because in the last question, he got up and said, well of course I said we had the file. I said we had the file in the scrum yesterday. That's why we tweeted it out. Just now he stood up and said, well actually, I don't have the file. I'm just going off of what was sent out to the media.

Mr. Speaker, this goes to the credibility of this Leader of the Opposition, which I think has been eroding daily, each time he gets up in the Legislative Assembly with a question like this. What is it? Has he the file or does he not have the file? And if he has seen the file, as he said he did and as he's just had his people tweet out, if he's seen the file, is he of the view that the

only reason Mr. Bowden is facing some disciplinary action is because he presented himself at the legislature, yes or no? Is that what he believes?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, it is clear in the email that was sent to Peter Bowden that the consequences that he has faced is a result of him coming out and speaking at the legislature. Mr. Speaker, it is clear in that list.

My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: did the Premier consult with either the Ministry of Justice or the Ministry of Health before he decided to breach the privacy of this private citizen?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm always seeking the very good counsel of the Attorney General and other members of the Executive Council and MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly].

Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, we're familiar with legislation with respect to privacy issues. Mr. Speaker, I don't think members opposite are familiar with the legislation because if they were familiar with it, they would know about section 29, where there's a clear provision for allowing for the release of information if this is deemed to be in the public interest, Mr. Speaker.

Once again though, we have the Leader of the Opposition on this particular issue stating several different positions. I want to be very clear. He has not seen the file. And if he has seen the file, why did he say that he saw it yesterday, and why are his party officials back in his caucus office tweeting out that they've seen the file and they're satisfied that Mr. Bowden's side of the story is the accurate side of the story?

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, did the Premier consult with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, or a privacy lawyer before he released the information?

[10:45]

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the day before, I consulted with ministers and members of Executive Council about a number of things. Whether there was specific conversations about this or not, Mr. Speaker, I can share with members, we're familiar with the privacy legislation. And he might want to read it because if he were to read it, he'd find out the clear provision in section 29 that allows for the release of information if it's in the public interest.

Does the Leader of the Opposition agree that it's in the public interest that health care workers should be able to come forward without any fear of retribution? I think they should. Does the Leader of the Opposition agree that it's in the public interest to ensure that our workplaces are free, are free of anything that

would take away from the well-being and welfare of workers in the system? Mr. Speaker, I hope that he would.

These are the motivations for my actions and for the actions of the government. Mr. Speaker, we stand by those motivations on this side of the House to protect that public interest, to use section 29 as it was used, and we're going to continue to conduct ourselves in this manner.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — No answer, Mr. Speaker, about whether or not they consulted with ministries or with a privacy lawyer.

I have another question, Mr. Speaker. Did the Premier have the written consent of the Saskatoon Health Region to release this information? And also did he consult with his deputy minister, or did he simply consult with his political staff when he made the call to leak this information?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, there he goes again. There was no leak. The information was provided on background to the media . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well there's not. We're going to send over copies of the Act, so members opposite maybe want to look at it before they raise questions in the House.

Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of weeks, over the last couple of weeks we've seen this member stand up, over the last couple of weeks we've seen this Leader of the Opposition stand up and be proven to be factually incorrect time after time after time. We saw when his Deputy Leader got up and had a drive-by smear campaign all the way down to Mexico, and he had to stand up and apologize, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, occasion after occasion, members opposite are not, are not frankly dealing . . .

[Interjections]

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I would be kind of grumpy over there too if I'd had the last couple of weeks that they've had. And here's more bad news for the NDP but more good news for the province. In part because of the conduct of members opposite, even after now almost two full terms in government, Mr. Speaker, the voting intentions of the people of the province have not changed.

Insightrix, the polling firm, has released a poll today, Mr. Speaker, and the facts are this: people are weighing in on the performance of that Leader of the Opposition. His party is actually at a level lower than it was under Dwain Lingenfelter, Mr. Speaker, lower than Dwain Lingenfelter, and a 27-point lead for the governing party. Why, Mr. Speaker? Why? Well hopefully it's because of good government. We can always do better, but certainly it's in part because of the terrible performance of the NDP opposite.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 612 — *The Respect for Diversity — Student Bill of Rights Act*

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 612, *The Respect for Diversity — Student Bill of Rights Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved first reading of Bill No. 612, *The Respect for Diversity — Student Bill of Rights Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Next sitting of the House.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to question 929.

**The Speaker:** — The Government Whip has tabled responses to question 929.

## SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

### Canadian Wheat Board

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very proud to rise today to present this motion. I think it's one that's very important and one that should be paid attention to across the country actually. Sadly, I know that there was an attempt to have a debate on this in House of Commons earlier this week.

And it's really difficult for me to be heard over the din coming from across the way right now, so I'm not exactly sure whether it's a positive thing to go ahead with comments at this time. Perhaps we need to wait until these guys settle down a little bit before we can actually get into this particular debate. Unfortunately the hubbub continues, Mr. Speaker, but I will carry on.

I guess the issue here is it's a long, long story, in fact it's a 70-year-old story, and members here know the history of this debate. Certainly there's a lot of disagreement on both sides of the House in terms of the original decision made in 2011 to eliminate the single desk, the Canadian Wheat Board.

But what we're talking about today is the sale of the new Canadian Wheat Board after the single desk was destroyed in

2011. There's a number of issues that we want to address today about this particular sale, if you can call it that. I mean it really wasn't a sale at all. It was a giveaway to two international entities, one being a global American . . . American but global agri-food giant, Bunge, and the other one is, curiously enough, a state-owned agricultural investment firm. You would think we would have a similar firm in Canada that would be able to make these kinds of investments in food security, Mr. Speaker. But no, in this case the agriculture investment firm that's owned by its own country happens to be Saudi Arabia, and there's all kinds of issues that we could debate for 75 minutes on that particular item alone.

But what I want to take a look at today, Mr. Speaker, is just some of the details of this particular deal and try and understand why this kind of set-up is deemed to be acceptable by the Government of Canada. And I see some members are raptly listening; I can imagine who's going to get up next to speak to this. And I look forward to the comments that are coming forward.

The first thing I think we want to talk about today is the trust that's been established by the Government of Canada to own 49 per cent of this new global giant, and it's called G3 [Global Grain Group]. It's a new global company that's a joint venture between Bunge and the Saudi investment fund. We know that they didn't buy the Canadian Wheat Board at all. In fact it was given to them for a promise: so if you do this, please promise that you will invest \$250 million. And what they do is they give them 50.1 per cent of the company, and now this farmer trust gets 49.9 per cent.

But what, Mr. Speaker, what is this farmer trust, and what does it mean for farmers? Now they hold . . . This is a trust. It's a legal trust. It holds 49.9 per cent of the shares, but the farmers who deliver to get equity in this trust will never ever hold shares in this company. They hold units in the trust. Mr. Speaker, it's not clear how these units are going to be valued, and one of the big reasons for that is because since they dismantled the Wheat Board in 2011, the government has refused to disclose any financial information about the new Canadian Wheat Board. So we have no financial information whatsoever. There's no way farmers are going to even know what that \$5 unit is actually going to be worth.

One of the questions that's being asked is, how does this meet securities regulations? Because we know, Mr. Speaker, that securities regulations require, they require a public disclosure of financial information. What if a farmer dies? What's going to happen to his estate? How are they going to evaluate these shares? These are all kinds of wide-open questions that this government simply has not thought through in their rush to get rid of the Canadian Wheat Board. It's not even called the Canadian Wheat Board anymore. It's the G3.

And they're saying after seven years they will pay fair market value for those trust units, but how do you know what the value is if you don't have public disclosure of the funds? We don't even know if there is going to be dividends paid on those trust units. That's entirely up to the G3 controlling partnership, Mr. Speaker.

We know for sure that farmers will have absolutely no say in

how this company is going to be run. There's no guarantee that their \$5 per tonne equity will ever be returned to them. Furthermore, we know that just the reduction in prices at the country elevators since the single desk was dismantled far exceeds that \$5 per tonne. So I mean it just goes on and on. But these are just some of the simple questions that we have about this trust that the government thought they would establish to throw a bone to farmers when they decided to dismantle this once-proud company.

I mean, and this is something else, Mr. Speaker — what we hear over and over from Minister Ritz on this is complete misinformation. It's twisting the truth so it's unrecognizable. And what we see here, the saddest part of this issue is that the Harper and Ritz twisting the facts and propaganda has now become a prevailing public narrative. And a good example of that was in the clip that CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] used recently when Stewart Wells was interviewed by Evan Solomon. And what they did is they showed a clip belittling an individual named Dean Harder who was involved in a plebiscite back in 2011. And what he said is that Dean Harder made up the number that 62 per cent of farmers supported the CWB [Canadian Wheat Board] in the 2011 plebiscite.

Now we know that in this plebiscite in 2011, the results were released by the Canadian Wheat Board, and it showed that 62 per cent of wheat producers who completed the mail-in ballot favoured retaining the single desk. That is a fact, Mr. Speaker. And yet CBC shows a story of Mr. Ritz saying that that was an outright lie. That is an unfortunate situation, and it's unfortunate that these lies are being perpetuated by the media.

There's a number of other examples of lies which I can bring up in a few minutes. But I just want to talk a little bit about this deal. One of the things the minister argued is that the Canadian Wheat Board assets were not worth anything at the end of the transition from its role as a single-desk marketing agency. The federal government has given \$300 million of taxpayers' dollars to transition what was a marketing agency to now a grain marketing company. And that's a completely difference entity, Mr. Speaker, than what the Canadian Wheat Board by law was able to do before 2011.

So what we've seen is a massive injection of taxpayer dollars. Three hundred million taxpayer dollars have been injected into this company to make it ready to give away to global and state-owned, Saudi state-owned investors, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't make any sense at all, and this is a desperate attempt on the part of this government to just make things go away.

In fact one of the articles that was put out by the *Free Press* in Winnipeg, here's what they had to say. This is a quote from the article:

One experienced financial services executive who spoke on condition his name not be used, said regardless of how the arrangement is rationalized, the assets of the former wheat board were worth something.

[He said] "I don't know how much (they were worth), but they certainly had some equity value," he said. "They are giving away the assets for nothing. It does not make any

sense to me.”

And I think, Mr. Speaker, we are hearing that over and over again from different experts in the wheat transportation and wheat marketing world.

Another quote that I think Mr. Ritz has said blatantly, and is clearly not the truth, he says, “This is a win for Canadian farmers.” “Nothing’s been given away.” Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth. Clearly the minister is trying to hide what’s happened and he’s just in a rush to get it over with.

We know that the original deal was to give until 2017 for the Canadian Wheat Board to transition from the single-desk agency to this new competitor, they’re calling it now, in the global wheat marketing world. Well that’s, Mr. Speaker, something that the transition has been rushed. It’s been done in secrecy. And we know that \$300 million of Canadian taxpayers’ money has been injected to create this entity that can now be given away.

I think this is something that Canadian taxpayers should be outraged about. I’m very disappointed that the Speaker of the House of Commons ruled out an emergency motion brought forward to discuss this issue. We know the sale isn’t complete until July of 2015, so there’s still some time, Mr. Speaker, for the federal government to come clean, come clean and straighten it out.

And of course this is an issue for Saskatchewan producers. The sad part is that we see nothing from this government defending this outright giveaway of farmer’s assets, and largely Saskatchewan producer’s assets, to an international grain company.

Mr. Speaker, I think the facts are this: that since 2011 the price of wheat and the price of canola, because of the mess in the grain transportation and the grain marketing world, has actually dropped. In 2011 this government predicted that by 2014 wheat would be worth \$277.00 a tonne and canola would be worth \$488.00 a tonne. Now they had to revise that. In 2012 they dropped it. Well actually wheat went up a little bit, and canola, in 2012 because of the bumper year. But the actual results were a huge, basically a decline, even in 2012 when we had the best crop this country’s ever seen. 2013 actuals, another decline down to \$257 a tonne, and they had to revise their 2014 assumptions to \$235 a tonne. But you know what, Mr. Speaker, even that was optimistic. In 2014 the actual price for wheat per tonne in Saskatchewan, or in the markets, was \$200 per tonne. That’s a drop of \$70 a tonne since the Wheat Board, the single marketing agency was dismantled.

[11:00]

And yet we still have Mr. Ritz saying how this is great for farmers and how it’s putting money in farmers’ pockets. There is no link between Mr. Ritz’s rhetoric and what’s actually happening to farmers on the ground. We know through best estimates from experts that Canadian farmers have lost \$3 billion in the second-last crop year and that \$2 billion are now being lost in the last year for farmers. It’s out of their pockets. It’s in somebody’s pockets. It’s not in the farmers’ pockets.

And I think the irony here is that what Mr. Ritz is calling somebody new, there’s going to be this new competitor. The competitor was already there. He created this Canadian Wheat Board competitor in 2011. So when folks welcome the fact that this is enhancing competition, it’s not enhancing competition at all because there’s no increase in competition.

I think the most telling article that’s been released since the announcement last week was one that came out of the *Leader-Post* last week. And the questions there are questions I think that deserve answering, Mr. Speaker. The first question is asked: does selling the Canadian Wheat Board — albeit stripped of its single-desk marketing power and most of its staff to Bunge and the Saudi Arabia state-owned company — does that increase competition in the grain sector? And the answer given in this article says:

Since the number of competitors in the grain trade remains the same, there’s no increase in competition. Moreover, the new Canadian Wheat Board will have far less market clout than the old Canadian Wheat Board.

It’s just another competitor now, Mr. Speaker. The article goes on to describe what Ritz has injected in taxpayers dollars into this new entity:

... 177 million from the federal government in 2011-12, part of the ... [total \$350] million in federal money earmarked for ‘restructuring costs’ ...

Restructuring costs — they had to create something out of nothing, Mr. Speaker, because they completely dismantled the original purpose of the Canadian Wheat Board.

But we know that since 2011 no annual report has been issued by the Canadian Wheat Board, leaving taxpayers to guess what they have at stake. What’s going to become of that \$350 million from taxpayers? This is what we do know, and this is a quote:

Many of the promised benefits of marketing freedom have failed to materialize. The bonanza of higher grain prices, the value-added investments, and the more responsive grain handling system promised by the proponents of marketing freedom have come a cropper.

Mr. Speaker, we know farmers have lost more than \$5 billion in the grain backlog caused in large measure ... And any expert will agree, and I’m sure the Minister of Agriculture would agree that that \$5 billion was caused in part by lack of logistics coordination, and yet there’s been nothing done on the part of this government to even try to improve those logistics. And there’s things this government can do. We know that, for example, they could require the corporations to publish monthly average tonnage and selling price.

Let’s have some disclosure here, Mr. Speaker. Let’s have some open, transparent disclosure here so that farmers are not at a loss when it comes to making important marketing decisions.

Other quotes that we’re looking at, this is from Friends of the Canadian Wheat Board Chair Stewart Wells. He says:

It’s really an Alice-in-Wonderland scenario where assets

that have been paid for by hard-working farmers have now been stolen or seized by the government and then turned over to a multi-billion dollar international company.

There's other quotes, Mr. Speaker, and unfortunately I'm running out of time. I did want to point out just something that is sort of back to the future. And this is a quote from the committee, the federal committee on November 2nd, 2011 and here's what . . . described what was going to happen:

The board has been an important and critical component of the grain handling and transportation system. And ultimately there will be significant fallout as a result of the removal of the board from the piece. Perhaps the most politically charged fallout will be the commercial pressure on producer cars.

Mr. Speaker, that's on November 2nd, 2011, page 3. I don't have time to finish that quote, but I recommend all members read it. And so I'd like to move the following motion:

That this Assembly express significant concern about the sale of the former Canadian Wheat Board to a Saudi state-owned agricultural investment firm and American agri-food giant.

And I just have to find the motion, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I found it and I need to sign it.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Nutana:

That this Assembly condemn the Saskatchewan Party government for failing to stand up for Saskatchewan's agricultural producers and for failing to protect Canadian interests by supporting the federal government's giveaway of the former Canadian Wheat Board to a Saudi state-owned agricultural investment firm and American agri-food giant.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join in this debate. It's interesting. The last two debates I've been at has been mostly federally driven from the federal NDPs. You know, obviously there's not many issues in Saskatchewan which . . . We all know Saskatchewan is rolling good. The farming industry is rolling good. We're talking about this particular motion.

You know, they talk about, I can remember about the Wheat Board. I can remember I was at an auction sale when they announced the initial price. It was I think the early '90s, \$1.87 was the initial price they were offering. And I remember how people were just, the farmers were shaking their heads at that. A lot of years, barely two oh five, two oh ten . . . Why do you think the farmers switched to lentils, peas, mustard? And they did that with the private industry. The farmers have now, are producing 65 per cent of the world peas, I think, 60 per cent of the world lentils; they are 27 per cent of the yellow mustard — markets the farmers developed because they couldn't make a living under the Wheat Board.

You know, the only help that the Wheat Board offered at the end, after the farmers made them sales work in private industry was, oh we'll help you sell it now. You know, we'll help you sell it like we did the wheat all through the '70s, '80s, '90s when the prices were almost at nothing. Instead of passing money on, they were building a palace in Winnipeg with our money. What else did they do with our money? I don't remember being consulted when they bought ships. I don't remember that. Spending the farmers' money buying anything they wanted. I can remember questions being raised, why they don't ship more grain through the United States, through ports there instead of going to Vancouver when there were strikes. Because some of them ports weren't unionized, they wouldn't go down the Mississippi. They wanted to go through unionized ports.

You know, this motion speaks back to the NDP of the '70s when Blakeney used to thump around and about nationalization, about the Wheat Board, and socialism. I remember the candidate, Faris, in '74 coming to Bladworth and just extolling the futures of socialism, nationalism, about co-ops and the Wheat Board and then going, someday you'll see the light. I remember my dad looking at him and says, if that's your idea of light, I'll keep stumbling along in the darkness.

You know, they talk about standing up for farmers. Well we'll just talk about, we'll talk about that for a little bit. Last election, if you want to stand up for farmers, you couldn't even find a farmer in Arm River-Watrous to run against me. If the Wheat Board was such a huge issue that all the farmers were all going to vote for that, you couldn't find one farmer to run. In fact you couldn't find anybody from Saskatchewan to run — the candidate was from Edmonton. He was working at the Regina Co-op Refinery temporarily. Last I checked he was still in Edmonton. Technically you don't have a seat. You have the eastern politicians telling us they're going to save the western grain farmers.

You know, that reminds me of an old proverb I heard when I was a kid. You know, 10,000, 5,000 years ago Moses said, I'm going to lead my people to the Promised Land. He said, grab your shovels, put them on your asses — sorry, donkeys — grab . . . get on your camels. I will lead you to the Promised Land. What's Justin Trudeau saying now? I'll bring back the Wheat Board? Farmers, you can lay down your shovels, sit on your rear end, light up a Camel. You're in the promised land. If the NDP were ever elected, each and every farmer and rancher would know what would happen. The NDP would take your Camel, tax your shovel, kick you in the rear end, and tell you there is no promised land.

I'm tired of eastern politicians telling us how to sell our grain, when in Eastern Canada . . . Eastern Canada never had a wheat board. You tell Mulcair, go save Quebec. Go save Ontario farmers first. Put a wheat board there, then come and tell us how to sell our grain. You know . . .

You know, that's the premise of this motion. There's a lot of issues out there in rural Saskatchewan. This isn't one of them. You know, this isn't one of them with farmers. This is something from the '70s where the NDP don't even want to push, push to help farmers. This is about pushing their agenda of socialism, nationalization, and about the land banks

back then.

I can remember speaking about that, of them speaking about that, pushing that issue. We talk about the Wheat Board. Farmers have moved on. We can market our own grain. We do it with peas. We do it with lentils. We do it with mustard. We do it with every commodity that's out there. We can work with the private industry. We don't need big brother telling us how to sell grain.

I can remember having no quotas. I can remember on the Wheat Board system, no quotas. You couldn't move grain. Sitting on it, expecting us to store it. And when they did call a quota, it was maybe 3 bushels an acre. Now through the '90s it went to a contract system, but still they would call 25 per cent. That's all you knew, the most you were going to be able to sell. And then maybe in February they'd call another 25 per cent. Maybe June they'd finally call the last 50 per cent. The rest of the time we had to store it, on our dollar.

You know, farmers want the option, which we've used. And she talked about a big crop year, which it was two years ago. Myself, a lot of my neighbours had wheat on the ground. I had to pile 10,000 bushels on the ground. There was grain bags. I moved that before the snow got to it because I could contract it all with a buyer and it was gone. Under the Wheat Board system, that pile would have stayed there and rotted through the winter under the Wheat Board.

Now when they talk about coming out here, and from the federal NDP giving advice to the provincial NDP on how to run our farms, well like the member had mentioned, well thank you for being concerned, but maybe be a little more concerned maybe with the Quebec and Ontario and eastern farmers. Try pushing it there. You have to ask your question to your federal Mulcair. They don't even have an MP [Member of Parliament] in this province and yet . . . and same as the rural, and the NDP opposite don't have a rural member.

We ran on '99, on choice, on free marketing. You'd think if the farmers were behind you, you'd think you'd have had farmers running for you. You'd think you'd have run some seats. You may want to look at that and maybe think, maybe once you're wrong on something. Maybe it's time to move on and help farmers work to market in the system we're in, in the world economy that we're dealing in right now.

You know we talk about, you know, market choice. And when I was door knocking — that's big with a lot of farmers — they were tired for years and years of being threatened with jail. I had a neighbour that actually had his truck impounded at the border. Tried taking one load of grain across because he needed some money, and was put in jail.

**The Speaker:** — I'd like to remind the member to address his remarks through the Chair. I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

**Mr. Brkich:** — But you know, farmers were desperate in them times. You know, they were getting 4 to 5 to \$6 across the border for durum, for wheat. Initial price, \$1.97, \$1.98, Mr. Speaker, and not being able to sell it because the Wheat Board hadn't contracted, hadn't called the quota. You know you can

see that, you can see that money across the border and you're not allowed to go to it, because in the Wheat Board's mind they owned the wheat. As soon as you combined it, they owned it. It wasn't yours to market. It wasn't yours to sell. It wasn't yours to do anything except store it till when they decided to call it.

Now and they wondered why farmers asked for change in the marketing system and freedom. And you know, that's what we got. When we door knocked, that's what the majority of farmers wanted. And if the NDP want to live in the past, that's up to them. But it shows in the polling. I just heard today, the polling's down. The polling is down again, Mr. Speaker. Why? I hear that Mr. Lingenfelter is actually higher than the current leader right now.

[11:15]

You know, maybe they ought to sit around and ask themselves some of them questions of why is that, when you start pushing the old ideas from the '70s and the '60s and the '50s, the way things were. Well things have moved on. We're working in a world economy now, working with huge agribusinesses. Farmers are willing to do that. They know how to market their own grain. They all own computers. They know the prices. They know the market.

You know, if you're on an iPhone, a farmer's constantly getting updates of prices, of contracts availability, knowing when to move his grain. Now that's what the farming business is nowadays, not sitting back and having some organization take a lot of the money and saying, we'll sell it, and not do that great of a job at it to begin with. The farmers right now want the freedom. They have the technology. They have the experience to do that job, and they're willing to do it, Mr. Speaker.

So you know, I still can't believe that they would actually bring something that far from the past instead of just saying, you know, how can we help the farming industry? What do we need in the future to move on? You think of all the motions they could bring forward that's happening out in rural Saskatchewan, you know, you'd think they'd want to talk about that except some old idea that they just can't let go. It's something like the *Regina Manifesto*. If they had their way, I think they'd actually bring that back again.

You know, they have to . . . I don't know if . . . I don't know why they won't look even in the present. Always going to the back. So that's why, Mr. Speaker, myself and the farmers and ranchers of Arm River constituency will not be supporting . . .

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I wanted to get into this debate to talk about the future. I want to talk about the future because we all, some of us know that the most efficient way to move water around the world, fresh water around the world, is a grain of wheat.

And why is the Saudi Arabian government buying into Canadian grain farmers? Well this is part of an overall strategy that they have developed when they were unable to create farms in the desert using water. And, Mr. Speaker, what we know is that the Saudi Arabian government and other Middle Eastern

governments have been buying up land, if they can get it. They've been buying up transportation systems. They've been buying up grain companies.

And so, Mr. Speaker, what we have here in this situation is our Canadian government not recognizing the value that we have in production of wheat in the world market, and they're giving away some of our Canadian control of how this product is marketed around the world.

The Wheat Board, no matter what form it's been in over the years, has always been about farmers having some say in what happens to their product. And what we know is that this activity that's happened now has happened probably about every 20 to 30 years for almost 100 years because we know that the Wheat Board started during the First World War, between 1917 and 1920, to basically make sure that there was food for Canadians and their allies. 1920, they got rid of it.

Then after that, the farmers here in Saskatchewan and Alberta and Manitoba — primarily Saskatchewan; we were the third-largest province then — said, hey this isn't working. Let's go back to that other system. And there was a fair amount of political agitation till finally we had a Conservative Prime Minister of Canada create the Wheat Board in 1935. But it was building on a history of marketing, it was building on the fact that the wheat pools didn't do the full job because they didn't have the full opportunity.

Now what we know is that we have a present government who is going back to the 1920 kind of perspective of let's, let's get this operation out of here. But it took 15 years after that decision before the farmers in the prairies changed the tune.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when we look at why is Saudi Arabia so interested in Saskatchewan wheat, well the answer is that we grow our wheat with green water. We grow it with rain. They, if they want to grow wheat, they have to use irrigation water, well water. They have to use up lakes. They have to use up their big underground reservoirs, and that's called blue water.

Mr. Speaker, in the world, all of the agriculture for things like grain, peas, lentils, those kinds of things are moving to where there's green water. We live in one of the richest places on the earth where we can get our grain produced that way, so it's no surprise that the Saudi Arabians are here. But they've already been into various parts of Africa. They've also bought up large parts of the Ukraine. They're very interested in the large corporate farms in Kazakhstan. But here, if you look at some of the publicity material from this G3 group, it's about the stability of our political system and our legal system, and so they want to put money here in Saskatchewan.

Now one year ago this week we had Australian members of parliament here from Western Australia, and they . . . Some of us had been over there the previous year in Western Australia, and one of the messages that we got from the farmers of that part of the world, which are very similar to our Saskatchewan farmers, related to what happened with their single-desk market in Australia. And some of the things that they said to us when we were there plus things that they have written emphasize what I think's going to happen here on the prairies. Basically they have now marketing freedom there, if we can put it that

way. And this is a quote:

More middlemen to screw the prices down. Traders are not interested in farmers getting high prices. As long as they make a margin, it doesn't matter to them if prices are high or low. Farmers are out of luck.

Another quote:

There's terrible logistics in organizing export cargoes, with multiple exporters all wanting to load ships at the same time leading to shipping bottlenecks. Someone has to wear the cost of idle ships waiting too long. Guess who eventually wears that cost? Deregulation hasn't benefited the average Australian farmer at all.

Mr. Speaker, any of you been to Vancouver in the last two months and you've seen all those ships that the farmers of Saskatchewan are paying for? The oil spill that wiped out English Bay this last, you know, a few weeks ago was one of these grain ships waiting to get loaded with grain. All of that demurrage cost, all of those costs are paid for by the farmers, and this is part of this marketing freedom. One of the advantages that we had had in Canada for many years was the ability to market through a single desk, and that was important.

Now another aspect that the Australians identify is this:

I think our qualities to the export market has to suffer. How many two-bit outfits are now jamming grain in sea containers that don't know anything about grain?

Mr. Speaker, what happens is that the standards are monitored in a very different way. The member that spoke just before me talked about going and shipping grain through Portland or Seattle or other American ports. Well one of the things that we know is that a lot of our good-quality grain ends up going down there and is mixed with lesser quality, so at the other end they don't know whether it's Canadian or American wheat. We're in a situation now where we're losing, and I think we'll lose total control on how this grain is marketed.

Now the other point from the Australians is this, is a quote:

Deregulation has allowed for more buyers, which has an advantage, until one does not pay. The Australian Wheat Board had the advantage of promoting Australian grain as a premium product. This is slowly being eroded, I think.

Mr. Speaker, that's another factor that we've already been hearing about, is that our end-user buyers around the world, where the Wheat Board has developed market for the top-quality bread grain or the top-quality baking grain, they don't know when they get a load from Canada anymore whether it meets that kind of a standard. And that's really sad for all of us, but it's really difficult for farmers in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, when we're in a situation where decisions are made without full discussion and without full openness on what's happening, it's bad for all of us. And the secrecy around the federal Agriculture minister's announcements related to 3G grain is not in the best interests of Canadians. It's not in the best



interests of farmers.

Mr. Speaker, when I've looked through the material, it strikes me as this deal goes forward that they may have some major difficulties with our securities regulators in Winnipeg, obviously in Saskatchewan, and right across the country because they are not telling these farmers what they're getting in this farmers' trust. And, Mr. Speaker, that's a great difficult situation as well. It looks to me like they've cooked up some kind of air miles system for farmers so that they'll give credit until they've run out of the credits and then the whole system just ends. At that point, they'll pay out those air miles credits for delivering grain with something. We're not sure. Maybe they'll get trips somewhere or maybe they'll get blenders or other things, but it's not a . . .

**The Speaker:** — Time has elapsed. Next speaker. I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it's great to speak on this motion put forward by the agriculture gurus on that side of the House. You know it's kind of hard to sit there and read a motion like this when I can still remember that the member putting this forward actually said in her maiden speech, she talked about the evils of capitalism.

Now, Mr. Speaker, farmers, farmers happen to like to have marketing choices, and unfortunately that didn't happen with the Canadian Wheat Board. And if you noticed on this side of the House, we have people from agriculture areas, which is a lot different than from that side of the House which they have none, none whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, up in my area in northeastern Saskatchewan, we have some of the most progressive farmers, the best farmers in all of Canada. And I can, and I can guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, when this whole debate was going on about the Wheat Board, they can sit there and do their numbers however they want, 90 per cent of the farmers in our area, the actual farmers — I'm not talking hobby farmers; I'm talking the actual farmers, the actual producers — 90 per cent of them wanted the Wheat Board gone.

And, Mr. Speaker, not only that, on our own farm I didn't grow wheat for 10 years because of the Canadian Wheat Board because I couldn't make any money growing wheat on our farm, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, when you start looking at this, and I can go back — I'm old enough unfortunately, well maybe not unfortunately— but anyway I'm old enough to remember when canola was under the Canadian Wheat Board. Years ago canola was under the Canadian Wheat Board. We could not sell, we could not sell our canola unless it went through there. And they took, and I can't remember the name of the company now, but they took one company to court in Saskatoon that was trying to get canola to put through that wasn't running through the Wheat Board. Wheat Board finally gave up and let us grow canola, and it's been a godsend for people up in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I can also remember when oats used to be under the Canadian Wheat Board. And I can remember the piles of oats that we used to have and we could not get rid of it. I can remember selling oats at 35 cents a bushel to our farmer friends

there that had cattle. Now, Mr. Speaker, oats is a big issue for our area and we are growing lots of them. And I'll tell you what — our farmers are making money on that.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, do you want to talk about what the NDP did for the farmers? What did they do for the farmers over there? Like I mean they even had crop insurance in Winnipeg until our first Ag minister from Saltcoats brought crop insurance back to Saskatchewan where it should be.

Mr. Speaker, it was brought up by my compatriot over there about people being thrown in jail just because they wanted to market product that they grew, that they actually grew, they owned on their farm and they could not sell. If they were sold, they were going to get thrown in jail, strictly due to the Canadian Wheat Board.

Mr. Speaker, I've just been informed by some of my colleagues that there's no tweets coming on this debate. I wonder if maybe somebody shut down their tweeting section over in the NDP caucus. It generally doesn't work out that well for them apparently.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about barley. Now remember here just a few years ago when the barley was going to go out and it wasn't going to be . . . you were going to have freedom to market our barley, and then it got turned around because of the court system and everything else. The fellow that is renting my land on the Carrot River side of the river now, he had 120,000 bushels of barley sitting there which he could have sold. Ended up having to put it through the Canadian Wheat Board, and he lost a dollar a bushel. Now that's \$120,000 out of his pocket — \$120,000. Maybe it doesn't mean much to the NDP because you know they spent \$123,000 of taxpayers' money by donating it to the friends of the Canadian Wheat Board — \$123,000. But my friend lost \$120,000 over that.

The only thing the NDP was really good at in agriculture was potatoes. Oh just a minute. Maybe they weren't that good. No, I think that potato idea kind of went downhill, Mr. Speaker.

There's another thing that kind of fits into this, Mr. Speaker, and that's the organic growers. Now my cousin happens to be an organic grower, and I know that's hard to believe with me being ex-ag pilot, but one of those things, you know. It's a family thing. Now since the Wheat Board didn't handle organic grain, they had to sell it through another way. But what did they have to do? They had to go through all of the paperwork through the Canadian Wheat Board in order to be able to sell their own product. Now how great is that, Mr. Speaker? No, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you right now, the farmers in our area, they want marketing choice, and now they are getting it. And as my compatriot says, we're getting better prices because of it, and we can move the grain.

As was mentioned by my colleague, he was sitting with piles of grain under the Canadian Wheat Board and could not move it. This is a great move for our province. This is a great move for Canada and what it's doing is, it's moving things forward.

You see, under the socialist system, they wanted all that stuff to

belong to them, to kind of belong to the state in a sense, rather than having it belong to individual, rather than having it belong to individual farmers. Then of course, you know, that's a socialist mentality that exists out there in a few places but, boy, it's getting to be less and less all the time, as we can tell from that side of the House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the one thing you don't want to do is tell a farmer that he can't sell his or her own product. And you know, that's totally, that's being unfair. It's unfair to the producers, the great producers that we have here in Saskatchewan which do a fantastic job, which is driving our economy. It's one of the kingpins of our economy, Mr. Speaker, and it's why Saskatchewan is outdoing all other provinces in their economic growth. Agriculture is a key point on that. And one of the reasons it's a key point is because we don't have the Canadian Wheat Board that we have to sell through anymore.

Mr. Speaker, you know, and I could go on and on about this, but I can just tell you the things that were done so improperly like malting barley. Malting barley is another good example. It all had to go through the Canadian Wheat Board at one time. You know, Mr. Speaker, we could make good money on malting barley now. We couldn't under the Canadian Wheat Board because . . . And I can tell you a real quick little story on how the Canadian Wheat Board will do things.

I had two carloads of malting barley that were to be shipped through Thunder Bay, and it was all checked. It was all supposed to be good. Now this was under the great Canadian Wheat Board days. It got out to Thunder Bay and lo and behold, I was just reading in the paper where the Canadian Wheat Board had a big shipment that was going over to Europe, but they were talking about being short on good barley because the barley wasn't weighing up. And as we all know, good malting barley weighs up very well. You know what happened? All of a sudden, I got a note back. They said my barley wasn't good enough for malt even though it had been checked before. It was not good enough for malt. They said that the germ was down. I used that same barley for seed on my farm the following year. The germ was 97 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, you know what happened? The Canadian Wheat Board, in order to boost their weight on their barley, they confiscated that barley. It was nothing but an out-and-out robbery. I definitely will not be supporting this motion and I will . . . Anyway I'm not going to support the motion.

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join in the debate around the motion made by my colleague. And one may wonder, what does a Métis MLA from northern Saskatchewan have to do with the Canadian Wheat Board, and how can he participate in the discussion around the importance of this institution, and of course the whole notion of building the economy in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker?

I do want to say, while we have had limited exposure and experience with the agricultural sector, I know one time when we were fairly young we served as the mayor of Ile-a-la-Crosse. And during that time, Mr. Speaker, the Conservative

government of the day had three farms operating in the North, and these farms were primarily cow-calf operations. Of course they grew some hay and feed for the cattle, Mr. Speaker. But the three farms that were shut down in the early '80s, Mr. Speaker, include places like Cumberland House and Green Lake and of course now we . . . and the community of Ile-a-la-Crosse as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a lot of people had some experience and exposure to farming. As we all know, in some of these northern communities the experiment at the time was to try and create some effort in the agricultural sector to create some jobs and opportunity for northern Saskatchewan communities. The premier of the day at that time decided to look at that option, and this is where I think the farms in Cumberland House, the farms in Ile-a-la-Crosse, and of course the bigger farm in Green Lake was created. And we did have a northern farms effort, Mr. Speaker.

Now when the notion came up speaking about the debate, one of the things that we talked around in our caucus about was trying to learn more and be more participatory in all sectors of the province of Saskatchewan. And one of the points that I raised at the caucus meeting when we talked about this motion is that we've got to do more to shed information and to shed light on what the agricultural sector is doing for Saskatchewan, and that includes all parts of Saskatchewan; that every MLA should be well rounded and know what exactly is happening in every sector of the province of Saskatchewan. And this is why I'm participating in this particular debate, Mr. Speaker.

Now setting aside the dramatics of the member from Arm River, Mr. Speaker, this is what I see as a northern MLA that has some limited exposure with agriculture, in particular with the cow-calf operation that we had in our home community. I want to be able to say what I observe, what I observe from a northern perspective, Mr. Speaker.

What I see is happening is that first of all we have a grain transportation crisis that's affecting every producer in Saskatchewan. Does that affect the economy of Saskatchewan? Absolutely it does. Does it have an impact on northern Saskatchewan communities? Absolutely it does, Mr. Speaker.

And we see the whole notion of farm land sales, the confusion by the Sask Party around the farm land sales where they're having foreign governments look at buying up large chunks of farm land, Mr. Speaker, where we're seeing that the pension plans now are being examined, whether they should be purchasing farm land. We're seeing more and more corporate farms being established. I sit back and I say to myself, why are we giving away the most valuable asset in our province, which is farm land? Why are we not defending more the farm families that have operated these farms for many years? Why are we seeing more corporate ownership of our farm land, more foreign ownership, Mr. Speaker? It really confuses me from that perspective.

And I look at some of the other examples, Mr. Speaker: the surface rights debate where people are still determining where that particular issue is going towards.

And again from the northern perspective I also look at the most

recent example of how sour gas is killing off cattle, Mr. Speaker, and is a huge threat I think overall to the safety of many producer families and of course the cattle that they have, Mr. Speaker. And that was in the news the last couple of days.

And then I look at the whole debate and argument that the members across the way, when they talked about being in opposition, that they're going to value add to commodities, Mr. Speaker, make greater opportunity for what the farmers grow in the province of Saskatchewan. We have seen very, very little effort in that from that part and from that particular government, Mr. Speaker.

And then I look at the whole notion of the flooding issues, Mr. Speaker. We were seeing flooding becoming a major problem in all parts of rural Saskatchewan. We are seeing that people out there are really struggling to keep their homes above water, Mr. Speaker. They are trying their darndest to make sure they can do all they can on the land that they have, and they have flooding year after year after year, Mr. Speaker.

We have toured, the member that's sponsoring the motion today, we have toured various parts of rural Saskatchewan to see the flooding. And as I mentioned in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, when you see a road that's covered with water and you better not make sure that you go off that road because there's a 10-foot ditch in which you will, when you go into that ditch of course, you seriously have a problem of potentially drowning, Mr. Speaker. That's how bad the water crisis is in rural Saskatchewan.

And now we look at the Canadian Wheat Board, a marketing firm and a marketing agency that the farmers owned and controlled, Mr. Speaker. Now this particular federal government wants to sell off . . . No, not sell off. I've got to make sure I get the right language here, Mr. Speaker. They're going to give it away. They're going to give it away, Mr. Speaker. Imagine the asset base of the Canadian Wheat Board and how much value all those assets have, Mr. Speaker. And I can tell you about grain cars that they own, a number of properties that they own, and this is a very valuable, valuable operation and enterprise, Mr. Speaker.

So I sit there as an observer to Saskatchewan overall because I think it's important as MLAs that we challenge ourselves to learn as much as we can about each other on many opportunities and occasions that we can. And this is the reason why I'm proud to say to the northern Saskatchewan people that we are, and we can understand how agriculture and rural Saskatchewan works better, and we become better people for it. And that's one of the reasons why I'm standing in my place today. And I actually asked and volunteered to be able to speak today to this motion in saying what I observed with my limited background in terms of watching operations in some of the northern communities when it comes to cow-calf operations, what I observed that I think rural Saskatchewan is facing, and the challenge that they have.

So despite the dramatics of the member from Arm River, Mr. Speaker, this government, their government has done nothing to address the flooding issues, Mr. Speaker. They have done nothing to address the grain transportation crisis that I observe, Mr. Speaker. They're sitting on their hands. And now they're

going to come along and give away the Canadian Wheat Board. Nobody on the Saskatchewan Party side is standing up for that. Nobody is standing up for the opportunity to give the farmers the right choice and vote. The same way they have their choice to market their grain, they should have the choice on whether to sell this asset off or not.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I sit here and I listen to some of the semantics and the theatrics of the members opposite, why don't they give their producers the opportunity to vote on the future of the Canadian Wheat Board? They won't even give them that, Mr. Speaker. And they're standing on their . . . They're sitting on their hands, Mr. Speaker.

And at the very least what I'll tell the producers that may be watching this particular aspect of our debate . . . At the very least, at the very least, a northern MLA standing up and telling them, the Saskatchewan Party government, give the producers the opportunity to vote because the rest of their rural members are sitting on their hands, sitting on their seat, and they're not defending the producers as they should, Mr. Speaker, and I say shame on them. They should be doing more to defend the right of these producers to vote. Give them the opportunity to vote; give them that choice.

So again, observing from northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, trying to learn this issue more and more, I see how total disregard and total disrespect that the Saskatchewan Party's affording many producers by denying them the opportunity and denying them the opportunity to vote on the future of the Canadian Wheat Board, Mr. Speaker. If they're so confident in their 90 per cent rating as pointed out by the member from Carrot River, then give them the opportunity to vote. Give them the opportunity to have the debate. Give them an informed debate, Mr. Speaker, and see what the producers have to say. It's really, really important, Mr. Speaker, from my perspective again.

[11:45]

You look at some of the issues that I raised earlier. The flooding challenges, no action from the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker. On the whole notion of sour gas, Mr. Speaker, another threat diminished and dismissed by the Saskatchewan Party government, Mr. Speaker. The surface right debates still up in the air: no leadership on that particular file, Mr. Speaker. Value added to the commodity that they spoke about for years and years when they got in government? Nothing, Mr. Speaker. When you look at the whole notion of the farm land sales overall, we're talking about foreign governments and of course different entities from across the world buying up the valuable farm land that we've enjoyed in Saskatchewan for years and years and years.

And the worst part of this whole mess, Mr. Speaker, that I observe from northern Saskatchewan, is they have the greatest grain transportation crisis in the history of Saskatchewan. And what is the Sask Party doing? They're sitting on their hands and they're very, very quiet about it, Mr. Speaker. When we have farmers that have literally billions of dollars in their bins, stored in their bins, Mr. Speaker, stored in their bins, Mr. Speaker, they're not saying a word about it, Mr. Speaker. They're not saying a word about it. And this whole Canadian Wheat Board

sale issue is actually an opportunity for them to divert attention from their mismanaged, bungled effort to try and get some of our grain to market, to turn around and showing how the Canadian Wheat Board is such a bad board and that they don't like it, Mr. Speaker. So my point is, if you want the producers to support this notion, give them the chance to vote. That's what I see, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Biggar.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real pleasure to enter into this debate concerning the Canadian Wheat Board. I think we need to bring some context and historical context into this discussion.

First of all, this is solely a federal issue. This is not a provincial issue. The federal governments of the day made decisions and the present government has made decisions on the Canadian Wheat Board in consultation with the stakeholders, the farmers. And this is where we're at today because of federal government decisions which I certainly support, the federal government's decision with their attitude towards the Canadian Wheat Board by open up marketing choice, and also this last step in the life of the Canadian Wheat Board.

But also we need to take a look back at the historical context of the Canadian Wheat Board. Back in the 1920s when the wheat pools were formed, there was a need for wheat pools to be formed because of the conditions of marketing in 1920s. Remember this is 1920s. And farmers were growing grain on the prairies and had very poor infrastructure and virtually no storage space, and so farmers had to sell right off the, well off the wagon — they weren't hauling grain in trucks in those days — and they had to take the price that was given to them.

Now I believe this is accurate. In 1935 I think, the federal Conservative government of Prime Minister Bennett brought in the Canadian Wheat Board — 1935, again some context here — in the middle of the Great Depression. Of course 1935, farmers were still farming with, they were pulling plows with horses. And that's when the Canadian Wheat Board came in. So of course bringing it closer to current times . . . I mean we went through the Great Depression and World War II, and then there was a lot of technological change across the world, but certainly it was in agriculture as well.

And then to bring it into the '50s and '60s, talking to my father and neighbours about what was happening in the grain industry, in agriculture in the '50s and '60s, well technological improvements happened. Farmers were producing more grain, but the Canadian Wheat Board never changed during those years, and it is a common theme with the Canadian Wheat Board. It was always a decade or two behind change, what we needed for the betterment of farmers. Farmers were growing wheat in the '50s and '60s. That's when farmers were summerfallowing half and half. They were taking land out of production. There was a huge environmental problem by leaving land fallow, and production of course was low because they were only seeding a crop every second year.

And so it got to the point in the 1950s and '60s where farmers were increasing their storage capacity. Their bins were full at all times. I can remember my dad and neighbours that had grain in

bins that were grown four, five, six years previously to that time. The Wheat Board would not, could not, for whatever reason, sell their grain. And it got so bad that I believe in 1971, 1970-71, the Trudeau federal Liberal government actually brought in a program to stop farmers from growing grain, wheat in particular. Farmers could actually not grow grain and get paid to do it. Can you imagine, even in the 1970s, of such a ridiculous position to be in because of . . . Well there's people around the world that are actually starving to death and here we are in the grain belt of Canada and farmers were being paid not to grow grain.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's soon, like I said, finally the Wheat Board starting selling grain, but again the Wheat Board had rules that they could only export. They couldn't sell domestically and they couldn't sell to the United States. They started moving grain finally in the 1970s. But I know in 1976, my father was a feedlot operator and he bought feeder cattle for 25 cents a pound in 1976 and he was buying wheat for 25 cents a bushel. So you can imagine how the grain farmers were feeling about those kind of prices.

And through that whole period, it made farmers do things; some of it was illegal. There was bootlegging of wheat. There was bartering of wheat. And you know, you could buy cattle if you traded wheat or grain. You'd buy machinery through the barter system. So farmers had to go out and go around the Wheat Board in various ways, Mr. Speaker, in order to make a living. And I know when I came into the business in the late '70s buying barley, of course people forget that barley was also under the Wheat Board and at one time oats was as well.

And under the Mulroney government, they took oats out of the Wheat Board but barley remained. And so for a feedlot like ours at Biggar, if we wanted to buy barley from the local Pool or the Pioneer elevator or the UGG [United Grain Growers Ltd.] elevator, they had to have off-board grain to sell to us as a feedlot. So if they didn't have the bushels that they used to trade within the system to sell this grain to us . . . And sometimes we couldn't buy barley out of a Pioneer elevator in Biggar because of the Wheat Board rules.

Well, Mr. Speaker, thankfully, thankfully those days have changed. So now farmers can sell their wheat. They can sell their barley and of course oats for quite some time now, anywhere they want. And it's such an improvement. It's diversified the economy, value-added, I mean it just goes on and on about the increase in production in the livestock sector, both cattle and the hog sector.

But, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan today in 2014, Saskatchewan farmers produced 99 per cent of Canadian chickpeas, 95 per cent of Canada's lentils, 86 per cent of Canada's durum wheat, 83 per cent of Canada's flaxseed, 70 per cent of Canada's mustard, 60 per cent of Canada's dry peas, and 49 per cent of Canada's canola.

And in 2013 Saskatchewan was responsible for 65 per cent of the world's lentil exports, 54 per cent of the world's pea exports, 34 per cent of the world's durum exports, 32 per cent of the world's flax seed exports, 16 per cent of the world's canola seed exports, 27 per cent of the world's mustard seed exports, 17 per cent of the world's canola oil exports.

Haven't we come a long way, Mr. Speaker? And you know, you just look at the Canadian Wheat Board and those types of policies, and thinking of governments of those days held Saskatchewan farmers back and held production back, held value-added industries from growing in this province.

Another good example . . . Time is running out, Mr. Speaker, but I look forward to any questions. But, Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not plan on supporting this motion brought by a provincial opposition party about a federal policy and this decision, which has been taken a long time ago, and the producers of this province support the decision made by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to put on the record August 1st, 2012, Art Walde's farm near Kindersley. This was marketing freedom day. This was a day of celebration in this province. None of the members opposite were there at this day of celebration. Many of us were there. It was a good day.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there was so many people that turned to us and said, you know what, today I feel good. I feel good that I'm no longer thought to be a criminal. I'd like to ask the member from Athabasca: how can he sleep at night knowing that he supported a regime called the Wheat Board that made people feel like criminals, growing their own wheat and wanting to market their own wheat? How can that member sleep at night?

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, it's surprising that I get the question about a regime when we're selling the Canadian Wheat Board to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Speaker. And this is a country that has the most horrific and the most terrible human rights record. And some of the worst examples of where we're selling our Canadian Wheat Board to . . . And the member ought to know that, Mr. Speaker. Some of the examples of Saudi Arabia in terms of human rights, Mr. Speaker, who we're selling the Canadian Wheat Board to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member asked a question. I'll give her an answer. Who we're selling the Canadian Wheat Board to is to Saudi Arabia.

And Mr. Speaker, some of the examples are torturing prisoners who speak out against the regime. The World Organisation Against Torture says that, and I quote, "The problem in Saudi Arabia is that the judicial system is used as a tool against those who want more freedom." So don't talk to us about a regime, Mr. Speaker.

In Saudi Arabia, the . . .

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, as owners and builders of the Wheat Board, producers should have had a vote on the

potential elimination, Mr. Speaker. That was something that was denied to them by this Premier, by this Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. That's something that's wrong.

Now we see the giveaway of this asset with no vote, and we don't see any compensation going back to the owners of the Wheat Board, the producers. To the member from Arm River: does he think it's appropriate that there's no compensation back to the owners of the Wheat Board?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Arm River.

**Mr. Brkich:** — I'll tell you what, there's never any compensation. The Wheat Board was selling and buying ships and taking money from farmers in Western Canada and spending.

As for the vote, that was done at the federal and we ran on that ticket. You ran against, you ran against freedom of choice. You ran on that, and where did that get you? How many seats did that get them? None. That's where the vote took place, Mr. Speaker. They couldn't even get farmers to run for them in rural Saskatchewan on that ticket. So they talk of . . . That's where the vote happened.

You want to go ahead and talk to the farmers out there instead of talking about freedom of choice? The Saskatchewan farmers voted and they want freedom and they want marketing freedom and they want choice.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melfort.

**Mr. Phillips:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Former NDP leader Dwain Lingenfelter lobbied the MP for Cypress Hills-Grasslands, David Anderson, to end the WCB monopoly. MP David Anderson says, "When Mr. Lingenfelter was in the private sector, he was one of the strongest proponents of free choice in the marketing of Western Canadian grain." The NDP voted Lingenfelter to be their leader mere months after he declared that the WCB . . . CWB should be dismantled.

To the member from Saskatoon Nutana: we know that your party has a pretty bad history of electing leaders, obviously, but Lingenfelter did get one thing right by allowing farmers to have a vote, a choice. Are you lobbying to take that choice away?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I would remind members to put their questions through the Chair. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Sproule:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Yes, certainly the finger pointing is a little alarming on this side of the House, so thank you for that ruling.

The question I think that the member should be asking is, why are we supporting a federal government that has continually let farmers down? For example, January 16th, 2007, Minister Chuck Strahl said this in an Agriculture Canada news release. He said:

I am announcing today that Canada's New Government

will hold a further plebiscite on the marketing of wheat at an appropriate time. Western Canadian farmers have the Government's commitment that no changes will be made to the Canadian Wheat Board's role in the marketing of wheat until after that vote is held.

The Minister of Agriculture has his head in the sand. He's thinking that because there was a general election, that's a plebiscite. That's not right. We know that 62 per cent of farmers supported the Wheat Board in a plebiscite earlier than that. So they have to start supporting farmers instead of letting them down.

[12:00]

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

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, I listen to the antics or I watch the antics of the member from Arm River, and I watched with great interest when he was talking about taking away the shovel, Mr. Speaker. What happens with the evidence I see — again from the vantage point I have from northern Saskatchewan — is he gave away the farm again. And the fact of the matter is, when it comes to the Canadian Wheat Board, why didn't they open the books on the value of the Canadian Wheat Board? And why wasn't the money from the Canadian Wheat Board asset sale — because there was no sale, but even if there was a sale — why wasn't it given to producers?

Why didn't you stand up and defend the farmers when it comes to the Canadian Wheat Board? Is anybody in the Sask Party willing to stand up to defend the Canadian Wheat Board? Because I think there are some, but they're told to sit down; don't say a word, and sit on your hands. And sir, why don't you start, why don't you start defending the producers, give them the opportunity to vote, and share in the profits of the Canadian Wheat Board? Would you do that if they're able to sell that CWB?

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Arm River-Watrous.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Well the member talks about opening the books. How long was the Wheat Board and how many questions were put to the Wheat Board? How much money that they, they cost the farmers to sell? I can remember a board director, putting the question to him, and he told me, oh it was 5 cents. I asked him the next year. Oh, 5 cents. I asked him for 20 years in a row. You know what he told me? Five cents. Well why didn't they open the books to show what it cost? Because then farmers would have been totally disgusted at what they were spending, what it was costing to sell wheat through the Wheat Board. So when the member talks about opening books, maybe he ought to look at that's why most of the farmers did not . . . disliked the Wheat Board, because there was no organization that was as secretive and closed-books as they were.

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

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Farmers

in Eastern Canada and around . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I would like to hear the questions that are being asked and I can't hear them if there is this much discussion across the floor. So I would now recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

**Hon. Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Farmers in Eastern Canada and around the world have always had the right to sell their wheat to whoever they wanted, but in Western Canada, under the monopoly of CWB, farmers were arrested for selling their own wheat. To the member from Saskatoon Nutana: do you agree with arresting farmers for selling their own wheat and turning our hard-working farmers into criminals?

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — I really enjoy the rhetoric that comes from the Sask Party. Nobody went to jail. Nobody went to jail under the *Canadian Wheat Board Act*. They went to jail for violating the *Customs Act*, so get your facts straight first of all.

Secondly, I would like to know whether this member, I would like to know whether this party would actually go to support for Canadian producers. We know that \$5 billion was taken out of farmers' pockets in the last two years. That's their version of marketing freedom, Mr. Speaker. And when you see farmers losing \$5 billion out of their pockets and now \$300 million of taxpayers' money given away to the Saudis and the American global giants, I just wonder what the heck's going on and why these people aren't coming to the support of Saskatchewan producers.

We have a Minister of Agriculture in committee say that livestock producers should get their assets back. Why won't he let Saskatchewan agriculture producers get their assets back?

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the comments earlier from my colleague from Athabasca about Saudi Arabia and how their record is so atrocious when it comes to human rights abuses today.

Here we have a situation that the Canadian Wheat Board is going to be given to the Saudis, and there's been no mention of that over there at all about, how do they feel about a state-owned company receiving the Canadian Wheat Board? And whether it's beheadings or whether it's ways of silencing people who are against the government, I want to know what the member from Carrot River feels about the human rights record of the . . .

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

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

## Motion No. 2 — Social Impact Bonds

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour today to rise in the House to discuss a motion I'll be bringing forward that I hope will have the support of the whole Assembly. We're going to be talking about an innovative change to deal with some of the social challenges we have in our province. Social impact bonds bring together investors, proven service providers, and government that have a common goal and common outcomes in mind to address social issues.

Social impact bonds are an innovative funding method that leverages private capital. Government will enter into an agreement with private investors and proven service delivery organizations that sets out specific outcomes. They will be achieved in a specific amount of time and promises to pay an investor a pre-arranged amount of money if and only if the delivery organization can achieve the outcomes that are agreed upon in a specific time.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the honour of serving the people of this province as an elected representative for nearly 20 years. Twelve of those years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, were in opposition, and I watched and I worked and I questioned the social challenges that were facing our province. When the people of the province asked us to become government in 2007, I had the privilege and the honour and the responsibility to see issues from the perspective of government and of being a minister, first of all the minister for First Nations and then Crown Investments and then the Minister of Social Services and Housing.

I've witnessed and I've been part of the decision making that saw government invest more and more money into existing government programs to face the challenges. Some of the challenges were met with great success and others were met with very little success with the money that we put into these programs.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we must do things differently if we are going to make a difference. It is our responsibility as leaders to make a difference for the people we represent. I believe we must fundamentally change our approach to problem solving. As Albert Einstein once said very concisely and very wisely, "You can't solve your problems using the same thinking that was used when you created the problems." In other words, if you change nothing, nothing is going to change. Innovation is critical.

Mr. Speaker, our government believes in social innovation. We started as government with the Hub and COR [centre of responsibility] in Prince Albert. Mr. Speaker, Prince Albert was the first of 12 communities that have a hub right across our province. The Hub and COR identified that there are six risk factors that we have right across the province where dealing with people with social issues: the mental health issues; alcohol issues; negative peers; anti-social and negative behaviour; missing school or truancy; and parenting, people not getting the parenting skills that are required.

Between 2010 and 2013, Prince Albert Police Service received 3,554 fewer calls for service. Over the same time, the overall crime rate in Prince Albert decreased by 21 per cent, while

violent and property crime rates have decreased by 38 per cent and 29 per cent respectively.

Mr. Speaker, the next issue on the list for innovation was the child and family committee. Then we talked about reforming the child welfare system, which is under way right now. And then many, many hundreds of hours and dedication have taken place as we work on the strategies like the disability strategy, mental health and addictions strategy, and right now the poverty strategy.

Many of the potential solutions that we are seeing have a common theme. They require working across ministries. They require new types of programming. Many point to working in conjunction with one or more of the 350 community-based organizations that we have right here in Saskatchewan. Many of them involve working with professionals in various fields of expertise.

One hundred per cent of the time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know that vulnerable individuals need support. In fact many, many times the intensive support is required. Whether the vulnerable individual is a child needing a safe home or early learning supports, or individuals needing a hand up to restart their life after incarceration, or reducing unplanned hospital visits, all of these require support.

Most of our government spending, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is reactive. We spend taxpayers' dollars after a citizen has had an issue or after a crisis has occurred. Our emphasis has always been on inputs rather than outcomes. It's prescriptive. We require standardized programming. We spend our time trying to put a square peg in a round hole, Mr. Speaker. We never ask what the individuals would need. We talk about the programs that we have. We try and fit the people into the programs. Mr. Speaker, it's prescriptive.

We need a tool that would allow governments to shift from being reactive and having remedial activities to proactive prevention and supportive ideas. That's why the innovation that started in Peterborough, England in 2010 made common sense to our government.

Mr. Speaker, social impact bonds, sometimes called pay-for-success or pay-for-performance bonds, is a relatively new way of addressing some of the social challenges that we have, not just in Canada but right across the world. A contract is signed, promising to accomplish an agreed-upon social outcome within a certain time frame, and it's going to result in public savings. The new social paradigm will improve effectiveness by rewarding programs that actually work. Social impact bonds encourage innovation. They measure and evaluate processes through an independent third party, and they attract private capital to social causes with people who really do care.

The contracting process clearly states an investor cannot be paid until an outcome has been assessed by a third-party independent evaluator. Usually in government, a program's risk is assumed by government. In a social impact bond, risk is transferred to the private sector.

The most profound innovative change of social impact bonds is the shift on the focus to outcomes, not inputs. It allows the

investor to work with providers in innovative ways, and it removes the prescriptive input rules that always focuses on outcomes.

Probably the best way to explain the changes in the way of thinking about social impact bonds is to use a health example. Rather than focusing on the number of doctors, which we usually would call an input, or the number of operations, the output, social impact bonds would be based on achieving an improved health outcome. That is the real outcome, and these outcomes are measured by an outside party.

Before I continue, Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure everyone knows, though I firmly, firmly believe in social impact bonds, I know they're not the answer to all social challenges. They will not replace government responsibility but, in some cases, where a proactive prevention is needed and private sector can step up to the plate, we can do things differently.

For anybody interested, if you want to go on Google, you'll find out there are 642,000 Google reports on social impact bonds just five years after the first one was introduced. They are being looked at internationally, and they're accepted globally. In August of 2014 there was just 25 social impact bonds in the whole world in seven different countries, one in Canada.

The Sweet Dreams project in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan is the only one in Canada. Sweet Dreams is a new supported living project for single moms and for children under the age of eight. Mr. Speaker, they will provide moms and the children a safe, secure place to live. They'll provide a continuum of care to keep families together. They'll enable mothers to achieve an education and employment, and they'll increase connections for moms with the job market and contribute back to society.

Mr. Speaker, Egadz has been operating in Saskatoon since 1990. They have a long-standing relationship with the ministry and with government, with the members opposite. They've assisted many vulnerable children and families. In 2012-13 in their independent and their peer homes, they provided 30 individuals and 34 children with safe housing. Mr. Speaker, they assisted 14 youth to transition back with their families, and they supported over 25 youth to become employed or be part of self-employment. They ensured students attended school, and they provided supports to moms.

[12:15]

Sweet Dreams is based on a multi-ministry approach where Social Services and Health and Education work together to support the single mom and their children, and those individuals will now have a chance to reach their full potential. Through the structured decision-making model, child and family services assesses which children are at the highest risk, and they can have a chance to come in the Sweet Dreams home. Child and family services will have an active involvement with the children to ensure their safety, and Egadz works in partnership with the child and family.

Mr. Speaker, \$1.4 million was the cost for the acquisition and renovation of the home at 600 Queen Street in Saskatoon, \$150,000 a year for the operation. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to thank Colleen and Wally Mah for stepping up to

the plate and being such wonderful contributors, being great citizens, and understanding the importance of supporting families. I also want to underline my respect for Conexus Credit Union for doing the same thing, for being a community partner and wanting so much to work within their community.

Mr. Minister, social impact bonds are performance driven and they are accountable for outcomes. The investors and private sectors assume the risk, and the predetermined outcomes, if they're not met, there is no payment made.

In too many cases in human services, government spending is reactionary. Our money is spent to help the citizen after a crisis or an issue has occurred. For too long, citizens have been led to believe that more money for social issues meant better outcomes. Social issues are increasing in complexity, but regrettably our system that's set up today isn't set up to assess outcomes.

As citizens, there is very little that hasn't been asked of government, especially when it comes to addressing social issues. We need to do more, and a social impact bond provides us with a way. A social impact bond is an additional tool to allow us to shift from reactive and remedial activities to proactive and prevention activities.

Our goal is not to replace public sector responsibility, but with the help of service providers, build a better safety net. Government has relied and shared responsibility with community-based organizations for decades, and that's not going to change. We'll contact the service providers with proven track records. Funds will be provided by the private sector for an agreed upon outcome, and the private sector will be repaid when the outcomes are met.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many opportunities to talk about the bonds that are being used right around the world. Mr. Speaker, in North America, in New York, in Salt Lake City, in New York State, in Massachusetts, they're all doing work with individuals that are very vulnerable. In Europe there's another 20-some bonds that are being worked on. No bonds anywhere in the world yet have matured, but everyone that has been spoken to is very confident that they're moving along the way to success for great outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, in March of this year, there was the government of the UK [United Kingdom] put forward seven new social impact bonds aimed at supporting social entrepreneurs to help them reform some of the challenges that we have.

There are four more bonds that are dealing with disadvantaged youth to improve their educational qualifications. There is money that is put forward to deal with youth with behavioural and mental health issues. There is money being put forward to deal with ex-gang members and reoffenders in the prison system. There's money being put forward to help children who have poor school attendance or have been excluded from school. There's money being put forward for children who are in care or are on the edge of being in care.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about most of these bonds, but I think that the members opposite and my colleagues have a chance to look at them and understand that there isn't any



prescriptive way. There's no bond that is saying, this is what you must be doing. It's happening when we have the right provider coming to the right investor saying that, together we can make a difference.

In February of this year, we have Portugal has launched their first social impact bond in the area of education. They're delivering computer programming classes to primary school students with the aim of improving their problem-solving ability and their school performance on the subject of math.

Mr. Speaker, there's also an article that I think is very important. We all remember the tragedy, the devastation that happened in Bangladesh when 1,200 garment factory workers lost their lives in a fire. The question is, how do we address these issues? The money that be would required isn't available just from government. Mr. Speaker, there is an opportunity for corporations with a corporate sense of responsibility to move forward.

In New Zealand, Mr. Speaker, they are working towards their very first social impact bond, and they're going to be dealing with issues in alcohol and drug use or recidivism. The government gave approval to test the appetite of health care providers which are already going to deal with issues like this.

Mr. Speaker, the work that's being done right across the world is looking at corporations and individuals to help us deal with issues. In August of 2014, when there was just 25 social impact bonds in seven different countries, the G8 [Group of Eight] convened a social impact investment task force to bring together government officials and senior figures from the worlds of finance, business, and philanthropy right across the G8 country system to stimulate the development of effective global impact.

Mr. Speaker, the report that they talked about called on government and the financial sector to take action to unleash the \$1 trillion of private sector money that was needed to impact some of the social problems in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I believe social impact bonds could be part of a new wave of social responsibility thinking in the corporate world. I listened to the member from Saskatoon Centre the other night in estimates questioning whether the credit union decision on investing in a risk project was the right thing to do. And then I attended the annual meeting of the Conexus Credit Union on Tuesday night, and I listened to their presentation, and I listened to them talk to their members about their corporate social responsibility.

The credit unions are rightly proud of the work that they're doing. In fact they're asking what we can be doing next. They understand that their members want to step up to the plate and deal with the individuals that are not as fortunate as some people in the province. Hon. members in the legislature should know the credit unions understand and are seen as a leader in the area of corporate social responsibility in Canada.

I know that Saskatchewan people give. I know how they support vulnerable people. I know that they lead the nation in volunteerism. I see how they give in Telemiracle and STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society], and I know how the

United Way is supported.

Mr. Speaker, in speaking to corporations, there is a social conscience around a corporate board table that most people don't see, but we can feel it when we know what they are willing to give. And I think we all know the well-known corporate citizens populating the seats on many of our non-profit boards. They're there because they care. Those individuals are not just business people. They're moms and dads that go home at night and understand that they have an opportunity to help individuals who are vulnerable. I know the credit union here in Saskatchewan as well as the Mahs have talked about reinvesting their money back into the social investment if the contract is successful.

Honestly I wasn't sure what would happen when places like Goldman Sachs hedge fund thought about their investment. But on January the 29th, 2014, with their third social impact bond announcing a plan to reduce recidivism in the young men in Massachusetts, they said that the \$27 million bond, if the target was reached, they had planned to recycle that money back into the system.

Mr. Speaker, I read a report from the head of the partnership for Russell Investments, talking about the philanthropic conference that was held in New Zealand last year. She said she's expecting an upsurge of social impact bonds in the next five years, impact investing where investors get a social as well as a financial return on their investment, and that it's gaining momentum right around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Justin Rockefeller, the great-great-grandson of Standard Oil founder J.D. Rockefeller, has co-founded a non-profit body called The ImPact. Its goal is to increase the pace of solving social problems by improving capital . . . [inaudible] . . . to businesses and creating measurable social impact. As a philanthropist, he believes that impact investment will grow substantially as the millennials, people born around the 1980s, mature and accrue more wealth to invest. He's already said, it's the nature of millennials to care about the moral concepts of what they do with their money.

Mr. Speaker, right around the world there is a corporate social responsibility. I believe it takes a community to raise a child, Mr. Speaker, and I believe it takes a province and our citizens to help build a better tomorrow for all of our citizens. The conversation around broader social impact investment is happening. Our government will be part of it. We are committed. We all want citizens in this province to join us, particularly the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move the following motion:

That this Assembly supports the use of social impact bonds to leverage private funding in order to provide specific services for our province's most vulnerable; furthermore, that this new type of social innovation will break down barriers between ministries and will provide tangible benefits for human services.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Kelvington-Wadena:

That this Assembly supports the use of social impact bonds to leverage private funding in order to provide specific services for our province's most vulnerable; furthermore, that this new type of social innovation will break down barriers between ministries and will provide tangible benefits for human services.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Cox:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege and pleasure to rise for a few brief moments and just talk a little bit about the motion that has been presented by my colleague.

A social impact bond is a very innovative funding model that leverages private capital to deliver social and client outcomes. And it's an opportunity for our government to enter an agreement with private investors and service delivery organizations that in fact set specific social outcome or a set of outcomes that must be achieved and promises in return to pay those investors a pre-arranged sum if and only if those services are delivered and they achieve the desired outcomes.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we once again here, we see this province and this government leading the way with the first social impact bonds here in Canada. And we're already seeing the benefit of these first social impact bonds, and I know that we are certainly looking forward to developing this program even further in the future and leading the country again in another very innovative way.

Mr. Speaker, I know that several of my colleagues also would like to speak to this motion as well, so I would like to move that we adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — The member has moved adjournment of debate on the motion. 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 House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:28.]

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