



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

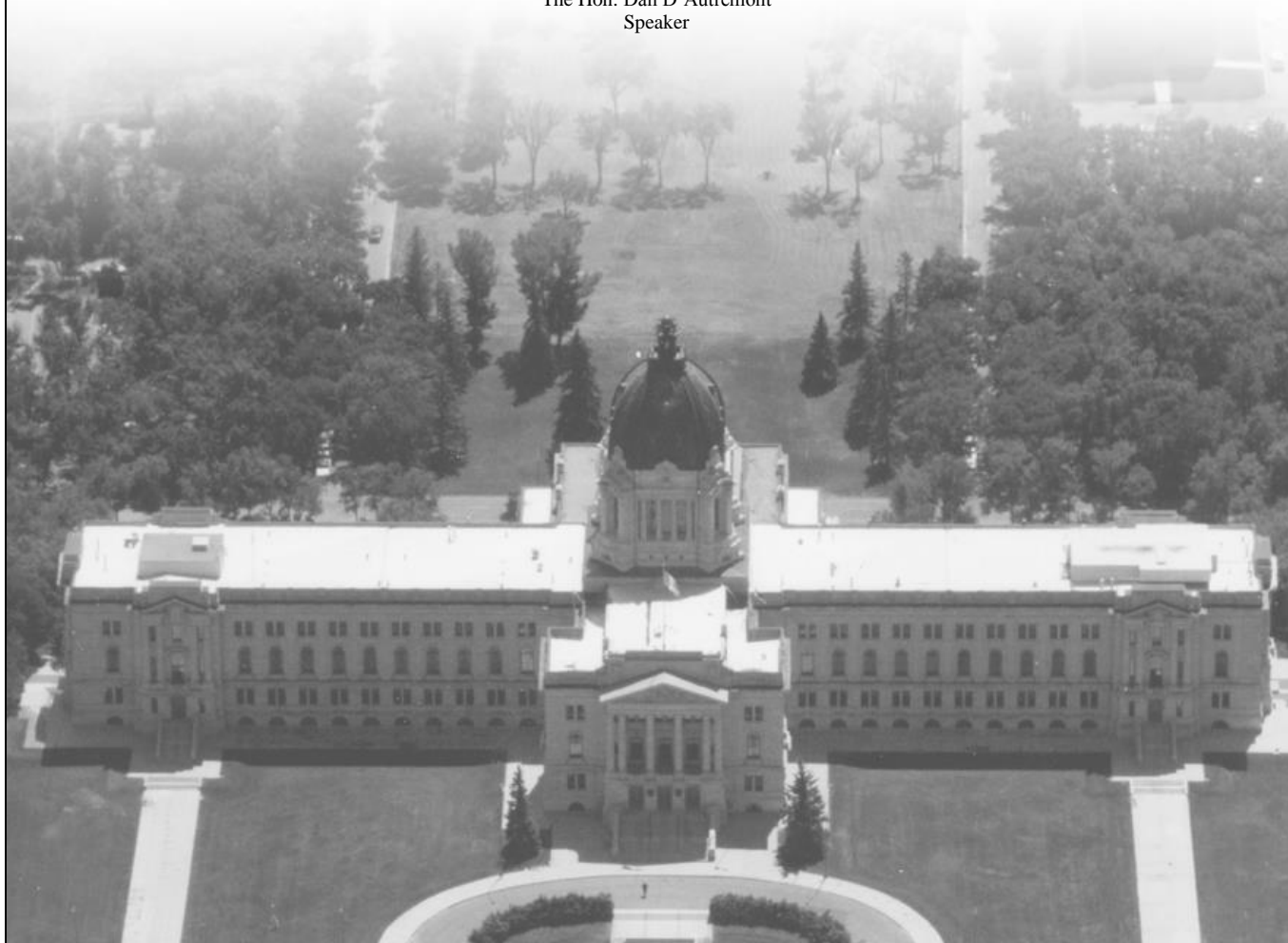
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Hon. Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D’Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Hon. Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
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Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster
Vacant		Prince Albert Carlton

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

Clerk: — Members of the Assembly, I wish to advise you that Mr. Speaker is not present to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Workplace Safety.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for extended leave for a National Day of Mourning condolence statement.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has asked for extended leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

COMMEMORATIVE STATEMENTS

National Day of Mourning

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. At the Legislative Building our flags are flying at half-mast to recognize these people. Today Canadians will be mourning the loss and remembering those who have died as a result of work-related injury. It is a day to reflect, but also express sympathy to the loved ones who have lost someone.

Saskatchewan continues to have an unacceptably high injury rate. This year unfortunately is no exception. The 39 Saskatchewan workers who passed away in 2014 are more than just statistics. These people are parents, brothers and sisters, children, spouses, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends. There are families who will never again get a chance to see their loved ones. Kids won't have a parent to take them to hockey practice, watch them graduate, or walk down the aisle on their wedding day. Spouses whose lives were cut short, and parents who have had their worst nightmare in losing one of their own children.

This is why we have Mission: Zero, to end workplace injuries and suffering. It is not about statistics; it's about people. It's about remembering these individuals and admitting we can do better and we will do better. We honour these individuals by ensuring every worker in this province arrives home safely every night. Their memory deserves nothing less. We must never forget the women and men and the people around them whose lives have been forever changed.

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

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

Kleon Swahn
Claybourne Ursu
Ian Stewart
Kenneth Kotylak
Clifford Grimes
Daryl Phillip
Dakota Holloway
Kelly Rolston
Michael Faryna
Jonathan Kohn

Randy Yanoshewski
Wayne Hardman
Wayne Clark
William McIntyre
Edward Habetler
Bernard Gilmour
Raafat Yalda
Joseph Zerr
Michael Bunz
Sarah Severson

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite will read the remaining names.

Mr. Forbes: —

Clayton Stushnoff
Egon Erickson
Noel Gervais
Bryan Goddard
Daniel Leblanc
Tobias Friesen
David Soltys
Kenneth Bjornson
Jason Shulist
Roger Nemeth

Richard Eberts
Clifford Gunness
Lawrence Lozinski
Justin Unruh
Gary Bailey
Jean Moffatt
Donald Yates
Murray Johnson
Arnold Gessner

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Not included among these names are the additional deaths that occur each year from farming and ranching work-related incidents. Today we honour their memories as well.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I'd like to pass our sincerest condolences to the loved ones of those who have lost someone this past year. To remember their lives and commemorate the Day of Mourning, I would ask all members to take a moment of silence.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

The Deputy Speaker: — Please be seated.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure today to rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature, 12 grade 11 and 12 students from the Law 30 class at Sheldon-Williams Collegiate. They're sitting in the east gallery and they're accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Lindsay Vindevoghel. This class makes an annual trip here to the legislature, and I ask all members to welcome them here.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also have another group of students, I will call them, but these are well-experienced students. They're part of a program called Tour, Talk and Tea, a program for seniors which is, this program's hosted by visitor

services here in the legislature. It includes a very extensive tour of the building, time to observe proceedings, and then afternoon tea, and a chance to visit with the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. And today the group we have with us is from Parliament Community Church, the Heritage Builders retiree group. They're sitting in the Speaker's gallery. There are 26 retirees accompanied by their social program coordinator, Janice Parker, who is the chairperson of the Heritage Builders.

Also included in this group is Allen and Joyce Engel. Allen Engel is behind the bar as a former member for Assiniboia, and we welcome Allen and Joyce who are obviously very familiar with this building and are probably helping give the guided tour.

Anyway I would ask all members to welcome this group to the legislature.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education and Minister of Workplace Safety and Workers' Compensation.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Mr. Gord Dobrowolsky, chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Board, and Peter Federko, chief executive officer of Workers' Compensation Board.

Gord is from Prince Albert. He brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge to the board. He has served in many executive roles on boards, operated a business, and was a teacher and feels free to give me advice on that portfolio as well.

Mr. Speaker, Peter has been with the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board since 1994. He became the first CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board in June 1996 and is the longest serving CEO among Canadian workers' compensation boards today.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members in the House today join me in welcoming Gordon and Peter to their legislature today.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join with the minister in welcoming Peter Federko and Gord Dobrowolsky to the legislature, a pretty special day today. And I know this is a day that . . . Every day these folks work hard to make sure people are safe in their workplaces, and this is an issue I know both gentlemen take to heart, very much so. So I'd ask all members of the House to welcome them to their legislature. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Central Services.

Hon. Ms. Campeau: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce four individuals seated in your gallery from the Saskatchewan Masonry Institute. If you could just give a wave when I call your name: Mr. Rob Walchuk, Mr. Ryan Leech, Mr. Darrell Kennedy, and Mr.

Sasha Kisin.

Rob is the owner of Walchuk Masonry Ltd., which has been serving southern Saskatchewan for 29 years. He is also the president of the Saskatchewan Masonry Institute. Ryan is the Saskatchewan operations manager for Brxton Construction and has been involved with this company for 17 years. He serves as the vice-president of Saskatchewan Masonry Institute.

Darrell is the owner of Timberstone Distribution, which has its head office here in Regina as well as a subsidiary in Winnipeg. He serves as director of the Saskatchewan Masonry Institute. Sasha is the masonry design coordinator at the Canada Masonry Design Centre, Saskatchewan office, and he is a member of the Saskatchewan Masonry Institute.

The Saskatchewan Masonry Institute is the official voice of our masonry industry in this province. It is comprised of professional masonry contractors and suppliers who are dedicated to the promotion of quality masonry and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they have proven to be very dedicated to furthering the craft of masonry in Saskatchewan. I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to introduce my niece, Trinity Campeau, who is in the west gallery. She's here from Watson. Thank you.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to join with the minister opposite and welcome these entrepreneurs and business leaders to their Assembly here today with the masonry industry and the construction industry here in Saskatchewan. Certainly we appreciate their work within our province in helping drive our economy and helping build Saskatchewan. So it's my pleasure to join with the minister and welcome these community leaders and economic leaders here today.

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

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to introduce you to 24 students from grades 7, 8, and 9 from the Watson School in my constituency.

It's a great community that has this huge Santa Claus, looking like Santa Claus most of the time, except in October or so when it wears a green Rider jersey, as we all know. They are accompanied today by Mrs. Yvonne Gueguen, Mr. Curtis Buhs, and Mr. Darwin Riendeau, so if all members could join with me in welcoming these people to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I too would like to extend a very warm welcome to Mr. Allen Engel and his wife, Joyce. Mr. Engel was my first MLA when I first cast my

vote just after I graduated from high school in Lafleche. And I think back then it was Notukeu-Willow Bunch might have been the name of the riding at the time. But anyways I just remember Mr. Engel as being someone that I admired and certainly looked up to as a community leader and was a friend of our family as well. So on behalf of the official opposition and again the whole Legislative Assembly, I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to Mr. Engel and his wife Joyce.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce a couple of municipal officials from the great town of Wilkie. We have in your gallery, Mr. Deputy Speaker, His Worship Mayor David Ziegler, and with him is the administrator, Lana Gerein. They're here for some meetings later today, and they came in early to watch the proceedings. We're delighted to have them. And I'd ask all the members to please give them a warm welcome to their Assembly. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If I just may join with members on both sides of the House and welcome those that have joined us from the masonry institute and acknowledge their contribution to the province, as the Deputy Leader for the opposition has done.

As entrepreneurs, Mr. Speaker, I welcome them all, but I specifically want to introduce someone who's become a very good friend of mine in Darrell Kennedy. Here in Regina, here we have someone, like his colleagues, who has really boot-strapped his own business. He's employing others here and in other provinces, and helping to create what we're calling the Saskatchewan advantage. He is, I think fair to say, an effervescent personality, and it's always great to see Darrell in the legislature. I think he's the reigning champion at the Royal Regina golf course this year, I think so, proving that even a blind squirrel can find a nut every now and then, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask all members to join me in specifically welcoming D.K. to his Legislative Assembly today.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

call on this government to immediately stop ignoring schools and start prioritizing students by capping classroom sizes, increasing supports for students, and developing a transparent plan to build and repair our schools.

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

[13:45]

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

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

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request 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. Deputy Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this particular petition is signed by individuals from Swift Current and Elrose. I so present.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of retaining Yarrow Youth Farm. The government has closed Yarrow Youth Farm and 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, also that Kilburn Hall has a more institutional environment that could intimidate and alienate teens that have committed minor offences. And so I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

International Day of Mourning

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, every year since 1985, the members of this Assembly have taken the time to mark today, April 28th, as the International Day of Mourning for workers injured or killed on the job. It's an important time to remember the workers who have lost their lives, but it's also a time for us as lawmakers to ensure that we're doing everything we can to make Saskatchewan a place where there are no work-related deaths or injuries. A private member's bill in the House of Commons made April 28th the official Day of Mourning all across Canada in 1991, and we're quickly approaching the 25th year when our whole nation stands with workers around the world to remember those who were killed or injured at work.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know that here in Saskatchewan there's still a lot of work that needs to be done to make sure all of our working men and women make it home safe at the end of each shift. Too many workers are hurt on the job each year, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the numbers are even more alarming for young workers and for new workers. Since we marked the Day of Mourning last year, another 39 workers have lost their lives.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in recognizing this year's International Day of Mourning and to keep working and to keep making progress that will bring an end to work-related injuries and deaths in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Anniversary of Liberation of the Netherlands

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last Friday in Moose Jaw, the member from Wood River and I attended the 70th anniversary of the campaign to liberate the Netherlands from Nazi occupation.

From September 1944 to April 1945, the First Canadian Army fought German forces on the Scheldt estuary, opening the port of Antwerp for Allied use and eventually clearing the northern and western Netherlands of Nazi occupation. During the German occupation, the Dutch people were suffering terrible hardships and starvation. The First Canadian Army played a major role in liberating the Netherlands and allowed food and other relief to reach millions of desperate people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the fight did not come without a price. Over 7,600 Canadian soldiers, sailors, and airmen died fighting for freedom of the Netherlands. Today Canada is still fondly remembered by the Dutch people for aiding them at such a desperate time.

In the years following the war, the Netherlands sent thousands of tulips to Ottawa in appreciation for Canada's sacrifice and providing safe lodging to the Dutch royal family which lived in exile here in Canada during the war.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands and to remember all the Canadian Armed Forces who gave their lives to end the suffering and ensure that freedom goes on in the Netherlands people.

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

Ban on Heavy-Haul Trucks

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, last night Regina City Council showed leadership and took action and showed that they're listening to the residents of our city. Regina City Council voted to ban heavy-haul truck traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of Lewvan. They did so to address the unacceptable safety concerns, damage, and disturbance on Dewdney Avenue caused by the province failing to ensure a safe, appropriate route for the heavy-haul truck traffic to a provincial project.

I'm truly thankful for the action of council and for all the people and residents within our community that spoke up on this urgent matter of safety. I valued working with constituents and community on this important project by shining a spotlight on the danger, organizing our community-wide petition drive, addressing it and calling for action in the legislature, working with city councillors, proposing solutions to the provincial government, and hosting media on Dewdney to witness the problem first-hand.

While I remain frustrated with the provincial government on this matter and their failure to address a problem they created, I'm pleased to see the action by city council. So I ask members to join with me to thank Regina City Council for acting to ensure safety on Dewdney and also to thank so many in our

community for their involvement and their advocacy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Moose Jaw Community Service Organizations

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to rise in the House today to share that the Government of Saskatchewan has reaffirmed its commitment to vulnerable individuals and families in Moose Jaw. As part of the province's 2015-16 budget commitment, Moose Jaw Family Services will receive \$621,000 in funding and the Moose Jaw Association for Community Living will be allocated \$104,000.

Mr. Speaker, our government is proud to support these community-based organizations in their support of individuals in need in the Moose Jaw community. Throughout the month we are celebrating the work of many CBOs [community-based organization] across the province such as Moose Jaw Family Services and the Moose Jaw Association for Community Living.

These organizations are dedicated to providing effective, efficient programs and services that will maintain the safety and well-being of the people that they serve. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're pleased to continue these partnerships as we work together with hundreds of CBOs across the province to keep Saskatchewan strong.

We are extremely grateful to all the community-based organizations for helping to respond to the needs of citizens in this growing province and their contribution which has a huge impact on the lives of those in needs. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Innovation and Trade.

Funding for Friendship Centre in Meadow Lake

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the House to talk about a wonderful funding announcement in Meadow Lake last Friday. Our government announced \$393,000 in funding this year to help the North West Friendship Centre support vulnerable Meadow Lake families.

Of this funding, the Ministry of Social Services is providing \$307,000 for in-home support and education for parents whose children are at risk of coming into the care of the ministry. The Ministry of Justice will continue to support the victims of interpersonal violence and abuse in Meadow Lake with funding of over \$86,000 for family violence outreach services, and to help build awareness and education about interpersonal violence and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, the North West Friendship Centre is a great partner and I want to thank them for their selfless dedication to Meadow Lake families. The work they do isn't easy. It can be

very challenging to meet people during some of the darkest and most difficult times of their lives, but it is during those times that they are a light to those people. We truly believe in the important work this organization is doing and are proud to be a small part of the difference they make each and every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Lieutenant Governor Bestows Literacy Awards

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last Wednesday the Minister of Education, the Minister of Central Services, the member from Lloydminster, and I had the pleasure of attending the 2015 Literacy Awards of Merit held at Government House. Each year the Lieutenant Governor honours remarkable volunteers, learners, professionals, and organizations who have dedicated their time and efforts towards building literacy here in Saskatchewan. Literacy plays an important role in providing a good quality of life for people in our province. Literacy skills are essential to pursuing career options, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

This year KPMG was recognized with the Business Leadership in Literacy Award for its long-standing support of Read Saskatoon. Mark Williment was recognized for his work as the superintendent of Northern Lights School Division and improving literacy in northern communities.

Dr. Helen Christiansen received the Voluntary Service Award for 11 years of voluntary tutoring at the Regina Public Library. And Lucinda Nielson received the Cameco Literacy Learner Award along with a \$1,000 bursary. Lucinda was pretty excited about that. In fact she said, "I get to go and spend this."

Lucinda had a remarkable journey, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Lucinda left school when she was in grade 3 to help at home. Through Read Saskatoon, Lucinda was able to obtain her GED [general equivalency diploma] at the age of 79, and today at the age of 80, Lucinda is taking part in post-secondary classes. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating this year's winners. Thank you very much.

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

Saskatoon Bowling Alley Produces Champions

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise in the House today to recognize a staple in the Saskatoon Eastview community, as well as congratulate some of the players that make this bowling alley their second home.

Recently Eastview Bowl was home to the gold medal winners of the Rising Stars provincial championships. The team consisted of Nathan Missens, Allison Rayburn, Jay Crawford, Deb Holfeld, and coach, Lloyd Wiens.

Saskatoon also took home the gold in the Great Western Fun Bowl, with team members Derek Molnar, Alicia Morin, Clint Friesen, Raina Dauvin, and coach, Karin Kirkland. Both teams qualified to go to the Rising Star and Fun Bowl national

championships in Gatineau, Quebec this past weekend.

Eastview Bowl teams have also qualified to go to the YBC [Youth Bowling Canada] national championships in Oshawa, Ontario next week with the senior girls' teams of Brooke Arnold, Kaitlyn Giesbrecht, Kailee Leffler, Sarah Oulette, and coach, Rick Elvin.

And finally I'd like to wish best of luck to the team from Eastview going to the Canadian open championships in June, also in Oshawa, Ontario. Members of this team are: Danielle Leffler, Alys Rak, Julie Bayne, John Rayner, Colton Caister, Dennis Zacher, Michael Wist, and coach, Dale Holfeld.

Mr. Speaker, clearly Eastview Bowl is becoming a spot not only for the social bowler, but also some competitive athletes as well. I would ask all members to join with me in congratulating the bowlers in their performance so far and wish them all the best in upcoming competition. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the opposition Deputy Leader.

Release of Information Concerning Worker

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we've now learned through media reports that the Premier's chief of communications and operations actually sent several emails to reporters when she leaked confidential information about a care aid. And contrary to everything the Premier has said, those emails contain very specific information. In fact, the Premier leaked more specific information to reporters than the care aid had even received himself from the health region. So why has the Premier been saying it was just general information when that's clearly not the case?

[14:00]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Member, for the question. I think it's important to revisit this whole situation. It started when the Leader of the Opposition asked questions on behalf of Mr. Bowden in the Assembly, stated certain things as fact with respect to care at Oliver Lodge. We've learned since then, by the way, that this information was incorrect that was presented by his Leader of the New Democratic Party about what was going on at Oliver Lodge. And I'm sure the Health minister will have more information on that in a moment.

On that occasion, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked me for promises on three occasions that the person in question who was raising these concerns shouldn't fear for their job because they were raising them. And of course the answer was yes every time. It's a promise we've made then. It's a promise we've made every time the NDP [New Democratic Party] have said, oh, the health care workers are too afraid to come forward, Mr. Speaker, and it's a promise we intended to keep. And so shortly after question period, I said to officials, if there is any change in this individual's status, we need to make sure that it is not a violation of a promise that was made in this House.

We've since learned that there is a suspension with pay under way, that there's an investigation under way. I think the person in question yesterday in the media said at that at least some of the allegations are true. He said that yesterday in the media.

But the process needs to happen. In the meantime, we need to make sure health care workers know they can come forward. Mr. Speaker, with respect to specifics about what was in the emails, I haven't seen the specifics. I would say to the member, if there is in fact an inquiry with the Privacy Commissioner, we ought to let that individual do his work.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the opposition Deputy Leader.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, another day, another question to that Premier about his leak of private information, and no answer but more spin from the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I think any reasonable person would agree that an employment record is never general information. So we didn't believe the Premier's argument one bit from the get-go, but he said it over and over and over. In fact he said it at least 17 times over the past several days.

Now we know that that's simply not the case. The Premier's chief of communications and operations leaked specific details, and she even followed up with other emails which contained more specifics. Will the Premier just admit he was wrong when he said over and over that this was simply general information?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I've said over and over again that it's my view that the information was of a general nature. Mr. Speaker, the employment file was not provided to anybody. The member will know that, unless, as they tweeted out last week, as his leader said, unless they have the file.

Well I have just answered the question, and now here's a question for the member to think about. His party has said, his party has said they completely agree that Mr. Bowden is facing some discipline, potential discipline because he came forward with a concern in this legislature. By the way, we know now that the concerns expressed by the Leader of the Opposition on his behalf are not based on fact, but still they say they believe this is the only reason that he's facing a discipline.

Mr. Speaker, now, now Mr. Bowden himself yesterday on the radio said some of the allegations being made by his staff colleagues at Oliver Lodge are true, some of the allegations that formed the basis for this disciplinary decision by the Saskatoon Health Region. So here is a chance for the Deputy Leader of the NDP to do something that his leader has failed to do. Will he, Mr. Deputy Speaker, confirm that the NDP now accept that Mr. Bowden is not facing any disciplinary action because he came forward but because of the stated complaints by colleagues in the workplace at Oliver Lodge? Will he admit that?

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this is about due process. This is about that breach of information — private, confidential

information — of that Premier, Mr. Speaker. And every time that Premier seems to open his mouth, Mr. Speaker, our suspicions grow as it relates to this file, and we're left with more questions certainly than answers. And his story just simply hasn't added up.

On one hand, the Premier says the leak was simply to provide background information to reporters, and he essentially blamed the newspapers for reporting it. But on the other hand, the Premier was adamant that he wanted the story out there, that he pretended that this was somehow in the public's greater interest. Well you can't have it both ways, Mr. Premier, so maybe the Premier will finally provide a straight answer here today. When he ordered the leak of confidential information about a private citizen, did he want this information reported publicly? Yes or no?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think it's important to go back to March 30th when this individual appeared at the Legislative Assembly and made some concerns known in terms of what he thought were concerns as it relates to Oliver Lodge and the operation of Oliver Lodge, at which point he requested from the Leader of the Opposition protection from bringing forward those concerns. Well here were the concerns, Mr. Speaker: that staffing ratios were 1, himself, to 32 residents in a dementia unit. Mr. Speaker, that is not accurate. It has not happened at Oliver Lodge. There are always additional staff available, Mr. Speaker, whether it is an evening, a day, or a night shift.

He also brought up the concern, Mr. Speaker, of being directed to not change a resident who had soiled themselves more than on one occasion. Mr. Speaker, there is a long-standing policy that if a resident, particularly one in a dementia unit, is sound asleep during the night, that they are not to be woken up to be changed, that that would take place once they do wake up in the morning. So this relates directly to the accusations that were made by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, and they again are not accurate.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, another question to the Premier, no answer whatsoever. The fact of the matter is the Premier can't have it both ways. He said that he was only providing background information when he leaked this information to reporters, and in fact the newspapers chose to cover it — sort of blaming them. Then he says, Mr. Speaker, that he provided it to somehow provide a greater good to the public at large. The Premier can't have it both ways. When he chose to leak this private, confidential information of a private citizen in Saskatchewan to the media, did he want it reported? Yes or no?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also draw the members' attention to the fact that on March 30th, when this individual appeared at the legislature and through the Leader of the Opposition requested

assurances that his employment would not be in jeopardy because of coming forward with concerns, which it turned out the concerns were not accurate that were raised by the Leader of the Opposition, that the Premier provided an assurance, Mr. Speaker.

What was not known at that time by either, I would assume if they didn't ask the question, by the Leader of the Opposition, certainly by the Premier and myself and members on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, was not directly related to those concerns but in general the employment record of this individual. In good faith, the Premier provided that assurance, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, what has come to light by the health region and in particular by the CEO, was that concerns had been raised even prior to March 30th as it relates to this gentleman's employment. That is why, Mr. Speaker, we wanted to clarify with the public that this individual's suspension with pay was not in any way directly related to his attendance at the legislature on March 30th because in fact some of the complaints predated his attendance at the legislature.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I ask the question again. There wasn't a single answer from the Premier who continues to shirk responsibility and who's failing to act like a Premier, Mr. Speaker. It's pretty clear to most people about what's going on. The Premier was given confidential information about the care aid who came to the legislature as a whistle-blower, and the Premier saw a political opportunity to discredit the aid, to cast doubt on very serious concerns brought forward by that aid, and to cast a big chill on health care workers across Saskatchewan.

My question would be: has the Premier even bothered to talk to the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region about the concerns this care aid brought forward, and investigated those in a thorough way, Mr. Speaker, in a way not just to discredit a claim or two? Or is the Premier only interested in information that he can use to tarnish this whistle-blower?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have to have a conversation with the CEO of the Saskatoon Health Region. I only have to listen to what he said to the *Leader-Post* on April 23 and I quote — this is the CEO of Saskatoon Health Region: "I have zero concerns about this being in any way connected to his right to go forward and raise concerns about the workplace." He went on and said:

There are many examples in the past where our employees have written letters to the editor, issued complaints, been on talk shows, and have been very vocal about the experience that they've had, and they have never been sanctioned for doing such.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the concerns that were raised by the individual on March 30th, I will again repeat for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the staffing ratios of 1 to 32 that were

raised by this individual on March 30th are not accurate at this facility. Whether we're talking about days, evenings, or nights, there are always multiple staff members. And with respect to being required by the facility not to change a resident that had soiled himself, Mr. Speaker, on an evening shift, we have a policy, and it is long-standing, that if the resident is sound asleep, we don't wake them in the middle of the night to change. The staff will wait until the next morning.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this care aid that spoke out was clear that what's stated on paper isn't the reality in this facility. Mr. Speaker, this care aid, we have to remember, was the very first front-line health care worker to come forward to the legislature and publicly speak out about concerns, and the concerns he raised were serious: about staffing levels, about minimum care standards, about the quality of care for vulnerable seniors being far from adequate.

This Premier should have taken those concerns seriously, especially because of the overwhelming evidence that these problems are widespread. But it's apparent this Premier isn't really that interested in improving seniors' care, so when he saw an opportunity to discredit this care aid, to cast out on the concerns he raised, he ordered this leak, Mr. Speaker.

So my question to the Premier: why won't he simply own up finally, here today admit that he made a big mistake by ordering the leak of confidential information about a private citizen?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've already said twice in the House in terms of the direct concerns that were raised by this individual on March 30th that they're not accurate as were described by the Leader of the Opposition. Unfortunately the Leader of the Opposition once again didn't do his homework before he came to the floor of the Assembly and raised concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note though, for the record, that Oliver Lodge funding has increased by over 103 per cent in the last seven years under this government. I correct myself: 134 per cent, Mr. Speaker, in the last seven years. Staffing levels have increased 103 per cent, Mr. Speaker, under this government. Yes, the beds did go up in that facility based on an expansion a couple of years ago, but the number of full-time staff equivalents in that facility greatly exceeded the number of additional residents in that facility, Mr. Speaker. That is just one more example of the work that this government is doing.

We inherited a system that was neglected for many years, where members opposite closed over 1,000 long-term care beds, Mr. Speaker, over a dozen long-term care facilities in this province, Mr. Speaker. We now have more than nearly 800 additional full-time staff working in long-term care for the same number of residents, Mr. Speaker, and that doesn't even say what we're doing about addressing the issues of seniors that don't live in long-term care. That's the dedication that we've provided in this . . . [inaudible].

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

Youth Companion Program

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've heard several reasons, different reasons for this government's decision to end the youth companion program, but Samantha Neill says this decision, and I quote, ". . . is nothing more than taking money and resources from one of the most vulnerable groups in this province, persons with disabilities." How can the Premier possibly justify this cut of vital services to youth with cognitive disabilities?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said before in this House, we did a review of our CBOs, and we want to have measurable results on the work that they do. We're taking a look at the different contracts to see the mandate of the contracts, and some of them, there is some mandate drift from what the contract was originally meant for. Mr. Speaker, we want to see if the service is vital or if there's duplication or it can be provided by other CBOs, and we have duplication.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tight budget. Everyone in Saskatchewan knows that. We have said that we need to review our programs and make them effective and efficient. There is not very many families served by the \$64,000 cut that we made, and we'll be working with those families individually to try to get them the services that they need.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, Samantha wrote a letter to our office in which she fact checks everything this government has said. Her son is a participant in this program, so she knows what she's talking about.

The minister says it's a duplication of service. Samantha says that's not true. The government said, community living provides this service. Again Samantha says that's not true. The minister said that not enough of the youth involved in this program are clients of Social Services, but Samantha says nearly all of the participants in this program are clients of Social Services.

To the Premier: how many wrong answers will he tolerate from this minister before he makes the right decision to save this program?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the funding came from the child and family file, and the member opposite is well aware of that, as is Samantha. These are not children that are at risk that we're discussing here. We'll work with these individual families but we cannot . . . What it did was this particular

program was linking the families to workers that could help take their child for the summer in essence — and these are adult children — and to different activities and help them. We will try and help them find those same workers going forward. We will work with these families, Mr. Speaker.

The organization in question also receives over half a million dollars from this government for skills training. Mr. Speaker, it isn't that the organization had its funding completely eliminated. It was the \$64,000 for this one program. It's a very small program, and we will help those families to find the services that they need.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, Samantha writes, and I quote:

Even on their fourth or fifth attempt to explain the cut, it remains clear that the ministry and the minister had no real idea that they were cutting a unique program offering an important service. Perhaps now that the nature of the youth companion program has become clear, they will use this as an opportunity to find the appropriate and sustainable source of funds for this program.

This is a cut of about \$64,000 a year, which is pocket change for this government but so vital for these youth and these families, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Now the Premier knows that his minister did not do her homework. Why won't he step in and save this important program?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, again we're going to . . . And although the member opposite just throws it off as pocket change, Mr. Speaker, we need to be mindful of each and every dollar that we spend. We need to make sure that we're maximizing those dollars and we're using them in a very effective way.

Mr. Speaker, there is no government in the history of this province that has dedicated more dollars to individuals with disabilities than this government. Year over year we have increased funding. We have increased housing for individuals with disabilities. We introduced the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program, which is an income assistance program for people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, we took the people with disabilities off of a wait-list that languished there year over year over year under the NDP government when that member opposite was sitting at the cabinet table and absolutely ignoring the file. Mr. Speaker, these were families that were desperate for places for their loved ones to live and for day programming for their loved ones, and those members opposite and that member opposite when he sat at the cabinet table didn't care. Mr. Speaker, this government is totally committed to programming for individuals with disabilities like no other before it.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from

Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, last week the Social Services minister promised to speak with Samantha, but she never bothered to do that. Perhaps if that minister had taken the time to speak with Samantha, she would have actually got her facts straight and she would have understood the importance of this program for youth with cognitive disabilities. Will the Premier instruct his Social Services minister to finally follow through on her commitment from last week to call Samantha and to hear directly from her about how vital this program is?

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, my chief of staff did speak with Samantha, and he offered to connect her with an official to help her with the services. Perhaps the member opposite isn't interested in having someone work directly with Samantha to help her get the services that she's needed. She has said that she wants someone to help her find someone to look after her son or help her son through the summer months and, Mr. Speaker, we can get someone that will do that. We were offering that to Samantha. My chief of staff, immediately following question period when he brought these questions up before, did contact Samantha, and they did have that conversation.

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

Leasing of Warehouse Space

Ms. Chartier: — This government is cutting a program that helps youth with a cognitive disability just to save \$64,000. Meanwhile it has spent millions leasing warehouses for its John Black lean program. Talk about misplaced priorities. How can the Health minister justify wasting taxpayers' dollars on empty warehouses?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, the Cancer Agency recognized a number of years ago that they were going to need additional space as it relates to increasing the number of services that they're providing to the people of, in this case, Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, when they looked at a renovation to the existing Cancer Agency in Saskatoon, at that time they had estimated that they would need to add an additional floor to the existing facility which would have cost probably in the neighbourhood of \$100 million to add a fourth floor to the existing facility. Going through some process to redesign their workspace to make it more efficient, they have determined that they do not need to add an additional floor at a cost of \$100 million, Mr. Speaker.

So in fact despite the fact that yes, they have leased some warehouse space to help plan not only a new facility or an expansion of a facility but redesign their processes to make it more patient friendly, Mr. Speaker, they will, through this process, they will have a cost avoidance for the taxpayers of

this province in the tens of millions of dollars.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency leased an empty warehouse space because it was required to do so by the John Black lean program. 3sHealth [Health Shared Services Saskatchewan] and eHealth leased a warehouse. Four health regions leased warehouses, and two health regions actually purchased warehouses. That's eight lean warehouses. The Cancer Agency used its warehouse for lean events just 47 days since 2013. Ninety-two per cent of the time that warehouse just sat empty. To the minister: did all these other lean warehouses sit empty 92 per cent of the time as well?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated before, while the warehouse wasn't used every single day, it did allow for the creation of some different types of models for treatment rooms that would see . . . Rather than what we do now, essentially have the patient go from one area to another, it'll allow us to look at different designs that will have the services come to the patients. So it's much more effective in terms of the patient.

Mr. Speaker, as I said before though, under the old way that we used to plan facilities and renovations and new facilities, in this case the Cancer Agency had an estimate that it would be well in excess of \$100 million to add an additional floor onto the existing Cancer Agency in Saskatoon. Through this process, they don't need to add that additional floor.

Mr. Speaker, they know that in the future that they'll have to do some renovations. They've also secured some off-site locations for some day operations, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell you this, that they will not have to spend over \$100 million to add an additional floor to the existing space because of the work that was done in the warehouse. Mr. Speaker, this will have saved the taxpayers of this province tens upon tens of millions of dollars.

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

Ms. Chartier: — At least eight lean warehouses, that's what this government is wasting money on. Saskatchewan people deserve to know exactly how much money this government has wasted on these warehouses, warehouses which have sat empty most of the time. To the minister: how much did these lean warehouses cost Saskatchewan taxpayers?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that through just the Cancer Agency alone, they were leasing space at Innovation Place at a cost of \$35 a square foot. They've been able to secure a place at McOrmond Drive at \$22 per square foot, which is 41 per cent less per square foot than the Innovation Place, Mr. Speaker. That also allows them the potential to expand because it does include additional square footage than what they were currently

using at Innovation Place, so a 40 per cent reduction in the cost of that one facility.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the costs of these warehouses, this one alone will have saved the dollars that it took to lease or buy those eight facilities. As I said before, the estimate at the time, back in 2010, was over \$100 million to add an additional floor to the existing space. That's not going to be needed. We're going to save through this one process alone by the Cancer Agency, tens upon tens of millions of dollars. That is prudent, Mr. Speaker, in the name of taxpayers' dollars, as opposed to the members opposite who obviously believe it was a better idea to spend \$100 million to add a fourth floor to the existing facility.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Human Services Committee.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Lawrence: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 148, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Health has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 148, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 148 — *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 2009 sur les services de l'état civil*

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that this bill now be read the third time and passed under its title.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 148, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2013* be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Lawrence: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014* without amendment.

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

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 151 — *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014*

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 151, *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014* be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing

Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Lawrence: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014* without amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Health.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014* and that the bill be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 157 — *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its . . . It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 157, *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

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

[14:30]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 930 through 932.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 178

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

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

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, joining in on Bill 178, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*. I guess looking at overall, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we see some of the changes that government is proposing with this legislation and introducing this Act. And I know that I've had a number of people talk about, and it's interesting about the challenges that families are facing. And talk about affordability, cost of living, some of these will impact some of the families dearly.

And I want to talk about the middle class. And you know, you talk about a wage where there was a grant, a credit to help families who wanted to get their children and keep them active in sports, recreation. And you know, at the time a great thing to help out families and give individuals, you know, a family that are struggling with the cost of living, whether it's rents, whether it's utility bills, food, everything — clothing, you name it — is going up to make ends meet in the province.

And I know this government likes to brag about when it has record revenue, you know. When we look at the record revenue this government had over years, eight years, and those challenges that you see for families out there, the middle class and many families who are left behind by this government, for the choices that this government has picked, when you look at, you know, those that are struggling, whether it's a two-family income earner and maybe they're making a little more than 60,000, trying to make ends meet, they're struggling.

And what does this government do? There was a program that assisted them. And when you look at the amount of money, it's about 6 million that they're cutting from those individuals, those families that are trying to do their best to make ends meet and provide for their family and also to provide recreation and activities for the family.

So when we see a government wasting the money that it has wasted on its priorities, whether it's lean, we have seen many issues we have raised in this House about the issues that are affecting families — you know, their tax dollars. And I remind that government at the end of the day, you know, you're taking the people for granted. And when you do that . . . I know they have a huge minority over there, huge. Everybody says that. It's almost, this legislature is almost unbalanced, that when you talk to people back out on the street, they're saying it just isn't right. Government does whatever it wants.

So again, this is just another case of the government doing what

it wants to do. It has such a huge majority, it can do whatever it wants to do. But these are impacting families. Middle-class families are struggling. And you want to give supports to those families, and unfortunately this bill will be taking away, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from those families, giving them opportunities to provide services and recreation and different activities for their family members. So that in itself is sad and we see that it . . . [inaudible].

When you look at the actual, the . . . You're going from a cut. And you know, when we talk about research and development, that's another area that this bill addresses. When you look at this, it goes from, it used to be 15 per cent credit. Now it's dropped to 10 per cent. It's giving individuals an opportunity? We're saying, why would you do that? You're turning research and investment in this province . . . And if there are individuals that are looking at this and they're comparing other provinces, well maybe they're going to say, you know I'm going to take, now with the cuts, I'm going to go somewhere else to do my research and developing. And that in itself, we should be encouraging.

We talk about the booming economy, and we talk about Saskatchewan doing so great. Well let's make sure that we keep that investment moving by not cutting and taking away from business that are willing to do the research and development in our province. And that's important.

The other area we see, the graduate retention program. We've heard quite a bit about that from students, individuals that are out there. They use this program. It gave them . . . Yes, they got their education. There's many, whether they were, you know, RNs [registered nurse], nurses, whatever, even the trades, so many individuals that did the commitment to school. We commend a program like that. There's nothing wrong with saying that it helped to address and retain. And that's what we want. It's good. When you're economy's going, you want those workers to stay in the province. You want them to stay in their home communities, and this encourages them.

So now we see a government that's going to do it on the sense of taking it away. Individuals who came out and finished school, went to work, would get those cheques, get that money coming back in, and it helped them with that. And we're going to talk about some of the most vulnerable, that maybe they . . . You know, at the end of the day, they're not making the 60, \$70,000, and maybe this is not good enough. But, unfortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what we're seeing is there might be individuals who finish their schooling, whether it's four years, how many, and when they're done that, they want to apply, and they're finished in their program. At the end of the day, whether it's the trades, like I say, whether it's nursing programs, whether they're university, at the end of the day, they want to have an opportunity, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to get these dollars to help them, assist them.

And we have many people in northern Saskatchewan, rural Saskatchewan, the urban that are taking programs. And those programs and university, at the end of the day, they want to have an opportunity, and this helped them greatly. This helped them greatly. And here we have a government . . . And we've heard a lot of concern from graduates that are out there are not happy with this, that are not happy at all with this government's

changing.

And you know, when you think about it, I mean government's going to say, then they look at it, and they're saying they're taking \$30 million away. That's what this cut is doing. This cut is going to affect them. So it's greatly . . . Obviously there's going to be many challenges out there facing our graduates, and this was an incentive that would keep them, to retain them.

And you know what? The way they're changing it, it is not something they've asked for. It's not going to help them. And you know, sure there might be a credit there for 10 years. At the end of the day, if they make a certain amount of money, a certain amount of dollars when they're employed, they may qualify right away, but they may not for some time. But the government is saying oh, don't worry about it. We'll keep those credits there for 10 years and you'll get the credit. And that in itself, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is why they've been speaking out. They're talking about they're unhappy with it. They are not accepting it, and I think at the end of the day this government's going to pay a price for the decisions that it's making.

Again like I talked about the most vulnerable are out there. We're talking about that. We see today in question period about some of the challenges facing people most vulnerable. This government wants to cut 64,000 when it has record revenue year after year. And they can heckle all they want from across the floor. It is reality facing many families. That's the problem, Mr. Speaker. They don't hear that Saskatchewan families are struggling. This government does not understand it. They don't understand what Saskatchewan families, seniors, most vulnerable are going through in this province. The cost of living is too much for them and they're struggling to make ends meet.

And these guys can heckle all they want, but at the end of the day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will be the individuals. The individuals will send the message to this government. They will get a message. And they can sit there; we've watched time and time again how they take people for granted. We've seen the bullying and everything else that they do.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that my colleagues have more to talk about on this bill. Well we raised some of the issues and concerns facing these individuals, and the changes in this Act will impact many families, will impact many students, graduates that have done the job, whether they're in the trades. So there you go. At the end of the day we'll see what's going to happen. The people will speak, and they'll send this government a message — enough's enough. You're not listening. You don't consult. You don't talk.

So at that point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on 178.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 178, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Innovation and Trade.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has moved that this House adjourns. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:39.]

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Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

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