



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

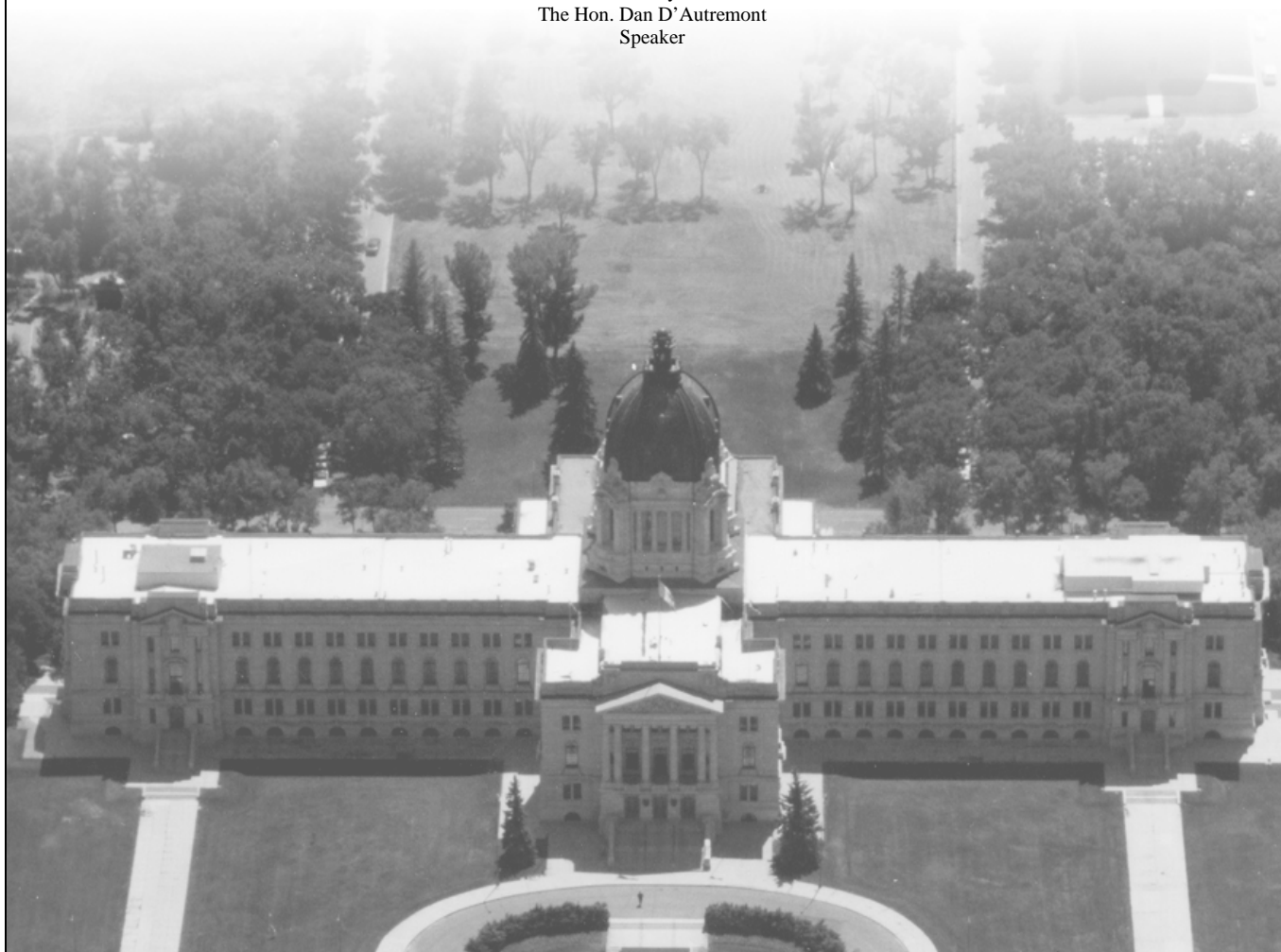
of the

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
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Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
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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: — I wish to inform members that Mr. Speaker is not present to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce 30 grade 10 students from the Yorkton Regional High School in the west gallery. Accompanying them are teachers, Mr. Perry Ostapowich, who is here at least a couple times a year, and it's always a pleasure to see Perry; and Jessica Schmidt; and their bus driver, Kevin Coleridge.

As is kind of customary with Mr. Ostapowich's class, quite often he does encourage them to contact me through whatever source they can just to see if they can get some special acknowledgement. So I'll do that again here today. I had four that I got contact from this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'll ask them to wave when I call the names. It's Jenna Eiffert — there's Jenna — Sierra Unick, Helli Patel.

And I guess a special shout-out to, yo, Colby Sparvier. Colby's played a little bit of a trick on me. He tweeted me that I should check out his hot mixtape. And I thought he was musical, so I asked him downstairs. He said no, I'm just punking you. So I got punked by Colby Sparvier in the Assembly today, Mr. Speaker.

I ask all members to welcome these fine grade 10 students to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce some guests in your gallery who are here in Regina today to attend the 23rd annual Williston Basin Petroleum Conference. We have Terri Haverly, South Dakota state senator — you can give us a wave — Jeff Haverly, a former state senator of South Dakota; Steve Conzet, president of Wells Fargo Bank. We have Shawn Gab, chairman of the Rapid City Economic Development Board; David Kneafsey, the executive assistant to the Rapid City mayor; Ben Snow, the Rapid City economic development president; and Darrell Sawyer, the assistant to the vice-president of the South Dakota School of Mines. They will be attending the conference here today which is co-hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of North Dakota, and the North Dakota Petroleum Council and the Petroleum Technology Research Council. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I can while I'm still on my feet, I

have a school group here as well. And it's not too often I get a school group from Saskatoon Sutherland, but I'd like to welcome the grade 7 students from College Park School, if you can give us a wave. I had a chance to bump into them just as they were coming in the door, Mr. Speaker, and very energetic, lots of pent-up energy after being on the bus for a couple of hours. So I very much would like to welcome them and their teacher, Lindsay Kelleher, Deanna Fast, Charlene Prpich, and Shauna Bradford-Wilson. I'd like to welcome you all to your Legislative Assembly, and yes, I will be providing some ice cream for the students. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And just one more thing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd just like to be able to wish my son a happy birthday. It's his 13th birthday today, and I'm very sorry that I can't be there, son. I love you, buddy. Take care.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to join the member opposite welcoming the delegation from the States, especially from South Dakota.

My grandfather who came to Saskatchewan in 1913 spent seven years as an oil well driller and water well driller in South Dakota, working for Governor Norbeck and his brother before Governor Norbeck became the governor. And so we have many relatives in Rapid City from that side of the family. But also my mother's family, her second cousin ran for governor of South Dakota, John Olson. And he was a Republican, so the members opposite would be really pleased to hear that. His only problem was that he ran for governor about a few months after President Nixon resigned, so he lost.

But anyways, great to welcome you here. I have very many strong ties with South Dakota. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Policing and Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, Carla Ellert and her husband, Mike, and son, Alex. And they're seated in your gallery, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Carla and Mike started Skate4Smiles to honour the memory of their son who passed away in 2010. I will share more of their story shortly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I would like all members of this House to welcome the Ellerts to their Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. One more introduction, to you, through you, in the Speaker's Assembly. Our first guest, one initial guest, is the magistrate from Australia, Catherine Crawford. Awarded the Churchill Fellowship and travelling to New Zealand, throughout North America, she's looking at how communities are dealing with youth affected by FASD [fetal alcohol spectrum disorder] and

involved in their criminal justice system. She's been in Eastern Canada. She's to meet with Judge Toth and others here in Regina and Saskatoon eventually, and Whitehorse and New Zealand.

With her is Michelle Stewart, assistant professor of justice studies and strategic lead for justice intervention for Canada FASD initiative.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask all members to welcome these people to their Legislative Assembly.

The Deputy Speaker: — Members, I'd like to join with the members that introduced our international guests. I'd like to express a welcome to them. It's always good to have individuals from other countries, our neighbours to the south and those visitors from Australia. I hope you enjoy our way of doing things and our method of governance. So I would ask members to join with me in welcoming them.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Riversdale.

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'd like to join with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health in welcoming Michelle Stewart with the University of Regina here and her Australian guest, that's Catherine Crawford. Welcome to the Saskatchewan legislature, and I hope that you learn much about Saskatchewan and have the opportunity to take that information home and use that in Australia. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these guests to the legislature as well.

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 calling for greater support for better schools here in Saskatchewan. And we know that far too many of our classrooms are overcrowded and under-resourced, and that the Saskatchewan Party government has eliminated hundreds of educational assistant positions, and that students often don't get the one-on-one attention they need. And we know that none of this is acceptable, given the record revenues this government has had over the last eight years. Mr. Deputy Speaker, 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.

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

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 is getting worse. Shelter is a

basic need for everyone, but under this government it's getting harder and harder for people to find adequate housing, especially families, seniors, women and children who face abusive situations. The problem is getting worse because of the rising level of poverty, skyrocketing home ownership cost. The prayer reads:

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

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

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of maintaining hyperbaric services at the Moose Jaw Hospital. The petitioners point out that the people of Moose Jaw have worked hard for many years through fundraising and community activism in order to procure a hyperbaric chamber for the Moose Jaw Hospital.

They talk about hyperbaric treatments as being essential for the proper treatment for many people living with diabetes, cancer, and other conditions. And they talk about how this hyperbaric chamber in Moose Jaw is the only unit of its kind currently in operation between Edmonton and Toronto. They point out the hyperbaric services will no longer be offered in the new design for the Moose Jaw Hospital because of the changes to the hospital design initiated through the John Black version of lean.

I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

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. 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 reintroduce actual numbers of staff to match the level of care needs and the number of residents under their care in long-term care facilities.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by good citizens from Saskatoon. 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 individuals who have signed this document want to bring to our attention the following: that the government has closed Yarrow Youth Farm and they have now created an open-custody wing in Kilburn Hall, which is a secure-custody unit for youth considered at greater risk to their communities. The provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has declared he cannot endorse such a rationalization, as low-risk teens can be influenced or pressured by close proximity to high-risk youth who may be involved in serious crimes or gangs. I'd like to read the prayer:

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

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

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

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

TheatreFest in Melfort

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand in the House today to speak about TheatreFest 2015 held last week in the city of Melfort. TheatreFest consists of seven long plays over a seven-night period. From all reports, the festival had a varied assortment of plays to entertain all our audiences. Community theatre groups from Weyburn, Battleford, Yorkton, Regina, Prince Albert, and Melfort all performed during the week-long competition. The plays entertained large audiences with live performance ranging from Adam and Eve to Shakespeare to a play about drama going all wrong.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the play with the longest name, *The Farnedale Avenue Housing Estate Towns Women's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery*, by the Yorkton Paper Bag Players was judged to be the best play of the competition.

Also recognized for their dedication to drama were two local ladies, Imogene Schick and Michelle Waldbillig, who gave many years of service to MAD, the Melfort Amateur Dramatics group.

Mr. Speaker, the umbrella organization for TheatreFest is Theatre Saskatchewan, which is the oldest such theatre group in

the country. I ask all members of the Assembly to join with me in congratulating Co-Chairs, Mel Annand and Peter Waldbillig, as well as the entire MAD [Melfort Amateur Dramatics] organization for hosting TheatreFest 2015 and making it a resounding success. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[13:45]

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

Regina Police Service Half Marathon

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last weekend the Queen City was abuzz as runners, spectators, and volunteers headed outside for the 12th annual Regina Police Service Half Marathon. The RPS Half Marathon continues to display the Regina Police Service members and employees as community leaders and positive role models for active and healthy living.

Over 700 people participated in this year's event, walking or running 21.1 kilometres around Wascana Lake and the University of Regina. I'd like to commend all of those who headed outdoors, as the temperature was just barely above freezing and the wind was gusting up to 50 kilometres per hour.

I'd also like to congratulate one-time legislative intern and current public servant, Kaytlyn Criddle, who took home the women's title with a time of one hour, 28 minutes, and 23 seconds; and Iain Fyfe who had the fastest time overall of one hour, 13 minutes, and 41 seconds. I'd also like to give a shout-out to Woody from Jack FM, who's not just fast on the draw but quick off the mark with a time of one hour, 52 minutes, and six seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in thanking the Regina Police Service; Chief Troy Hagen; the event organizer, Patti Sandison-Cattell, as well as the many volunteers, sponsors, and organizers who donated their time and support into making such a great event and such a great tradition here in Regina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Purple Blankets for Senior Auxiliary

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Recently I was fortunate enough to win a draw by the Insurance Brokers' Association of Saskatchewan in which an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] wins 25 purple blankets to donate to a charitable organization in their constituency. The purple blanket has become the national symbol of trust and security when dealing with a professional independent insurance broker, and the IBAS [Insurance Brokers' Association of Saskatchewan] would like to pass on the feeling to those in need.

Last Friday Pat Panter from Panter Agencies and myself had the wonderful opportunity to deliver these 25 purple blankets to the Big River seniors' auxiliary at the Big River Health Centre. They were very excited and appreciative of these new blankets.

The Big River senior auxiliary is a social club that raises money for the long-term care home. They organize community fundraisers with the proceeds going to improving life for the residents at the care home.

I was very pleased to be able to meet with the seniors, staff, and organizers at the auxiliary and at the long-term care home. They work very hard to provide their residents with the best of care. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask all members join with me in thanking the insurance brokers of Saskatchewan for providing me with the 25 purple blankets to give to the Big River senior auxiliary. Thank you very much.

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

Fundraiser for Musée Ukraina Museum

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This past Sunday I had the pleasure to attend, along with the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, the Elevate to Celebrate Gala, the annual fundraiser for the Musée Ukraina Museum, located in my constituency. For many years, the museum has been an important part of our city's cultural landscape. This August marks the 60th anniversary of its operations in Saskatoon.

Saskatoon's Ukrainian community has been fundraising for many years for their new museum. Their beautiful new building, now open on Avenue M, is close to local Ukrainian churches and seniors' homes, and it houses more than 20,000 artifacts. The museum is located in Pleasant Hill, a neighbourhood that has had a Ukrainian flavour for a very long time. I'm glad that tradition will continue with the museum's new building. With the generous support of Ukrainian Canadians all across Saskatchewan, they've been able to finally finish phase 1 of this impressive project. They are now looking to complete phase 2, which includes an elevator, finishing the second floor, and landscaping.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking everyone who helped make the Elevate to Celebrate Gala a great success, and also in thanking the Musée Ukraina Museum board of directors and volunteers for the work they do in promoting and preserving our province's proud Ukrainian heritage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Skate4Smiles Supports Children's Hospital

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Last month in my constituency of Regina Wascana Plains, the fifth and final Skate4Smiles Skate-a-thon was held. This fundraiser, which my colleague from Regina Dewdney attended, was in memory of Dawson Ellert. At the age of eight years, Dawson was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Dawson went to Saskatoon for surgery but sadly passed away soon after from a massive stroke.

Mr. Speaker, not only is the experience of surgery extremely traumatic for a child, but the hospital wards and rooms can be equally as terrifying, as it was for Dawson. The Ellert family

wanted to change this for other children in care, so they started their annual Skate4Smiles fundraiser. All monies raised goes to the Children's Hospital Foundation to ensure that the new hospital is a comfortable place for children and their families. The family was also able to name a beautiful family space bordering the pediatric ICU [intensive care unit] after their son Dawson.

Mr. Speaker, this year was the final year for this fundraiser, and I'm extremely happy to announce that it raised a total of \$106,000 this year, Mr. Speaker, making the grand total over the five years just over \$500,000. I ask that all members join me in thanking the Ellert family for all their amazing work that they have done to raise money for sick kids in Saskatchewan in memory of Dawson. Thank you.

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

Children's Hospital Jeans and Jewels Gala

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday evening the member for Saskatoon Fairview and I had the great pleasure to attend the 2015 Saskatchewan children's hospital Jeans and Jewels Gala in Saskatoon. This year's gala had a candy theme and the ballroom at TCU Place was decorated with a spectacularly colourful and delicious display.

Mr. Speaker, this annual gala is one of the most exciting social events of the year in Saskatoon and is the signature fundraising event for the Children's Hospital Foundation. The Children's Hospital Foundation realize that events like this not only bring the community together but raise funds to go above and beyond in caring for our sick children.

The Children's Hospital Foundation board Chair, Greg Yuel, and executive director, Brynn Boback-Lane outlined their \$50 million fundraising goal. A sellout crowd of more than 700 people attended the gala including local celebrities, Saskatchewan Roughrider members, and members of the provincial business community. Sporting their favourite blue jeans and jewels, attendees enjoyed a fun atmosphere at the gala and were treated to delicious food, sparkling champagne, and many live and silent auction items.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to a \$235 million commitment from this government and the incredible generosity of Saskatchewan people and businesses, construction of a new state-of-the-art children's hospital began last fall.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Children's Hospital Foundation on another successful gala and in thanking the generous donors who are helping turn the dream of building a children's hospital into a reality for Saskatchewan families. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Moosomin Emergency Services Spring Ball

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on

Saturday, April the 18th, my wife and I had the privilege of attending the fourth annual Spring Ball in Moosomin. The spring ball is a fundraiser put on by the Moosomin Fire Department, Moosomin RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], and Hutch Ambulance.

So often these fundraisers feel like just another supper, but organizers of the Spring Ball provided a great dress-up and fine dining opportunity for all attendees.

The goal of this year's ball was to raise money to purchase cardiac monitors and breathing apparatuses for the Moosomin Fire Department. At this year's event, the Moosomin Kinsmen Club presented a cheque for \$30,000 to the Moosomin Fire Department for the purchase of new breathing apparatuses. This \$30,000 will go a long way in assisting the fire department reach their goal of \$60,000 needed for the new equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude for the efforts of our fire and first responders for ensuring the safety and security of our communities. I would also extend a special thank you to the spouses and families of the first responders. Their personal sacrifices so often go unrecognized.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to join me in thanking the emergency services ball committee and first responders for leading the way in this initiative. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Release of Information Concerning Worker

Mr. Broten: — Will the Premier table the emails sent by his chief of communications and operations when she leaked confidential information at his direction?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, as the member has noted a few days ago, the Privacy Commissioner's looking into the matter. We should allow the officer to do his work.

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

Mr. Broten: — Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier's pretending that he cares about due process when it comes to this file, only when it's his poor actions, Mr. Speaker, that are clearly exposed here. The problem here, Mr. Speaker, is that the Premier's story does not add up, and he's given very contradictory statements. But the Premier has a chance to clear at least some of the air today if he tables the emails that his chief of operations and communications sent, that she leaked at his direction. Mr. Speaker, I don't understand why he wouldn't do that. He says, Mr. Speaker, that it was just general information. He says there were no specifics. He says this information was provided just on background, Mr. Speaker. So we'd like to see if that's actually true.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: why won't he just table those emails today so we can see exactly what his chief of communications and outreach leaked at his direction?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I would note for the record and for all in attendance here today that it is the Leader of the Opposition who has said, and his party has said, they've seen this gentleman's file. And because they've seen the file, they're convinced that he's facing potential discipline in the workplace because he came forward at the legislature. By the way, that's not true. The health region's confirmed it's not true. I've confirmed it's not true . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Mr. Speaker, here's the point I would make. I'd make this point to the Leader of the Opposition, notwithstanding his strange heckling right now. I would just say to him, he should probably provide to the House the file that he says he's . . . If he wants documents tabled, then he should table the document.

The basis upon which he has concluded that the only reason there's any disciplinary, potential disciplinary implications facing this individual is because he came before the legislature. We know that's not true. Mr. Bowden himself has now said in the media that some of the allegations, some of the complaints from his colleagues are true, Mr. Speaker. So whatever the Leader of the Opposition has, he should table it. He should also forward it to the Privacy Commissioner. I understand there's a process under way. We're happy to work with the process, and I hope he would too.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know what this Premier is so afraid of sharing. Why won't he table these emails that his chief of communications sent, Mr. Speaker? What we see from this Premier instead of accountability, instead of transparency, instead of a commitment to due process, we see this Premier leaking confidential information about a health care worker, throwing due process out the window, Mr. Speaker, all in an attempt to sully that care aid and to put a chill on other health care workers here in Saskatchewan.

We know, Mr. Speaker, that this Premier received confidential information from the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatoon Health Region on the only care aid that came to this legislature as a whistle-blower. We know, Mr. Speaker, this Premier saw a political opportunity. He saw a political opportunity to discredit and undermine the care aid. He saw an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to cast doubt on the concerns brought forward, and he saw an opportunity to cast a chill on all other health care workers. And that is the quick decision that he made on a Monday when he directed the leak of the information, Mr. Speaker. The member from Sutherland is worked up. He should be concerned that his Premier is leaking confidential information, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we know yesterday the Premier and the Health minister said what Mr. Bowden said was untrue, even though it's absolutely backed up with their very own CEO tour report. My question to the Premier: why is the Premier making every

effort to discredit this care aid, Mr. Speaker, and why is he so afraid to share what his office leaked?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, who's worked up here? That's a question I would offer for the member to consider. Well now, you know, he's saying he's worked up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member and I disagree. I believe that the information was provided in the public interest and have said so because we want to ensure workers that they could come forward without any implications, that there were other reasons for the investigation of this particular individual predating his attendance to the legislature, informed by complaints by his colleagues, Mr. Speaker. That's why we wanted to have the information out.

You know, this is about debate. Fair enough. It's been the Leader of the Opposition's position that he doesn't agree with that. He doesn't agree with my position. So that's fair. So that's fair. I mean he's saying that the information ought not ever to have been provided. Fair enough. Why then is he demanding that same information be tabled in the House today?

[14:00]

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, because this Premier said the information is general. This Premier said, Mr. Speaker, that there are no specifics, Mr. Speaker. This Premier said that it was provided simply as background, Mr. Speaker, but now he is afraid and will not have the courage to publicly table the information that he chose to leak to the media, Mr. Speaker, violating the privacy of that care aid. And members, the government, the Deputy House Leader is laughing. It's a big joke to this government, Mr. Speaker. This is how serious they take this.

From day one, Mr. Speaker, I have said that there should be due process, due process for this case. The Premier's actions have undermined that entirely. Because of the Premier's inappropriate actions, the government now has incredible motivation to ensure that they finish the job, finish the job of decimating this care aid's reputation. And you can bet, Mr. Speaker, that they will be in overtime to do that. You sure can. Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, this government keeps neglecting what really matters, and they keep pretending that problems in seniors' care are just one-offs, that they're isolated.

Talk about messed-up priorities. All the time in the world and attention to leak confidential information; no attention to what actually matters for the priorities for seniors. My question to the Premier, Mr. Speaker: we know he's doing everything he can to stick to his guns and try to pretend that this smells okay. Everyone knows that it stinks. He won't apologize for the leak, Mr. Speaker, but will he at least stand today and admit that his inappropriate actions have compromised this entire process?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Let's remember, let's remember what we learned yesterday on this file, Mr. Speaker. Let's remember what the Minister of Health reported to all members of the House. The information that that member brought forward to the floor of this Assembly, where we're obviously duty bound to communicate the truth and have a debate about that, the information he brought forward from this gentleman in question was wrong. The characterizations of care at Oliver Lodge that he presented as fact, the Minister of Health has done the investigation, and those facts again, not surprisingly, coming from that member are incorrect, Mr. Speaker.

So the question then to the member is this: before he raised those questions in the House, did he do any due diligence? Did he do any research to find out if Mr. Bowden's claims were true or not? Mr. Speaker, did he have a conversation with Mr. Bowden as to why he was asking for immunity, for protection in the workplace? I think these are all important points, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member now, as some sort of a tactic, is to demand that the emails be provided. I think members opposite have seen them. They're the subject of debate because they were made public, not in a leak, but in a way that we've already described.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this: is it still his position — because he said it in the preamble — is it his position that this gentleman is facing potential discipline in the workplace solely because he came forward to the legislature, or are there workplace concerns that should be dealt with? Mr. Speaker, what will the Leader of the Opposition say about that?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, with this Premier, it's all attack, as opposed to all transparency and accountability. That's very clear.

Mr. Speaker, we checked what Mr. Bowden had to say, and here's some of the research that we found, Mr. Speaker. Staffing levels are an issue. Staff are stretched too thin with care aids, RPNs [registered practical nurse], LPNs [licensed practical nurse], and physio. If staff call in sick, they are not replaced.

Thirty, 40, 60, 90 minutes go by waiting to go to the bathroom, very great loss of dignity when you have to just go to the bathroom in your pad. "My husband was taught when he was a child not to pee his pants, and now they are telling him to just go in his pants." Mr. Speaker, you know where this is from? The government's very own CEO tour report. Is it now the Premier's position that his very own CEO tour report is all made up and incorrect?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I've indicated in the past in terms of what has taken place at Oliver Lodge, certainly the complaints that were brought forward by Mr. Bowden, the specific complaint about a ratio of 1 to 32 was not accurate. The policy that was put in place, the directive about changing a

soiled resident at night was not accurate.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are taking very seriously the CEO report. This one was taken place from 2013. Those have followed in 2014, 2015.

But I would also say to the members opposite, the CEO tour report also says, RNs [registered nurse] are too busy and paid too well to do this. Is it the Leader of the Opposition's opinion that RNs in the system are paid too well, as indicated by the CEO report? These are important reports, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We also have to put them into context.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, here's a question for the Premier. If the Premier's being forthright, if the information, Mr. Speaker, that was leaked was simply general, if it was simply background, if it was innocuous, Mr. Speaker, why won't the Premier table the emails that were sent by his director of communications and operations to the media as a leak? Mr. Speaker, why won't he do that?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the fact that we're having this debate centres around the principle, the truth of the matter, which is the government quite forthrightly has said there needed to be some extra information in this case provided. Why? Why did that need to be provided? The reason it needed to be provided is that member of this legislature who routinely stands up and is incorrect with the facts, Mr. Speaker, routinely, stood up on that day, presented facts, as the Minister of Health has pointed out that were incorrect, on behalf of this individual but asked three times for his complete protection from any workplace incidents for coming forward. I gave that promise, Mr. Speaker, and I stood by that promise and asked to be notified of any change in the status.

When we were notified of the change in the status, we wanted to make sure that people understood with clarity and complete credibility that there was no other reason other than those workplace complaints of the individual for him facing potential disciplinary action, Mr. Speaker. That information was out. In fact that's why he's upset. He doesn't agree with the government's position.

So again I would ask the member, what does it advance this case, Mr. Bowden's, or even the inquiry by our Privacy Commissioner to table those particular emails when the fact that they were provided to the public through the media are the reason we're having this debate in the first place?

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

Quality of Patient Care

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Peter's complaints were backed up by the CEO tour report. I think the only people in the province, Mr. Speaker, that believe the bizarre tale that the Premier now is telling about this are the nodding heads in the

camera shot behind the Premier because no one buys what on earth he is saying. Mr. Speaker, as opposed to being on focused on what matters, they're focused on leaks.

I think of a woman named Florence Bork. And Florence Bork lives in Swift Current. She has bladder, bone, breast, and lung cancer. She's speaking out today, Mr. Speaker, because of major concerns related to short-staffing and overcrowding at the Cypress Regional Hospital in Swift Current.

Florence is clear that doctors and nurses and other front-line health care workers are doing their absolute best. This is what she has to say: "They're on the run constantly, but they're all caught under this lean machine thing." And she says that she's personally seen two lean consultants following nurses around with stopwatches "... measuring how much she walked."

Mr. Speaker, Florence has tried to raise these concerns with the Premier's office, but she says they have refused to listen to her. Florence has an important perspective to hear. My question to the Premier: why doesn't he want to hear it?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I'm not sure of the specifics the member is referring to. I can assure the member that our office in Swift Current is always wanting to hear from constituents if they have concerns or questions to raise about the health care system that's being provided, Mr. Speaker.

Swift Current, the hospital there, the seniors' care facilities that are there are part of a provincial health system that has received a huge influx in new dollars, Mr. Speaker, not just for capital but also for operating. We know in the case of acute care, there are literally over 1,000 more nurses now providing care. There are 400 more doctors providing care, Mr. Speaker, province wide. We know that with respect to seniors' care there's, in terms of seniors and integrated care, over 700 additional care aids, those people on the front lines providing care in the province of Saskatchewan.

This particular case is something that we should look into, if we have not already. And I'm certainly happy to look into the details on behalf of this constituent, just as every MLA on this side of the House is prepared to do for any of those that they have the honour of representing.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Florence had a transfusion on a Friday. She was in pain, she was bedridden afterwards and feeling horrible. The doctor came in on a Saturday and said that she had to leave. She didn't feel that she could leave; in fact she says she couldn't even make it to the washroom, Mr. Speaker. But the doctor said that she had to leave or pay \$90 a day.

Florence does not blame the doctor, she blames this government and its lean pet project that she says rushes people out of the hospital far too quickly. My question to the Premier: does he think it's fair to push a senior with four types of cancer out of the hospital after a major transfusion?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Obviously the answer to that question is no, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And if that's been the case, we would want to investigate it.

Members of the House will know that we have, obviously, not just the additional resources of the Health department and of MLAs, we even have financed and funded a health care Ombudsman, resources within the Provincial Ombudsman's office to look into matters such as this.

I would just say that this question of the \$90 is something that would be a surprise to me, and I'd ask the member for more details on that if indeed this is the case. If he would provide that, I think that would be helpful. But we're going to look into this, absolutely, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Florence is not the only Swift Current resident speaking out today. Richard Parr is also speaking out. He says, "It's absolutely ridiculous what's happening in Swift Current." Richard and his wife Irene were both in the Cypress Regional Hospital being treated for pneumonia, and they too were rushed out before they were ready to go home. Richard says, "It doesn't matter where you are in your healing. They've got to kick you out and let someone else in." My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier. What does he have to say to Florence, Richard, and Irene — his constituents — today?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's not our job certainly to make clinical decisions nor to second-guess clinical decisions that have been made, Mr. Speaker. I don't know the specifics about these cases, but they're certainly worth looking into, Mr. Speaker. We know we've established, within the health care system, quality care coordinators who can look into matters such as this. Our office can, my office can and will. But Mr. Deputy Speaker, I mean, I can't second-guess what some doctor may or may not have decided potentially or recommended. But we can look into the matter, and we'll do that.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, Richard Parr was also told that he'd be charged \$90 a day if he didn't leave, Mr. Speaker. The situation is so bad in Swift Current that Florence has been told she won't be able to get palliative care in her home city of Swift Current. She'll have to leave her home city and go to Maple Creek, Ponteix, or Gull Lake.

Mr. Speaker, this government, we know that they've had untold millions of dollars for their lean pet project. We know that they've had empty warehouses that they've secured, Mr. Speaker. And we know that the Premier has paid a ton to have an American lobbyist. Yet Florence, yet Richard and Irene Parr report major problems of short-staffing and overcrowding at the Swift Current hospital. Florence won't even be able to access

palliative services in her home city. My question to the Premier: how on earth can he possibly justify these misplaced priorities and the neglect of what really matters?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just categorically reject the premise of the NDP [New Democratic Party] member's question. We'll look into these specific cases.

But, Mr. Speaker, when we formed government, we found a health care system left behind by his party that was woefully lacking in human resources. We were short 1,000 nurses because of his party. They had 16 years in government, and the last few years, they had hundreds of millions of dollars sitting in a bank account. But, Mr. Speaker, there was this huge deficit in human resources in health care. We had a doctor shortage. We had a nursing shortage. We had a care aid shortage. They were closing long-term care beds, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And so as a government we have taken steps to redress, to address the deficit left behind. And there's 2,600 nurses of every designation, more now than there were under the NDP. There are 400-plus doctors practising. We're opening new long-term care beds instead of closing them as they did under the NDP. We went from the longest surgical wait times in the country under the democratic socialists to the shortest, shortest wait times in the country. Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We know there's work to be done, we know that what happened over 16 years can't be fixed over four or eight years, or overnight. But Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've made huge progress, no thanks to the rhetoric that we used to get from members opposite, and we still get. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what was lacking then was action. The province has it now.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier's so ill-informed about what's happening on the front lines, he doesn't know that his own constituents are being pushed out of the hospital, Mr. Speaker, or facing charges of \$90 a day. Why doesn't Florence, Mr. Speaker, have access to palliative services in Swift Current that she will need?

Mr. Speaker, the Premier can dismiss these concerns coming from his constituents if he wants to, Mr. Speaker, but these concerns are real and they deserve his attention, Mr. Speaker. They deserve them to be taken seriously. A senior with four types of cancer says she was rushed out of the hospital before she was ready. She says she's seen the mess that lean has created in our health care system. She's been told that she'll have to leave her city to access palliative services. And Rich and Irene back up what Florence is saying. But, Mr. Speaker, this Premier doesn't listen. He doesn't show attention to this matter.

Do you know where he shows attention? He shows attention tracking the one care aid, Mr. Speaker, who comes as a whistle-blower to this legislature, spends his energy, his time, his concern on leaking confidential information, Mr. Speaker. That's where this Premier spends his time, his focus, and his

energy because he's more consumed about the politics of his own self-interest, Mr. Speaker, as opposed to what works best for the people here in the province.

My question, Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: how many Richards, how many Florences, how many Irenees need to come forward before this Premier will take this seriously?

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, well certainly the Premier has indicated that this side of the House, he, as an MLA and as the Premier of the province representing his constituents, takes this very seriously. We'd be happy to look into the specifics of this situation, Mr. Speaker.

What I can say and tell the members of the public is that the funding for our regional health authorities under this government is up \$1.2 billion from the time the members opposite left office, a 57 per cent increase in funding to our RHAs [regional health authority]. Funding for that particular health region, the Cypress Health Region, up 46 per cent, from \$83 million under the NDP to \$122 million in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can also inform the members of the House the significant work that has been done all across this province when it comes to reducing the wait times that we have for surgery, when it comes to reducing the wait times that we have for diagnostic procedures because of the record investment that this side of the House has dedicated. We used to have a time in this country, in this province, the longest wait times for surgeries. In five, six years we have reduced that to the shortest wait times.

Mr. Speaker, we had a government of the day, back under the NDP, that thought a wait time for MRIs [magnetic resonance imaging] of 22 months was okay. We don't agree on this side of the House. That's why we've invested record, significant dollars into health care to make improvements. There's more work to be done, but after the mess we had to clean up from the members opposite, you bet there's more work to be done.

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

Investment in Education Infrastructure

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Premier was asked why the government won't release information about the \$1.5 billion of school infrastructure needs. He replied, "The list in relation to education infrastructure has been supplied." What did the Premier mean by that?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we have invested record amounts in capital in our school system, as opposed to the members opposite that chose to close 176 schools. Mr. Speaker, I could advise we've increased operating funding by 31 per

cent. We've increased capital spending by 320 per cent. We've increased child care spaces by 53 per cent. We've increased pre-K [pre-kindergarten] spaces by 104 per cent. We've increased early child intervention funding by 40 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to do that kind of thing. We're working with the school divisions to identify capital priorities. We've provided record amounts of money this year in this year's budget for preventive maintenance and renewal. In fact, Mr. Speaker, this year it is over \$30 million that goes directly to school divisions that they can allocate as they see fit for improvements in their school divisions.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The Premier said the list has been supplied. It certainly hasn't been supplied, Mr. Speaker. In fact this government's gone to great lengths to shut down freedom of information requests, saying that this is somehow some sort of cabinet secret.

And in fact we also asked questions through freedom of information about the list as it relates to urgent repairs. And we know schools are propped right now with two-by-fours and two-by-sixes because they're structurally unsound. We also received from government that they're not going to provide that information, in fact not compliant with the law. You know, this is important to the families across Saskatchewan. The state of our kids' schools is critically important.

That Premier wants to pretend that he can leak information about a private citizen to discredit his story, and somehow that's in the public's interest. But, Mr. Speaker, why won't the Premier release the information that's directly relevant to the safety of the kids' schools all across Saskatchewan?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's interesting who's taken to their feet to talk about being discredited or providing accurate information. Very interesting coming from that particular member there, the Deputy Leader of the NDP.

Mr. Speaker, we're happy to share the list. We're happy to share the list, Mr. Speaker. It's the top 10 major capital requests. It's the top 10 major capital requests in education. We could provide it to members opposite. It probably represents over \$1 billion investment, Mr. Speaker. These are projects that have not yet been undertaken. They have not yet been undertaken by the government, but here's a good indicator that they will be undertaken, Mr. Speaker, because no government in the modern history of this province has invested more in education capital than this side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

For years and years — and, Mr. Speaker, here's why we have to build new schools — for years and years under those members opposite, the economy underperformed. We had some of the highest . . . the worst job creation record in the country, Mr. Speaker. People were leaving. We didn't need to build new schools.

The bottom line, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is today we need new

schools right across this province, and no government like our government is committed to building those schools and investing education capital. It's why they sit where they sit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and why they'll be there for a long time.

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee of the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — 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 Agriculture has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act* and that it be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 159 — *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — 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 that Bill No. 159, *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act* 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 the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014*. This is a bilingual bill with amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I request leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill and its amendment 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. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014* and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time? I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 161 — *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune*

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I move that the amendments be now read a first and a second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the amendments.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 161 — *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune*

Hon. Mr. Moe: — 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 that Bill No. 161, *The Wildlife Amendment 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.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Lawrence: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act* without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole, and that this 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. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act* and that it be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 174 — *The Registered Teachers Act*

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. 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 Education that Bill No. 174, *The Registered Teachers Act* 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.

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. Deputy Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 175 — *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Registered Teachers Act*

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 175, *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act* and that it 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. Deputy Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 163, *The Education 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 Education.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Education has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 163, *The Education Amendment Act, 2014* and that it be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 163 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2014*

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

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 163, *The Education 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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 178

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

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to enter the debate here today on Bill No. 178, *An Act to amend*

The Income Tax Act, 2000. This bill does a number of things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, including responding to the Canada Revenue Agency requesting a few amendments to the provincial Act to conform to amendments that were made to the federal Act. So those are few of the . . . That's part of this bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but there are a few things in this bill that pertain to this government's decisions to scrap or to cut programs in their most recent budget, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[14:30]

I think it's important to talk about the graduate retention program savings. The change to this program, Mr. Deputy Speaker, will have dramatic impact on citizens of Saskatchewan who entered into good faith, perhaps entered into university four years ago thinking . . . This program has been in place since 2008, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and people counted on . . . There are many people who count on programs when they enter school. They think about the long-term plan. Okay when I enter university, I will be paying this much tuition, and this is how much I can expect to earn when I get out. This is what I expect or hope for student loans. This is how I will pay my student loans back.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reality is, moving this from a refundable tax credit to a non-refundable tax credit means it will have an impact on some of those who graduate, who aren't graduating into high-paying positions, Mr. Deputy Speaker, positions that we need people in, Positions I can talk about myself as graduating with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. Most people don't graduate with Bachelors of Social Work degrees because they think they're going to be making tons and tons of money, Mr. Speaker. They graduate with those degrees because they want to make a difference in people's lives, and they know that they'll be working in professions that don't pay, or in a profession that often doesn't pay a lot of money. They'll be working in the CBO [community-based organization] sector earning not a lot of money but doing incredibly fulfilling work. But they still need to pay their bills, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I think about myself who went back to school as a mature student. I'd been a reporter for many years and made a career change and decided to go back to school as a single parent at the start of the 2000s. I think I returned to school in 2001 or 2002, Mr. Deputy Speaker, before this program existed. But I can tell you that when I went back to school, I thought about my earning potential. I thought about what I could afford to take on as a single parent, all those kinds of things.

And the reality is this government had this program in place. I can tell you, in 2014, just this last year, I finally paid off my student loan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But there are people who counted on being able to get the refundable tax credit that they could apply directly to their student loans, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If you take a single parent, if you take a single parent, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and the tax credits that they are eligible for because they're single parents, because they have a child, because they fall under certain categories, they will not be able to get the full benefits of this tax credit which the government had committed to in their election platform, Mr. Speaker. This is a broken promise by this government in changing this particular tax credit, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I would congratulate the government perhaps, well . . . Hey, you apparently liked the NDP tax credit better because this is exactly what was in place, slightly enhanced, Mr. Deputy Speaker, under the NDP.

So they've broken a promise and as well have impacted the lives of people who will have student loans to pay back. University isn't getting any cheaper, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Cost of living isn't getting any cheaper. We've got housing challenges that people face, child care challenges. All of those things impact you when you are attending school, particularly as a single parent, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Another part of this particular bill is the cut to the active families benefit. So this program is now income-tested for families earning less than \$60,000. There are many middle-class families who earn more than \$60,000 but still struggle to make ends meet. Sixty thousand dollars, if you have children, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is not a lot of money. And you know the reality is there's a lot of people earning, dual-income families earning \$60,000 or more busting their butts, Mr. Speaker, working multiple jobs sometimes to be able to get to that threshold to pay for their mortgage, to pay for their rent. The food has gone up, utilities under this government, Mr. Speaker. This is a slap to all those very hard-working middle-class families, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So this bill is before us to make those changes, for this government to be able to enact the decisions that they made in this last budget that will directly impact families negatively here in Saskatchewan, hard-working middle-class families who are doing what they can to get ahead.

I think about the active families benefit. It wasn't a lot of money, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but it was \$150 refundable tax credit to help support your kids in activities. Anybody who has ever raised a child knows that children are costly and making sure that children are connected to good physical activity costs a lot of money. I think about my own kids and the sports they play or the activities that they're involved in, and it adds up, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So \$150 refundable credit was of great use to many folks and just because you're over the \$60,000 threshold, which it's now at right now, doesn't mean it's clear sailing and life is easy for you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Lots of people work incredibly hard and struggle to pay their bills even at that income.

So I do know that I have colleagues who will also be speaking to Bill No. 178 and we'll have an opportunity in committee to have this discussion as well. But with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Riversdale 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 Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Well thank you very much, Mr.

Deputy Speaker. To facilitate the work of committees this afternoon, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House does now adjourn. Is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — This House stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:36.]

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