



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

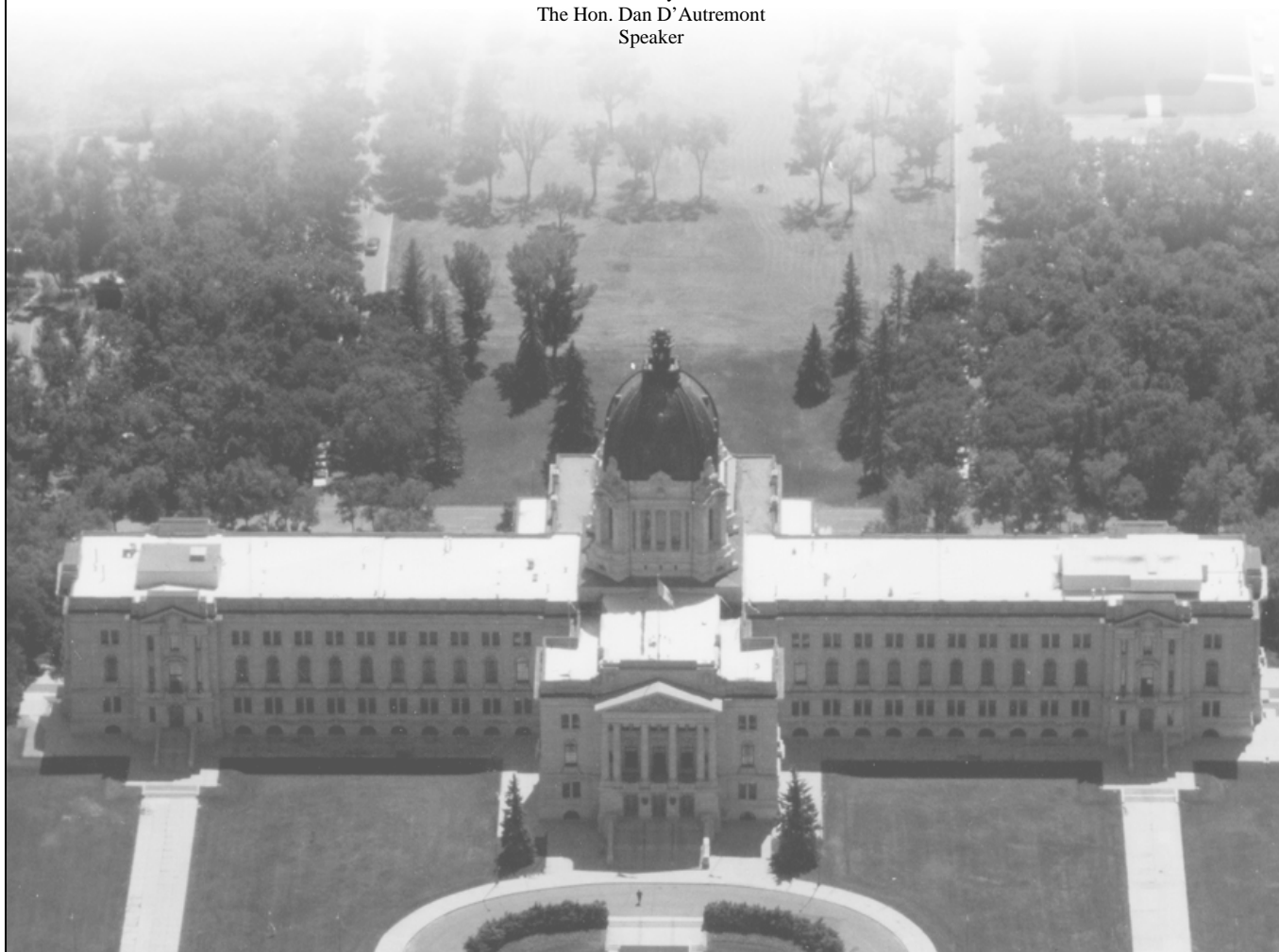
of the

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
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster
Vacant		Prince Albert Carlton

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Greystone.

Mr. Norris: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce three really good friends of mine: two brothers, the Barriault brothers. Emmett Barriault is in grade 7 at Montgomery School. He's a product of the Saskatoon Minor Football program. He's playing for the Stampeders right now and one day will get traded to the Roughriders. He's a terrific snowboarder and, you know, he just finished a wood carving of a spirit bear that was just terrific. And so this is his very first visit. In fact his snowboarding inspiration comes from one Mark McMorris, and the member from Indian Head-Milestone has helped to realize a bit of a dream by making sure that he's had a signed poster that now hangs proudly in his room.

He's accompanied by his brother who's in grade 4. Hayden's in grade 4. He plays flag football. He's with the Wombats and, Mr. Speaker, we thought you'd like that name from Australia. He's also a great hockey fiend; a bit of a refined perspective, he appreciates goaltending. And he's very, very attuned and attentive to success in math and sciences. They're here with their mom, Carol. And I've known Carol for 28 years. So I'm delighted to be able to welcome all of them to their first visit to this legislature, and I'd ask all members to help join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, in the gallery seated across from myself right now, I'm looking at fine young grade 8 students from Senator Allen Bird Memorial School in Montreal Lake. I want to welcome them, but I guess with a few comments to their teachers, Joe Nelson and also Larry Bear, I would like to welcome. As their teachers, you've brought them here to have an opportunity to learn a little bit of what's going on in the province and the proceedings of the House, and I think it's important for them to see that they belong. This is your Assembly. You have a right to be here. You have a right to see the proceedings and to see some questions asked of government on your behalf as a provincial resident, a proud province that we have. I just want to take an opportunity to welcome you here.

I'll have a chance to meet with you. We can share a little bit of information about the proceedings today, but again, it is an honour for you to be here. This is your Legislative Assembly and all of us, I ask all members to join me in welcoming these First Nations community members to their Legislative Assembly. It is an honour to have you here. So I welcome them. Please join me.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Immigration.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to the Assembly the Hon. Ron Lemieux, Minister of Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Sport and Consumer Protection and minister responsible for the liquor and lotteries Act for the province of Manitoba. Ron and I had a wonderful meeting earlier this morning, and I know he's going to be meeting with other members of cabinet today. So I would ask that members join with me in welcoming Minister Lemieux to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, we too would like to welcome Minister Lemieux to our Assembly today and wish you many productive meetings when you're here and certainly wish the best for you in your time in Saskatchewan. So welcome to our Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me to rise in the House today to welcome my constituency assistant, Heather Howell-Shiplack, to the Legislative Assembly. I know the member for The Battlefords' constituency assistant was here yesterday, and he welcomed her, but I think I have the best constituency assistant in Saskatchewan. She does a wonderful job keeping the office running when we're in session, and I'm looking forward to seeing her a bit more over the next few months in the constituency office. I'm not sure if she's going to be happy that I'm there as much as I'm going to be.

And along with Heather is her momma, her mom, Donna, her momma. And Donna is a wonderful lady. She helps out on a few fundraising events, and she's also fundraising for a good cause this fall. She's going to Iceland to raise money for Team Diabetes, and she's doing a marathon, a bike marathon in Iceland. So I wish her all the luck, and hopefully we can raise some funds for her by introducing her during the House today. So welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome my SLIP [Saskatchewan legislative internship program] intern, Derrick Lepine. He's from Coderre, Saskatchewan, and I've actually had time to go to Coderre a couple of times in my life. I played hockey in the Gravelbourg area, and his family farms out there. We've had a wonderful time so far in the first couple of weeks in the SLIP internship, and we're going to go and . . . The member across the way, I think it's the member from Athabasca, he had his intern, so I hope I can teach him a little bit more than the member from Athabasca did about House proceedings and about process. But I'm thinking that I can meet the bar that he raised, and I'm hoping I can get over it just a little bit. So welcome Derrick Lepine to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the legislature, I'd like to introduce some students from Macdonald School in Stockholm. Today we have 23 grade 7, 8, and 9 students in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. They're accompanied by their teachers, Nicole Therrien, Laurie Johanson; chaperones, Kim Simpson, Jamie Roberts, and Terra Talbot.

Mr. Speaker, I'll have the opportunity to meet with them shortly after question period, but I would ask everyone to welcome them to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, sitting in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, are two individuals that really don't need an introduction, but I'm going to give them one anyways. We've got two members of the Regina Chamber of Commerce with us today: John Hopkins who's the executive director of the Regina chamber, and with him is Nadia Williamson who is the new Chair of the Regina Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hopkins has done nothing but been an instrumental leader for the Regina chamber for this community, and Nadia Williamson, Mr. Speaker, again probably needs no introduction. She had a fabulous showing at the Sask Fashion Week this year, or this past weekend, and between that and her entrepreneurship with her company NWL, she is again leading the nation. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like all members to help welcome these two individuals from Regina to their legislature.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite, and it's a pleasure to welcome these leaders of the Regina chamber to their Assembly, very important leaders within our city. And certainly John Hopkins has served the business community and our city with distinction. He's been in fact recognized by his peers across Canada for his leadership, and it's a pleasure to welcome him to this Assembly here today.

It's also a pleasure to welcome our Chair, Ms. Nadia Williamson to her Assembly. And certainly she's a distinguished entrepreneur within our city, has a wonderful store, NWL in downtown Regina, but gives back to our community in so many other ways as well, Mr. Speaker. A real leader within our community.

I also had the pleasure to be running with both of these individuals in the Royal Road Race on Saturday morning. They're active and involved in our community in so many ways, and I'm thankful for the leadership they provide. So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming these leaders from the Regina Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you and while still on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize some very important leaders with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce that have joined us here today in the west gallery. And we have CEO [chief executive officer] Steve McLellan that's joined us here today, along with Curtis

Hemming and Libbey Morin that have joined us here today.

And certainly the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce plays a very important role within Saskatchewan. I know we look forward every year to the gathering and the forum that we have with entrepreneurs and business leaders from across Saskatchewan, hosted by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, that breaks out very important policy areas that are identified by the chamber and by the business leaders and able to have a very frank and open dialogue with members of this legislature. So I thank Steve for his leadership. I thank Curtis and Libbey as well. I thank all members of the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce for joining us here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I am very, very pleased to be able to introduce the two most important people in my life that are joining us in your gallery this morning. I'm actually a little bit surprised that it's already happened this morning. I can't imagine how many traffic violations were violated in getting here this early. Mr. Speaker, I think no stranger to members in the House, my wife, Amanda. But for the first time, our son, Jack, has joined us in the Chamber. It's not his first time in the building. He's been here on a number of occasions. In fact he watched the budget speech delivered by the member from Canora-Pelly in my office. So he was here for budget day.

Mr. Speaker, Jack is a little over 10 months old. He has brought so much happiness and joy to our lives. He's a very bright, very happy boy. And I know this, that he knows these things already at an early age: to cheer for the Toronto Blue Jays; that if he fusses enough for supper that he gets to go right to dessert; and, Mr. Speaker, by where he's seated that it is better to be seated on the right hand of the Speaker. And so I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming Amanda and Jack Alexander Duncan to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — [The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

I just wanted to share with them, Mr. Speaker, in Cree, that I'm very happy to see the First Nations students here from Montreal Lake as well as their chaperones, in my language of Cree, and to point out to them that they're very welcome and not to be afraid of anything in the Assembly. I wanted to join my colleague from Cumberland and tell them that the First Nations people of Saskatchewan have contributed so much, and it's so awesome to see students here from the North, especially those from the First Nations schools, and to point out to them that I'm so glad that you're here visiting today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too want to acknowledge Steve McLellan in the west gallery from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. He is the executive director, and along with Curtis Hemming, the director of government relations, and Libbey Morin, research policy

analysis, all from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce does a great job in promoting business, in attracting business, in encouraging business in our province, and we appreciate having them join us in the legislature today. And I ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and to introduce the visitor services team to the Speaker's gallery. These information officers work from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week to welcome visitors to the Legislative Assembly building and to do tours of the building.

This year we have no new returning staff. We have many returning staff. The bilingual information officers are Brittany Love, if you would care to stand when I call out your name, Marie Digney, Émilie Chan, François Hawkins, Alan Chan, and that is our first brother and sister team that have been with visitor services, and Jean-René Robillard.

Our casual information officers are Ted Forrest, Penny Forrest, another combination; Edith Seiferling and Gabe Seiferling — they're a couple as well — and our permanent staff: Arnold McKenzie, Kelly Liberet, Marianne Morgan, and the director of visitor services, Lorraine deMontigny. I would ask that all members welcome them to their Assembly.

[10:15]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Celebrating Norwegian Constitution Day

Mr. Nilson: — [The hon. member spoke for a time in Norwegian.]

These are the first words of the Norwegian national anthem written by Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson in 1859, and these words are going to be sung all over the world on Sunday, May 17th to celebrate the Constitution Day of Norway. It's a day for children to celebrate the founding of Norway 201 years ago. In Saskatchewan there will be a big party at the Forestry Farm in Saskatoon with a children's parade and a barbecue, and other communities across the province where this will be celebrated.

We're very fortunate in Saskatchewan to have many people of Norwegian descent, and King Harald of Norway and Queen Sonja of Norway send greetings to all of the Norwegian descendants in Saskatchewan as well as probably about 30 Norwegian citizens who live here.

So, Mr. Speaker, with the members from Saskatoon Massey Place, Melville-Saltcoats, Regina Wascana Plains, Regina Northeast, Saskatchewan Rivers, and Rosthern-Shellbrook, we all want to celebrate our Norwegian ancestry. This will be the last time that I will do this, but I know that the member from Massey Place will probably take up the sort of flame from me to follow in his grandfather's footsteps who did this during the '60s. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Early Childhood Education Month

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in acknowledging the significant contribution of those who work in the early learning and child care sector. Today, May 14th, has been proclaimed as early childhood education appreciation day, and May has been proclaimed Early Childhood Education Month. Whether in child care, pre-kindergarten, or other early learning years, early childhood educators dedicate themselves to building strong, trusting relationships with children and their families.

Mr. Speaker, our government has made significant investments in supporting children during their early years. Since 2007 we have allocated funding for 4,935 new child care spaces across the province. This is a 53 per cent increase and brings the total number of licensed child care spaces in Saskatchewan to more than 14,200. We have also committed to more than 800 new spaces in the nine joint-use schools that will be opening in 2017.

Mr. Speaker, since 2008 our government has also made a significant investment in pre-kindergarten. We've made more than double the number of programs from 155 to 316, providing more than 5,000 children the opportunity to benefit from these programs. Mr. Speaker, this is one example of how this government is continuing to make Saskatchewan the best place to live and to raise a family.

I encourage all members to recognize the professionalism and dedication of our early childhood educators during Early Childhood Education Month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Football Camp Supports Youth

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I had the pleasure to attend the Don Narcisse All-Star Football Camp fundraising gala. Don Narcisse, of course, is a Rider nation legend whom we've all cheered for on the field.

What's as remarkable about Don is his commitment to giving back to the Regina community and to guiding youth through sport. His football camps in Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon match young players with CFL [Canadian Football League] stars and local coaches to learn from the best. This year the players in Regina at the Regina camp had the opportunity to get pointers and skills from many CFL stars, including Anthony Calvillo and Eddie Davis, two extraordinary players with so much experience and skills to share.

Don's football camps also raise money for charities and community-based organizations that provide some of our most vulnerable people supports they deserve. This year the proceeds are going towards Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Regina, which do such important work here in Regina, providing mentorship and support to young people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Mr. Don Narcisse, the CFL all-stars, the community's minor football coaches who took part, and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Regina for their leadership and everything they do to make

Regina a better place for young people today, and to build bright futures for tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Pie in the Eye in Moose Jaw

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 7th I had the opportunity to take part in the Moose Jaw YMCA's [Young Men's Christian Association] 11th annual Pie in the Eye fundraiser. YMCA staff and volunteers spent the day delivering pies to raise funds in support of the Strong Kids campaign.

Mr. Speaker, the Pie in the Eye fundraiser provides Moose Javians with the opportunity to buy pies for five bucks or more, which they can send to a friend, family member, co-worker, or boss. These recipients of the pies can choose to accept the pie and be pied in the face or they can match the original purchase price of the pie and send it on to someone else. Pie senders enjoyed the relief of knowing that when they send a pie, the receiver cannot send it back to them; they can only send it on to someone new. I myself had the pleasure of being pied, Mr. Speaker.

This year's event raised more than \$10,000 to support the campaign which helped provide low-income families with access to the YMCA's programs and services. Last year the Moose Jaw YMCA was able to provide more than \$15,000 in sponsorships to allow kids to attend summer camps. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the Moose Jaw YMCA on another successful fundraiser for the Strong Kids campaign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Saskatchewan Curlers Join Sports Hall of Fame

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnson, Governor General of Canada, has declared 2015 the Year of Sport in Canada.

It's very fitting that in the Year of Sport in Canada, the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame recently announced that the 2009 senior men's world curling champions, with skip Eugene Hritzuk, third Kevin Kalthoff, second Verne Anderson who is from the great constituency of Kelvington-Wadena, and lead David Folk would be enshrined as part of the class of 2015 Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, the senior world championship took place in Dunedin, New Zealand, where they went undefeated with a seven and zero record. The Canadians competed against the US [United States] in their final game. To win the championship, Hritzuk took out the United States' lone rock and stayed in the house. Verne Anderson, in an interview with *The Wadena News* after the win, stated, "Winning the Canadian title is big, but hearing the Canadian anthem announce that you have just won gold at worlds is a humbling experience that entirely changes the way you look at life."

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the House to join me in congratulating

this team on being inducted into the class of 2015 Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame on June the 13th, 2015.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Funding for Research and Development Internships

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to recognize our government's latest investment in Saskatchewan's young talent. Late last week the Minister of Advanced Education announced \$270,000 in funding to support graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in research and development internships with Saskatchewan's companies and industry associations.

Mitacs is a national not-for-profit research and development organization that specializes in the commercialization of cutting-edge technologies. Mitacs enables interns to develop vital scientific and business skills by matching top university talent with companies who solve real-life problems and increase competitiveness at low cost. Mr. Speaker, Mitacs interns gain valuable industrial experience, networks, and professional skills for high-quality careers in Saskatchewan.

The provincial contribution to Mitacs will leverage an additional \$810,000 in funding in 2015-16 from the federal government and private sector partners. This funding will allow a total of 36 interns to develop their careers with Saskatchewan companies with a focus on physical, life and health sciences, engineering, and social sciences research.

Since 2007, Mr. Speaker, our province has invested nearly \$1.5 million in the Mitacs accelerated internship program. With federal government funding and industry contributions, a total of \$4.2 million has been invested in Saskatchewan's economy.

I'd ask all members to join me in congratulating this year's Mitacs interns and wishing them the best in their future careers right here in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Is Our Province Better Off Today?

Mr. Bjornerud: — We're coming to the end of another sitting of this House and I think, Mr. Speaker, that everyone in this Assembly would measure the success of our work the same way: is our province better off today than it was yesterday?

I don't think anyone who saw oil prices plummeting this winter would have predicted this spring's budget, a balanced budget, a budget that controls government spending, a budget that continues to invest in infrastructure — and I know, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite really appreciate this — a budget that keeps taxes low for families. It comes down to choices, Mr. Speaker, and we know what choices members opposite made when they were in government.

Mr. Speaker, we made choices to support our potash and uranium producers overseas, and these members opposite have made it clear that they don't agree with these choices. We made

choices to continue to support those who are investing in growing our diversified economy, an economy that has created 7,700 more jobs and has the lowest unemployment rate in the country for the past 19 months. Mr. Speaker, we introduced manufacturing credits that companies like Evraz are taking advantage of, a \$200 million expansion. The members opposite chose to vote against that.

Mr. Speaker, in the last seven years, on average, 26 jobs a day have been created. That's more than one an hour for the last seven years. Mr. Speaker, is our province better off today than it was? I think so, Mr. Speaker, but I also believe the best is yet to come.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Ombudsman's Report and Provision of Seniors' Care

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, there was so much that was disturbing within the Ombudsman's report on Margaret Warholm's death and the quality of care being delivered to thousands of seniors throughout Saskatchewan. The worst by far is confirmation that major problems within seniors' care are widespread, but among the other extremely disturbing aspects is that families are afraid to speak out. Seniors are afraid to speak out. Nurses and care aids are afraid to speak out. Does the Premier agree that this type of widespread fear is incredibly disturbing?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I reject the premise of the hon. member's question.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, quite a contradiction. Yesterday they say they support the Ombudsman's report, that they agree with it, Mr. Speaker. And now, Mr. Speaker, we have the Premier calling into question much of what was on display in the Ombudsman's report. It's absolutely unbelievable. And it's also, Mr. Speaker, an indication of how dismissive this government has been when it comes to seniors' care here in the province.

The Ombudsman says that seniors and their families, nurses, and care aids are afraid to speak out. And the reality is that the Premier has contributed in a very significant way to that culture of fear, not just because he minimizes the concerns that are brought forward as other members of the government have done, but also because he personally directed a leak of confidential information about the only care aid who came to the legislature and publicly spoke out.

This Premier ordered his chief of communications and operations to share confidential and questionable details in order to destroy the reputation of that care aid, and also, Mr. Speaker, to undermine the very real concerns that he was bringing forward. To have the government, Mr. Speaker, the head of government personally involved in such a nasty attack on a private citizen is unprecedented in an advanced democracy.

Does the Premier recognize that his actions have contributed in a big way to the disturbing culture of fear that we see in seniors' care here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the premise of that question is the same as the previous one. There is not a culture of fear with respect to the public service or those working in health care. Mr. Speaker, that's just not correct.

We've had, whether it's through correspondence directly to my office, my constituents coming forward, letters to the editor that we see, people phoning into open-line shows to enter this debate, this important debate about seniors' care . . . Some of them are family members. Some of them work in the system, Mr. Speaker. These folks are coming forward and providing very direct response, in fact through the lean process, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

What's elemental of the lean process is that front-line staff report back through to senior managers. In fact the Leader of the Opposition quotes them, stands in his place and quotes criticisms from health care workers, not just about seniors' care, but these criticisms are obviously freely given, Mr. Speaker. And we'll be the kind of government that listens carefully to what health care workers and family members are saying. That's why in the last eight years we've sought to significantly turn things around from what was left by the NDP [New Democratic Party] in health care, to significantly hire more nurses, hire more doctors, build more facilities, health care facilities, open long-term care beds instead of close them, Mr. Speaker. We've done these things because precisely we were listening, not just to health care workers but patients and the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, how incredibly dismissive and how incredibly out of touch with what the reality is for seniors, for front-line workers, Mr. Speaker. The Ombudsman is incredibly clear about the fear, about the barriers that people feel in coming forward. I have personally spoken with many health care workers, many families, many seniors who are afraid to speak out, especially in the wake of seeing how this Premier has gone after a health care worker who came and spoke out and raised concerns, whose concerns have now been absolutely backed up by what the Ombudsman says.

Let's be clear with what's happening right now. The Premier and his chief of communications and operations are being investigated for breaking the law. Penalties for breaking that law, Mr. Speaker, include a fine and include jail time. Last week, unbelievably, the Premier said that he had no regrets about taking the personal decision and directing the leak of confidential and questionable information about a care aid. Now he's had time, Mr. Speaker, to review the Ombudsman's report, including a big focus on the fear that people have for speaking out. My question to the Premier: has he changed his mind? Does he have regrets about personally directing the leak of confidential information?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the Ombudsman has in her report indicated there are some that feared coming forward with information. The minister yesterday said we would be responding to the Ombudsman report. We would be addressing the concerns that were raised in the report. We take them very seriously.

There were 89 cases that came forward because of the Ombudsman's work. That was work that we had asked her to do actually because of a very serious incident in the province of Saskatchewan. We have well over 8,000 seniors in care and we do need to underscore the fact that 89 cases is very significant and worthy of the government's attention, and we'll provide that attention. But we also need to acknowledge the system providing excellent care, health care workers providing excellent care both at acute care and in seniors' care across the system. This is not to minimize the report. It's not to minimize the challenges that each of us hear in our constituencies about seniors' care, some of them long standing, some of them more current. And we will address them, Mr. Speaker.

In this particular budget there was an additional \$10 million specifically around seniors' care. That builds on what was additional in the budget before that. That builds on significant increase in front-line staff for seniors' care, some 800 more, almost 800 more front-line workers in integrated and seniors' care in the province, because this is a priority. We have not yet been able to address all of the issues, but we are going to continue to work towards doing just that, Mr. Speaker. The best indicator of future behaviour is past behaviour, and ours has been a commitment to increasing investment, increasing front-line staff in health care over what members opposite did when they had a chance to do so.

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

Mr. Broten: — Complete avoidance of the question that was just asked. The Premier and his chief of communications and operations are being investigated for breaking the law. Last week the Premier said he had no regrets about that. We see the Ombudsman's report that talks about the fear that people have in coming forward. My question once again to the Premier: does he have any regrets now about ordering the release of confidential and questionable information about the care aid who came forward as a whistleblower? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has a habit of re-asking the same question over and over again. I answered the question in estimates, and he'll know that I did, and I stand by that answer. Mr. Speaker, furthermore there is a process under way with the Privacy Commissioner and we're going to let that process unfold as it should.

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

Mr. Broten: — Astonishing that he could read the Ombudsman's report and still hold to his position that it was appropriate to do what he did. Unreal, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing more and more of this dismissive approach from the

Premier and from members of his cabinet, laughing off ridiculous expenses, Mr. Speaker. I think of the two travel scouts going months in advance, not hammering out trade deals, but simply making sure that the personal needs of the Premier were being properly cared for.

I think of, Mr. Speaker, of minimizing concerns on the day when the people from Craik came to the legislature, concerns that they have about the erosion of rural health care in their community. I think, Mr. Speaker, of telling Sara Bucsis-Gunn, in the face of debt for ambulance bills for her daughter, suggesting that a steak night fundraiser is the right way to go. We're seeing more and more of this dismissiveness from the government.

And now we have the Ombudsman saying that there's a fear that many have, Mr. Speaker, talking about the culture of fear within seniors' care, that people are afraid to speak out. Yet the Premier, once again today, sticks to his misguided guns that what he did was appropriate and that he has no regrets about it. My question to the Premier: does he at least recognize that his actions have contributed to this culture of fear within seniors' care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I've only been serving in this legislature since 1999, and I've served on both sides of the House. Rarely have I witnessed a session where the opposition was so consistently errant in fact, wrong in the cases . . . in some of the details around cases they've brought forward. Chief among those, by the way, who've . . .

Well we can talk about the individual in Moose Jaw, I think the Moose Jaw area, that that hon. member, the Leader of the Opposition actually publicized, put out a press release to say this individual was wandering around with dementia.

An Hon. Member: — As reported in the paper there.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, as reported in the paper. This is always their excuse. Bar talk counts for question period material for them. What might be in the newspaper counts for question period material for them.

What I would advise my hon. friend if he . . . I think if he wants to gain some credibility, is they've got to do a little bit of research. If somebody doesn't have dementia, they might not want to repeat it. They might want to google basic cases and find out if there's been a court case that refutes almost all of the allegations they made in another health care thing. They might want to find out if a company even in fact has a condo in Mexico before they smear them in the Legislative Assembly.

This is the job on both sides of the House for us that we would deal in fact, that we would have important debates, and we will, Mr. Speaker. But I want to say to members opposite, I want to say to members opposite that for an opposition to go through an entire session with such a long list of either mistakes or an inability to present the facts as they should be presented, Mr. Speaker, to go through a fall session and a spring session like that, it's quite amazing. I've never seen it before, Mr. Speaker. We're hearing it door knocking. We've knocked 20,000 doors,

our party has this spring. We're actually picking it up on the door.

They are lacking credibility over there because they can't deal in fact, Mr. Speaker. If he wants to have a debate, present the facts. We'll have the debate and we'll let the people decide.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we can look at the example of these ministers time and time again. We have a Minister of Parks, Mr. Speaker, who didn't know if he was selling off Crown land or if he wasn't. We have a Minister of Corrections, Mr. Speaker, doesn't know what the changes are happening with one facility after another. We have a Health minister, Mr. Speaker, who can't tell us if they're keeping a hyperbaric chamber or if they aren't. The Premier says it might be added onto a hospital. We don't know. They're making up things on the back of a napkin, Mr. Speaker.

But we're talking about seniors. We're talking about families that are suffering and that are afraid to speak out. We have a Premier who personally ordered the leak of confidential information. You know why he said he did that, Mr. Speaker? His own words, because he had a conundrum. Mr. Speaker, that's not an appropriate reason to breach the privacy of an individual. Mr. Speaker, what that care aid said when he came forward, that's been backed up, Mr. Speaker, by the Ombudsman's report.

And we've heard the same types of concerns time and time again. Staffing levels are inadequate. A quality of care that's not even close to acceptable, Mr. Speaker, and where it should be. Here's a quote from a care aid, from the report, Mr. Speaker:

Neglect? Yes of course, it's absolutely frequent. Not intentional neglect, but the type of neglect that happens when the workload is too heavy, not organized well, and not supported.

My question to the Premier: does he at least recognize that neglect is frequent or does he dispute that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. There are 19 recommendations in this report. It's a good report. It's thorough. It highlights that there is significant work yet to do in long-term care.

The minister has indicated we are going to be responding to those recommendations. We're going to be working hard to adopt those recommendations. There is additional resources in this current budget. There was additional resources for seniors' care in the budget before that.

There are challenges in seniors' care, to be sure. But imagine, Mr. Speaker, where we would be today if, heaven forbid, those members had been in power for the last eight years, Mr. Speaker. Where would we be without 800 additional front-line workers that have been hired since the election in 2007? Where would we be without 800 more front-line seniors' care providers working in the province of Saskatchewan, that this

side of the House offered? Where would we be had they been in office ignoring the nursing shortage, rather than the 2,600 more nurses that have been hired since this government took office? Where would the system be without the 400 more doctors hired by this side of the House? Where would this province be in seniors' care if, heaven forbid, this gentleman was somehow on this side of the House and that party was on this side of the House closing long-term care beds?

Over 1,000 long-term care beds closed by that side of the House. A huge deficit in seniors' care left behind by that party and that former Health minister that sits in the back row, smiling now as he does from that back row. Where would we be, Mr. Speaker? We would be in a much worse place.

There is work to be done, but thank goodness, Mr. Speaker, we've made the progress we've had and we have a government on this side of the House committed to continued progress in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, to have such bragging on the day after the Ombudsman releases a report talking about widespread problems throughout is really strange, Mr. Speaker. And I wish the same energy, the same energy that went into the bluster, Mr. Speaker, went into recognizing that seniors' care is inadequate, that we're failing seniors, Mr. Speaker, and that we need to do much, much better, and that this government's actions have contributed to the troublesome situation that we have now.

For over two years now, Mr. Speaker, we've been pushing for minimum care standards and clear rules around staffing levels. The Premier and his two Health ministers have repeatedly dismissed the need for that. But the Ombudsman says that our province needs a seniors' care strategy and it needs to adequately address staffing levels and it needs to include specific rules and standards of care, not just extremely general guidelines.

My question to the Premier: is he willing and ready to commit to that today, and if so, when can we expect the desperately needed seniors' care strategy for the seniors here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank the Ombudsman for the great work that her office and her staff have done, a dedicated staff over there. Mr. Speaker, I also want to indicate that it is an example of the reason why this government decided to put dollars — this legislature, because it's not the ministry — this legislature decided to put dollars into having, through the independent Office of the Ombudsman, a health ombudsman full-time staff. And so they did a great deal of work in this case.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to note for the record, as I did yesterday, the Ombudsman acknowledges on page 7 that the guidelines include over 100 individual standards. We've heard a lot about, from the opposition, that we don't have standards in this province. Clearly we do have standards in this province.

What the Ombudsman has pointed out, which we agree, is that we need to operationalize those standards. We need to have plans in place to operationalize those standards. We agree with that, Mr. Speaker, and we also agree on publicly reporting. It was actually this side of the House that decided to publicly report on our personal care homes and how they do on the inspections. And we'll be looking forward on how to publicly report on our special care homes as per the Ombudsman's recommendations.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Prince Albert Flood Plain Policy

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government decided to start enforcing the 1 in 500 year flood plain policy for the city of Prince Albert, but they have left homeowners in Prince Albert in the lurch without proper support. The government should review this policy to determine if it's absolutely necessary and, if it is necessary, it should provide support to affected communities and families. But instead, Mr. Speaker, this government is ignoring the concerns of Prince Albert residents once again.

My question is for the Premier. Why is his government ignoring these concerns?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, the government isn't ignoring those concerns. It's important to look at the history of what's happening here, Mr. Speaker. Back in 1978 the 1 in 500 standard was adopted by the province. It's continued to be the standard over the last number of years. Mr. Speaker, the requirement for all official community plans and zoning bylaws has been for, again for many years, has been to recognize the 1 in 500 standard.

Mr. Speaker, this is a technical issue that it's important that we let officials with the provincial government and city work their way through, answer questions that citizens may have.

Mr. Speaker, the province will certainly be flexible on this and we look forward to having our officials work with city officials. Mr. Speaker, I'd be pleased to provide more information in subsequent questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Mr. Speaker, we know that the Sask Party's ignoring the concerns of Prince Albert residents and once again evidenced by that answer, Mr. Speaker. It's not a technical issue; it is a life issue for many people being impacted by this decision.

Is it because the Sask Party MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Prince Albert absolutely refuses to speak up on behalf of the P.A. families? And that's shameful, Mr. Speaker.

And here's what the *Daily Herald* editorial board says: "We

need Prince Albert's voice in Regina, not Regina's voice in Prince Albert. Until local MLAs realize this, we'll have to continue looking to the Official Opposition for representation." And we will represent them, Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly.

To the Premier: since his MLA for P.A. is so ineffective, will he agree to at least meet with the Prince Albert families affected by this flood plain issue, to hear their concerns first-hand? Will he commit to that, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Athabasca's wrong. This is a technical issue that needs to be worked through by officials in the ministry and officials with the city. I'd like to read from a memorandum sent from the deputy minister's office to the Minister of Government Relations' office, Mr. Speaker, that I think spells it out quite well. It says:

In the near future the city of Prince Albert will seek ministerial approval for a subdivision bylaw development plan, a zoning bylaw pursuant to *The Planning and Development Act*. Approval of the planning bylaws will be dependent on the city incorporating a flood damage reduction policy into its plans that recognizes the provincial 1 in 500 year flood standard. The standard will impact . . .

Well, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite doesn't like that. And that's funny because, Mr. Speaker, this memo went in early 2007 to NDP minister Harry Van Mulligen. Mr. Speaker, it is a technical issue that the NDP supported when they were in government, but as is typical with the NDP, don't do what I do, do what I say.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — What is wrong, Mr. Speaker? The Sask Party's treatment of Prince Albert and area, Mr. Speaker. That's what's wrong, Mr. Speaker. And here's what else the *Daily Herald* editorial board says, and I quote:

When it comes to the 1:500-year flood plain, the second bridge, and the impending closure of North Sask. Laundry, Prince Albert residents have made it clear the Sask Party's decisions are not in the city's best interests.

It's during these instances that we need elected officials who will advocate for their constituents' needs — something Jurgens appears unwilling to do.

End quote, Mr. Speaker. Leadership is a lot more than just putting up a bunch of billboards in a city, Mr. Speaker. Prince Albert families deserve so much better. So once again to the Premier: what will it take for this government to start finally listening to the concerns of Prince Albert families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Government Relations.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the

member criticizes the member from Prince Albert, but let's look at what's happened at the last couple of public meetings, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition, at a public meeting a few weeks ago, waltzes into the public meeting with about 10 minutes left to go, goes to the floor mike with his entourage cheering, Mr. Speaker, and starts to politicize the entire event. Mr. Speaker, he had no facts. He didn't know the issue he was speaking about, but he didn't turn down an opportunity to go a microphone.

And the strange thing, Mr. Speaker, is somehow in the middle of that discussion of the flood plain of Prince Albert, what does he do? He says this, Mr. Speaker. He talks about the flood plain issue and he says, "This isn't some luxury item or something frivolous. I mean it's not like the football stadium in Regina." Mr. Speaker, so now he's criticizing that. He says one thing when he's in Regina, says another thing when he's in Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Gay-Straight Alliances

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, this government's position on GSAs [gay-straight alliance] is becoming a national embarrassment. When the Premier reversed his position on strip clubs, he said it was necessary even to protect just one person from increased risk of human trafficking. But when it comes to protecting vulnerable kids, the Premier refuses to budge. He prefers a vague policy released in secret with absolutely no publicity, and he refuses to enshrine this right in legislation.

Experts say this legislation would make a big difference for a lot of kids, Mr. Speaker. But my question, my question to the minister: even if it saves just one life, even if it prevents one suicide, why don't we do it? Why don't we put it in legislation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I don't know how you can have a secretly released policy. There was nothing secret about it. We were very serious in communication with our education partners, and for the NDP to somehow portray that we're not prepared to provide the facilitation of GSAs is just wrong. The policy is adamant that if you're receiving public dollars from the government in Education, GSAs must be facilitated.

That policy is identical to the bill that they introduced in the House, Mr. Speaker. In fact, their bill is arguably pretty weak, because if you go to the section where there would be enforcement, what do they say? This is the NDP bill: "School administrators shall ensure that the Student Bill of Rights is respected and promoted in each school and that the Student Bill of Rights is posted in standard . . . [CNIB] . . ." and the thing goes on. But basically their bill says that school boards must do this.

You can do it by legislation. You can do it by regulation. We're doing it by policy tied to funding, Mr. Speaker. I said in estimates, if there's a need to go further we will, but right now we're going to work with school boards and all schools to make sure that GSAs are available freely and immediately in the

province of Saskatchewan.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Early Childhood Education Courses Partnership

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, it is my privilege to announce that the Ministry of Education has formalized a new partnership with the Saskatchewan Polytechnic to offer dual credit for three early childhood education courses. I am pleased to be able to make this announcement today on Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day in our province.

Thanks to this partnership, grade 11 and 12 students will have the opportunity to complete three courses that will be credited towards both a high school diploma and an early childhood educator certificate or diploma at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. I'm also pleased and proud to announce that because those courses will be offered through Saskatchewan Polytechnic's distance learning program, all grade 11 and 12 students across Saskatchewan, including students in First Nations high schools, will have access to the courses beginning this fall.

Mr. Speaker, this new partnership not only offers students an alternate pathway to high school graduation, a priority in the Saskatchewan plan for growth, but also helps address demand for early childhood educators in our province. Upon successfully completing the three courses, students will be eligible to receive their early childhood educator level 1 certification from the Ministry of Education. This is important because with that certification they are eligible for entry-level, full-time work at one of the province's 301 licensed child care centres.

Mr. Speaker, this partnership also responds to the pre-kindergarten engagement that was led by the Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Education, the member for Regina Douglas Park. The Legislative Secretary heard from our partners in the education sector that we need to encourage more young people to explore early childhood education as a career path, and I'm happy to say that today's announcement does just that.

Mr. Speaker, our government is first and foremost committed to a student-first approach to education. On behalf of the government, I would like to thank the many dedicated early childhood educators who dedicate themselves to creating high-quality learning environments so the children they care for are best prepared for school and lifelong success. As Minister of Education I look forward to watching many students enhance their success in high school through this program and go on to become leaders in early childhood education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[Applause]

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It must be the

last day, that the other side is showing me the love when I take to my feet here today, Mr. Speaker.

In a brief way I'd like to join with the minister to recognize this partnership. And certainly extending learning opportunities, both to those that are in high school but as well those in our Polytechnic environment, is important. And when we're looking at what we need to do to better support early childhood education, certainly enabling students to connect with that learning is an important piece.

And you know, this is also something that can allow students to have some real-world learning while in high school. There's a certain relevance to it. And certainly we know that if those students are able to step forward into the important service of young families and young people, we're certainly better for it, Mr. Speaker. So I welcome this announcement here today. I thank Sask Polytechnic for their partnership. I thank the schools and the teachers all across Saskatchewan that will be a part of delivering this program.

And I would be remiss though, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we don't recognize the broader context that needs to be supported when it comes to early childhood education, Mr. Speaker. We know that it is concerning to see the cancellation of the 500 child care spaces that should have gone forward here this year, Mr. Speaker. That was an important measure, one that was scrapped by government, which we think should have been in place. And government needs to better recognize the strain and pressures on those child care centres, early learning centres all across Saskatchewan. I know, I meet with those directors. I meet with those staff. They're starved for resources. The compensation is incredibly meagre amidst a high cost of living, Mr. Speaker.

So certainly the education is an important part of making sure we have quality child care, Mr. Speaker, but we also need to then make sure that we can retain these young people into careers in early childhood, and that's going to require a broader focus of this government. But I certainly welcome this announcement here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask leave to move a motion regarding the appointment of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I will get that one, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to present the first report, which summarizes the process undertaken in selection of the Provincial Auditor and makes a recommendation for appointment. I move:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts committee has moved:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I am advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 11:01 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at its present session has passed several bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 153 - *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014*
- Bill No. 154 - *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2014 modifiant le droit législatif*
- Bill No. 155 - *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 sur les directives et les subrogés en matière de soins de santé*
- Bill No. 156 - *The Health Care Directives and Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*
- Bill No. 144 - *The Victims of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2014*
- Bill No. 152 - *The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modification corrélative à la loi intitulée The Victims of Domestic Violence Consequential Amendment Act, 2014*
- Bill No. 145 - *The Fee Waiver Act*
- Bill No. 146 - *The Fee Waiver Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Fee Waiver Act*
- Bill No. 165 - *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*
- Bill No. 176 - *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2014 (No. 2)*
- Bill No. 141 - *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*
- Bill No. 142 - *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Archives and Public Records Management Act*

- Bill No. 904 - *The Mohyla Institute (1958) Amendment Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 143 - *The Degree Authorization Amendment Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 147 - *The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs*
 Bill No. 150 - *The Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 162 - *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Amendment Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 148 - *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 2009 sur les services de l'état civil*
 Bill No. 151 - *The Pharmacy Amendment Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 157 - *The Human Tissue Gift Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 159 - *The Family Farm Credit Repeal Act*
 Bill No. 161 - *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune*
 Bill No. 174 - *The Registered Teachers Act*
 Bill No. 175 - *The Registered Teachers Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Registered Teachers Act*
 Bill No. 163 - *The Education Amendment Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*
 Bill No. 149 - *The Health Administration Amendment Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 164 - *The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 172 - *The Naturopathic Medicine Act*
 Bill No. 166 - *The Local Government Election Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 167 - *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Local Government Election Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 168 - *The Government Relations Administration Act*
 Bill No. 170 - *The Fire Safety Act*
 Bill No. 177 - *The Insurance Act*
 Bill No. 180 - *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2015/Loi de 2015 modifiant la Loi de 2007 sur l'Assemblée législative*
 Bill No. 181 - *The Officers of the Legislative Assembly Standardization Amendment Act, 2015*
 Bill No. 158 - *The Saskatchewan Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2014*
 Bill No. 178 - *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2015*

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour:

Bill No. 182 - *The Appropriation Act, 2015 (No. 1)*

to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 11:07.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated. I recognize the member for Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask leave to move a motion regarding the appointment of the Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Sutherland has requested leave to move a motion to appoint the Provincial Auditor. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

MOTIONS

Appointment of Provincial Auditor

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know everybody's a little anxious to get out of here so I'll keep my remarks down to an hour and a half. Mr. Speaker, there's a few thank yous that I would like to put out there right away. First of all, I'd like to thank the Public Accounts Committee: the member from Biggar, Cut Knife-Turtleford, Saskatoon Greystone, Last Mountain-Touchwood, Moose Jaw North, Saskatoon Riversdale, and Regina Rosemont. But we did have to enlist a couple of experts from the audit area, Mr. Speaker, and I want to put special appreciation out to Ms. Shirley Raab, Chair of the audit committee, and Mr. Devan Mescall who is a member of our technical committee. I'd also like to thank Kathy Burianyk, Senior Committee Clerk, and Ginette Michaluk, director of human resources for the Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, seated in your gallery, it's my honour to welcome, to recommend the candidate for the role of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan, Ms. Judy Ferguson.

Just a little information, Mr. Speaker, on Ms. Ferguson. She's been the Acting Provincial Auditor with Saskatchewan for the last 19 months. She has more than 30 years service with the Provincial Auditor's office, and she was appointed to the assistant provincial auditor in 2012.

Throughout her career she has spent time in various audit positions within the audit office. Ms. Ferguson holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan, is a chartered professional accountant, and was awarded the fellowship of chartered professional accountancy of Saskatchewan in 2004. She has considerable expertise relating to audit and financial reporting and serves as a representative with several professional organizations and advisory groups, including Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors. She also served on the Canadian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board from 2007 to 2013.

And on behalf of the committee, I just want to thank everybody that was involved with the process of hiring the auditor, and I want to welcome Judy as . . . Ms. Ferguson as our official Provincial Auditor. Thank you very much for all the help in the past, and look forward to working forward in the future with

you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'd now like to read this motion, Mr. Speaker:

That pursuant to section 3.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, this Assembly appoints Judy Ferguson to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

I so move.

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

That pursuant to section 3.1 of *The Provincial Auditor Act*, this Assembly appoints Judy Ferguson to the position of Provincial Auditor for Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to join with the Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts at this time in recognizing, first, all those individuals that were involved in the selection process, certainly the technical experts, the independent experts that were able to join from the audit committee: Ms. Shirley Raab, Mr. Devan Mescall. I'd like to recognize as well Ms. Kathy Burianyak and Ms. Ginette Michaluk from the legislature here, Mr. Speaker, certainly as well the steering committee and leadership of the Public Accounts Committee through the selection process.

And I'm very pleased to welcome Ms. Judy Ferguson as the official auditor for Saskatchewan. I thank her for her service to date, a dedicated service to Saskatchewan people in her capacities both as acting auditor but a long history and career within that office and someone that has certainly served with distinction there for Saskatchewan people but has also represented her profession on many committees, through many activities, as well represented Saskatchewan and her profession and auditors' offices on national committees, Mr. Speaker. So I know this office is in very able hands.

I know that the auditor's office of Saskatchewan as well is an incredibly impressive office, and I am so confident in the senior leadership within that office that extends beyond the auditor here today, the culture that they've created and the very important work that they provide back to Saskatchewan people.

When you think of the importance of this role in providing good stewardship of resources and protecting the public in assessing the economy and efficiency and performance of government programs, this is an incredibly important office, one that's independent of us as legislators, independent of the parties, Mr. Speaker, one that certainly provides good governance for all Saskatchewan people and builds trust through to the legislature and our democratic processes for Saskatchewan people. So it's my honour to welcome Ms. Judy Ferguson as our Provincial Auditor, and I thank her in advance for her service throughout her term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. At this time it's my pleasure to introduce to the Legislative Assembly the new Provincial Auditor, seated in the Speaker's gallery, Ms. Judy Ferguson as an officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Welcome and congratulations. I invite all members to welcome our new Provincial Auditor.

Why is the member on his feet?

MOTION UNDER RULE 61

Gay-Straight Alliances

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, before orders of the day, I would like to seek leave under rule 61 to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. If there's unanimous consent to do so, I'd be prepared to move the following motion:

That this Assembly recognizes the importance of gay-straight alliances or gender sexual alliances and agrees to hold a free vote on Bill 612, *The Respect for Diversity — Student Bill of Rights Act* today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has asked for leave to present a motion. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave is not granted.

[11:15]

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker I wish to table the answers to questions 956 through 969.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 956 through 969.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to make a brief statement regarding the conclusion of session.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to make a statement regarding the end of session. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Expression of Thanks

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I understand my hon. friend across the way would like to do the same thing.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in closing this spring session I would like to express my sincere thank you to the many individuals who help run this great place. Firstly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for all the work that you do. We have seen some lively debate here in the Chamber this session, and you've done an excellent job of imposing discipline and decorum on both sides of the aisle. And I stress the word "imposing" in reference to some of the statements that were made, but I'm sure members would agree that they were necessary and they in fact enhanced the debate that has taken place.

I'd also like to thank the Clerks-at-the-Table — Greg, Iris — and the Table Officers for your expert advice and for navigating parliamentary rules and procedure, as well as the committees branch and their staff for helping run, running committees well into the evenings.

Thanks also to the committee Chairs, the members from Regina Dewdney, the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow, the member from Carrot River Valley, the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, and the member from Saskatoon Riversdale, for all the great work that they do in managing their committees and ensuring that the work of the committees is completed.

A big thank you also to the building staff, to broadcast services, library services, Journals, and Hansard, folks who stick around after to put in many long hours and stick around long after many of the members have gone home.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff for the work that they do. After the tragic events in Ottawa last October, I think all members of the House, colleagues on this side and opposite, both sides of the aisle, as well as building staff, have gained a new insight into the role you play in the protection of democracy and free debate in this great Chamber.

I'd also like to thank the commissionaires, the cafeteria staff, the Pages, and the interns for all the important work that they do, as well as the tour guides and visitor services who do an excellent job of sharing this beautiful building and its history with each and every individual who has the pleasure of entering.

A special thank you is also in order to government staff, staff in House business, Graham Stewart, Jarret Coels, Harrison Clark for all the work they do in supporting me in my role as House Leader. Thanks also to the media who are here day in and day out, holding the government to a standard and reporting on the news of the day.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank the member from Meadow Lake for his guidance and support in my role and also Saskatoon Eastview in assisting me in carrying out my work — and the Whip as well, the member from The Battlefords.

I'd also like to thank colleagues from across the aisle, certainly the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre, the Opposition House Leader, for the great work that he has done and the relationship that we do have. It's a professional one, and I believe it has served this legislature well. Many people are out there watching, and some only watch the combative nature of politics. They see question period, and they see the to and fro. They see some lively debates. But it's important that people realize that there is a co-operative relationship as well between both sides of the aisle that is far less prominent and less of the focus from the outside. So I'd like to thank the Opposition House Leader for the job he has done in working to make the process function properly.

I'd also, Mr. Speaker, like to thank our CAs, our constituency assistants. There's been some talk about who has the best one. It's always been competitive, but I think each and every one of us would say that we have the best constituency assistant. But they help us do our job when we're here and a big thank you to each of them.

Finally I'd like to thank the families of all building staff, of all members, of everyone involved in making this place run. It takes a lot of time away from families, and it's important that we're able to thank them at this time. This job takes many of my colleagues away from our families for extended periods of time. There's also travel involved, and we do look forward to having more time to spend with them.

On a personal note, to my family, to Trish, Carter, and Paige I'd like to thank you for allowing me to do the job that I do, and on behalf of all MLAs, to thank all our families for making sure that we are able to do the best job possible. Your support means a great deal to us. So ladies and gentlemen, God bless. Have a safe Saskatchewan summer. Thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Government House Leader in providing some end-of-session remarks and thank yous. And I'll start out, Mr. Speaker, with thanking you for all of your advice, both the formal advice and the informal advice and the hints and the looks and the things that you give us all the time. And we also want to thank you and wish you all the best in getting rid of this nasty illness that's gotten you down the last few weeks. But we look forward to the fall when we can return and have some more I think fun but also work for the people of the province here. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to thank the Table officers for their work and their advice as we've gone through all of these things. Once again it's that formal advice, but also the informal side that's really important for the work that we do. And I know every member enjoys the opportunity and knows that they don't have to be afraid to talk to any one of you about issues, and I think that's an important factor in making sure this legislature works well.

All of the staff in the Clerk's office with the Clerk add to the important things that happen here, and we want to say a special thank you to them. As well we want to thank all of the people in members' services. They keep track of the things that we do and they continually remind us to make sure that we've gotten everything done properly, and we very much thank them.

Special thank you to all the people who work in Hansard. And many times we don't see them, but we know that they've provided a very accurate record of what's happened in this place. As we all know, there are many times we remember something that happened 5 years, 10 years before, and having *Hansard* available really makes a big difference in our lives, also, as well, all of the people who work on the Journals that relate to this institution.

A special thank you to the audio-visual people. They have added a few new features this year that have assisted all of us, but once again they make sure most of the time that the best side of us is shown to the public. And that's not always an easy task, so we thank them especially for that work.

And to the Sergeant-at-Arms and the security people and the commissionaires, we've always known that you've done an excellent job for us, but in this year I think we've had a special recognition that the kind of calm presence that you provide in this building and around our constituency offices across the province is invaluable. So thank you very much for that.

A very special thank you to all the people in the library. And I know that all members use the library, some more than others, but there's no question that the library is a huge important part of this institution, and we thank them for all that work.

I also want to thank Chef Trent Brears and the cafeteria staff for making sure that we're properly nourished with some of the best food that you can find in Saskatchewan.

Special thank you to the Pages. We appreciate the work that you do. You are basically able to provide us with assistance at all times, and we very much hope that this experience will encourage you, in all of your subsequent careers, to do the good things that we do — maybe not some of the other parts though. And special thank you to the interns from the SLIP program who have provided service for us.

Another group I want to thank is the staff of Wascana Centre for the work that they do in keeping the grounds around the legislature well maintained, and we're especially looking forward to all of the planting of the flowers and things that will enhance this place.

I want to thank the members of the press gallery. They have a difficult task to report on many things that are happening here and, as we know, they don't have as many members as they did a few years ago, and their task is quite, quite difficult.

Our House Leader is not able to be here today, and so I'm expressing these things on his behalf, on all of our behalf, but he wants to make a special point of thanking the Government House Leader for the relationship that they've been able to develop as this work is being done here. There are times when there are tensions, but there are also times when solutions are

found that are best for all of us.

I also want to thank all of the members of the legislature on both sides of the House. There are roles that we have, and we play them well most of the time, but we also know that we're part of a family that we'll be part of for a long time.

Also I want to say a special thank you to the caucus staff that we have. They have served us well. We don't have as many as the government does, so we're often feeling like we're in a corner, but that's fine. I also want to say a special thank you to all of the constituency assistants across the province.

I know that all of our families who support us are a big part of who we are. And I know I want to thank obviously my family but also I think thank all of the families for all of the members and all of the staff, all of the people who work here.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to give a big thank you to the people of Saskatchewan. The people of Saskatchewan have given us their trust. They trust us to do the right thing, and that's really important. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Since we're relaxing the rules a little bit on speeches for the end of session, I might as well do mine now along with the other two members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work this session. Thank you to the members for their many hours of service to Saskatchewan and for the long hours and days away from their families. It is time to return to your homes and spend some quality time with your family. Thank you to the families at home for their support.

While the Assembly is not likely to sit until the fall, I know the work does not end, and committee work will continue through the recess period. Ministers will continue their duties and meetings in Regina and Saskatoon or across the province. Private members will work on their constituency issues and in their roles as committee members, legislative secretaries, or critics.

I would like to thank the LAS [Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan] staff: the Clerks and officers, the Pages, Hansard, the Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff, the interns, caucus staff, cafeteria staff, Central Services' building staff. Their hours are often as long or, in the case of Hansard, longer than those of the members. Thank you to our constituency staff for their diligence and hard work, especially while the members are in the Assembly.

Thank you to my staff, Sheila and Connie, for their support, especially in dealing with the programs and initiatives such as SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] and the educational outreach program which are run out of the Speaker's office. These programs take a lot of extra time but are well worth the effort.

I would also like to give a special thank you to the Deputy Speaker who has been filling in for me while I have been absent and ill. Everyone have a safe and fulfilling summer.

An Hon. Member: — I'm surprised that you came back.

The Speaker: — I'm not sure you all wanted me back. I recognize the Government House Leader.

[11:30]

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to make a motion regarding the end of session.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to make a motion regarding the end of session. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

House Adjournment

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

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of the sitting day today, it shall stand adjourned to the date and time set by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government; and

That the Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The motion moved by the Government House Leader is:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day today, it shall stand adjourned to the date and time set by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government; and

That Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Why is the member on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to have leave to adjourn the House. I'd like to make a motion to adjourn the House.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader may proceed.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again we're at the end of a session, and our thank yous have been said. It's been an opportunity for all of us to reflect and to do the work of the province of Saskatchewan. Again I want to thank my Premier, my leader, and all of those who helped me do the job. We look forward to continuing our work at our constituency offices and across the province. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House stands adjourned to the call of the Chair. Have a good summer.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:33.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Jennifer Campeau

Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Mark Docherty

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission

Hon. Kevin Doherty

Minister of Advanced Education
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

Minister Responsible for Immigration,
Jobs, Skills and Training
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Nancy Heppner

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Ken Krawetz

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Don McMorris

Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for the Lean Initiative

Hon. Scott Moe

Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Don Morgan

Minister of Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds