



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

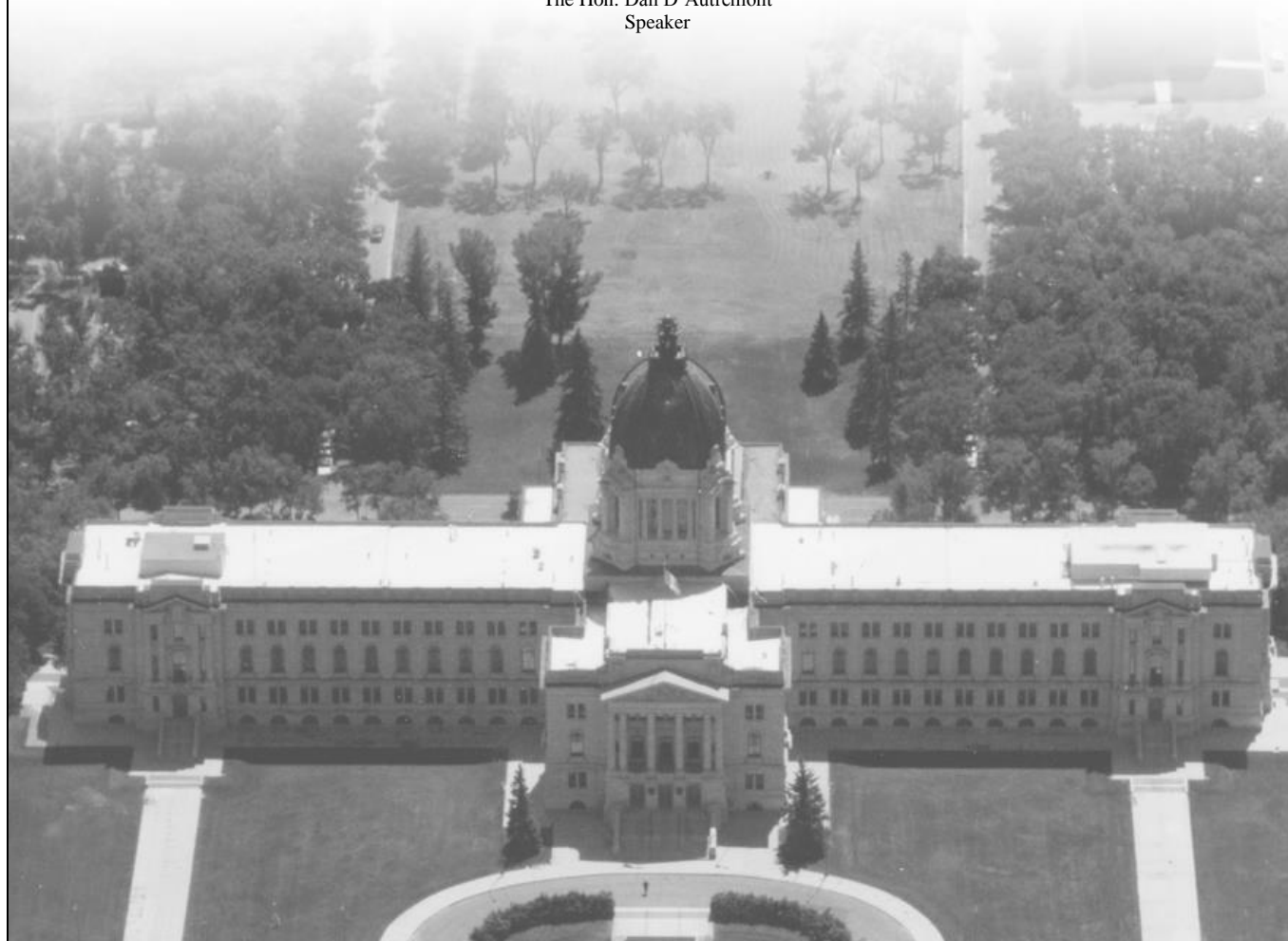
of the

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
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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
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Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, 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]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Exceeded Bounds of Authority

The Speaker: — Before introductions today I have a statement I would like to read. On the order paper today is a proposed motion concerning my actions as Speaker during the sitting on October 29th, 2015. As Speaker, it is truly my goal to have the support of all members. Upon reflection it is clear that I overstepped my authority as a presiding officer. My actions should not stand as a precedent. For that I would like to extend my apology to the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Saskatoon Centre and collectively to the Legislative Assembly.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce two young ladies: Taylor Ewart — can you wave, Taylor? — and Mya Slobodian. Mr. Speaker, these two selfless young ladies seated in your gallery were able to raise a significant amount of money for STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] air ambulance through sales from their lemonade stand.

I will be speaking more about this in my member's statement, Mr. Speaker, but I would like all members of this Assembly to welcome Taylor and Mya to their Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join in the introduction of the young people in your gallery today with the Minister of Corrections. You know, so often that we think of STARS and the service it provides and supported mainly by large corporations and small corporations, Mr. Speaker. But by the actions of Taylor Ewart and Mya Slobodian, Mr. Speaker, we see that it's supported very much by the general community. And quite often it's young people like this or families like this that do things like supporting STARS in such a way because they've been impacted directly by this organization, Mr. . . . STARS. And it's just another example of the help that STARS does give — 2,000 missions — and Taylor's grandpa Bob being one of the 700 critically ill people that have received care through STARS, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to join with the minister and ask all members to help me and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly and acknowledge their selfless actions in what they've done.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I'm pleased to welcome Taylor and Maya to their legislature here today and say, thank you for your work, your efforts with your lemonade stand. I'm really looking forward to hearing a little bit more about it in a member's statement. And as mom of young kids myself, I'm really excited to hear a little bit more about the work that you've done, and I can maybe inspire my seven-year-old to do a little bit more too.

So thank you for the work that you've done in helping the people of Saskatchewan, and I'd ask all my colleagues to welcome you to your legislature.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the legislature, I'd like to introduce a very special young person sitting in your gallery. We have Maia Smith here today with her mom and dad, Janna and Murray, and her little sister Mila. I will be having a member's statement on her excellent citizenship for the city of Moose Jaw and her volunteerism coming up in a few minutes. So I'd like all members to welcome them to their legislature.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And to you and through you I'd like to introduce some people sitting in the west gallery, the group from the Financial Planning Standards Council: Cary List, president and CEO [chief executive officer], FPSC [Financial Planning Standards Council]; Stephen Rotstein, VP [vice-president], policy and regulatory affairs and general counsel; Dan Ongaro, manager, CEO office and senior policy adviser; and from the Moose Jaw Credit Union, Linda McIntyre.

Our group had a chance to meet with them quickly, briefly about a half an hour ago and talk about some issues they are bringing forward. And it was very nice to sit down and chat with them about financial planning standards and what they would like to see in this province. So to you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join with the member opposite and welcome these leaders from the Financial Planning Standards Council to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. Certainly we welcome their voice in this industry. Certainly sound planning is something that's important. The integrity of that system is incredibly important. I know that's what's important to them. So we are encouraged by their interest in a constructive dialogue, and certainly we look forward to engaging directly with them as well.

So I ask all members to welcome these leaders to their Assembly. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition that calls for greater support for GSAs [gender and sexuality alliance] in Saskatchewan schools. And we know this government is not doing enough to create safe spaces in our schools for sexually diverse students or students bullied because of their sexual identity or sexual orientation. And this government must act so students have a simple, easy . . . information about gender and sexual alliances in their schools, how to form a gender and sexual alliance, and who they should talk to in order to form GSAs. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on this government to take immediate and meaningful action to pass *The Respect for Diversity — Student Bill of Rights Act* and enshrine in legislation the right of Saskatchewan students to form GSAs within their schools in order to foster caring, accepting, inclusive environments and deliver equal opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, these people signing this petition come from the city of Regina. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition asking for this government to support a new long-term care facility for Creighton and Denare Beach. Mr. Speaker, seniors have done their part to build this province and northern Saskatchewan is no exception. According to the 2009 Croft report, long-term care stats of our health region is at a code red level. Seniors from northern Saskatchewan and northern communities need immediate attention from this government. Many residents cannot afford private care. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Saskatchewan government to treat northern Saskatchewan's senior citizens with respect and dignity and to immediately invest in a new long-term care facility in the Creighton-Denare Beach area.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by many good people of Creighton-Denare. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise in my place to present a petition as it relates to cellphone coverage in northern Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

To cause the provincial government to improve cell

service coverage for northern communities like St. George's Hill, Dillon, Michel Village, Dore Lake, Michel Point, and Sled Lake to provide similar quality of cell coverage as southern communities currently enjoy. This would provide support to our northern industries as well as mitigate safety concerns for those living in the remote North.

Mr. Speaker, as I've said hundreds of times, that this petition has been signed by people from all throughout Saskatchewan, and on this particular page this petition has been signed primarily by the people of the great community of Dore Lake. And I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of better seniors' care. The petitioners point out that, Mr. Speaker, we all continue to hear an increased number of stories about inadequate care in long-term care homes because of decisions this government has made around short-staffing, Mr. Speaker.

We hear about people being left, call bells going unattended, people being left on the toilet for hours on end and basically just not getting the care they deserve because of short-staffing. Mr. Speaker, 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 provincial government to immediately undertake meaningful steps to improve the quality of seniors' care in our province, including creating more spaces and more choices for seniors; ensuring higher standards of care in public facilities, private facilities, and for home care; ensuring appropriate staffing levels in seniors' care facilities; and providing more support to help seniors remain independent in their own homes for as long as they desire.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of Regina and Craven. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition from residents in the province of Saskatchewan concerned about the high cost of post-secondary education, and they're particularly concerned about how that works out in tuition and resultant student debt loads upon graduation. 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 provincial government to immediately increase the funding for post-secondary education in this province with a legislated provision that this increase in funding be used to lower tuition rates.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by citizens from the good city of Regina. I so present.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to present a petition in support of better schools. And in the prayer that reads as follows:

These petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on this government to immediately stop ignoring schools and start prioritizing students by capping classroom sizes, increasing support for students, and developing a transparent plan to build and repair our schools.

The petition is signed by people from Saskatoon. I so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

New Co-op Opens in Saskatoon

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 23rd I attended the grand opening of the new Westview Co-op in my constituency. It was a great, well-attended event. The weather was beautiful, and there were lots of great Co-op burgers and hot dogs on the barbecue.

The new 50,000-square-foot store on 33rd Street looks fantastic, and I know it will continue to offer great food and service to the people on the west side of Saskatoon for many years to come.

I'd like to thank the board of directors of the Saskatoon Co-op for this important investment in the heart of the Westview constituency. And I'd also like to thank the employees of the Saskatoon Co-op for their exceptional service, whether at the gas pumps or the grocery store. Co-ops all over the province contribute so much to our economy and community, and not only through dividend cheques. At the grand opening, it was announced that \$90,000 will be donated to support the creation of a new accessible playground in Caswell Hill.

So on behalf of my daughters and all the kids in our constituency, thanks for your generosity. I ask all members to join me in congratulating the staff and members of the new Westview Co-op and in thanking all of the people who work in our co-ops to make Saskatchewan better each and every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Moose Jaw Student Fundraises for Terry Fox Foundation

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in the House today to introduce and acknowledge the fundraising contributions of a very special young lady from Moose Jaw. Maia Smith is not your average eight-year-old. Driven by her passion for helping others, by the age of eight Maia has already made astounding charitable contributions in our province through her fundraising efforts.

Inspired by her grandmother's recent diagnosis with lung cancer, Maia organized and held a fundraising event at her house in Moose Jaw to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation. At Maia's event, she sold homemade bracelets and wallets, hosted games, held a silent auction that showcased original sculptures donated by her grandfather. Maia even had a variety of food available for purchase at the event, such as chili, pork on a bun, and cake.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in 2015, in September, Maia's event raised \$1,568.75 for the Terry Fox Foundation. This greatly exceeded her original fundraising goal of \$500. Maia plans to continue fundraising and will be opening up a bank account for the future money raised for the Terry Fox Foundation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this Assembly recognize and thank Maia Smith for the outstanding work that she has done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Accomplishments of Northern Musician

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Several years ago, I paid tribute to an amazing musician from my constituency, the godfather of west side music, Don Corrigan. But, Mr. Speaker, when I talked about Don, his wife, Lea, and their impressive family, I forgot to mention one of the most important members of that musical family. That was a mistake, and this statement is all about Roland Corrigan.

Roland's musical career has been growing by leaps and bounds in recent years. His music artfully blends the old with the new, and he has a very distinctive northern sound that so many of our talented musicians bring to listeners across this province and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Roland's list of accomplishments is very impressive, including a final stage performance at the 620 CKRM Proudly Saskatchewan Showcase, a feature performance at the Canadian Country Music Awards Showcase, and a performance at the Aboriginal Recording Artist Showcase during the 2013 Junos here in Regina. In addition to those important performances, Roland has been a judge for three years in the Voices of the North Showcase in Prince Albert. He has worked hard as a youth mentor in the Northern Spirits Showcase, and hosts an acoustic jam session with local musicians in his home community of La Ronge.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the incredible musical contribution that this fine northern musician, Roland Corrigan, has brought forward in his lifetime. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of Roland Corrigan. Thank you.

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

A Day at the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Michelson: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a special day here in the Legislative Building as we will be welcoming students from Coronach, the grade 8, 7 and 8

students from Coronach and the grade 8 students from St. Michael School in Moose Jaw.

They're here to celebrate and participate in the Day at the Legislative Assembly program. Mr. Speaker, this program was designated to support the Provincial Capital Commission's mandate to educate youth on the provincial government and the history of Saskatchewan. The program also helps celebrate pride in the capital city and complements the learning objectives of the grade 8 social studies. By exposing students to the various roles in government early on, perhaps some of them will be inspired to pursue a career in politics or public service right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, by providing this opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with the inner workings of government and of the Legislative Building, we're helping to build a stronger democracy and a stronger Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Capital Commission is doing excellent work in running this program, and I hope these students enjoy their experience and are inspired by this opportunity to learn about the government. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming the participants from the Day in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Students Raise Money for STARS Foundation

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to acknowledge the selfless efforts of two young ladies who set up their lemonade stand every week last summer to raise money for a very good cause. Mr. Speaker, Taylor Ewart was inspired to give back by the air medical emergency evacuation of her dying grandfather, Bob Ewart. And on a side note, Mr. Speaker, I knew Bob Ewart very, very well. STARS gave the Ewart family time to be with him in the hospital before he passed away, and we share our sincerest condolences to the whole Ewart family.

Taylor and her friend Mya Slobodian made dozens of handcrafted necklaces and other items which they sold from their roadside booth, along with lemonade. Mr. Speaker, with persistence, these hard-working young ladies raised more than \$2,000, which they donated to the STARS Foundation in August. That is the kind of spirit that makes me proud of the talent and promise of our next generation.

Mr. Speaker, STARS works in tandem with ground ambulance services and a fixed-wing Saskatchewan air ambulance program to make sure people across Saskatchewan can receive excellent emergency care whenever they need it.

I would like to ask the members of this Assembly to join me in thanking Taylor Ewart and Mya Slobodian for giving their summer to raise money for this life-saving program. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Dr. F.H. Wigmore Regional Hospital Opens in Moose Jaw

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks a milestone for

health care in southern Saskatchewan with the grand opening of the new Dr. F.H. Wigmore Regional Hospital in Moose Jaw. The planning, design, and construction of this nearly \$100 million facility has resulted in a modern, patient-centred hospital with private patient rooms throughout. Also, critical care patients transported by STARS helicopter can now arrive or depart via a helipad on the hospital grounds to save precious minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health, the Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health, and both of the members of Moose Jaw North and Moose Jaw Wakamow will represent our government on this proud day. I hope to attend as well.

As part of the opening ceremony, the family of the late Dr. Fred H. Wigmore will attend a naming ceremony. The ceremony will acknowledge Dr. Wigmore's accomplishments in improving surgical and other services, attracting physicians, and gaining support for an expansion of the Moose Jaw Union Hospital in the 1950s.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that the people of Saskatchewan will be well served by this innovative hospital. Additional work is under way to allow continued hyperbaric oxygen therapy services and the first permanent MRI service in a Saskatchewan hospital outside of Regina and Saskatoon. That's expected to be operational by 2016. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in celebrating this exciting news for southern Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Cadets Recognition Day

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to acknowledge Cadets Recognition Day in Saskatchewan. In 2008 our government passed legislation declaring the first Saturday of November as a day where the people of Saskatchewan can honour, salute, and celebrate the tremendous contributions of air, army, sea, and navy league cadets in Saskatchewan.

The cadet organization has played an important role in the lives of thousands of young people in Saskatchewan and in Canada for close to 150 years. The cadets have been a place where young people can learn valuable traits and life skills that will help a young person succeed in the challenges of life.

Mr. Speaker, not only was there a positive impact in the lives of young people but also in the world. During the Second World War there were an estimated 230,000 cadets, that had cadet backgrounds, that served in the conflict in various capacities. These young women and men were essential to helping secure an Allied victory and secure the freedom we have in our nation today.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of the Assembly to join me in acknowledging Cadets Recognition Day to honour the young women and men who have and will belong to the army, air, navy, and sea cadets as they are a testament to the integrity and character of the next generation. Through our cadets, our society is investing in today's youth as well as Saskatchewan and Canada's future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Highway Repair

Mr. Broten: — Eight years ago, 600 kilometres of highway were paved, graded, twinned, or resurfaced in our province. But with just one exception, the number has been considerably lower every year since then. This year the Sask Party government did 20 per cent less roadwork. A simple question to the Premier: why?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier, I'm happy to take that question on behalf of the government. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the record that our government has when it comes to infrastructure investment in our province. In the last eight years, we have invested \$5.2 billion in highways, which is \$1 billion more in eight years than the last 16 years of the NDP government, Mr. Speaker.

There is obviously more work to be done. Particularly the last few years, we've had some extreme weather which has caused failures across the province, Mr. Speaker, and we are doing our best to keep up to that. But, Mr. Speaker, overall I am very proud of the investment that we are making, and we are planning for the future, Mr. Speaker, which is something that the NDP never did.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's not that this government isn't paying more. They're definitely paying a lot more. In fact, Mr. Speaker, highway spending jumped by 80 per cent. But actual roadwork, actual roadwork dropped by 20 per cent. So the question, Mr. Speaker, for the Premier is this: why is the Sask Party government paying more but paving way less?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, again I'm happy to take that question on behalf of the Premier in his absence. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the investment that we're making in our highway system across this province, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we are building for the future. It's not just crack filling and pothole filling which . . . obviously we have to do a lot of that, Mr. Speaker, but we are building for the next generation, whether it's interchanges or passing lanes or the bypass, Mr. Speaker.

There are huge projects. Our budget last year was \$842 million, which is record investment in highways in our province, Mr. Speaker. Obviously there's inflationary pressures when it comes to any kind of project in our province, Mr. Speaker, but again, very proud of the record that we have.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, here's the thing. They are paying way more but they are paving way less. Mr. Speaker, these are the government's very own numbers, so you would think they

would have a better explanation than what we just heard from the member opposite. A \$180 million increase, \$180 million increase in Highways spending compared to eight years ago, but 120 fewer kilometres were paved this year.

And Saskatchewan people see it, Mr. Speaker. We see it with those red triangles all over the province, and we certainly feel it when we drive up and down the highways throughout Saskatchewan. So again to the Premier, Mr. Speaker. The \$180 million increase in Highways spending didn't lead to more paving. They've actually paved 20 per cent less. So where exactly did all the money go?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can give you an example of where that money went. If we look at northern roads, Mr. Speaker, we've had a 40 per cent increase in infrastructure investment in the North, including a \$15 million project for a Stony Rapids airport which is incredibly important to the folks in the North, Mr. Speaker. That's just one example.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, they're paying way more but they're paving way less. The government's very own numbers show this: \$180 million more, 120 fewer kilometres. That is what this government's numbers clearly show.

And do you know what's changed during that time, Mr. Speaker? What has changed is that the Sask Party government has gutted the Highways ministry and then jacked up spending on highways consultants by 400 per cent — 400 per cent. Will the Premier admit that those reckless decisions are one of the main reasons why the Sask Party government is paying way more but paving way less?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the things that the member asking the question needs to understand is that it's the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure. It's not just highways that we're responsible for, Mr. Speaker. As an example, culvert replacement across this province, we've increased that by 2,000 per cent over what the NDP did, Mr. Speaker. There is more than paving. We are making investments in paving, Mr. Speaker. There's bridges. There's culverts. There's passing lanes. There is major construction, Mr. Speaker. It is Highways and Infrastructure.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it is clear in the government's very own numbers that they are paving fewer kilometres than they were before, Mr. Speaker, but they are spending way more. The numbers from the government clearly show that, time and time again. Mr. Minister, at the same time as we have seen Highways spending skyrocket and actual roadwork plummet, we've seen the Sask Party government get rid of about 350 road building and engineering staff within government — around 350. Meanwhile, spending on highways consultants has gone up by a whopping 400 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, this is the Sask Party government's approach to highways here in Saskatchewan. Get rid of highways workers and waste huge sums of money on consultants instead, and then they pay way more and they pave way less. And we, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are left to pay the price for that. How can the Premier, how can the Premier possibly justify the 400 per cent increase in highways consultants and the 20 per cent decrease in actual roadwork being done on our roads?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, again it is the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure. We have increased culvert projects by over 2,000 per cent. And when it comes to consultants, Mr. Speaker, we are doing bigger projects, more specialized projects. And I would point out just this April the actual Highways critic, the member for Athabasca, said, and I quote:

... I agree, you do need specialized services. And we don't need five or six individuals sitting in the Highways ministry that are going to be used once every two or three years. I agree with that, that if there is an instance where, where you're able to look out and find some private firms that can do ... [that kind] of the speciality work that is required, so be it.

[10:30]

Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what we're doing. We are hiring consultants to work on specialized projects — bypass, passing lanes, interchanges, those sorts of things, Mr. Speaker. But when it comes to paving in this province, the members opposite have to understand that the budget in the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure includes infrastructure, Mr. Speaker. Culverts, bridges.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, it's clear with this government's record. They have cut hundreds of staff within Highways, Mr. Speaker. They have hugely increased the use of consultants. They are paying way more, Mr. Speaker, and they are paving way less here in Saskatchewan. So a simple question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister: would she agree, would the minister agree that they have cut roadwork by 20 per cent? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, what I can tell the members opposite is when it comes to bridge and culvert repair — which again, Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure — is up 381 per cent funding levels from what the NDP did, Mr. Speaker. When we look across the province there was an infrastructure deficit, whether it's schools or hospitals or highways. That includes bridges and culverts and the other responsibilities that are within the Ministry of Highways. But when it comes to building, Mr. Speaker, we have spent \$17 million on Highway 10 passing lanes and I think anybody who has travelled that highway fully understands the necessity of that. In partnership with the federal government, we are twinning Highway 7. Again in partnership with the federal government, we are twinning parts of Highway 16 and we are

working on twinning of Highway 39 between Estevan and Bienfait, Mr. Speaker. We are building in this province.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the government's numbers show that they're paving 120 fewer kilometres than eight years ago. Does the minister agree with that? Yes or no?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out, within the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure there are projects across this province. Paving is one of those things, Mr. Speaker. We take care of 17 airports across the province, I believe almost all of them in the North, Mr. Speaker. We are making investments in our airports in the North. We are building passing lanes. We are twinning across this province, Mr. Speaker. We are planning for interchanges and planning ... The work for the bypass has already started, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is paving work to be done, but there's also infrastructure projects across this province that we are responsible for.

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

Contract with Corporation on Regina Bypass Project

Mr. Wotherspoon: — You know, the Saskatchewan Party government signed an incredibly lucrative contract, almost \$2 billion, with Vinci, a Paris-based company, for the Regina bypass. This secretive contract with Vinci will even have this company from Paris, France hired to, among other things, plow the snow on the supposed bypass. But Vinci is the same company that's just been caught blacklisting workers who raised safety concerns.

You know, we think it's wrong enough that this government is continually sending billions of dollars to out-of-province and out-of-country corporations, Mr. Speaker. But it's especially alarming that this government is hiring corporations, foreign corporations, with sketchy records. To the minister: will the Sask Party agree to release the full details of its relationship with Vinci?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we find the actions that have been reported to be wholly unacceptable. We have a very robust labour legislation in this province and we expect every company that operates in this province to be respectful of that. But, Mr. Speaker, just to put the issue into context, this issue happened 25 years ago. It happened with respect to a subsidiary of Vinci, Mr. Speaker. We've had assurances from Vinci that this is not part of their corporate culture, Mr. Speaker. We have confidence in Vinci to perform the terms of this contract, Mr. Speaker.

And as I had mentioned in this House before, the full details of the contract, including the value-for-money report and the conflict report, Mr. Speaker, including all the documents associated with it, will be available online within the 120 day period which has been set out by the auditor who, Mr. Speaker,

has already said that we have good practices and effective practices for evaluating P3s [public-private partnership].

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the government wants us to just trust them and just trust Vinci, even though it's clear that this Paris company cuts a whole lot of corners, including blacklisting workers who simply asked for basic health and safety protections on the job.

The Sask Party says if the Paris company doesn't meet requirements for snow removal on the Regina bypass, then it will have to pay us penalties. That's what the Sask Party says. But Vinci says, "... cap delay and performance penalties to an acceptable percentage of the contract price." So Vinci's protected itself, and it seems cutting corners and paying penalties is just the cost of doing business.

So to the minister: what are the specific requirements Vinci needs to meet, and how low are the penalties when they fail to meet those requirements? Simply, why is Vinci protected but not Saskatchewan people and taxpayers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I'll answer that question on behalf of the government as the Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds.

Mr. Speaker, it's amazing that this member can stand up and play politics with an important infrastructure project in this province, Mr. Speaker, that's going to save the lives of Saskatchewan residents and anyone else using that road.

Mr. Speaker, we have all the confidence in Vinci. These contracts that have been entered into will be made public. All the terms and details subject to the commercially sensitive information will be made public. They'll be available to look, and I challenge the member to look at any other traditional project that's ever been built in Saskatchewan that has this degree of transparency, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the contract provides for significant penalties for non-performance, not only with respect to the construction, Mr. Speaker, but with respect to the ongoing maintenance. And we have all the confidence in the world that this consortium will complete its term, but if they don't, Mr. Speaker, we will rely on the terms of the contract to enforce.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, outrageous statements from the minister opposite who's delaying actions when Highway 1 East deserves traffic lights and they deserve overpasses as soon as possible. They don't need to be caught up in this Paris boondoggle, Mr. Speaker.

This massive corporation from Paris also faces serious allegations of awful human rights abuses in the Middle East. And now Vinci has admitted to this nasty scheme of blacklisting workers for simply raising health and safety

concerns. It doesn't sound like the kind of company we should be doing business with, Mr. Speaker.

The Labour minister has said we can get out of this contract if it's proven that Vinci has not acted appropriately. So now we've learned that the Paris corporation has admitted illegal activity, and at this point the Sask Party should be scrapping its secretive contract with this Paris company.

And as for snowplowing, Mr. Speaker, this government should be allowing our publicly owned snowplows to do their job, Mr. Speaker. Why won't the minister do just that? Why won't he stand up for Saskatchewan people and taxpayers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the specifics of the question, Vinci is involved in a number of large infrastructure projects in this country, Mr. Speaker. And in fact they've been short-listed to perform the services with regard to the south Calgary bypass, a project which has been endorsed by the New Democratic government in the province of Alberta, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before in my first answer, these allegations, these allegations which were made were actions which were undertaken by a subsidiary of Vinci — who has a great number of subsidiary corporations, Mr. Speaker — over 25 years ago. We have been assured by Vinci that it certainly does not perform . . . is not part of their corporate policy, Mr. Speaker.

We expect companies that operate in Saskatchewan to comply with our labour laws, Mr. Speaker, and we will be vigilant. And if there's any circumstances which the opposition member is aware of in Saskatchewan, he should tell us so that we can properly investigate that, Mr. Speaker. But we will work, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that our labour laws are respected by those that contract in this province.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, let's get this straight. This is the government that took this bypass from \$400 million, after they said they studied it to death, have driven up the cost to over \$2 billion with this Paris company, Mr. Speaker, and they say, just trust them when it comes to protecting Saskatchewan people.

Meanwhile, Vinci's very clearly protected itself, Mr. Speaker. And it's very serious allegations. Sort of like the "just trust us" that we got from the Premier and from the minister responsible for the carbon capture project, Mr. Speaker, when it's clear, it's clear, Mr. Speaker, that with that \$1.5 billion, taxpayers aren't getting value.

Now this Paris company admits serious unethical and illegal activity, and the Labour minister says he could scrap that contract, but the Premier refuses to do it. He wants to just plow ahead, quite literally, with this Paris company in this ridiculous contract. How can the Premier possibly justify this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, we have a full and complete contract with Vinci. Vinci is one of the partners associated with building this bypass, Mr. Speaker, including a number of large Saskatchewan companies that are participating: Graham Construction, Broda Construction, Clifton and associates, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pleased to go through the entire list of Saskatchewan companies that are working on this project, Mr. Speaker.

But Vinci is only one small part of this project. And I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker, that if the labour laws of this province are offended by anyone working on any contract in this province, Mr. Speaker, we'll be vigilant and we'll be aggressive in enforcing those laws. And, Mr. Speaker, the terms of the contract are very, very clear. If there's a breach of the contract, Mr. Speaker, if Vinci is convicted or if any company is convicted, Mr. Speaker, of committing any criminal offences, Mr. Speaker, then we have a right to demand a change in the participation of the contract, Mr. Speaker. And we'll do that if the facts prove that out, Mr. Speaker.

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

Carbon Capture and Storage Project

Ms. Sproule: — In May 2012, the Premier's deputy minister received a memo from SaskPower's president with the subject line, strategic considerations 2012. In this memo, SaskPower's president said that the economics of carbon capture projects are unclear. And this is what he said specifically about the Boundary dam 3 project which the Sask Party had already committed to: "This project will determine the technical, economic, and environmental performance of carbon capture and storage technology."

So right there in black and white is a clear admission that this is a \$1.5 billion experiment without a sound business case or any kind of economic rationale. So is the SaskPower minister finally willing to admit that the results of this \$1.5 billion experiment are pretty dismal so far?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the project has always been a controversial one to say the least. But I would go on to say this, that SaskPower has predicated the project based on a number of areas that they believe that there is opportunity within. First of all, it's within the use of coal to begin with, Mr. Speaker. We have 44 per cent of the generation here in Saskatchewan is used as coal to generate electricity, so the use of the coal is very important. In addition to that, the sale of the CO₂ is part of that as well. The sale of the CO₂ to Cenovus for use in enhanced oil recovery is very important. And that, Mr. Speaker, throws off a whole host of royalties to the province of Saskatchewan through the enhanced oil recovery benefits associated with CO₂ in enhanced oil recovery.

Then of course there's the sale of the electricity, Mr. Speaker, from the BD3 [Boundary dam 3] facility which likely would

have been shut down had it not been retrofitted for this project, Mr. Speaker. And then of course there's the possible sale of the technology going forward. That's why we're seeing international experts from all over the world looking at the facility, Mr. Speaker, and commenting very favourably on it.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, again SaskPower's president wrote to the Premier's deputy minister to say that this \$1.5 billion project did not have a technical, economic, or environmental case; they just hoped it would work out. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's look at these results. The unit has only operated at a 40 per cent capacity, and its performance in 2015 is worse than in 2014. So those are not good technical results. Economic results, we're at least \$1.5 billion in the hole and hemorrhaging more money every day. Also, on the environmental front, in SaskPower's annual report they show their own greenhouse gas emissions are going up. So why won't the SaskPower minister just admit that, on all three criteria, this one-and-a-half-billion-dollar experiment is not paying off for Saskatchewan people.

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the most recent expert in this area when it comes to carbon capture and storage, Carolyn Preston, who holds a Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] and engineering degrees and chemistry degrees, most recently commented — by any standard an international insider, an international expert in this area, Mr. Speaker — has commented recently. She said, "SaskPower did something that's almost unbelievable. They commercialized a technology that wasn't ready to be commercialized . . . So kudos to them for doing . . . [so]."

Mr. Speaker, international experts have looked at this facility. They believe it's the right direction for the province of Saskatchewan to go. They understand very clearly that if we're going to continue to use coal here in Saskatchewan to generate electricity, this technology is the only way to do that, Mr. Speaker. And that's why SaskPower is receiving international kudos from international experts and international insiders.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan, we, the people of Saskatchewan are one and a half billion dollars in the hole for this government's carbon capture experiment. SaskPower doesn't even own the technology, so we can't make money off that. We clearly don't have expertise in actually making it work, so we can't make money off that either. So the only real explanation from the government that's supposed to give us any hope is, "Someday someone will knock on our door."

This government's rhetoric about their carbon capture experiment is sounding more and more like a sad country song every day. Someday someone will knock on our door? To the minister: what does that even mean?

[10:45]

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that the NDP would shut down coal here in the province of Saskatchewan. That's obvious, should be obvious to the people of Saskatchewan. Throw all the workers . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Throw all the workers out of work down at Boundary dam, 550 people with the IBEW [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers]. Throw them all out of work.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — The NDP would throw them all out of work at the IBEW down at Boundary dam 3, about 550 people right there. There's about 400 people employed in the coal industry down in the southeast of our province as well, Mr. Speaker. They're prepared to do that, Mr. Speaker. You know, the NDP's approach to these kinds of things is always the same, Mr. Speaker. They talk about it. They say they would do something about it. They would set targets. They would . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Will the member for Athabasca and the member for Canora-Pelly come to order, please. They can talk behind the bar later if they want. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, the NDP have talked about these kinds of things in the past. I think it was the member for Lakeview at one time announced a grandiose project for down there and then immediately cancelled it a few weeks later.

They talk about emissions. They talk about greenhouse gas. That's all they do, Mr. Speaker. They have never done anything when it comes to building anything. They shut down hospitals, shut down schools here in the province of Saskatchewan. When it comes to emissions, when it comes to anything to do with targets, they resign from any of that, Mr. Speaker. That's been their history.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the internal memo that we obtained clearly shows that the Premier knew there was not a clear economic case for this one-and-a-half-billion-dollar project. He also knew that this one-and-a-half-billion-dollar project did not have a technical, economic, or environmental case, that this project was nothing but an experiment. But he plowed ahead anyways, and now there are major problems with the project.

The government is being embarrassed around the world for its

story not matching reality, and the only real answer for that from this government is that, well, someday someone will knock on our door. To the minister: for what precise purpose will they knock on our door, and how exactly will that benefit Saskatchewan people?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, BHP Billiton just recently signed an agreement, an MOU [memorandum of understanding] with SaskPower around the promotion and the technology around carbon capture and storage. They just did that at the recent conference here a few months ago here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. They're very, very interested in the technology. They're interested in helping to promote the technology on a worldwide basis, and I think we'll see more from BHP very, very soon, Mr. Speaker.

And the reason why is because they look at this project and they know that there's a lot of information that has been gathered in this project on the construction, on the operating data, the environmental permitting, the training, the commissioning, the project management. All of those are the areas of expertise that SaskPower has gained through this project, Mr. Speaker, expertise that has been gained by the IBEW workers down at the facility, Mr. Speaker. That's the kind of technology that is being commercialized here, Mr. Speaker.

And I think that's why, Mr. Speaker, Carolyn Preston, an international expert in these areas, concluded by saying this — and I think this is very important — that "We all need to be patient." Mr. Speaker, she says, "I, myself, am confident it will work . . ." And, Mr. Speaker, this government shares that confidence. The NDP should get on board.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Asking leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Moose Jaw North has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and all my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to my fellow members, I would like to introduce some special guests here in the Legislative Assembly. Joining us in the west gallery are 22 grade 7 and 8 students from Coronach high school. If we could get a little wave from the Coronach . . . There we go. And also we've got 26 grade 8 students from St. Michael School in Moose Jaw. A little wave. Thank you. Accompanying them today are their teachers, their chaperones, and ministry officials from the Provincial Capital Commission, Mr. Speaker.

These students are here today in the capital to participate in a Day in the Legislative Assembly program. These students will have the opportunity to tour the building, observe MLAs

[Member of the Legislative Assembly] at work — and it's a little different from what you just saw — and engage in a panel discussion followed by a question-and-answer session right here in the Chamber this afternoon.

I ask all members to welcome these students to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Why is the minister on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests as well.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join with my colleague from Moose Jaw in welcoming these students to their legislature today. As the member mentioned, we have students from my constituency, from the town of Coronach that have joined us, and I'm looking forward to have an opportunity to meet with them later today. And I hope they enjoy their time here at the legislature and in the capital city.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request leave to introduce a specific guest.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join the Minister of Health and the member from Moose Jaw in welcoming the students to their Legislative Assembly.

It's not too often that I get family here, Mr. Speaker, but I do have my nephew up there. Landon, if you can give us a wave. I see you're going really red in the face. Landon is a star hockey player down with his peewee team, Assiniboia, wearing the famous no. 9. I very much appreciate Landon coming down. And now he's covering up his face, Mr. Speaker. But the MacLeans family down in Fife Lake area are good farming, Saskatchewan multi-generational Saskatchewan farmers, and good friends and obviously good family and good advisers on enlightening me in the agricultural file. So again, Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Landon and his classmates to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Why is the minister on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Ask leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Rural and Remote Health has

requested leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, in the excitement of introducing guests during the normal time, the member from Wascana Plains and I forgot to introduce some more specific guests in your gallery. We introduced Taylor and Mya, obviously, with what they've done. But also I forgot to introduce both Amy Ewart and Trevor Ewart, Taylor's mom and dad, I believe; and her brother, Kade, as well as Tricia and Craig Slobodian, Mya's mom and dad. So I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 125 through 128.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 1,025 to 1,028. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to order the answers to questions 129 through 131.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered responses to questions 1,029 to 1,031. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,032 through 1,035.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 1,032 to 1,035. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask leave to move a motion regarding commemoration proceedings.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked leave to move a motion regarding commemorative proceedings. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Commemorative Proceedings

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

That members be permitted to wear military decorations in the Chamber during proceedings on Monday, November

the 9th, 2015 in order to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That members be permitted to wear military decorations in the Chamber during proceedings on Monday, November 9th, 2015 in order to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

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.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

Carbon Capture and Storage Project

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I'm always pleased to be able to enter into debate in the Assembly here. Today I'm moving a motion that I think is quite urgent and important for the people of Saskatchewan. And we've seen a lot of discussion and a lot of words flying about here in the last few weeks about the one and a half billion dollar carbon capture project down in Estevan. So at the end of my 15 minutes, I'm going to be moving a motion saying we need to do more and we need to make sure that this government comes clean with all the facts on this project.

And I mean just right off the hop, Mr. Speaker, and a follow-up to question period, it was interesting to note that the minister quoted an expert, that he cited even her credentials on this subject, but he didn't give the full story from the article that he was reading from. And I think it's very important to put on the record what this woman also said about the carbon capture project.

In the second half of the column — this is by Bruce Johnstone in today's *Leader-Post* — it says that there's a problem with the amine solution, the solvent, that's getting dirty basically by fly ash. And that's a very simple layperson's perspective. But here's what she said, and this is a quote from the article: "In fact, she said the contaminated amine solvent is currently being shipped to Ontario to be 'reclaimed' before being returned to Estevan." . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Now the minister says, she's wrong and it's Alberta. So I don't know if he thinks she's credible or not.

But at any rate, this amine solution is not being cleaned on site. We're actually shipping this stuff out of province — I'm sure the minister will agree with that — before being returned to

Estevan for reuse in the capture process. And the quote from this expert says, "That (amine solvent process reclaiming process) should be done on site."

So there's another extra cost that this government has incurred by causing this amine solution, which is getting really dirty because of the contaminants coming out of the flue gas stream . . . So why have they not done that? Why aren't they keeping that here? And again the minister's disagreeing with his expert that he was originally citing as a case for his point.

So she goes on to say that, you know, there's construction issues that are causing all these shutdowns. Things aren't built the way they were supposed to be built. There's cost overruns. We know the amine tank itself has been leaking, and they couldn't figure out why it was leaking. They tried all kinds of solutions to fix it. Labour costs were extremely high during the construction phase. And there's a number of other comments.

She said the construction deficiencies are probably the primary problem. This is a quote from her: ". . . because the plant was not built the way SaskPower wanted it built." That's another quote from her. So not only are there a number of problems with the operations plant, but there's a whole host of problems associated with construction. So time and time again, Mr. Speaker, we keep hearing in dribs and drabs and bits and pieces about the problems that presumably were known to this government all along.

Now one of the things I wanted to point out in the very short time that I have here is the fact that I think a lot of the members opposite have not been getting those memos, because I have a number of quotes from various members talking about how this project is working so well. For example, in the Economy committee on March 31st, 2015, we have the minister then for the Environment telling us, here's a quote from her, this is . . . Sorry. March 31st:

That includes things that have been discussed here tonight that have real reductions in carbon CO₂ emissions in the province of Saskatchewan, such as the carbon capture and storage project at Boundary dam 3, which we are all aware removes 1 million tonnes of carbon or CO₂ from the atmosphere each and every year.

[11:00]

When clearly the minister should have been told, he should have known that that was not the truth at all, and in fact it's much, much less. We're looking at 400,000. And even this year, 2015, we know it's going to be much less than 1 million tonnes of carbon. So why wasn't even the Minister of Environment given the proper notification about what was really happening at Boundary dam?

He said something again on March 19th, Mr. Speaker, here in the Assembly. And I quote again; this is the Minister of the Environment saying, "Boundary dam 3 which is reducing those emissions by in excess of 90 per cent, Mr. Speaker." So that was in March of this year. At that time, the then minister of the Environment should have been told, at least by the Premier or the Minister for the Economy, that that was not the truth and that he shouldn't be saying things in this House when other

people in the cabinet know that it isn't really exactly happening.

Another member that didn't get the memo on what's happening at Boundary dam was the member for Walsh Acres. And on March 5th, 2015, he said a number of things about Boundary dam which clearly were not accurate. First of all, he said, "CO₂ capture is expected pre-launch of 1 million tonnes, and then we're on target to hit that 1 million tonnes." That's a quote from the member from Walsh Acres.

He went on to say, "We're reaching all the targets that were put in place for Boundary dam 3 and the project that we think was well worth the investment." So again the member from Walsh Acres obviously didn't get the memos from the SaskPower officials.

We have the current Minister of the Environment who is getting up and providing a commentary on November 13th of last year, so about a year ago, and it was — actually this is interesting — it was his address to the Speech to the Throne. And, Mr. Speaker, it's ironic somewhat that at this time last year, we were winding up our replies to the Speech to the Throne, where here, in this particular stage, we aren't any . . . Well we didn't have an opportunity to comment on any Speech to the Throne because there was no Speech to the Throne.

But here we are, almost at the end of the proceedings, when this time last year we weren't even getting into the debating of bills. Makes me wonder what kind of agenda this government is bringing forward and why they didn't bother to do so when they had the opportunity here at the beginning of this part of the session.

At any rate, we have the member for, the current Minister of the Environment who was speaking in the House last year on November 13th. And he said, "I think this is a project that indicates that Saskatchewan is . . . hitting above its weight." And he goes on to say, "We're taking the equivalent of 250,000 cars off our highways." Well clearly somebody should have told the current Minister of the Environment that that wasn't in fact the case and it isn't going to be achievable, at least in the near future. So these members, I feel bad for them because they should have been informed.

Again we have the member from Regina, I think it's southeast, anyway on November 3rd, 2014, he said, "More than 90 per cent of the carbon dioxide emitted at Boundary dam . . . will be captured and stored for use in enhanced oil recovery operations in mature oil fields." So there's again another member who didn't get the memo, who wasn't informed, and wasn't kept alive to what was really going on at Boundary dam 3.

And it's not just members opposite, Mr. Speaker, who have been kept in the dark, and that's the true tragedy of this debate that we're raising right now. Saskatchewan people . . . And what I'm worried about here is we have a Premier and a Minister of the Economy, we have high-ranking SaskPower officials who are flying around the world on our dollar. They're bringing people in from all around the world, and they're embarrassing us, Mr. Speaker, on an international stage by blowing their horns about a technology that still isn't proven either technically, economically, or environmentally, Mr. Speaker. They should have hung on to their celebrations at least

until we know that this was going to work. And it's still not clear that it's going to work.

We have all kinds of cost overruns. We have all kinds of misleading information coming out. We have, you know, half a million dollars in travel by a vice-president of a Crown corporation just to hope that someday someone will come knocking on our door. I mean, I think this is probably the single biggest issue that we've seen come forward in the last little while, where we have seen misleading information. We've seen stories coming out that don't match, and we've seen a lot of money being spent on a project that still isn't proven.

So again, I think, as the official opposition it's certainly our responsibility to raise these questions in the House and, as we've asked, perhaps have a committee convene — and obviously the Crown and Central Agencies Committee would be the obvious place for a legislative body to ask real, direct questions about this project — but again the government turned down the opportunity to have a clear and thorough and revealing discussion about what's really going on down there.

Another thing that concerns me is the false choices that this government is throwing out there. It's clear in many countries across the world that a diverse power grid and a diverse economy is the way to go, and many, many companies or countries are looking at a much more diverse portfolio when it comes to energy and a much more diverse range of jobs.

So jobs are definitely not ever lost in a green economy. In fact there's many statistics, and I can share articles with the minister that show that other technologies, other energy-producing technologies actually create more jobs than coal. And so that's what we're talking about. I'd be happy to share this with the minister from Walsh Acres, and I'll email it to him as soon as I'm finished the debate today. I'd be happy to share it. I'm happy to share that information and I will share that information.

So I think that they're raising bogeymen and they're raising false choices here, Mr. Speaker. And I think that in itself is misleading to the workers, to the workers down in Estevan. I think it's misleading to them, and I think it's misleading to workers in general in Saskatchewan. We need a power economy and an environmental economy that creates good green jobs. And there's no reason for this government not to engage in that, other than they've locked themselves in in their one idea, their one egg in one basket and, Mr. Speaker, I think that's a real disservice to the people of Saskatchewan.

And never once has anyone said that this is meant to be shut down. What we're saying is that we have to be smart about our power grid, and that this kind of putting everything into one basket goes against the grain of what every other, every other jurisdiction in the world is looking at. It goes directly in the face of that.

And for our Premier to go to Paris in December and hold up a shining light to this project I think is a disservice as well to the Saskatchewan people. Until such time that it proves itself technically, ecologically, and environmentally and economically, there's a lot of things left to prove before we should be blowing any horns about this project anywhere

outside of our boundaries. So I think this government better just pull in the reins a little bit until they figure out what the heck is going on, and then and only then should we start blowing our horn about this technology.

There's a number of things that I . . . Unfortunately we don't have a 750-minute debate, Mr. Speaker, because I think there's a lot of points that could be made about this project. But what we really want to make the point here is that this is just another misplaced priority of this government. Their bet on a carbon capture experiment using money that belongs to SaskPower customers and taxpayers is in jeopardy. Instead of being upfront with taxpayers when the project is sputtering through failures and flaws, operating at only about 40 per cent of its targeted capacity over a year after it was opened, they just spend more to promote it as a mission accomplished.

And again I think this is embarrassing to the people of Saskatchewan and it should be stopped. The penalties, the repairs, and the losses are piling up, and this government still refuses to convene the Crown and Central Agencies Committee, refuses to be transparent about what's going on, but it continues to blow a horn that is out of air.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has raised power bills on Saskatchewan people by about 40 per cent since they came into power, using the smart meter fiasco and now the carbon capture boondoggle. It's clear that the price families pay is just not this government's priority.

We celebrate innovation of course, but the Sask Party government has let down Saskatchewan taxpayers with their poor handling of this project. Saskatchewan taxpayers invested \$1.5 billion into this experiment, and we still have no idea what the total cost will be. We know that we're paying penalties. We paid \$12 million in penalties last year to the oil company that we're supposed to be making money off of, and now we know that we're on track this year to pay another 5 or \$6 million in penalties. That's not the way this is supposed to work, Mr. Speaker.

And we've been let down by this government's excitement about a project that is still unproven. We know that this money, it belongs to Saskatchewan families, and it seems that the Sask Party has forgotten that. And it seems they've also forgotten that in order to get the \$250 million commitment from the feds, they had to give up on our equalization lawsuit. So there's a lot of things the government's given up just to entice getting the money from the federal government for this project which again is . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — The debate will continue. Both of the members yelling across the floor will have the opportunity to participate, so why not wait until then? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to be asking a lot more questions. Wish we could do it in committee where it's the right place to do it, but I will raise these questions today. I know we won't get answers, but after a multi-billion-dollar investment, millions of dollars in penalties,

repairs, expenses, and lawsuits, the question again, Mr. Speaker, is where did all that money go?

And then the second question that is raised on this project is, what are we selling? We have no idea. How are Saskatchewan people ever going to get their money back from this project? I think even if it was working, it's a many-decades return, if in fact there is an oil industry to continue to sell the liquid carbon to. So the question is not only where did all the money go, but what are we selling? And this government has not been able to answer that question at all.

So we have our VP flying all across the world selling . . . we're not sure what. We don't own the technology. We know that the corporations own the technology. So what's in it for Saskatchewan taxpayers other than higher power bills? We know — again I mentioned this earlier — taxpayers are expected to foot an additional 5 to \$6 million in penalties, and we know that this is a sweetheart deal for Sask Party donor Cenovus.

So seeing that my time unfortunately has come to an end, at this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move the following motion:

That this Assembly condemns the Premier and SaskPower minister for not giving Saskatchewan people the facts about the \$1.5 billion carbon capture project.

And I so move.

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Nutana has moved:

That this Assembly condemns the Premier and Saskatchewan Power minister for not giving Saskatchewan people the facts about the 1.5 billion carbon capture project.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And first off, Mr. Speaker, you're going to have to forgive me because I have a terrible cold. But this debate is too important for me to not be a part of, as it has detrimental effects on my constituency. But despite my cold, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to enter this debate on the carbon capture unit at Boundary dam power station. And of course, Mr. Speaker, as you would know, Boundary dam is located in my constituency, the constituency of Estevan, which I have been very proud to represent since 1999.

Mr. Speaker, because of environmental concerns the federal government was coming down . . . was bringing in and was among the first in the world to legislate on emission reductions for coal-fired plants, and that is the reason why this took place. And you know, the sequestered carbon is used to enhance oil recovery.

And, Mr. Speaker, carbon capture and sequestration is not unproven. In fact, as I stated last fall when I spoke on this issue, the first carbon capture and storage project dates back to 1979, and many have successfully stored carbon dioxide underground for over 30 years. And I know my colleague from Weyburn-Big

Muddy will attest to this, that one of these projects is in the Midale-Weyburn oil field.

However, Mr. Speaker, it is the first project of this scale. Unit 3 at Boundary dam was nearing the end of its production years and was the ideal situation for retrofit. So the question was, do we just decommission it or do we use world-leading technology to capture the carbon? And, Mr. Speaker, the technology works. There are some mechanical problems, granted, but the technology does work. But, Mr. Speaker, we chose the latter. Estevan has coal deposits to last 100 years, and this is a very affordable source of power, so it only made sense.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, there are the jobs down there. There are about 300-plus workers at Boundary dam power station at any given time, jobs at the coal mines, and other spinoff jobs. So employment is probably right around 1,000 men and women in the Estevan area alone. And, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss at this point if I did not mention that, at the peak of construction, there were around 1,700 employees down there and not one man-hour lost due to accidents. And this is something that all the employees, employers, and everyone in this province can be very proud of.

[11:15]

But, Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether anyone over there has even been out to the carbon capture project. I'd almost bet on that. But they just don't like it. They had their mind made up before, you know, it was even built. As soon as it was announced, they had their mind made up on this one. But it's easier to sit back and criticize. In fact the Leader of the Opposition, during question period when the member from Nutana was asking questions on this, he was sitting in his seat laughing about this project.

And we know the mover of the motion, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, is against this. And I've got a quote here in fact, and I'm quoting, Mr. Speaker: "Cathy Sproule, NDP MLA for Saskatoon Nutana, has opposed SaskPower's implementation of carbon capture technology." And another quote from her is . . . And that previous quote was in *The Estevan Mercury*, February 17th, 2015. And another quote from her is this, and I quote, "At one point the NDP supported carbon capture, but has since moved away from it, while the Sask Party still supports the concept." And that was that same member from Saskatoon Nutana in *The Melville Advance* on May 22nd, 2013.

But you know this is troubling because the leader during his leadership campaign said this, and it's called "A Greener Future," and I'm quoting again, Mr. Speaker:

Cam's vision for a greener future includes . . . making our province a world leader in safe, environmentally friendly and economically viable carbon capture and sequestration by equipping our current power plants with mechanisms to safely capture and sequester CO₂ emissions and permitting SaskPower to profit from its knowledge and innovation by marketing CCS technology.

So you know it's just really, really confusing, Mr. Speaker, because they're all over the map on this one and I'll just add

another one into the mix here. And it says that, and I'll quote again, Mr. Speaker:

The possibility of coal generation with near-zero emissions along with enhanced oil recovery and permanent sequestration of CO₂ has tremendous potential for both the provincial economy and the environment.

And that was the minister for SaskPower that said that and that's the minister of SaskPower, the member from Regina Lakeview, Mr. Speaker.

So they are all over the map on this one, Mr. Speaker, but when the member from Saskatoon Nutana was up quoting Carolyn Preston, there was more to the quote too, and it's got:

Still, Preston defends SaskPower's choice of CCS technology and its courage in building the first commercial-scale, post-combustion carbon capture plant on a coal-fired generating station in the world. [She says] "We all need to be patient. I, myself, am confident it will work . . ."

And, Mr. Speaker, there are so many other quotes that I could give to you on the positive comments that have been made regarding this, but I can also remember in 2011, Peter Prebble. He was a former cabinet minister for the NDP and he just wants coal shut down. And I think that's what the members over there want too, Mr. Speaker. You cannot have it both ways. You can't have it both ways. Either . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And the member there is chirping from her seat. She had her time; I've got mine.

What are you going to do? If the environmental regulations state that those emissions cannot happen, if you don't clean up the coal, what do you do? You have to shut the plants down and that's what the NDP want to work but all the people in the Estevan constituency that work out at Boundary dam, where you would never have a hope of having a member from . . . And I'm going to make sure this is public out there. I'm going to make sure that everyone out there knows where your candidate out there stands on this. I'm sure he's in line with the rest of you. But we are going to make sure that that candidate, that the people of that constituency knows where your candidate stands out there.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, there's also a letter from Neil Collins, and I'm going to read that. And Neil is a person from Estevan, worked at Boundary dam in Estevan. He ran for the Liberals against me in 1999. Neil is now business manager and financial secretary for IBEW Local 2067, and here's what he says — and I am quoting, Mr. Speaker:

Dear Mr. Broten:

I am very concerned about the recent comments you have made regarding Boundary Dam Carbon Capture and Sequestration project. Our union members work very hard on this project and fully support this important initiative.

While I recognize that it is the role of opposition to ask questions about government actions, your comments and that of your critic Cathy Sproule calls into question your

position on this matter.

Do you support the carbon capture project as a means to reduce carbon emissions at our coal-fired plants or do you intend to eliminate coal-fired electrical facilities in Saskatchewan, thereby eliminating hundreds of union jobs?

The CCS project is crucial to both Saskatchewan's economy and our environment. This is an important public policy question, and our members are interested in your immediate response.

And you know what? The Leader of the Opposition is a wonderful dancer because he dances around this issue every time he's asked. He skirts it. He will not . . . He's a fence-sitter. He will not answer it. At least the member from Saskatoon Nutana has come out right off the bat and says, you know what, I don't like it. I'm not even giving it a chance, but I don't like it. That's more than her leader has done. And he needs to tell the people of Saskatchewan where he stands on this project. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I will definitely not be supporting this motion.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's not with pleasure that I enter this debate, Mr. Speaker, but certainly it's an important discussion. You know, normally it's with pleasure you enter into, you have the constructive exchange on this floor. And you know, it's a shame that we're forced to be dealing with this project in this way, Mr. Speaker.

It's unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that the government opposite has been unwilling to be clear, clean and clear with Saskatchewan people when it comes to this project, a project, Mr. Speaker, that has torqued up the bills of Saskatchewan people, the power bills of Saskatchewan people all across this province in a massive way. And it's just the start, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Members opposite shout "wrong," Mr. Speaker.

This is the sad reality of the lack of basic understanding of the economics of a project like this by members opposite. They took on a project, Mr. Speaker, despite internal recommendations and advice that this was a highly costly experimental project, Mr. Speaker. And that cabinet thought they knew best. That cabinet, Mr. Speaker, wanted to, I guess, Mr. Speaker, to stand out in some way, and certainly they have, Mr. Speaker. We are, as Saskatchewan, now we're the only jurisdiction of course with this experimental process with \$1.5 billion, Mr. Speaker, on the hook. And sadly, Mr. Speaker, and in a very embarrassing way, we have a government that won't come clean with Saskatchewan people about its operations, about its effectiveness, about its cost, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Saskatchewan people are working hard all across this province, in every corner of this province, Mr. Speaker. And what Saskatchewan people deserve is a government that's going to take care of the basics, that they're going to make sure that there's power generation for the future, that it's done in an affordable way, and that we have good jobs in SaskPower, Mr. Speaker. Instead what we see from this government is a

government intent on undermining those good jobs at SaskPower, SaskPower itself, Mr. Speaker, and sticking a massive bill with the people of Saskatchewan.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it was clear by way of briefing notes that have exposed this government that they knew from the get-go, right from the Premier's desk, that this experiment was non-economic, Mr. Speaker, and it was highly risky. The costs from the get-go and for many years forward are being piled on to the power bills of Saskatchewan people who quite frankly are struggling in many cases with the cost of living. They deserve better from their government, a government who in its second term and as they've grown with this big majority seems to have really fallen out of touch with Saskatchewan people, the priorities that are important to them, and have lost interest in making sure that decisions and tax dollars are used in a way that benefit Saskatchewan people.

We have a government that's outsourcing in our Crown corporations on front after front after front to the detriment of good, mortgage-paying jobs here in Saskatchewan, to the detriment of ratepayers and taxpayers in this province, Mr. Speaker. We see a government that rammed forward without a business case, without an economic case, without sound certainty as to what bet they were making, Mr. Speaker, and they placed Saskatchewan people in a highly vulnerable position, Mr. Speaker.

We deserve a government that can deliver safe, affordable power to Saskatchewan people, that can ensure the integrity of our Crown corporations, in this case SaskPower, and to ensure good jobs for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. The actions, reckless actions and misleading statements of this government undermine the integrity of that Crown, the viability of certainly this project, and Saskatchewan people are holding them to account.

You know, Mr. Speaker, this is a government that claims poverty on front after front where it matters in people's lives, yet they've got \$1.5 billion for an experiment with no basis, Mr. Speaker, from a financial perspective. They've got \$1.5 billion, Mr. Speaker, that they're sticking directly on the tabs of Saskatchewan people. You know, it's noteworthy, Mr. Speaker, when the private sector won't go near something, and it's pretty worrisome when government chases it hook, line, and sinker without the oversight and scrutiny that Saskatchewan people deserve.

In this case, Mr. Speaker, they've put taxpayers on the hook. The bills are being passed to Saskatchewan people, and the cheques, Mr. Speaker, because we know this government's terrible with its contracts and protecting taxpayers, the cheques are going back to a big oil company, Mr. Speaker. And that doesn't make any sense. How on earth would the people of Saskatchewan be forced into stroking cheques, \$12 million last year in penalties to an oil company, this year even more, Mr. Speaker, to the tune of millions of dollars, all while the losses are piling up and this project is hemorrhaging dollars?

But, Mr. Speaker, you know, so as I say, this project, even if it was working, is the most expensive power this government could have put on the bills of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. \$1.5 billion for a little over 100 megawatts is

ridiculous, Mr. Speaker, absolutely ridiculous. The costs that they're putting on Saskatchewan people are unfair and it certainly reflects a government that's certainly lost touch with the reality of who really pays the bills in this province, Mr. Speaker, but it's paid by Saskatchewan people.

It's also about trust, Mr. Speaker. And you know, you should be able to trust what's coming from government. You should be able to trust, when the Premier says something throughout the year and when the minister opposite does, that it's based in fact. And if this project, this highly costly project, Mr. Speaker, was going off track, as it clearly did, with in the end really underwhelming and very poor performance, Mr. Speaker, we should have had a Premier with the backbone, Mr. Speaker, and the integrity to be clear with Saskatchewan people about the costs. Instead we had a Premier, a minister, and officials directed by government to go out around the world and to tell a story, Mr. Speaker, a very tall tale, Mr. Speaker, that's inconsistent with the very basic facts, Mr. Speaker. We have a government, Mr. Speaker, that's globe-trotting around at the dime of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, you know, to the tune of half a million dollars, Mr. Speaker. And we can't determine and the minister certainly hasn't been able to clarify what they're actually selling, Mr. Speaker.

It seems, Mr. Speaker, that this government thinks somehow that this Crown corporation and the bills of Saskatchewan people are just a big piggy bank for them to play around with experimental technology, Mr. Speaker, to not do due diligence on files that are really important, and to get all over the world, Mr. Speaker, with a story that's not consistent with what's going on here.

You know, we owe it to certainly those around the world to tell them what's actually going on with this project, to share the real cost, to let them know how highly risky and how highly costly this project was from the get-go and certainly to let them know as it relates to the poor performance and the massive problems that this project has experienced, Mr. Speaker.

But beyond sharing that with US [United States] senators who certainly deserve the truth, Mr. Speaker, not a tall tale inconsistent with the facts, and certainly entities and companies around the world, they deserve the truth as well, Mr. Speaker. But I'll tell you who deserve the truth the most, Mr. Speaker: Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan families, Saskatchewan communities who are picking up the tab for yet another debacle of this government.

[11:30]

The waste and debacles this government has entered into, Mr. Speaker, and putting taxpayers on the hook, are now many. And these aren't small potatoes, Mr. Speaker. These are big dollars, Mr. Speaker, dollars that Saskatchewan people are on the hook for, for a long period of time. We're talking about a bypass that went from \$400 million to nearly \$2 billion, and in a nonsensical world over there, they somehow think it's good common sense to have a Paris company with serious allegations engage to do that work.

To build a bypass, Mr. Speaker, quite frankly, within the city doesn't make any sense, Mr. Speaker, but the tab's picked up

by Saskatchewan people, by government that grew big and grew arrogant, I guess, Mr. Speaker, and certainly fell out of touch with what really matters to Saskatchewan families.

It is embarrassing, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier of this province, that the minister of this file, Mr. Speaker, and the whole front bench in cabinet, Mr. Speaker, haven't been clean with Saskatchewan people on this front. When we get a tweet and we get a statement from members opposite, Saskatchewan people deserve to trust it. But you know what, Mr. Speaker? Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan people will hold members accountable for those kinds of actions.

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to Saskatchewan people to make smart investments in this Crown corporation. We owe it to Saskatchewan people to not subject them to ridiculous costs and risks that aren't fair, Mr. Speaker. We owe it to the workers of this province and those in this Crown corporation to build power generation, Mr. Speaker, that serves Saskatchewan today and well into the future. The actions of this government undermine that trust, Mr. Speaker, and they undermine that Crown corporation. They certainly don't serve the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

I certainly support the words and motion of the member from Nutana. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to start off this debate and I'm very excited to get into this debate. I want to admit, I'm not an engineer. I'm not an expert in BD3. I'm not an expert in carbon capture and sequestration, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

What I would like to ask, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is have any members from the opposition actually taken the highway down to Estevan and go and look at the facility? Just do a drive-by. Just even see it outside of the Internet or from their experts that they're talking about that have . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Sutherland has quite a strong voice, but I am having . . . Order. There's a lot of chatter across the way. If members want to have discussions, take it behind the bar. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. If need be I can amp up my voice to make sure that the opposition is not drowning me out with their chatter.

Again I want to follow up with this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to know if they've actually gone down there, first of all. Have they even driven through Estevan other than maybe the local candidate? Secondly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to know have they talked to anybody in the industry. Are they just getting their researchers to be able to channel them some quick little information, and some information that isn't factually correct, Mr. Deputy Speaker? It's not accurate to what the facts are.

They seem to be thinking over there that they're the experts in all industries. They're experts in P3s, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They're experts in carbon capture sequestration. They're experts in power. They're not, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

They need to be able to sit down and talk to the people. Yes, as the minister has indicated, are we operating at peak capacity? No. Do we have some issues that we're working out with the contractor that built this, as also with the people that are operating it, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Yes. We have some issues and we're working that out. It's called commissioning the project.

I think this happened with the synchrotron where it was down for a year. Nobody was lighting their hair on fire saying that this is a horrible project, that we can't do this, that we have to stop.

But the fundamental question which the opposition has not identified, the people in this Chamber want to know, are they for clean coal or are they for shutting down coal? It's a very simple question, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We want to know, the people of Saskatchewan want to know, and as we found out just recently, the IBEW wants to know what their position is.

Now these are unionized people down in Estevan area that are working hard, first of all to build the project, Mr. Deputy Speaker, second of all to get the project running. And they have a lot of pride, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they are making this project a success because they want to be able to be involved when we have 260 companies around the world coming down to Estevan, Saskatchewan to be able to look at what we're doing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's absolutely amazing that they can't answer a simple question: are they for clean coal or are they against coal altogether? And from what I've been told, 44 per cent of our electricity in Saskatchewan comes from coal, coal generated.

Now I'd like to know what their option is, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if they're against coal and they shut down all of coal in Saskatchewan, as I believe the member from Nutana has alluded to. If they want to shut down everything in Saskatchewan, where are we going to get this 44 per cent? Where are we going to get this power generation coming into Saskatchewan? I would like to see a proposal put forward by the opposition to be able to say okay, we don't like clean coal; we're against it, but here's our option.

Because you know what, Mr. Deputy Speaker? They continue to find ways to throw mud at this government and be able to say . . . But they don't come up with a viable option for the people of Saskatchewan. And you know what, Mr. Deputy Speaker? The people of Saskatchewan aren't buying this anymore. They're not just coming out and saying, well we're against the Saskatchewan Party government. They want to see some options. They want to see some platform ideas from this. What are you going to do with clean coal? What are you going to do with this? You cannot keep coming out and just saying, we're against the Saskatchewan Party government. Sooner or later the people over there are going to have to start deciding on where they are on the fence. Are they on this side of the fence with

clean coal and being able to work with Boundary dam 3 and carbon capture sequestration, or are they against coal and they're going to shut it down? If they're against coal, then they better come up with a plan on how to fix the problem and how to be able to create 44 per cent of the energy that's going to be gone as soon as we shut down the coal plants.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I wanted to touch base was an article that came out today, and I think the minister references in question period. But what we're looking at over here is experts in the industry, people that actually have engineering degrees, that have worked on power plants and actually visited power plants and been there working, solving problems.

What we have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is we have Carolyn Preston. Carolyn is the principal of CKP & Associates in Calgary. Now I just want to give a little bit of information about that. Preston, who has a Ph.D. degree in engineering and chemistry — I would consider that an expert in the industry — said that the CO₂ project is a great project, that we are working and we're marketing a project that is revolutionary.

As we know, we have 100 years of coal energy within Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but around the world there are coal plants popping up every single day. And what are they looking at? They're going to have environmental regulations on them just like our federal government has put, that if you're going to produce coal, use coal to produce energy, you're going to have to meet these standards. We're meeting those standards and actually we're surpassing those standards. And because we're surpassing those standards, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have people around the world that are coming to us and saying, can you please share this technology with us? Can you please? We will look at this because we have to meet the environmental regulations throughout the world, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But I want to touch base just on a couple of things that have come out. I'm not sure if they classify this as policy over there, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but one of the things that came out was from the member from Nutana, and her quote was, "At one point the NDP supported carbon capture, but has since moved away from it." Now I wonder if the member from Nutana is going to stick to that. I wonder if the party leader and the entire opposition is going to stick to that. And the quote continues, "While the SaskParty still supports the concept . . ."

Of course we support it. We're standing behind the people down at BD3. We're standing behind the technology. And I can't wait to stand up in this legislature, quote every one of them from *Hansard* who slammed this project when we are going to be a success in this project and we have people taking this technology around the world, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But one of the ones that I found most interesting in doing my research, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was this quote, "The possibility of coal generation with near zero emissions, along with enhanced oil recovery and permanent sequestration of carbon dioxide, has tremendous potential for both our provincial economy and the environment." And that would have been the minister at the time responsible for SaskPower, the member from Saskatoon Lakeview.

So again we keep seeing them over there. One is for . . . The

member for Nutana, we can't do this; the member from Lakeview, yes, we should do this. You know what? Maybe if they had some leadership over there, they could actually make a decision and follow through with it and tell the people in this Chamber first of all, then tell the people in Saskatchewan what they're doing.

And then I want them to drive down the highway, go down to the member from Estevan and talk to the people down there and make sure that they understand this. Because I don't believe that they completely understand what's going on down there — the job creation, the power, the technology. And what I find the most disappointing is that the members opposite have no faith in the people of Saskatchewan. They have no faith in the people of Saskatchewan to be able to create this technology, to be able to build this technology, and to be able to market this technology. It's absolutely shameful, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they don't have the integrity to be able to support the people of Saskatchewan in creating a new idea. Probably because they haven't had a new idea over there for a long time, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But the idea of supporting the people from Saskatchewan saying, yes, you know what? We can stand up on the world stage. We can show what we've done. We can market our technology. And we can make sure that we're helping out all the coal plants across the world to be able to develop them so they can use this carbon sequestration project and be able to add to them.

I don't understand why they continue to put the people of Saskatchewan down. They've thrown officials under the bus. They've thrown engineers on the bus. They seem to be experts in everything, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but they lack the faith in Saskatchewan ingenuity to be able to solve this problem and move forward, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They don't do that.

And I would encourage every one of them to zip down the highway to Estevan, talk to the people down there because I'd really like to hear what the local candidate has done there for the New Democratic Party. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to say that I am very disappointed in the opposition because all they seem to be doing in there . . . I hoped that they would form an effective opposition, but all they are is naysayers, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

They don't like anything that we're doing over here, but yet they don't come up with any solutions on what they were going to do. I'd love to hear a solution from anybody over there on how you're going to make up for the 44 per cent lack of power when they go . . . if they ever had the privilege of forming government, which I'm really hopeful will not happen, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to know where they stand on this. So I will not be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to enter into this debate, and I've listened with great interest to all the people making contributions this morning. And I particularly want to thank the thoughtful contributions

from our side. I have questions, a lot, on the other side. I have to tell you, it's like they haven't read the motion for today, and that is:

That this Assembly condemns the Premier and SaskPower minister for not giving Saskatchewan people the facts [the facts] about the \$1.5 billion carbon capture project.

And that's what the issue is all about.

Now the member before me would want to, really want to talk about other issues, other issues. And we can have those debates. They have their time when they can put forward their motions about clean coal, but this is really a diversion. What the people want to know is the honest truth about this project, what's really happening, because they're getting so many mixed messages. This government is out spinning, spinning, spinning around the world a project that we don't know what the results will be for the people of Saskatchewan. It's so simple. The people of Saskatchewan are the shareholders of SaskPower and they want to know, what is going on? It's a simple question: the facts, the honest stuff, the honest truth. And what we're getting is spin, spin, spin, and we're finding out from . . . The president of SaskPower said the other day that they're hoping someday someone will knock on their door. And we're getting really worried about this, really worried about this.

And the people of Saskatchewan, over the eight years we've had the Sask Party in government, have seen their rates go up some 40-some per cent, 40-some per cent, so they're really concerned. It's not like rates are going down in Saskatchewan; they're going up. And they're looking at this \$1.5 billion project and they wonder what's going on.

Now this government side would want to divert the attention away, and they want to talk about clean coal or not clean coal. We can have that debate another day, and they can put it forward and we'll have that debate. They can talk about IBEW and lost jobs. It's not about that at all. They want to divert the attention. And I haven't seen . . . This is really so strange. This is so strange. This is a government that cut 350 union jobs from laundry through K-Bro in Prince Albert and other centres around the province. Did they care at all about that? No. Those jobs are lost. And all of a sudden, all of a sudden they have found, they have come to labour's side. I find that really passing strange. But it's not about that. It's not about that.

[11:45]

Let's get back to the debate. The questions we've had have been . . . Just give us the straight, honest goods. We are the shareholders of SaskPower. We deserve the honest truth and not spin, not spin. That's pretty simple. That's pretty simple. And it's a business way of doing things, the honest truth. If you're investing \$1.5 billion in a project, it better work and you better know what the business plan is. They want to talk about other things.

And I found it passing strange that this government and the minister and some of the members have held up this article from today. And again, you know, it's interesting because it's good to have people who are balanced. And it's interesting that she says with time this should do better. But she really points

out the downfalls of what's happened earlier, or earlier on in the plan that's caused us to be where we are today, for example, when she talks about where she's confident in the project but she says it's "... been hobbled by cost overruns, construction deficiencies and operating problems."

So she says, and I quote, "SaskPower did ... almost unbelievable [things]. They commercialized a technology that wasn't ready to be commercialized." We didn't hear that. They weren't talking about that. We didn't know that, but they commercialized it before it was really ready. And in fact and we've heard the member from Saskatoon Nutana talk about it, and I quote: "In fact, she said the contaminated amine solvent is currently being shipped to Ontario to be 'reclaimed' before being returned to Estevan for reuse in the capture process. 'That ... should be done on site.'"

So pointing out all sorts of issues that have happened. But we haven't heard that. We haven't heard that. And this government has refused consistently to come forward and admit that there were mistakes and really come forward with the business plan. And so we really have some, we have some questions. Because at the end of the day, it's the people of Saskatchewan who will pay, and they're hoping that they get a return and this isn't one big white elephant.

You know, we are wanting to make sure this thing at some point ... I mean it's producing power, 100 megawatts, sometimes 120 megawatts, but at a cost of 1.5 billion. That's pretty expensive electricity, but it's there. But we've got to make sure that works, and we really want to make sure the other part of it works. But really some honest truth, and this is really a real problem for this government.

And I think that if they want to quote articles, here's one, and this really gets back to condemning the Premier and the SaskPower minister. And this is an article from Murray Mandryk, and I quote, "Bill Boyd and his latest billion dollar-glitch." And I want to quote:

When Bill Boyd speaks of "glitches" in government, he does so with considerable authority.

"Glitches" — and we're talking about glitches of the billion-dollar variety — have pretty much defined the eight-year career of the Saskatchewan Party government's economy minister.

And it goes on:

Remember all those glitches with SaskPower's meters? Boyd — the minister responsible for SaskPower — shouldn't be exclusively blamed for this highly combustible problem, which then SaskPower president Robert Watson initially also tried to sell as a few glitches. Indeed, Boyd should be given credit for ... ownership of the fiasco and presiding over the ... termination of Watson.

So we are talking about maybe there are a few people, and we think the minister should be one. But he talks about the billion-dollar glitches of the Global Transportation Hub and then Kal Tire, and it goes on to go on. And I quote:

Before smart meters, came the 2009 budget glitch on potash [royalties] ... when Boyd and his cabinet colleagues bought into the hype from the PotashCorp leadership of the day about the company's projected sales. As it turned out, instead of \$2 billion in potash royalties in 2009-10, the province wound up paying the potash companies for tax breaks ...

And it goes on.

But perhaps Boyd's most impressive addition of late is the \$1.5-billion carbon capture and sequestration project at Boundary Dam, which Premier Brad Wall, SaskPower CEO Mike Marsh and Boyd insist is "fully operational" ... except for the little glitches which result in it either operating at half capacity or not at all.

So, Mr. Speaker, people are watching this very carefully, very carefully. They want the honest truth because what's at stake really is our reputation as a province. They're going around the world telling people that we've got this new technology and it will work on coal, and people are interested in that. But if they find out it sort of only half works, it only half works or it will take you two or three years longer to get it up and operational ... And what's really in it for Saskatchewan? At a cost of what, \$1.5 billion, what have we got to show here?

So we have some real questions because at the end of the day, here we have a government that's not come clean. The Premier's not come clean and not been fully forthwith with people and not owned the issue. And really what we need to make sure is when we travel around the country — we understand, like, the Premier is going to go to Paris — that he's honest and he's really telling people what are the issues with this kind of technology. What are, kind of, the problems that you have to have? And really, is it worth it in the end of the day? Is it really worth it in the end of the day?

And we want to make sure that there's good jobs, there's good jobs for people involved. That's for sure. But you can do that in green technology as well. You know, it's not an either/or proposition at all. It's not false choices. And this is what this government wants to do. It's really about the resolution that we have before us. And it's about making sure the people of Saskatchewan get the facts, get the facts about this project. And that's what we're not hearing from the people responsible on the other side, the Premier and the minister who have really ducked this out.

And we've seen a minister actually who's refused to even talk to the media about this and instead sends out his officials. And really we would like to hear more from the minister in the press about this issue because he's not coming clean either with the people of Saskatchewan who continue to see their rates go up, continue to see their rates go up. Therefore I'm against this motion ... or for this motion.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's an honour for me to join in this debate to talk about one of the most innovative projects that this government has

taken on in its first eight years in government, started by, Mr. Speaker, the former NDP government. Let's not forget these facts. They had started the idea of Boundary dam and the carbon capture and sequestration. And the former minister from Regina Lakeview obviously had thoughts about that at the time, that it would be a good project and one to move forward.

First and foremost, I'd like to correct some of the misinformation that has been provided by the members opposite, especially the member that just spoke from Saskatoon Centre, which was absolutely ridiculous. He reads Bruce Johnstone's article dated November 5th, 2015 and quotes Carolyn Preston who is an actual expert. She has a Ph.D. and degrees in engineering and chemistry. And he says, "'SaskPower did something that's almost unbelievable. They commercialized a technology that wasn't ready to be commercialized,' said Preston in an interview Wednesday . . ." Stop. He stops there and says, well that means they commercialized it before it was ready. Well it goes on to say, "So kudos to them for doing that."

Like what a bunch . . . Unbelievable, Mr. Deputy Speaker, how they want, they spliced it together. We know their caucus is good at splicing things together, since they had splice-gate a couple years ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So he takes two quotes and splices them together and then tries to lay them, present them in this Assembly as fact.

So when they bring forward a motion, and we're talking about Ms. Sproule moved the motion "that this Assembly condemns the Premier and SaskPower minister for not giving Saskatchewan people the facts about the \$1.5 billion carbon capture project," they haven't brought facts forward for the last 70 minutes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So they bring forward a motion, and they want to talk about truth, and they just haven't really done that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And then I want to talk about transparency, transparency about the project that has been going on for eight years. The production levels at Boundary dam, since it began operation in October last year, have been made public on a number of occasions with information being reported after just three months.

It has been reported in the Moose Jaw *Times-Herald* — I think that's public; in the *Leader-Post* story, February 17th; in *The Estevan Mercury*, February 17th; at a presentation to the Pacific Northwest Economic Region, PNWER, forum on July 13th, 2015 which is available online for the member from Nutana if she wants to take time and actually read some information; in a SaskPower news release from September 14th; in a *Leader-Post* story from September 14th; in *The Estevan Mercury* story from September 16th; in an article in *National Geographic* from October 13th. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that's a lot of information that this government has put forward on carbon capture and sequestration in the past 16 to 18 months trying to keep the public informed on what's going on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, has there been some glitches? Yes, there has. There is no doubt, no reason to debate that topic, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I think that with any big project . . . And the member from Saskatoon Centre should know this, is that the synchrotron, it didn't just throw a switch and start perfectly the

first day. And I believe that happened under the previous government, under the NDP, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When you're going to do big projects like this, big, innovative projects, it's going to take a little while to make sure everything's running properly.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Boundary dam facility is the first of its kind in the world and we have had 260 groups from over 30 countries here to learn about CCS [carbon capture and storage] — 260 groups from over 30 countries. So is that trying to hide the facts of what's going on at Boundary dam with our carbon capture and sequestration? Having visitors come from all over the world and show them this technology, is that not being open and transparent? Because I believe that when you want to have a new, innovative idea and you're trying to show the world this idea, that's being pretty transparent, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I think that there has been some issues. But virtually every large project has start-up issues in the first couple of years. Like my colleague from Saskatoon Centre said, it's called the commissioning year. It takes a while to make everything go.

I know, growing up on the farm, that whenever you start something new or you buy a new piece of equipment . . . Actually, I had a conversation with a constituent about this last Friday. In Walsh Acres, we made 1,200 phone calls and this came up once and we talked about it. And I said, you know . . . The older gentleman was from the farm. And I said, whenever you buy a new piece of equipment, if some bugs are going to happen it's going to happen in the first five or six weeks when you're using that piece of equipment. So, something happens; you shut it down; you take it to the shop; you get the bugs fixed; you throw a switch and it's going to work better, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that's what we're expecting the people from SaskPower to do, because on this side of the House, unlike the members from the NDP, we're confident in the employees of SaskPower.

We're confident in the IBEW workers down at Boundary dam. We believe that they know what they're doing. We believe that the engineers, the consulting engineers, we have faith that the hard-working people of Saskatchewan have the innovation and the technology to make sure that this project goes right. And on this side of the House we're going to support hard-working people in Saskatchewan every time.

There are nine people in this province that hope this project does not work and they're all sitting across the aisle. There are nine people hoping that we fail on this front, that we fail in decreasing the greenhouse gas emissions. The member from Nutana stood up and said, oh, the greenhouse gas emissions are going up. She's happy. She's happy if things don't work out for this government on this side of the House. She's like, it's great that the greenhouse gas emissions are going up; that means you guys are failing.

How can you have that attitude, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have that bad attitude and say, hey, it's great that SaskPower's going to fail? That's what they're saying over there. They're hoping for the failure of one of our major Crown corporations to not get this project right. We on this side of the House think that's wrong and we'll never take that kind of attitude towards

projects that the hard-working people in Estevan are trying to put forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a motion talking about transparency but it is also a conversation that's going to be held over the next four or five months before April 4th. This is a conversation that they're going to have to answer one question: are they in favour of coal-powered electricity or not? Because 40 per cent of our electricity, our baseload electricity, comes from coal-powered fire plants.

And I'm not sure if the member from Saskatoon Nutana has actually read the federal regulations on emissions. But she actually has, she has the paper. I'm not sure if she read them or not. But we're going to have to meet these targets and we're not sure what the new government and the new federal government's going to do, if they're going to increase the emissions or not.

But on this side of the House we think we have to be ready to meet those targeted emissions. We have to be ready with new and innovative technology so we can continue to use coal-fired electricity, because on this side of the House we support the people working in the coal mines in Estevan. We support the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the work they're doing in the electrical plants all over Saskatchewan, and we think that those coal power plants should be working for a long, long time. And on this side of the House we're going to support the hard-working union members down in that area every time, unlike what they're doing over there.

[12:00]

So my question also would be to the member from Rosemont because there seems to be a bit of a leadership vacuum over there. There hasn't been any really public policy before on this and they got a question asked of them by the IBEW.

Dear Mr. Broten [I'm quoting, Mr. Deputy Speaker]:

I am very concerned about your recent comments you have made regarding the Boundary dam 3 carbon capture and sequestration project. Our union members work very hard on this project and fully support this important initiative.

While I recognize that it is the role of the opposition is to ask questions about the government actions, your comments and that of your critic Cathy Sproule call into question your position on this matter.

Do you support the CCS project as a means to reduce carbon emissions at our coal-fired plants or do you intend to eliminate coal-fired electrical facilities in Saskatchewan, thereby eliminating hundreds of union jobs?

The CCS project is crucial to both Saskatchewan's economy and our environment. This is an important public policy question and our members are interested in your immediate response.

I don't know what they think immediate means, Mr. Deputy

Speaker, but they have not responded to this letter in the past three days. They have not come out and said, we unequivocally support coal power in Saskatchewan. We will support the unionized workers in Estevan. We will support the unionized workers in coal plants. They have not said that yet. And I think it's a disservice to Mr. Neil Collins that they haven't even taken an opportunity to give them a call back and talk about this.

I know that the member from Rosemont talks about all the stakeholders he's spoken to you. And he never names names, Mr. Speaker. He says, I've talked to these, I've talked to these people, but he's never very . . . And I know someone once said that you can say whatever you want in opposition because it doesn't matter. And he does.

He says whatever he wants because he's never held to account for anything he says because people just don't really want to listen to what he's saying, I guess. The media's never asked him a question in a couple of months.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't support the motion from the member from Nutana. I will always support the hard-working people in Saskatchewan.

The Deputy Speaker: — Time for debate has expired. Questions. I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, Boundary dam 3 is an investment in our environment. This technology has the ability to have a global impact on CO₂ emissions, and this technology is starting here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there were some start-up issues which virtually every large project this size will experience. But we are moving forward and expect to make a profit in 2015. This facility is putting Saskatchewan on the world stage for technology that will be essential for our environment in the future.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Saskatoon Nutana. Have you ever visited the Boundary dam 3 facility or would you blindly just scrap it?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I think the statements by the member is misleading and actually not to the point of the motion itself.

What we want to know is whether or not he supports the position of this minister which right now is saying, we don't know if we're going to go forward with this technology before the federal coal regs take place. He said that in the media scrum just a few minutes ago.

So is it the position of the member for Carrot River as well that we're going to have one Boundary dam 3, but we don't even know if 4 and 5 are going to use the same technology? That's how questionable this technology is. That's how misleading this government has been. And that's where Saskatchewan taxpayers . . . \$1.5 billion, that's not a small amount of money. \$1.5 billion into one project, and he's not even sure if he's going to use it himself. Yet he's selling it around the world. The

Premier's jaunting off to Paris to sell it and he's not even going to use it himself, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I listen with interest to the member from Walsh Acres, and he's admitted that you should expect a few glitches in the first few years of getting something of a \$1.5 billion project up. There's going to be glitches.

So why, why in the world would a government sign a fixed contract with Cenovus that have us paying more in penalties getting delivery of CO₂? Then if we had really expected poor performance in the first few years, why would we sign that contract? I've got a question to the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's an honour to rise and answer that question. Thank you to the member from Saskatoon Centre. That's a great question because, Mr. Speaker, we believe that technology and the innovation of our people are going to come through. We believe that the engineers in SaskPower are going to make sure that within this commissioning year that everything's going to be working well at the carbon capture sequestration.

And it's funny, coming from that member actually, that exact question because why would you enter a contract with Cory cogen, when you had to pay \$11 million in penalties, when you were in government? Would you guys not do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker? So for him to turn around and ask that question is quite ironic, coming from the member from Saskatoon Centre, because they entered the contract with the power generation, the Cory power cogen plant, and they had to pay penalties of \$11 million, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, carbon capturing is integral in keeping coal mines open. We need that power.

I'd like to share a letter that the business manager and financial secretary of IBEW, Neil Collins, wrote to the Leader of the Opposition. He says, and I quote, "I am very concerned about recent comments you made regarding the Boundary Dam 3 Carbon Capture and Sequestration . . ." He goes on to ask whether the Leader of the Opposition intends to eliminate coal-fired production producing electricity and the hundreds of jobs that go with it.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the member from Saskatoon Centre. In his speech, he was saying it's not an either-or proposition, but I suggest it may be. And I'd like to know, for the people of Saskatchewan who would like to know, would you plan to eliminate power electricity and the hundreds of jobs that go with it? Yes or no?

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate every time . . . You know, the labour movement, they watch closely what happens in the House, and so we appreciate the question and the letter.

But what we don't appreciate, what we don't appreciate is the fearmongering that's going on by the government who creates a false choice, a false choice: either-or. And they are out making this happen by fearmongering and saying it's either-or, and it's not. What we want, what we simply want are the honest facts from this government about what's going to happen with this \$1.5 billion project. It's a simple question. It's a simple question. It's not an either-or at all, not at all. Thank you for the question.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that the minister has some explaining to do here because he's concerned about the loss of jobs, yet he won't commit to using this technology before twenty I think nineteen when the federal regs kick in. So which one is it? He's the one that's throwing these jobs under the bus, Mr. Speaker. So I'm wondering if the member from Walsh Acres supports the position of his own Economy minister when he's saying he won't commit to furthering the use of this \$1.5 billion experiment on the other Boundary dam units.

So which one is it? Who's throwing jobs under, who's throwing jobs under the bus here? I think you better find out what your minister is talking about. And I want to know whether the member from Walsh Acres agrees with his minister on that point.

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

Mr. Steinley: — Well if she wants to know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'll give her an answer. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're going to make sure the technology is working right. And when that technology is working right, we're going to move forward with it.

Well, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I would like to know is . . . That member from Saskatoon Nutana has flip-flopped on this issue a couple of times. She is for coal; she is against coal. She was for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; she is against it.

And my question is, she always says there is some magical other technology and there's some magical other modes of innovative electrical production, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and there's other sources of energy we can use. We use 25 per cent in hydro, solar, and wind. Does she have another magical source of energy that she'd like to tell us about? Are we going to run our company, are we going to use . . . How are we going to supplement 44 per cent of our electrical power — magic pixie dust?

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from

Lloydminster.

Ms. Young: — When he was running for the leadership of the NDP, the Leader of the Opposition claimed to have, I quote, a vision of a greener future that included “. . . making our province a world leader in safe, environmentally friendly and economically viable carbon capture and sequestration . . .”

But on May 22nd of 2013, just two months after the election of the new NDP leader, the member from Nutana was quoted in the *Melville Advance* as saying, and I quote, “At one point the NDP supported carbon capture, but has since moved away from it . . .”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my question to the member from Saskatoon Nutana: which is it? Does the NDP think that we should use CCS to clean up the process of generating power from coal at Boundary dam, or is it their position that we shut it down?

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

Ms. Sproule: — Obviously the minister from Lloydminster can't even understand what she is reading. What the leader said at that time was “economically viable.” And there is no way that this government can say that this project currently is economically viable.

We are paying penalties to the tune of \$12 million before the ink is even dry on the contract with Cenovus. How can that be economically viable? How is paying \$12 million in penalties in its first year of operation, another 5 to \$6 million this year, how could that ever be considered economically viable? And why, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is this minister not committing to use the technology himself in the future? That's a big question, and I think these members maybe should talk to their own minister before they go on about the position that we've been consistently taking about this technology. It has to be economically viable, and this government cannot demonstrate that it is economically viable.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the mismanagement and reckless approach of that government is costing Saskatchewan people big dollars with massive hikes to their power bills, Mr. Speaker. Question to the member from Walsh Acres: he's learned now, Mr. Speaker, that there was a briefing directly to cabinet, Mr. Speaker, that this was not economically proven, a very risky, costly experiment, Mr. Speaker. We've learned since then that the statements of the Premier and cabinet haven't matched the reality, and the poor performance, of course that means high costs for his constituents. When did he learn of those details?

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

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's an honour to rise and answer this question. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've been aware of carbon capture and sequestration

for eight years now, so we knew it was coming, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And we've been aware also that when a government goes on, moves forward with an initiative this large and a project this large, there is always going to be a bit of start-up issues, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And I guess my question would be to the member from Regina Rosemont or wherever he's from. The fact that he stands up in his place every day and stands up this day in this debate and speaks completely about issues that have affected people across the province, and never once does he ever stand up and say, you know what, the NDP did nothing for the people . . .

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 2 — Social Impact Bonds

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Ms. Draude.]

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

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure and honour to rise in the House today to speak on this important motion and topic being presented in Saskatchewan. And I'd like to state the motion.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I were to tell you that there was a way to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens to ensure the best possible use of tax dollars and provide a new degree of financial stability to organizations in Saskatchewan, would you not explore this plan?

The new funding model, SIB [social impact bond], can do all three, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We can use this model to make a real difference in the lives of the people of Saskatchewan, the vulnerable children of society. And this model I'm referring to is called the social impact bond or SIB.

SIBs are funding arrangements between the government, private investors, and service providers. Here's how they work. Under these agreements, government sets a specific social outcome it wants achieved, acquires the money to achieve that social outcome from private investors, and promises to pay the investors a pre-arranged sum if and only if the service provider achieves the desired outcome after a set period of time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the benefit of the public and to put on

record, the history of the SIB should be further explained. Since 2010 more than 20 social impact bonds have been used around the world. SIBs have been used in United Kingdom, Australia, United States, Alberta, BC [British Columbia], and Ontario have expressed interest.

[12:15]

They have been used to address a range of issues such as prisoner rehabilitation, at-risk youth, homelessness, and child protection. Between 2010 and 2014 there was 129.4 million invested globally in SIBs. They have historically allowed a quick response to fund interventions that otherwise would not exist and bring together parties that otherwise would not work together.

As the growth of P3s took place in public spending, alternatives were explored to effect means of partnering private business with social needs. Hence, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the rise of SIBs in social innovation.

Of course, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the real return on investment is seeing families blossom, seeing families stay together into contributing members of society. This SIB formula funds the Sweet Dreams project, a home meant to be a safe landing for families with no place to go, thus demonstrating it does take a community to raise a child — human souls in need of respect, safety, caregiving. Not every family, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has their own support or their own catch net. So thus SIBs would provide something for the vulnerable people of Saskatchewan.

In our past Throne Speech, the Sweet Dreams project was discussed. And I will quote from the Throne Speech:

Sweet Dreams will provide at-risk single mothers with affordable housing and support while they complete their education and learn life and parenting skills.

This project was made possible through a Social Impact Bond funding model — the first of its kind in Canada.

My government will continue to explore other opportunities for Social Impact Bonds to make a positive difference in Saskatchewan communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the history of Sweet Dreams came about by Egadz receiving 1 million in funding from a private investor, Conexus Credit Union and Wally and Colleen Mah. Vulnerable single mothers and their children together as a family unit . . . and keep at least 22 children out of the foster care system for at least six months after they leave the services of the Sweet Dreams program.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, taking these concrete steps will make a difference in the lives of those who live in our province. We can open our hearts and our minds to help the vulnerable. This social innovated project would help the people of this province. The member from Kelvington-Wadena, my current seatmate, has put much heart and effort into working towards this wonderful project, and I would like to thank her.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, child and family services will have active involvement with children to ensure their safety through an

open child protection file and regular visits to the home, while we're talking about the Sweet Dreams project.

The SIB helps our families regain their footing. It keeps families together, and it's affordable. For those of us that have had contact with the foster care system throughout our lives, whether helping out as a caregiver or being its recipient, we realize the value of families being kept together. We realize the value of children having good mentors and having their families with them, who are educated in learning how to progress and become better citizens of the great province of Saskatchewan.

So it is a win-win situation. Investors receive a risk-adjusted commercial return and foundations achieve greater leverage for their dollars while achieving a desired social income. Social success notes are just one idea and, investing that together, have the potential to raise money in that we are taking on the challenges facing Saskatchewan and other developing nations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's a very exciting method, and certainly for Saskatchewan, to use the social impact bonds.

I think it needs to be said one more time what the impact of having a social bond is. Children and families of Saskatchewan will have better outcomes, better quality of life. The current information is showing improved social activity, safety for our vulnerable citizens, social innovation. Whether through our examples of Hub and COR [centre of responsibility] or Sweet Dreams, our government has a responsibility, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to listen to the people.

We are pioneers of social financing with a social conscience. Our story is mirrored in many places in Canada in the workplace, and the concept of helping others in Saskatchewan is not a foreign concept to us. Our pioneers and forefathers were raised on social innovation and sharing to help others, such as the vulnerable, and keeping communities strong in Saskatchewan. The social impact bond can play a key role in bringing about lasting and transformative solutions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, under social impact bonds, governments set a specific social outcome it wants achieved. It acquires the money to achieve the social outcome from private investors and promises to pay the investors a pre-arranged sum if, and only if, the service provider achieves the outcome after a specific period of time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the public has engaged in conversation with our government regarding SIBs. Never doubt that a group of thorough, thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. And the public has been telling us this is what they want.

Even Murray Mandryk, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from *The StarPhoenix*, May 13, 2014:

It does seem rather difficult to criticize the concept of finding ways to provide single mothers at risk of requiring services from Child and Family Services with affordable housing while helping them complete their education, secure employment and participate in life skills training and parenting classes.

Another quote from Murray Mandryk, *The StarPhoenix*, May

13, 2014:

So what's wrong with business quite literally investing in those at risk? If anything, it might actually help bridge the class divide in this province.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as people, we face a lot of things in our life that we have no control over. Some of these things might be mother nature, accidents, sickness, hunger, poverty. However, we must learn to meet our problems and find solutions. Have courage and faith, we've been told throughout generations in this country. The social impact bonds have the potential to improve lives of countless vulnerable people in Saskatchewan. And children can reach their full potential in this great province if we use SIBs. Mr. Deputy Speaker, some people are asking, who uses social impact bonds? Since 2010 more than 20 social impact bonds have been developed around the world. They've been introduced in the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States to fund interventions that otherwise would not exist, and bring together parties that otherwise would not work together.

In 2010 the world's first social impact bond intervention program was implemented in the United Kingdom, to reduce the reoffending rates of short-sentencing male prisoners leaving Peterborough. Their four-year agreement ends this fiscal year.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a new social policy . . . [inaudible] . . . SIBs have the potential to improve the social sector's effectiveness by rewarding programs that work, encourage innovation, validate progress, and attract private capital to the anti-poverty cause. These ones were first advocated in 1988 by the New Zealand government, who called them social policy bonds. I would like to quote, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from the report dated January 2015, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives in Manitoba discussing social impact bonds.

Matthew Burpee, CFO of Finance For Good Ltd., concludes that the results from the UK social impact bonds targeting youth education and prisoner . . . "are incredibly promising and appear to suggest that the SIB model is an effective way to drive positive social outcomes."

Another article I came about and I found interesting and informative was from *Bloomberg View* dated September 25th, '15. Entitled, "Save the World, Turn a Profit".

At next week's General Assembly meetings, the United Nations will formally announce 17 ambitious new sustainable development goals. The 15-year program will tackle . . . issues ranging from global poverty to women's rights to sustainable energy. The first question the world will ask is: "How do you expect to pay for them?"

Countries are proposing to implement social impact bonds where private investors can provide upfront cash for legislators to address challenges in childhood care, education, public safety, and health services.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the three Cs in life I have come across: choice, chance, and change. You must make the choice to take the chance if you want anything in life to change. But whatever change you're dealing with or trying to accomplish, know that

you can cope with that change and it will have an impact on Saskatchewan people's future. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the winds of change have come to Saskatchewan. Our government has been here eight years. We've seen a federal election and I hope that the winds of change will come here for the opposition and that they will believe in the power of the SIBs, the power of the people and their belief in Saskatchewan.

I would again like to read the motion, Mr. Deputy Speaker:

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

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the social impact bond would be very valuable to the province of Saskatchewan. It's an innovative funding model that leverages private capital to deliver social and client outcomes. We've had clients from our constituencies come to us, discuss different business proposals, and I believe Saskatchewan is ready. Our government will enter into an agreement with private investors and service delivery organizations that sets a specific social outcome or set of outcomes to be achieved, and promises to pay investors a pre-arranged sum if and only the service delivery organization is able to accomplish the desired outcomes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have very many vulnerable children and families here in our great province of Saskatchewan and I do believe we can help them with the social impact bonds. We can provide mothers and children with safe, secure places to live. We can provide care for entire families to live together. We can enable mothers to educate and employ their children. We can increase connections with mothers in the job market and contribute back into society, whether it's rural or urban. So we do believe in the power of social impact bonds. We have many constituents coming to our offices, talking to us when we're at home, and actually my consistency of Saskatchewan Rivers has had many people. And in talking with them, they believe in the power of SIBs, in the power of business, in the power of our emotions, and the power of our government all coming together to help the vulnerable people in Saskatchewan.

So again, I will support this very valuable motion and I congratulate the member from Kelvington-Wadena for having such a great heart to start this. So I will move to adjourn, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and thank you very much.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatchewan Rivers has moved to adjourn the debate on the motion. 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: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has

moved that this House does now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:31.]

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