



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

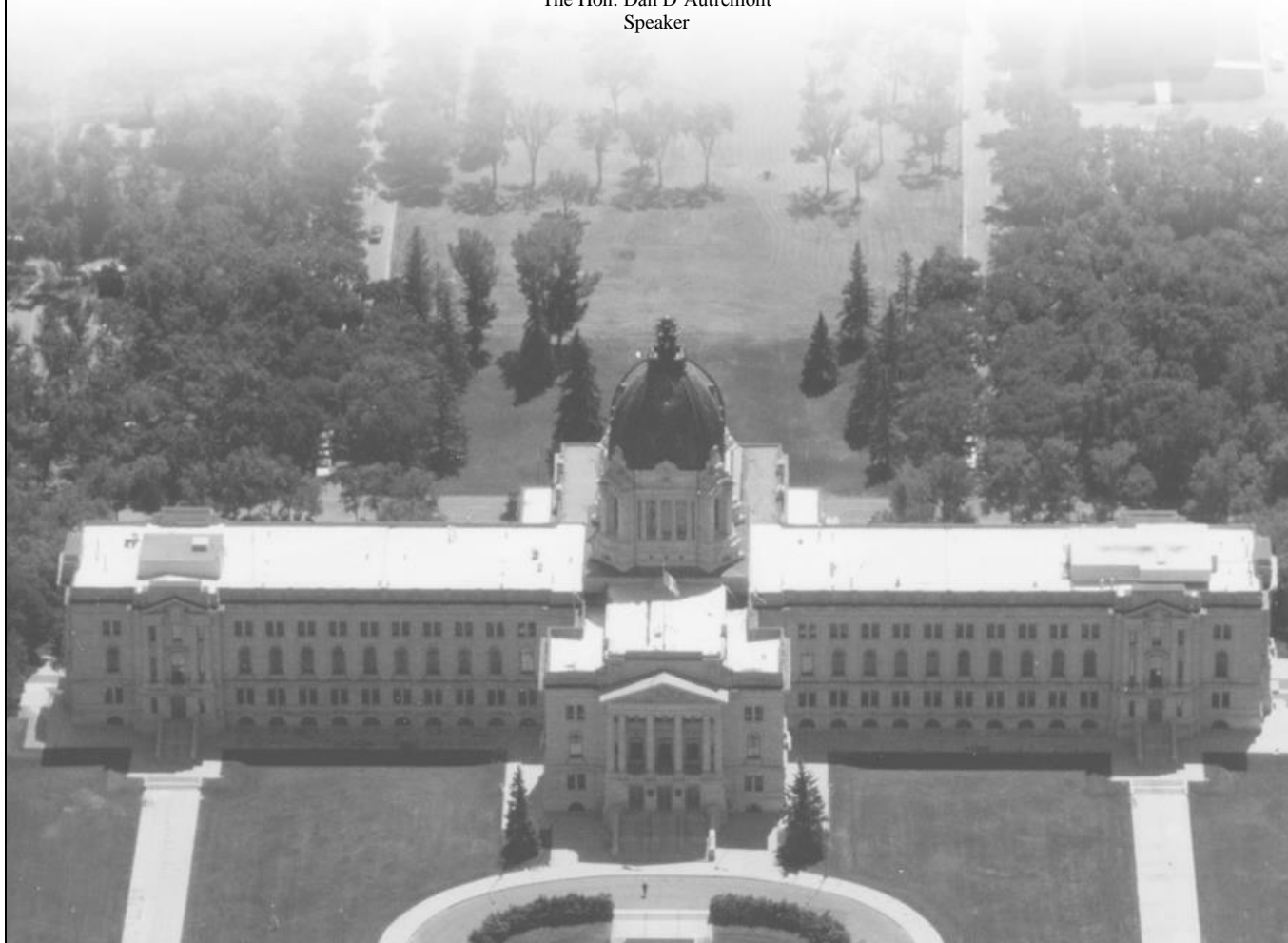
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today the Association of Fundraising Professionals will be handing out awards this afternoon in honour of National Philanthropy Day.

It's my pleasure to introduce to the House a few of those who will be receiving awards. Mr. Speaker, Turnbull Excavating was among those selected as an outstanding corporate philanthropist. Ed Turnbull is here along with staff, Sheila Goudy, Keith Cassidy, Becky Conley, and Kristin Dupuis, Mr. Speaker.

Additionally, I'm not sure if he's entered the Assembly yet, but David Hoffort is to be here, selected as an outstanding individual volunteer for his work on various boards and raising money for non-profit organizations. Attending the legislature with him are to be his wife Laura, and son Greg, Mr. Speaker.

What really astounds many about the diversity of the input that these individuals do have, it's not only about raising money for a certain cause or a couple of causes, Mr. Speaker, quite often involved in many parts of their community, whether it's through their time or their finances, Mr. Speaker. So I ask all members to join me in thanking them for their generosity of time and money and welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the member opposite to very briefly welcome these community leaders to their Assembly here today, certainly to thank them for their philanthropy as well for their community service on many fronts. And these individuals being recognized today, very worthy of that recognition. It's important for us to remember as well that they're a small representation of the many across Saskatchewan that build strong communities and the bright future that we all deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a number of members that have just arrived in our Assembly here today. And they are the members of the Mars rover team, Mr. Speaker, from the University of Saskatchewan, and they have attended here with some members of their family.

Mr. Speaker, with us today we have the University of Saskatchewan's space design team. We have Carl Hofmeister

— and if you give a wave when I acknowledge you please — Austin Shirley, who's the vice-president of engineering; we have Dan Ness, the VP [vice-president] of operations; we have Liam Bindle, the electrical team lead; and we have Thomas Johnson, the former president. And travelling with them are family members: Judith Wright, Mary Johnson, Linda Fox, Darlene Smith.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Saskatchewan space design team won the European Rover Challenge which was in Poland in September of just this past year. Aside from being a huge accomplishment for the University of Saskatchewan's College of Engineering, I'm sure an accomplishment of this magnitude will do wonders for each of the individual team members' careers.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate each of the members involved in the Mars rover project on their success, and I'd ask that all members of the Legislative Assembly welcome the University of Saskatchewan's space design team, each of the members that were involved in the Mars rover project to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great honour to rise and join in with the minister to welcome these students to their Legislative Assembly. Amazing student leaders and we're so proud of all your accomplishments.

But on a personal level, I also want to say hi to Carl Hofmeister. I know his mom couldn't be here today but she Facebooked me this morning and said to make sure to say hello. So hi, Carl, and welcome to your Legislative Assembly in particular. But thanks to all of you for coming and showing the leadership you do. You make Saskatchewan proud. So welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

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 in support of 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 orientation. And we know that gender- and sexually diverse students are four times more likely than their heterosexual peers to attempt suicide. 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.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise in reference to petition cell service for northwestern Saskatchewan. The prayer reads as follows:

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 associated with living in the remote North.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I've said time and time again, this petition has been signed from people all throughout Saskatchewan. And on this particular page, they've been signed from Big River and Dore Lake, and I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of better seniors' care. The petitioners point out, Mr. Speaker, that we have a seniors' care crisis here in Saskatchewan that the government refuses to either acknowledge and address. The petitioners talk about chronic understaffing that has led to neglect in our care homes and the care of our seniors, 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 citizens of Regina, Melfort, and Maple Creek. I so submit.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by people from Saskatoon, and I so submit. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Remembering Canadian Soldiers

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise in my place today in recognition of Remembrance Day. Tomorrow we'll be all attending Remembrance Day events in our home constituency, paying tribute at cenotaphs and Legion halls to the men and women who sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have more soldiers who died while serving their country to add to the honour roll this year.

Sergeant Andrew Doiron died earlier this year while deployed with Canadian Forces in Iraq and Syria in the fight against ISIS [Islamic State of Iraq and Syria]. Although he was killed in a so-called friendly-fire incident, his sacrifice is no less tragic and his service no less honourable.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dan Bobbitt was the commanding officer of the 2nd Regiment of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, and he died in a training exercise earlier this year near Wainwright, Alberta.

In addition to Sergeant Doiron and Lieutenant-Colonel Bobbitt, 59 soldiers have died by suicide since the end of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan. Clearly, we need to do more to ensure that our veterans have the mental health supports that they need when they return home from the horrors of war.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in remembering the members of all of our Armed Forces that we have lost, and in committing to making sure that every single veteran gets the help they deserve when they return home from fighting for all of our freedoms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Remembrance Day

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this Assembly today to acknowledge the sacrifice of all those who have donned uniforms in the service to our great nation. Tomorrow, Canadians from sea to sea will gather at cenotaphs to pay tribute to Canada's veterans past and present, and to thank those who are currently serving. Although we attend services and wear poppies in November, the service and sacrifice of those who fought for our freedom is something we need to remember all year round.

Mr. Speaker, my uncles Bill and Henry Schmitt served in World War II. Uncle Henry served in the navy. Uncle Bill served in the RCAF [Royal Canadian Air Force]. He volunteered and flew in the early years when bombing missions into France and Germany had a loss rate of one-third. After Uncle Bill finished active service he was recruited to train bombing crews, yet he volunteered for active service again

where he flew Lancaster bombers until VE [Victory in Europe] day.

Mr. Speaker, this year our government unveiled a special licence plate that acknowledges the sacrifice of service-men and -women. This licence plate, although a small gesture, shows how we can acknowledge support for our troops all year round. Whether this week of remembrance or all year round, I ask members of this Assembly to join me in saying thank you to our veterans. Lest we forget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Divas' Night Out

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, on October 8th I had the pleasure to attend the 13th annual Divas' Night Out. This event was an important fundraiser for the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Isabel Johnson Shelter and the Regina Transition House.

There was entertainment on the Casino Regina stage and nearly 100 silent auction prizes from generous donors supporting these two important places for women and families in our city. Special thanks go to the sponsors of the event: Casino Regina, Linka Howe Law Offices, Knight Archer Insurance, Over the Moon Accounting, and COPE [Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union] Local 397.

Domestic violence takes a serious toll on families here in Regina. The Isabel Johnson Shelter and the Regina Transition House are licensed for 37 beds and the staff do their very best to help women and children in times of crisis. Unfortunately there are far too many nights where every bed is needed and other women need to wait on the list. Many women express that they're forced to stay in abusive relationships because there's no other place to go with the lack of affordable housing options — not only here in Regina, but in communities across Saskatchewan.

And so I ask all members to join me in thanking everyone who helped make this year's Divas' Night Out a success, thanking all those who work with those affected by domestic violence, and in committing to real action to address the unacceptably high rates of domestic violence here in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Fundraisers' Contributions Recognized

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House to speak about three Saskatchewan men who made a difference in their communities. Ron Carson, David Hoffort, and Ed Turnbull are being recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for their remarkable commitment to their communities.

Ron Carson is receiving the Outstanding Philanthropist award. Ron was nominated by STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society] air ambulance after he raised more than \$200,000 at the Rescue on the Prairie fundraiser in August. Ron and his wife, Shirley, have also donated 500,000 to the St. Joseph's Hospital campaign to fund a new CT [computerized

tomography] machine.

David Hoffort will be awarded the Outstanding Individual Volunteer award. As a board of directors member for the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation and an involved volunteer and active fundraiser, David is no stranger to non-profit organizations, being an avid fundraiser for multiple organizations.

Turnbull Excavating, owned by Ed Turnbull, will be awarded the Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist award. This award recognizes businesses that donate money and encourage volunteerism among employees. Turnbull Excavating employs 15 staff, all of whom sit on various boards across southeast Saskatchewan. Turnbull Excavating has also donated 200,000 across southeast Saskatchewan over the last five years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Ron Carson, David Hoffort, and Ed Turnbull. Thank you for the contributions you have made to your community and province.

[10:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

World War I and II Film Program on Tour

Mr. Doke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this Assembly today to announce that, through partnership with the Yorkton Film Festival, the eight-part series titled *Stories of Courage* will be rebroadcasted this year. This series, which recounts the experiences of veterans during World War II, will be featured on City Saskatchewan on Remembrance Day. This series is part of a touring program of films on the First and Second World Wars from the collection of the Yorkton Film Festival. In addition to the City Saskatchewan broadcasts, *Voices of Courage* will be screened in communities around Saskatchewan. Outside of the province, the program will be screened at the Calgary War Museum and at the Winnipeg Public Library.

The program will also include National Film Board productions, *Trenches* and *Frontlines*. Mr. Speaker, this series gives a first-hand account of Canadian experiences in World War II and ensures that voices of the past will continue to educate future generations.

Seventeen Second World War veterans of the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal Canadian Navy, and the Canadian Merchant Marine were filmed. Their interviews form eight episodes addressing the following themes and subthemes: Training and Preparing for War, The Price of Freedom, HMCS [Her Majesty's Canadian Ship] *Regina*, Prisoners of War, Aboriginal War Experience, Supporting the Troops, Soldiers Return Home, and Commemoration.

I would invite the Assembly to join me in thanking everyone who contributed to this project, including the Yorkton Film Festival and City Saskatchewan, for ensuring that this important series will continue to reach audiences. I also encourage all members to take the time to watch these amazing series. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

Mr. Marchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the privilege of being in Winnipeg last week for the official opening of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation located on the University of Manitoba campus. This national centre was created at the recommendation of the survivors of Canada's residential school system in order to preserve the memory of their experience. It is now the permanent home for all statements, documents, and other materials gathered by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, the opening of this centre is an important step in acknowledging and apologizing for the government's role in the destruction of the language and culture and forced assimilation of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. It is a gathering place of children's voices. A highlight of the grand opening was Education Day, Mr. Speaker, where 1,700 students from grades 6 to 12 gathered to learn first hand from survivors and leaders in the hope that in understanding the past, we can impact the future.

Mr. Speaker, this national gathering place is an important step toward reconciliation. A key question that was asked, an important one that we all must consider is, what kind of country do we want to be? I believe the answer will take us on the next step towards reconciliation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Students Win Space Design Competition

Mr. Tochor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a group of University of Saskatchewan students that have recently made exploring the surface of Mars a little easier. Joining us today is Austin Shirley, Dan Ness, Carl Hofmeister, Liam Bindle, and Thomas Johnson. They are part of the University of Saskatchewan's space design team that won the European Rover Challenge.

This challenge invites teams from all over the world to design a robot that can handle the rough terrain of Mars. The rover, designed by 20 students at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], resembles the rover currently on Mars, with a few improvements, Mr. Speaker. It has a mechanical arm that can perform human tasks, as well as large wheels to move easily over large rocks.

Winning this competition is an amazing achievement. It puts Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan at the forefront of space robotics on the global stage, not to mention, Mr. Speaker, that achievements like this will be sure to launch each of the 20 members' future careers.

I would like to thank Austin, Dan, Carl, Liam, and Thomas for all of their hard work. And, Mr. Speaker, for anyone who is interested, I hear the team will be driving the rover around the rotunda shortly after question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Government's Fiscal Management

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we've been hearing growing frustration about the Sask Party clawing back money and making cuts, all while spending wildly on its mismanaged pet projects, Mr. Speaker, with no accountability. So we put forward some pretty simple, pretty basic questions, but they refused to answer those questions last week. To the Finance minister: why?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's any secret to that hon. member or anybody in this House or anybody in Saskatchewan that the province is facing some economic challenges these days, Mr. Speaker. When you go from 80 or \$90 oil to 40 or \$45 oil, there are some challenges on our revenue side, Mr. Speaker. This government is going to manage that in the context of a balanced budget like we've been doing since we came to office in 2007.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — We know that that minister is presiding over a massive deficit, Mr. Speaker. And you know, despite inheriting a fortune and governing during very sunny times, thanks to our natural resources and the hard work of Saskatchewan people, the Sask Party still managed to drain the rainy day fund, didn't save a penny, and piled on debt after debt after debt.

By the end of the fiscal year in fact, total government debt will have increased by over 68 per cent. That's alarming stuff, Mr. Speaker. And now the Sask Party is clawing back money and making cuts, but they won't be transparent to Saskatchewan people about it. Why won't the Finance minister just come clean to Saskatchewan people, provide that information on his plan here today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, here's the record of this government since we came to office in 2007, Mr. Speaker. The priorities of this government relative to what the people of this province want to see, relative to what those nine members over there would do with respect to their priorities.

In Saskatchewan since 2007, to our universities and our post-secondary education sector, Mr. Speaker, funding has increased 46 per cent. In our regional health authorities, funding has increased 53 per cent. To our municipalities through municipal revenue sharing, Mr. Speaker, funding has increased 109 per cent. In our K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education system, Mr. Speaker, funding has increased 30 per cent while inflation has gone up a cumulative amount of 17 per cent in those last seven years, Mr. Speaker.

This is what the credit rating agencies say about this province as recently as October 8th of this year. Mr. Speaker, Standard and

Poor's said, we are affirming our ratings, including our AAA credit rating long-term issuer credit rating, on this province. Mr. Speaker, this affirmation reflects our view of the province's strong, exceptional liquidity, very low tax-supported tax debt burden, and very strong economy.

They went on to say, Mr. Speaker, "The ratings also reflect the province's strong financial management, strong budgetary flexibility, and low contingent liabilities."

That's what the credit rating agencies say, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, despite years of record revenues, what the budget actually shows in the public accounts is a government that piled on debt, couldn't save a penny, and drained the rainy day fund, and a government and a Finance minister that seems not to have interest in the follies, billion-dollar follies of that government with its pet projects currently, Mr. Speaker.

We know that the Sask Party is now having a fire sale on farm land, and we're hearing about cuts within ministries and money being clawed back from universities, newcomer settlement agencies, and other organizations. This government should be clean with Saskatchewan people about the cuts and clawbacks that it's presiding over and its plan. The Finance minister should certainly commit to table the mid-term update at the start of next week to ensure that this legislature has adequate time to scrutinize it. Will he commit to doing that?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, let's put the provincial debt in proper context in the province of Saskatchewan here. In the last full year of the NDP [New Democratic Party] in office in 2006-2007, debt as the percentage of GDP [gross domestic product] was 24 per cent in this province, Mr. Speaker. In this fiscal year, it's 14 per cent debt as a percentage of GDP.

On a per capita basis in their last full year in office, debt in this province was \$11,120 per man, woman, and child in this province. Today it's \$10,383 per man, woman, and child in this province, Mr. Speaker. That's a better record with respect to debt as a percentage of GDP. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, this government is investing in highways and infrastructure, health care facilities, schools.

While they were closing down schools, Mr. Speaker, while they were closing down hospitals, and they refused to pave highways in this province, Mr. Speaker, this government is investing in the priorities of the people of Saskatchewan while maintaining a proper debt percentage, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we expect better from our Finance minister. We expect that he'd provide the facts with the proper context. And from their own budget document, it shows clearly that 2009, total debt \$7.9 billion; this year, an alarming \$13.3 billion. You want to talk about debt for every man, woman, and child. We're talking about billion-dollar follies: \$1

billion is \$1,000 for every man, woman, and child in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Sadly what we're seeing from the Sask Party these days is a government that just won't come clean with Saskatchewan people on so many fronts. It's concerning that they won't come clean about the cuts that they're presiding over. It's concerning that they won't be transparent with their billion-dollar pet projects that they're mismanaging. And I don't know why they can't simply commit to Saskatchewan people to bring forward the mid-year update that will allow proper scrutiny for the people of this province.

How can the Finance minister possibly justify this lack of transparency and the lack of a responsible plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — Mr. Speaker, the mid-year report will be out by the end of November. That's always been the case. It's been tabled by the end of November the last number of years, per legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Let's put in context again the debt situation in this province, Mr. Speaker. Since this Premier and this government came to office in 2007, 40 per cent of the operational debt of this province has been paid down, from \$6.8 billion to \$3.8 billion, Mr. Speaker.

This past year, to invest in infrastructure like highways, health care facilities, and educational facilities, this government borrowed \$700 million, Mr. Speaker, to invest in those much needed infrastructure enhancements in the province of Saskatchewan, at the same time attaching a 2 per cent sinking fund to that \$700 million to be paid back over 30 years.

Which other financial situation in Canada would this member rather have in the province of Saskatchewan, relative to other provinces? Would you much rather have . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — You asked the question. Perhaps you'd like to hear the response. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Doherty: — I would simply ask the member opposite, Mr. Speaker, what other province's financial situation or fiscal capacity would they rather have in the province of Saskatchewan, in Canada right now, Mr. Speaker? Would you rather have the province of Alberta, borrowing \$6.2 billion for operating, another 6 to \$9 billion for their capital infrastructure? Would you rather have the province of Ontario who's at 47 per cent net debt as a percentage of GDP, or the province of Quebec at 65 per cent? Which other province's situation would you rather have right now?

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

Cardiac Rehabilitation Programming

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In November 2010, this government commissioned a report on cardiac rehab

services. They received the report in March 2011, but they ignored the recommendations. What's the Health minister's explanation for this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite will know that the provincial government provides global funding budgets to regional health authorities. In the case of, for example, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, that increase has been 52 per cent over the last eight years under this government.

We certainly will work with our regional health authorities to ensure that there is proper programming and proper services that are provided within the context of a balanced budget in this province and within the context of a growing province and growing budgets for the regional health authorities. We have certainly worked with our regional health authorities to ensure that there are those services provided across this province.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The reports this government received said that cardiac rehab programs are both clinically effective and cost effective, and it said that cardiac rehab needed to be delivered equitably throughout Saskatchewan. But this government ignored that recommendation, so we're joined by 18 people here today who are part of Regina's cardiac rehab program. They're frustrated that the cost of cardiac rehab in Regina has jumped by almost 250 per cent. They now pay five times what people in Saskatoon pay for cardiac rehab. How can the Health minister possibly justify this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well first, Mr. Speaker, I would say to the member opposite that regional health authorities are responsible for setting their own budgets in the context within the budget allocation that's provided and are responsible for determining their own programs.

I will say that Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region does run a free cardiac rehabilitation program that includes classes for free at various locations around the province that includes RN [registered nurse] services, social workers, dietitians, pharmacists, and exercise therapists where they will learn about understanding heart disease, understanding risk factors, medications, nutrition, stress, exercise. There is the ability to be referred to the Paul Schwann, as an example, in terms of the exercise component, but there are other choices around the city.

The region looked at the program a couple of years ago, looked at their utilization numbers were not where they wanted it to be, and determined that their best use of their resources was to ensure that those services were provided as conveniently as possible throughout the city. And that's why they decided to go the route that they did.

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

Ms. Chartier: — In Saskatoon, cardiac rehab costs \$90 for three months. In Prince Albert, it costs \$73. In Moose Jaw, it costs \$60. In North Battleford and Melville, it's free, but here in Regina, it is \$440 for three months. Again how can the Health minister justify this?

[10:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just refer the member, if she does want additional information so that she is making a proper comparison, a number of the communities that she did mention is in a physician-supervised program, so obviously it's not the same program that's being offered in the city of Regina.

When Regina Qu'Appelle looked at their program as it was being offered, they examined it and saw that only 30 per cent of patients were actually taking part and taking advantage of the cardiac rehab programming. So their decision was that offering services solely through the Paul Schwann Centre was not providing the accessibility because people were choosing not to go to the Paul Schwann.

What they decided to do was to ensure that there were the educational components throughout the city at various locations several times a week that are free. And if people thought it was more accessible for them to access exercise programs — perhaps if you live in the Northwest, perhaps Gold's Gym is more accessible than driving to the Paul Schwann Centre — then those patients are free to choose that.

I would say that any patient, cardiac or otherwise, would need to consult their specialist and a doctor before taking part in any exercise program. But that's the decision that Regina Qu'Appelle decided to make.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, I'll refer the minister to his own report on cardiac rehab services that talks about equitable access to programming, Mr. Speaker. Lyn Goldman is a heart attack survivor who benefits from the cardiac rehab program in Regina. Lyn says the program has become "a program for rich people." That is not acceptable. When people need cardiac rehab, they should not face huge financial barriers. Is the Health minister finally going to do something about this, or is he going to keep ignoring the problem?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, again there are two components that we're talking about when it comes to Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. There is the cardiac rehab program, as run by the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, that does include RNs, social workers, dietitians, pharmacists, exercise therapists. It's provided at various locations across the city to improve accessibility. It goes through a variety of programs in terms of understanding heart disease, your risk factors, nutrition, areas around medication, stress, and exercise. And that is free of charge.

There is also the ability to be referred to an exercise program that is a physician-supervised program. But that is one option. People have other options in this city. It's a big city. People have accessibility challenges, depending on where they live in the city. And so, Mr. Speaker, there is still the ability though to have the service provided by Regina Qu'Appelle.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the member opposite, in terms of the services that she references in other cities, she really isn't comparing apples to apples. I would encourage her to look into, for additional details.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, the program is only an option if you can afford it. Cardiac rehabilitation is about improving people's everyday quality of life, but it also saves our health care system a lot of money. It reduces hospital readmission by 31 per cent and reduces deaths from heart attacks by 26 per cent. Proper cardiac rehabilitation saves up to \$28,000 in health care costs per person. It should be accessible to everyone who needs it. That is the fair thing to do, and it is the fiscally responsible thing to do.

So again to the Health minister: why won't he put an end to this unfair financial barrier to something as vital as cardiac rehabilitation.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the program was offered through the Paul Schwann Centre, the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region found that only approximately 30 per cent of eligible patients were actually accessing the program, and some had various reasons, including accessibility. The Paul Schwann is obviously located at the University of Regina and some people had challenges in terms of being able to access the program.

What the region decided to do was look in terms of offering the free component of the cardiac rehabilitation education component in a variety of locations around the city. They do currently provide that, and they are working to enhance a patient's ability to access either home-based or in-community exercise programming. As well there's always private options including gymnasiums, gyms around the city.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that I've had a conversation with the Minister for Advanced Education. He's reaching out to the university to see whether or not to address some of the challenges with the upfront cost, whether or not there's the ability for the Paul Schwann Centre to equalize that payment over an entire year for people that do sign up for a year that may make it more financially viable. We are following up with the university on that. Thank you.

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

SaskPower and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, could the SaskPower minister

please explain why SaskPower's projected emissions for 2015 and 2016 have skyrocketed?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, in the province of Saskatchewan, SaskPower is charged with the responsibility of generating electricity for the people of Saskatchewan to use in their homes, to use in their businesses, and to use in industry, Mr. Speaker. Those sources of energy range in a number of areas, from hydro to wind energy, Mr. Speaker, the use of coal for generating electricity, the use of natural gas.

Some of those sources of course have GHGs [greenhouse gas] associated with them, Mr. Speaker, and that's precisely the reason why the Government of Saskatchewan took the initiative and carried forward with the BD3 [Boundary dam 3] program, Mr. Speaker, to reduce the GHG emissions from that facility, Mr. Speaker. It's an important addition to the fleet here in Saskatchewan of generating sources, Mr. Speaker, and we think it's something that the people of Saskatchewan see as responsible.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, in its annual report released last summer, SaskPower laid out its emission targets for 2015 and 2016. But in the annual report it released just this year, SaskPower's targets for 2015 and 2016 had jumped by almost 800 000 tonnes. Lots of changes in one year; that's like adding 200,000 cars to our roads.

So I wrote to the SaskPower president about this last month, and the response I got didn't even mention problems with the carbon capture project, and gave no real explanation. But it referred to this 800 000 tonne increase in emissions as a small fluctuation. So it's a simple question to the SaskPower minister: what's behind this massive increase in SaskPower's emission targets?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, we have something in Saskatchewan happening that hasn't happened in a long time in our province, Mr. Speaker. We have an increase in population here in Saskatchewan. We have record hookups of people to the SaskPower network, Mr. Speaker. We have more power being consumed by industry here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We have more power being consumed in every area of our province, Mr. Speaker.

And as a result of that, Mr. Speaker, GHG emissions are going to rise. No question about that, Mr. Speaker. And again, that's the reason why we've undertaken to remove GHG gases from the atmosphere through the BD3 program, Mr. Speaker. About 400 000 tonnes of CO₂ has been removed through that process, Mr. Speaker. It's the responsible thing to do, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue on that, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that, SaskPower will be announcing here very soon whole new initiatives around renewables, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, it looks like the government has put all its eggs in the carbon capture basket, but now they've dropped the basket. It's disturbing to see SaskPower's target for emissions jump by 800 000 tonnes. That's the equivalent of 200,000 cars over the course of just one year. And what's most shocking is that this jump in emission targets happened at the same time as the Premier and many of these Sask Party MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] were repeatedly bragging about having removed the equivalent of 250,000 cars off the roads.

How can the SaskPower minister justify increasing the emission targets by the equivalent of 200,000 cars at the same time that the Premier was inaccurately bragging about removing 250,000 cars off our roads.

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, we have a growing economy in Saskatchewan. I would hope that the member opposite would acknowledge that, Mr. Speaker. We have a growing economy. We have more people than we've ever had in the history of our province now call Saskatchewan home, Mr. Speaker.

They are consuming more and more power all of the time, Mr. Speaker, and as a result of that there are going to be emissions associated with it. That's why we've taken the initiative as we have done, Mr. Speaker. And when the member opposite says, you've put all your eggs in one basket, that couldn't be further from the truth, Mr. Speaker. SaskPower is adding the wind capability here in Saskatchewan. We are looking at solar. We are looking at geothermal. SaskPower is looking at . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, so as a result of that we have many, many things that are happening that are on the renewable front here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. The only thing that the NDP had when they were operating this government, Mr. Speaker, was we had a basket case for an economy. That's what we had here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And as a result of that, that's why you're sitting there with the rump of a party that used to have the government benches.

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

Government Sale of Farm Land

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we have many more questions about this carbon capture boondoggle, but we are also hearing from a lot of people throughout Saskatchewan that are upset about this government's fire sale of publicly owned farm land. Farmers are very upset about being forced to either buy the land or pay higher rent. Others are upset that this government is selling off valuable public assets at fire-sale prices. And the common theme in all these messages is that people recognize that this government is just desperate for money.

Will the Agriculture minister just admit that this fire sale of publicly owned farm land is just a desperate cash grab?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for her question. This is certainly not about fire selling anything or about the revenue that it will generate. Us members on this side of the House, on the government side of the House, Mr. Speaker, believe that where there's no public benefit to the government owning farm land, that it should be left in the hands of farmers and ranchers of this province who can accrue value . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Will the member for Regina Rosemont and the Minister of Government Relations either get up and ask and answer questions or take it outside? I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We believe and we campaigned on this. We campaigned on this in 2007, Mr. Speaker, before we became government that we would sell this particular parcel of land. And we had a previous sales program, an incentive program that started in 2008, ended in 2014, under which we sold about half of it.

So, Mr. Speaker, this isn't anything new. It's not about budget. It's not a fire sale. It's trying to get the land back in the hands of the people that should own it.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Here is a simple question, Mr. Speaker. How much does the Agriculture minister plan to make off of this fire sale?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Well the member, if she ever gets into government, will understand that the Minister of Agriculture is not going to make anything off this. Any revenue that is generated will go into the General Revenue Fund as always, Mr. Speaker. I don't know, I haven't calculated how much revenue might be generated by this, but that's not my concern. But, Mr. Speaker, it is my concern to try to get as much of this land as possible back under the ownership of the farmers and ranchers of this province and not under the ownership of government.

Mr. Speaker, when those members opposite were the government of this province, they bought this land from farmers. And they competed against farmers in the land market, drove up the price of land at a time just before interest rates went crazy, and kept many farmers out of the land market for a decade.

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

Ms. Sproule: — No answer, Mr. Speaker. But I can tell you,

the minister has previously said about 600,000 acres will be put up for sale for about \$425 per acre. So that's 255 million potentially to flow in to help fill this government's budget hole. Meanwhile the people of Saskatchewan will no longer own this valuable resource which has a return every year on the lease values, and many farmers will be forced to either buy their land, pay higher rent, or vacate the land. To the minister: how can he possibly justify this hasty fire sale of publicly owned farm land?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a great illustration of why we are the government and why they are not. Mr. Speaker, they think that the government should own all the farm land in Saskatchewan — every acre, every bit of it. They bought as much as they could before they got run out of office in 1982 and, Mr. Speaker, they'd do it again. They'd do it again if they could get away with it. Mr. Speaker, we're trying to put it back into the hands of the farmers and ranchers that owned it before they bought it.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Lawrence: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 183, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Education has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 183, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015* without amendment and that it be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed with third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 183 — *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015*

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

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 183, *The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015* be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To allow members to return to their constituencies to attend Remembrance Day services across the province, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 10:48.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	
Ottenbreit	7671
Wotherspoon	7671
Moe	7671
Sproule	7671
PRESENTING PETITIONS	
Forbes	7671
Belanger	7672
Chartier	7672
Nilson	7672
STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS	
Remembering Canadian Soldiers	
Belanger	7672
Remembrance Day	
Bradshaw	7672
Divas' Night Out	
Wotherspoon	7673
Fundraisers' Contributions Recognized	
Toth	7673
World War I and II Film Program on Tour	
Doke	7673
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation	
Marchuk	7674
Students Win Space Design Competition	
Tochor	7674
QUESTION PERIOD	
Government's Fiscal Management	
Wotherspoon	7674
Doherty	7674
Cardiac Rehabilitation Programming	
Chartier	7675
Duncan	7676
SaskPower and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
Sproule	7677
Boyd	7677
Government Sale of Farm Land	
Sproule	7678
Stewart	7678
PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	
Standing Committee on Human Services	
Lawrence	7679
THIRD READINGS	
Bill No. 183 — <i>The Saskatchewan Employment (Essential Services) Amendment Act, 2015</i>	
Morgan	7679

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier

President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Bill Boyd

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

Hon. Jennifer Campeau

Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Herb Cox

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

Hon. Mark Docherty

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

Hon. Kevin Doherty

Minister of Finance

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Health

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

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

Hon. Nancy Heppner

Minister of Highways and Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Don McMorris

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

Hon. Scott Moe

Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. Don Morgan

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

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit

Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter

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

Hon. Lyle Stewart

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister Responsible for Corrections and Policing

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds