



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

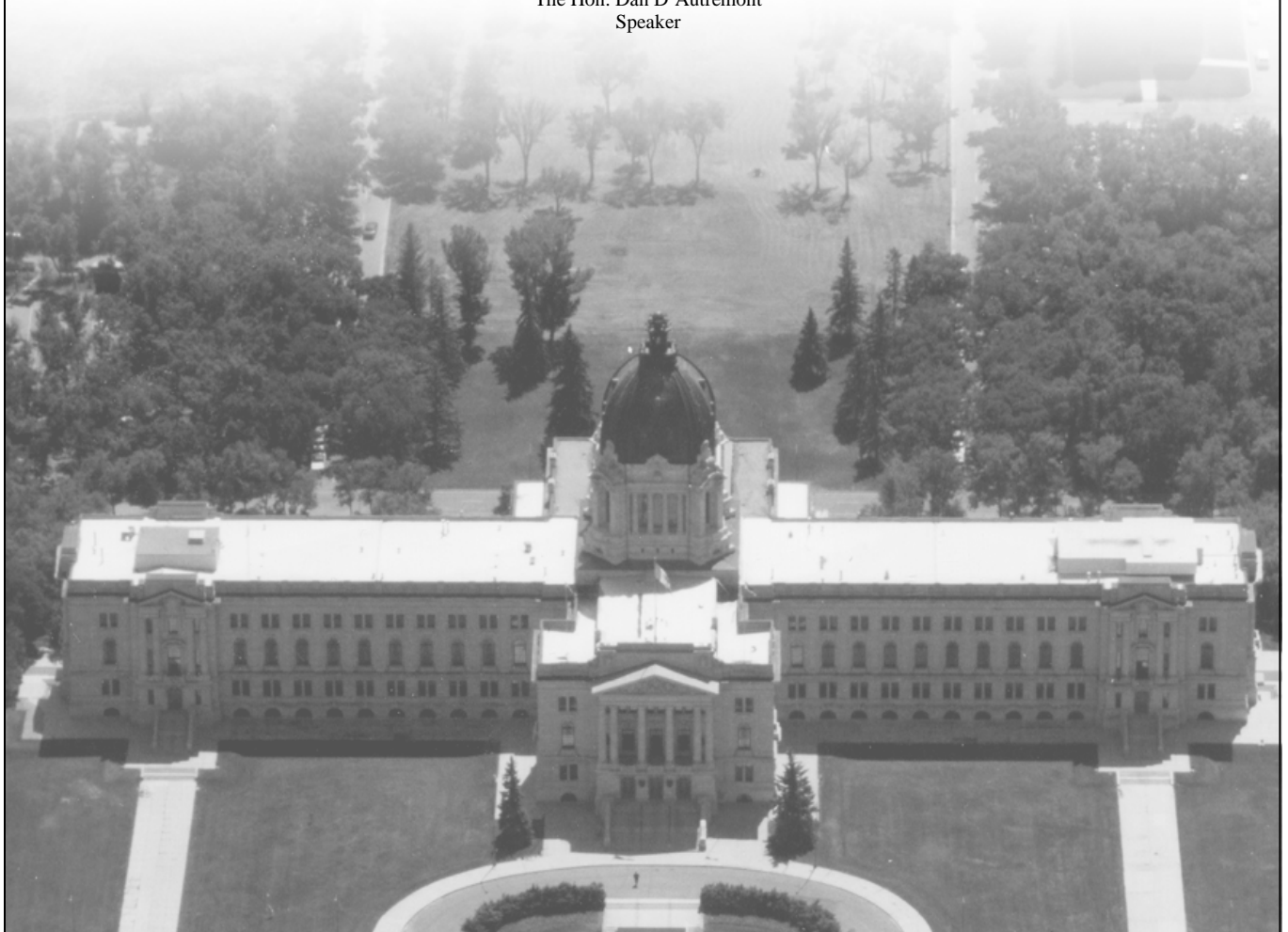
of the

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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Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
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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
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Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
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Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg	SP	Yorkton
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Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster
Vacant		Prince Albert Carlton

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce two very special guests to the Legislative Assembly. We are welcoming today Mr. Tom Palaia, consul general of the United States of America in Calgary, and Mr. Thomas Hanson, the United States's Commercial Service's principal commercial officer for Western Canada. I'm wondering how Tom gets that all on his business card. But nevertheless they are in your gallery, Mr. Speaker.

This is Mr. Palaia's first official visit to Saskatchewan. I understand he was here briefly prior to assuming his diplomatic role in August, but this is his first official visit to the province. He represents not just Saskatchewan but also the province of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Mr. Palaia is a career diplomat whose prior assignments included postings at the American embassies in Poland, Guatemala, London, and Panama. But his most recent posting was in what is now the United States's embassy in Havana. It's a good thing we arranged reasonably good winter weather, I think, because going from Havana to our typical winters in November would have been rather tough.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Palaia and Mr. Hanson have a busy schedule while they're in Saskatchewan. They're going to be meeting a number of representatives from our government and from various other agencies. The fact that their schedule is so busy should come as no surprise. As we all know, Canada and the United States share the largest trading relationship in the world, and Saskatchewan's part of that relationship is astounding, Mr. Speaker. I've referred to it previously, but right now I think our exports to the US [United States] account for virtually two-thirds of everything this province exports around the world.

The United States is by far our largest trading partner. The state of Minnesota is the largest of that group. But last year we sent \$22.7 billion south of the border. Breaking down those numbers even further, we see that the last year the United States accounted for about 40 per cent of Saskatchewan's potash sales, so they're an important customer in that area as well. And they bought 40 per cent of our uranium, and we're providing electricity, actually, as a result of that uranium sale, to 1 in every 15 American homes.

Americans also buy our oil, and last year we exported more oil to the United States than countries that are considered oil rich, ranking ahead of Nigeria, Iraq, and Kuwait. We're a reliable oil supplier to our southern neighbours.

The ties of business and trade are strong and so are those of education. Our two universities have seven agreements with American institutions and are engaged as partners in multiple research projects.

There's much more I could say about this relationship, Mr. Speaker, but I think we're all aware of how important this relationship is, not just from an economic perspective but from a friendship perspective. In fact I think we all probably have experienced situations where we visited south of the border and we've encountered somebody who knew somebody up here. And oftentimes there's marriages across the border; it gets that close sometimes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quote President John F. Kennedy, who was addressing the Canadian parliament in May of 1961. In his remarks he said, "Geography has made us neighbours. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies. Those whom nature hath so joined together, let no man put asunder." Please join me in welcoming our two guests from the US consulate in Calgary.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two people that are very important in my life. They say — I think we're all familiar with it — that behind every successful man stands a woman. I would like to say, behind every successful man stands a very surprised mother-in-law. But that certainly may be true in my case.

But I'm introducing two ladies who have stood in my place in my constituency for a number of years. I'd like to introduce, in your gallery, Beth Humphrey who's worked for me for 14 years and Carol Miller who's been in my office for eight years. And without their yeoman service on my behalf, we could never have served the Cypress Hills effectively and as promptly as we do. And it's because of these two ladies who have joined us in the gallery today.

And holding down the fort back home is Linda Wig, my constituency assistant who fills in on a temporary basis once in a while. So colleagues, please welcome my two constituency assistants to the House.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming this American delegation to the Assembly today, Mr. Palaia and Mr. Hanson, and I welcome Mr. Palaia on his first visit here to Saskatchewan. I'm sure it will be the first of many. I'd like to extend our best wishes to him for the important work that I'm sure he will do in strengthening that vital relationship that Canada has with our neighbour to the south.

As the member opposite was reading out the various exports and aspects of our relationship, my seatmate reminded me of one important export that he missed, and that's NHL [National

Hockey League] hockey players. Mr. Speaker, we know we send a lot of those from Saskatchewan towns south of the border as well. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming these two individuals to the Assembly today. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave for a little bit of an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The minister requests leave for a very short extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your gallery, I'd like to introduce some special guests from the creative industries that have joined us here in the Chamber today. Michael Jones is the newly appointed CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Mr. Speaker, we're very excited to have Michael as the new CEO of the Arts Board, as he brings a great wealth of knowledge and experience to Saskatchewan. Since 2007 he's been the director of the performing arts program at the Metcalf Foundation, one of the largest private family foundations in Canada, making significant large grants to the performing arts sector.

Michael served as general manager of the School of Toronto Dance Theatre and Arraymusic. He's also held senior management positions with the Muki Baum Association's school of the arts program and Choirs Ontario. So please join me in welcoming Michael to his legislature.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce some more guests from the creative industries. Nova Alberts, president of the Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association. We've been working together and really enjoy the partnership. And we've got more work to do, but thanks for all your help. Joining Nova today is Gordon Pepper who's the executive director of the Saskatchewan Filmpool.

They join us here today for the kickoff to Saskatchewan Film Week. SMPIA [Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association] and the Filmpool will be hosting a number of events this week, including the Saskatchewan Independent Film Awards. And I look forward to attending these events this week and look forward to our continued partnership. So please help me in welcoming Nova, Gordon, and Michael again to their legislature.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the minister opposite to welcome these important guests to their Legislative Assembly.

First of all, Michael, welcome again. We had the pleasure of meeting in Saskatoon a few weeks ago and I think the

Saskatoon community is very excited about having you here in the province, and for the new changes that you'll bring to the Arts Board. We're very proud of our Arts Board here in Saskatchewan, so we are glad you're here and are looking forward to moving forward with that.

And a big welcome to Gordon Pepper and Nova Alberts for their representation here on behalf of the film industry in Saskatchewan. I know it's Film Week so it's an exciting time and I know you have a great lineup of events in front of you. So again thank you for your leadership and your support of the film industry. Obviously there is a long ways to go yet to re-establishing this important industry in our community, and without folks like you it simply won't be on the right track back. So thanks very much for all the work you do. And on behalf of the official opposition, I'd like to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from 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 young gentleman from Moose Jaw. It's Mr. Mark Paterson, Mr. Speaker. He's the new founder of the Safe Homes for Single Mothers. It's a new CBO [community-based organization] in Moose Jaw and I'll have a bit more to speak about that in a few minutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two introductions. First of all, the most important person in my life — I'd like to introduce my wife, Leane Durand, to the Chamber. Leane is a business person in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, a mother of four, and certainly keeps . . . A lot of her time is keeping me on track, Mr. Speaker, so I very much appreciate her support. And she's down here once a year just to check up to see if I'm actually working in Regina, so I appreciate her coming to her Chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this. I appreciate that but, Leane, welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I'd like to introduce to you Steve Compton of the Regina & District Food Bank. I very much appreciated the opportunity to work with Steve over the last two years before being elected, while I was in Saskatoon Food Bank & Learning Centre. And I just wanted to welcome Steve to his Chamber, to be able to recognize the work that the Regina Food Bank and all the food banks in Saskatchewan are doing, as well as the community-based organizations, to help those in need during the Christmas season and throughout the year. So I'd very much like to welcome Steve to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 to welcome Mr. Steve Compton, CEO of the Regina & District Food Bank, to his Assembly. Certainly we're so thankful for his leadership in our community. I've known Steve certainly for many years. I've witnessed him in action in the community and certainly the

food bank as well. We're thankful for their work in extending supports to families.

Coming from an education perspective, I know full well that learning doesn't occur if a child doesn't have food in their belly, and I'd like to thank the Regina & District Food Bank for their work in putting food in bellies and their work as well in supporting the development of young people and families within Regina. So it's my pleasure to welcome Mr. Steve Compton to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to all the members of the Assembly, Warren Kaeding. And if you want to give us a wave, Warren, stand up. Warren is a farmer from Churchbridge, Saskatchewan. They had Wagon Wheel Seed farms in that area, very successful farm, Mr. Speaker.

But also, a little more important even for, and very timely right now, Warren's a very good supporter and constituent of mine and we're both hoping that within the next four months that totally reverses the situation — Warren's in here and I'm up there if I come into this building. So I ask all members to welcome Warren to his Legislative Assembly today.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all my colleagues, it's a real pleasure for me today to introduce my oldest son and his family from Melfort who are joining us. Tim is the manager in the IT [information technology] department in Doepker Industries and he is one of these amazing people that can answer any kind of questions about computer problems over the phone. He answers more questions on that than he ever did when he was at home, so I thank him for doing that work.

Patti, my daughter-in-law, is Rod Gantefoer's daughter. Many of you remember him as the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Melfort. Patti is a public health nurse, and most public health nurses right now have calluses on their thumbs from giving all the flu shots. And I think her and 10 other people are having 15,000 flu shots in our area right now.

My second-oldest grandson, Grant, is also a computer person. And he's playing football this year and did a really good job. And my youngest grandson is Jack. Jack is a young man that can entertain you around a campfire and tell all kinds of stories and keep us all in stitches laughing. But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you he's a little disappointed in his grandmother because he thought that I should be able to pass a law making it mandatory to put marshmallows in chocolate milk, in cocoa. And I think maybe with all the members in the House, we could pass that law if we wanted to. We'd call it Jack's law, and we'd have marshmallows in chocolate milk. So thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and please help me welcome Tim and his family to their legislature.

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly, 24 grade 7 and 8 students from North Valley High School in Lemberg, Mr. Speaker. They are seated in the west gallery. Today they are accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Karie Dovell, and chaperones, Mr. Stan Englot, Ms. Jill Noble, and Ms. Tina Babcock.

Mr. Speaker, I met with them earlier this morning in the lower gallery. I must say that they were very well prepared. They had a lot of good questions that hopefully I supplied at least some good answers. They have a busy day. After they're done viewing the proceedings in the Assembly, they're going to be off to Agribition, Mr. Speaker. And I would ask all members to welcome them to their 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 calling for better support for GSAs [gender and sexuality alliance] in Saskatchewan schools. And we know that this province lags behind others in securing the rights of gender- and sexually diverse students, and this government's not doing enough to create safe spaces in our schools for sexually diverse students or students who are bullied because of their sexual identity or orientation. And we know this government must act so that students have simple, easy-to-understand information about GSAs in their schools or how to form a GSA and who they should talk to in order to form a GSA. 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, the people signing this petition come from Saskatoon, Dalmeny, Rosetown, Rouleau, Regina, and other places in the province. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition Whip.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition asking for this government to support a new long-term care facility for Creighton and Denare Beach. Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens have done their part to build this province and northern Saskatchewan is no exception.

According to the 2009 Croft report, the long-term care stats of our health region is at a code red level. Seniors from our northern communities need immediate attention from this

government, and 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 senior citizens with respect and dignity and immediately invest in a new long-term care facility in the Creighton-Denare Beach area.

And in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand in my place today to present another petition as it relates to cellphone coverage for 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 associated with living in the remote North.

Now, Mr. Speaker, day after day we present these petitions, and this particular day we have petitions signed from all throughout the province of Saskatchewan, as I've indicated. And some of the petitions I'm presenting today come from Big River, Dore Lake, Sled Lake, Saskatoon, Warman, Prince Albert, Shellbrook. 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 yet again in support of better seniors' care. Mr. Speaker, this petition grows out of the seniors' care crisis here in this province, the one that the government is willing to even acknowledge, let alone address. And this comes out of the government cutting minimum quality of care standards and our loved ones being neglected because of short-staffing in our long-term care homes, 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, including creating more spaces and more choices for seniors; ensuring higher standards of care in public facilities, private facilities, and home care; ensuring appropriate staffing levels in seniors' care facilities; restoring regulations that provide minimum standards of care; 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. I so present.

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 it reads as follows:

We 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.

This is signed by citizens from Saskatoon, and I so present. Thank you.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

45th Canadian Western Agribition Begins

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly today to announce the 45th Canadian Western Agribition kicked off this morning at Evraz Place. From November 23rd to 28th, Regina will once again be hosting Western Canada's premier agriculture marketplace, trade show, and rodeo.

Mr. Speaker, each year Agribition attracts more than 125,000 visitors from more than 70 countries. This prestigious event happens over six days, showcasing more than 4,000 head of North America's finest livestock, agriculture equipment, and an impressive trade show that has 450 vendors from around the world.

Along with the livestock shows there's an Agri-Ed program for school kids, thinkAG Career Expo, Indigenous Ag Summit, Grain Expo, and new this year, the food pavilion presented by Mosaic which features cooking demonstrations, food and product sampling, and the Living Sky Winery Garden. Mr. Speaker, there's truly something for everyone. Events include various levels of rodeo and skill competitions, and returning this year, full-contact jousting.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to remind members of our government's \$22 million joint investment with the federal government in the new \$37 million International Trade Centre. This impressive 150,000-square-foot facility will be a focal point at Evraz Place which opens in 2017. Mr. Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to take time out of their busy schedules to check out this world-class event hosted right here in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in my place today to recognize the beginning of an exciting and important week for our province and our city — Agribition. For almost 50 years,

people from every part of our province and well beyond have marked the Canadian Western Agribition on their calendars. It's an opportunity for Saskatchewan's agricultural sector to shine and to show the world what our producers, manufacturers, innovators, and entrepreneurs have to offer. There's something for everyone at Agribition every year and this year's lineup is no different with livestock, trade booths, live music, rodeo, full-contact jousting, and of course, incredible food.

Agribition also serves as a valuable educational tool for teachers in Saskatchewan. Many students from Regina and across Saskatchewan will have a look at the world of agriculture close up. For many of these kids, it will be the first time they experience the sights and smells of our agricultural sector first hand, and this provides an opportunity for them to get a better understanding of how food gets from the farm to their forks as well as to the world.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in thanking all the organizers, volunteers, and participants, and specifically CWA's [Canadian Western Agribition] CEO and all around good guy, Mr. Marty Seymour, along with the CWA's board of directors for all their work and leadership making Canadian Western Agribition such an incredible success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Estevan.

Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in this Assembly today to congratulate the 2015 inductees into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held yesterday with several colleagues from this Assembly attending, including the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture. Also there were senators and MPs [Member of Parliament], including the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, our new federal Minister of Agriculture. There were also dignitaries and guests from across the country.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the history of the Canadian Ag Hall of Fame, the province of Saskatchewan pops up time and time again, and this year was no different. This year's five inductees came from across Canada. They were Dr. Ron DePauw, E. Ward Jones, Anthony von Mandl, Ovilla Lebel, and another familiar name, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Grant Devine. Former Premier Devine was nominated and inducted for championing Saskatchewan on the national and international stage. Another Saskatchewan connection is Dr. DePauw, nominated for pioneering innovation in new wheat varieties. Each inductee has made accomplishments that have helped make Canada a world leader in agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to share that the event held here in Regina was the first time it was held outside of Toronto. This event, in correlation with Agribition, was a great opportunity to showcase achievements in the industry. I invite all members of this House to congratulate all inductees on this commendable achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Symphony's 85th Anniversary Gala

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I, along with the Leader of the Opposition, the member from Saskatoon Centre, and the Minister of Central Services, had the great pleasure to attend the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra's 85th anniversary gala and to join in the celebration of the success of the Share in the Future campaign which saw the orchestra surpass its goal to raise more than \$448,000 with the generous matching donations from the Frank and Ellen Remai Foundation.

Hometown opera singer, Danika Lorèn, captivated audiences with her stunning rendition of Bellini's "Ah! non credea mirarti." World-class trumpeter and Walter Murray Collegiate alumni, Guy Few, took to the stage with a dazzling performance of Hayden's "Allegro." Then Saskatoon Symphony's own concertmaster, Michael Swan, led the ensemble through a captivating rendition of Massinet's "Méditation." And finally Saskatoon-born Samuel Deason wrapped up the hour-long extravaganza with his stunning interpretation of George Gershwin's classic for piano and orchestra, "Rhapsody in Blue."

For 85 seasons the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra has brought world-class performances and top-calibre soloists to the stage in our City of Bridges. This concert and gala was another excellent instalment in a long history of skilful music making and artistic excellence for the SSO [Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra].

I ask all members to join me in thanking everyone who had a hand in making this 85th Anniversary Gala a success, especially executive director Mark Turner and SSO conductor Eric Paetkau. With the hard work and leadership from these two, there's no doubt in my mind the SSO will be thrilling audiences for another 85 years and more. Thank you.

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

Long-Term Care Home Opens in Tisdale

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the Rural and Remote Health minister and the member from Melfort joined myself and local residents in Tisdale to celebrate the grand opening of Newmarket Place.

Mr. Speaker, Newmarket Place has a total of 71 long-term care beds and one respite bed. Our government provided \$16.4 million to the \$20 million facility that replaces an older, smaller home. Newmarket Place lies adjacent to the Tisdale Hospital, allowing residents convenient access to all the care they need. This amazing new project wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the Tisdale trust committee, the town of Tisdale, and the municipalities in the surrounding area.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to improving health care infrastructure in our province. In 2009 we announced plans to replace 13 outdated health facilities in Saskatchewan, and our government has delivered on that commitment. Newmarket Place is the 11th of those 13 projects to be completed, with the final two in the works.

Mr. Speaker, our government will continue to deliver on our

promise to put seniors first. This is unlike the members opposite who, when they were in government, closed 19 long-term care facilities. The NDP [New Democratic Party] left Saskatchewan seniors without the care they needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the community of Tisdale on this exciting achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Safe Homes for Single Mothers

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to talk about the work being done by Mr. Mark Paterson, founder of Safe Homes for Single Mothers. Safe Homes is a non-profit organization that offers free upgrades for single mothers and their children.

Mark started his non-profit when he realized that many single mothers were unable to pay for costly home inspections and the repairs that were required to make these homes safe. This often resulted in families living in subpar, unsafe homes.

Through the sponsorship from Moose Jaw Electric, JAW'S Mechanical, McCauley Agencies, and Thunder Creek Home Inspections, Safe Homes for Single Mothers has been able to offer a service that creates a safe environment for these mothers and their children.

[14:00]

Projects include the installation of smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, electrical upgrades, and plumbing remedies. The first project took place in August, where the organization was able to provide \$4,000 in upgrades for a total of \$1,700. These upgrades focused on personal safety and prevention of fire hazards.

Mark attributes his inspiration for founding Safe Homes for Single Mothers to Dr. Jonas Salk, Marie Curie, and Herb Locke, all of whom had dedicated their lives to helping others without looking for a return.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this House to join me in thanking Mark Paterson and the sponsors and Safe Homes for Single Mothers for the work that they are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Film Week

Mr. Steinley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the kickoff of Film Week here in Saskatchewan, and the creative industry associations have some great events planned for the week. Saskatchewan Media Production Industry Association, SMPA, Saskatchewan Filmpool, and Creative Saskatchewan have partnered together for various events and workshops. Mr. Speaker, some of the great events for professionals and the public include market readiness learning opportunity,

alternative financing, lunch with a buyer and agency, and behind the scene.

SMPA is a proud sponsor of the 2015 Saskatchewan Independent Film Awards, also being hosted this week. This annual showcase is designed to highlight and celebrate the creative and diverse film and video works by the members of the Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative. This week will be a great display of our film industry members in our province.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize one of the ways that our government has supported film in our province. Creative Saskatchewan, a program that supports the arts in our province, has distributed over \$12 million across the province. In fact, over 3 million has gone to the film sector this year alone. We will continue to support our creative industries here in the province, and encourage everyone to get out and enjoy some of the great events that our industry has planned for this year's Film Week. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Surgical Wait Times and Provision of Health Care

Mr. Broten: — According to the latest stats, the number of people waiting longer than three months for surgery has jumped by 73 per cent across the province. That's 20 per cent higher than the increase we saw last month. And this is a direct result of the Sask Party's cut to the surgical budget. What does the Premier have to say about this?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier I'll take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this government has invested \$50 million into our surgical initiative. That's on top of the \$60 million that was in last year's budget. And that is, Mr. Speaker, a total of \$285 million invested in the surgical initiative since it started under this government in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I can report to the House that the number of people waiting compared to 2007 when the members opposite were in government, the number of people waiting longer than 18 months for surgery is down 99 per cent, from 2,600 people waiting longer than 18 months for surgery down to 21 people. The number of people waiting longer than a year for surgery is down 98 per cent, from 5,136 down to 98 patients. Mr. Speaker, we're working hard with our health regions to not only ensure that we maintain the gains but as well be able to deliver to the people of this province among the lowest waits for surgery in this entire country.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, with the record revenue available to this government over the past years, we better have seen that kind of improvements when it comes to surgical cares.

Here's the problem, Mr. Speaker. Here's the problem. We have seen this . . . We see this trajectory now going in the wrong

direction. We see big waits increasing, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan and big month-over-month increases. The increase in surgical wait times are especially bad here in our capital city. Since March, the number of people waiting longer than three months for surgery has jumped by 107 per cent. That's 30 per cent higher than the increase that we saw just last month. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because the Sask Party government cut the budgets for surgeries. How can the Premier possibly think that this is acceptable?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again on behalf of . . . in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I can report to the House that our health regions to date in this fiscal year have completed nearly 44,000 surgeries. That is in fact 1,100 more than was targeted at the beginning of the year for this time of year, Mr. Speaker.

The total number of patients that are waiting longer than three months for surgery is, Mr. Speaker, it is 2,900 people in this province that are waiting longer than three months for surgery. We know that we need to do considerable . . . continue to do work to get that down to the three-month wait for surgery. That's the offer that we made to the people of this province. We need to maintain that. We need to continue to work on that. But it is 2,900 people that are waiting for surgery longer than three months. The total number of patients waiting longer than three months for surgery in 2007 — 15,365, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, while we know that we need to continue to focus on our surgical wait times, Mr. Speaker, we are in much better shape, far better shape than we were under the NDP, and we're going to keep it that way.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, because of the Sask Party's surgical budget cuts, we see waits increasing significantly across the province and especially here in Regina. Just nine months ago, less than 1,700 people were waiting longer than three months for surgery. That's now jumped to almost 3,000 people. That massive increase is a direct result of the budget cuts that the Sask Party made in March. Will the Premier at least admit that his cut to the surgical budget means way more people are waiting longer than three months for surgery?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, the number of surgeries or the patients that are offered surgeries within three months is at 89 per cent province-wide. Ninety-nine per cent of surgeries take place within a six-month window. So the vast majority of our patients are receiving their surgery within between three and six months. That is a far cry from the days of the NDP government where people waited 12 months, 15 months, 18 months, 24 months for routine elective surgery in this country.

And, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't that many years ago — in fact it

would have been in the time that I was the Health minister — when the former Health minister from Lakeview tried to take credit for the beginning of the surgical initiative. And what were we told at that time during committee? That the wait times that they had and the resources that they put into that initiative, it would have taken 30 years to get to where this government has got in five years, Mr. Speaker. We know there's more work to be done, but we are a long ways away from the NDP record.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier promised to eliminate emergency room wait times, but the government made no progress on that and they walked away from that promise. The Premier also promised, Mr. Speaker, that no one would wait longer than one week to see a specialist, but we see, Mr. Speaker, that that has jumped to nearly 11 months for waits. And you have to see a specialist before you get on the wait-list for surgery, so we know that the long waits were already there. But now we are seeing surgical waits growing too, Mr. Speaker, because the Premier decided to cut the budget for surgeries.

Mr. Speaker, after a decade, a decade of unprecedented prosperity and record revenues, Saskatchewan people are frustrated to see this happening, and rightly so, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier at least admit, will he at least admit that it was a mistake for him to cut the surgical budget this year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much. Again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, you know, it's interesting coming from the members opposite, who in the 1999 election promised a 30 per cent reduction in surgical wait times in this province. And do you know what happened over those four years? Wait times went up 61 per cent under their watch.

Mr. Speaker, this government has made a commitment that we will dedicate the resources, that we will make changes to the system including adding third party private delivery of surgery which, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to inform the House that since 2010, 47,000 surgeries have been performed under the public system using third party private surgical delivery. Mr. Speaker, it'll be about 11 or 12,000 this year.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of this province want to know, what is the Leader of the Opposition's opinion on that? Would he keep those third party private surgical suites if he was the premier of the province? Yes or no?

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, they promised zero times on emergency rooms — worse, as bad as ever, Mr. Speaker. They promised one-week wait for specialists — worse than ever, Mr. Speaker, gone up to nearly 11 months. And, Mr. Speaker, now we see waits for surgeries increasing. When you see the wait, the three-month wait for surgeries, increasing by 107 per cent in Regina alone, you'd think that would be a wake-up call to the Premier to admit that it was a mistake to cut the surgical budgets, Mr. Speaker. That's what you would think.

This is the government that has dumped mounds of money, Mr. Speaker, into American lean consultants, into Japanese senseis, Mr. Speaker, and into kaizen promotion offices. They applaud and are pleased to waste money on such initiatives, Mr. Speaker, while they cut the budget for surgeries. They've even ramped up spending on health executives, Mr. Speaker. We see a 37 per cent increase and in some cases, a 46 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker, on health executives. But this government chose, they chose to slash the budgets for surgeries.

Mr. Speaker, across the province, the wait-lists have grown by 73 per cent. In Regina, the wait-list has grown by 107 per cent, all because of the Sask Party's misplaced priorities. To the Premier: why will he not admit that the cut to the surgical budget was a mistake?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — And again, Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, you know what should, I think, give us all a wake-up call in this province is the fact that we are three months away from the drop of the provincial writ and we have no idea what the plan is of the leader opposite. The Leader of the Opposition aspires to sit in that seat and he hasn't even told us what he would do. He hasn't even told us if the 11,000 surgeries that we're going to be performing this year in private surgical settings, if he would cut those.

Mr. Speaker, with the same dollars dedicated in this year's budget, without those third party surgical suites, we wouldn't be able to hit our targeted number of surgeries. They are instrumental in being able to perform the number of surgeries that we're going to perform in the system. They have been instrumental in reducing the wait times for surgeries in this province to the point where major newspapers were reporting headlines like, "Longest waits are in Saskatchewan," *Leader-Post*, 2001; "Survey says waiting lists for elective surgery twice as long in Saskatchewan," 2002.

Mr. Speaker, you know what the headlines are today, Mr. Speaker, in this province compared to the rest of the country? "Among the lowest waits in all of Canada." "Record progress on surgical wait times." That's . . .

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

Provision of Out-of-Province Medical Treatments

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party cut the budget for surgeries, and the waits are going up. That is very clear, Mr. Speaker.

Kayden Kot's parents came to the legislature 41 days ago, 41 days ago. Kayden is just four years old, and he has complex health challenges which were made worse by a serious medical error. The Saskatoon Health Region admits that it can't meet Kayden's needs, so they asked this government to let Kayden go to Denver for desperately needed treatment at a cost of \$14,000. But 41 days later Kayden's parents are still waiting to hear from the government. What is the Premier's explanation

for the government's ongoing refusal to cover this \$14,000 program?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again in the absence of the Premier, I'll take that question on behalf of the government. Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to meet with Kayden's parents, Mr. Speaker. We did that earlier this session. We made a commitment that the time that it would take the review committee to do their review would be moved up because they believed that it was an excessive wait just to have the committee hear their review. The review date was moved up. The committee has issued their opinion. We are currently analyzing that opinion and will be informing the Kot family of our decision shortly.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, 41 days ago Kayden's parents came to the legislature wanting treatment for their son, wanting treatment for their son. The Health minister didn't proactively seek out to meet with them, Mr. Speaker, on that day but met with them afterwards. And they were given the same refusal lines, Mr. Speaker, the same refusal lines that they'd been getting all along the way, Mr. Speaker. That answer will be cold comfort to Kayden's parents, Mr. Speaker. No wonder Kayden's mom had this to say: "Kids with needs get wrapped up in red tape and delayed with therapies when they need it now."

I can't understand, Mr. Speaker, how the Premier and the Sask Party government can continue to ignore the plight of this little boy. And a big reason, a big reason for his health challenges are because of a serious medical error that Kayden experienced in our health care system, Mr. Speaker. We owe this little boy and we owe his family so much better, and certainly not a slow walk of 41 days before they can get an answer, Mr. Speaker, when they could fix this right now if they had the compassion and if they had the willingness to learn and to look at the facts straight from the Saskatoon Health Region, Mr. Speaker.

The Sask Party wastes \$14,000 in a blink of an eye, yet they continue to refuse treatment for Kayden for \$14,000. My question to the Premier: how on earth can he justify this?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to — as we have to do from time to time — I just want to correct the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Speaker, the Kot family didn't have to seek me out as if I wasn't willing to meet with them. I've known Kayden's father since we were seven years old. I have spoken to Kayden's father earlier this year. I have met with them, Mr. Speaker, and I would hope that the Leader of the Opposition would get his information correct before he brings it to the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you the difference between this side of the House and the members opposite. I think with the exception of one case — and it was their choice not to meet with me —

we, either myself as Health minister or the Rural and Remote Health minister, the former Rural and Remote Health minister, or the former Health minister, we meet with individuals that come forward whether they agree with what we decide or not, which is far different from the members opposite. If you came to this legislature before 2007, you couldn't find a Health minister to meet with. That is the difference on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, and I think the members opposite know that.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the last time the Health minister said he would do something shortly was when he said he would release the seniors' care reports, Mr. Speaker, and that was about 42 days ago, Mr. Speaker.

This government's treatment of Kayden and his parents has been deplorable, Mr. Speaker. They've had to fight every inch of the way for the care that they need for their son, Mr. Speaker, and it has been absolutely unacceptable and everyone on that side knows this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Kayden's mom is watching today. She's watching right now, Mr. Speaker. She deserves a crystal clear answer about when she will find out whether or not she gets care for her son. When will she find out whether or not her son can get the medical care that he desperately needs and he absolutely deserves?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, as I said before, we are currently reviewing the information that has come back from the review committee, Mr. Speaker, and we will be issuing a decision to the family once our review of that is complete. Because of the fact, as I have indicated on the floor of the legislature, as I have indicated to my colleagues, because I have known Kayden's father for many years, I felt it was best that I would have another minister review the file before making the final decision. And we are doing that, Mr. Speaker. We are going to do that. That's our commitment.

And here's the difference. Under this government . . .

An Hon. Member: — What's the holdup?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well part of it is the fact that we now have a review committee that we send information out to get a review when the ministry turns down somebody, which never happened before, Mr. Speaker. There was no review under way. Under the NDP, once you got a decision that was no, there was no way to appeal that. We've made those changes. We put that in place and we will be following that review process. In this case, we will be changing it slightly for the fact that I know Kayden's father personally.

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

Emergency Room Wait Times

Ms. Chartier: — The Premier promised to eliminate ER

[emergency room] wait times. He said if you show up at the emergency room you'd be able to see a physician right away. But of course we know this government has not made progress on that. In fact, the government's own documents show they've abandoned that commitment. There were more reports over the weekend from Prince Albert about a crowded emergency room and unacceptably long waits to be seen by a doctor. 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, we certainly have seen some progress that has been made in our ERs across the province as we're working towards our emergency department initiative. We did provide in last year's budget about one and a half million dollars. We increased that in this budget, Mr. Speaker.

We know that we are also working, doing some important work outside of the emergency department because we know that it will help flow within the emergency department. So for example, we had a major announcement of the expansion of the Lighthouse in Saskatoon that will take pressure off of the emergency department. We are providing for paramedicine at places like the Lighthouse as well. We do have our police and crisis teams both in Saskatoon and Regina, and we're seeing good results both in those communities as we are implementing those programs.

It's not just going to be one thing that's going to be the solution for emergency departments. That's why we're looking at both the process in the emergency department, but as well as the process outside of the emergency departments to see those improvements.

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

Ms. Chartier: — The most recent figures for Prince Albert's emergency room show that urgent patients are waiting up to an hour and 25 minutes to see a doctor — urgent patients. According to national standards, a doctor's supposed to see urgent patients within at least 30 minutes. People who show up in Prince Albert's emergency room are waiting almost an hour longer than the guidelines say they are supposed to wait. Is this acceptable to the Health minister?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Well, Mr. Speaker, if it was acceptable, we wouldn't put money into an emergency department wait and patient flow initiative. That's why we've invested in this year, I believe, close to \$4.7 million into our emergency department waits.

Mr. Speaker, we know that this is not going to be solved overnight. Mr. Speaker, we know that we have to ensure that we have the proper resources in terms of both in the emergency department as well as changing some of the processes. That's why Regina is concentrating on the triage process, to be able to improve that aspect of care. But we also need to ensure that we have the supports outside of the emergency departments.

So whether it be the Home First/Quick Response which is operating in Prince Albert and has been an effective program to the point where we have expanded it in this year's budget, or seniors' house call program which we believe will be very helpful to ensure that people are having that proper support provided in their own home; whether it be the police and crisis teams that we're seeing both in Saskatoon and Regina that have been very effective and that are seeing reduced visits to the emergency department, those that are not appropriate for the emergency department, and adding capacity to the community setting. So it's not going to be solved overnight, but certainly this government is showing dedication to making progress on this file.

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

Ms. Chartier: — People who show up at the ER and are classified as needing urgent care have acute pain, moderate trauma, a gastrointestinal bleed, or acute psychosis and they're supposed to see a physician quickly. But the most recent statistics show they're waiting almost an hour and a half in Prince Albert's emergency room.

And reports from over the weekend say the ER is clogged. Victoria Hospital is over capacity and patients are being left to wait far too long. The John Black lean program clearly didn't work despite mountains of money being dumped into it. What's the minister going to do about P.A.'s [Prince Albert] ER waits right now?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, well we are putting additional resources into the system for the emergency department. That's why this province, this government provided \$4.7 million in this year's budget, an increase of \$3 million. And P.A., Victoria Hospital would have received funding as a part of that to increase . . . I believe they used their dollars to increase physician services in the emergency department, especially during peak hours.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that, you know, this is not certainly new for the health care system in this province or in any other province, of ensuring that we are seeing patients in a timely fashion. In fact I can tell you that back in 2004 — this would have been from a then Dr. John Witt — this is what he said: "Too many days and nights we have the simultaneous arrival of critically ill patients, and it has become routine to make potential heart attack patients wait hours to be seen."

Mr. Speaker, at that time I think the minister of the day basically took a hands-off approach in terms of improving waits in ERs. That's certainly not the position that we've taken as the government, and we will continue to work on this issue.

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

Renewable Power Targets

Ms. Sproule: — It's good to finally see this government talking in a somewhat meaningful way about renewable power. But we

know the Sask Party government has a bad track record of making big commitments and then failing to actually follow through. We see that in everything from ER waits to specialist waits to greenhouse gas emission reductions — big commitments that sound good but very little follow-through, and that's the Sask Party way.

So we're not going to break out the cake and balloons yet. But we have a simple question for the SaskPower minister: why is the 50 per cent target a cap rather than a base?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, along with the SaskPower president and CEO this morning, we were very pleased to be able to announce to the people of Saskatchewan our plan with regard to renewables going forward, a 50 per cent plan for renewables that we will include into the generation mix here in Saskatchewan by year 2030, Mr. Speaker. We think this is an important target and we think it's important because the people of Saskatchewan want our government to move with respect to CO₂ emissions, and that's exactly what we have done, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP had a program, a platform around this as well, Mr. Speaker. It was similar to ours. The concern that we had with their platform, Mr. Speaker, was around the Poplar River plant. We felt that it was unnecessary to close that facility down as their plan indicated. I guess we should have known that, given the fact that they don't like coal and they want to shut the entire industry down.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, this government was very deliberate in its wording. Despite what the Premier said last week, this government is not setting a clear target of generating at least 50 per cent of our power for renewables. No, they're just saying that generation capacity will be up to 50 per cent renewables. The capacity will be up to 50 per cent.

This is starting to look like it's just a ploy to cover for the carbon capture mess and the fact that this government has no climate change strategy. The legislation we introduced would have set a target of at least 50 per cent of our power generated with renewables. Will the SaskPower minister agree to remove the "up to" language from this target and make it a firm commitment to generate at least 50 per cent of our power from renewables?

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

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, I think as was explained at the news conference this morning, clearly when you're talking about renewables, Mr. Speaker, there's a difference between what the actual capacity is and the amount of generation there is from that because they operate at various efficiencies, as the member opposite would know, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I can start naming members, identifying their

constituency if you would like. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Mr. Speaker, as it was indicated this morning, there's various efficiencies for the various types of renewables, as the member opposite would know. When you look at wind, for example, the efficiencies might be as high as 50 per cent which means 50 per cent of the time there's no generation at all, Mr. Speaker, from that facility. But you still have that kind of generating capacity when they're operating, when there's full wind capacity to operate, Mr. Speaker. And I think that that's important.

And I also think it's important why we see at least one NDP that knows what they're talking about, Mr. Speaker. In the paper today, there was a quote: "First of all, Saskatchewan Environmental Society is very pleased with Premier Wall's announcement and we commend him for it. We think it's absolutely a feasible target." And that came from none other than Peter Prebble, Mr. Speaker, someone the member opposite should be very familiar with.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Renewable Electricity Targets for 2030

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly to share a vision of the plan to power Saskatchewan's future. Today I joined Mike Marsh, SaskPower's president and CEO, to announce plans to help our province reduce its environmental impact today and for years to come.

SaskPower employees are working hard to meet the growing demand for power in a growing province. They're busy replacing and repairing aging infrastructure. They're working hard to meet tougher environmental regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We're already meeting that challenge with carbon capture and storage, Mr. Speaker, more hydro imports, and exploring the possibility of new hydro in northern Saskatchewan. But I think we can do more.

Today we are pleased to announce the province of Saskatchewan and SaskPower are setting a target to have up to 50 per cent of the province's power come from renewable sources by year 2030. That is a doubling of Saskatchewan's total renewable power capacity in just 15 years, Mr. Speaker. By meeting this target, SaskPower will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 40 per cent from 2005 levels.

About 25 per cent of our current power capacity today comes from renewable sources, including hydro and wind. SaskPower has enough wind capacity to power nearly 100,000 homes and businesses already in Saskatchewan, and about 400 homes in Saskatchewan and businesses in our province in Saskatchewan use solar power as a secondary power source, Mr. Speaker. That's a great start, but we believe we can do more.

In particular over the last year, SaskPower has worked hard to create a plan for SaskPower to significantly increase the amount of renewable electricity in Saskatchewan's generation mix from 25 per cent today to as much as 50 per cent by 2030.

[14:30]

All sources of power have pros and cons, and the goal is that diversified portfolio of options that balances reliability, cost, and environmental impact. As the first step to achieving this target, a plan to expand wind power will help SaskPower add more renewable electricity to our system while making the best use of Saskatchewan's world-class wind resource.

We are also interested in looking at utility-scale solar projects in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, which would be a groundbreaking step in Canada should we be in a position to move forward as the cost of solar projects is continuing to trend downward. Mr. Speaker, we're also looking at the potential for more hydro projects and hydro imports from other provinces, as well as the potential for geothermal projects here as well. Further details will be shared as we move further down the road of achieving our long-term goal and as some of the details are worked out.

SaskPower estimates this will affect the average residential consumer's power bill by about \$1 per month, Mr. Speaker. The total cost of this plan is expected to be in the range of about \$1.5 billion over 15 years. We believe this is a valuable investment in our province's green energy future.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of the direction that is being taken to ensure that we are meeting our environmental responsibilities for today and for generations to come while at the same time ensuring Saskatchewan families and businesses continue to enjoy reliable, affordable electricity here in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition was hopeful last week when we heard that the Sask Party planned to adopt the NDP goal of power generation from 50 per cent renewables by 2030, and of course today we're disappointed, Mr. Speaker. The goal should be to generate at least 50 per cent of the power entering the grid from renewables. Instead we have a goal to have the capacity to generate no more than 50 per cent of Saskatchewan's power from renewables by 2030.

We know SaskPower employees are doing their very best. We all know Saskatchewan people want action on climate change. Saskatchewan still has the highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions in the country but, instead of rising to the challenge, instead of taking more seriously Saskatchewan families' desire to do our part, the Sask Party has presented a weak, watered-down target. They're using evasive words, Mr. Speaker, to say 50 per cent when what they mean is something less than that.

Saskatchewan should be joining other premiers in showing leadership on this file. A firm commitment to generate at least 50 per cent of our power from renewables by 2030 is a realistic, achievable goal if the right actions are taken to match the target. We urge this government to take another crack at it and to come up with a plan to set SaskPower's target to be at least 50 per cent of Saskatchewan's power generated by renewables by 2030.

The bill I introduced in this spring called for 50 per cent renewable generation by 2030, a 350-megawatt efficiency and conservation target by 2050, and an 80 per cent greenhouse gas reduction goal by 2050, with benchmarks along the way for each of those three goals. Mr. Speaker, those goals are achievable if there are actions to match them.

I also want to hear a commitment from this government that I think was lacking this morning, and that's a commitment to green jobs right here in Saskatchewan. Local businesses and co-operatives should be the driving force behind Saskatchewan's energy future, not foreign corporations. Changing our carbon footprint can be a massive driver for jobs and the economy. I want the green jobs in power generation, plus in research and development, to be jobs for Saskatchewan people and Saskatchewan companies.

Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the Sask Party to take another look at this. Getting it right is not for the sake of a media release or a talking point; it's for the sake of our beautiful Saskatchewan environment, our children and our grandchildren, and for the sake of our economy going forward.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with leave to move some motions of condolence.

The Speaker: — The Deputy Premier has requested leave to move motions of condolence. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

CONDOLENCES

Adolph Sylvester Matsalla

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of the Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Adolph Sylvester Matsalla, who passed away on May 18th, 2015 at the age of 89 years old, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1967 until 1982, representing the constituency of Canora for the New Democratic Party. He served as the minister of Tourism and Renewable Resources.

Mr. Matsalla was born on March 22, 1926 on a small farm in the Rama district. From 1943 to '52, Mr. Matsalla taught in a number of rural schools. After marrying his first wife, Anne, he worked as a secretary treasurer for the RM [rural municipality] of Buchanan for 23 years. Once elected, he continued to hold that position until 1975 when he was appointed to cabinet.

Mr. Matsalla is survived and sadly missed by his second wife, Marcella, and her children as well as his four children, Les, Marianne, Ronald, and Cheryl, and their families and stepchildren.

In recording its deepest sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

The Speaker: — It was moved by the Deputy Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of the former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation for the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Will you take the motion as read? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to join with the Deputy Premier in paying tribute to Adolph Matsalla, or Al Matsalla, as he was better known. Mr. Matsalla attended teachers' college in Saskatoon and taught in several schools near Canora. He left teaching in 1953 and began working with RM of Buchanan in several administrative roles, and in 1967 he defeated the Liberal incumbent and was elected to represent the good people of the Canora constituency.

Like I often do when preparing to speak to condolence motions, I read Mr. Matsalla's maiden speech in this Assembly, which he delivered way back on February 27th, 1968. This is part of what he said:

Mr. Speaker, as I rise to speak for the first time in the Legislature, my first thought is about the constituency of Canora and its people, whom I was elected to represent. I feel that it is with a great deal of pride and honour that I have been placed in a position to truly represent the Canora people through the democratic process of election. With this, one possesses a sense of security and sureness in his reputation.

Mr. Speaker, that strong focus on representing the good people of the Canora constituency, of always ensuring that they were first on his mind, is demonstrated not only by his record in this Assembly but his leadership within government. But it's also shown by the fact that Mr. Matsalla was easily re-elected three times in 1971, 1975, and 1978.

After his retirement, Mr. Matsalla's public service did not end. He went on to serve as the administrator for the RM of Sliding Hills, and he even served two years on Canora's town council.

So we pay tribute to him today and express gratitude for his service to the people of Saskatchewan as an MLA and a cabinet minister and a public servant. We express gratitude for his service to the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] and the NDP. And we express our sincere sympathies to his family, his wife Marcella, his four children, Les, Marianne, Ronald, and Cheryl, and their families as well as his

stepchildren.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, it's a honour to participate in recognizing the accomplishments of a great person, a person who dedicated a lot more to the Canora area over time in a number of areas.

Mr. Speaker, the condolence motion, as read by the Deputy Premier, summarizes a great career, a man who spent a lot of time helping individuals. I'm just going to highlight a couple of things, Mr. Speaker, beyond what the Leader of the Opposition has also said. And I'm going to spend a little bit of time on education because of course Mr. Matsalla began his education in a rural area.

And as mentioned, he grew up on the family farm in what is referred to as the Rama district. Those of you who travel down Highway 5 will recognize that just out of Rama, there is a road that is called the Matsalla road. And that, Mr. Speaker, is the road that goes by Adolph's family farm, the place where Victor and Mary came when they came to Canada. Mr. Speaker, Adolph's dad was a young boy about 7 years of age, I believe — and I hope I'm not erring on any of these numbers — when he came to Canada with his parents. He came here directly from Galicia. And I think that's one of the reasons that you'll see later on in life when Adolph has the opportunity to actually travel to Poland and to Ukraine because of course his dad was from that area.

But, Mr. Speaker, also growing up in a rural area in the early years, in the '30s, meant that of course you were going to the local school district, that school that was close by. Adolph's elementary education was in a little school called Walna and, Mr. Speaker, that school district is still marked in the RM. After completing his elementary education, he went over to Buchanan to do some of more senior grades and then finally finishing his high school education at St. Joseph's College in Yorkton.

Mr. Speaker, as was the case with many individuals, at an early age there was a need for teachers. And if you can imagine this, he went to normal school in 1943 and spent a short time at teacher's college, as it was referred to, and then came back to start teaching in the MacNutt area at age 17. And he was teaching in a school that had students from grade 1 to 10. So you can imagine, maybe, probably, a student in grade 10 would have been pretty close to 16 years of age and the teacher up front was 17 years of age.

So he spent a number of years, from 1943 to 1952, teaching in a number of schools in the Preeceville area, Tiny area, Tadmore, and at the same time completed what was referred to then as a first-class permanent teaching certificate.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting how he changed in still wanting to serve people. Moving out of the teaching profession in 1952, he was hired as the assistant secretary treasurer. Now of course we know that position is RM administrator, but it was then the assistant in the RM of Buchanan. At the same time working, going to school and completing his certification course, his

administration course, and getting his certificate, then in June of 1953, he was hired as the secretary treasurer of the RM of Buchanan, which he continued until December 31st, 1975.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to note though, as he's serving as the administrator, he becomes interested in politics. He starts to work on behalf of the political party of his choosing, which of course at that time was the CCF, and in 1966 in fact he is selected as the CCF candidate to run in the provincial election. The provincial election doesn't take place until 1967, and at that time he's now elected as the NDP member for the constituency of Canora. As mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, re-elected again in subsequent years with his final re-election being in 1978.

As was already mentioned, I'm not going to repeat that he spent some time in cabinet from 1975 until 1979 when he stepped out of cabinet as other members were placed in cabinet in 1979, and then did not seek re-election in 1982.

So, Mr. Speaker, a pretty broad range of serving the people of Saskatchewan, because after the time of not serving in cabinet, he decided to go back as the secretary treasurer of Sliding Hills, and then serves, I believe it was, another 11 years as the secretary or administrator then.

[14:45]

So when you look at that career of 34 years, some of it at the same time as he was the MLA for the Canora constituency, he was also serving as the secretary treasurer. No doubt a pretty busy, busy lifestyle, I'm sure, trying to ensure that he served the people of the RM of Buchanan well, as well as serving the area as the member for the constituency of Canora.

Mr. Speaker, a quick comment about his family members. I was elected to the school board in 1985. And at the same time, there was a young man who was elected to the Melville board of education, the Catholic board there, and his name of course was Les Matsalla. That was Adolph's son, served on the school board in the late '80s for the same period of time that I was on a school board. So I did get to meet Les at a number of trustee-related occasions; and of course there for the same reason, to serve the people of Melville to ensure that education was a top priority.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of now Canora-Pelly constituency, I would like to extend of course my condolences to the family members of the late Adolph Matsalla. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join and express my condolences to the Matsalla family. I had the occasion to meet Mr. Matsalla a couple of times, but my more ongoing contact was with his son, Les Matsalla, who is a practising lawyer in Saskatchewan, and then subsequently a Provincial Court judge serving in Swift Current.

I think that much of the Matsalla style of dealing with people and being a good representative of the people from that part of the province has now been passed on to the next couple of generations. And we say thank you very much to the Matsalla

family and to all of those who loved Mr. Al Matsalla. So I just wanted to express those words. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The motion before the House, moved by the Deputy Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Adolph Sylvester Matsalla, who passed away on May 18, 2015 at the age of 89, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1967 until 1982, representing the constituency of Canora for the New Democratic Party. He served as the Minister of Tourism and Renewable Resources.

Mr. Matsalla was born on March 22nd, 1926 on a small farm in the Rama district. From 1943 to 1952, Mr. Matsalla taught in a number of rural schools. After marrying his first wife, Anne, he worked as the secretary-treasurer for the RM of Buchanan for 23 years. Once elected, he continued to hold that position until 1975 when he was appointed to cabinet.

Mr. Matsalla is survived and sadly missed by his second wife, Marcella, and her children, as well as his four children, Les, Marianne, Ronald, and Cheryl and their families, and his stepchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Robert Pickering

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to, at the end of my remarks, move another motion regarding a former member. But before I move that motion I did want to speak to this member a fair amount, if I could take some time.

I've had the opportunity to be in this House for about 16 years, and we've had these condolence motions each year to recognize former members. I don't know if there has ever been an instance though that I knew the former member as well as I know this person, Mr. Robert or Bob Pickering from Milestone.

Originally started farming . . . Born in Wilcox but farmed I guess it really would have been south of Wilcox or east of Avonlea. I know where their farm was. But Bob was certainly well known before he got involved in politics. In fact, I think maybe that part of his success in politics stemmed from the success he had on the curling ice across Saskatchewan and throughout Canada. Bob was very well known in the curling circles.

And I want to touch a little bit about kind of on his curling days, and then I'll touch a little bit on his political days, but most importantly what kind of weaved through all of that was really his wife, Dorothy, and their family, the girls, Laurie, Pattie, and Sheri, that I know fairly well of course. They went to school in Milestone when I went to school. Maybe they were a little bit younger than I was when I went to school, but I certainly remember them. And having spent a fair amount of time around Milestone after school, they were around quite a bit, so I knew the family quite well.

But Bob's curling certainly put him on the map. It says here that he was in three Briers. All I can remember as a kid when you'd kind of listen to the radio or listen to the sports after the provincial weekend is that Bob Pickering was representing Saskatchewan again. I'm surprised it was only six times. I know that he went to a Brier with the Campbell brothers from Avonlea, of course, Garnet Campbell. And they took him I guess maybe a little bit under his wing for a year or two. He went to the Brier under the Campbells. But mainly he got to be really well known as Peewee Pickering. His nickname was Peewee because he wasn't a very big guy.

And for anybody that remembers Bob Pickering curling, and especially under Peewee, if they remember his backswing, he was famous for his backswing. He had the high backswing. He'd bring the rock back, way up past his head. And there are lots of different shots, still shots of Peewee with that backswing.

And I was talking to some people this past weekend that said, like why did he always do that? Why was his backswing so long and so high? And it was because he was a pretty small guy, and growing up in rural Saskatchewan when it was natural ice, and down around that . . . Avonlea, Wilcox, probably some alkali in that water that they were putting on the ice, so that made it really tough. In curling terms, that would be called tough. And so that's why his backswing got to be as big as it was, is so that he could get the rock down to the other end of the ice. Now he never got away from it. Even as he got curling in other venues, to the Brier and into the city, he still kept that patented backswing which made him very well known.

Bob was also quite well known in the curling circles for the bonspieler piece. I mean that's where we all . . . Well I should say not all, but I certainly learned a little bit about curling was the bonspieler end of it. I was probably better at that than I was the curling. But Bob did a pretty good job at the bonspieler end of it as well, and he was quite well known for that.

And I was talking, as I said, to some friends from Milestone this past . . . I guess it was on Thursday. Another quite well-known person from Milestone had passed away and we were at the funeral, and we went and chatted after. And I was talking to — and the family will know him very, very well — Jim Monson from Milestone. And I was saying, geez, is there any good Peewee stories that you have? I have to do this condolence motion and I just kind of wanted to put on record a little bit of what Bob was about.

I mean Jim started and I never really got another word in edgewise because it was story after story after story. And so

many others in that area had stories about Bob. He had a strong rink made up of people mainly from Milestone, but I know one of the Fords from Gray, Gary Ford, was on his rink at times.

But there was this one spiel that Jim was telling me about that he didn't have kind of the natural rink that he would normally have, whether it was Jack Keys and Dick Schiefner and some of the other guys that he had curl on his rink that certainly helped him to the provincial titles. Unfortunately, never a national title. I remember hearing it said he was the best skip never to win a Brier. And back in those days the Brier was set up quite a bit different. It was just a round robin, who happened to have the best record at the end. And he went through with a winning record pretty much every Brier that he'd been at, but he never quite had that, the most winningest record, if that's the proper term. There wasn't the Page playoff system or anything else where I'm sure he would have had not only the purple hearts, because I remember his sweater lined with purple hearts back then. For every provincial title, he'd put a purple heart on. And he had his sweaters lined with purple hearts, but he never did have that national championship.

But back to the story that Jim was talking about is that he didn't have his normal rink and so they decided that they would . . . He wanted to go into the, I think it was known then as the Corby Cup. It was the Elks provincial playdowns, kind of. It wasn't the official playdowns that go to the Macdonald's Brier. Back in the day it was called the Macdonald's Brier. But this was to the Corby Cup.

I remember even kind of when I first went there, there'd be 60 or 70 teams. But back in the day, there'd be 120 teams from all across Saskatchewan, and it was probably the best curling spiel in the province, save for the provincial championships.

And Bob didn't have really a rink with him because the other guys were going off on their own. So he asked two guys that happened to not be playing hockey that weekend. They were younger, Wayne Rogers and Jim Monson. And I don't know who the third was. I think he might have been the caretaker at the rink. I'm not sure.

And Bob just told them, he said, you know, if you guys between the three of you can make a shot an end between the three of you, I think I can do okay and hopefully carry the day. Well you know, so he's got . . . Bob's got a couple of younger guys and the caretaker with him. I don't know if it was the caretaker, but . . . So a pretty young team.

Well of course at the Corby Cup, sponsored by Corby's, you kind of get an idea what would go on after the games. And they had a lot of fun because that is quite a long playdown. It was for the whole week, and they had an awful lot of fun at this bonspiel. It was in Weyburn and they were in Milestone, so they could kind of go back and forth.

And be darned if they didn't win every game all the way to the final of the Corby Cup, and that was on a Sunday. And the story goes . . . Now I don't know if it's true or not, Dorothy. But some would say that Dorothy might have said to Bob, maybe you should just take it a little bit easy because it's Saturday night and you've got the final. You guys have made it all the way through with these young guys, two hockey players and a

caretaker. Maybe you should just take it easy tonight, Bob, so that you can maybe win the Elks provincials, which is again a real feather in his hat.

So the story goes . . . Now it's just a story. Bob did take it easy on that Saturday night and they got blown out on Sunday. So that just goes to show you, you know, Mr. Speaker, that his bonspieling helped his ability on the ice. And a lot of people could say that you could never stay up with Bob the night before and curl at 8 in the next morning because he had the button weight every time where everybody else was just barely trying to make it to the rink. So be it Peewee or Bob was very well known for his curling across the province.

He got into politics, and I remember, I remember very distinctly when he got into politics because my dad was quite involved on an organizational level. I remember him getting . . . He worked in a grain elevator. He'd come home and have a quick shower and put on a tie and go to a constituency meeting.

And back in those days, in the early days, Conservatives didn't have much . . . not that they didn't have support across the province but they didn't have much representation here. And they thought in the, it would have been called the Bengough-Milestone constituency at that time, but they needed a name. They needed somebody that had a good name and so they, you know, Bob Pickering's name floated around and my dad and a few others approached Bob to see if he would be interested in running.

Bob was a farmer and a curler. He didn't have a lot of experience in politics but certainly in that first election back in '78 he ended up winning and then became the representative and, like all of us for the first term or two, first term especially, we learn a lot and, you know, public speaking wasn't maybe on the forefront of what we did in the past but it becomes part of what you have to do into the future. And Bob worked on that and certainly became a very good representative for Indian Head-Milestone over the number of terms that he represented.

Just on one last personal story for me, I was kind of getting interested in politics at that time as well and so . . . interested in running. I knew he was stepping down after the 1991 election and would be stepping down and I was kind of the age, pretty young then, but I thought I'd be interested to see what politics would be all about. And so I phoned up Bob and he said, yes, come by and let's have a chat. So the first time I was ever in this meeting was to meet Bob Pickering, and I remember his office was down where our caucus office is, down on the end of the second floor. And I remember driving up and I didn't know where I should park because this place could be really intimidating. It was really intimidating, still is intimidating at times. But I remember finding a spot and coming in and being completely intimidated until I got to Bob's office.

And he really didn't want to talk about politics. He really wanted to talk about farming and the Milestone community and what was going on around there because truly that was his . . . That really was who Bob was. It was the community of Milestone and surrounding areas — Avonlea, Wilcox. And agriculture was certainly more of who he was than anything else.

So I know it's tough for Dorothy and the girls again, who I see every so often, losing their dad. But he did leave a huge mark on this province, not only as a sports, truly celebrity in this province, but also as a very good politician and most importantly a really good representative for the people of Indian Head-Bengough at that time.

So I would just like to read the condolence motion:

That this Assembly record with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and express its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and the province.

Robert "Bob" Pickering, who passed away on June 24th, 2015 at the age of 82, was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 1978 to 1991, representing the constituency of Bengough-Milestone for the Progressive Conservative Party. He served on many committees including the Agriculture, Privileges and Elections, Public Accounts, and Crown Corporations Committee. Bob also served as Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister of Rural Development, and Minister of Parks and Renewable Resources.

Mr. Pickering was born on September 19th, 1932 in Wilcox, Saskatchewan. He was a grain farmer and a skilled curler. He was inducted to the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 1974 for his participation in six Briers.

Mr. Pickering is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Dorothy, and his daughters Laurie, Pattie, and Sheri, as well as their families.

In recording its own deepest sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaving family.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

[15:00]

The Speaker: — Will the House take the motion by the Deputy Premier as read? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you. I rise to join with the Deputy Premier in paying tribute to Robert Pickering. Mr. Pickering was an avid and skilled curler, participating in four consecutive provincial championship winning teams and representing Saskatchewan in six Brier tournaments.

As one of the tributes in his obituary said, "It was always a thrill to watch PeeWee curl. Who could ever forget that backswing of his?" That legendary backswing of his and his many other curling skills landed Mr. Pickering an induction into Canada's Curling Hall of Fame in 1974.

He served the constituency of Bengough-Milestone for the Progressive Conservative Party from 1978 to 1991, and he was the Minister of Rural Affairs, Minister of Rural Development, and Minister of Parks and Renewable Resources.

Today we pay tribute to Robert Pickering and we thank him for

his service to the people of Saskatchewan. And we express our deepest sympathies to his wife, Dorothy, his daughters Laurie, Pattie, and Sheri, and their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few comments in regards to Mr. Pickering. Mr. Speaker, when I was elected in '86, Bob was here as a minister. And I remember, what I remember of Bob Pickering was coming to this Assembly. What I knew of him prior to my election was just following the curling. It was, in those days, you kind of took a real interest. We had the Richardsons. We had Bob Pickering. And as just a rural member and an individual, you followed curling quite extensively because we had, over a period of years, we had some sound representation on the national level from this province, and Bob was one of those individuals.

Of course I didn't know Bob that well until I got elected. And as the member from Indian Head-Milestone had indicated earlier, what I remember of Bob, I came in and I was kind of looking up to him because, well, here's this gentleman who's known as a national curler. Now he's an elected representative, and kind of sought out Bob to get a little advice as to what it was that really impressed you and how he could . . . how I could look to him for some advice as what I should do now as an elected member.

And quite interestingly enough, as the member from Indian Head-Milestone had mentioned, if you started talking farming and a little bit of sports, then you got to know the man a lot more. That was almost what was more important and more on his mind than really what it was to sit around in this Legislative Assembly. However he did speak highly of his time, the time he spent in the Legislative Assembly. And he didn't brag a lot about whether he was minister or not. He had an opportunity to represent the people of his constituency. And he wasn't very outspoken about it; he just did his job to the best of his ability.

And basically I think, if I recall, he said, just be a good representative. Listen to people. And you don't have to be out there, seen a lot of times in the public, but just listen to people. And that's what I remember from Bob Pickering, the man who was a farmer, who was a curler, who became an elected member of this Legislative Assembly, and I believe he served his constituents and the people of this province well. And it was a privilege and an honour to have been a colleague of his in that period, '86 to '91.

So I just wanted to extend my condolences and appreciation to, condolences to Dorothy and the family and to say thank you for allowing your husband, your father, to be an elected member of this province, who we look back on now. And many people across this province are saying thank you, Mr. Pickering, for the time and effort you put into being a member of the Legislative Assembly here in the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is that, by the Deputy Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he

made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Robert “Bob” Pickering, who passed away on June 24th, 2015 at the age of 82, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1978 until 1991, representing the constituency of Bengough-Milestone for the Progressive Conservative Party. He served on many committees including Agriculture, Privileges and Elections, Public Accounts, and Crown Corporations committees. Bob also served as the Minister of Rural Affairs, Minister of Rural Development, and Minister of Parks and Renewable Resources.

Mr. Pickering was born on September 19, 1932 in Wilcox, Saskatchewan. He was a grain farmer and a skilled curler. He was inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame in 1974 for his participation in six Briers.

Mr. Pickering is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Dorothy, and his daughters Laurie, Pattie, and Sheri, as well as their families.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Joan Duncan

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I again move this motion regarding the passing of Joan Duncan, former MLA, a couple of words. Just one story that I had regarding Joan.

I got to know her just very, very briefly, kind of near the end of her career when I was going to some conventions. And I always remember meeting her and thinking what a strong woman she was. Especially to be serving, you know, as one of the early women in cabinet, what a strong woman she was, but also coming from Maple Creek, so far away from the city. And I had a bit of a respect for her at that time, but it certainly became greater.

Once you serve in this House and you realize the pressures, number one, to be in the capital city as a minister and as a representative, but also those draws and ties back to your constituency . . . I don't think she could serve further away, serve in an area further away — and the member may speak about this — but further away from the capital city as Maple Creek and still be in southern Saskatchewan.

So she did great work again for the people of Maple Creek, but more importantly some of her portfolios were very important and a major change through those years, and did a great job not only for the people of Maple Creek but, as I was going to say, for the province of Saskatchewan. I'd just like to read the motion now, Mr. Speaker:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of the former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution she made to her community, her constituency, and the province.

Joan Duncan, who passed away on September 23rd, 2015 was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1978 until 1991 representing the constituency of Maple Creek for the Progressive Conservative Party. Ms. Duncan, along with one other member, were the first female cabinet ministers appointed in Saskatchewan history. Ms. Duncan held many ministerial positions during her term, such as Minister of Government Services, Consumer and Commercial Affairs, Co-operation and Co-operative Development, and Economic Development and Tourism.

Ms. Duncan was born on October 30th, 1941 in Cudworth, Saskatchewan. She attended primary and secondary school in Wakaw and then studied pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan. She and her husband, John, owned and operated Duncan's Drugs in Maple Creek. Ms. Duncan is survived and sadly missed by her husband, John, their four children, William, Heather, Richard, and Michael, and their families.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Mr. Speaker, I so move.

The Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the motion read by the Deputy Premier as read? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you. I rise to join with the Deputy Premier in paying tribute to Joan Duncan. Ms. Duncan was a trailblazer for women in politics here in Saskatchewan. In 1978, Ms. Duncan was the only woman elected to the legislature. Today that's hard to fathom, although we know we have a long way to go to achieve gender parity in this Assembly.

A 1982 article in the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* said, “Joan Duncan, the only woman in the Saskatchewan legislature, has earned a reputation as one of the toughest opposition members.” Ms. Duncan and her colleague Patricia Smith of Swift Current were the first women to be appointed to cabinet. She served as Minister of Government Services, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Affairs, Minister of Co-operation and Co-operative Development, and Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Recalling her swearing-in, Ms. Duncan said:

I was overwhelmed. I had never seen the cabinet room and I was simply awestruck. Here I was, one of the 64 MLAs, and yet I was also one of the 16 who were given such enormous responsibilities.

Today we pay tribute to Joan Duncan and we thank her for her service to the people of Saskatchewan. And we express our deepest sympathies to her husband, John, their four children, William, Heather, Richard, and Michael, and their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the sixteen and a half years I've been in this legislature, I've never been required to participate in these condolence motions, and it's with a bit of mixed emotions I think that I do that now.

Joan Duncan was a trailblazer, as has been indicated already. She set a pretty high standard for subsequent MLAs to meet in terms of constituent representation. And in fact I understand that her victory parties were known throughout the Southwest and were often attended by Liberals who had lost the election. And so maybe that was the genesis of the Saskatchewan Party informally then. I'm not sure. But Joan had a real reputation of being able to connect with constituents, and I think the loss of her now will be felt by many people who were close to her on a personal level and many more who were close to her on a political level.

Mr. Speaker, I didn't know Joan personally. I met her for the first time when I was knocking on doors in Maple Creek in the 2011 election and she invited myself in, and I think I had one other person with me at that time. And she was just full of curiosity, inquisitive as could be as to how the election was going and who was doing what and where the government was going to go on this or that particular initiative. She was very alert and bright, although she was confined to home for most of the time and was not outdoors and socializing as frequently and as readily as she would have liked, I'm sure.

I did get to meet her husband, John, though. He ran the drugstore in Maple Creek — or one of them — Duncan's Pharmacy. After Joan had taken her leave from the business, he was there, and he was a very reliable and faithful pharmacist. People had come to depend on him, and he had an obligation toward them that I'd hardly ever seen actually in a pharmacist previously.

So when I'd wander into the store . . . When I'd visit Maple Creek, I'd often go up and down Main Street and talk to various people, business owners and operators. I invariably came to Duncan's Pharmacy because I knew John would be an engaging conversation partner. But I always had to wait to talk to him until he had finished filling every prescription that was on his desk or in the hands of the people standing in front of me. And so I got to the point where I either came very early in the morning or very late at night because I lost a little bit too much time there waiting to have that conversation with John.

You know, as the Deputy Premier referenced, it is a tough life where you have to balance your responsibilities to the public, and in Joan's case to her government through a cabinet portfolio, and to your family and your community.

[15:15]

And Maple Creek is roughly 400 kilometres from the city of Regina, so if she made that trip every week as I do, I know what kind of a toll it would take on her physically. And the demands of the job, being such as they were, would have created even more pressure on her. And I think that the way that she was able to serve and the length of time she was able to serve speaks highly of her commitment and her motivation to serve the

people of, at that time, the constituency of Maple Creek.

The constituency today, Cypress Hills, makes up part of . . . is made up part of the constituency of Maple Creek and the former constituency of Shaunavon. So out of those two areas that are sort of all tied together in Cypress Hills right now, there are still at least three, maybe four MLAs residing there just waiting to make trouble for the next MLA that comes along.

But I think that one of the things I can honestly say is that I never felt like I was being put under the microscope of inspection by the Duncan family. They were curious, they were interested, and they were really conversant in the politics of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I want to read into the record the obituary that appeared in the paper, if I may. I was just going through the paper one day and opened it up quite accidentally and found this obituary. It took me by surprise as I didn't realize that Joan had developed such serious health issues. But it says here that:

With her family by her side, Joan Duncan died peacefully in the Maple Creek hospital on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. A funeral service to celebrate Joan's life was held Friday, October 2 at the Maple Creek Armoury.

Joan was born to John and Edna Tratch October 30, 1941 in Saskatoon and raised in Wakaw. She was the protector of her three sisters and the ringleader for their childhood adventures. Her idyllic childhood gave her the foundation that allowed her to grow into a strong and wise woman.

Joan moved to Saskatoon in 1961 to go to university where she met John, the love of her life. The only thing that worried her was how young he looked and that people would think she was dating a teenager. John moved to Maple Creek to work as a pharmacist and Joan joined him there after they were married.

She immersed herself in the community, teaching Sunday School and leading Canadian Girls in Training. She was an avid curler and golfer and attended many Saskatchewan Roughrider games. Joan loved to cook and was never afraid to take on a challenge in the kitchen. Her traditional New Year's Eve fondue was legendary among family and friends. She was proud of her Ukrainian heritage and for years cooked the 12 Ukrainian time-honoured Christmas Eve dishes.

Joan's family and home were her life. Joan managed a very lively household and liked nothing better than taking care of John and their four kids. During these busy years she was a hockey- and figure-skating mom, a tutor, a taskmaster and a committed homemaker. She could be on the road driving kids to hockey, taking Richie to the hospital to get his broken arm fixed. She might be baking something for a friend's shower, babysitting someone's kids or helping Heather do her homework. These things were her greatest joy.

Joan was elected, as was indicated, to the legislature in 1978, and she was one of the first women to serve in cabinet. I believe the other woman at the time was Pat

Smith, who was elected in the constituency of Swift Current.

Joan was a committed MLA and took very good care of her constituents. She met with everyone who ever wanted to see her, and on occasion she made sure someone got fed or taken to the hospital or to the Salvation Army if that was needed. Joan worked hard and the exhaustion, politics, and long hours took its toll, but her sense of purpose never wavered.

She was greatly respected by the area ranchers and farmers. She had many friends from all over the province, but her heart was always in Maple Creek. She loved its open countryside, its sunrises and sunsets, and how each season had its own special smell. And she loved the sage that grew on the sandy soil between Maple Creek and Piapot, the Cypress Hills, her house on the corner, and John's garden.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all the constituents of Cypress Hills and the former Maple Creek constituency, I offer my condolences to the family of Joan Duncan. May she rest in peace.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to add a few more comments in regards to the condolence motion we have before us for Joan Duncan.

Joan was also another one of those members that was there when I was first elected as well in 1986. And while the member we spoke about earlier, Mr. Pickering, was maybe a little more soft spoken in the Chamber, Joan Duncan was anything but. She was a feisty, feisty individual, and if the opposition were raising a question and it was directed in her direction, she usually had some kind of very . . . She could get up and start softly, somewhat like the member from Canora, but it wasn't long before she got quite feistier in in her responses to members' questions. And I found that quite interesting.

I might also add that back in '86 this Assembly was a lot more raucous than it is over the last few years. And so if you were a minister, you stood up and you not only spoke for your caucus colleagues and your responsibilities but for the people you represented — your constituents. And Joan, I would say, did that very well as did Pat Smith. And there again, there was quite a contrast between Pat Smith who was the member from Swift Current. She could be very, being that teacher type, not the feisty voice, but she could stand up and do it in a more direct manner, put you in your place. But Joan, like I said, was very feisty.

I really appreciated Joan. Whether it was in caucus or whether it was in the Chamber or even just to meet with her as an individual, she was an individual you could approach. You knew you could sit down, have a chat with her, and you could get some advice from her days in the Chamber — prior to my involvement — and very good advice as to how you should handle yourself as an MLA. And I really appreciated Joan for that.

Mr. Speaker, I also might mention that we didn't have a calendar in those days. When I was first elected that '87 term, that '88 term, both went well into the fall. From the spring well into the fall we sat and, as a result of that, those were long, long days. We sat Monday to Friday with Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays being 10 o'clock days, those long days. And of course when you're on the government side of the House and you're the backbencher, you don't get to have a lot of participation. All committee work was done on the floor of the Chamber.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I was mentioning this, there was a real bond that began to be built between members, not just the backbenchers, but even cabinet ministers. One thing I appreciated, Mr. Speaker, was the fact that as backbenchers, there were times, you know you're part of the larger team, but you almost felt left out. And Joan Duncan was always good at saying as we would recess for the 5 to 7 period, she'd come to a number of us as MLAs and say, where are you going for supper? I'll join you, as did Mr. Taylor. They were very good at doing that, and you'd just . . . made you feel more a part of the team. So I appreciate that.

I also recall one time where Joan on a trip, a ministerial trip out to the East Coast, just made arrangements to actually have live lobster shipped back to the province so we could at least have a barbecue in her back yard. That was another team-building experience.

And so, Mr. Speaker, as we reflect back on some of these individuals — and in my case I had the privilege of knowing them as a colleague — there are a lot of good memories you have. And you could see, and it's gone through the years, you can see how each individual member, how they represented their constituents. And you drew on that, even as you observed their manners and how they worked in the House, the Legislative Assembly.

So, Mr. Speaker, it truly was an honour to serve with Ms. Duncan. And I want to say to John and her family — as I got to know John, not that well but I did know him — I want to extend my condolences as well and just say thank you for having had the privilege. First of all, you were willing to share your wife and your mother while she spent time here; but also as a member, I had the privilege of getting to work with her, getting to know her. And I just want to say thank you and would extend my condolences on the passing of Joan Duncan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — On the motion by the Deputy Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution she made to her community, her constituency, and to the province.

Joan Duncan, who passed away on September 23rd, 2015, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1978 until 1991, representing the constituency of Maple Creek for the Progressive Conservative Party. Ms. Duncan, along with one other member, were the first female cabinet ministers appointed in Saskatchewan history.

Ms. Duncan held many ministerial positions during her term such as Minister of Government Services, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Co-operative and Co-operative Development, and Economic Development and Tourism.

Ms. Duncan was born on October 30th, 1941 in Cudworth, Saskatchewan. She attended primary and secondary school in Wakaw, then studied pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan. She and her husband John owned and operated Duncan's Drugs in Maple Creek. Ms. Duncan is survived and sadly missed by her husband, John, their four children, William, Heather, Richard, and Michael, and their families.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Mary John Batten

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to move:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and express its grateful appreciation of the contribution she made to her community, her constituency, and to the province.

Mary John Batten, who passed away on October 9th, 2015, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1956 until 1964, representing the constituency of Humboldt for the Liberal Party.

Ms. Batten was born in Sifton, Manitoba in 1921. She attended the University of Saskatchewan and earned her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law degree in 1941 and 1942, respectively. She articulated at the firm of Diefenbaker and Cuelenaere in Prince Albert and was called to the bar in 1944.

After her departure from the Legislative Assembly, she was appointed to the District Court in Saskatoon. She was the first woman to hold a federal judicial appointment in Saskatchewan. From 1966 to 1968 she chaired two Royal Commissions: the Prairie Provinces Cost Study Commission and the Public Accountancy Commission. In 1980, Ms. Batten was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan. She was appointed the first female Chief Justice on June 30, 1983. She held that appointment until her retirement in 1989.

The Honourable Mary Batten is survived and sadly missed by her four children, Dick, Justine, Trish, and Jyll, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, the Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — On the motion by the Deputy Premier, will the Assembly take it as read? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to join with the Deputy Premier in paying tribute to the Hon. Mary Batten. Ms. Batten was a leader among a small number of women in politics and the legal profession. She received a law degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1942 and was called to the bar in 1944.

She was elected to this Assembly in 1956 and served here as a Liberal MLA until 1964. Ms. Batten was the first woman of Ukrainian origin to be elected to a Canadian legislature. For a time she was the only lawyer and the only woman on the opposition side of this Assembly, and she was known for her vigorous debating skills and the strength of the opposition she provided.

Ms. Batten was a strong advocate for women's involvement in politics. As an MLA, she did speaking tours reaching out to women's groups and organizations, encouraging women to become involved in and to utilize their talents to their fullest potential, despite social pressures, and she played an integral role in pushing for the strengthening of women's legal rights.

[15:30]

In a presentation to the Regina Business and Professional Women's Club in 1961, she called for steps to be taken to amend laws around marriage in order to protect women and children in the event of a separation or divorce.

After her departure from this legislature in 1964, Ms. Batten went on to serve as a district court judge and chair two Royal Commissions. In 1983, she became our first woman Chief Justice and she served in that role until 1989.

Today we pay tribute to the Hon. Mary Batten and we thank her for her service as an MLA, as our Chief Justice, and as a trailblazer for women in politics and law. And we express our deepest sympathies to her four children, Dick, Justine, Trish, Jyll, and their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mary Batten was born August 30th, 1921 in Sifton, Manitoba. She attended the University of Saskatchewan where she earned degrees in both arts and law. Mary served as an articling student under future Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and was accepted into the Saskatchewan bar in 1945.

Following her acceptance to the bar, Mary then settled in Humboldt where she would marry Charles Batten. In Humboldt she quickly established herself as a strong community leader as she became very active in a variety of community

organizations. Here she would become a partner with Batten, Fodchuk, and Batten in Wadena and Humboldt in 1964.

In 1956, 11 years after being accepted to the Saskatchewan bar, Mary decided to put her passion for politics to use and decided to run for public office in the constituency of Humboldt for the Liberal Party. Here she was successful in narrowly defeating the incumbent CCF cabinet minister, Joseph Burton. This historic election victory meant that Mary would not only become one of the first women elected to the legislature, she would also become the first Ukrainian Canadian woman to be elected to a provincial parliament.

While serving in opposition, Mary was chosen to serve in the high-profile position of the province's Justice critic. Soon after taking office, she became a vocal critic of party leader Hammy McDonald. She is often seen as being instrumental in precipitating McDonald's resignation, which would lead to the leadership convention that elected future Premier Ross Thatcher.

Mary Batten would serve in public office for two terms before moving on to further her career in law. Shortly after serving out her second term in office, Mary became the second woman to receive a federal government appointment to the judiciary in Canada. While serving as a judge, Mary was asked to chair two provincial Royal Commissions — in 1966 on accounting practices, and in 1968 on the cost of living. Mary's excellence as a judge was recognized by many and in 1983 she earned the appointment as the first female Chief Justice in Saskatchewan. Mary would continue serving the court for another seven years as Chief Justice until her retirement from the courts in 1990. Her retirement came after spending an extremely successful 26 years as a judge.

Mary continued to tirelessly serve her community throughout her career, by volunteering with many different community organizations. She was a member of the board of directors of the Vanier Family Institute, and the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon. She was also a member of the Canadian Consumer Council and the Saskatchewan Science Council. As one of the earliest women elected to the legislature and one of the first female judges in the province and the first female Chief Justice in Saskatchewan history, Mary Batten was instrumental in helping to remove barriers to women in society's highest public offices. Mary was survived by four children, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, a brother, a niece, and a nephew.

Mary Batten excelled in everything she did, and she will be sincerely remembered as a great role model for generations to come. The constituents of Humboldt join this Assembly in expressing its most sincere sympathy to the members of this bereaved family.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to briefly join the debate here on the motion of condolence for Mary John Batten to add my voice to those that mark the passing of a real towering figure in Saskatchewan politics and certainly in Saskatchewan legal circles.

I've had the pleasure of meeting Mary a couple of different times in my life. And I guess I just want to note, in addition to the good things that have been said about Mary in terms of being a trailblazer both in politics and in legal circles, when she won — as has been pointed out by the member from Humboldt — when she won in Humboldt in 1956, she was beating Joe Burton who was also something of a trailblazer in Saskatchewan politics in bringing the CCF cause forward with the very important German Catholic vote, and with Catholics generally across the province. So one towering figure to another certainly, Mr. Speaker.

But I'd met Mary Batten, as I know various of my colleagues have — and we'll perhaps hear a bit more about this from my colleague, the member from Lakeview — as the mother of Trish, who is of course the partner of our colleague Clay Serby, and certainly someone that I very much enjoyed serving with and did a lot for the public life of this province. But Trish was a very big part of that, and that Batten touch certainly I know figured a lot in the work that Clay was able to do on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. So I've had the pleasure to have met Trish.

And certainly this is also a lesser-known fact, but Dick, one of Mary's sons, would be recruited to play for the NDP hockey team back when we were winning a bit more consistently, Mr. Speaker, despite the best efforts for the member from Rosemont, and her grandson, David. So it was always a good time to socialize and to get to know a bit about the Batten family.

But it's to them in particular that I want to say, we're sorry to see the passing of Mary, but what a tremendous life. What a legacy. And to the Batten family, we express our sincere condolences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to express my condolences also to the Batten family on the death of Chief Justice Mary Batten. I first knew her as a young lawyer appearing in court. And she was often the one that was probably most generous with younger lawyers and listened carefully to arguments and basically was somebody that you really liked to get as a judge. And when she then was appointed the Chief Justice, that sent a signal I think through the whole legal system here in Saskatchewan that there was going to be a change. And she was that, I think, generous change that was, I think, important for the legal system here. She was subsequently succeeded by my old law partner, Chief Justice Donald MacPherson.

So when I became the attorney general in 1995, one of my tasks was to go to the courthouse in Saskatoon for various judicial events, and Chief Justice Mary Batten was always there, at that point serving in a supernumerary role, but still hearing cases. And she was one who was very quick to come and speak to me and spend time asking about politics because no matter how many years she had at the bench, what was happening in the legislature and what was happening in the world of politics in Saskatchewan was a very important part of her life.

I also knew Dick Batten as a lawyer that I dealt with in various

places. So then later when I came to be here in the legislature and met Trish through our colleague Clay Serby, I also then had a chance to visit with Mary Batten when she was fully retired. And she continued to have that keen interest in politics, which I'm sure she kept right until the end because she was very much in the forefront of developing many of the things that happened here in this legislature.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my condolences to all the members of the extended Batten family and say thank you very much for Chief Justice Mary Batten's service. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution she made to her community, her constituency, and to the province.

Mary John Batten, who passed away on October 9, 2015, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1956 until 1964, representing the constituency of Humboldt for the Liberal Party.

Ms. Batten was born in Sifton, Manitoba in 1921. She attended the University of Saskatchewan and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Law degree in 1941 and '42 respectively. She articulated at the firm of Diefenbaker and Cuelenaere in Prince Albert and was called to the bar in 1944.

After her departure from the Legislative Assembly, she was appointed to the District Court in Saskatoon. She was the first woman to hold a federal judicial appointment in Saskatchewan. From 1966 to 1968 she chaired two Royal Commissions, the Prairie Provinces Cost Study Commission and the Public Accountancy Commission. In 1980, Ms. Batten was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench for Saskatchewan. She was appointed the first female Chief Justice in June 1983. She held that appointment until her retirement in 1989.

The Honourable Mary Batten is survived and sadly missed by her four children, Dick, Justine, Trish, and Jyll, as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Norman Vickar

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move a motion:

That this Assembly record with sorrow and regret the

passing of a former member of this Assembly and express its grateful appreciation of the contributions he made to his community, his constituency, and the province.

Norman Vickar, who passed away on October 17th, 2015 at the age of 98, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1982, representing the constituency of Melfort for the New Democratic Party. He served as the Minister of Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Vickar was born in 1917 in the farming community of Edenbridge. Prior to becoming a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Vickar owned a car dealership with his two brothers. He was deeply involved in his community, serving as town councillor and mayor of Melfort.

Mr. Vickar is survived and sadly missed by his wife of 68 years, Florence; their children, Larry, Reva, and Faye; their spouses; their many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sympathy of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaving family.

I so move.

The Speaker: — Will the Assembly take the motion by the Deputy Premier as read? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to join with the Deputy Premier in paying tribute to Norman Vickar. Mr. Vickar was elected to this Assembly as a New Democrat MLA in 1975. In his maiden speech he said this:

This government continues the tradition of the party founded on the basis of concern for our fellow man. I am proud beyond measure to know that the concern for our fellow man and an attempt to better the lot for all is one principle which has not been cast aside by our government. It is often very simple and indeed tempting, Mr. Speaker, for a political party to forget those less fortunate when they gain the mantle of power. In our modern age it is too easy to forget those who, through no fault of their own, suffer economic, social, or physical handicap. I am proud and deeply honoured to be part of a government that has not forgotten.

Concern for the common good and looking out for one another was a key value for Norman Vickar, and he lived that out as an MLA. Norman was the second Jewish member to be elected to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, and he was devoted to the Jewish community, including as president of the Jewish National Fund for Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He served as a town councillor and even mayor of Melfort; in recognition of his service, the government building in Melfort was named the Norman Vickar Building.

[15:45]

His family described Norman as the glue that kept his large family together, and they say he was happiest when he was

surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In his final days, Norman was able to fulfill one of his final wishes to be able to vote in the federal election, and one of his last requests was a simple call to his children to “take care of mom.”

Today we pay tribute to Norman Vickar. We thank him for his service to the New Democratic Party and especially to the people of Saskatchewan. And we express our deepest condolences to his wife, Florence, their children, Larry, Reva, and Faye, and their families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melfort.

Mr. Phillips: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the House to pay respects to the late Norman Vickar, who served as MLA for the Melfort constituency for two terms and was the Minister of Industry and Commerce. It is with great sadness that Norman’s family announced his passing on October 17th, 2015, at the age of 98 years.

Born and raised in Edenbridge, Saskatchewan, just north of Melfort, Norman was an active member of his community. He was president of the Hebrew Congregation B’nai B’rith, Melfort Rotary Club, Elks Lodge, and the Melfort Board of Trade. Norman also served as a town councillor for Melfort, followed by four years as mayor of our community, and I believe it was during those four years that Melfort became the city of Melfort.

Mr. Speaker, in 1983 Norman moved to Manitoba, giving up his full-time job to become a full-time volunteer. He worked with Meals on Wheels, the Winnipeg Jewish National Fund, Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, and the Jewish Heritage Centre.

I find it hard to believe, Mr. Speaker, that it was 1983 when he left our community. I moved there in 1972, and it seemed to me that it was a much longer time that he was there while I was there. But he continued over the years, since 1983, to visit very often, and it seemed like we would be in the same room often.

He is remembered as a remarkable role model to his family, to his children, to his grandchildren and, as was mentioned, he was always happiest when he was around his children. Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, Norm was a leader in our community. He was a businessman. He was a volunteer, mayor, and MLA. Over the years I had a great deal of contact with Norm through business and with many other different events and projects around the community. Norm was a person who never forgot where he came from, whether it be Edenbridge or Melfort. In fact, the entire Vickar family is like that. They have always given back to the community.

Whenever I had the opportunity to be in the same room with Norm, we would spend some time talking. The first couple of minutes would be maybe a little bit about politics, Sask Party versus the NDP. But once we got over that and we agreed to disagree on that, we would talk about community and we would talk about family, the real important things in life.

Norm was a mentor to me when I held the office of mayor, as he was progressive and he was aggressive, traits that I believe are very important to be effective in that office. Norm was

always willing to listen and to give advice when asked. It’s been over a year since I last talked to Norm, over a year since we gave each other some good-natured ribbing. I will miss him. The community will miss him.

Our condolences to his wife of 68 years, Florence, who is a wonderful lady in herself, his children Larry, Reva, and Faye, and his brother Harry and all their families. May you rest in peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to add my words of condolences to the Vickar family as well. In the middle ’60s, our family ended up acquiring a farm not too far from Melfort, and in that area it was always a good sign when you saw the Vickar Motors sticker on the back of a car. So that’s my first memory of that name. But subsequently he ended up obviously providing great leadership to our province during the time of the Blakeney government.

One of the places in Saskatchewan that captures one, and you don’t forget it, is to go to Edenbridge, to the synagogue and to the Hebrew cemetery. And very much, it’s been stated here today, that that place and that institution is in a huge part thanks to the Vickar family.

A few years ago, actually 2010, our library got a book called *Coming of Age: A History of the Jewish People of Manitoba*. And as the member from Melfort said, Mr. Norm Vickar moved to Manitoba in 1983, but much of his family have strong connections there. But one of the things that is stated in this book is about the fact that Norm was the brother who was able to get into politics. And so I’ll read a quote here that I think identifies why he was so successful, and this on page 89 of this book: “Resolute and sociable, he was a natural politician. His values, he told author Erna Paris in 1980, were ‘Vickar values: ambition, hard work, and determination.’”

Mr. Speaker, I think that that brief description that he gave of himself, I think, was true of all members of the Vickar family.

It’s interesting to understand in this book — and it provides a history of the Vickar family — is that they actually moved to that place just north of Melfort from South Africa. They had moved from Lithuania to South Africa, four years down there, and then came to Saskatchewan to be farmers. And it’s, I think, a testament to the family and to Norm that he was the one then that ended up in politics in Saskatchewan, living out the dream of his father and uncles and continuing a legacy of service to the community.

Mr. Speaker, many people in Saskatchewan have these histories of working hard to build our province, and I would say thank you to the Vickar family and my condolences to them. Mr. Norm Vickar lived a good life, and he did a great job for Saskatchewan. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to move a motion of transmittal.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Norman Vickar, who passed away on October 17th, 2015 at the age of 98, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1982. He represented the constituency of Melfort for the New Democratic Party. He served as the minister of Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Vickar was born in 1917 in the farming community of Edenbridge. Prior to becoming a member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Vickar owned a car dealership with his two brothers. He was deeply involved in his community, serving as town councillor and mayor of Melfort.

Mr. Vickar is survived and sadly missed by his wife of 68 years, Florence, their children, Larry, Reva, and Faye, their spouses, their many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave to move a motion of transmittal.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave to move a motion of transmittal. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit an audio/video record of the tributes, together with the verbatim record and the *Votes and Proceedings*, to the bereaved families in memory of the deceased members.

I so shall move.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly,

transmit an audio/video record of the tributes, together with the verbatim record and the *Votes and Proceedings*, to the bereaved families in memory of the deceased members.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. 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: — This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:57.]

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