



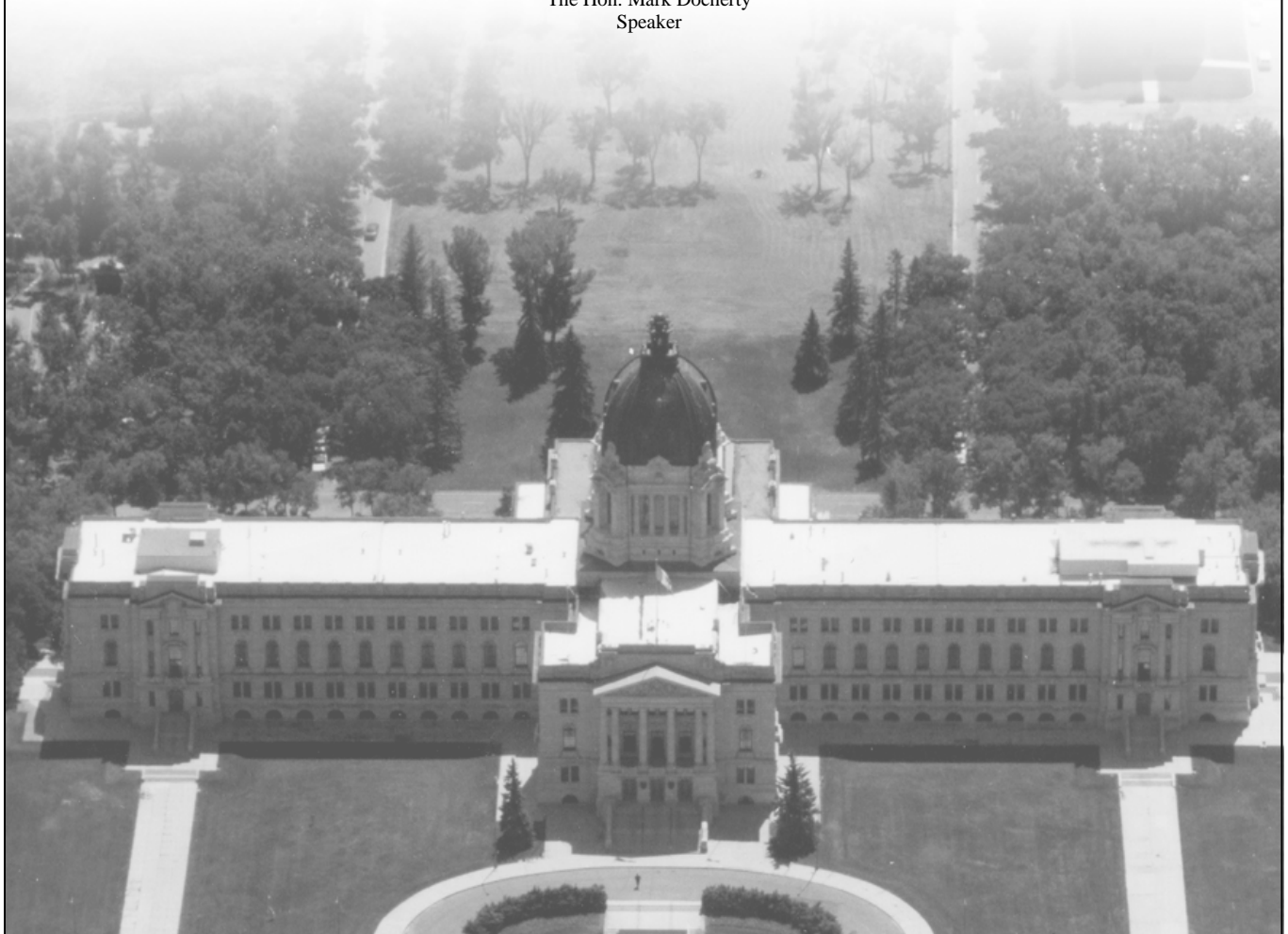
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 28th Legislature

Speaker — Hon. Mark Docherty
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Lambert , Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young , Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13

Clerks-at-the-Table

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Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's with great pleasure that I can introduce some special guests who are with us today in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Jenny Thorpe — I would just ask if you'd all wave as I introduce you — we have critical nurse Jenny Thorpe and critical care paramedic Matthew Hogan here with us, air medical crew with STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service] air ambulance in Saskatoon. I'll speak about them more later on, Mr. Speaker.

And accompanying Jenny today are her partner, Jodie Durston; her parents, Ron and Ilene Thorpe; her brother, Myles Thorpe; family member Kent Stewart. And from STARS I'd also like to introduce Cindy Seidel, Darcy McKay, and Mark Oddan, and I want to thank them for joining us here this morning.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the member opposite in welcoming our guests from STARS air ambulance in Saskatoon today. You folks provide critical supports at some of the most crucial moments in our lives, so I want to thank you for all that you do and ask everyone to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with the other members, I'd like to welcome STARS and especially, at the end of the row there, my son-in-law, Mark Oddan. And together with my daughter, they have two of the most beautiful grandsons you've ever met. Thank you very much, and I ask you all to join in with me welcoming them.

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

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join in with my colleagues today to welcome these members from STARS. Saskatoon air medical crew of course was already introduced: Jenny Thorpe, critical care nurse; Matt Hogan, critical care paramedic; Jenny's parents and brother, Ron and Ilene Thorpe, and of course Myles Thorpe, the brother. And from the STARS Saskatchewan office, Cindy Seidel, director of provincial operations for Saskatchewan; Darcy McKay, clinical operations manager for the Regina base; Greg Chorney, aviation base manager for Regina base; and Mark Oddan, senior communications adviser for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

I can personally speak to the value of STARS, not only as minister but as a person who has had . . . I can count five friends directly impacted, having their lives impacted or saved by

STARS, and how thankful I am for that, Mr. Speaker.

And often I'll be out in the morning running fairly early and I'll see STAR-9 Regina flying out of town, and how proud I am to see that service in operation, to see them out doing their job. But then also that it's quite often emotions change to a little bit of regret because they're out there for a reason and it's not to fly around

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming these valuable members of our communities, of our medical services in the province, to their Assembly.

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

Hon. Ms. Baudry-Mellor: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Over in the far gallery we have a group of grade 11 and 12 students from Regina Christian School, which is in my constituency, from the law 30 class. They're here with their teacher, Ms. Jennifer Kramer. I'm really looking forward to meeting with you guys later today. I think it'll probably be the highlight of my day. And so would you join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I would also like to congratulate Jenny Thorpe, who is a resident or has come from the constituency of Melville-Saltcoats, but also like to welcome to their Legislative Assembly her very proud parents, Ron and Ilene Thorpe, and her very proud new dad and brother, Myles Thorpe. So I'd like everyone to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce some of the team that works with me up in Social Services. I have Abby Rutko, up there; Kali Olynyk, and Emma L'Heureux who keep me on track up in my area . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. And as my colleagues will attest and as they will attest, on or off the record, it is a massive job keeping me on track. So I'd like to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also want to take the opportunity to introduce a couple of people that work in my office that are seated in the west gallery. Deserae Kambeitz is our new senior administrative assistant. She joined us from WestJet just a couple of months ago and it's great to have her.

I also want to welcome Lauren Jelinski. And, Mr. Speaker, Lauren was my senior administrative assistant. She took on a role as a ministerial assistant, and I'm sad to say that she's actually going to be leaving the building in the not too distant future. Mr. Speaker, she's going to be joining the private sector. We want to wish Lauren all the best. She's done a tremendous job. And, Mr.

Speaker, I want to ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Biggar-Sask Valley.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to be outdone but all my colleagues have been introducing various members of STARS. I feel like I need to introduce Cindy Seidel once again. She lives in Biggar. She's a registered nurse and obviously works with STARS. She's a very valuable member of STARS and a valuable member of our community and our parish in Biggar. So welcome to Cindy and the rest of the members from STARS.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present a petition from citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this will hurt all Saskatchewan families and businesses and will result in a \$16 billion hit to our GDP [gross domestic product]. Mr. Speaker, we have to stop this Ponzi scheme by the federal government.

I would like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Nipawin and Choceland. I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise on behalf of concerned citizens, businesses, people from all across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party government hiking the PST [provincial sales tax], expanding it across a whole range of services and goods including construction and insurance and restaurant meals, Mr. Speaker.

Of course this is hurting our economy here today. We're losing jobs all across Saskatchewan as a result of this damaging and reckless decision, a decision of course that's a direct result of the mismanagement from a financial perspective by this government. We call on the government to reverse the expansion of the PST.

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to stop saddling families and businesses with the costs of their mismanagement and immediately reinstate the PST exemption on construction and stop hurting Saskatchewan families and businesses.

These petitions today are signed by concerned residents of Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and Cut Knife. I so submit.

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

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, I'm rising today to present a petition calling for a public inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal. The people who have signed this petition want to bring to our attention the following: the Sask Party has refused to come clean on the GTH land deal, a deal where Sask Party insiders made millions flipping land and taxpayers lost those millions. The Sask Party continues to block key witnesses from providing testimony about the land deal, and it is Saskatchewan people who footed the bill for the GTH land deal and they deserve nothing less than the truth.

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 the Sask Party to stop hiding behind partisan excuses and immediately call for a judicial inquiry and a forensic audit into the GTH land deal.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who have signed this petition today come from the good city of Saskatoon and also North Battleford. I so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to stand in my place and present a petition calling on the government to reinstate funding and support for spiritual care programs in this province's health care facilities. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that spiritual care helps patients and their families toward achieving holistic wellness and that Saskatchewan will be the only province within Canada that does not fund this support for its citizens.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan reinstate funding and support for spiritual care programs in this province's health care facilities.

This petition is signed by individuals from Saskatoon, Hague, and Hafford. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to stand in my place today to present a petition calling for the restoration of the rental housing supplement. The individuals who signed this particular petition would like me to draw your attention to the following points. The rental housing supplement helps people living with disabilities, and low-income families pay their rent. The Sask Party's elimination of the rental housing supplement hurts low-income families and people with disabilities. Those who currently receive the supplement have no assurance that a change of circumstance won't lead them to lose their supplement.

This cut comes after previous Sask Party cuts to the SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] program have already affected hundreds and left people living with disabilities with fewer supports. Rents remain unaffordably high for many, since the cost of living has increased significantly in the last decade, while social services benefits have remained unchanged.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately restore the Saskatchewan rental housing supplement.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition come from the city of Saskatoon. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Air, Army, Sea, and Navy League Cadets Recognition Day

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to acknowledge Air, Army, Sea, and Navy League Cadets Recognition Day in Saskatchewan. This is a day where the people of Saskatchewan celebrate and salute the excellent contributions of the many cadets across the province.

The cadet program is a free program for youth between the ages of 12 and 18. As a member of a cadet unit, youth can participate in a variety of challenging and rewarding activities while learning about citizenship, leadership, physical fitness, and the sea, army, and air components of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The cadet program has played an important role in thousands of young lives, including my own, Mr. Speaker. I learned many valuable traits and life skills as a young air cadet and later as an army officer. The cadet program helped me to succeed in many ways throughout my life. In fact I often say that it taught me everything I know today and that some of my closest friends are people across Saskatchewan that I met through cadets.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of this Assembly to join me in acknowledging Cadets Recognition Day to honour the young women and men who belong to the Army, Air, Sea and Navy League Cadets. These young leaders are a testament to the integrity and character of our next generation. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Movember

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's that time of year again. It's getting cold outside. The snow is beginning to fall, and, Mr. Speaker, luscious moustaches will be popping up in this Assembly to change the face of men's health, but not here. Mr. Speaker, that's right, it's Movember.

Mr. Speaker, this year the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, the Minister of Agriculture, the Government Whip, and the

member from Biggar-Sask Valley will be uniting to form Team Mo. Now, Mr. Speaker, moustache or not, I know Team Mo is growing every day, Mr. Speaker. The fantastic four will be growing their mos to raise money for prostate cancer, testicular cancer, men's health, and suicide prevention.

[10:15]

In all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely important cause. One out of seven men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime — my brother. It's estimated that 1,100 Canadian men were diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2017. One out of ten Canadian men will experience major depression — my grandfather — in the course of their life. And 75 per cent of all suicides are men — Cindy's brother.

Mr. Speaker, these moustaches are not only to raise funds, but they're also to start a conversation. Far too often men are reluctant to take action on their health, but we have the power to change that. I encourage everyone to support Movember by donating to this very worthy cause. Mr. Speaker, I could talk for a long time on this issue but, Mr. Speaker, I must dash.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Prince Albert Walk for Freedom

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 20th I was honoured to take part in the first ever Walk for Freedom held in Prince Albert, along with the member from Prince Albert Carlton. This walk is held every year around the world. Prince Albert was the only location in Saskatchewan to host the Walk for Freedom. The Walk for Freedom was created to bring attention to human trafficking.

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings. It includes the recruitment, control, and use of people for their bodies and for their labour. Through force, fraud, and coercion, people everywhere are being bought and sold against their will. In short, Mr. Speaker, it is slavery. Human trafficking involves physical, verbal, and sexual abuse; forced prostitution; and barbaric working conditions.

Mr. Speaker, on October 20th single-file lines of people in black walked throughout downtown Prince Albert with a message: slavery exists. Together we walked holding signs and passing out fliers to reach the people in our city with the message of human trafficking. Thousands of people around the world held similar marches in their communities. The organizers of the Prince Albert march believe that when we all show up locally, we have an impact globally.

I ask that all members join with me in congratulating the organizers of this year's Walk for Freedom and to remember how important it is that we all work together to end human trafficking.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

STARS Staff Win Competition

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, flight nurse Jenny Thorpe and flight paramedic Matt Hogan represented

STARS air ambulance and Saskatoon at an international critical care skills competition held at the Air Medical Transport Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. This intense — and I mean intense; you hear the scenarios that they were given — annual contest utilizes the latest in patient simulation and features 12 teams from across North America competing head to head to showcase their real-time, real-situation skills in front of a panel of judges and a live audience.

Mr. Speaker, to earn a coveted spot in the competition, Matt and Jenny first had to beat the teams of their colleagues at Saskatoon STARS before triumphing over the best teams from each of STARS' five other bases across Western Canada. This was the first time a Saskatoon team represented STARS at the international competition, and last year was the first time a team from Regina represented STARS.

I'm pleased to inform this Assembly that after three gruelling rounds of incredible, complex scenarios, Matt and Jenny were victorious, winning the prestigious Association of Air Medical Services 2018 Sim Cup. STARS has historically done very well at this event, placing in the top three in each of the past 16 years. Matt and Jenny's win continues STARS' proud tradition of emergency medical excellence, and it speaks volumes of the high-quality care that STARS offers the critically ill and injured in our province.

And, Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, I know our town and many across this province are putting out heliports, and those are welcome mats. And just we want to give you the appreciation that you show to us, the ones we love, and the constituents across this province. So I would ask that the members please join me in congratulating Matt and Jenny.

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

New Integrated Health Care Facility in Leader

Mr. Steele: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself took part in the grand opening of the new Leader and District Integrated Health Care Facility. This new building highlights our government's commitment to help improve health care services for the people across Saskatchewan. Our government worked together with the community of Leader to help make this project a reality, providing 9.6 million, while the remaining 2.4 million was fundraised by the local community.

Mr. Speaker, we commend the work of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, our municipal partners, and the residents of Leader and the surrounding community in helping make this vision a reality. This project brings together acute care, EMS [emergency medical services], community health, primary health care, and long-term care services into our central location. This will improve patient care experiences through improving access, quality of care, and sustainable service delivery.

This new facility is operating with new technology, improving safety measures, and more flexibility to respond to communities' needs. Mr. Speaker, improving the quality of health care in rural Saskatchewan remains a high priority of our government, and we are confident that the Leader and District Integrated Health Care Facility will provide high-quality health care services to the

residents in a comfortable and modern environment for many years to come. Thank you.

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

Support for Understand Us

Hon. Ms. Beaudry-Mellor: — Well thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. This past September Regina and Emerald Park communities came together in a really extraordinary way to support a locally loved initiative, Understand Us. From September 13th to the 23rd, Tim Hortons donated all proceeds from every Smile Cookie sold to Understand Us, which is a volunteer initiative that combats the stigma of mental health. I've spoken about it in this House before.

Regina's own Jim Demeray is the president of Understand Us and travels across the province, educating our youth and opening up, I think, really powerful conversations about mental health. Mr. Speaker, Jim set a very high goal for sales during Smile Cookie Week, hoping to raise \$100,000. Well, Mr. Speaker, the power of community came through, and I'm pleased to announce that Tim Hortons presented Understand Us with a cheque for \$100,086. These funds will go towards much-needed resources to help sustain Understand Us, allowing Jim and his team to continue the really life-changing and important work that they do in our community.

And so I would like to thank Tim Hortons Regina as well as Munz Media for their collaborations and support, allowing this campaign to become larger than life. I'd also like to thank the great communities of Regina and Emerald Park for showing their support and consuming all those cookies. And finally, I'd like to congratulate Jim Demeray and his team for their really important and extraordinary work. I'd ask all members to join me in doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Moose Jaw to Host 2020 Scotties Tournament of Hearts

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 25 Curling Canada announced that the 2020 Scotties Tournament of Hearts will once again be hosted in Moose Jaw. This announcement comes after 16 months of hard work and dedication by the Moose Jaw bid committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Scotties Tournament of Hearts is the most famous women's curling national championship in the world, and we are proud to have it return to our friendly city. This will be the sixth time the Scotties will be played in Saskatchewan and the second time Moose Jaw will host it. Mr. Speaker, this is a fantastic opportunity, not only for our province but also the city of Moose Jaw. It is another fantastic chance to showcase Mosaic Place, a world-class multi-purpose facility. The last time Moose Jaw hosted the Scotties was in 2015 and to date is the 11th-best-attended Scotties in the tournament's history, drawing over 70,000 fans.

The Scotties Tournament of Hearts is an event put on every year by Curling Canada in partnership with Kruger Products, which is one of the longest running partnerships in Canadian sports.

Congratulations to the bid committee, and best of luck to the organizing committee. We cannot wait to showcase all that Moose Jaw has to offer to our nation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provincial Election Dates

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, yesterday was Halloween. I was happy to get back to Saskatoon in time to do some trick-or-treating with my sons, one of whom was dressed as a character from *Lord of the Rings*, the other as a baby elephant. They were really much more cute than they were scary.

I, on the other hand, was dressed all day as the Leader of the Opposition. And apparently that was such a frightening costume, such a frightening costume, that when I came knocking with questions, the Premier chose not to answer his door.

With Halloween behind us, I'm sure he'll find his nerve and face us today. But what I'm concerned about is why he won't face the public. By delaying the provincial election to October of 2020, he's adding an unearned six months' time to his government's time in office and giving us a full two and a half years of a Premier that the people of Saskatchewan didn't choose.

The most reasonable time to have a provincial election would be in spring of 2020. This would avoid the conflict with the municipal elections that a two-week window does nothing to correct. It would also allow Saskatchewan people to make a timely choice about the future of our province. Why, when Saskatchewan people are looking for a change, is he denying their chance to choose? What is he afraid of?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well, Mr. Speaker, when the legislation was introduced in 2012, the Leader of the Opposition could just look down the aisle and ask the member from Saskatoon Centre, because he said, and I quote, "I love November elections. I've had four of them and I'm still here. So I'm a big fan of November elections, Mr. Speaker."

The fact of the matter is, the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that in 2007, Mr. Speaker, this party, the Saskatchewan Party ran on a mandate of introducing set election dates, Mr. Speaker. They introduced the November election date for the 2011 election when it was identified that there was going to be a conflict with the federal election at that point in time, Mr. Speaker.

We then introduced . . . amended that legislation for the 2016 election, as well as the 2020 election due to the conflict with the federal election, Mr. Speaker. And unbeknownst to us at that time, we then created a conflict with the municipal elections of which we have worked hard. And I commend the Minister of Government Relations for the effort and the Minister of Education for the effort with the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] as well as our Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and the Saskatchewan rural municipality association, Mr. Speaker.

And I think it's important for us to all remember that we have landed at what is a comparable . . . a compromise, compromised dates here, Mr. Speaker. Everyone seems to be all right with them as we move forward. But remember this. Since 2007, Mr. Speaker, all of the people in this room and across the province have known when the election date is far out, in this case about two years out from the election date, Mr. Speaker. Prior to 2007 under the members opposite they had as little as 28 days' notice.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, my understanding was that the purpose of fixed election dates was to have a regular four-year period. They took four and a half years in their last mandate, and they're squeezing another six months, getting a full extra year that they didn't earn from the people of Saskatchewan.

And a couple of days ago the member for Saskatoon Eastview . . .

[Interjections]

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, this government is on track to squeeze an extra year in government that they didn't earn.

A couple of days ago, the member for Saskatoon Eastview, in his response to the Speech from the Throne, gave a moving speech about moving on. His elegiac swan song made it clear that his mind is on Ottawa, not on representing the people who elected him to this Assembly — which begs the question, is this Premier satisfied to have members of his caucus who aren't fully committed to their work here? Will he continue to carry water for Andrew Scheer's Conservatives with Saskatchewan taxpayers footing the bill? Or will the Premier do the right thing and insist that the members for Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview step down, allowing the people of their constituencies to select members who will work for them?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just correct the member opposite as they are set election dates that we had put in, Mr. Speaker, in 2007, and we've worked our way through any of the challenges or conflicts that we have since then. Mr. Speaker, we would not in any way attempt to or even talk about introducing fixed elections, Mr. Speaker, like the member opposite had alluded to. We introduced set election dates, Mr. Speaker, and that's an important piece of clarity, Mr. Speaker.

And we look forward, Mr. Speaker, we look forward as a government caucus and the individuals on this side, Mr. Speaker, that have started their process in the nomination process for ultimately what will be, when we have the opportunity to go back to the people of the province and ask them for their support, to form another government on their behalf, Mr. Speaker.

[10:30]

With respect to the members that may or may not be running, Mr. Speaker, it is always the intention . . . It was when this occurred

with members John Solomon and others with members opposite, Mr. Speaker. When members are not running in the next election, Mr. Speaker, it is always the expectation — and is the case I say today with members on this side, whether they're moving on to other professions or whether they're retiring from politics to spend time with their family, Mr. Speaker — they continue to represent the constituents in their constituency as long as they are a member of this House, Mr. Speaker. And I commend each of them for doing that on behalf of the people that elected them to be here and speak on their behalf.

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

Government Trade Missions

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the people of Saskatoon Eastview and Regina Walsh Acres would be more concerned with the choice of these members to move on and focus on campaigning for the Conservatives in Ottawa rather than focusing on the work here at home.

Now speaking of carrying water for his Conservative cousins, this week saw the Premier engage in yet another stunt with Doug Ford. This is a routine that's starting to get pretty old. There was no meaningful announcement on trade, no new developments, just a photo op with the Premier's new BFF [best friend forever].

There was so little to show for this 2000-kilometre trip across the continent for the Premier and his entourage. Saskatchewan people want to know, how much did this photo op cost us and what does the Premier have to show for it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to serving in your current position as you are moving on to something else in your life, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition can turn around and ask the member from Douglas Park or Lakeview, Mr. Speaker, if they continued to serve as school board trustees after they were nominated to run for the NDP [New Democratic Party] provincially, Mr. Speaker. The question is identical, Mr. Speaker, and it should be asked.

With respect to our trip, Mr. Speaker, our mission to Toronto, Mr. Speaker, a decision was made previous to a new premier in Canada's largest province, Mr. Speaker, to go out and engage with the . . . The invitation was sent to engage with the Canada-India Business Council, Mr. Speaker, and to present their annual Diwali awards evening, Mr. Speaker. I graciously accepted that in advance of making connections, Mr. Speaker, and representing our province and our province's industries and our trade mission, Mr. Speaker, to India later this year, Mr. Speaker, as we will always advocate for fair and increased trade on behalf of the people in this province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've heard fair questions in this Assembly here this week with respect to advanced education funding, with respect to our supports for mental health funding, Mr. Speaker. We've also heard questions with respect to election dates, Mr. Speaker. We've heard questions now with respect to trade. And I would put forward this: with respect to election dates and trade, Mr. Speaker, the best trade the people of this province ever made was in 2007 when they traded in a tired, old NDP government for

a Saskatchewan Party government.

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

Mr. Meili: — I'm happy to see the Premier encouraging the people to trade in tired, old governments.

At his empty announcement, Doug Ford repeated misinformation to reporters with no correction from our Premier. And where Saskatchewan's Premier at that announcement was dead wrong when it came to the meetings that the member from Meadow Lake chose not to attend the week before — meetings that that member ironically referred to as photo ops — Saskatchewan people are rightly concerned about our struggling economy. And the Government of Saskatchewan should have a seat at the table when it comes to discussing internal trade, US [United States] tariffs, and how the new NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] will impact our province. But instead of having a presence at that national meeting, Saskatchewan was a no-show.

Respected media organizations are reporting that the government was informed of that meeting on October the 5th, registered to attend the meeting on October 18th, and pulled out of the meeting on October 23rd. The Premier and the Trade minister say they weren't. Only one of these statements can be true. Only one of these statements can be true.

Now is the Premier going to attack the credibility of the media the way that his friends Doug Ford and Andrew Scheer like to do? Or will he just admit that it was a mistake to skip that meeting in favour of his own stunt?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if the member, the Leader of the Opposition, even understands the internal lack of logic in that question, Mr. Speaker. On the one hand, on the one hand he's criticizing the Premier for going to Toronto, asking for a costing to take part in incredibly important meetings with the Indo-Canadian community, also to sign a very important trade agreement with the Premier of Ontario. On the other hand, he's saying that I should have gone to Vancouver, expended the money to go for a meeting with no agenda, no decisions to be made, that was not even a real meeting of the internal trade committee of the province, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if he understands the internal lack of logic in that question even, Mr. Speaker.

What I would say with regard to internal trade, nobody in this country doubts this government's and this province's leadership on the internal trade file. We have led the way on the CFTA [Canadian Free Trade Agreement] negotiations — Canada Free Trade Agreement, Mr. Speaker — 21 rounds of negotiation, which I can say as a minister I went to and sat through, and led in many cases, each one of those meetings, Mr. Speaker.

We came to a relatively positive outcome on CFTA. The biggest holdback in fact, Mr. Speaker, was the federal government who took 30 exemptions in the context of that agreement. We are dead serious about this. They oppose that agreement, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, we're still waiting to hear the 2018-2019 student enrolment numbers for Saskatchewan schools, but there's every indication to believe that we have more kids in Saskatchewan classrooms than this time last year. And we know for sure that we have more kids in our classrooms than we did in 2016, though there are millions of dollars missing from 2016 funding levels, leaving teachers to struggle to do more again with less.

People are looking for this government to show that it's committed to funding public education, but proof of that commitment has been sorely lacking. Will the minister commit today to a mid-year funding top-up to address the growing number of students who are still learning today with less support than kids had in 2016?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, here's the reality, Mr. Speaker. Enrolment in this province since 2007 is up about 12 per cent. Funding, Mr. Speaker, from this province, from this government, is up 33 per cent over that same period of time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the budget that gets presented in the spring, Mr. Speaker, is based on the enrolment projections that the school divisions give the ministry at that time, Mr. Speaker. So any increase in enrolment which is projected over the year, Mr. Speaker, is taken into account when the budget is tabled in this House, Mr. Speaker.

Now those numbers, Mr. Speaker, are generally pretty accurate. And so this year, Mr. Speaker, though over the course of the province, actually in terms of the projections that have been given by school divisions, Mr. Speaker, that number's down about 840 people so . . . and kids in the classroom, Mr. Speaker. So at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the funding which is presented through the budget is based on the enrolment projections, Mr. Speaker.

Now we're going to continue to have a conversation on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, with respect to education funding, Mr. Speaker, and we've talked about this in the House. We're going to continue our engagement with school boards, Mr. Speaker, and with teachers, Mr. Speaker, but there's no question about this government's commitment to funding public education.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the minister knows very well that for years school boards have been asking for mid-year adjustments to actually address the number of kids in the school, in the school year that they find themselves in the classroom. And despite every indication from that minister — there was hope held out that that funding might be available this year — we heard nothing about it in the Throne Speech. We know that the number of students in our schools is up significantly since 2016, but this government has simply failed to restore the \$70 million that has been cut from classrooms over the past two years.

Now remember, this is a government that fires off a press release

every time the population numbers go up. They clap and come to their feet every time we hear that numbers of students are up in the classrooms, but they fail year after year to actually provide supports for that growth in the classroom. Frankly, parents expect more from their government and, Mr. Speaker, our students certainly deserve better.

So does the minister acknowledge that an investment in kids is an investment in our future, and will he agree today to provide that much needed top-up to our kids' classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that the member heard my answer, Mr. Speaker. The numbers that are presented in the budget in the spring are based on the enrolment projections that are given to us by the school boards for their September projections, Mr. Speaker. And I'd point out, Mr. Speaker, that there's \$3.8 million more in the budget now as a result of the 850-odd kids that were part of the projections that aren't in the classroom, Mr. Speaker. That's \$3.8 million that's further available for public education, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we talk about, we talk about commitments to funding education, Mr. Speaker. And it's equally significant, Mr. Speaker, that that member doesn't talk about the external risk to public education funding, Mr. Speaker. And I've said in this House on a number of occasions, that the carbon tax is going to cost school divisions \$8 million. Now if she wants to stand up and advocate for more funding for school divisions, she should equally stand up and defend, Mr. Speaker, this government's position when it comes to the carbon tax, because that's going to cost school divisions \$8 million, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to know, Mr. Speaker, when is this House going to hear her voice on that, Mr. Speaker?

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

Provincial Sales Tax and Management of Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, teachers, parents, and students deserve so much better than what they're getting from the Sask Party government, and we all know that the damage and the unfair tax hikes from this Sask Party government are a direct result of their mismanagement and their overruns.

Yesterday the Finance minister tried to slough off the concerns about the real costs of the PST hike for families and for our economy as simply a result of the markets. But what the minister failed to mention is this government's massive overruns — from the mismanaged Regina bypass, from \$400 million to \$2 billion and counting, to the clean coal project of \$1.6 billion and counting, the GTH, and more. Or the fact that they failed to save a dime and piled on debt during the best days. So will the Finance minister finally admit that it's their failure to manage these projects and our public finances that's really behind the unfair tax hikes that they're sticking Saskatchewan people with?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will not apologize for the financing management on this side of

the House, because for the first time this province has a AAA credit rating, which they never achieved when they had an NDP government. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, there has been a serious downturn in resource revenues. Everyone is well aware of that. They're well aware of the challenging times that the oil industry is facing. It's also faced by their NDP cousins in Alberta. Maybe they should check with them and see how the impact is on their province.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have an interesting quote to give them. And it was a budget brag quote and it says, "This budget makes the largest ever public capital investment, \$407.3 million in capital." Well, Mr. Speaker, that was the NDP last budget that they were bragging about their capital investment. How much are we investing this year in capital, which creates jobs, Mr. Speaker? \$1.2 billion.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I think the minister might be mistaking that with the massive overrun, the biggest overrun in our history, and outsourcing that to a conglomerate from France, Mr. Speaker.

The unfair PST tax hike isn't just bad for families, but it's bad for our economy. It's hurting jobs. And we've heard no admission from that minister, but nothing from the Premier about the damage that they're causing our already slow economy. The PST on construction labour is putting people out of work, forcing families, businesses, industry, and organizations to delay their investment in new builds, renovations, and expansions. Adding the PST to restaurant meals is driving down revenue, costing jobs, and hurting small businesses. And adding the PST to children's clothes is hurting small businesses and hurting families, driving up the already high cost of living.

Will the Finance minister admit that this decision to hike the PST on Saskatchewan families and businesses is hurting our already struggling economy, and will she reverse this decision?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, time and time again on this side of the House, we recognize there is an impact from any tax, any tax on the economy and the people of this province. And that's why we have reduced personal income tax an unprecedented amount in this province. And that's why families in this province are paying less income tax than they did over a decade ago under the NDP.

[10:45]

Mr. Speaker, what our families are looking for, what construction industry is looking for . . . And I have a letter here from Merit Contractors and they have three asks for this session, Mr. Speaker, and one of those is increased infrastructure spending. They want work. They want to be able to keep their workers working.

And I just gave an example of the difference between the capital projects that happened in this province under an NDP, compared to what is happening now. The difference is three times as much, Mr. Speaker. That is what our construction industry wants to see.

They want to see construction happening. And this government has invested in capital projects year over year over year.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Support for Child Welfare System

Ms. Rancourt: — Mr. Speaker, this government has failed to deliver on their promise to transform Saskatchewan's child welfare system. From 2013 to 2017, the number of children in care increased from 4,492 to 5,212. In the same period, the proportion of indigenous children in care increased from 67 per cent to 72 per cent.

We were first promised a comprehensive overhaul in 2010 and are still waiting. Our last children's advocate bemoaned the lack of action in his final annual report, saying, "We are very concerned that the slow pace of legislative renewal suggests that it is not a priority for government and we will continue to press for action to move forward on needed legislative changes." That was two years ago, Mr. Speaker, and kids continue to fall through the cracks.

To the minister: when will we see the comprehensive legislative overhaul we were promised?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. I guess the easy answer of the question is, it already has started. We've completed phase 1 of a three phase . . . We have to sit down and work with our stakeholders, Mr. Speaker, to be able to move on phase 2 and 3. We have been in contact with the Children's Advocate office as well as many other stakeholders — our First Nations communities, foster families, persons of sufficient interest — the people that are actually out on the ground performing these services, Mr. Speaker.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we want to be able to make sure that every child that comes into the care of Social Services has cultural appropriations, has any religious appropriations, and that we make sure that their cultural and any other sensitivities they have are the best that we can possibly provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Ms. Rancourt: — Yes there has been some minor changes, but that is not what people struggling in the system were promised, Mr. Speaker. Right now on the government site on what it is doing to address the TRC's [Truth and Reconciliation Commission] Calls to Action, it lists child welfare transformation strategy and says we will see legislation in 2017. Where is it?

BC [British Columbia], Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, and New Brunswick know this situation is a crisis and are breaking ground with new legislation while this government is breaking its word. When will this government recognize our current system is crippling our next generation, and they need to deliver on their promise of comprehensive child welfare reform?

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

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you. Again, Mr. Speaker, I have answered the question. We have started this process and we are looking to other agencies. Is it the suggestion of the opposition that we should fast track this, Mr. Speaker, that we should go through this at a very rushed process? We want to be able to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that this is done properly. Our children in our province are our most valuable resource, Mr. Speaker. I know they've asked the question; maybe they might be interested in hearing the answer, Mr. Speaker.

We take every child that comes into the care of Social Services. We also have a lot of our children that are in home supports. We have Positive Parenting classes. We have our Family Finders program, Mr. Speaker. We also have very intensive programs for PSIs [person of sufficient interest]. We're trying to keep them as connected to their family and to their culture and to their town as we possibly can. For them to say that we should fast track this, Mr. Speaker, it's just absolutely unbelievable, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that this process is done properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Universal Pharmacare

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, we know that public health care must be based on need and not ability to pay, and that one avoidable death is too many. This spring, after the Premier signed the joint communiqué with the Western premiers on pharmacare, he signalled a willingness to work towards a fully funded national pharmacare program. It only makes sense. And the consensus is clear — our health care system cannot fully deliver without universal pharmacare.

Each year, one in four Canadian households skips prescription drugs they need because they can't afford them. That's no surprise, since Canada's per capita prescription costs are third highest in the world. The evidence is clear and the time is now. Will the minister and Premier commit to working with the federal government to establish a fully funded pharmacare program in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The short answer is yes, absolutely we will. The Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself have already met with Dr. Eric Hoskins who is heading up the review being done nationally, Mr. Speaker. We're co-operating in any way possible. I'm hoping for the opportunity to meet with him again. We're looking forward to his findings.

Mr. Speaker, I want to put this in perspective though, Mr. Speaker. We have the best pharmacare program in the country right now. There's certainly room for improvement, Mr. Speaker. We can certainly do more coverage. We cover seniors. We cover children. Mr. Speaker, we're looking forward, as I said, to engage to see what he comes back with. But, Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure first of all that we don't take a step backwards. We'd like to see improvements. And if we do see improvements, Mr.

Speaker, we want to make sure that the feds are a full funding partner in this.

Mr. Speaker, that's a very valid question. Over the past number of days we've had a number of health questions, Mr. Speaker, that frequently criticized the government for not doing enough, for not spending enough, Mr. Speaker. I just want to put things in perspective though, Mr. Speaker. When we were given the privilege of forming government in 2007, Mr. Speaker, virtually every community in this province had a doctor shortage. Today, Mr. Speaker, 900 more doctors. Mr. Speaker, at that time, the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses president was quoted, Mr. Speaker, as saying: "There's no light . . ." This is in 2007. "There's no light at the end of the tunnel. Staffing levels are dangerous." Today, Mr. Speaker, over 3,000 more nurses. Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker. We're proud of our record on health care.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 136 — *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 136, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 136 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — The next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 137 — *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 137, the *SaskEnergy amendment Act, 2018*, be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — Moved by the minister that Bill No. 137 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 138 — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018*

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 138, *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations — Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 138 be now introduced and read a first time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Next sitting.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 139 — *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 139 be now introduced and read a first time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

Bill No. 140 — *The Animal Health Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 140, *The Animal Health Act* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 140 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time?

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPECIAL ORDER

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Heppner.]

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today's my opportunity to respond to the Speech from the Throne, and I'm sure the members opposite are on the edge of their seat to know what I thought of it. Spoiler alert: not a big fan. But I do want to talk a little bit before I get into my comments on the Throne Speech. I do want to offer some thanks to some people that are very important in my life.

First of all, to my wife Mahli who has recently finished a mat leave as our son Gus is now just a little over a year. So she's returned to her pediatric practice, is working in refugee care in Saskatoon, and is working in the North, in Ile-a-la-Crosse, in Stony Rapids and La Loche. Happy to see her back in that work. It's great to be able to chat with her about what she's seeing with her patients, and just very proud of the work she does. Of course, proud of our boys as well. Abraham's now in grade 2 at l'École canadienne-française in Saskatoon, l'École canadienne-française. And Gus is walking and trying to talk and pretty cute to hang out with.

I also want to extend thanks to our caucus staff. Olin Valby, our chief of staff, and the rest of the crew do an incredible amount of work to make us look like an effective opposition. Hopefully we pull it off once in a while. And of course to my constituency assistant, Jasmine Liska in Saskatoon Meewasin. It's no easy task being the constituency assistant for the leader. It comes with a lot

of extra responsibilities and I certainly appreciate her flexibility and patience.

And of course I want to thank the remaining dozen members of our baker's dozen here who rise to the occasion every chance they can and are really an incredible bunch to work with. It's a great honour to come to work every day and see the way that they come fired up to work for their constituents, work for the people of Saskatchewan, and do so with energy and humour. And I'm pretty lucky to get to spend so much time with them.

I also want to say a thank you and introduce someone who was a bit of a surprise to hear from just the other day. In your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is Sister Claudette Lemyre. And I know members from the Sask Party will get a little bit scared when they hear "Sister." Don't worry. It's not the nuns from the GTH. Sister Claudette was my teacher in grade 3 and 4 at Coderre school.

And it's been over 30 years since we've seen each other. And it was quite a great surprise to get an email from her the other day saying that she was going to be in the country. She's now lives in France. She's retired to Lyons in France and got in touch and said that she was going to come and visit.

Pardon, malheureusement on n'est pas permis de vous avoir parlé, mais je . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. Thank you.

[Translation: I'm sorry, unfortunately it's not permissible to speak to you, but I . . .]

Mais je suis tellement content que vous êtes là. C'est vraiment un grand honneur de vous avoir ici avec nous.

[Translation: But I am very happy that you're there. It's truly a great honour to have you here with us.]

I'll thank the members to . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . May I?

The Speaker: — Address the Chair, please. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And of course appreciate very much Sister Claudette's appearance today and the members for their respectful welcome of a guest.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will turn my attention to the Speech from the Throne. The Speech from the Throne, which we've taken to referring to as the glass noodle speech because it's long, thin, and transparent and not a whole lot of substance to it, not a whole lot of nutrition. In fact it's a speech without many redeeming features — although I will mention at least two during this speech, two redeeming features.

[11:00]

But really what I saw in this speech was the Premier's opportunity, his first chance to speak to this Assembly and to the people of Saskatchewan with a Speech from the Throne, his first chance to present a vision, his opportunity to show that he's got an idea of what he wants the future of this province to be, and that he has a plan to achieve that. Unfortunately he chose to do something else. He chose to present a document that was light on vision, light on ideas, and really gave us no sense of where he

wants the province to go, and certainly no sense of his plans to achieve it.

Now I did want to say there are a couple of redeeming features. And one such feature is the story that was shared in the beginning. There was a story of the Williams family after the passing of Mr. Williams near Milestone and the way that the community came together. I think we all saw that image of the V-formation of combines, and that was really touching. It was really touching and such a great example of the way that Saskatchewan people come together. When one of us is in trouble, when a neighbour is in trouble, when a friend is in trouble, it is so much a part of our culture, our tradition, and our values to step up and help people out.

And it reminded me and I'm sure it reminded everyone here of stories of their own growing up and their own experience being helped or helping out a neighbour. It made me think of a story from my childhood when I was coming home from a hockey practice. Being a kid in small-town Saskatchewan I played hockey — very badly and not for very long — but I did do so. And one night we were coming home. It was not that late, but dark out, as happens in the winter here, and a blizzard came up. And I was with my mom and my two older brothers, and we got to within about a mile from the farm. We turned off the grid road that goes from the 363 up to Mortlach and, you know, not very far from the lane, it turned into our farm. And we were going down the road and lost sight of the road entirely. You couldn't see the path ahead. My brother, my oldest brother actually got out and walked in front of the van to try and be a marker so that we could see where we were going. And that worked for a little while but not that long. We actually wound up in the ditch, my mom and her three little kids. Pretty scary moment in the middle of a blizzard in rural Saskatchewan.

And we're there for a little while and then along came two neighbours in one of the neighbour's trucks from the Tremblay farm a few miles down the road. And they came because we hadn't called them. We knew our neighbours well enough to have stopped in and said, hey, we're going to go home. It's pretty bad out. We'll call you when we get there. If we didn't get there, we'll appreciate some help. And they were . . . They didn't want to be out that night. Nobody would want to be out in that kind of weather, but they certainly weren't going to let us sit on the side of the road, sit in the ditch and freeze, so they were out there.

And this is the kind of story that I think everyone in Saskatchewan can relate to. We've had those moments, those tough times when neighbours or strangers have said, we're all in this together. We're going to work together. And in fact you hear stories like that and as a New Democrat and I hear a story about people coming together and think about the philosophy of our party. And you hear a story like that beautiful story, the community of Milestone and how they helped out, and you think, ah, that doesn't sound so much like a Sask Party story. It sounds much more like a New Democrat story.

But actually I don't think that's the case. I don't think that's the case. And you know, that's an initial reaction. And if the members across will give me a moment to explain, I thought a little bit more about that and I don't think that's the case because I know that the members over there are the type of people who help their neighbours and that support each other and support

their communities.

Where there is a difference, where we part ways is that when we help our neighbours or we donate to a cause, when we're moved by philanthropy, by fellow feeling, that's a wonderful thing. That's a wonderful thing, but it has its limitations. It has its limitations because it's not an approach that can be scaled to the level of a province. It's not an approach that's the size of Saskatchewan. There's limits.

That's why we have to have the type of a system that we do have, where we all contribute in so that anyone, whether they know their neighbours or know they have family members around or have a welcome stranger who's able to come to their aid, or whether they don't, they're going to have what they need to succeed. Because there are times where friendship works; there are times where community works; but there's times where we need something more, where we need an approach that can be scaled to the size of the whole province.

And as I thought about that story, the story of our family in the ditch and the neighbours helping out, the Williams story, I thought again, these are beautiful stories. These are stories of Saskatchewan and they mean a lot to us.

But there are other stories that are happening right here today, stories of a senior, senior on a fixed income who's paying hundreds of dollars to pay for their medications because we don't have pharmacare in this province. They're paying hundreds of dollars a month and as a result are living on tea and toast because they can't afford to eat anything more nutritious.

Stories of a mother struggling with a son who's addicted. She's asked for help. He's asked for help. And the help isn't there. Help wasn't there and now neither is the son.

Stories of an unemployed construction worker who can't pay his bills, who doesn't know how he's going to make ends meet the next month. And he can't turn to his friends and neighbours for help because they're in the same situation, because everyone's hurting in this economy.

Stories of a new Canadian working full time at a minimum wage job and having to stop by the food bank on the way home to be able to feed his family.

These are the stories of Saskatchewan that are forgotten when you rely on simple philanthropy and fellow feeling. You need more than bake sales and steak nights. You need a government that values everyone and you need a government that understands that government in the right hands is a force for good. And this is what concerns me. And this is what delineates the difference between the Sask Party and New Democrats.

There was an offhand comment the other day by the Premier. He said that ideally we would have no taxes at all. And I understand that's an offhand comment. It was something that the member for Meadow Lake got up moments later or a few days later and said that was a silly remark, and rightly so. It was a silly comment. But it's a silly comment that reveals an underlying philosophy that demonstrates a lack of understanding, a skepticism and even an antipathy to the work of government, to the very role that the people on the other side have been elected to play.

And that reveals itself in the decisions that have been made by this government, decisions to pursue a plan of austerity, austerity where they've cut health care services, where they've cut education, where they've cut services for the most vulnerable people in the province, austerity that hurts the very people we should be helping and that slows down our economy so that it takes longer for us to recover to a situation where we're able to provide all that we need. And, Mr. Speaker, that austerity, no matter what the members opposite say, that austerity was never about fiscal responsibility. It's not what it's about. That austerity was about undermining the very institutions on which we depend. It's about degrading confidence among the public about what the public can do.

Mr. Speaker, it's the kind of approach that atomizes, that isolates us from one another, that takes us backwards rather than recognizing and using our ability, our collective strength to achieve what we know we can to meet all of our needs, to scaling up to the size of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, talking about scaling up to the size of Saskatchewan and sizing up Saskatchewan, I and my colleagues have spent months on the road visiting with communities all over Saskatchewan, hearing what's on people's minds. And we heard the unique issues in Moose Jaw, in Melville, in Melfort, in communities all over, the unique issues of each community but also very consistent threads, very consistent concerns. And those concerns, those threads highlighted some issues that I really would have liked to have seen addressed in the Speech from the Throne. That's what I was looking for because what people in Saskatchewan were looking for in the Speech from the Throne was a message that spoke to them and to what they're experiencing and to what they need.

As I travel, what I hear from people is that work is not what it was even a couple of short years ago. It's much more difficult to find a job; more and more people are unemployed. Contractors are struggling. Businesses are struggling. Their profits are down. Their ability to hire people is down. They recognize that life is less affordable with the increase in PST. So not only are people less employed but when they are able to buy things, they're able to buy less. They're able to afford less. They recognize that the austerity choices — cuts in health and education and social services — slow down our economy, as does the introduction of PST to things like construction labour, restaurant meals, and children's clothes.

Along with that real concern about our struggling economy, a concern that has been sloughed off by the current government as they refuse to acknowledge the depth of the problem that we're facing, we also hear real concerns about the health and well-being of Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan people who have the . . . We're tied with Nova Scotia for the worst health outcomes in the entire country: heart disease, diabetes, mental health conditions like depression and anxiety, HIV [human immunodeficiency virus], hepatitis C. Our numbers are far in excess of what they should be for a province as wealthy as ours. If we were managed well, that wealth should be turning into health, but it's not. It's not.

And when people are sick, the care is not there. They're waiting longer in emergency rooms, waiting longer for surgeries, having a harder time getting any mental health supports, any support

when they're struggling with addictions. Mr. Speaker, there's deep concern across our province about people's health, our lack of action to address the upstream factors that influence that health as well as the inability to access the care that people need.

One of those factors, one of those upstream factors — it is the most important — is of course, education. Nothing makes a bigger difference. Alongside of course the economic factors, the way in which people are able to provide for their family, if there's one thing that sets the stage for future good health, it's a good education. And in this province we've seen a reduction in our spending on education at a time when we're seeing an increase in the number of students. We've got 5,000 more students than we did two years ago, and over \$70 million less being invested in our education system than at that time.

Our classrooms are more complex. We have fewer teachers that are dealing with crowded classrooms. They're stressed. They're underpaid and they're overwhelmed. And as a result, kids aren't getting the supports they should. Parents are worried, and there's a lack of confidence, a crisis of confidence in our education system around the province. People know that we deserve better. People know that's the wise investment to make and they're looking to this government. And they were looking to this Throne Speech to see some indication that this government shared that understanding and that preoccupation. They didn't find it.

They also didn't find any attention to a concern that has continued to grow as the scandal has continued to grow around the GTH, the millions of dollars wasted, the sketchy land deals. That, among a long list of other pet projects of this government that have ballooned in their budgets, made their friends wealthy, and resulted in us being unable to have the funding available to spend on those key areas of investment — on health, on education — that has, in this government's point of view, forced their hand to put the PST on things that actually worsen our economy.

So when you look at those four key elements: our economy, health care, education, and that growing list of scandals and mismanagement and waste — hey, we'll say the phrase just for fun once — we see a list of what we're hearing from the people of the province as we travel all around, the concerns that are on their mind and yet we see nothing done to address those in this Throne Speech. It was a missed opportunity. And instead what we saw was a list of recycled announcements and a lack of vision, a lack of new ideas.

I do want to say, I said there were a couple of good things in the speech that I wanted to highlight and there was one other thing that was of value and that was the paragraph that referred to an investment in reducing the amount that people would be clawed back if they earned while on social assistance.

[11:15]

And that spoke to me as, a few years ago in 2014, the then premier asked me and others to help develop a poverty reduction strategy. And we came up with a long list of things that could be done to reduce poverty and reduce the \$4 billion a year that our economy loses because of the number of people living in poverty in Saskatchewan today. And among that list was an encouragement to eliminate clawbacks, to allow people to earn

something more, allow them to get past that barrier that keeps them trapped on social assistance, allow them to break the cycle of poverty.

Now three years later we once again see some language referring to that concept. It was shelved when that poverty reduction strategy was . . . the advice was given and not followed. Will something happen now? We certainly hope so. We'll be watching closely for details and be encouraging this government to follow through on those words.

Because, Mr. Speaker, when people look to a Throne Speech, what they're looking for is more than leftovers. They're looking for more than a look in the rear-view mirror. They're looking for a view of the horizon. They're wanting to see that a government has a vision and a plan to how to get there. They want their government to dream big alongside them and to deliver on those dreams.

And, Mr. Speaker, in 2020, when the Lieutenant Governor reads the Speech from the Throne and that speech was written by New Democrats, that's what you'll see. You'll see a speech that commits us to a dream and a plan to have it deliver on that dream, that will outline a vision and a way to get the work done for the people of Saskatchewan. A plan that will invest in the people of Saskatchewan in ways that will take care of them, improve their lives, and grow the economy. A plan that recognizes that a dollar today spent wisely helps someone now and can save \$10 down the road.

In a New Democratic Speech from the Throne, you'll hear a commitment to invest in education rather than cutting the very foundation of our future, as we've seen too many times. An investment in education built on a relationship with teachers, built on a relationship with parents, built on an understanding that those are the people on the front lines who have the best sense of what our kids need to succeed.

You'll hear in such a Throne Speech a commitment to work alongside First Nations and Métis leadership to build a plan to close the gap in outcomes in health, in income, in justice, and education. We're standing on Treaty 4 land today, the homeland of the Métis. We should be committing ourselves to doing the work that those treaties represent, to creating a province where everyone has a chance to thrive, and closing those unequal and unjust gaps that have persisted for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, in such a Speech from the Throne, you'd see a commitment to the removal of the PST from those elements of the economy where it slows us down and costs us jobs — from the PST on construction labour to children's clothes to restaurant meals. Get that out of the way and get people back to work.

You'll also, as well as making sure that the economy keeps us working, hear a commitment to an economy that works for people, getting us past this situation where we have the second-lowest minimum wage in the country, where people who are working full-time are still living in poverty, and outline a plan to get us to a \$15 minimum wage in the first term of an NDP government.

You'll hear a commitment to move beyond the situation that we see in far too many homes today, where people are having to

make a decision between whether they'll pay the rent, pay for groceries, or pay for the medications that they need to stay healthy, with continued advocacy for a fully funded pharmacare plan nationally. And if there isn't the political will at the federal level, for the leadership right here in Saskatchewan to move beyond a piecemeal coverage to coverage that saves money and saves lives and saves even more money down the road as you've taken care of people before they're sick.

And you'll hear a commitment, a commitment to addressing mental health, a commitment to addressing a part of our health system that has been neglected for far too long. Addiction services that are inaccessible and inadequate, supports for people with depression, with anxiety, with other mental health services that are out of reach and nowhere near adequate to deal with the struggles that people are facing today. You'll see a commitment to universally accessible, high-quality mental health care here in this province.

And you would also hear the ideas, the vision of a party that understands that the choices that we make today around energy and around carbon emissions affect us now and have a long-term effect on the next generation and generations to come. You'd hear a commitment to get rid of the barrier that so many face, people who would like to transition to renewable energy in their own home and their businesses, on their farms. Helping them get past that barrier with financial support in a way that creates thousands of new jobs, that transitions us to clean energy and energy efficiency, and — and this is exciting to me — reduces our power bills, makes life more affordable at the same time as we could get more renewable with Renew Saskatchewan. A vision of Renew Saskatchewan to move us along and have us be leaders instead of what we have been for a decade, which is laggards and an embarrassment when we discuss this issue at a national and international level.

A Throne Speech read by the Lieutenant Governor and written by New Democrats would outline a dream and a plan to deliver on that dream, a plan to get the work done. This year's Speech from the Throne failed to give either, Mr. Speaker, and that's why I will proudly stand alongside my colleagues and vote no to this year's motion, to this year's Speech from the Throne.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader. Unrecognize the Government House Leader. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — My apologies, Mr. Speaker, as I arrived in what seems to be a nick of time. Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank you for the recognition. I want to enter a few comments with respect to the Speech from the Throne that was delivered last week, a first Speech from the Throne under myself as the Premier of the province, under and what is the new Leader of the Opposition here in the province, and as well, a new Lieutenant Governor here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So there's been a significant amount of change within our political system here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And I must say this, and I won't speak on behalf of the others, but it has been a true honour over the course of the past numbers of months to engage with people across the province, to engage with people on both sides of this House, but most particularly to engage with the caucus, the governing caucus of the province of

Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

I truly believe we have the strongest caucus in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. They have input on the direction of this government on behalf of the people they represent and on behalf of all of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I am ever so proud to show up and work alongside them each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, maybe just a couple of quick comments before I get into the content from the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, first of all is a thanks to my constituency assistant that serves in our constituency office in Rosthern-Shellbrook, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Ms. Sally Fitch for all that she does. As I always say, she's the eyes and ears, and thankfully the face of our constituency office back in Shellbrook and in the communities across the constituency, Mr. Speaker.

And I would also just note that it's Sally and myself and the community suffered some loss here in the last number of weeks, with the sudden passing of Sally's husband, Allan Fitch; Bookie, as we all knew him. A good friend of mine, and Sally's husband, and a friend of so many in the community that just passed far too soon. Mr. Speaker, he will be truly missed by the community of Shellbrook. And I know his children, his grandchildren, and all of his family, Mr. Speaker.

It was a sad day for sure but one, I think, when we all realize just how much we value the people in our lives. You form friends throughout your lifetime in the careers that you choose and the education that you're fortunate enough to participate in, Mr. Speaker. You form lifelong friends, and they're very valuable. And when you lose one of those individuals, I think it's just incumbent on all of us to not take for granted the people that are in our life so close, Mr. Speaker.

I also just want to thank, in my office, Rhonda and Launa that thankfully deal with me coming in there each and every day, which is not an easy task. I'm not at home as much as I once was, so Sally is off the hook. I don't walk into that office as much, but Rhonda and Launa get to deal with me each and every morning, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank them for ensuring that I get to the right spot with the right materials, at least most of the time, and what we think is all the time. But we do get there at least most of the time.

And as well, just thank everyone that is employed in this building, Mr. Speaker, on both sides of the House, in our caucus offices, the ministry offices, Mr. Speaker, for everything they do as they as well work on behalf of the people across the province and ensure that this place runs smoothly. Mr. Speaker, people in your office ensure that everything runs the way it should, Mr. Speaker, as a government always has, and as it should into the future.

Last but not least, my wife and kids. Mr. Speaker, my wife, Krista, I'm so thankful for everything she does, in particular over the past year when, you know, we get these what might be a little-bit-out-there ideas that maybe you want to put your name in for a run to be the leader of a party or possibly the Premier of the province. And she's been my best friend for over 20 . . . Well we've been married for over 25 years. She's been my best friend even longer than that, Mr. Speaker, and I'm so very fortunate for

everything she does. And I always say, all of us in this Assembly, we don't serve alone. We serve with the support and love of our family. And I want to thank mine, Mr. Speaker: my wife, Krista, and my children, Carter and Taryn.

Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne that was delivered last week was moved by the member from Lumsden-Morse and seconded by the member from Martensville-Warman. Mr. Speaker, it was titled "Standing Up for Saskatchewan," and I think that's a relevant title given where we are today, Mr. Speaker, with some of the headwinds that we are facing with our economy, some natural resource prices that we're facing, some global prices, Mr. Speaker, but standing up to ensure that our economy and the industries and jobs and the jobs that our families have in communities across this province have every opportunity to succeed, not just this year, Mr. Speaker, but into the future.

I think it's also incumbent on us this time of year as we deliver the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, as we enter after last night, have got through the candy season or Halloween season, which is a great season if you're a child, Mr. Speaker. But as we now close in on Remembrance Day, we remember to think of our veterans and honour our veterans that have served in our country, that have preserved the opportunity to have this parliamentary system or this system of governance that we have. And it doesn't operate without our military, Mr. Speaker, and those that serve on behalf of our nation of Canada and by extension, our provinces. And we should never let a day go by without acknowledging that, Mr. Speaker, and showing small acts of appreciation whenever we can. The first act obviously would be wearing the poppy, Mr. Speaker, as we all are as we enter this season.

And we thought that we could do something small in this Speech from the Throne to signify and honour those that serve in our military. And we'll continue to work with them to ensure that currently serving military people as well, Mr. Speaker, in our province can continue to serve as seamlessly as possible across the nation, Mr. Speaker, when they come and spend a few months or a few years here in Saskatchewan. But we wanted to introduce and offer free fishing and hunting licences for those veterans, Mr. Speaker, that have served us so well.

We changed some of the exemptions around their first-time registered vehicle inspections, understanding that families may move here from time to time with two or three vehicles, Mr. Speaker, and the expense is just an unnecessary one in many times. It was requested by the individuals that are serving here, Mr. Speaker. And we want to work with them to ensure that as they serve us, Mr. Speaker, as Canadians across Canada, that we aren't imposing costs on them that may be unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, we also indicated in this Speech from the Throne that we will be offering our Sixties Scoop apology this year or as soon as we are able, Mr. Speaker. And I want to commend the Minister of Social Services and the Minister of Government Relations and First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs for the effort that they have put forward in engaging with the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Saskatchewan and hosting the sharing circles, Mr. Speaker, that are ongoing as we speak to ensure that the apology that we ultimately will offer on behalf of the people of the province will be a meaningful apology and it

will be an apology that is worked on together. And we look forward to offering that apology, Mr. Speaker, this session.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, we brought in Clare's Law, a law that was first introduced in the United Kingdom and was named in honour of Clare Wood, a woman that was murdered by her partner and a woman that was unaware of his violent past. Mr. Speaker, what this legislation does is it allows the police services to disclose relevant information about someone's violent past, Mr. Speaker, thus the name. And, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan will be the first province in Canada to introduce Clare's Law.

Mr. Speaker, we have gone on to support families across this province that may have experienced interpersonal violence, expanding the leave available to them, Mr. Speaker, and ensure that they can access this leave to access the required supports, or to seek medical attention, or to get legal or law enforcement help. We have talked and discussed with families across this province, and we are taking steps to support those, Mr. Speaker, that have experienced or may experience interpersonal violence, by extending and expanding their leave.

We continue to support families, Mr. Speaker, families that may be experiencing times of critical illness in their family or may be experiencing a growth in their family, and expanding the opportunities that they have for parental leave, expanding that to 63 weeks, Mr. Speaker, adding a week of maternity leave so that our parents are able to spend just a little bit more time with what will be that next generation, if you will, and ensuring that family members that have been challenged with and are facing a critical illness also will be able to take 15 weeks off to care for their loved ones, Mr. Speaker. And the support for our families across this province is so very important. That's why we always talk about enhancing our economic opportunities so that we can in turn make decisions to support communities, support families, Mr. Speaker, which is ultimately what we are in this fine legislature to do.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to families, this past year, shortly after I had the honour to serve as Premier, this province was rocked with what was quite likely the largest tragedy of my lifetime and likely, possibly the largest tragedy of this province, and one most certainly I think is fair to say that everyone felt across the nation and around the world, Mr. Speaker, in the accident with the Humboldt Broncos' bus. Well, Mr. Speaker, indicated in this Speech from the Throne, in this document, in our year's work, is we're going to continue to increase our road safety across the province, Mr. Speaker. We're going to start by looking at, continuing to look at, Mr. Speaker . . . This is work that has been ongoing for a while with our commercial driver training courses here in Saskatchewan, and we've introduced changes to that training program here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And we're working with the companies involved, as well as the associations, to ensure that we have consistent standards, not only across this province and increased standards across this province, but consistent standards across provinces in Canada, where we can to ensure that our regulations align in a number of different ways. And we indicated that earlier this week in an announcement we did. But most particularly, when it comes to commercial driver training, Mr. Speaker, we are going to bring

those standards in in this legislative session, Mr. Speaker.

We are going to continue our work and expand our work in intersection safety across the province, Mr. Speaker. The Ministry of Highways has already implemented an intersection safety strategy to reduce the potential for collisions at our highway intersections across the province. Seven hundred thousand dollars has already been dedicated this year to clear a number of sightlines and to ensure our intersections are safer for our families that are travelling between our communities, rural or urban families, Mr. Speaker. And that safety improvement program that includes things like turning lanes, rumble strips, and lighting at these intersections has increased over the last 10 years by about \$6 million, up to about \$7 million today, Mr. Speaker.

We also indicated in this Speech from the Throne that we are going to continue to improve our community safety for Saskatchewan people. That's a priority for our government. That's something that we have heard in our travels over the course of the last year and likely a little longer than that, Mr. Speaker.

And we introduced the PRT, or the protection and response team, that has since actually been called to over 1,300 calls for action, Mr. Speaker. And I hear of it up in the area where I live, and I hear the effectiveness and the opportunity that they have to bring some of the technology that our provincial response team has to the ground level, Mr. Speaker, that the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] may have but may not just have in that area of the province, understanding the vast geography that we have here, Mr. Speaker. The protection and response team continues to be an effective part and one of the parts, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward in ensuring that our communities across this province are safe.

Mr. Speaker, added to the protection and response team is the crime reduction team that was created just two months ago, Mr. Speaker. There's one crime reduction team in the city of Prince Albert and one in the community of North Battleford. And these teams are there, Mr. Speaker, to conduct high-intensity, targeted enforcement in areas that have been identified as hot spots, to settle these down, Mr. Speaker, and to ensure that those communities are safe. Since September 1st when this CRT team, or crime reduction team, was established they have already made 172 arrests, Mr. Speaker, 123 traffic stops, 122 charges, Mr. Speaker. And they'll continue to be part of enforcing the laws that we have here in the province.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard much about trespassing legislation here in the province over the course of the last year and a little bit as well, as we talk about some of the increased crime, not just in Saskatchewan but across Western Canada. In this session we took the initiative to consult with the people of Saskatchewan, to work with the people of Saskatchewan on what the right balance is between the rights of rural landowners versus the rights of the public and the public access to these private lands for things like hunting and things like snowmobiling, Mr. Speaker. And these consultations are going to guide us in the direction . . . And we've listened to this feedback and they will guide us in the direction, Mr. Speaker, and we'll be introducing legislation this session, Mr. Speaker, with respect to what we have been told by the people of this province.

In saying all of that, we must balance our approach, Mr. Speaker, as we address crime in the province of Saskatchewan. Enforcement is but just part of that approach. Mr. Speaker, we need to continue to address the root causes and helping those that are struggling with other challenges, Mr. Speaker, that may cause them to be committing a crime or be associated with someone that is committing a crime.

And that includes continuing to support our mental health and addictions challenges that we have in this province. And in fairness, I think it's fair to say that we have mental health and addictions challenges across the nation, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of Health has discussed that. But our investment in mental health, Mr. Speaker, remains steadfast. It's unprecedented in years gone by, Mr. Speaker. Since 2007 our health budget is up about 50 per cent, our mental health budget up about 60 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And the combined mental health investment across the government is sitting at about \$373 million today, Mr. Speaker. And there's more to do.

There's more to do on a number of these files, Mr. Speaker, but we also need to acknowledge the investment that has come about by the guidance that we have received by the people that we represent in communities across Saskatchewan. But some of this investment, Mr. Speaker, includes crisis teams that have paired a police officer with a mental health professional to ensure that the supports are there. And these are operational this winter in Moose Jaw, in North Battleford, in Yorkton, and Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, this includes multidisciplinary community recovery teams that are now offering service in eight communities across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And starting this year we have a pilot project where we are going to place mental health coordinators in schools in four communities, Mr. Speaker, and work to assess the effectiveness of that investment, Mr. Speaker — four communities including Regina, Sandy Bay, North Battleford, and Balgonie.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to invest and we continue to work with our partners in health, in education, in justice, in social services to provide the supports that people expect their provincial government to provide. And in the way of mental health, we acknowledge and we understand there's more work to do. There is more investment that needs to come, but we also acknowledge the investment that has been there the last number of years, Mr. Speaker, and been there because of the sage guidance of the people that we represent.

Mr. Speaker, we must also acknowledge a very large investment, Mr. Speaker, specific to mental health, a very large investment in the community of North Battleford. And that is replacing a piece of 100-year-old infrastructure in this province that I think all of the people in the province can be proud of the replacement of this facility and proud of the work that it has done for over 100 years now, but that's the replacement of the Saskatchewan Hospital.

We're going to open that hospital this year, Mr. Speaker. It's a state-of-the-art facility and it will be one of the most innovative mental health treatment centres in the nation of Canada, right here in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. It's light, it's bright. It's going to be open, Mr. Speaker, and it will have many home-like spaces throughout — spaces for therapy, spaces for recreation, spaces for families to come and meet and visit, as well as private

rooms for patients, Mr. Speaker. And our government is working as we transition to this new state-of-the-art facility, Mr. Speaker. Our government is working to further improve the services to promote recovery and to improve the outcomes of the people that are in this facility, Mr. Speaker, and to improve the outcomes of those that are facing the most serious mental health challenges in their life, Mr. Speaker. And we are here to support that, Mr. Speaker, with the delivery of care in that new and innovative facility, Mr. Speaker, the first of its kind in the nation of Canada. And it's an investment that we are proud of, Mr. Speaker. We are proud to make that investment on behalf of all of the people in this province.

We are improving the quality of life in Saskatchewan, in this great province, with important infrastructure investments like that facility but many other facilities, Mr. Speaker, as well, and many other investments that the people of this province have asked for for safety, have asked for for services. And we continue to invest in those services and in the infrastructure that provides them in education, in health care, providing safe highways across the province, Mr. Speaker.

So in addition to that facility in North Battleford, we now have thousands of kids that went to school this fall in one of 18 new joint-use facilities that were opened just this past year, Mr. Speaker, thousands of children in those new schools addressing the expanded number of kids in the province.

Mr. Speaker, in the very near future we are going to open, for the first time in the province of Saskatchewan, the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. It's 92 per cent complete. And we look at that piece of infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, located in Saskatoon, and I can't help but think of the interaction of that piece of infrastructure with the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan and the investment that has went into that college to ensure that, one, it is not on probation, Mr. Speaker, with respect to its accreditation, of which it is not today for the first time in a number of years.

They have changed their operating model, Mr. Speaker. We've expanded the seats from 60 to 100. We've expanded the residential seat opportunities, Mr. Speaker, from 60 to 120. We're properly funding that college for the first time, Mr. Speaker, in decades. Mr. Speaker, we've invested in the new Academic Health Sciences Building. And all of that, all of that, Mr. Speaker, to be able to attract investment in research dollars into our College of Medicine, Mr. Speaker, to be able to attract the very best researchers from across the country and around the world to be instructors in our College of Medicine, Mr. Speaker, but to also be the surgeons, the very best surgeons, that work in that new facility, that new Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, that may work on someone in our family in the future, Mr. Speaker.

That's the service that is provided. The infrastructure in the building is a part, Mr. Speaker, but it's the people that we're able to attract, the people that are able to provide the very best services that we are able in this province, Mr. Speaker. That is the goal of this government.

We think of the largest infrastructure investment ever in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker, the bypass around this city, of which we hear from time to time in this legislature, Mr. Speaker. But it needs to be understood that that investment again

was made on behalf of all of the people in the province again, Mr. Speaker, to safely bring truck traffic around on our national highway system, Mr. Speaker, our No. 1, the Trans-Canada Highway, but also to link it to the No. 11 Highway so that we have access to the city of Saskatoon, the largest city in this province, Mr. Speaker. And that not only is safely moving that truck traffic around our capital city, Mr. Speaker, on our national highway system, safely to our largest centre as well through to other centres in Western Canada, but it's allowing families to access this city and access the Trans-Canada Highway safely, Mr. Speaker.

And it isn't that long ago we were in this House, Mr. Speaker, and across the province and in particular on the east side of this city, and not being able to have those discussions about the safety of our families, Mr. Speaker, that are coming into this city and accessing that highway. And that investment has made that road, has made our road safer and it's made our province safer, Mr. Speaker. And it's investment that I was proud to be a part of in making that decision, Mr. Speaker, through caucus. That's an investment that I'm proud to be a part of as the Premier of this province.

[11:45]

As noted in the Speech from the Throne, we continue to out build SaskTel's cellular access in communities across the province so that businesses can conduct services and have access like we do here in our major urban centres to internet and data and the things that businesses in today's day and age require, Mr. Speaker, and also for convenience and safety at our resort properties across the province that all sorts of people, rural and urban, visit, Mr. Speaker. So we continue that out build, Mr. Speaker, to 100 Saskatchewan communities and 50 communities starting just this year.

When you talk about all of this investment that we've had, and we talk about the challenges that we've had the last couple of years, Mr. Speaker, leading into this next year and our three-year plan to balance, these are hardly austere investments. This is not an austerity environment that we're living in. These are some of the largest investments in capital, Mr. Speaker, that have been made in this province. And I think when you average the last 10 years of investment in capital here in Saskatchewan, it's about two and a half billion dollars.

When you average maybe the last 10 years of the previous administration, Mr. Speaker, you're under a billion dollars a year in investment. Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to make efforts to balance the budget, but we are doing it while we continue to invest in infrastructure like the Regina bypass, like the children's hospital in Saskatoon, like the Saskatchewan Hospital, like the Moose Jaw hospital, Mr. Speaker. We continue to invest not only in that infrastructure but in the people that provide the services within that infrastructure, Mr. Speaker, and we do that all while making at times challenging decisions to ensure that we are able to balance our budget, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue on track, and I'm pleased to . . . As we all know, we are on track to do that next year, Mr. Speaker, in this House.

It's that strong fiscal management, Mr. Speaker, that allows us to actually be able to make those investments on behalf of the people of the province. And we have some headwinds, as I

mentioned, in our economy, but we continue to grow. Our population, Mr. Speaker, continues to grow — 11,000 people just this past year. We have the second-fastest rate of job growth in the nation over the past decade. That comes from being dead last in the decade previous, Mr. Speaker. Our GDP has grown by some 22 per cent. Our exports, our source wealth that drives everything in this province, are up over 40 per cent in the last decade.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to have public and private investment in our communities across this province, and it has grown over the last decade five times the national average. This province's investment, the private and public confidence and the investment in infrastructure, has grown by five times the Canadian average. And we were ranked by the Fraser Institute as second out of 91 jurisdictions in the world for mining investment attraction, Mr. Speaker, and continue to be ranked high with respect to investment in our energy sector, a big sector for many of the communities in Saskatchewan.

And we'll continue to stand for those industries, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to stand for our energy industry. We'll continue to advocate for pipelines, Mr. Speaker, and we'll continue to advocate against any imposition of a federal government's carbon tax here in the province.

We've implemented a comprehensive plan, not a thought like the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, a comprehensive thought that would address less than 4 per cent of the emissions here in the province of Saskatchewan. We have a plan called Prairie Resilience, Mr. Speaker, that is supported by the industries in the province. We have a plan to reduce our emissions from our electrical generation and we have a plan to reduce our emissions through our methane reduction strategy — all plans, I would put forward, that were accepted by the federal government recently, Mr. Speaker.

And where we will not allow the federal government, and we will stand for the people of the province, is to not allow them, and we'll take them to court, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that our families don't have to pay a carbon tax when they take their children to school, to hockey, Mr. Speaker. Or the rates don't go up because there's a carbon tax on their school on their rink or on their hospital.

So we will continue to stand for the people of the province, Mr. Speaker, and continue to stand for the jobs in communities across this great province.

Mr. Speaker, I listened to the Leader of the Opposition's speech and his discussion with respect to austerity and the austerity budgets here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And I think this starts to set a clear choice of what is actually going on in this province, what has gone on over the last number of years, and what has gone on the last 10 or 11 years here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And what we are seeing, Mr. Speaker, is a health budget that is up some 50 per cent. I mentioned mental health investment is up 60 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's hardly, that's hardly austerity, Mr. Speaker.

More to do. I understand there's more to do. We all understand there's more to do and we're working closely with our communities to ensure that the investment that we put forward

on their behalf is put forward in the most efficient and most effective manner, Mr. Speaker, but we must acknowledge that our health budget has been up some 50 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, our advanced education budget is up over 50 per cent over this same period of time, Mr. Speaker. Investments in the North, investments in our universities, investments in ensuring that next generation has every opportunity to be trained here, Mr. Speaker, and through the graduate retention program has every opportunity to actually stay here, Mr. Speaker, to have a career in a community that . . . would have the opportunity to choose a career in the community that maybe raised them, Mr. Speaker. And we haven't always had that in the province of Saskatchewan. But an increase of over 50 per cent to our advanced education, our post-secondary institutes, Mr. Speaker, hardly an austere decade that we have had here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, in education.

Education, Mr. Speaker, we have gone from 2007 from an education budget that was less than a billion dollars to this year, some 11 years later, we have an education budget in this province that is over two and a half billion dollars. That's hardly austerity investment in education.

Mr. Speaker, we see a choice. Mr. Speaker, we want to continue to increase that investment and ensure it's effective in our communities in health care, in education, and giving our . . . providing the services that people expect, but giving that next generation every opportunity. And in order to do that we need to continue to advocate for the strong economy that we have here in the province of Saskatchewan. And that's something I'll never make an apology for, Mr. Speaker.

And what we are seeing set up is a clear choice between our parties, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing a clear choice as we enter the last half of our mandate and start heading for an election in 2020, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing a party, a governing party right now, Mr. Speaker, that is going to fight the imposition of a federal carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, and we see a Leader of the Opposition that supports that, Mr. Speaker, and I'd say that it kills jobs in this province.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a party, a governing party, a Saskatchewan Party that is always, Mr. Speaker, working with our industries to ensure that our business taxes and that our resource royalties are competitive. As I noted earlier in the Fraser Institute's study, Mr. Speaker, we want competitive taxes to attract that investment here in potash mining, in uranium mining, and the energy industry, Mr. Speaker, versus the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, that is pushing and has said publicly that the economic platform of the opposition will be higher business taxes, higher resource royalties, Mr. Speaker.

Well in this province that costs jobs, Mr. Speaker, that kills jobs in our communities. Mr. Speaker, they put forward a \$15 minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, that kills jobs in our communities. And they've opposed pipelines, Mr. Speaker, the very lifeblood, the very lifeblood of moving our sustainable Saskatchewan energy product to markets all around the world, costing us \$7.4 billion this year, Mr. Speaker, not having that access to that world market.

Mr. Speaker, thankfully we have a government in place here in

the province of Saskatchewan that will always advocate for fair trade deals with our 150-plus countries all around the world. We will always advocate for the ability to transport those products to market. And we will always advocate for a fair and competitive tax and regulatory environment here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, unlike the members opposite's economic policies of raising taxes and shutting down our resource sector, and killing jobs in communities, in communities of people that we represent, Mr. Speaker. Those are the economic policies of the Leader of the Opposition and the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I also listened to the leader's reply to the Speech from the Throne with . . . I listened to it quite intently actually, in particular when you got to a part, Mr. Speaker, where he started talking about Democrats delivering a Speech from the Throne in 2020. Mr. Speaker, members on this side understand that in the lead-up to 2020, we are going to go out to the communities across this province and we're going to ask for their support to govern on their behalf for the days after that provincial election. We would never preclude that they would be voting for us. We would never preclude their decision, Mr. Speaker. It is always theirs to give. It's their support to give.

There's only one other member, Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly that has ever precluded that, and that's the member from Athabasca with his statements over the last number of years, Mr. Speaker. And I think he usually closes them off with, you guys are over there. The people will come to their senses. Don't mess it up, Mr. Speaker, is what he often comes to.

And I note that in that Throne Speech that the Democrats are, you know, claiming they're going to deliver in 2020. They're going to have a Throne Speech that will dream and deliver, Mr. Speaker. And I'd put forward again that it is going to dream up ways to spend the people of Saskatchewan's money. And it's going to deliver large tax hikes to the people across this province, Mr. Speaker. That's the dream and deliver that the NDP has brought in decades gone by, and that's what they will bring, given the opportunity again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, we have a legislative session to go through, Mr. Speaker, and in this legislative session, Mr. Speaker, we are going to see the Minister of Finance rise in her seat this spring, Mr. Speaker, and she is going to deliver a balanced budget on behalf of the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

This Throne Speech that was delivered the other day, Mr. Speaker, is a step in the direction to ensure that we are able to preserve that opportunity to balance the budget on behalf of the people of the province, preserve the opportunity to continue to invest, Mr. Speaker, in the infrastructure in our communities, to continue to invest in the people that are offering those services in that infrastructure in our communities, Mr. Speaker, to continue to invest in the services and the infrastructure that the people that we represent in this province expect their provincial government to provide, Mr. Speaker.

This is a Speech from the Throne that walks us towards our balanced budget next spring, Mr. Speaker. It's a Speech from the Throne that Saskatchewan people . . . that displays what Saskatchewan people have come to expect of this government

and to expect of the government that represents them.

So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I'm going to be supporting the Speech from the Throne that was delivered last week. I'm going to be supporting the motion that was put forward by the member from Lumsden-Morse, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the member from Martensville-Warman, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to the vote.

The Speaker: — Seeing no others, the question before the Assembly is the main motion, the address in reply to the Throne Speech moved by the member from Lumsden-Morse, seconded by the member from Martensville-Warman:

That an Humble Address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To His Honour the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of the province of Saskatchewan.

May it please Your Honour:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Saskatchewan, in session assembled, humbly thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has been pleased to address to us at the opening of the present session.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 11:59 until 12:00.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 46]

Moe	Beaudry-Mellor	Merriman
Ottenbreit	Reiter	Wyant
Morgan	Harpauer	Duncan
Marit	Hargrave	D'Autremont
Cox	Hepner	Kaeding
Makowsky	Tell	Eyre
Brkich	Harrison	Carr
Cheveldayoff	Stewart	Hart
Kirsch	Bradshaw	Olauson
Weekes	Lambert	Lawrence
Wilson	McMorris	Michelson
Bonk	Doke	Steinley
Hindley	Buckingham	Young

Dennis	Nerlien	Steele
Tochor	Goudy	Fiaz
Francis		

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the motion please stand.

[Nays — 12]

Meili	Chartier	Vermette
Wotherspoon	Beck	Sproule
Forbes	Mowat	Sarauer
McCall	Pedersen	Rancourt

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 46; those opposed, 12.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that the Assembly now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt this motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly now stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:03.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe
Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor
Minister of Advanced Education
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for Innovation

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Central Services
Minister Responsible for the Provincial
Capital Commission
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Joe Hargrave
Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Hon. Warren Kaeding
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis
and Northern Affairs

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
Insurance Corporation

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Greg Ottenbreit
Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections and Policing
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Deputy Premier
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for SaskBuilds and
Priority Saskatchewan