



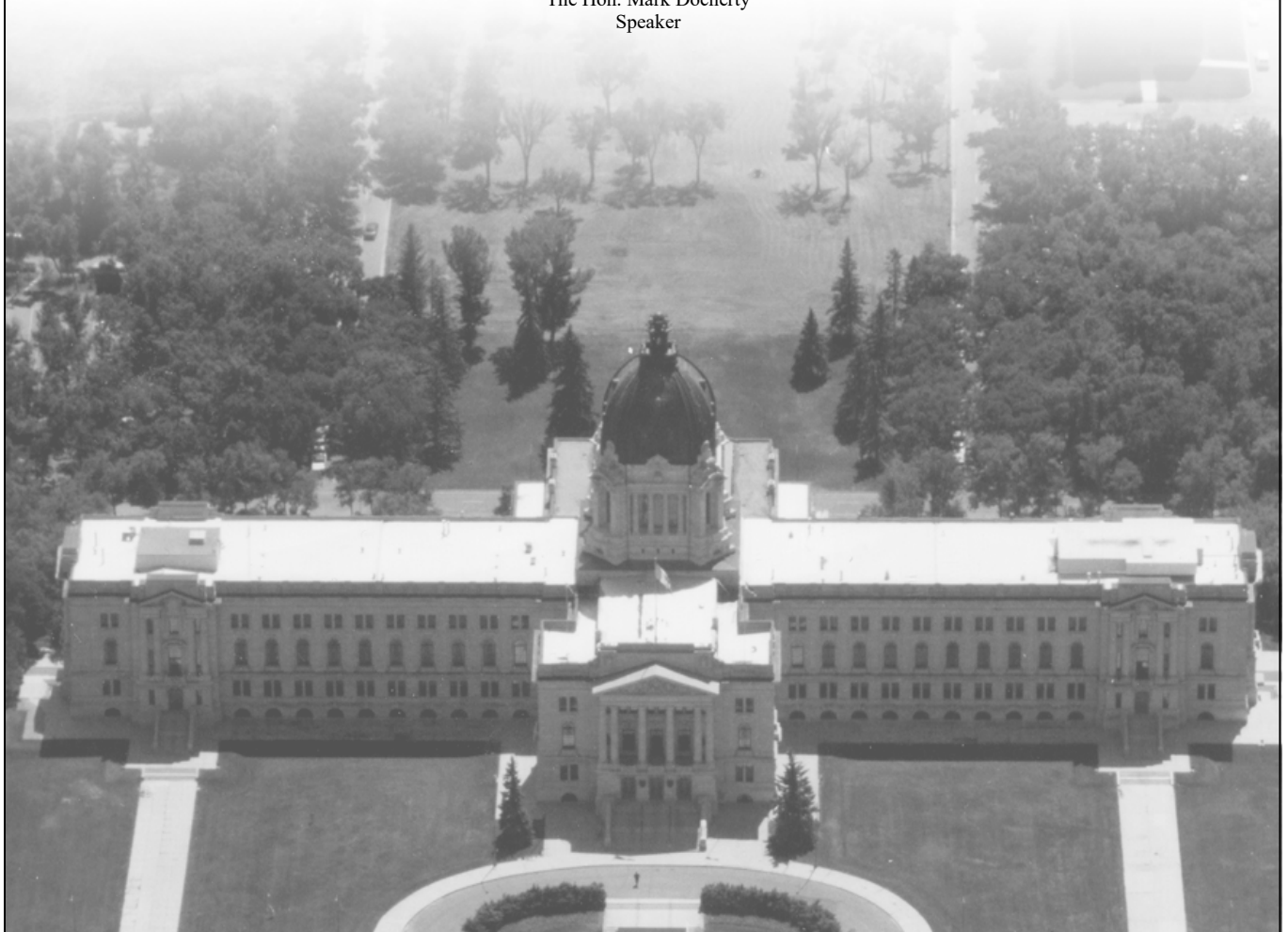
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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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Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

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

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would request leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier's requested leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the members of this Assembly for leave. To you and through you, to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce some very special guests that have joined us here today. With us are the Saskatchewan athletes who represented our province in figure skating in the 2019 Canada Winter Games, which were held in Red Deer just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, They're in the, I guess that'd be the west gallery.

Mr. Speaker, our guests include Ashlyn Schmitz of Shellbrook, Tristan Taylor of Regina, Caidence Derenisky of Regina, Raine Eberl from Moose Jaw, and coach David Shultz I think will be joining us shortly as well, also from Regina.

Mr. Speaker, we also have family members that have joined our guests here today. We have Cheryl Oshaway, Ashlyn's grandmother; we have Jode Derenisky, Caidence's mother; and Carla Taylor-Brown, Tristan's mother. Carla is a very familiar face for all of us in this legislature. She is a senior administrator in the office of the Minister of Trade and Export Development, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these talented skaters have had an incredible season. And it's the first year that Ashlyn and Tristan have teamed up in pairs, and they excelled this year, skating together. They were champions of the pre-novice pairs in Saskatchewan. They won the bronze medal in the pairs pre-novice mix at the winter games. This August Ashlyn and Tristan hope to compete internationally at the North American series in Edmonton, and we sincerely wish them all the best.

Mr. Speaker, Caidence and Raine were also a new team of skaters and they competed for the first time together this year. And they too had great success, winning the novice pairs in Saskatchewan and the silver medal in the figure skating pairs novice mix at the winter games. Mr. Speaker, Caidence and Raine also have aspirations to compete internationally this summer. The skaters received excellent guidance and instruction from David Schultz and his partner, Vicki, who is also the coach.

Mr. Speaker, winning medals at a national competition in any sport isn't easy. It takes hours and hours of practice, courage, and

determination. And with those hours and hours of practice comes the responsibility to keep your marks up at school, as you're travelling across the province and across the nation. And I had the opportunity to watch these individuals and others perform in the community of Shellbrook, Mr. Speaker, as they did a tour across our province, and I can attest to their talents on the ice, Mr. Speaker. And I know some of the parents involved, and I can certainly attest to the efforts that these youth, these fine youth in our province are making off the ice, Mr. Speaker.

So today I would like all of us to acknowledge the hard work and the commitment of the skaters, of the coaches, of the families, and all of those involved and thank them for the great effort that they make. I want to thank the parents for all they've done in supporting these fine Saskatchewan athletes. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating and welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for an extended introduction, please.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Hon. Ms. Wilson: — Thank you. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you, all the members of the Assembly, some very special guests that have joined us today in your gallery. Please welcome Mr. Ivan Počuch, consul general of the Czech Republic in Toronto, and Mr. David Müller, head of the economic and trade section of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Toronto.

This is the consul general's first official visit to our province since his appointment in November 2016. Mr. Počuch is a career diplomat who has served his country with distinction in Ukraine, Austria, Belgium, and the United States. His previous appointments have been as ambassador to Ukraine and to United Nations in Vienna, and as the senior diplomat to the permanent delegation of the Czech Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. A distinguished career indeed.

Canada is home to over 100,000 Canadians who are full or partial Czech descent, and as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the first Czech immigrants who came to Canada in 1884 settled in Kolin, Saskatchewan. Both of our countries share values related to security, free trade, and the promotion of democracy. We work well together on many bilateral and multilateral assignments, most notably with NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization], the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, we are optimists that our trade relationship will grow further under the Canadian-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. In fact, Mr. Speaker, with the Czech Republic being the country with the

highest beer consumption per capita in the world and Saskatchewan being a major producer of malting barley, this could be the start of a delightful relationship. And what goes better with beer, Mr. Speaker, than hockey? The people of Saskatchewan and the people of the Czech Republic share a love for hockey, and we are proud to say our very own Regina-born Brett Flemming, who was drafted by the Washington Capitals in 2009, is now playing hockey in the Czech Republic.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons and more, I welcome Mr. Počuch and Mr. Müller here today. We are honoured to have them with us, and I ask that all members of the Assembly join with me in welcoming our distinguished guests to Saskatchewan's legislature and this province. Thank you.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming the figure skating athletes, coaches, and family members to their legislature. It obviously takes great dedication to be such successful athletes, and we thank them for representing our province with pride. I'd like to ask all the members to join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

And I'd also like to join the Provincial Secretary in saying ahoj and vítejte to our guests from the Czech Republic. Great to have you here today. And continuing with the figure skating theme, one of my best friends, Paul Rowe of Moose Jaw, married a figure-skating champion from Brno. And they now live in Brno, so I get Czech updates once in a while.

And so it's really great to see a representative and this opportunity for us to continue our economic, cultural, and social connections with the Czech Republic. Thank you for being here today, and I ask all the members to join me in welcoming our visitors to Saskatchewan.

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

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you. I'm pleased to introduce several visitors seated throughout the galleries here this afternoon. First off, I'd like to introduce Dale McFee, the deputy minister of Corrections and Policing, and his executive team of Corrections and Policing. I'll start off with that. But throughout the galleries, Mr. Speaker, there are correctional officers, facility youth workers, probation officers, and community youth workers with the Ministry of Corrections and Policing across Saskatchewan.

An Hon. Member: — Dale Larsen.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Oh, Dale Larsen. Holy. Yes, old habits die hard.

Mr. Speaker, they have joined us here today to help celebrate the first official Correctional Officer Appreciation Day, a day where we recognize and honour their service to the people of Saskatchewan. These hard-working men and women help to rehabilitate offenders through counselling and programming, allowing them the opportunity to reintegrate into society and help make Saskatchewan communities safe and secure.

Mr. Speaker, these officers bring skill and professionalism to a job that is not often visible to the general public and that can be demanding and complex. They are truly the unsung heroes of our criminal justice system.

Mr. Speaker, to help recognize the work that these employees do, beginning next Correctional Officer Appreciation Day, we will be awarding the Minister's Award of Excellence in community and custody correctional services.

Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure and an honour to introduce representatives here today from each correctional facility across the province, as well as representatives from community correctional services.

I would ask them to stand as their name is called. Reg Larson from Besnard Lake Correctional Camp; Bill Amundsen from Drumming Hill Youth Centre; Jodi Fiddler from Kilburn Hall Youth Centre; Daren Seivewright from Paul Dojack Youth Centre; Barb Lucas from Pine Grove Correctional Centre; Adeline Gunnarson from Prince Albert Community-Training Residence; Thomas Gamble from Prince Albert Correctional Centre; Rick Delisle from Prince Albert Youth Residence; Shelley Johnson from Community-Training Residence; Devlin Clancy from Regina Correctional Centre; Laura Rusk from Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford; Carey Terichow from Saskatoon Community-Training Residence; Karen Sawchuk from Saskatoon Community-Training Residence, Women; Lindsay Halliwell from Saskatoon Correctional Centre; Kerry Fullawka from Whitespruce Provincial Training Centre; Estelle Laliberte from Community Corrections in Buffalo Narrows; Dianne Becotte with Community Corrections in North Battleford; Colin Cameron with Community Corrections in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the work done by each of these employees and their colleagues across Saskatchewan who help keep our communities safe. Please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming all of these folks to their Legislative Assembly, in particular, first of all, Dale Larsen, acting deputy minister of Corrections. I was a bit surprised to hear that Dale McFee might be visiting us after . . . I think he's a bit busy being chief of police for the city of Edmonton right now. But more importantly, I'd like to welcome all of the correctional workers and thank them for their work. It's important that we have days like this correctional workers appreciation day, because often I think their work goes unnoticed by so many in our province. But the work that they do is unparalleled, and it's very important both for the rehabilitation of those that they work with but for the

safety of our community, Mr. Speaker.

I've had the opportunity as critic for Corrections over the past three years to visit all of our correctional facilities twice now, Mr. Speaker, and I can attest personally to the hard work that they do in what can be some very extreme circumstances. So thank you for all of the work that you do. It means a lot to us as a province. Please know that although we're celebrating you today that every day we recognize the importance of the work that you do for us.

I'd like to ask all members to join me again in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to my fellow colleagues, I would like to introduce a group of special students visiting the Legislative Assembly today.

Today in the west gallery we are joined by a group of 40 students, their teachers, and chaperones who have travelled from eight northern Saskatchewan high schools. They are here for the Charles Knight mentorship program and they are from the communities of Cumberland House, Deschambault Lake, Fond-du-Lac, Ile-a-la-Crosse, La Ronge, Southend, Stony Rapids, and Wollaston Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the students are here to participate in the educational program known as the Charles Knight Youth Mentorship Program. This is the 10th anniversary of the annual program facilitated by the Provincial Capital Commission.

[13:45]

The program provides high school students from northern Saskatchewan an opportunity to learn about our democratic processes and to explore post-secondary education and public sector career opportunities here in our capital city. The visit is a unique opportunity for them to meet with ministers and MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. I know the members from Cumberland and Athabasca and myself had the opportunity to speak with them in an informal setting at lunch today.

I want to thank you personally, Mr. Speaker, for facilitating the mock parliament. The students said the mock parliament rocked in the Chamber earlier today. I'm sure the exercise allowed them to gain a better understanding and appreciation of how our democratic process works.

I invite all members to join me in welcoming our guests to the Legislative Assembly this afternoon.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To join the minister in welcoming our northern guests today, it was an honour to meet with them, have a little bit of a discussion back and forth, to watch them mark the process as they went in here, back and forth as government, opposition. Had some good laughs, but also they know the seriousness. And I just want to welcome them.

They come to this Assembly to learn a process and how we work together and how we should be working together to serve all people of our great province. And I just want to welcome them here — this is their Assembly — and to know that we are honouring them by our time we spend with them. And truly it is, you are our next generation. That's so important. You are our future. So with that I just want to welcome you to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce three guests in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. They're here from the MS Society [Multiple Sclerosis Society], which is fitting today because May is MS Awareness Month, Mr. Speaker.

We have Erin Kuan, who is the president of the Saskatchewan and Manitoba divisions. We have Eugene Paquin, the government relations Chair, and Jessica MacPherson, who is the director of government relations and communications. My colleague, the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, and I had an opportunity to meet with them this morning. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for all the great work they do for all the MS patients in the province. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to please join with me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the minister opposite in welcoming these guests from the MS Society to the Assembly today and thank them for the work that they do in promoting MS research and providing education and services, not only to patients but also to families of those with MS.

We've got our red carnations on today for the Carnations of Hope campaign. We know that women are three times more likely to be diagnosed with MS than men, and that that's the reason for this campaign happening over Mother's Day weekend. We'd like to thank these individuals for the hard work that they do, and I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety in welcoming all the officers that work in our correctional system. I want to pay a special tribute to a colleague and a dear friend of mine. My colleague, I mean she served as the mayor of Buffalo Narrows for a number of great years and a councillor as well, Estelle

Laliberte. And, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of going to school with her, and we took business administration together. And she made reference to me being a pea brain one time during class, and I want to indicate to her that her assessment was correct.

Mr. Speaker, I am so very proud that she continues working for the public safety commission. I think we would have many more members from Buffalo Narrows, had this government not shut down the Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre. So I want to welcome Estelle here and to tell her that the fight for Buffalo Narrows Correctional Centre will continue. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nerlien: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the east gallery today we have Louise Schweitzer, the executive director of North East Outreach and Support Services. Louise is a passionate advocate on behalf of persons suffering from domestic violence issues. She operates out of Melfort and serves the region in that area.

She's here promoting the seventh annual Walk a Mile, in those lovely red shoes, fundraiser. And we have had a history of a lot of MLA participation in that fundraiser, and we're looking forward to that again on May 28th.

We all agree that this is a service that we would rather not see in our communities, but it's very rewarding to see advocates like Louise who serve the community so well, and her team up in Melfort who provide this most valuable service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Louise to her Legislative Assembly. It's always a pleasure to see her. She does very good work in not just the city of Melfort, providing support and a home to those fleeing domestic violence in Melfort, but to the greater area as well. Often their shelter is full and the work that they do is incredibly challenging, but very, very important. I had the opportunity to visit the Melfort shelter a few months ago, several months ago, and can also attest to the powerful work that they do in that community.

It's great to see Louise here promoting a very important campaign that happens every single year. I understand my colleague, the member for Regina Northeast, will be joining you in that campaign. Please know that we're all there in spirit with our red high heels, and we very much are appreciative of the work that you and your staff do every single day.

I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming Louise Schweitzer to her Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the House, I'd like to introduce a

couple of very close, very close friends of mine, Bernard and Phyllis Moellenbeck, if you'd give us a wave.

Bernie and I met showing cattle like maybe 50 years ago, something like that. And we've been very close friends ever since, so I appreciate them being here. And they wanted to see what it really is like at a question period in this House, so we'll try and put on a good show. I'd ask all members to welcome them to their House. Thank you.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the legislature, I'm so pleased to welcome a group from a school in my constituency, Fairhaven. We have 32 kids from the grade 7 and 8 class, Andrew Kitchen's class. And some of you would know Andrew Kitchen. He has been an active participant in your institute, in your teacher's institute, Mr. Speaker, and has been involved in organizing it as well on the teacher end. It's always great to see teachers who are up to the challenge of bringing kids here.

And I'm especially thrilled because I think in my whole time as an MLA, I've had three school groups. Two of them have been Andrew's class, I believe, so he's got a pretty good batting average. He's invited me into his classroom in the past as well. So he's committed to making sure that his students have a good understanding of democracy, what goes on in their legislature, and frankly, in their lives here in Saskatchewan.

So I want to commend Andrew for his work in getting the students here, and the parent chaperones here as well who make it happen. We've got Emmanuel, Marci, Curtis, Stephanie, Karissa, and Whitney. I want to welcome them as well. And they're staying overnight tonight, Mr. Speaker, so I don't get to meet them until tomorrow morning. So I'm not sure what else they have planned for the day, but I'm sure they'll have a pretty wonderful trip. And I look forward to answering the hard questions from them tomorrow morning, I'm sure. But with that, I would like to ask all members to welcome this group to their Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to add a couple greetings to the record if I could. Just a specific word of greeting to the president of the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union, Mr. Bob Bymoen, seated in the eastern gallery, sometime constituent in Regina Elphinstone-Centre, I should point out, Mr. Speaker. But it's good to see Mr. Bymoen here today at his Legislative Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's always an honour to rise on your feet in this place, but it's wonderful for me personally, Mr. Speaker, to see Shelley Johnson here today in her Legislative Assembly. I grew up with the Johnson kids, Mr. Speaker, and Shelley's known me since I was about as tall as this desk, Mr. Speaker. But she was a good friend of my dear departed mother, and I know her to be an active person in the community, a proud mother, a proud grandmother. And it's again really good to see Shelley Johnson here today wearing the dress blues, proud, serving her

province. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these very important people to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Hello, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the member opposite in welcoming Bob Bymo to the legislature today. I spent a great part of last Friday with him at an advisory committee meeting. And while we may not agree on everything, we certainly agree on the safety and security and the importance of a good civil service in our province. And I want to thank him not just for his presence here today, but for the work that he and his members do protecting the citizens of our province every day.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I'd like to join with the Health minister in recognizing Eugene Paquin, who is somebody from my constituency and, for the benefit of the members opposite, bought a turkey this year.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Mr. Cox: — I didn't want to be the only one not getting introductions. I would like to join with the minister and with the members opposite today as well and offer a special thanks to all of our correctional people that are here today for Correctional Officer Day, and especially a very good friend of mine up in that top gallery, Dianne Becotte. Dianne and Pat have been very good friends with my wife Linda and I for many, many years. In fact, our kids quite grew up together and used to go camping together back in the day, and we've got some great memories. And I can absolutely attest that Dianne is an awesome kaiser partner because we spent lots of evenings at the kaiser table.

Accompanying Dianne today are another two very good friends of mine, Pat and Dianne Becotte . . . sorry, Pat and Dianne Lumsden, got the Pats mixed up. Very great to see them here today. Terry and Patty have been great friends of mine as well. And of course Terry was a stellar member of the Eastend Eagles hockey team, along with the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford and myself. And I know that he shares our disappointment at never having an opportunity to light up the member from Athabasca, but that may happen at another time. Anyway, I would just ask all members please to once more welcome these members to their Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd go on and join the minister and my colleague from Cumberland in welcoming the students from northern Saskatchewan in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. The people have travelled many, many miles to be here to learn about this institution and to certainly learn of the opportunities attached to our province's capital.

The people have come from Cumberland House, from La Ronge, from Wollaston Lake, from Southend, Deschambault Lake, that's of course in the Cumberland constituency. And of course, the best constituency in the province, Athabasca, we have people from Stony Rapids, from Fond-du-Lac, and from Ile-a-la-Crosse. And I want to say very quickly, in my own language:

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

Which really, in Cree, I'm really proud that they're here, and to keep on working and not to quit, and to always be proud of the fact that you're Indigenous people of this province and you have a rightful place in our history. So keep up the great work. And to all northerners, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, welcome to your Assembly. And I hope that your visit and your stay is educational, informative, and you certainly have a good time learning all about the greatness of our province. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the east gallery, one of my constituents is sitting there, Murray Carswell. If you see that he's a very familiar face, very often he visits this Assembly. And I ask all my colleagues to welcome him in his legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Okay, I'd like to request leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you, all. Okay, so I'd also like to welcome Andrew Kitchen and his class. Andrew was a participant in the Saskatchewan Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy. In 2017 he was selected to be a member of the steering committee. In 2018, the steering committee works with my office, Social Studies Saskatchewan, and the Ministry of Education to host the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute] each year. Thank you, Andrew, for your dedication to the SSTI program.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Kitchen and his grade 7/8 class to their Legislative Assembly.

[14:00]

And while I'm on my feet, sitting in the west gallery we've got a group of 22 grade 4 students from Dr. Hanna School in the constituency of Regina Coronation Park. They're accompanied by their teachers, Jennifer Huber and Uzma Farhat. Give us a wave. And I'll be excited to listen to their great questions at the end of these proceedings. Please join me in welcoming this group of students to their legislature.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of the residents of northern Saskatchewan. There is a definite need for a long-term care facility in La Ronge and area. And according to the Croft report in 2009, it shows the area in code red. There was 500,000 allocated for planning that was spent and the plan has been ready for years. Seniors are waiting 165 days on average for a bed and are being shipped hours away from loved ones.

And I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Sask Party government treat northern Saskatchewan senior citizens with respect and dignity and immediately invest in a new long-term care facility in La Ronge.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many residents in northern Saskatchewan. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am 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.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the 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 Lloydminster, Maidstone. I do so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned people, communities, and local businesses from right across Saskatchewan as it relates to the Sask Party government's imposition of the PST [provincial sales tax] onto construction labour and well, pretty much everything else, Mr. Speaker.

Of course, in this case what we saw, we saw the Sask Party government that saw a slowing economy and that slammed on the brakes, Mr. Speaker, and introduced really what's the epitome of a job-killing tax, Mr. Speaker, in the 2017 budget. We stood up then and opposed it, Mr. Speaker. The results speak for themselves. Sadly we see permits down all across the province. We see projects that have been shelved. We see thousands of hard-working Saskatchewan tradespeople that have been put out of work, that have lost their livelihood. So many of those, Mr. Speaker, have been forced outside Saskatchewan to pursue employment, Mr. Speaker. We know that households have been hit hard by the PST with an increase of almost \$800 per year in just five years, Mr. Speaker. It's hurting families and it's hurting our economy.

The prayer reads as follows:

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 businesses and families.

These petitions are signed by concerned residents of Edenwold and Regina. I so submit.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon to present a petition calling on the government to restore funding to post-secondary education institutions. Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to the impact that years of cuts and underfunding have had across the sector, leading to students paying some of the highest tuition rates in Canada at a time when we've seen a loss of supports in student scholarships, and impacts right across the sector.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately restore funding to Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions and stop the damaging cuts to our students.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has been seen far and wide around the province. We have signatures today from Regina, Moose Jaw, Assiniboia, Briercrest, Caronport, Pense, Midale, Saskatoon, Melville, Nipawin, Preeceville, Lanigan, Prince Albert, Christopher Lake, Success, Swift Current, Southey, Arcola, Wynyard, Esterhazy, and Hafford. I do so present.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for a public inquiry and forensic audit into the Regina bypass land scandal. Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: land developers were paid up to 80 times more for their land than long-term land, home, and business owners; and that thousands of people were impacted directly and lost their land, homes, business, access, life's work, health, history, and future.

Mr. Speaker, one of those particular businesses that were impacted — and as you can hear, many were impacted — was an award-winning manufacturing facility located just outside of Regina called Super Seamless. Mr. Speaker, Super Seamless had plans of expansion, and in their plans they selected a new site and expanded the land that they owned, based on the bypass being a part of the original plan as it was originally.

However, as we know, the plan for where that bypass was located changed, and as a result their land had been expropriated, which caused severe financial damage and the loss of manufacturing facilities, businesses, buildings, and infrastructure on their land, Mr. Speaker. Super Seamless was not consulted on these changes and as a result, as I said, has incurred significant financial problems as a result of the expropriation.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call for a judicial public inquiry and forensic audit into the entire Regina bypass land scandal.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals signing this petition today come from Saskatoon, Regina, and Pilot Butte. I do so present.

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

Mr. Pedersen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have here a petition from people who are concerned about the very building blocks of life — seeds, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they want to bring to our attention that the federal government is proposing to pass regulations that would give plant breeders complete control over seeds. Mr. Speaker, one of these proposals would have farmers paying a trailing royalty, having to pay again and again and again for seed that they grew on their own farm and wanted to save a portion of that and reuse. One of the proposals would have farmers paying an end point royalty or, in other words, a royalty on every tonne of crop that they grew from seed that they bought from one of the international seed companies.

Mr. Speaker, these proposals are being pushed on farmers under the premise that it's necessary to fund research, but the petitioners want to bring to our attention that the current model of government- and farmer-funded research works well and has generated returns of up to 20 to 1 for the Canadian public and farmers. And, Mr. Speaker, under these proposals that are supposedly being based on the premise of furthering research, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners want to bring to our attention that there is no guarantee that any of these royalty dollars would go towards research, there is no guarantee that the value of that research would go to farmers, and, Mr. Speaker, there is no guarantee that any of that research would even be on Canadian crop varieties.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Saskatchewan Party government to advocate on behalf of Saskatchewan farmers with the federal government to ensure that the rights of farmers to freely use their own seed be established and maintained; that end point and trailing royalties not be imposed on farmers; and that any research that is paid for by farmers will be controlled and directed by farmers.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition are from the communities of Lloydminster and Estevan. I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

Ms. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to recognize May as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month. I had the opportunity to participate and bring greetings to the 21st annual Jayman Built MS Walk this past weekend in Lloydminster.

Mr. Speaker, there are an estimated 3,700 Saskatchewan people living with MS. Advancing MS research is a priority for our government. In 2016 the MS advisory panel released its report outlining ways to improve MS care, education, and research in Saskatchewan. In addition to a new MS clinical research Chair and a newly recruited neurologist, we continue to provide annual funding to the Saskatoon MS Clinic to support the needs of Saskatchewan residents living with MS.

Mr. Speaker, last week we announced coverage of a new drug

called Ocrevus. It's the first MS medication approved for treating the primary progressive form of MS. It's also covered for people with relapsing-remitting MS, the most common form of the condition. Ocrevus is the 13th MS drug treatment option covered by the Saskatchewan formulary.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to providing high-quality, timely health care services to all our residents and we will continue to make MS research and patient care a priority. I ask that all members join me in recognizing MS Awareness Month. Thank you.

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

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, Sunday was National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. On this day and every day, it's important that we recognize the discrimination and racism in our systems that victimize these women. We need to end the injustice and violence against Indigenous women and girls. Awareness days like these shine a light on the root causes of violence, murders, and disappearances. In Saskatchewan, poverty, colonialism, and sexism often drive these crimes.

This week, Carson and Regina Poitras from Air Ronge are having their 2nd annual spiritual walk from Prince Albert to La Ronge to raise awareness of their missing daughter Happy Charles. Happy was last seen in Prince Albert on April 3rd, 2017. They have had struggles dealing with official agencies and the lack of supports our province has for missing and murdered women and girls. They feel they have not been treated equally in the eyes of the law. They are, however, thankful the Prince Albert police have come forward to show support and join in the walks.

The experiences of having a loved one murdered or go missing affects families, governments, businesses, community groups, and individuals. The women and girls that were taken are not forgotten, and we need to honour their truth by supporting their families and calling for change.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in acknowledging this Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. We must do more to make sure families like Happy Charles's are not left without answers. Thank you.

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

Moose Jaw Warriors Form AAA Partnership

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In April the Moose Jaw Minor Hockey Association and the Moose Jaw Warriors announced an exciting new partnership and sponsorship, rebranding the Midget AAA program as the Moose Jaw AAA Warriors. Mr. Speaker, the Warriors are a pivotal part of our community, making the rebranding an obvious move. The WHL [Western Hockey League] Warriors have represented our community so well for many, many years, and rebranding our midget club creates the same world-class mentality. The rebrand

will also include a mentorship and advisory role between the two teams.

Mr. Speaker, having two great teams in different leagues representing Moose Jaw with the Warriors name and colours is a true honour for our hockey community. The wealth and knowledge that can be shared between both teams will not only strengthen our already great organizations, and I look forward to seeing their successful partnership grow.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate Jeremy Ebbett, who has been named the AAA Warriors' team manager, as well as Carter Davis, Carter Smith, and Evan Schwabe, who have been named as assistant coaches. The Warriors have officially held their 2019 spring camp and are preparing for the regular season, and we wish them the best.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these hockey organizations on their new partnership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Prince Albert Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 2 Donates to Special-Care Home

Ms. Rancourt: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Prince Albert people are known for their generosity and goodwill. A very generous donation given out this week proves this once again to be true. The Prince Albert Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 2 donated money from their poppy fund to Pineview Terrace special-care home. The Legion presented Pineview Terrace with a cheque for just over \$15,000. The money will go towards new protective air mattresses and more blood pressure monitors. The Legion members selected Pineview Terrace because there are five veterans and veteran spouses who are residents there.

Mr. Speaker, Pineview Terrace is a 60-bed special-care home located next to the Victoria Hospital. There are 58 long-term care beds and two respite beds. This home provides personal and health services to people who are elderly, disabled, or chronically ill and need 24-hour care. There are other health care supports provided at Pineview Terrace such as day programs, respite, and rehabilitation services. These programs make it possible for people to remain in their homes for a longer period of time.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we continue to support the Poppy Campaign each year. Not only do we support our veterans by doing so, but our community benefits as well. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me to congratulate the Prince Albert Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 2 on their very generous donation to the Pineview Terrace special-care home. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

Eston Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Communities in Bloom Participation

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to

recognize the community of Eston for 20 continuous years of participation in the Communities in Bloom program. Communities in Bloom is a provincial and national program that recognizes projects involving beautification, heritage, and environmental awareness. Participants are evaluated on their quality of their municipality's landscaping, environmental awareness, heritage, and level of community involvement.

One hundred and forty-three Saskatchewan communities have been involved in this program since its inception, and the community of Eston truly exemplifies the principles of this program.

Eston has a long-standing group of volunteers committed to both community beautification and engagement. They have a hard-working committee of nine people: Sandy King, Valerie Mohan, Doreen Reaburn, Leslie Kraft, Ellen Owens, Loreen Buskell, Shelagh Vance, Shari Collinge, and Jill Thome. Valerie and Doreen are two of the members who have been involved for all 20 years, and Shelagh continues to participate at 91 years young.

From development of a new community park in 2016, to community clean-up days, Eston has earned six provincial Communities in Bloom titles. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members join me in congratulating the community of Eston and their volunteers for enhancing community pride and encouraging residents of all ages to get involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Swift Current.

Swift Current Bowling Tournament Raises Funds for SaskAbilities

Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday, April 27th I participated in the 32nd annual Ability Bowl in Swift Current at the Frontier Bowling Lanes which raised \$126,058 for SaskAbilities. Mr. Speaker, I was a celebrity bowler which didn't pan out so well. I may have hit the gutter, I think.

Mr. Speaker, SaskAbilities is an organization that strives to build inclusive communities for everyone. At the end of the day there was an awards ceremony and a dance, all while participants sported denim and western gear because this year's theme of the Ability Bowl was the Rodeo Bowl. The event had a great turnout as usual, Mr. Speaker, and this year's funds exceeded last year's Beach Bowl event by over \$20,000.

Kerry Andres was the grand prize winner, raising \$5,230 himself, while his team which included his daughter Avery who I understand really loves bowling, she also raised some money as well. Their team raised over \$8,000 all together. And there were several other teams that also raised over \$1,000 each.

Thank you to the 43 teams, the 200-plus bowlers, for obtaining 1,500 pledges from the outset of the day, and the 140 community partners and sponsors for their donations. Thanks to the generous bowlers, volunteers, and residents of Swift Current and southwest Saskatchewan for helping the Ability Bowl to run smoothly once again, and contribute to its successful outcome. Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to join me in recognizing SaskAbilities and all the participants for their efforts and collaboration to support this wonderful cause. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

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

Mental Health Week and Child and Youth Mental Health Day

Mr. Buckingham: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize this week as Mental Health Week, and today, May 7th, as Child and Youth Mental Health Day. This week will feature many important events that aim to raise awareness on mental health, like the Barrett Nelson Memorial Music Festival which I attended this past weekend in Radisson.

This year's theme is #GetLoud About What Mental Health Really Is. The theme acknowledges that good mental health includes having balance in your life and managing life's highs and lows. Since 2007 National Child and Youth Mental Health Day has been raising awareness in a similar way for the unique challenges facing youth.

Mr. Speaker, the 2019-20 budget includes record funding of almost 402 million for mental health and addiction services. These investments will result in more beds, more counselling services, and more staff, with specific investments to hire more clinicians to better treat children and youth with mental health issues.

Mr. Speaker, our mental health is truly vital. It is crucial that we continue to work together to empower our people, especially our youth, to reach out for help. They need to manage their mental health. I now ask all members of the House to join me in recognizing Child and Youth Mental Health Day and Mental Health Week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Management of Provincial Economy

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You can't cut your way to economic growth. Economists know this and the Premier should know it as well. And we're seeing a fresh example of this in Ontario where the Premier's friend, Mr. Ford, decided to take a page out of the Sask Party handbook: cut health care, cut education, cut libraries, and legal aid.

And what's the impact? The impact already is that the Bank of Canada saw the way that that's going to damage our economy to the point that they downgraded the economic predictions for the entire country, because that austerity approach when you cut services, it hurts people and it slows down our economy, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen the impact of that right here in Saskatchewan. 2018 GDP [gross domestic product] numbers for Saskatchewan are dismal, Mr. Speaker, the second-lowest outside of the Maritimes, lower than the territories, lower than PEI [Prince Edward Island], once again lower than the national average, Mr. Speaker.

An economy that's struggling, the result of damaging decisions

of a government that's cut services and hurt our economy, Mr. Speaker. When will this Premier admit that it's a failed policy? When will he take the steps to invest in people and improve the Saskatchewan economy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the budget that was announced in this House this spring by our Minister of Finance, it actually included the largest health care investment ever in the history of the province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it included investments in mental health that are unprecedented here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

We understand there's more work to do, but most certainly we feel we are on the right path, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to our investment in health care, when it comes to the largest investment in the history of the province in education, in social services, Mr. Speaker. There was a significant investment in exactly the priorities the people of this province expect their provincial government to be investing in.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the general economy here in the province, I would put forward that over the course of the last decade, the economy has been strong here. I just had the numbers of \$31 billion as our export value here this past year, Mr. Speaker, up some 45 per cent since 2007, Mr. Speaker. A tremendous increase in our wealth-generating exports here in the province, exports in the industries of agriculture, in manufacturing, and energy and mining, Mr. Speaker. Some of the most sustainable products that we are supplying to the rest of the world — the food, fuel, and fertilizer that the world needs, Mr. Speaker — we're doing so competitively. We're doing so sustainably, and we're putting people in this province to work, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether the Premier will admit it or not, whether he can see it or not, the Saskatchewan economy is in rough shape, and it's not getting any better in the coming year. The Royal Bank of Canada has downgraded its predictions for Saskatchewan, having us as the third-lowest growth in the entire country. TD [Toronto Dominion] Bank is saying the exact same thing, Mr. Speaker, and has us for the fifth year in a row at below the national average in terms of GDP growth, Mr. Speaker.

And what do they attribute this to? Sluggish labour market, decreased capital investment, and a decreased construction activity, Mr. Speaker. This is a government that drained our infrastructure accounts during the best times. They overspent on costly megaprojects and as a result left us with nothing but debt in the bank, Mr. Speaker. Not only that, not only did they leave us with nothing but debt in the bank, they slapped the PST onto construction, slowing down a key industry in a time of economic slowdown, Mr. Speaker.

Everyone can see it. The banks can see it. Businesses can see it. People who are struggling to pay their bills can see it. I don't know why the Premier can't see it, Mr. Speaker, but the reality is he needs to acknowledge that the economy is struggling. Will he today? Will he do that? And will he take the PST off of

construction so that we can get Saskatchewan people back to work?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I believe the infrastructure investments that he's referencing are infrastructure investments like 42 brand new schools in communities across the province, Mr. Speaker. Infrastructure investments like the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, Mr. Speaker, not only offering significant infrastructure investment but offering a service, Mr. Speaker, that has never been offered in the province before.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose he might be referencing the investment in a children's hospital in Saskatoon, again in the process of attracting and signing up 80 new surgeons to ensure that our children have opportunities to receive services here in this province that we never have been able to before, Mr. Speaker.

And the way we do that is to continue to ensure that we are working to enhance the opportunities that we have in our strong economy here in the province, Mr. Speaker, as we continue to ensure that we have the ability to get our products to market by advocating not only for rail infrastructure but for pipelines. And I've asked the Leader of the Opposition to advocate with his federal leader and maybe change his mind with respect to how we get those products to market, those sustainable energy products that are produced here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

I've asked him to advocate maybe with his federal leader or even within his caucus or within himself, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we don't have a federally imposed carbon tax on our industries here in the province. These are all challenges that our economy is facing, Mr. Speaker, challenges that we are facing on behalf of the people of this province. And we'll continue to stand up for the hard-working people, the hard-working families across this province, Mr. Speaker, so that we can ensure that our best days are still ahead.

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You notice in that laundry list he never seems to mention the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] or the bypass that went from 400 million to 2 billion or the carbon capture project that never seems to work the way it should, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aside from not wanting to mention the costly megaprojects that they wasted money on, Mr. Speaker, the Premier also doesn't mention that in his own budget, in this year's budget, you see the capital spending dropping off significantly. And the banks have pointed out the way in which that's a significant problem for our economy, Mr. Speaker. It's an economic problem. It's a service delivery problem, and it's a people problem.

With 70 schools in this province over capacity, Mr. Speaker,

we've got a real problem. And in Ontario they're eliminating caps on class sizes. Here we're not even tracking class sizes. Mr. Speaker, how could the government be so uncurious about such an important question as how many kids are in each classroom, or do they just not want us to know the real answer? Mr. Speaker, our classrooms are crowded — 30, 40 students. Our classrooms are more complex — more kids with special needs, more kids with English as an additional language. Mr. Speaker, there's a real problem.

Now in order to fix a problem, you have to admit you have a problem. Will the Premier stand up today, admit that there's a problem with overcrowded classrooms, and will he commit to tracking how many kids are in each class?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the reason we have more kids in schools across this province, Mr. Speaker, and we've had to build new schools because of this, is there's 176,000 more people that live in this province than under the members opposite. The reason there's 176,000 more people that are living in this province, Mr. Speaker, families in communities right across Saskatchewan, is because there's 76,000 more jobs in this province than when the members opposite had the opportunity.

Our job numbers are up 9,800 year over year, Mr. Speaker. We have taken the strength of that economy, Mr. Speaker, and the profits from the strength of that economy and we have invested it in 40 new schools, 42 new schools across the province so that our children can go, can ensure that they are able to attend a school not only in their community but near where they live, Mr. Speaker.

And I would just take note of this. The average class size in this province, due to the investment of this government on behalf of the people — the largest single investment ever in education in a year, Mr. Speaker — the average class size is 19.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, for one thing, if we want a future economy that works for Saskatchewan, we need to invest in education. We want the population to continue to grow. We need to invest in education. This government has been cutting from our classrooms despite them being more crowded and more complex. Seven thousand more kids than 2016, but not a dollar more, Mr. Speaker.

And as for that average number, that is absolute nonsense, Mr. Speaker: 30, 40 students per class because they don't count. They don't actually count it the right way. They don't have a method that is remotely reliable, Mr. Speaker. So will the Premier commit? Will he make the change? Will he actually tell us how many kids in how many classes?

[14:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've stood on my feet a number of times in this House over this session, Mr. Speaker. We have the largest investment in

education operating in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker, record investments in capital. The Leader of the Opposition stands up, Mr. Speaker, and complains about the fact that we're spending money on capital and yet complains that we're not building enough schools, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Please come to order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, in Weyburn there's a sod turning this week for a new facility in that community recognizing the needs in that community, Mr. Speaker. In Rosthern, Mr. Speaker, there's a new school under construction. We've announced four new schools, Mr. Speaker, in the constituency of Lakewood, right in the . . . two new schools right in the constituency of Lakewood and four new schools, a four-school consolidation in the city of Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker.

We continue to assess what our capital needs are, Mr. Speaker, across the province. We'll continue to invest, Mr. Speaker, not just in capital. We'll continue to invest in operating, Mr. Speaker, because we recognize that the future of this province is with the children in those classrooms, Mr. Speaker, and that's clear from the investments that we've made.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, I think we need to slow this question down a little bit because they don't seem to be following the importance of this issue. The fact of the matter is this government doesn't actually count the number of students in classes.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Minister, please come to order. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact of this matter is that this government doesn't count the number of students in classrooms. This is a pretty big deal. They do an average in which they throw in everyone who's got a teacher's certificate, which greatly underestimates the number of kids per classroom. That's a big deal, Mr. Speaker.

The question is very simple. Will this government understand that in today's complex and challenging classrooms teachers are stressed, students are stressed, parents are rightly worried. Will they do their homework? Will they commit to tracking the number of students per class? It's not that hard.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I've been to some of those classrooms across this province. I've met with teachers. I've met with school boards and I've met with parents, Mr. Speaker. And I understand that there's challenges in the classroom, Mr. Speaker. That's why, in last year's budget, we committed an additional \$30 million into operating. In this year's budget, another \$26.2 million into the budget, Mr. Speaker. We'll continue to have conversations with the teachers in our classrooms, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we're providing the right supports and the right resources to our classrooms so that

we can ensure that the children in our classrooms, who are the future of this province, Mr. Speaker, get the best possible education.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the education system in this province. I think it's one of the best education systems in the country, Mr. Speaker. Is there more work to do? You bet there is, Mr. Speaker, but the discussions that we're having around innovation in the classroom with respect to delivery of education, with respect to the funding of education are important conversations that we're going to continue to have with our education partners.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, last week I asked the Minister of Education a straightforward question. Would he guarantee that there won't be any job losses as a result of the Sask Party government's cuts to education? He dodged the question, Mr. Speaker, and it's not surprising why. I know that he's having the same meetings that I am with divisions. They are saying that they are again in the position of having to do more with less and are left with few choices other than to leave positions unfilled or even let people go.

The minister doesn't like to talk about per-student funding, but the math is simple. If you're allocating fewer dollars per student and not keeping pace with inflation, there's no road forward that doesn't involve cuts. Very simply, Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will he guarantee that there won't be any job losses as school divisions plan for next school year?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, we don't fund on a per-pupil basis, Mr. Speaker. The formula has a number of components into it, Mr. Speaker. Students, the number of students, numbers are important, Mr. Speaker, but so are transportation, so are geography, so are the needs of students, Mr. Speaker. And the formula is very good at assessing that, Mr. Speaker.

The member also knows, the member also knows, Mr. Speaker, that the funding that's provided by this government to school divisions is unconditional funding. School divisions will make the decision as to how those funds are deployed within their school division, Mr. Speaker. But as I've mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, as we go forward these conversations are already under way. We talk about innovation in terms of how we deliver public education in our classrooms. How we fund public education in our classrooms are important.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke to the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] on the weekend, Mr. Speaker. This is a big ship to turn, Mr. Speaker, but we know that work needs to be done in terms of how we support our classrooms. We've heard that from teachers. And we're going to continue to have those conversations, continue to assess how we do things in public education, not just with respect to delivery, Mr. Speaker, but how we fund it.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, two years ago that government spent \$1.4 million to find efficiencies in education at a time when they cut \$54 million from our classroom. This year it's \$500,000 to fund innovation. Here's an innovative idea for that minister: how about you properly fund our classrooms?

And here's some truths for that minister. The cuts to education over the last couple of years have caused strain on classrooms all across the province. And I know that the minister is privy to the same conversations that I am. These conversations should be concerning to him. The budget won't cover inflation or staffing needs in the classroom, and educators are left scrambling to make do with less despite great fanfare from that minister and that Premier when they were running for the leadership.

Why isn't this minister more concerned that school divisions have to cut teachers because of his cuts? Is the minister sincerely comfortable with the fact that students will start yet another school year with fewer supports in their classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we want to talk about innovation, perhaps ask the member what innovation there was in closing 176 schools in rural Saskatchewan.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Member for Regina Lakeview and Athabasca, please come to order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, she can say, and she said on the floor of this Assembly, those kids aren't in school anymore. Why do we need those schools? Well, Mr. Speaker, I talked to the parents of the children, of the kids who would otherwise go to those schools, and talked about the transportation times. Forty-five minutes up to an hour going to school in the morning because of those reductions, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward, as we have a conversation around what innovation looks like . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Minister of Health, Leader of the Opposition, please come to order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, as we continue to have our dialogue, not just with teachers but school boards and with parents, we've already started these conversations to talk about how we can move forward in the delivery of education so we can continue to deliver the good services that we provide in those classrooms, Mr. Speaker.

I've said and I've acknowledged on the floor of this legislature we need to do more, Mr. Speaker. There are more challenges in the classroom, Mr. Speaker. Classes are more diverse, Mr. Speaker. There's challenges and we have to continue to look at that, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to do that as we move forward with an innovation conversation, Mr. Speaker.

We're committed to it on this side of the House, as demonstrated by record investment in operating capital, in operating, Mr. Speaker, record investments in capital from this side of

the House.

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

Investigation of Circumstances in Pinehouse Village

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 28th, the Minister of Government Relations escalated the government's Pinehouse investigation into an official inquirer, appointing a supervisor for a term of one year to help Pinehouse get back on track. Can the minister confirm that this supervisor's duties include ensuring that Pinehouse Village responds to valid access-to-information requests?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, the responsibilities that the supervisor has is to provide oversight to all of the activities that are going on within the municipality and municipality leadership.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple question. Media has reported that the government-appointed supervisor's duties include ensuring that Pinehouse Village responds appropriately to access to information requests. So I simply asked him to confirm this fact and, unless the minister tells us otherwise, we can only assume those reports are correct.

Mr. Speaker, two new Information Commissioner reports last week show that the government's efforts to assist Pinehouse Village have yet to bear fruit. On Friday Saskatchewan's Privacy Commissioner released two reports detailing new failures of the Pinehouse Village to comply with FOI [freedom of information] requests. These are the 15th and 16th such reports.

Now that the provincial government has assumed responsibility for ensuring Pinehouse Village responds to valid access-to-information requests, how does the minister explain this continued non-compliance?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, the supervisor has been provided with the responsibilities to ensure that all actions and directions provided to the council are undertaken. As it has taken us a fair bit of time to get to this point, we're expecting it's going to take us a bit of time to provide guidance and to get them to reach full compliance, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Privacy Commissioner's 16th report, issued on Friday, addresses the handling of an FOI that asked for documentation of all expenses the village covered for the visits of the Finance minister, including the two known trips of 2016 and '18 that the minister later reimbursed hotel expenses for. Pinehouse Village has yet to meaningfully respond to this request. After two months of silence, the village administration and later the supervisor indicated only that the village is having issues with its main email

account. The commissioner wrote, and I quote:

If this issue continues, I would encourage the Village to communicate with my office using the telephone or at least return my office's phone calls.

Mr. Speaker, what is keeping the village of Pinehouse and its provincially appointed supervisor from releasing these expense receipts requested in January?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Finance has stated that she did know at the time . . . didn't know at the time that the accommodations had been paid for by the village. She learned this, she immediately did two things: she reimbursed the village of Pinehouse for the cost of the accommodations, and then she referred the matter to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for review. The commissioner has since ruled that she was not in a conflict of interest. She had done the right thing by reimbursing the village. Mr. Speaker, the minister took the appropriate steps. The commissioner is satisfied with the response and so am I, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Forbes: — You know, Mr. Speaker, all the supervisor had to do was call back.

Mr. Speaker, when it was reported last December, as the minister said, that the Finance minister had stayed in Pinehouse on the village's dime, the minister said she had not been aware that the village had paid for her accommodations. Fair enough. The minister said she believed that her personal friend, a village councillor and the village housing coordinator, had paid, though she said she was not aware that he was the village councillor and the village housing coordinator.

Now the minister announced that she had just reached out to the village to reimburse them for this hotel expense. But, Mr. Speaker, ethically she should have also inquired whether any other expenses had been incurred by the village for those personal visits, meals, guide fees, or other considerations, and reimburse those expenses as well. Did the Finance minister make those inquiries and did she reimburse any other expenses beyond her hotel bills?

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

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to repeat this once again, that she referred the matter to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for review. The commissioner determined that she was not in a conflict of interest; she'd done the right thing by reimbursing the village.

Mr. Speaker, the minister took the appropriate steps. I am satisfied with that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Treatment for Methamphetamine Users

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is late to the game in addressing the spread of methamphetamine use in our province, and there are concerns that the government's actions are still lacking.

The growth in meth use in Saskatchewan is shocking. In 2013, 3 per cent of people seeking admissions to in-patient addictions treatment centres identified meth as the cause. Last year more than 30 per cent said the same. That's a tenfold increase in just five years, and this echoes what we've been hearing from people on the front lines of this crisis for years.

Dr. Peter Butt, an addictions physician in Saskatoon, says our health system isn't equipped to deal with the rise of crystal meth use, and that recovering users need a longer period for detox and rehabilitation than what is available in our health system.

There simply aren't enough or the right types of supports available. What is this government's plan to get this crisis under control?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recognize the terrible scourge of crystal meth, Mr. Speaker. There's the opioid crisis across the country. We asked the federal government for access to the emergency treatment fund, Mr. Speaker, for opioids. We asked them to extend that to crystal meth and they've agreed, Mr. Speaker. It's well documented, all the action that we've announced on budget day towards mental health and addictions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that the member opposite quoted Dr. Peter Butt who, as she said, is an addictions specialist and an acknowledged expert in the province, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read you a letter that Dr. Butt sent to me after the budget, Mr. Speaker. It says:

Dear Minister Reiter:

I would like to convey my profound appreciation to you for your advocacy and commitment to mental health and addiction within the 2019 budget. We now have the honour and responsibility to not only bolster the current system but also close the gaps, improve access, and address the quality of care throughout the province. This investment will spur that activity and leave a legacy of an improved system of care. If it does not, we will have failed to take full advantage of this opportunity. Thank you once again. We now have substantial work to do.

Mr. Speaker, I have faith that he will do that work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise

and share with the Assembly the successes of our government's targeted mineral exploration incentive, otherwise known as TMEI. And it's just getting started.

Mr. Speaker, TMEI is leading to increased drilling activity for base and precious metals and minerals in a defined target area near Creighton in northeastern Saskatchewan. This activity will create real opportunities for potential future mining investments in our province's North and the economic benefits and jobs that go with that. Developed in consultation with industry, this targeted mineral incentive is part of our mineral development strategy announced in the 2017 Speech from the Throne. The 2019-20 budget continues to support this strategy by providing overall funding for the mineral incentive, which is established on an annual basis to a maximum of 750,000 per year.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that seven successful applications were received for the 2018-19 incentive program. This indicated a total of 110 new drill holes and proposed expenditures of more than 6.5 million in the eligibility area. The eligible companies will receive a grant of up to \$50,000 per year to support their exploration efforts. Some examples of metals and minerals being explored for include copper, gold, nickel, and zinc.

The program has also triggered a net increase of more than 628 000 hectares of new mineral dispositions being acquired and more than 600 downloads of raw data and maps of provincially funded geophysical surveys.

This is a great sign and good news, good news for industry and junior mining and exploration companies, which sometimes face challenges when it comes to raising capital. As Pam Schwann of the SMA, Saskatchewan Mining Association, said at the announcement this morning, "The exploration phase is the R & D of mining, a crucial part of the process."

As CEO [chief executive officer] and president of Forum Energy Metals Corp. Rick Mazer said:

The TMEI was a significant factor in our decision to drill our Janice Lake copper project, and our drill results confirmed our belief in the project and successfully revived a base metal project that was dormant for 15 years. Hats off to the government's mineral development strategy [he said] for implementing this program.

This incentive, Mr. Speaker, will promote the discovery of new mineral resource opportunities. Our government is excited about the prospects of this program, pun intended, as these investments moving forward have the potential to create jobs and opportunity for people in northern Saskatchewan, and we hope one day, a new mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Athabasca.

Mr. Belanger: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to stand on behalf of the official opposition as Energy and Mines critic to respond to the government's Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive program or TMEI.

Mr. Speaker, there's no question that we as an opposition have been waiting with a great sense of urgency as to what's the

government's plan for the economy of northern Saskatchewan. With the recent closure of some of the important uranium mines that Cameco announced a few short months ago, we have seen that there has been hundreds of jobs lost in northern Saskatchewan communities and many families are being adversely affected, Mr. Speaker, to the increased lease fees of Crown land.

And a lot of the costs of the Crown land lease fees have gone through the roof. And many people that have looked at opportunities in tourism or commercial fishing or sport fishing, Mr. Speaker, now have to deal with the increased lease fees. There's no more forestry rights for northern Saskatchewan people, as those rights were taken away and given to a BC [British Columbia] company, Mr. Speaker.

When all the tragic events happened to the economy of northern Saskatchewan, even the so-called rapid response team that the government likes to make reference to didn't even show up in our northern Saskatchewan communities, Mr. Speaker.

So forgive me as the critic if we're a little bit skeptical of the government's Targeted Mineral Exploration Incentive because, Mr. Speaker, much more is required in northern Saskatchewan. We are tired of the unemployment. We are tired of the socio-economic problems. And the government must do more than targeted incentives for the North to help them rebuild the future that was so bright before this government took over, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act, 2018* with amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills?

I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration of the Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill and its amendments be now read for the third time.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act* and that the bill and its amendments be now read a third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall the amendments be read a first time?

I recognize the minister.

FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

Bill No. 145 — *The Residential Services Act, 2018*

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — First and second reading of the amendment.

The Deputy Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading. I recognize the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 145 — *The Residential Services Act, 2018*

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

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act* be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Principal Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. D'Autremont: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its eighth report. I move:

The eighth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the eighth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills, way back in the corner there.

Standing Committee on Private Bills

Mr. Steinley: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Private Bills to report that it has been considered Bill No. 903, *The Canadian Revival Training Centre Act, 2018* and to recommend to the Assembly that this bill not proceed, and to present its third report.

I move:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills on Bill No. 903, *The Canadian Revival Training Centre Act, 2018* be now concurred in.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Private Bills:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Private Bills, on Bill No. 903, *The Canadian Revival Training Centre Act, 2018* be concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I therefore direct that Bill No. 903, *The Canadian Revival Training Centre Act, 2018* be removed from the order paper.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move a motion for substitution on committees.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to move a motion.

Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — The House Leader may proceed.

MOTIONS

Committee Membership

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I move:

That the name of Lisa Lambert be submitted for the name of Lori Carr on the Standing Committee on House Services.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That the name of Lisa Lambert be substituted for the name of Lori Carr on the Standing Committee on House Services.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, so that committees may continue their good work, I move this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that this House adjourns. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:59.]

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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
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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
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Minister of Immigration and Career Training

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Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
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Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

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Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
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Minister Responsible for The Global
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Hon. Jim Reiter
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