



SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
AND  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Randy Weekes  
Speaker



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**2nd Session — 29th Legislature**

**Lieutenant Governor** — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

**Speaker** — Hon. Randy Weekes  
**Premier** — Hon. Scott Moe  
**Leader of the Opposition** — Ryan Meili

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<b>Bonk, Steven</b> — Moosomin (SP)	<b>Marit, Hon. David</b> — Wood River (SP)
<b>Bowes, Jennifer</b> — Saskatoon University (NDP)	<b>McLeod, Tim</b> — Moose Jaw North (SP)
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<b>Francis, Ken</b> — Kindersley (SP)	<b>Ross, Alana</b> — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
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<b>Harrison, Hon. Jeremy</b> — Meadow Lake (SP)	<b>Vermette, Doyle</b> — Cumberland (NDP)
<b>Hindley, Hon. Everett</b> — Swift Current (SP)	<b>Weekes, Hon. Randy</b> — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
<b>Jenson, Terry</b> — Martensville-Warman (SP)	<b>Wilson, Nadine</b> — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
<b>Kaeding, Hon. Warren</b> — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	<b>Wotherspoon, Trent</b> — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
<b>Keisig, Travis</b> — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	<b>Wyant, Hon. Gordon</b> — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
<b>Kirsch, Delbert</b> — Batoche (SP)	<b>Young, Aleana</b> — Regina University (NDP)
<b>Lambert, Lisa</b> — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	<b>Young, Colleen</b> — Lloydminster (SP)
<b>Lawrence, Greg</b> — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	
<b>Love, Matt</b> — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Athabasca

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**Party Standings:** Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 47; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Independent (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 1

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**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

**Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel** — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

**Deputy Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Clerk Assistant** — Kathy Burianyk

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Terry Quinn

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

### Ruling on a Point of Order

**The Speaker:** — On Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021, the Minister of Highways raised a point of order about comments made by the member from Saskatoon Nutana during the debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The Minister of Highways claimed that the member from Saskatoon Nutana accused the Premier of misrepresenting the truth. The Opposition House Leader asked me to review the record before making a ruling. I have done this, and I'm now prepared to rule on the matter.

The debate in question can be found on page 1050 of *Hansard* where the member from Saskatoon Nutana first stated:

... [the] Premier chose to protect the interests of a few to the detriment of the many. What's not fair is that he chose to make incoherent arguments and misrepresent the truth.

A few paragraphs later she said:

More and more we hear people publicly questioning whether they can ... stay in a province led by a leader who so stubbornly refuses to listen to experts, admit when he's been wrong, and instead misrepresents the truth and gaslights anyone who speaks out, let alone say he's sorry.

Members are well aware that accusing one another of being purposely untruthful is unparliamentary. There's no need for members to resort to undermining the integrity of other members in order to effectively debate their position. I would ask the member from Saskatoon Nutana to withdraw her remarks and apologize. And I remind all members that when asked to withdraw a remark, it is done unequivocally without comment.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

**Ms. Ritchie:** — I withdraw my remarks and apologize.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — Joining us today in the Speaker's gallery is Dr. Michael Boda, Chief Electoral Officer for Saskatchewan. Later today the Assembly will be asked to consider a motion to appoint Dr. Boda to another term as Chief Electoral Officer.

Also joining him in the gallery are Richard Hall, executive director of the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer; Jennifer Colin, deputy chief electoral officer, corporate services and electoral finance; Aaron Thompson, director of finance; Jordan Arendt, director of information technology; Bonnie Schenher, director of operations; and Tim Kydd, senior director of communications and outreach.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned Saskatchewan people as it relates to the devastation being caused by the Sask Party's callous and deep cuts to already inadequate social assistance rates, their changes to SIS, the Saskatchewan income support program.

These cuts, quite simply, are heartless. They defy common sense. They lack basic humanity, basic decency. Beyond the horrible human costs that they're exacting, they'll cost our public finances far more in the long run.

This government was warned, clearly warned how devastating these cuts would be, but they chose not to listen. They chose to ram forward. The impact has forced many Saskatchewan people out of their homes and into homelessness. As we approach winter, we have people without homes but sleeping in cars, sleeping in ravines, sleeping in parks, and sleeping in tents. Quite simply, lives are at stake.

The petition reads as follows:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to restore direct payment of rent and utilities for income support clients.

These petitions are signed by concerned residents from Melfort, Tisdale, and Regina. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to protect contract workers from harassment, abuse, and exploitation. Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: contract workers are not protected by Saskatchewan's occupational health and safety standards. Mr. Speaker, contract workers, particularly women working in arts and culture, face disproportionate amount of abuse and are at higher risk of exploitation, assault, and trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, language in occupational health and safety standards to address mental illness would help contract workers targeted by harassment and abuse in the workplace. And, Mr. Speaker, other provinces' occupational health and safety standards specifically address sexual harassment in the workplace.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to modernize occupational health and safety protections to include contract and gig workers and include comprehensive provisions on mental illness and sexual harassment in the workplace.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

**Ms. Bowes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to present our petition on improved access to midwifery services. Those who have signed this petition would like to bring to our attention the following points. Midwifery provides a model of care that is individualized, community centred, and cost effective. Wait-lists for midwifery care in Saskatchewan are extensive, and many people who wish to access midwifery services are unable to do so. Expanding midwifery services makes sense for pregnant people and families, and it makes sense for our province's fiscal well-being.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to introduce a post-secondary midwifery training program in the province.

Mr. Speaker, the petition today has been signed by residents of Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The petition I'm representing here today is calling on the provincial government to save our swales. I'd like to bring to the attention of the legislature that the northeast and small swale in Saskatoon are unique swaths of endangered native prairie within the city limits, and it has been said that Saskatchewan doesn't have mountains and we don't have oceans, but we do have this.

Native grasslands are often referred to as the planet's most threatened ecosystem. Indeed 70 per cent of prairie grasslands in Canada were lost prior to 1990. Contained in the swale are such things as aerial insectivores which catch and eat insects while in flight, and they have declined more than 75 per cent in North America since 1970. There are more than 100 bird species found in the swale, such as the western meadowlark, a yellow-breasted songbird that sits on fence posts, and the barn swallow. Some of these birds breed in the swale as well.

Rare and endangered plant species include the prairie crocus with its violet petals surrounded by bright yellow anthers, and the yellow crowfoot violet, another distinctive flower with purple petals, and it has only been found in Saskatchewan inside the swale.

However there are invasive species that are coming in to the swale and are threatening the native species that reside there. The key to a healthy habitat is biodiversity. The swale qualifies as healthy. In addition to the plants and birds, nearly 20 species of mammals ranging from deer to moose to beavers, eight types of butterflies, and 14 varieties of insects . . .

**The Speaker:** — Could you go to your petition, please.

**Ms. Ritchie:** —

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the provincial government to suspend planning for the Saskatoon freeway and development around the swales until a regional cumulative effects assessment has been completed; (2) update *The Wildlife Act* and expand the list of wild species protected by provincial regulation; (3) recognize the swales as an important ecological habitat and designate them as protected; and (4) ensure adequate long-term funding for research, management, and enforcement to protect the swales for generations to come.

The petition has been signed by residents from Saskatoon and Regina. I here so present. Thank you for your patience and listening.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

#### University of Saskatchewan to Require Proof of Full Vaccination

**Ms. Bowes:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge public health leadership by an organization in my constituency. Last week the University of Saskatchewan announced that they will require proof of full vaccination for in-person access to campuses starting in the winter semester. In the absence of provincial leadership, we see this organization stepping up to add new layers of protection to keep students, staff, and faculty safe. They will no longer provide the option of proof of a negative COVID-19 test for access to the university, except in the case of bona fide medical or religious exemptions. Members of the campus community who choose not to be vaccinated or not to disclose their vaccination status by January 4th will be limited to remote or online work and learning environments when possible.

Mr. Speaker, vaccination rates at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] are outstanding — 99 per cent of faculty, 96 per cent of students, and 95 per cent of staff are now fully vaccinated. The university vaccination requirement ensures a safe campus and encourages holdouts to get the shot, or to use the Premier's words, "It makes it increasingly uncomfortable for the unvaccinated."

It is encouraging to see such effective leadership from the University of Saskatchewan. Unlike this government, the U of S is leading by example and placing the health and safety of people ahead of politics. I ask all members to applaud the strong leadership being shown by the University of Saskatchewan.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Pasqua.

#### New Outdoor Fitness Stations in Wascana Centre

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 29th the Provincial Capital Commission unveiled the first of two new outdoor fitness stations in Wascana Centre. The Provincial Capital Commission is the partnership between the Government of Saskatchewan, city of Regina, and U of R [University of

Regina]. They are responsible for upgrading and preserving the public assets. Those are Wascana Centre and Government House in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, the addition of the outdoor fitness station will provide new, free opportunity for the health and wellness of parkgoers. These nine stations are also rubberized and will have additional accessibility upgrades to make sure they can be used by as many residents as possible. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that the Candy Cane Park location is now open to the public. Final surfacing work at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre location will be completed in the spring.

Mr. Speaker, these new outdoor fitness stations represent a \$200,000 investment from the Provincial Capital Commission, and they will enhance the visitor experience for years to come. I now ask all the members to join me in thanking the city of Regina, the University of Regina, and to the employees of the Provincial Capital Commission who manage these grounds of our beautiful urban parks every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[10:15]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

#### **Saskatchewan Citizens Awarded Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers**

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to attend a ceremony on October 17th with members on both sides of this Assembly, where 19 citizens of Saskatchewan were awarded the Sovereign's volunteer medal by His Honour, Russ Mirasty. It's truly inspiring to see the work that these people do to improve their communities.

Out of the 19 individuals who've made a difference in their communities by volunteering their time, five came from my constituency of Regina Lakeview. For over 30 years, Ron Blechinger has maintained local cross-country ski trails through the Regina Ski Club and also serves as a board member of the Regina Lyric Musical Theatre.

Russell Hart has served as a board member of the Phoenix Residential Society for over 30 years, resulting in their expanded capacity to offer a supportive environment to people needing psychosocial rehabilitation.

Since 2005, Michael Jackson, no stranger to this Assembly, has also been a committed board member of the Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada at Massey College, and since 2018 has served as president.

Ed Willett has been supporting the Regina Lyric Musical Theatre for over 30 years, and for almost two decades Susan Graham has supported this same organization. I'm pleased to highlight these achievements and I ask all members to join me in congratulating all recipients of this year's Sovereign's volunteer medal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **New Co-op Facility Opens in Melville**

**Hon. Mr. Kaeding:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the theme of our Throne Speech, "Building a Better Saskatchewan," I'd like to highlight a new development in the city of Melville. It was indeed an honour to assist the Prairie Co-op in Melville, with the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood, as they celebrated the grand opening of their new facility September 9th. A large crowd was on hand, including Mayor Streeklasky and a number of Federated Co-op officials from across Canada. After more than a year of construction and \$17.5 million invested, Prairie Co-op officially opened their new Home Centre and Food Store.

Mr. Speaker, these new storefronts are located on the newly developed Veterans Way along Highway 10 and include a 25,000-square-foot food store and a 20,000-square-foot home centre. General Manager Chris Paradis says that the new food store at 10,000 square feet of additional space is not just adding the new building experience but is adding a much greater product selection in all areas such as produce, bakery, and the deli selection with the hot food programs.

Mr. Speaker, similar effects are seen in the new home centre. Both will give residents and people visiting the city of Melville more options to shop without having to leave the community. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say Prairie Co-op now has 120 full-time jobs in the Melville locations and serves more than 12,000 members in locations in Melville, Fort Qu'Appelle, Lipton, Cupar, Strasbourg, Kelliher, and Ituna.

Mr. Speaker, new developments like this one in Melville are opening up all through rural Saskatchewan. It shows that our communities in this province believe in this government and are continuing to build a better Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy.

#### **Weyburn Police Service Marks First All-Female Police Shift**

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to recognize Constable Melinda Mintenko, Constable Lisa Robertson, Constable Alyssa Kaczmar, and dispatcher Tammy Daniel who this past summer joined to protect the streets of Weyburn as our city's first ever all-female police shift.

Constable Mintenko, who's been with the force for 21 years, shared how earlier in her career she worked with the first female police officer in Weyburn Police Service history, and now has had the opportunity to be a part of this first ever all-female shift. This shows how much progress has been made in a relatively short amount of time in bringing more women into the field of law enforcement.

Seven-year Weyburn police member Constable Alyssa Kaczmar told *DiscoverWeyburn*, and I quote: "I think it's important for women to be in a role like policing, definitely to show younger females that women are valued and do belong and fit in a role such as policing."

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Constable Lisa Robertson as Lisa recently, after many years of being a volunteer firefighter in Weyburn as well as the last two years of being a community safety officer, recently completed training to become a police officer at the Saskatchewan Police College, and she did so at the age of 47.

Mr. Speaker, I would now ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating Constable Melinda Mintenko, Constable Lisa Robertson, and Constable Alyssa Kaczmar, and dispatcher Tammy Daniel for their service to the people of Weyburn and area. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

#### **Yorkton Brick Mill Heritage Society Receives Lieutenant Governor's Award**

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Heritage is what we have received from the past. It shapes our identity in the present and it provides insight for our future. With that in mind, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the good work of the Yorkton flour mill heritage society. After nearly a decade of working to restore the Yorkton flour mill, their efforts were recently recognized as part of the Lieutenant Governor's Heritage Awards at Government House. The restoration project was recognized with two initial awards in the categories of public outreach and physical heritage conservation.

Built in the late 1890s, the historic mill once was the centre of Yorkton. With the first phase of the project complete, the mill will be undergoing a structural review by engineers to verify that the building is still safe. The volunteer committee is planning to get work done on the first floor and basement by next spring so that people can begin to visit. As our oldest industrial building in Yorkton, the restoration goes a long way toward keeping our history alive.

They were honoured, Mr. Speaker, with a third award that evening. In celebration of their 30th anniversary, the Sask Heritage Foundation picked one project to honour. The 30th Anniversary Award for exemplary built heritage conservation went to Yorkton flour mill heritage society. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating the Yorkton flour mill heritage society on their restoration, their recognition, and their contributions to preserve Saskatchewan heritage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Carlton.

#### **Growth in the Northern Saskatchewan Forestry Industry**

**Mr. Hargrave:** — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to highlight some exciting news from my constituency and northern Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, forested land covers more than half of Saskatchewan. Forestry plays key roles economically and environmentally in our province.

Mr. Speaker, our government's recent timber allocations will support four mills and more than 2,600 jobs. The reopening of Paper Excellence pulp mill in Prince Albert will be the largest

single investment in the history of Saskatchewan's forestry sector. As well, One Sky is working with several Indigenous partners to open an OSB [oriented strand board] mill in Prince Albert. Saw mills in Carrot River and Big River are also planning to upgrade and expand their operations.

Mr. Speaker, our forestry industry is projected to invest \$1 billion over the next three years. Forestry is northern Saskatchewan's largest sector, already supporting more than 8,000 jobs and hundreds of businesses. Thirty per cent of the provincial timber supply is allocated to Indigenous businesses, which is by far the highest of any province in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this is a big step towards achieving our growth plan goal of doubling the size of the forestry sector by 2030, another great example of industry contributing to building a stronger and more resilient Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

#### **Government Response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was stunning to see the Premier refuse yesterday to apologize to Helen and her family, to turn his back and take no responsibility for the fact that his choices have led to the situation where they can't access the care they need. Does the Premier recognize how his inaction this summer cost hundreds of lives and left thousands without needed care?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we do recognize the challenges that we have been faced with here in Saskatchewan. First off are the challenges in our ICU [intensive care unit] departments. We peaked at a little over 350 people in hospitals across the province, a little over 80 people in our ICU departments. It's been well documented.

The decisions that we have made to find our way through those challenges, those decisions started back in September when we implemented — through conversations, consultations, discussions of the government, a number of leaders in the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the Ministry of Health, including our chief medical health officer — we implemented some very stringent public health measures and recommendations here in the province, Mr. Speaker.

Since that time, since that time we have seen our COVID seven-day weekly average, our active cases, down about 64 per cent, and we're happy to see that that trajectory is continuing to decrease, Mr. Speaker. We're now seeing our hospitalizations also are starting to drop here in the province.

That is allowing us to make announcements like we were able to make yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and to follow through with. It's already in process, to re-implement a number of procedures and services across the province which we discussed yesterday: 50 per cent of those will be resumed next week; 75 per cent of those programs and services will be resumed the week after, Mr. Speaker; and by the end of the month, we will be back to 90 per



cent. In the meantime, the Ministry of Health is working very closely on what a resumption of our surgical capacity will look like in the weeks and months ahead as well.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again it's a simple question, a yes-or-no question. Does the Premier recognize that his choices in July and August and September — his choices made in the face of overwhelming evidence that it was the wrong path — does he recognize that those choices have left thousands of Saskatchewan people without the care they need? Yes or no.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, the most effective tool that we have across Canada, around the world, and in Saskatchewan that we have in controlling our COVID case count, ultimately controlling the pressures on our health care system here in the province, is for everyone to consider to go out and get vaccinated. Vaccines are safe. They're effective. They're widely accessible in communities right across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

This is why, through our discussions with Dr. Shahab, we moved forward with a proof-of-vaccination and a proof-of-negative-test policy, Mr. Speaker, to ensure safe workplaces across the province, but also to encourage people that weren't vaccinated at that point in time to reconsider their decision. And thankfully many Saskatchewan residents have. We're up now to about 86 per cent of folks in this province have now went out and got their first shot. As I said, we do anticipate that many of them, if not all of them, will follow up with their second shot, be fully vaccinated, Mr. Speaker.

Since we made that announcement in the middle of September, I believe it was September the 16th, we've seen . . . getting close now to 200,000 people have went out, Mr. Speaker, went out and gotten vaccinated. It is part of what is enabling our numbers to be dropping as we speak, and have dropped really since the end of September. That along with some measures that have been introduced at the same time.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — We all agree in this House, well almost all, on the importance of vaccination. We have the lowest vaccination rate in the country and the highest COVID death rate in the country. It was a simple yes-or-no question, simple yes or no. Does the Premier take responsibility for the fact that his choices have cost hundreds of lives and left thousands without care? Yes or no.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, as you look over the last number of months, and I know this is not news to the Leader of the Opposition, but COVID-19 has been a challenge not just in Saskatchewan. It's been a challenge around the world, across Canada and around the world. We have seen outbreaks at various times in other provinces. We've seen outbreaks, yes, here in the province of Saskatchewan, and that's why we have taken action like we did in the middle of September on the advice of our chief medical health officer here in the province, re-implementing the masking order, implementing for the first time the

proof-of-vaccination/proof-of-negative-test policy, as well as, Mr. Speaker, implementing a recommendation around our gathering sizes in the province.

Mr. Speaker, there's some other advice that had come from our medical health officers which we fundamentally just disagree with, Mr. Speaker, as our numbers continue to decrease. The members opposite have supported this by introducing and attempting to pass a motion in this House, but right now the government most certainly is not going to force vaccinations on kids so that they can attend school. So that is one recommendation that came from our medical health officers that the government just is simply not going to move forward with at this point in time. Mr. Speaker, we have significant health measures that are in place. They're working.

Our COVID infection numbers, our seven-day average, our active case counts are down 64 per cent today. We're seeing our hospitalizations decrease, Mr. Speaker. I'd say thank you to the people of Saskatchewan, those that have went out and gotten vaccinated before that September 16th announcement or after, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to thank in advance and ask more people in this province to go out and get vaccinated.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Mr. Speaker, the worst fourth wave by every measure in the entire country, and this Premier still goes to spin instead of responsibility.

[10:30]

We're joined today by Dallas Oberik. Dallas is here today and she's joined by her daughter Jessie. Dallas has been waiting nearly three years for a hip replacement, and she has no idea today when she can expect to get that much-needed surgery. The Premier failed to invest in addressing the surgical backlog. He failed to protect our health system from the fourth wave, resulting in a health care lockdown. He failed Dallas.

Does the Premier recognize the way that his choices have resulted in pain and suffering for people like Dallas?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome Dallas and Jessie to your Assembly. Mr. Speaker, as I had mentioned yesterday in this House and out in the public, these were very challenging decisions that we had to make. We had, at a point in September, we had our hospitals being very rapidly overwhelmed by people that weren't vaccinated. That's why we had our QR [quick response] code. We had our layers of protection in there to make sure that people were continuing to be safe.

Mr. Speaker, and we did have to make some challenging decisions. And every one of those decisions that we made as a government, we knew that somebody was on the other end of that. We understand that surgeries have been postponed, Mr. Speaker. But when we had the opportunity in the summer, we were able to do 95 per cent of the planned surgeries, and we can get there again. As soon as we can get our hospitals in a manageable position, we're going to get back to those surgeries

as soon as we possibly can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — He keeps talking about challenging decisions, Mr. Speaker. The decision to give up on COVID in July, the decision to not bring back masks, the decision to resist proof of vaccination, the decision to put us in the situation where people like Dallas . . . Dallas now has had to wait so long for that hip replacement that when she goes and has that surgery, they're telling her that she'll have to have both hips done. She lives with chronic pain. She has a hard time leaving her house, hard time visiting with her grandchildren.

To the Premier, because this is on the Premier's plate, Mr. Speaker: does he think it's fair that Dallas has to live with chronic pain because he was so willing to put politics ahead of people's lives?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. And as I said, even though there was a very challenging year, we were able over the year to be able to complete 88 per cent of the surgeries that were planned.

I met yesterday with Dr. Haddad and Dr. Mendez to be able to discuss our surgical ramp-up over the next few days, Mr. Speaker. What we're doing over the next few days is going to lay out what we're going to do over the next few months. And again, Mr. Speaker, I'll say, these are very difficult decisions that we have to make. We understand that people were going to be delayed.

But Mr. Speaker, the opposition was calling for us to do something in September. We moved people out of traditional positions into ICU and other acute care positions to be able to deal with the influx of people, again, Mr. Speaker, who are mostly not vaccinated.

As the Premier mentioned, I'd encourage everybody to get out there and please get vaccinated. This is the one way, the one and the best tool that we have to be able to protect our health care system and get this fourth wave behind us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thirty-five thousand people in situations like Dallas on the waiting list. The highest COVID death rate in the country. The lowest vaccination rate in the country. And every one of those 35,000 people facing the same uncertainty: unsure whether or when that surgery might happen, Mr. Speaker.

And the Premier keeps saying it would be unfair. He resisted bringing back masks, resisted proof of vaccination, and keeps saying it would be unfair to take the measures today that would save lives or that would get our health care system working again. Looking at Dallas's experience of chronic pain, waiting so long, is that really the Premier's idea of fairness?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker. And again, these were very difficult decisions. And I know the opposition tries to dehumanize what we've done over here, Mr. Speaker. But we understand, and we are talking to people as well. I'm talking to families all the time . . .

[Interjections]

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we understand that they try to dehumanize us. These are people in our constituencies as well. These are people that we're talking to, members on this side and the government side are talking to on a daily basis to be able to explain why we had to do this and how we're going to get past this, Mr. Speaker.

As the Premier mentioned before, we've met these challenges before. When we had our surgical opportunity to be able to get some more surgeries done, we were at 95 per cent. And I fully expect as soon as this fourth wave's behind us, we'll get back to those numbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — The truth is that 11,000 people have been added to the surgical wait-list since that Premier took office. Those numbers were climbing before the pandemic. Nothing in the last budget, nothing in the Throne Speech, and no responsibility whatsoever for the choices that made the situation worse. Why on earth would anyone take these vague assertions that, yeah, we'll do it again? Why would anyone take that seriously given the track record of this Premier?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, the easy answer to that is because we did it in the summer. We were up to 95 per cent. So he says we can't do it. He's calling out the public servants and all the people in the medical community that did that in the summer, and were able to get up to 95 per cent on very short notice.

Mr. Speaker, we'll be able to get back to those numbers, but we have to continue to balance our health care system. There is not people out there that are not working diligently in our health care system in all areas. We've had to move them around because of this unprecedented pandemic that we're dealing with, Mr. Speaker.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I'll remind the House 95 per cent of the surgeries were done when we had that opportunity between May and September. Since the middle of September when we imposed these restrictions and our QR code and our test-to-protect, Mr. Speaker, we've had to throttle that back. But, Mr. Speaker, as soon as this is over, we will get those numbers back up and get those surgeries done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A complete lack of passion or attention to the needs of Saskatchewan people. No surprise though. No surprise from a government where the Premier took the summer off. He spent more time hosting golf tournaments than he did hosting press conferences, Mr. Speaker.

Premier Jason Kenney has rightly received criticism for doing the same with fourth-wave results that are nearly as bad as what we've seen in Saskatchewan. We know what happened with Jason Kenney because his schedule has been made public. Will the Premier make his schedule public today?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Kind of dumbfounded how we went from surgical wait-lists to the Premier's schedule, Mr. Speaker. I don't understand that at all.

Mr. Speaker, we're talking about some very serious things here. We're talking about people as the member opposite . . . We're talking about human beings that we are dealing with on a daily basis to be able to do that.

And we're not the first province that has faced this, Mr. Speaker. Each province in our country has faced challenges on surgery, on hospital capacity, and we are facing that right now.

But what we are doing, Mr. Speaker, is we're planning ahead to make sure that we can get those surgeries done as soon as we possibly can. Like I said, I met with two surgeons yesterday to be able to discuss this specifically, and I can tell you that they are very excited about the plans that we have coming forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Meili:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was for the Premier, but he sat down. But the fact is we know what you did last summer. You gave up on COVID-19. You hit the golf course instead. If that's not the case, if he's proud of what he's done, if he's proud of how he spent his time, it's a very simple question: will the Premier release his schedule? Will he make that information public today?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about a very serious issue here of a pandemic and our surgeries, and we're trying to make sure that we get that done. And the members opposite are talking about the Premier's schedule, Mr. Speaker?

I can tell you, I can guarantee there wasn't a day this year that I wasn't in constant contact with the Premier. And he was engaged, on his phone every day or in the office, Mr. Speaker, throughout the summer. Both of us were in this building, along with lots of other cabinet members and private members, to be able to address the issues that we were facing on a daily basis.

This notion that somebody has taken time off, Mr. Speaker, is just not true. They just keep saying it over and over and over again, Mr. Speaker, so eventually somebody's going to believe it. But I can guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, that was not the case. Nobody on this side of the House took any time off. We were dealing with this every day.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Well that's a lot of hyperbole, Mr. Speaker. I think there was obviously a day or two. And the people of Saskatchewan feel quite differently about the performance of that government this summer.

The Premier likes to talk about making life uncomfortable for the unvaccinated. But actually he's made it harder for families who are waiting for surgery, transplants, diagnostics, and treatments in this time, Mr. Speaker.

If we don't want a fifth wave, we have to control the fourth wave. But it was clear in the EOC [emergency operations centre] meeting this week that we're a long way from that. Our total hospitalizations are still higher than at the peak of the third wave, Mr. Speaker, and they are going up. What is the plan to get the hospitalizations under control?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — I think the Minister of Education said it very well. Our plan is to not kick kids out of school, Mr. Speaker. Our plan is to be able to deal with this on a very surgical basis to make sure every decision that we make is balanced, not swinging to one extreme or the other because the numbers fluctuate from day to day. We continue to make those surgical decisions on how we are balancing our health care system, which I will remind this House again, is facing something that is unprecedented. Unprecedented, Mr. Speaker.

And what we want to encourage people to do every day is, if you are vaccinated please talk to somebody that isn't vaccinated and explain to them that this is the most important thing that they can do in their life right now, is to be able to get vaccinated, not just to protect themselves, not just to protect their family and neighbours, to protect our whole community and our health care system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, that minister spends more time listening to his spin doctors than medical doctors across this province. Wait and see is not a plan. Dr. Shahab said Tuesday that the target COVID ICU number is 20. We have more than that in Ontario right now, Mr. Speaker.

The only way that we get there is with gathering limits and a stronger proof-of-vaccination mandate. Dr. Shahab said the best tool to prevent a fifth wave is to get vaccination rates in the 90s, Mr. Speaker. What is the Health minister's plan to take us from lowest-in-Canada vaccination rates to where we need to go?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we're not going to do is what that member called for a week ago today, and that is to kick thousands upon thousands of students out of school today indefinitely. For what that member called for in an emergency motion — and I know not supported by all those members but supported by the Leader of the Opposition — is to say to 27,000 students over the age of 12, you're out of school today; you're out of school indefinitely.

And for students under the age of 12 that come from unvaccinated homes, which could be in the tens of thousands, the answer from that side of the House is to kick those kids out of school, out of hockey, out of soccer, out of art, out of drama, out of everything. That's not the answer, Mr. Speaker. That's not what we're going to stand for on this side of the House.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Putting politics ahead of Saskatchewan people's lives, Mr. Speaker. And I really hope that this heated rhetoric, this misrepresentation of our position does not prevent or discourage children from getting vaccinated when the choice is theirs, Mr. Speaker.

We don't have the measures that experts say they need and soon we won't have the health care workers we need either. Tracy Zambory, the president of SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] has had this to say about the impact of COVID-19 on nurses: "There are many who consider no longer practising." Mr. Speaker, how is the Premier going to get our health system caught up when health care workers are being driven out of the profession by this government's failure to act?

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

[10:45]

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm old enough to remember last Thursday when that member, directed by her Leader of the Opposition — and maybe not supported by all the members but at least supported by him — introduced the following motion, Mr. Speaker: "That the Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of Saskatchewan to implement all public health measures . . ."

Not some, not a few, not let's have a debate about which ones to choose — all measures. And the letter that is referenced in that motion, Mr. Speaker, proof of vaccination should be required for accessing in-person learning for children 12 years and over. That is all the measures, Mr. Speaker. So for the Leader of the Opposition to say that this somehow isn't his position . . . His position today immediately would see 27,000 students over the age of 12 being removed out of school, being removed out of sports, extracurricular activity, Mr. Speaker. That is not the right plan for the students of this province.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, this is ridiculous. We called for a debate. Apparently the members opposite want to debate the issue now but they didn't on that day. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Carla Holinaty . . . And by the way, maybe the Minister of Education wants to be the minister of Health again, but these questions are for the Minister of Health and are very serious questions about health care workers burning out and leaving the province. So I would expect that they would give these their due.

Dr. Carla Holinaty said she and her colleagues are looking for opportunities elsewhere. I'll ask her question to the Premier. "How do you stay in a province with such disdain for your

profession, with a government who would rather let people die than listen to its health care experts?"

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And first off I want to thank the doctor for all the work that they have . . . been done, but not just her — all of the doctors that have been working across our province and the nurses and all of the health care providers that have been working very diligently since March of last year when we were first faced with this pandemic, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that people are stressed. It is a very stressful time and certainly within the health care system. And I recognize that and I try to talk to as many of the health care providers as I possibly can to thank them for that, Mr. Speaker.

We will continue to work with all of our doctors, all of our health care providers to make sure that they have the ability to be able to do their job the best. But, Mr. Speaker, could you just imagine for a second if the NDP [New Democratic Party] were still in power and we had 4,000 less nurses in our . . . [inaudible] . . . or 1,000 less doctors in our province? Could you imagine the crisis that this province would be facing without 5,000 critical health care workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Same old tired politics over people, Mr. Speaker, same old tired lines we've been hearing for years. And that's cold comfort to health care workers who've been on the front lines since the beginning of this pandemic. They need more than words. They need action, Mr. Speaker.

What is the Premier going to do to get the health system caught up, so that people like Dallas can get the treatments that they need to stay healthy?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, the straight answer is what we need is we need more people to get vaccinated. We need people to get vaccinated. We need to get that shot in their arm. We have over 400,000 vaccines around our province, Mr. Speaker. We're hoping to be able to get Johnson & Johnson in for people that prefer that one-shot vaccine, Mr. Speaker. We're going to get those in, working with the federal government to be able to make sure.

That is the number one issue that we should be addressing in this province is vaccination and getting people, encouraging them to come in and get vaccinated, Mr. Speaker. I understand. As I've said . . . well if the members are going to continue to heckle . . . They ask a question but they don't want to hear the answer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that people have been impacted. As I have said many times, I speak with these people. My colleagues speak with these people that are being impacted in their constituencies. We hear about this. We understand. But I have got full confidence in the health care system to be able to rebound

from this and get those surgeries done as soon as we can. Thanks again, Mr. Speaker.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

#### Government Announces Expansion of the Oil Infrastructure Investment Program

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to announce that we are expanding the oil infrastructure investment program, or OIIP, to include pipeline projects that transport carbon dioxide, whether for carbon capture, utilization, and storage, or CCUS, or enhanced oil recovery.

Mr. Speaker, a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline is a different kind of pipeline than a regular oil and gas pipeline, which is why a new regulatory inclusion for CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines is being created.

This announcement, Mr. Speaker, delivers on a key commitment made as part of our CCUS strategy back in September, just outside Weyburn at Whitecap energy's enhanced oil recovery facility, the largest EOR [enhanced oil recovery] project using CO<sub>2</sub> captured during industrial production in the world, Mr. Speaker. We're confident that putting this infrastructure in place will drive significant investments in new energy projects as part of a strong, sustainable Saskatchewan, and help for provincial energy sector companies and players to continue to achieve their emissions goals.

To this end, Mr. Speaker, just a couple of weeks ago Federated Co-op and Whitecap Resources signed a memorandum of understanding that ultimately will tangibly increase the amount of carbon dioxide being captured and sequestered in the province of Saskatchewan. Through this operating agreement, the plan is that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions captured from Co-op Refinery in Regina and its ethanol complex near Belle Plaine will be transported to and stored and used in the Whitecap enhanced oil recovery unit. And that's just the beginning, Mr. Speaker.

Quite simply, the oil infrastructure investment program was first introduced in 2020 to address the lack of pipeline egress in the province as a result of cancelled pipeline projects by the federal government. And it has been a successful program. Already it's attracted more than \$76 million in private investment since it was first introduced. And it's important to note the way that this incentive program works, Mr. Speaker. Government investment follows upfront private investment; it doesn't lead. We anticipate that CCUS projects will attract provincial investment of more than 2 billion and sequester over 2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a world leader in CCUS, particularly with enhanced oil recovery. And I referenced Whitecap energy earlier. Its facility outside Weyburn sequesters half the CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered every year in Canada. And EOR CO<sub>2</sub> wells boast an impressive environmental footprint. They generate 82 per cent fewer net emissions than traditional extraction wells. Leading environmentalists tell us, Mr. Speaker, that the only way that Canada can achieve net-zero and Paris — or Paris, take two — targets is through enhanced oil recovery,

which we stand by unequivocally.

Over the last 25 years, Mr. Speaker, provincial EOR projects have sequestered more than 40 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and resulted in over 100 million barrels of incremental oil production. Talk about a win-win.

Bottom line, Mr. Speaker, we want to build on our energy strengths, never turn our back on our current sector and our energy workers, and make our province the most competitive jurisdiction in Canada to invest in CCUS technology and infrastructure. And we're well on our way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for sharing a copy of her remarks with me in advance. This is a very interesting development with the expansion of the oil infrastructure investment program. We'll be watching this program very closely to ensure that it actually delivers on what it promises, which is what we all care about — creating good-paying jobs for Saskatchewan people.

The newly announced partnership between Whitecap and the Co-op Refinery is something with a lot of promise for people in Saskatchewan. But what we don't see from this government is any effort or focus in an equivalent way to help create jobs in renewable energy and in diversifying our economy. We should be seeing similar partnerships and incentives with other sectors of our economy to make Saskatchewan a leader in renewable power, green manufacturing, and traditional energy.

We need an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to good jobs and energy in Saskatchewan, but we don't see that from the current government. So again, thank you for the minister sharing her remarks in advance, and know that our team in the opposition will be watching very closely as this new incentive unfolds.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### Bill No. 40 — *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021*

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 40, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2021* be moved.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 40 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.

**The Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Next sitting.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 41 — *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*  
*Loi modificative de 2021 sur la législation***

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 41, *The Legislation Amendment Act, 2021*, bilingual, be moved a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved the Government House Leader that Bill No. 41 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.

**The Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — At the next sitting of the Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 42 — *The Statute Law  
Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)***

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

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 42, *The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021 (No. 2)* be read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 42 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.

**The Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Next sitting.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting. Why is the Government House Leader on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for leave of the Assembly to move a motion regarding the term of the Chief Electoral Officer.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has requested leave. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. The Government House Leader may proceed.

**MOTIONS**

**Appointment of Chief Electoral Officer**

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would move:

That pursuant to subsection 4(3) of *The Election Act, 1996* Dr. Michael Boda be appointed the Chief Electoral Officer effective November 18th, 2021.

I so move.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved:

That pursuant to subsection 4(3) of *The Election Act, 1996* Mr. Michael Boda be appointed the Chief Electoral Officer effective November 18th, 2021.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**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 Ms. A. Ross, seconded by Mr. Skoropad, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Mr. Love.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melfort.

**Mr. Goudy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night it kind of reminded me a little bit. We got a dog, a little puppy, this fall, and I told our kids and my wife we're not a dog family. And anyways, little Ollie, we bought a dog. And he was standing in the middle of our kitchen peeing, and all of us were shouting from different directions. And just the look on his face reminded me a little bit of last night when I was . . . I didn't think I was peeing, but by the looks of the House Leader across the way I felt, you know . . .

Ollie was a great dog, but it turned out we voted him off the island. And a nice, loving home from Ontario flew out. The wife flew out and picked him up last week. So I was hoping that I'd

still have a job this morning, and I'm glad I can finish off my speech.

[11:00]

So, Mr. Speaker, there were a couple things that I just wanted to say. One, I don't know if anybody knows much about BHP the company, but pretty privileged to be the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] of the constituency that they decided to plant some roots in Saskatchewan. They drilled a hole a kilometre deep. Now that's a pretty strong commitment.

And Greg Brkich, our last representative of the constituency that borders on mine, Arm River, a pretty serious guy — I was a new MLA — invited me into his office and he said, Todd, we need to discuss something about the Jansen mine. And I said oh, okay. A new guy, went down to his office and he says, you know, I think what we need to do is seriously discuss shifting that shaft into my constituency, because it would make more sense. And I honestly thought he was serious.

So here is BHP investing another \$7.5 billion. The thing I was most impressed about BHP was the day that I was in Saskatoon meeting with some of their leadership. They hired a lady named Ann Paton from LeRoy, Saskatchewan. And the fact that they hired somebody with the quality of character like Ann showed me that that's the kind of company that I want to work with.

Mr. Speaker, there were a few others there, Ken Smith and others. They pulled out a card out of their wallet that they carried back in the day, and it was their values statement. And they said, it is very important for us to follow the values that we hold to as a company. And I think we're going to see that as they move forwards. Maury Simoneau, a local Melfort boy, he's the site manager.

It's a great, great investment. BHP could've invested anywhere in the world, that money. They had other projects. And we are very appreciative that they decided to invest that money in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, something else I wanted to say was, the Health minister, I just want to thank him and his staff so much. When I sat with our previous Health minister and the Premier and a few others in a meeting where a young girl, Cassidy Evans, someone who suffered with cystic fibrosis, came in — and I don't know if you've heard of Cassidy's lemonade stand — but that day I remember watching the eyes of the Premier and our then Health minister, and I thought she got through. And if you could tug on heartstrings and if you could pitch the reason for the province to pull together and get over the hurdles in bringing a drug into this province that would be provided by the taxpayers and the government of this province . . . I just want to thank our Health minister for getting it across the line and our previous Health minister for the work that they've done . . . [inaudible].

Finally I just wanted to close with the last part of the conclusion. You know, what a man to have as our Lieutenant Governor, Russ Mirasty, a man that's respected in so many ways in this province. When he said in his Throne Speech, "I now leave you to the business of the session, knowing that you will favourably discharge your duties and responsibilities" . . . Mr. Speaker, this isn't a day when we can favourably discharge . . . Everybody

seems to be upset with us. Both sides are thinking, you haven't done enough. You know, I am thankful there is that large middle that are phoning up and encouraging and saying, I think you guys are right on line with what needs to happen.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, I was thinking about it a bit when I'm getting phone calls from people who are struggling in our own constituency. I thought about it a little bit. And you know, if my wife is going to be angry at her husband, well I just got to say I'm glad to be that guy because I'm thankful to be the husband of my wife. And if my children are going to be angry at their father — and oftentimes it's for good reason — I'm glad I get the chance to be their father.

And you know, I think that all of us as MLAs need to keep in mind that when our constituency people, the ones that we love, the ones that we serve, when they're angry with us, when they're angry with our government for something that's going on, when they're discouraged or overwhelmed and they phone our office, I'm privileged, we're all privileged to be that person that represents those people that we love.

So as he finished off, he said, "May divine providence continue to bless our province and guide this Assembly in all of its deliberations." And amen to that, Mr. Speaker. God bless Saskatchewan, God bless Canada, and God save the Queen.

So I won't be supporting the amendment that was made by the opposition, but I will be supporting the motion put forward by our member from P.A. Northcote [Prince Albert Northcote] and seconded by our member from Arm River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. Once again I'm honoured to have this opportunity to rise in this House and provide my response to the Speech from the Throne.

First and foremost, I want to recognize and give thanks to a man who will be remembered for his great sense of humour, his ability to rattle members opposite, and his 26 years of dedicated service to the people of this province and to his constituents in the North — my friend and former colleague, Buckley Belanger.

For those watching from home, pay close attention to the hecklers from across the aisle and how they treat the only First Nation MLA in this province. I was told in this House Tuesday evening by the Minister of First Nation, Métis Relations, "Betty, you're a disgrace." He also added, "She is an embarrassment." Mr. Speaker and members of this House, just for clarification I do not drink alcohol and haven't done so since I was 18 years old. The good people of this province, this is your minister who is tasked to leading reconciliation in this province. Mr. Speaker, remember First Nation leaders are watching.

I want to thank those who have stood by me and continue to provide their love and support to me as an Indigenous mother, grandmother, and MLA. To my husband and sweetheart for these last 23 years, Ivan, thank you for your love and support. To my children, Chantelle, Eric, Daniel, and my daughter-in-law Raquel, thank you. To my grandchildren, Colby, Ava, Ellie,

Kaiden, Ciannah, Noah, and Mateo, tootoo loves you.

Mr. Speaker, I was a teenager when I had my daughter. And when she was two years old, her dad was tragically killed. Imagine being a teenaged, widow mom trying to provide a good life for her child when she herself was a child. Well, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't easy. Living in poverty and experiencing the social issues, ongoing racism, and adversities that none of you can possibly imagine is something I do not wish on anyone. In fact there are many in this province that are living what I lived through and overcame. That is why I am so passionate as a vocal Indigenous mother and grandmother. I want the intentionally ignored to have a better life and to have an equitable opportunity to have a good quality of life that is experienced in this House.

Mr. Speaker, what got me through was the support of my family and my cultural ceremonies. I am grateful to be alive today and sitting in this House as an elected member. Thank you to my family who continues to support me, love me, and pray for me in our ceremonies. Without your directness, honesty, guidance, and leadership in healing, I would not be here today. Thank you.

To my former CAs [constituency assistant], Estefan Cortes-Vargas, Jade Badger, and Penny Foulds, thank you and best wishes as you continue to pursue your academic education. To my current CA Shane Partridge, thank you for stepping into this role as my CA. Thank you for setting up our new office in record time and for being on top of things at the office.

Finally I would like to thank my constituents of Saskatoon Centre. Thank you for standing with me and for your continued encouragement to me. There are so many people to thank, from the grassroots folks, community organizations that are out there helping the intentionally ignored, and the businesses who are finding ways to operate under this ongoing pandemic. Thank you.

As I reflect on this past year, Mr. Speaker, I continue to feel honoured sitting here as an outspoken, educated, traditional First Nations mother and grandmother. I will continue to follow in the footsteps of my ancestors who spoke truth and who worked for the common good for all they served. Mr. Speaker, working within this patriarchal system hasn't been an easy journey. However, my belief in the Creator and the foundation of my cultural ceremonies will help me persevere and serve my constituents and the people of this province.

Now on to the Throne Speech. Members opposite spoke so passionately about reconciliation and patted themselves on the back on what this government is doing with reconciliation. They even took shots at me about my vocalness at the pipe ceremony, when I asked everyone to not use that ceremony as another example of cultural appropriation. Mr. Speaker, a member opposite who is a self-identified Métis person was so offended by my remarks.

A question for my Métis brother from across the aisle: where were you in expressing your outrage when your leader, the Premier of this province, was MIA [missing in action] at this pipe ceremony? Furthermore, where are you in standing up for your Métis brothers and sisters who are suffering and who are fighting with this government for Crown land so that they too may exercise their treaty and inherent rights?

Mr. Speaker, if reconciliation was so important to this government, the leader would have showed up for the pipe ceremony, a ceremony he knew was planned well in advance of the day. Your leader and our Premier definitely showed his commitment to reconciliation when he was a no-show for the pipe ceremony.

The \$2 million the province has committed to FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] towards a ground radar search on residential school sites is a start. However, this government must take ownership for the Ile-a-la Crosse and the Timber Bay residential schools this province operated, and to release the records to residential school survivors and compensate those survivors that went to Timber Bay and Ile-a-la Crosse residential schools.

Mr. Speaker, half measures avail us nothing. If this government was walking their talk about reconciliation, they would have ensured their leader was at the pipe ceremony. Our leader, the Leader of the Opposition, was present and he took part in the ceremony.

And also if they were really walking their talk about reconciliation, they would install all the treaty flags around all the treaty borders in this province. They would also install all those treaty flags alongside the three that are on top of this marble castle up here. They would also ensure all MLAs and senior government staff take treaty education as a requirement to serve the people of this province.

[11:15]

They would further stop auctioning off Crown lands without meaningful consultation. They would fix their broken duty-to-consult policy and incorporate the Calls to Action, UNDRIP [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples], and develop the duty-to-consult policy from an Indigenous world view. And they would put concrete measures and resources in place to protect missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and two-spirit.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about these half measures. The government committed 400,000 in this fiscal year. If this 400,000 was divided between the 6,928 eligible agencies that provide these services, that would work out to \$57.74 to protect missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and two-spirit individuals. Mr. Speaker, how are Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit individuals going to be protected when all eligible organizations apply and receive funding? How is \$57.74 going to protect them?

My granddaughter was missing for over a month. Thankfully, she was found. Mr. Speaker, as an elected official, I am very aware of my privilege. The Minister for Justice and the Premier both reshared my post regarding my missing granddaughter. I even had a call from the Justice minister's office sharing its services that are offered to families of missing persons. Sadly, others who do not have this kind of privilege do not get a call from any ministry to offer help.

Mr. Speaker, this government has been selling off Crown lands since 2008 despite the objection of First Nations. In 2017 this government expanded its sale of Crown lands through online



auctions. The most recent auction sale of Crown lands closed on Monday at 2:30 p.m.

My office has been inundated with calls from Indigenous leaders, Indigenous allies, concerned citizens of this province calling for this government to stop these Crown land sales. This government has not honoured its 1992 TLE [treaty land entitlement] framework. It would rather fight with Indigenous leaders than honour their agreement.

This summer, Mr. Speaker, I was joined by other Indigenous leaders, Indigenous farmers, and Indigenous ranchers to call out this government to stop the sale of Crown lands, consult Indigenous people in a meaningful way, fix the broken duty-to-consult policy, give the TLE bands the first right of refusal when Crown lands are being considered for sale, and/or protect the Crown lands for the inherent right to hunt, fish, and gather. This has fallen on deaf ears, Mr. Speaker. How is this reconciliation?

gichi-miigwech and huge kudos to Witchehan Lake First Nation, who took the province to court regarding the province's continual sale of Crown lands. The federal courts dismissed this government's motion for summary judgment in the case of *Witchehan Lake First Nation v. Saskatchewan*, and they ordered the province to pay Witchehan Lake First Nation's cost. Way to go, Witchehan Lake First Nation. Keep going.

Another First Nation, Kahkewistahaw First Nation, cc'd me their cease and desist letter to the province to stop selling Crown land without meaningful consultation with their nation. Mr. Speaker, this province will see more litigations over the sale of Crown lands without meaningful consultation.

Mr. Speaker, please tell me how this is reconciliation, the reconciliation that the government is touting itself for. Sending a letter and talking to one person is not consultation. This government is intent on selling every piece of Crown land that we as Indigenous people can no longer exercise our inherent and treaty right to hunt, fish, and gather in this province.

Mr. Speaker, how will my grandchildren exercise their treaty and inherent right to fish, hunt, and gather if there's no Crown land left to do that on? Is it the desire for this government to wipe out our inherent treaty right to hunt, fish, and gather? Mr. Speaker, is this another racist policy and practice to take the Indian out of us? Reconciliation is more than window dressing. We actually have to ensure, "Our lips match the swing of our hips."

Mr. Speaker, as a kohkum and a First Nations person I see these half measures — or in my language, tebinâk — as an intentional act of dishonouring the treaties and completely disregarding the spirit and intent of the signed treaties that our ancestors signed. To this government: shame on you. On behalf of the grandmothers that say to you: shame on you. Equally important, this action is another example of racism that is so entrenched in this province against Indigenous peoples.

In closing, I do not support the motion that was presented by this government and will be supporting the amendment. miigwech.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Westview.

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to replying to the Speech from the Throne presented to this legislature on October 27th. I want to have a shout-out for my good friend Doug who I know is watching today. So thanks for watching, Doug. You're probably the only one that's going to do this.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into my reply though, there are a couple of people that I want to thank that, you know, help me to serve as the member for Saskatoon Westview. Mr. Speaker, I'm humbled by the people that are always willing to work to make sure that you have everything that you need to fulfill your duties.

Of course number one is always, you know, for me it's my wife. She's always so supportive of my role as elected member. You know, it's not near as flashy to be the spouse of an elected member as it is to be the member, but they quite often end up doing a lot of the heavy lifting behind the scenes. So for that, I humbly say thank you to her. We do not serve here in our role without our family support.

I also want to thank my constituency assistant, Lisa Hoskins. Lisa has only been at my office for a couple of months, but she has caught on very quickly with the workload that comes through our office. And Lisa is a very quick learner and has realized just how important it is, you know, to deal with constituents when they come to our office because they quite often have very important things that they're bringing. So I want to say thank you, Lisa, for the fantastic job that you do. Honoured to have you at my office.

I also want to thank my constituency association. You know, pretty much all of them have been around ever since I was first elected in 2016, and they were around before that. So they're always willing to help out, and I always appreciate their help.

But you know, I really want to say a thank you to the residents of Saskatoon Westview. It's truly an honour to represent you at this legislature. You know, Saskatoon Westview is a very diverse constituency. You know, we have new Canadians. We have old Canadians. We have new housing areas. We have old housing areas. We have white-collar workers. We have blue-collar workers. So we truly represent most of, you know, people right across Saskatchewan. So very honoured to be the MLA for Saskatoon Westview.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to say that I'm very proud to be part of a government as a parent with a mental handicapped . . . I think this government has a fantastic strategy for people living with disabilities in our province. And there's always more to do, Mr. Speaker, but sometimes I think we forget some of the great work that has been done and, you know, as a parent, like I say, I am extremely grateful for that.

This Throne Speech outlines the government's plans for Saskatchewan, a plan that is going to position Saskatchewan for a very promising future filled with optimism and thought-provoking ideas. A Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, that will build a better Saskatchewan, a stronger Saskatchewan, a safer Saskatchewan, a healthier Saskatchewan, a better-educated Saskatchewan, and a more independent Saskatchewan. Our most important task this year though has been dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I want to thank the Premier, the Health ministers, and Dr. Shahab for leading us through this

global pandemic. I also want to thank the health care workers and the front-line workers for their commitment to keeping us healthy.

This pandemic has had a tremendous effect on countries all around the world and we've invested more than 530 million this year to deal with the pandemic. Our most important tool though has been Saskatchewan's most extensive vaccination program in Saskatchewan's history. I want to thank Saskatchewan people for stepping up and getting the vaccine and helping to curb the amount of ICU and hospital admissions by their actions to get vaccinated. Mr. Speaker, the clear path to the end of this pandemic is through vaccination. And so if anyone's listening, boy, that's the number one message that we want out is please, please get your vaccination.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind those that are not vaccinated that you are at a very much greater risk and, you know, with safe and effective vaccines widely available and accessible in every part of the province, there is no reason to expose yourself, those around you, and our health care system to risk. If you haven't done so already, get vaccinated. More than 85 per cent of eligible Saskatchewan residents have received their first dose already and over 76 per cent are fully vaccinated.

Saskatchewan must plan for more than just dealing with COVID-19 though, Mr. Speaker. We need to continue with building a strong economy. Saskatchewan has what the world needs, Mr. Speaker. From food, fuel, fertilizer that is competitively priced, high quality and sustainability with a safe, reliable supply chain — these products will give us an incredible opportunity for the future. Our government has always believed that a strong Saskatchewan begins with a strong economy.

A growing economy creates jobs and opportunities for Saskatchewan people today and in the future. A strong economy, Mr. Speaker, gives us the opportunity to invest in Saskatchewan people and the social programs that people rely on every day. An example of this would be the investment in Melfort for a new \$2.25 million CT [computerized tomography] scanner to improve diagnostic services but also to reduce wait times and travel times.

Mr. Speaker, our government is now covering the cost of the drug, Trikafta, a medication described as the single, greatest innovation in care provided to cystic fibrosis patients. Our government is providing more funding for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, and I think everyone in this room knows someone that's had to deal with cancer. And we are backing a new ovarian cancer tumour testing and drug prediction program at the University of Saskatchewan.

Another important project in health care is the urgent care centres in Saskatoon and Regina. These urgent care centres will reduce wait times by providing alternate care for illness and injury that are considered not life-threatening but require immediate attention. These urgent care centres will also include care for addictions and mental health issues.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions are important investments in Saskatchewan, and that's why it's a stand-alone ministry. Our government is pursuing further opportunities to increase the number of addictions and treatment facilities and

detox spaces, including partnerships with charitable organizations and third-party providers, with the goal of adding another 150 treatment spaces over the next three years.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, our investments in health care have been substantial since forming government in 2007. Today Saskatchewan has 1,000 more physicians and over 4,000 more nurses since 2007, and that's in stark contrast to the NDP government from 2001 to 2006 that lost 173 doctors and 450 nurses and as well closed 52 hospitals. The NDP government also had the longest surgical wait times in Canada. You know that we can't forget that. They had the longest in Canada, longest surgical wait times.

Our government has opened new hospitals in Saskatoon, North Battleford, and Moose Jaw. Our government is also continuing with plans to build new hospitals in Prince Albert and Weyburn and new long-term care facilities in Grenfell and La Ronge. Our government will also be replacing long-term care facilities in Watson and Estevan.

All of these investments, Mr. Speaker, are the result of a strong economy, and that is why it is so important that we build our economy for the future. To build a stronger Saskatchewan, we're going to create 100,000 new jobs by 2030, we're going to increase the value of our exports by 50 per cent by 2030, and by investing 30 billion in Saskatchewan's infrastructure by 2030.

Saskatchewan employment has now recovered by over 99 per cent of its pre-pandemic levels, with job growth above the national average and unemployment below the national average. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has seen a surge in capital investment, as investors see that Saskatchewan has what the world needs: a new potash mine, three new canola crushing plants, Canada's first wheat straw pulp facility, a new urea fertilizer plant, a new oriented strand board mill, a revitalized Prince Albert pulp mill, expanded and upgraded saw mills, and a new cedar manufacturing facility.

With recent investments in the fertilizer industry along with the planned investments completed by 2027, this industry alone will employ over 6,600 full jobs. Thirty-five hundred construction jobs will be created by BHP alone, building the Jansen mine. The Jansen project builds on more than 20 billion invested over the last 15 years by Nutrien, Mosaic, and K+S to expand and modernize Saskatchewan's potash industry.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is a great place to invest, but that is probably better quantified by a statement from the BHP chief executive, Mike Henry, and I quote:

In addition to its merits as a stand-alone project, Jansen also brings with it a series of high-returning options in an attractive investment jurisdiction. Jansen will deliver healthy returns as a high-margin, expendable resource which can support a century or more of operations.

Mr. Speaker, the canola crushing industry will also help Saskatchewan build a strong, well-diversified economy with that industry's investments. The canola crush industry is undergoing a massive expansion, and investments of over a billion dollars have already been announced. Three new canola crush plants are

going to be built by Cargill, Viterra, and Ceres Global Ag Corporation. Richardson International has announced that they will be doubling their capacity at the Yorkton crushing plant. These investments, Mr. Speaker, will achieve the government's growth plan of having 75 per cent of the province's canola crushed right here at home.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatoon will also see investment from the fertilizer industry when Northern Nutrients constructs a urea fertilizer facility. Clean Seed Capital Group will also begin building its Smart Seeder Max-S in Saskatoon this fall.

Mr. Speaker, Viterra also thinks that Saskatchewan is a great place to invest. And I will quote Viterra's CEO [chief executive officer] for North America, Kyle Jeworski:

We are pleased to have the opportunity to pursue this substantial and historic investment in our asset network, which demonstrates our confidence in the future of Western Canadian canola production. Through this project we will be able to further leverage our strong relationship with farm customers and support Saskatchewan's growth plan for expanded value-added processing capacity. Further, this project will have a long-lasting and positive local economic impact, both in terms of employment related to the facility's construction and permanent employment once the plant is up and running.

Mr. Speaker, technology entrepreneurs are further diversifying our economy and are busy building a vibrant new industry employing thousands of people. Companies like Vendasta, 7shifts, and Coconut Software are demolishing the stereotype that Saskatchewan's economy is driven exclusively by the resource sector.

Mr. Speaker, our economy will be further diversified when Red Leaf Pulp completes their \$350 million investment to build Canada's first wheat straw pulp facility. Mr. Speaker, the Brandt Group of Companies is hiring more than 1,000 workers by the end of this year, bringing its workforce to 4,400 employees. And more than half of the new employees will be based right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, our province is now home to the largest helium purification plant in Canada. This \$32 million North American helium facility is expected to produce more than 50 million cubic feet of helium per year. Our government's goal is to ensure Saskatchewan produces 10 per cent of the world's helium by 2030.

Mr. Speaker, a historic expansion in the province's northern forestry industry will help achieve our government's growth plan of doubling the size of the forestry sector by 2030, with nearly a billion dollars committed to projects that will create more than 3,000 jobs. Mr. Speaker, Paper Excellence will be investing \$550 million to upgrade the pulp mill in Prince Albert. This facility was closed in 2006 and will help Prince Albert and northern communities grow their economy by creating 1,650 new jobs by 2023.

Another great investment of \$250 million in Prince Albert by One Sky products will create 700 jobs making oriented strand board. Dunkley Lumber in Carrot River and Carrier Forest

Products in Big River are also expanding their saw mill operations. And this will have a positive effect on northern communities.

Mr. Speaker, since 2007 our government has created 66,000 new jobs. In the last seven years of the NDP government, they saw the worst job creation record in Canada with only half of the national rate. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a competitive business environment with incentives that will attract investment and encourage value-added processing and spur even more innovation.

Saskatchewan's strong economy is very dependent on our trade. Saskatchewan currently exports 65 per cent of the products that we produce. A very good sign of the strength of our economy is seen in this year's growth of our exports. This year our exports have grown by 35 per cent. Saskatchewan currently has four trade offices in Japan, India, Singapore, and China, and by early next year we will have offices in London, Dubai, Mexico City, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. These trade offices will support our strong export markets.

Saskatchewan's strength as a major global exporter is only realized by the production of agricultural products, manufactured products, potash, uranium, and oil. Saskatchewan also has a long list of other products, such as gold, coal, salt, clays, and sodium and potassium sulphates. There is also significant exploration in copper, lithium, zinc, nickel, cobalt, and rare earth elements.

Mr. Speaker, our government will be making several investments to make Saskatchewan a safer place to live. Our government will add 60 new police positions and another 11 civilian positions to support new law enforcement initiatives, and will create a new provincial protective services unit and bring together under one command conservation officers, Provincial Capital Commission, community safety officers, safer communities and neighbourhood officers, and deputy sheriffs working in the Provincial Court system. This unit will work closely with police and serve as law enforcement to help protect our communities while continuing to fulfill their core responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, our government will create a warrant enforcement and suppression team to target dangerous offenders with outstanding warrants. Mr. Speaker, our government will add 16 officers and reallocate internal positions to create new crime reduction teams in Meadow Lake, Lloydminster, La Ronge, and Moose Jaw. Our government is committed to providing more training and making more legislative changes to combat crime and make Saskatchewan a better place to live.

Our government has made improving Saskatchewan's communications network a priority. We directed SaskTel to construct nearly 200 new cell towers to improve wireless coverage in rural communities, along highways, and in provincial parks. With the last cell tower completed this fall, Saskatchewan now has 1,000 cell towers across the province.

Mr. Speaker, during the last decade our government has made significant improvements to internet service across the province with a focus on rural Saskatchewan. SaskTel is investing an additional 100 million to expand and improve internet service in rural Saskatchewan. This will allow communities to use the latest technology to connect, learn, and pursue business opportunities.

Our government will work directly with the private sector service providers to install internet services in places where there is no fibre optic services.

Mr. Speaker, good internet service is becoming more important every day. Farms and rural businesses are at a disadvantage when it comes to rural broadband. Our economy requires that businesses and farms be connected in this global economy. The ministries of Health and Education, they would also benefit from having better fibre optic service.

Mr. Speaker, our government has provided more than 150 million to ensure students can learn safely during this pandemic. Mr. Speaker, more children than ever were taking part in online learning. Because of the demand for online learning, our government will create a new learning policy to ensure that Saskatchewan students receive the best education possible.

Mr. Speaker, our government continues to make progress on 16 school projects as part of our government's ambitious capital plan. New schools are under construction in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Carrot River, La Loche, Blaine Lake, and Lanigan.

Mr. Speaker, since 2007 our government has invested nearly 37 billion to renew, expand, and modernize the province's infrastructure. This commitment has been an important factor in enabling the province to attract billions of dollars of capital investments. And our growth plan is to invest another 30 billion by 2030 to build and improve roads, hospitals, schools, power plants, communications infrastructure, and water and waste water projects. This includes upgrading 10 000 kilometres of highways over the next decade.

Mr. Speaker, this year alone we allocated 830 million for highways and airports, with 520 million committed to new capital projects. We are creating more safety on our highways by building passing lanes on Highways 2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 14, 16, and 39. And work is moving forward on the twinning of an 8-kilometre stretch of Highway 3 west of Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, our government's \$65 million enhanced intersection safety program is continuing with a range of improvements, including new lighting, guardrails, and rumble strips at key intersections.

Mr. Speaker, this fiscal year nearly 200 million is being invested in thin membrane and rural highway improvements, while 68 million has been committed to maintain and improve highways and airports in northern Saskatchewan.

[11:45]

Mr. Speaker, our government believes that the world will not meet the challenge of addressing climate change without a major expansion of nuclear power. To advance this, Saskatchewan has signed a memorandum of understanding with Ontario, New Brunswick, and Alberta to evaluate and develop small nuclear, modular nuclear reactor technology, better known as SMRs [small modular reactor]. SMRs are smaller than conventional nuclear power plants and will be cheaper to build.

They will be capable of generating emissions-free, reliable baseload electricity for industries, small businesses, and

households. Mr. Speaker, our government has created a unit within the Ministry of the Environment to lead the planning of SMRs in Saskatchewan. And we have directed SaskPower to prepare for the deployment of SMRs as the company expands its generating capacity to meet the demand of a growing economy.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan must have a reliable supply of affordable, sustainable energy to power the economic growth and support quality of life in Saskatchewan. This year, Mr. Speaker, SaskPower is investing a record 272 million to replace and repair power lines, poles, transformers, and other transmission and distribution infrastructure. As part of this investment, our government provided a \$50 million power grid renewal grant to improve system reliability.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many good things in this Throne Speech, and I've only touched on a few of them. This is absolutely the right direction for Saskatchewan growth, to grow Saskatchewan, and I am so proud to be a part of it. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion made by the member for P.A. Northcote, seconded by the member from Arm River, and I will be not supporting the amendment by members opposite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Gardiner Park.

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Always a pleasure to join debate and rise in this House and speak on behalf of the people of Regina Gardiner Park and some of my perspectives on our government's Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker, I was listening to many speeches of members, the one just concluded and several others. Mr. Speaker, this speech will certainly be in the bottom half in the excellence category, based on what I've heard so far — many great speeches, passionate speeches. You know, good to see.

Some of them across the way though maybe, Mr. Speaker . . . There were some decent speeches. There were some performances over there, Mr. Speaker, but you know, certainly not very high on Saskatchewan and not very, you know, optimistic. Not a lot of optimism over there. But in my 10-plus years here, Mr. Speaker, I've learned to deal with that. One of the hardest parts of the job I guess is sitting here and listening to the opposition sometimes. But that's what we signed up for, Mr. Speaker.

I was listening to the member from Willowgrove's speech. He said that in his case he has a small army of folks that try to point him in the right direction. I fall definitely under that category as well, you know, folks that I'm very blessed and thankful to work with. I'll quickly go through them: Amanda, Dawn, John, Michelle, Scott, all the folks in the Ministry of Advanced Education, those dedicated public servants who do a lot of work behind the scenes, and not a lot of credit at times. But we really . . . I appreciate those efforts very much.

And of course my wife, Tami. I've said in this House before many times, Mr. Speaker, she is a registered nurse and she is busy these days, as always. That's her paid job, but of course she's a short-order cook. She's a professional grocery shopper — won't let me do that stuff. I get the wrong stuff and pay too much, I

guess. But, Mr. Speaker, very busy and, you know, like I said before, a super mom. And we rely on her heavily in our household, Mr. Speaker.

I mentioned she is an RN [registered nurse], and it brings me to, you know, the front-line health care workers in our province, Mr. Speaker. I'll take a sec to thank them so much. Mr. Speaker, I know a little bit about the front line, and you know, how important that is to a success of any organization. And those folks on the front line are getting the job done, Mr. Speaker. Tough times, but they're stepping up for us, Mr. Speaker. They always have, but especially right now. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, it's been a tough year in our family, just like in so many other families across the province, with a different sort of restrictions and all the rest of it, and you know, not being able to do things we all want, of course.

But, Mr. Speaker, we lost Tami's dad this past year, and it's a tough situation. I'll just go quickly on this. I don't want to get off the rails too much here, Mr. Speaker. But boy, he worked so hard in Saskatchewan. He was in the construction industry. He built so many buildings. We always thought it was great that the elementary school that my kids went to, he was part of building. He was a construction manager with Wolfe Construction then. He was a bricklayer when he was a teenager growing up. And you know, he was a great guy, loved to laugh.

But I always said his mind right up to the end . . . He was a 50-year-old mind, 150-year-old body. But he worked so hard, you know. He worked out all the time, even when he was confined to his wheelchair. And you know, I asked him one time, if you could go back to when you were younger, what do you miss doing that you're not able to do anymore? He said, I wish I could go to work. I wish I could go to work. So you know, that's the type of work ethic we have here in Saskatchewan. So that's one example of that.

So anyway, I'm trying to get back on track here, Mr. Speaker. Of course my three guys, Mr. Speaker, they're growing up all the time. You know, there's the spring season, Mr. Speaker, there's winter season, there's summer season, and in our household there's football season. And that is so important to everyone in our household. Boy, of course we watch on TV all the CFL [Canadian Football League], NFL [National Football League] games. But my boys are very lucky and privileged to play football, and I'm very lucky to coach one of the high school teams as I have for a number of years now, Mr. Speaker.

My son plays for the Regina Thunder. They're having a pretty good year, Mr. Speaker. Playoffs start this weekend. And two of the best games I think I've ever seen . . . And of course the stakes are a little higher when your son's playing in the game and you're right into it, and every play is so important. But against the Saskatoon Hilltops, I think it's the biggest news of the year that the Hilltops actually lost. They haven't lost in like seven years or something like that.

And just an amazing program. But the two games there were just honestly . . . The one here at Mosaic might have been again the best game I ever saw. Wonderful program. So many people are involved and just sell 50/50's. And you know, we hear it all the

time. We heard it from the member from Last Mountain. Those key people in the communities that step up, give their time selflessly, and it takes a lot of money, but you know, it's all volunteer work. And boy the coaches, they're volunteers. They've put in hundreds if not thousands of hours to have a great program for those kids.

And you know, the thing I appreciate . . . I just love the story I always hear from the Minister of Highways about how his Carrot River team's doing and gives me the update every . . . They're playing Lemberg apparently this weekend, and you know, to continue on in the playoffs, and I just think that's so awesome.

You know, Regina and Saskatoon, of course the high school program and the minor programs, but in all those small towns in Saskatchewan, that happens over time all the time. And those young kids, what they learn there, they become leaders in our province absolutely, Mr. Speaker. In the post-secondary, like the Thunder, they go in boys and they mature physically obviously, but mentally, emotionally, and they become young men, and they're the leaders in our province.

So the reason I brought this up, I always look at the Thunder roster, and of course there's players from Regina, but there's just as many from Melfort. There's kids from Wynyard. There's kids from Indian Head. There's kids from La Ronge. There's from Big River. On and on it goes, and so that is just awesome to see. It's a good deal, Mr. Speaker.

Also in the PFC [Prairie Football Conference], I want to just quickly mention there was the league's first female player this year, Mr. Speaker. Emmarae Dale played for the Hilltops as I mentioned before. That's a pretty good deal. That's a pretty good deal. You know, that's a high level of play. And that took some guts, I think, from her to step across and go between those white lines, and I think that's great. So we'll see what happens in the playoffs. Again the Thunder are 8-0 and can't wait.

There's going to be lessons. There's some hard lessons sometimes. And boy I think about those senior players in high school ball from last year that didn't get a season, you know, and we're in the playoffs now. And when a team's not successful, you see some kids with some red eyes coming off the field because that's it for some of those players. And that's one thing to not be able to play anymore because you lost on the field, but when you're done because of another situation, that's tough. That's tough. So I feel for those kids big time. We'll see what happens in the high school league. We're playing the city final Friday night, Mr. Speaker, Miller Maruders against LeBoldus Golden Suns down at Mosaic Stadium. I can't wait for that and very excited for that.

Directly to my file, Mr. Speaker, just quickly. I'm very excited the Regina Rams have renewed their agreement with the University of Regina to continue that to historic, proud — I don't know if the right word is franchises or what — but they're going to continue to have the Rams play in U Sport and boy, another opportunity for about a hundred young men to be able to continue playing football. And that's great to see. Good to see the U of S Huskies in first place in the Canada West, so very, very much looking forward to that.

The thing I'm most thankful about, Mr. Speaker, about all this

that I've recently been talking about, again the opportunity to play. But I'm glad just for the opportunity to play. I'm so thankful that we got a season in, Mr. Speaker. And you know, in these tough times there's a lot of viewpoints and a lot of opinions and things we should know, but there's a lot of things to consider. There's a lot of things to consider, and I hope we keep that in mind as we keep going.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of my family, I remember earlier in the summer . . . You know, I like efficiency. I like cutting red tape and all that kind of stuff. So I think back. We had four of us in the car and we went and got vaccinated. There was myself, the driver, and I should note that I'm talking about the line at Evraz Place. I think I was in that line five times. I went with Tami once, and then I went myself once. And then at one time I drove my 93-year-old mother-in-law who got her second shot, and then my two teenage boys who got their first shot, all at one time there. So trying to be as efficient as I can.

At one time we were in the line, because they ran out that day, we had to go back home. But that was quite a logistic endeavour, but it was extremely well done. And so again, those folks on the front lines and making those decisions as we go through this. My understanding is that's being relocated. That endeavour is moving to my constituency in one of the abandoned buildings that a business had moved out of, Mr. Speaker.

So in the current environment, of course, many members have talked about it, how very difficult it is, how we're all fielding calls about so many different opinions, and how different people would like to see things unfold is certainly very divisive, Mr. Speaker, and I understand that.

What I would like to say, though, is I think people are doing the best they can. People are doing the best they can. And everyone, you know, from the Premier, Health minister, all around the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority], Ministry of Health, etc., all those folks and those front-line folks again, they're making very difficult decisions that everyone across the world has had to make, not just in Saskatchewan, in other provinces. And daily you see different decisions and different ways of doing things. And you know, there're all, again, all very tough decisions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I was listening to the presentation of the Throne Speech, and I was really struck by what we heard from Elder Felix. I thought he had a pretty good message. I just want to go back over it, Mr. Speaker, while I grab a quick drink here.

[12:00]

So in here he talks. He begins, and I'm quoting Elder Felix:

. . . today when you look across the world, this is a country, even a province of choice of many people around the world. This is a destination point where people have opportunity, where people can pray, where people can choose a career, where people can pray in the church of their choice or create a church of their choice, where people can intermingle, where they can have their children taught in any language of their choice and in the school of their choice.

What a wonderful opportunity that we have created, all of us, to make this province a province to move to, a

destination point. And you have done it.

Mr. Speaker, I think that's some pretty positive comments. Mr. Speaker, when you look at it, take a long look, a long perspective, there's nothing but opportunity in Saskatchewan. I'm so excited about it going into the future, Mr. Speaker. And that's again direct contrast to what we've heard from the members opposite as it comes to this Throne Speech.

Mr. Speaker, on page 9 of the Throne Speech it talks about international engagement, Mr. Speaker, the trade offices we are opening right around the world to sell our products, create those linkages on a person-to-person basis. We have somebody on the ground in those countries. That is so important to our economy, 24-7-365, and they are always working on our behalf, Mr. Speaker.

And as it pertains to my file, Mr. Speaker, Advanced Education, the one I'm privileged to be currently in the chair of — temporarily in the chair of, I guess, Mr. Speaker — that we want to use that opportunity in front of us for the province to recruit and attract international students here as well, Mr. Speaker. And so there is certainly an opportunity. We have awesome post-secondary institutions with great infrastructure. You know, I'd be here for an hour going down the list of all the great things that are being studied and researched and learned at our post-secondary institutions.

But directly to the Throne Speech, that was mentioned, the announcement of our international education strategy and hoping to grow that aspect of inbound students, but also students from Saskatchewan experiencing other areas of the world, other cultures, and again hopefully now and into the future growing our economy from that.

The international students have a significant spend in our province while they're here, on the tuition side, and when they're renting a place to stay, flights over here, whatever the case may be. But when they're done, Mr. Speaker, at Sask Poly for example, 90 per cent of those students stay right here in Saskatchewan and they build a career. They have a family. They build a house and definitely become part of Saskatchewan, and something I'm so proud of, that that's been part of it. The post-secondary sector has been a part of it and it's a great idea. Hey, I mean Saskatchewan's such a wonderful place and we get to share that with the world.

But if those students do, after they get their degree, go back home, we want them to have a great experience here in Saskatchewan and tell others about what a great place this is and all the things we have and all the products that we have to sell. And so you know, in a one-minute summary, that's kind of what we're up to there. A lot more to do, and we'll have a focus with of course our post-secondary institutions, our partners in that. But the ministry will take a bit of a more active role on that side and telling Saskatchewan's awesome story to the rest of the world.

It was interesting, Mr. Speaker, how this works. I was just on a Zoom meeting the other day with somebody in the United Arab Emirates trying to increase those linkages, and the person who is in the Ministry of Education there who was giving the presentation mentioned that the reason they got into that field was the person that was a mentor to him went to the U of S, went to

the University of Saskatchewan. So I thought, man, small world sometimes, right? But that's a pretty powerful thing as to what those agreements, those MOUs [memorandum of understanding] we sign, those . . . you know, go out and talking to people and learning from them and working on that part of things, Mr. Speaker.

Great things again going on in Saskatoon and VIDO [Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization] and the tech sector, Mr. Speaker, a lot of it on campus at the U of S. I won't go into that. That's on page 12, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of the education portion of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, I talked a little bit about the advanced education side. On the education side, of course new schools going up all the time here in Saskatchewan, particularly in Regina. We're very, very thankful for those new schools being brought up.

I really appreciated the mention of the Ministry of Education's, their — I'm looking at exactly what it's called — Take a Break campaign. Sorry, Mr. Speaker. That will help those young people, encourage them to maybe put down those phones once in a while, Mr. Speaker, and those devices. As a parent, I'm sorry to admit I've probably not been as good on that part of things as I should be. You know, our phones, they're a wonderful tool that can be used, right, to make our world a little bit smaller. And it really helps us, but there's a limit. And so that is an important thing.

And you know, Mr. Speaker — just my personal observation, Mr. Speaker, on this — I think those phones and that social media and that interaction, it can certainly be poisonous on the adult side. But when you get to those teenage years, boy, Mr. Speaker. Again I'm certainly not even close to an expert on this, but I think when people can randomly, you know, talk about somebody and when you're younger, I think you take it to heart a little more. And you know, it's a piece. It's not everything, but when we talk about mental health and those kind of things, Mr. Speaker, I think that social media and the phones and the always on type thing, idea of those things, that's something to watch. I'm very, very appreciative of that initiative by the Minister of Education, right, from page 15 of the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so excited about the new economic announcements, of course right across the province, Mr. Speaker, but also in the Regina area. Mr. Speaker, we're talking about Cargill, Viterra, Red Leaf Pulp, the Brandt companies — so much investment in the next several years right here in the Regina area. I was just at the city landfill and that area is already extremely busy with, obviously, the oil refinery, the dump there, you know, the towns east of that area. And boy, it's busy and it's going to get way busier with the Viterra announcement.

We had a meeting, Mr. Speaker, the Regina MLAs, set up by my friend from Walsh Acres. We've had a chance to talk to several of these companies on their initiatives here in Regina. And so we're very grateful for that. And I think one or two of these announcements would be monumental for any province, but we have, you know, half a dozen massive announcements.

And that private sector investment just creates so much momentum. It creates an anchor for our economy and our population. Those once they're built are so . . . they're anchors

for the economy going forward for many, many years during the construction phase but also as they get going and employ people. And of course so important to our GDP [gross domestic product], Mr. Speaker, and our population. We've heard from members opposite again downplaying Saskatchewan's success in creating positive growth in our population. These announcements will really just help with that as we go along.

The post-secondary sector, Mr. Speaker, I'm excited about it, but there's a lot of work in the next several years because of these announcements. We're going to need a skilled workforce, and that sector is going to have to definitely rise to the challenge of training all these people. What an opportunity though, Mr. Speaker, what an opportunity.

I'd much rather talk about that than, you know, them not having the chance to find a job in Saskatchewan at all, which we saw for far too long when I was growing up back in those days when I was playing for a high school team and then onto the Huskies. Those days, Mr. Speaker, those were fun days. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed it. But the economic climate was certainly, certainly different way back then, Mr. Speaker.

I think I will go ahead and wrap up my comments there. I really appreciate the time and the chance to talk about all the great initiatives in this Throne Speech. There is a lot in here, and certainly very proud to support this document on behalf of the people of the province of Saskatchewan, but most specifically the people of Regina Gardiner Park, and honoured to do so.

There's so much in here. There's a lot of meat on the bone in this Throne Speech, and it's, I think, a signal for all the great things that are going to come in the next decade of growth for our great province that we certainly on this side are very much looking forward to and very proud of.

And, Mr. Speaker, of course across the way when I'm so used to . . . Mr. Speaker, we have so many members here. We're very fortunate that way. We do have members across the aisle so I apologize if I said the members opposite. The members southwest, in the southwest corner. Maybe I just should say the NDP.

**An Hon. Member:** — We're the positive side. That's the negative side.

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — You're right. My mistake. I will do better in the future, Mr. Speaker. But we're very fortunate to have members on the other side of the aisle, and they're very enthusiastic about the future of our province. So very glad to have those members.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, appreciate the time. I appreciate the time from the Whip, Mr. Speaker. I should also mention how appreciative I am on this side of the House and that northwest side of the House, the non-NDP members. Ever since I've been here, this is a family-friendly organization over here. And the Whip has been flexible with me in terms of me getting to practice as well, and so that is so much appreciated. Thank you very much.

So anyway, appreciate the time. I'm going to be supporting the Throne Speech. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

**Ms. Bowes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to offer my reply to the government's Speech from the Throne. I'd like to begin, as is customary and rightly so, to offer my thanks to a few important people before I begin with my reply.

I want to express my admiration for and thanks to my constituency assistant, Vita Skvairson. Saskatoon University is privileged to have the benefit of Vita's talent and expertise in our office. This summer Vita took a leave of absence to consecutively manage . . . or sorry, I should say back to back manage two campaigns and simultaneously managed to finish off her master's degree to boot. She's a very impressive woman, Mr. Speaker. While she was away, our casual CA, Constance Woloschuk, stepped in and did a wonderful job of looking after our office. I'm so grateful to be able to work with them both.

I would also like to give a special thanks to our caucus staff here in the legislature, all of whom work very hard, always passionately, to ensure our members are supported and prepared to hold this government to account.

I'd like to say thanks to my mom for her support too. Mom tunes in to session most days and will often send her commentary along on the proceedings via text. Every so often she'll throw in "no whispering in class." Or "are you staying on task?" I never imagined I'd have a job where my mom would have the ability to livestream me as I'm working, but here we are.

Most of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my husband, Brian. I could truly not ask for a more supportive partner. Taking on this line of work involves many evenings and weekends away from one's family, as members on both sides well know. And if one doesn't make a conscious effort to strike a balance with the needs of their loved ones, then it can cause some strain. I've tried my best to strike that balance, Mr. Speaker, throughout this first year as an MLA, but it's not something I always succeed at. And I certainly don't take for granted the patience, adaptability, and understanding that my husband shows every day.

Mr. Speaker, this last year has often felt like a whirlwind and there's certainly been some steep learning curves. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the constituents of Saskatoon University for being patient with me as I learn this new role and, of course, for allowing me the honour of serving them.

[12:15]

Turning now to the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, notably absent from the Throne Speech was any true or meaningful recognition of the immense hardship that Saskatchewan people have borne, particularly during this most recent wave of the pandemic. While the pandemic was referred to in the Throne Speech as the government's most important and immediate task, you certainly wouldn't know it given the lack of any new measures being proposed.

There was brief mention in the Throne Speech of the significant stress on our health care system imposed by the fourth wave, yet there was not even the slightest recognition of why the stress on our health care system is so great. Mr. Speaker, there was not

even a hint of contrition for this government's starring role in the breakdown of our health care system. Of course one can see why this government was so desperately attempting to gloss over the implications of their incredible mishandling of this fourth wave.

Mr. Speaker, two days before the Speech from the Throne, this government offered Saskatchewan's business community a curated preview of what could be expected in their Throne Speech, delivered in an invite-only luncheon. The Premier waxed on and on with many glowing announcements. His state-of-the-province address sure sounded rosy, Mr. Speaker, but the reality is that most Saskatchewan people are mourning the true state of our province today.

Let's spend a bit of time taking a hard look at the true state of our province. I'll begin by turning to the Premier's Twitter remarks on May 14th, "The good news is - Saskatchewan won't be following the federal plan. We have our own made-in-SK plan - a Re-Opening Roadmap based on high levels of vaccinations."

Then, Mr. Speaker, in an arrogant forewarning of what was to come, the Premier asserted, ". . . we won't be having a Trudeau summer here. We're going to have a great Saskatchewan summer."

And then came July 11th, when the Premier turned a blind eye to modelling from June that we now know predicted the outcome of this fourth wave with striking accuracy. He threw all caution to the wind and announced that our province would be the first province in Canada to lift all remaining public health measures, despite us having the lowest vaccination rates in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, then he decided to don his most dashing golf attire and spend the summer teeing off with his corporate donors. Nothing was going to stand in the way of this Premier's "great Saskatchewan summer." Not long after, in August, Saskatchewan's medical health officers wrote to this government calling for indoor masking, increased testing, and contact tracing — all reasonable and expert-backed requests. Yet this government once again turned a blind eye.

The cases climbed further and further, Mr. Speaker, and hospitalizations rose dramatically. Health care professionals began taking to social media in growing numbers to stridently advocate for the needs of Saskatchewan people. And by September, the Premier was trying to blame northern Indigenous communities for low vaccination rates, an ignorant and reckless attempt at deflection from a government desperate to change the channel on their failure to lead.

In October, Saskatchewan's medical health officers again wrote to this government asking for indoor gathering limits and criticizing the government for ignoring their first letter from August. Again this reasonable and expert-backed request was ignored by a government more focused on their upcoming in-person political convention.

Mr. Speaker, last month was the deadliest month of the entire pandemic — 156 people lost their lives in Saskatchewan. Here we are starting off a new month not any better. In Saskatchewan, 11 people have lost their lives in the last three days since the start of November. Eleven people gone too soon and all because they



lived in a province with a government unwilling to protect them. What could these people have gone on to do in their lives had they not been tragically cut short, Mr. Speaker? How many more moments of joy and love could they have shared with those who cared for them?

The toll this has taken, the heartache and suffering caused by this government's wilful inaction is unpardonable. The total death toll in Saskatchewan due to COVID is now 862 people. Mr. Speaker, 862 people, the highest death rate currently in all of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I want to know how many lives are acceptable to this Premier to lose. How many more will it be?

And of course, Mr. Speaker, it's not only the lives that have been lost, it is the pain, the discomfort, the diminished quality of life that is borne by those who will now live with long COVID, those who are left waiting for delayed therapies, cancer treatments, surgeries, life-saving organ transplants. And the longer they have to wait, the harder the road to recovery they will face, the longer they will be away from work, the less money in their pocket, further set back from their dreams, their future, their quality of life. I'd like to know, is this what the government thinks living with COVID should look like?

Mr. Speaker, this government's refusal to accept assistance from the federal government in a timely manner has still not been explained, no rationale whatsoever given. And doctors and citizens learned in the media that this government was actively requesting help from American states before turning to our own federal government to request help right here at home in Canada. Ultimately the Premier was forced to give in and permit Trudeau to deploy Canadian Armed Forces to Saskatchewan. ICUs have been overflowing to such an extent that COVID patients are being flown across the country to ICUs in Ontario. That's the true state of the province, Mr. Speaker.

Let us be clear, Mr. Speaker, this crisis is of the government's making. This government's level of negligence in preventing sickness and death from COVID is criminal. The arrogance and indifference of this government to the suffering of our people is unparalleled in Saskatchewan history. And we have seen no transparency or accountability from this government during the fourth wave of the pandemic at all.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many actions this government could have taken to ease the burden that the people of this province are bearing. Stick it to COVID was a one-trick pony response from a lazy, entitled government afraid and unwilling to do the hard work, the duty of government commands from its leaders.

And as if this all wasn't enough, Mr. Speaker, it is sickening that not one single Sask Party MLA has spoken up and demanded that their government act to protect their constituents. I ask those members to find their voices and speak up. Do what you were sent to this Assembly to do — to act and advocate in the best interests of your constituents.

Mr. Speaker, we often hear this Premier and the members opposite extending thanks to our health care workers. Well burnt-out health care workers are through with the hollow thanks that they're getting from the members opposite. What they want and what they deserve is the government's respect and tangible action. Without this, all their thanks and platitudes are rendered

meaningless and are frankly offensive.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that this government has refused to protect the people of Saskatchewan. They have minimized the gravity of the fourth wave in the desperate hope that the public will not notice their failure to act. The human cost of this government's inaction is incalculable. We know that the financial cost is also staggering.

Sadly, for so many Saskatchewan people the future remains grim under this government's leadership. Not only are we grappling with a fourth wave that is simply unrivalled in Canada, on top of that this government leaves us with tent cities for the homeless, a poverty minimum wage, no pay equity for women, no paid sick leave for workers in the middle of a pandemic, unaffordable tuition, and complete inaction on the climate emergency.

Mr. Speaker, what this Throne Speech shows is a tired, old government with an ideological lens fine-tuned to punish everyday people while enriching their friends. And their approach hasn't changed. For 14 years we've seen the same approach. Their rich friends get richer and the poor get poorer. The names on the cabinet doors change and the name of the Premier's office changes, but their approach doesn't. For 14 years we've had a government that is so focused on themselves, focused on funnelling wealth to the people who are already most comfortable, to their corporate friends, and out-of-province donors. For shame.

Mr. Speaker, the sad reality is corporate pandering by this government always takes precedence over the well-being of the people. Now during a public health crisis the suffering and the loss of life is simply impossible to ignore. People will not be quick to forget how this government, when faced with a crisis, made the conscious decision to put politics before the lives of Saskatchewan people.

For all these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I will not be supporting the government's Speech from the Throne. I will instead be supporting the amendment moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview and seconded by the member for Regina Douglas Park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Dennis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And before I get started I'd like to give a quick shout-out to my buddy Doug and wish him well. I know he's watching today, and he's probably one of the very few that are watching.

Hon. members, ladies and gentlemen, and the people of Saskatchewan, it's truly an honour to stand here today as a representative of our province and the Boston Bruins in support of the Throne Speech. In a time of global turmoil and change, maintaining and strengthening relations between both the people and their representative must be a high priority for us. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly and a representative for Canora-Pelly constituency, I'd like to thank you. I would like to thank my constituents for showing faith in me to lead the people of Saskatchewan. We realize that there's many issues, and your opinions and concerns are recognized as a high priority. And I am here to work collaboratively with you to ensure that we have a system that treats everyone fairly while putting people first.

Wednesday's Throne Speech laid out a plan for our province to continue a better Saskatchewan moving forward in the years ahead. We want to build a stronger, safer, healthier, better-educated, and more independent Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to . . . I have a few thank yous to my office workers and staff, Gladys and Jessica Kwas, who just recently started with me. And she's probably listening to this if she didn't fall asleep by now. Anyway also I'd like to thank my new executive. We just had a meeting and I've got a new president, Kris Cherewyk; vice-president, Syl Hrynkiw; secretary, Jess Kwas; and Daryl Stevenson, my treasurer. And I've got about a dozen executive directors that I'd like to thank too as well for stepping up and helping me in my constituency.

I'd also like to thank the constituents who over the last five years I've been serving, and thank them over the last fall for electing me back in. And I try and represent them the best I can, and I'm really humble to serve the community of Canora-Pelly. I also would like to give a special thanks to my colleagues who I've been around for five years. I've got some newbies. And you know, we've got a great team here, and I've become best friends with a lot of you. And I really, I really, I appreciate that.

Also I'd like to thank the Premier for his leadership through some very, very tough times — tough times that nobody wants. And things have been tough all around. And I'm very optimistic that good times are ahead, and I look forward to us having some good times.

I'd also like to have a shout-out to my children who support me — my daughter Jasmine, who three months ago brought me another grandson. So that gives me three boys: Lewis, Oliver, and Henrick, little Henrick. So great. Oliver's . . . he had the unfortunate . . . he's the middle son and grandson. And he looks like me and acts like me, so for that I apologize to my daughter. And Shane, I'd like to also thank Shane for, you know, bringing me three great grandsons. My daughter Jade . . . Well on the grandsons and stuff like that, you know, I adore them and I love them so much. And really I've probably grown up and found out how much joy they are. I wish I would have given the time to my kids, but I was a little busy growing up and probably didn't . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Still growing up.

**Mr. Dennis:** — Yeah, still trying to grow up. Yeah, exactly. But you know, my kids, I spent time with them, but I wish I would have spent a little more time with them as well. My daughter Jade and her partner Jason, they just bought a house in White City. They just finished renovating one in Regina here and now they're buying one. I was out there and it's beautiful. It's about three-quarter acre there. I'm sure we'll have a lot of football and barbeque in the backyard there. So it was great.

[12:30]

Also my son Carson, who's working at the golf course in Melville and in the winter time he makes curling ice. I still have the enjoyment of curling with him too, as well. He comes and curls with me in Canora and I curl with him in Melville. Like I said, I still haven't grown up. We have a little bit of fun together. And this year we started our senior hockey team in Canora after a 10-year hiatus. I must have been doing something right because

he asked me to coach again after a few years of retirement and I got all of them back, including my son. And I really look forward to the season starting up next weekend.

Most importantly I'd like to thank my wife, Lorri, who retired just . . . She was a nurse practitioner and she retired just before . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I already thanked you guys on that side, friends. My wife, Lorri, she retired just before the pandemic. She was a nurse practitioner and boy, she got out. You know, I mean times are really trying and burnt-out . . . And you know, the health care profession is strained and it was strained before this pandemic, so I can only imagine what these people are feeling like. But I lived every day with a health worker so I really appreciate the work that they do.

Mr. Speaker, today we're dealing with a pandemic and a fourth wave that has put a strain on our health care system in Saskatchewan and all across Canada. I'd like to thank everyone involved in health care for their dedication and their sacrifice. Also my heart goes out to the families that were directly affected and to the families that lost families and friends. It's difficult times and I see it turning around and, you know, our numbers are going down and hopefully we get our vaccines and we can get through this.

Mr. Speaker, our government has invested more than half a billion dollars this year to battle COVID-19. We will continue to provide testing on equipment and vaccinations. On October 1st we implemented a proof-of-vaccination system for various businesses and establishments. This is put in place in hopes of getting our COVID numbers down, and it looks like they are coming down. We need more people vaccinated and this is a way to end our pandemic, hopefully. We are hoping to expand our program through booster shots and also hopefully getting approval soon so that we can get our younger children vaccinated.

Mr. Speaker, recently we implemented the provincial emergency operations centre in order to better coordinate the pandemic response between the government ministries and agencies. Also this gives more support and allows our health care workers to focus on improved care for the patients.

Mr. Speaker, although this pandemic has been a major focus in health care, there has been other health priorities taking around the province. We have a new CT scanner in Melfort, \$2.25 million, which . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Never get sick of hearing that.

**Mr. Dennis:** — Yes. Which makes my member next to me very happy and the people around. It will reduce their travel and their wait times in that area, so kudos.

Mr. Speaker, we've also funded covering for Trikafta, a drug for cystic fibrosis patients and support of a new oncology drug program for the Cancer Agency, which is good news.

Mr. Speaker, we'd also continue to invest in health care around the province. We plan for a new hospital in P.A. and Weyburn; also long-term facilities in Grenfell, and La Ronge. And we're also looking to replace facilities in Watson and Estevan. And also it has been approved for a new hospital in Yorkton in the last

budget. And it's going to serve my constituency and central east as a regional hospital. And we look forward to that too as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are starting to construct a few new care centres in Regina and Saskatoon. These centres will help reduce the wait times in emergency and help care for the increasing mental health and addictions that are needed in our bigger cities. Mr. Speaker, mental health and addictions are an increasing concern, and we will continue to invest and increase to help these services. We've added 10 to 20 beds in Swift Current and Estevan. These are more intense beds and allow for longer stays for our patients. There will also be increased treatment options over the next three years, and we'll be looking at increasing some much-needed beds from 450 to 600 beds. And that's great news.

Mr. Speaker, our government will be looking at three new community buses to help out with supports and delivery of harm reduction supplies. There will also be added support for addictions and new urgent care centres, and these will be built in Regina and Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, education in Saskatchewan has been quite challenging over the last year and a half with this pandemic. We have invested over \$150 million to help the children stay safe in our schools. And I'd like to thank the teachers, the teacher assistants, administrators, support staff for all their dedication and hard work through this pandemic. They've done an excellent job. You know, they have done a fantastic job with the online teaching program as well as keeping our children well educated and safe during these trying times.

Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to invest in more schools in Saskatchewan. There's 16 more schools that are currently under construction: Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Carrot River, La Loche, Blaine Lake, Lanigan, and more recently, the Legacy Park Elementary School which has 51 new child care spaces located in Weyburn.

Since 2007 our government has increased child care spaces from 9,300 to over 16,000, which is a 77 per cent increase. The new \$1.1 billion child care deal with the federal government will allow us to decrease fees next year by 50 per cent, and by '24-26 to \$10 a day, which will be great for these young families and raising kids, put more money in their pockets. We will have increased wages for our child care workers by \$3 an hour.

Mr. Speaker, we'll be creating a new funding pool to help teachers with larger classes. Also we'll be funding a new parent-teacher house visit pilot project, which is welcomed and I think it's a great thing here. That will involve approximately 400 students with teachers and their families. Nice to get the families involved in these things, in raising our children.

We will also launch a Take a Break program encouraging kids to use social media in a better, healthier way.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is one of the largest industries in my constituency, and this year was a tough year for farmers in Saskatchewan. This year's drought has reduced exports as we suffered the worst year for crops in decades. We are, though, confident that the ag sector will bounce back. And we'll move forward on our growth plan, which includes crop production up to 45 million metric tons, livestock sales up to 3 billion, ag food

exports up to 20 billion, and value-added ag products up to 10 billion.

Mr. Speaker, we have supported the ag producers through drought by providing \$119 million to livestock producers through the AgRecovery program to help them out with their herds. We've also increased the 2020 AgriStability interim benefit payment from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. Also Sask Crop Insurance provided relief for the cereal and pulse crops to put it into feed.

Our government tripled the funding to build dugouts, wells, and pipelines through farms and the ranch water infrastructure program. Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to growing agriculture over the next decade, and we're starting to develop a major irrigation project at Lake Diefenbaker. This will help diversify production, expand our value-added processing, and improve the water security for the people of Saskatchewan and help out with the industries. This project will increase our GDP for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, our government has invested 3.2 million for a new engineering biology centre at the Global Institute in Saskatoon. We will continue to invest in the ag research and development in Saskatchewan, and this year we have committed more than \$30 million for various projects and research.

Mr. Speaker, our government is committed to making our communities safer. I was part of the MLAs' group a few years ago that toured around the province. We had a great team, and we listened to various groups as we went around the province and listened to leaders about, you know, what the issues were on the increasing crime around our province. And we put together a report with some recommendations, Mr. Speaker, and I'm glad to see over the last few years that we've been implementing some. Mr. Speaker, we implemented changes like police in cruise teams as well as crime reduction teams. We've also started a protection and response team to help out with dealing with rural crime, which is a real problem.

This has helped us. This has helped, but we continue to do more. And I'm happy to see that we have committed to 60 new police positions and two civilian positions to create a new provincial protection service unit. This will bring the COs [conservation officer], the Highway Patrol officers, Provincial Capital Commission safety officers, SCAN [safer communities and neighbourhoods] officers, and deputy sheriffs working under one umbrella. This group will work with more than 325 officers.

Mr. Speaker, we'll be forming a Saskatchewan traffic response team to target serious problems that we are having on drugs and weapons in our province. They will also be looking for, going after human trafficking as well. Mr. Speaker, our government has added 16 police officers to create new crime reduction teams in Meadow Lake, La Ronge, Lloydminster, and Moose Jaw. This will add to the five teams that are already running in the province.

Mr. Speaker, in 2019 we introduced an amendment to our province's trespass laws that will shift the responsibility from landowners to those who want to access the property. This will increase the fines and help landowners seek damages. That has been a problem over the last few years, especially in my area out in rural Saskatchewan and the farms. And I know the farmers will

be happy in my constituency. They'll be a lot happier.

Mr. Speaker, we'll also be amending the enforcement maintenance order to help out, speed up the collection on child and spousal payments due as well.

Mr. Speaker, our province continues to build our infrastructure, which is needed as our province grows. Economic growth makes life better for the people in Saskatchewan. Since 2007 we've invested 37 billion through our growth plan, and over the next . . . to 2030, we look at investing another \$30 billion to help out our province, build our province. Mr. Speaker, this will allow us to continue to build more roads, hospitals, schools, power plants, communication infrastructure, water and irrigation projects.

Mr. Speaker, we had a terrific spring, summer, and fall, and we were allowed to complete a lot of projects this year. This year alone we invested 830 million into highways and airports with the commitment of another \$520 million to capital projects. Work has been done finishing passing lanes throughout the province and, in my area, finishing passing lanes on Highway 9 north of Canora and up to Melville as well. And I was excited to see the great job they did going through Canora as part of the highway connector program, and that was done well. That was actually something that I signed way back in 2015, when I was the mayor of Canora. I'm just glad to see it's done, and they did a great job going through Canora.

I was also proud to be part of a ribbon cutting last week on Highway 229. It's going to Good Spirit Lake and it's a great project. They widened the road and paved it, and I've had a lot of good comments. And you know, over the years of travelling on that road, it's narrower, and now the trailers are getting bigger and the trucks are getting bigger, and travelling that road will be just such a treat for all the people going there.

[12:45]

And you know, about a month ago I was out with a couple of colleagues, and we toured the provincial park, and they did about \$3 million upgrades in that park. And it's just amazing. They did a great job in finishing it up with the paving right through the park. And just seeing over the past few years, you know, people going to the park and filling it up and just the investments we've made in the parks right across the province, it's just great to see the people of Saskatchewan seeing the beauty in our province and utilizing these provincial parks.

Mr. Speaker, we made a priority to invest and improve communications network throughout the province. SaskTel has constructed approximately 200 new cell towers to get wireless coverage to rural communities and our provincial parks. We still have more work to do. We've also committed \$100 million to expand the fibre in rural Saskatchewan, and our government's committed to work with businesses and private sectors to install more fibre and get rural connectivity to where it should be over the next few years here. It's important for our province.

Mr. Speaker, this year SaskPower committed a record \$272 million to repair and replace poles, lines, and infrastructure. I got to see them replace the poles and the lines that went from Canora to Preeceville, including going around Crystal Lake and doing some upgrades there too as well.

Mr. Speaker, over the next few years, we will look at small modular reactors, SMRs. They're cheaper to build, and you know, with the help and challenges we have with climate change and clean power, this is something that we need to do in the future. And we're working with other provinces in our country, and we've signed a memorandum with them. And we look forward to developing a cleaner source of energy.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 18 months, it has been trying for this pandemic, and we're experiencing strong recovery economically in Saskatchewan. This has driven entrepreneurs and workers, believing in Saskatchewan. I was at an event last night, you know, announcement with Viterra just north of Regina here.

And it's exciting times. In the last few months we've had over \$10 billion talked about: new potash mines; three new canola plants; a major expansion in Yorkton, and that's my area and I look forward to it. We're getting the wheat straw pulp factory, Canada's first; a new urea fertilizer plant; a new oriented straw board mill; expanded and upgrades to saw mills up in the P.A. area; and a new seed manufacturing plant.

These are all exciting announcements and I look forward to it. And you know, I mean this is just the tip of it. And I think we're going to just . . . You know, people around the world are looking at us, and they want to invest in our country and our province. So look forward to the future here. It looks bright.

The Brandt Group is hiring another 1,000 workers and a lot of them have been working or will be working right here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we have more First Nations and Métis working in Saskatchewan than ever before. We'll further strengthen this by creating Saskatchewan Indigenous investments in resource developments that will provide \$75 million in financing for future projects and stuff like that.

We're increasing our trade and export, leading the world in carbon capture, investing in technology which is creating jobs and revenues. We've invested \$15 million in VIDO at the U of S, a leading job for infectious disease not only in Canada, but across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say that the last 18 months have been challenging for our health care, and I look forward to Saskatchewan moving forward. We got a lot of things happening and it's great. And I think over the next few years, we're going to work towards our growth plan and things are going to look good.

Mr. Speaker, just in closing it's been interesting sitting on this side of the House here through the pandemic. I've got to know some of the opposition members a little better on this side, especially the Opposition Leader, you know. But he doesn't seem to like me very much. I don't know why. But I think on this side, you know, with my colleagues on this side, we've brought a lot of positivity on this side. We're kind of like a car battery — we're positive on this side, and there's the negative. So I've enjoyed being on this side, but not very long, hopefully.

Anyway with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll be supporting the motion put forward by the member from P.A. Northcote and seconded by the minister . . . member of Arm River — almost called him a minister already — and will not be supporting the amendment.

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

**Mr. Bonk:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think I'll start by getting some of the formalities out of the way. And that is that I will support the motion put forward by the member from Prince Albert Northcote, seconded by the member from Arm River, and not the amendment put forward by the member from Eastview, for too many reasons to mention.

First I'd like to thank and take a moment to reflect on and recognize all the people in Saskatchewan who the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted. There's people that have lost loved ones, people who currently have friends and family in care, and those whose lives and livelihood have been impacted by the current situation.

I also want to take a moment and recognize and be grateful to the sacrifices made by all people throughout Saskatchewan during this pandemic. I particularly want to recognize all the workers, the front-line workers in our health care sectors — the doctors, nurses, paramedics — who day in and day out have worked tirelessly to provide care for those who need it the most.

I'd also like to take this time to thank our Premier. He's been unflappable through this. The amount of pressure that he has to endure every day is something that we all need to take our hats off to. He's done an amazing job.

I'd also like to take time to thank the Minister of Health. It's been unprecedented times. And he's done an amazing job and just supported all the staff and the people in the SHA through this whole thing, as well as looking out for the interests of all Saskatchewan people.

I'd also like to thank the Minister of Rural and Remote Health. I think he's the best Minister of Rural and Remote Health that we have right now, and I would like to thank him so much for all the good work he does. I appreciate working with him. I hope that he remembers that we need to do a lot more work together in my constituency in the very near future. Not that that affects how much I appreciate him and think he's the best minister that we have right now in that particular portfolio.

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised issues and caused issues in Saskatchewan and across Canada and throughout the world. It has been something that we have tried to manage and provide the best policies and programs and to put forward the best options that we have. But as we're all aware, it bobs and weaves and continues to challenge governments across Canada.

Concerning COVID, our government has learned and adapted. We recently put in place the provincial emergency operations centre to serve as a joint command centre to better coordinate the pandemic response between government ministries and agencies, ensure that the right resources are in the right place at the right time, and provide administrative and organizational support so health care workers can focus on delivering the best possible care for their patients. We've made vaccinations available to all those who choose to get vaccinated, and we've put measures in place to curtail and stop the spread. We've done this by balancing our approach and respecting people's choices.

To ensure that the pandemic doesn't beat us, the Throne Speech and the Saskatchewan growth plan look to the future, putting in place the plans and policies to ensure that the province has infrastructure, jobs, and the economy that we will need once this pandemic is over.

In 2007, in his acceptance speech, the former premier Brad Wall said, hope beats fear. This Throne Speech reflects that tradition. While our government recognizes the extraordinary situation that COVID has put us in and the challenges we face as a province, and people do, due to it, the Throne Speech and the government agenda for the next year are focused on the future.

As a province, we have faced numerous challenges. And we could have thrown up our hands and said, you win; we surrender. But it's not something we do in Saskatchewan. We buckle down. We put our shoulders to the wheel. We rise above our challenges and come out stronger, wiser, and more prepared and better equipped to face the challenges ahead. To quote the Throne Speech:

... we live in a big-hearted province where no problem is insurmountable, where no challenge can't be overcome, where optimism and hope prevail over fear and pessimism ...

Our goal in this session, and in the years ahead, is to build a better Saskatchewan.

A stronger Saskatchewan.

A safer Saskatchewan.

A healthier Saskatchewan.

A better educated Saskatchewan.

And a more independent Saskatchewan.

This Throne Speech is about fundamentals, about making sure that we have the supports and infrastructure, both physically and mentally, and are there to support the people of Saskatchewan through our current predicament and into the future. Any form of infrastructure investment usually adds an economic multiplier of at least 3X. When it comes to investing in our people, I'm not sure we can even quantify the return on that investment. It's one of the smartest investments we can ever make.

This Throne Speech and our programs and policies that we put forward will ensure that the COVID challenge of this province doesn't beat us. There is a saying that goes, "When the things get tough, the tough get going." The Cambridge dictionary implies that this is said to emphasize that strong people act when conditions become difficult. We've acted, Mr. Speaker, and this Throne Speech is our call to action. Our government's priority is to protect people, businesses by investing in needed support, services, and programs. By building and investing in needed projects, our government will help keep Saskatchewan strong.

This Throne Speech speaks to the resiliency of the Saskatchewan people. While it would be too easy to dwell on the bad right now and how the sky is falling, that is not the way of our people. They know that we will get through this and come out stronger because

of what we've had to endure. This government is focused on the economy because people of all races, cultures, and heritage, and sexes have a job, a place to work, and will better their situation.

This government is focused on export markets like Japan, India, Singapore, China, and soon to be London, Dubai, Mexico City, and Ho Chi Minh City, so that we will diversify our markets and continue to support the province's economic recovery. This government is focused on sustainability so that our children, our children's children, and their children have a place to grow and prosper.

And our agriculture sector is an excellent example of that. We can produce some of the best products that the world needs, and do it sustainably. Our farmers and cattle producers understand that they are stewards of the land and need to manage their operations in an environmentally respectful way.

Canada needs to stay globally competitive. Canadian agriculture leads the world in new and innovative products that have transformed the sector. Our enterprising farmers and producers grow and raise some of the highest quality food on our planet. Yet our farmers and ranchers experience enormous pressure to increase production while being responsive to the desire for climate action and broader social licence concerns.

This Throne Speech supports our agriculture producers. It has supported our cattle producers in a time of unprecedented drought. When many ranchers were facing some very difficult options, our government stepped in, stepped up, and supported the livestock industry. The situation was dire. Ranchers and cattle producers were faced with the very real possibility of selling their breeding stock.

In many cases, including mine, Mr. Speaker, the genetics that have been selected, improved, and tailored to a particular operation have taken generations. Not only were we at the risk of losing some of the very finest breeding stock genetics in the world, we were at risk of losing the factory. Annual livestock receipts in Saskatchewan are significant. This is a sector that needs our support and investment, and our government did just that when they needed it most.

Another aspect of Saskatchewan's ranching industry that doesn't get enough attention is the world-leading environmental stewardship that our ranchers employ. We are not talking about reducing our carbon footprint. We've moved well past that. We're talking about regenerative agriculture. Saskatchewan's grasslands have co-evolved over millennia with large herds of migrating herbivores. The constant cycle of consuming and trampling a portion of the grass . . .

**The Speaker:** — It now being the hour of adjournment, this House now stands adjourned until Monday, November 8th at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:00.]



# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

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

**Hon. Fred Bradshaw**  
Minister of Highways  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

**Hon. Lori Carr**  
Minister of Social Services

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Education

**Hon. Bronwyn Eyre**  
Minister of Energy and Resources

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Finance

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of Trade and Export Development  
Minister of Immigration and Career Training  
Minister Responsible for Innovation  
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

**Hon. Everett Hindley**  
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,  
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health

**Hon. Warren Kaeding**  
Minister of Environment

**Hon. Gene Makowsky**  
Minister of Advanced Education

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

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
Minister of Government Relations  
Minister Responsible for First Nations,  
Métis and Northern Affairs  
Minister Responsible for the  
Provincial Capital Commission

**Hon. Paul Merriman**  
Minister of Health

**Hon. Don Morgan**  
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety  
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation  
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Government Insurance  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Power Corporation  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Telecommunications  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Water Corporation  
Minister Responsible for the  
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor  
and Gaming Authority  
Minister Responsible for The Global  
Transportation Hub Authority

**Hon. Laura Ross**  
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

**Hon. Gordon Wyant**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General