



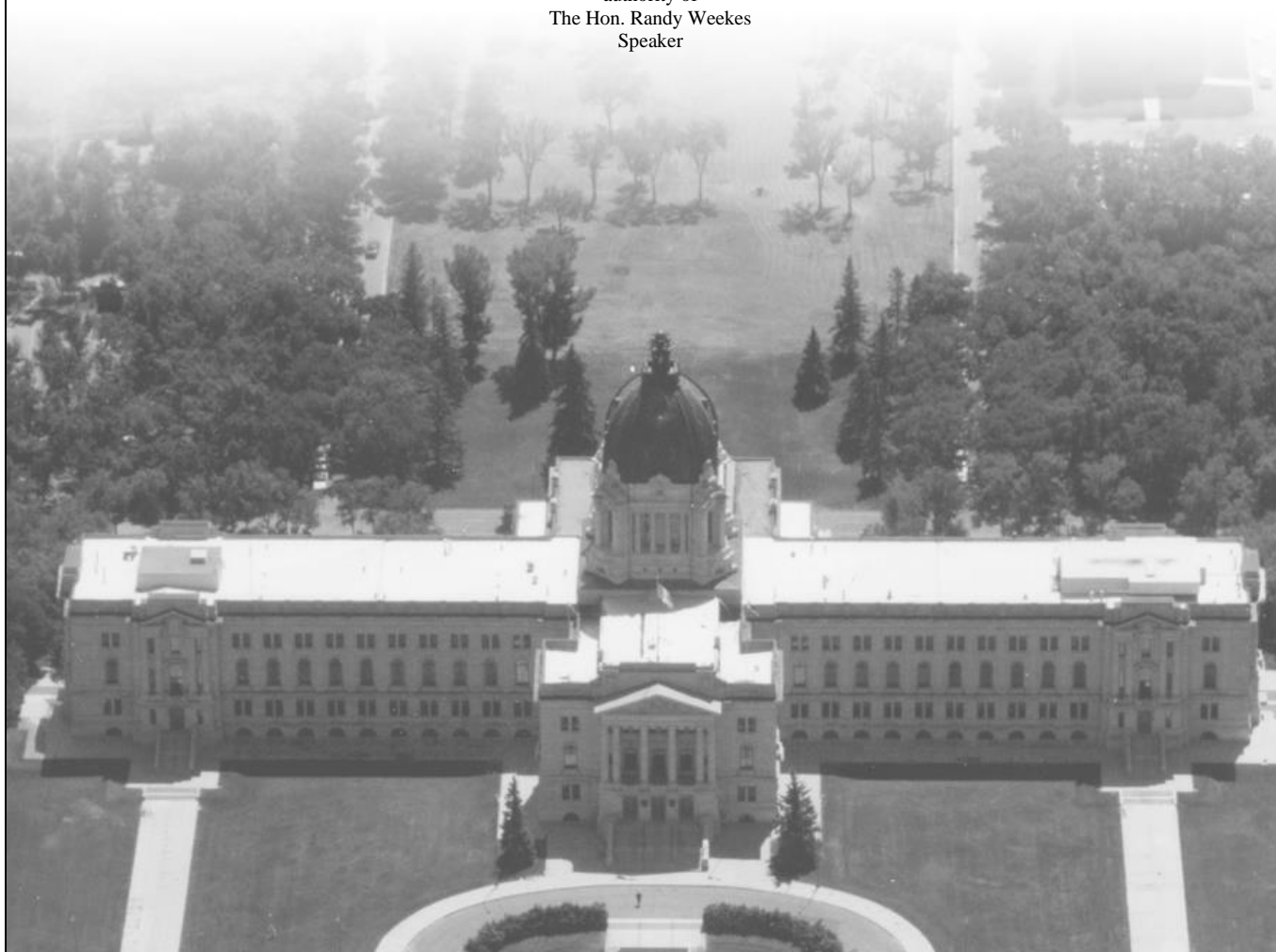
SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(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

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)
Bradshaw, Hon. Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)
Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
Cockrill, Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)
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Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)
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Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)
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Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)
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Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)

Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
McLeod, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12; Independent (Ind.) — 1

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Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

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CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Eyre	1811
Ritchie	1811
Young, A.	1811
Young, C.	1812
Morgan	1812

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Wotherspoon	1812
Ritchie	1812
Beck	1813

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Miller Comprehensive High School Students Support Mental Health Awareness	
Sarauer	1813
Provision of Virtual Health Care	
Fiaz	1813
African-Canadian/Black History Month	
Wotherspoon	1813
Support for Young Moose Jaw Resident	
McLeod	1814
Radiothon Raises Funds for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit	
Ottobreit	1814
Wholesale Trade Numbers Show Growth in Saskatchewan	
Hargrave	1814
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Annual Convention	
Stewart	1815

QUESTION PERIOD

Support for Rural Saskatchewan	
Meili	1815
Moe	1815
Automobile Insurance Rates	
Young, A.	1816
Morgan	1817
Accelerated Site-Closure Program	
Ritchie	1818
Eyre	1818
Provision of Health Care	
Mowat	1818
Merriman	1819
Support for Survivors of Interpersonal Violence	
Sarauer	1819
Wyant	1819

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies	
Dennis	1819
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice	
Docherty	1820

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 50 — <i>The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021</i>	
Morgan	1819
Bill No. 52 — <i>The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021</i>	
Morgan	1820
Bill No. 49 — <i>The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021</i>	
Morgan	1820
Bill No. 56 — <i>The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine</i>	
Wyant	1821
Bill No. 57 — <i>The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021</i>	
Wyant	1821
Bill No. 58 — <i>The Securities Amendment Act, 2021</i>	
Wyant	1821
Bill No. 59 — <i>The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur les juges de paix</i>	
Wyant	1822

MOTION UNDER RULE 61

Action to End Canadian Pacific Railway Labour Dispute	
Moe.....	1822
Negotiation to Resolve Canadian Pacific Railway Labour Dispute	
Wotherspoon	1823
Moe.....	1824
Meili	1827
Marit	1828
Bradshaw	1829
Recorded Division (amendment)	1830
Recorded Division (main motion).....	1831

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

Support for Pipelines and Energy Security	
Ottenbreit	1831
Young, A.	1834
Harrison, D.....	1835
Wotherspoon	1836
Domotor	1837

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery, I'd like to welcome from Mosaic, Bruce Bodine, senior vice-president for North America; Sarah Fedorchuk, vice-president, government and public affairs for North America; Jessica Theriault, director of regulatory affairs, North America; and Tyler Hopson, government and stakeholder relations manager.

Mr. Speaker, potash is a critical mineral in every sense for Saskatchewan's economy. Of course it's an economic definer, and now more than ever it's also critical in the geopolitical sense, critical to resource security and independence. At every opportunity we promote the regulatory stability for resources in Saskatchewan, as well as their environmental footprint, their innovation, their record.

Potash operations in Saskatchewan emit 50 per cent fewer emissions than operations in Belarus, for example, or Russia, whose labour or environmental standards are also very different. And we've been saying that for years, Mr. Speaker. Now the world is taking notice.

Mosaic is behind a campaign in Saskatchewan to dig deeper on mining. And we should get past the clichés and celebrate all that mining is achieving in this province, the jobs it's creating and the role of companies such as Mosaic. We're proud that Saskatchewan is ranked number one for mining investment in the country and number one for its regulatory environment. That's why we're driving the strong Sustainable Saskatchewan brand. Mosaic is a key part of that, a key part of the economic fabric of this province. Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in welcoming our guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the member opposite in welcoming to their gallery the members from Mosaic: Bruce, Sarah, Jessica, and Tyler. I was very pleased and honoured to meet with members from Mosaic earlier this week and talk about the challenges and opportunities facing the sector at this critical time. Of course we all know that

potash in the province here is an integral, important part of our economy, providing fertilizer to clients and customers around the globe, and we value and support the work that they do here in the province. I hope everyone will join me in welcoming them to their gallery. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Leave for another extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, also in the west gallery, I'd like to welcome Blair Cummins. Blair is the reeve for the RM [rural municipality] of Blucher No. 343 in my constituency. Prior to being elected reeve in 2020, he served as a councillor for almost 28 years. He also sits on the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail board and several other committees representing rural Saskatchewan.

With him is Francis Boehm who's councillor for division 6 and has been on council since 1991. Robin Wilson is also there, who was elected councillor for division 5 in 2020. They're in town, of course, to represent the RM of Blucher, Mr. Speaker, at this year's SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention.

The RM of Blucher is home to about 2,000 residents and has a robust economy with operations including the Cargill Clavet facility, the Nutrien Patience Lake and Allan potash mines, Nutrien Clavet fertilizer depot, the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, and a number of other commercial and agricultural developments that are key to the province, Mr. Speaker. Please join me in welcoming these guests to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request leave for extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister and the member from Saskatoon Nutana in welcoming the good folks from Mosaic to their legislature. Bruce, Sarah, Jessica, Tyler — I know the good work that you do certainly in our resource sector, and in addition to that, the really critical work that Mosaic does in promoting food security and ensuring access to healthy, stable meals for so many children in

our community. I'm speaking of course of the great generosity that you show to many schools every year through the Mosaic challenge, which I believe is currently open . . . or has just closed right now. It's open right now.

The work that you do and the amount that you give back to the communities, especially in such an important area of food security for little kids so that they can learn on full tummies, not hungry tummies, is critical, and I'd like to recognize and thank you for that.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome two very special people, to me, seated in your gallery, my sister-in-law Tanis Roadhouse and my niece, my oldest niece, Isla Eltervoog.

Mr. Speaker, Isla was here this summer with her younger sister Maeve and my daughter running around, looking at the artwork, having an unofficial tour. But I believe this is Tanis's first time back in the building probably since high school maybe.

Mr. Speaker, my sister-in-law Tanis is a proud child of Regina, born and raised here, graduate of Sheldon Collegiate. She started off at the University of Regina but then transferred to Ottawa U where she was an alternate on the junior national water polo team. And since then she has worked extensively with WebMD and is the mother to two magnificent little wildlings, the eldest of which is Isla, my 10-year-old niece in the gallery.

She's a grade 4 student, who as a leap-year baby I believe just celebrated her second official birthday. She is a remarkable speed skater, downhill skier and, most importantly to me, an exceptional big sister and loving and affectionate cousin to her sweet, sweet baby Hara. She's just been so wonderful this week looking after her sick little cousin.

And I am so happy that they're here to join us today to witness democracy in action. And I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming my family to your gallery. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to join with everyone inviting the councillors from the RM of Blucher. I'm from Blucher. I grew up there, and Blair and Robin and Francis and our families all know each other very well, spent many, many hours together. We went to school together at Clavet and graduated from there.

So I want to take this opportunity to also welcome them to their legislature. I know how important rural Saskatchewan is, and the rural life in Saskatchewan, as I grew up on a farm not too far from all of them. So welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the risk of breaking tradition, I have no connections to Blucher whatsoever other than having driven past there on the odd occasion. I would, Mr. Speaker, like to introduce in your gallery Trent Blezy, who worked in this building from 2013 onward for a number of years. He worked in the ministries of Energy and Resources, Education,

Environment, and Central Services, so he appears not to have been particularly good at holding any job for any lengthy period of time.

He has now moved over to work in the Ministry of Energy and Resources as a senior policy analyst. He worked for me for a number of years at Education, very bright, hard-working. At that time he had a different hairdo than he does now and big glasses, and he was mistakenly introduced as my son who looks exactly like Harry Potter, at the time. I'm glad we're now both past that.

He and Laura have two boys, Winston and Oliver, who are with him today. They are touring the building, and he's being a good dad by doing that stuff, and I support what he's doing. So if the members here would welcome them to their legislature, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned citizens once again here today. The other side seems worked up. My petition, of course, is about highways. I know they've heard an awful lot about the sorry state of highways at the SARM convention this week, Mr. Speaker, so I'm probably raising a bit of a sore spot here.

But this petition is particular to Highway 9 between Preeceville and Hudson Bay in the Northeast of our province, such a beautiful and important part of our province. A highway that's simply not in the condition or repair that's adequate to serve the community, serve the farms, serve the businesses, serve the economic interests of the community.

The prayer reads as follows:

Call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately address the inadequate condition of Highway 9 by working with and listening to the concerns of municipalities, residents, and industry.

These petitions today are signed by the good folks of Hudson Bay, Mr. Speaker. I so submit.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for the government to save our swales. The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention the following: the northeast and small swales of Saskatoon provide food and habitat to a number of endangered and declining species and many others not listed as endangered. They are part of our shared natural heritage and include rare fescue, grassland, and high-quality functional wetlands.

Right now this wildlife habitat is at risk from a highway development. I know we heard just a moment ago regarding another petition of crumbling highways. This petition is about

ensuring that highway development is proceeding in a way that's sustainable and protecting swales and other wildlife habitat.

I'll read the prayer as follows:

We, in the prayer, 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; to update *The Wildlife Act* and expand the list of wildlife species protected by the provincial regulation; recognize the swales as an important ecological habitat and designate them as protected areas; [it's a long petition — my apologies] and ensure adequate long-term funding for research, management, and enforcement to protect the swales.

Signed by the residents of Saskatoon. I do so present.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on this government to end their long-standing practice of underfunding our classrooms. Those who have signed the petition wish to draw our attention to a number of points: that the '21-22 provincial budget's failure to fully fund the teachers' contract amounted to a cut; that the Sask Party government's cuts mean falling per-student funding and fewer supports for students as they recover from the very, very impactful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; that after years of underfunding, school divisions have nowhere left to cut that will not impact student learning; that the Sask Party's cuts leave educators and support staff without the resources that they need to support the very important pandemic recovery for children; and that the Sask Party government's failure to invest in our classrooms is having serious consequences today and will continue into the future if we don't get this right.

[10:15]

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the Sask Party government to immediately fix the crisis in our classrooms by providing stable and adequate funding for public education in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed this petition today reside in Regina. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Miller Comprehensive High School Students Support Mental Health Awareness

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize a group of students from Miller Comprehensive High

School who, in their entrepreneurship course, created a company that donates some of its profits to support mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

Logan Curle, one of the founders of Turning Point, stated, "Most suicide survivors describe their experience as almost a turning point in their life. Our hope is that people won't have to go through the worst to realize how valuable their life really is."

The student creators at Turning Point saw how people were struggling with mental health in our communities, especially throughout the pandemic, and hoped that this initiative would create a positive environment and help the broader community.

Turning Point is now selling hoodies to raise money for the Johnny Z Healthy Minds Fund, which is a non-profit organization that works to bring awareness to mental health. Twenty per cent of the company's total profit will be donated to the Johnny Z fund.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Turning Point, all of the students involved, for their leadership and their work in amplifying mental health awareness and for leading by example at such a young age. It's always inspiring to see young minds at work. Thank you.

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

Provision of Virtual Health Care

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, virtual care has become a fundamental part of health care delivery. Since 2020 millions of virtual care medical appointments have been booked in Saskatchewan. Virtual care uses different forms of technology to connect patients and care providers. This can be as simple as a phone conversation. It can also mean video conferencing or medical apps to directly connect patients and providers.

Mr. Speaker, by shifting in-person appointments to these technologies, physicians and other health practitioners were able to continue providing safe access to care during the pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, a province-wide engagement campaign was launched on March 8th to seek feedback from patients and health care providers on their experience with virtual care. Mr. Speaker, the information gathered will be used to develop a long-term prevention strategy around virtual care. The province is also seeking input from health system partners and other participating organizations on their experience using virtual care over the last two years. For more information, residents can visit virtualcare.saskatchewan.ca.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all residents to have a voice in the future of virtual care in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

African-Canadian/Black History Month

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize African-Canadian/Black History Month and all those that brought it to

life throughout our province this February. It was a month of celebrating and recognizing remarkable contributions, past and present, as well as needed dialogue and calls for change.

Saskatchewan's black community is diverse and well established even before Saskatchewan was founded. People of colour have helped build and shape our province ever since. From the early homesteaders near Maidstone, who were escaping racial injustices in the United States, searching for a fairer, more equal place to live, to Dr. Alfred Shadd in Melfort, who was Saskatchewan's black doctor and more, and so many leaders today.

I think of journalist Omayra Issa, a national voice for change. I also think of tireless Carol LaFayette-Boyd that together with black leaders are working to ensure that curriculum affirms black lives and history.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honour of bringing remarks to the Black History Month kickoff event as well as to the end-of-month gala. I ask members to join in offering our thanks to the African Canadian Heritage Museum for all their leadership organizing celebrations, as well as the African Canadian Resource Network, all the cultural associations, MCOS [Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan], Black in Sask for all they do to build Saskatchewan every day and to offer our full commitment to build together towards a future where we all fully and equally benefit from the true strength of Saskatchewan's many peoples. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Young Moose Jaw Resident

Mr. McLeod: — Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago doctors discovered that eight-year-old Beau Beddow of Moose Jaw was suffering severe bilateral papilledema, which is swelling of the nerve that connects the eye to the brain. A subsequent MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] would reveal that young Beau had a large mass at the base of his brain.

And so two days ago, on March 15th, Beau spent the entire day in surgery at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital in Saskatoon to remove that mass. There the skilled doctors and nurses were able to successfully remove 99 per cent of the tumour. It was a long surgery and it will undoubtedly be a long recovery for Beau and his family, Mr. Speaker.

But Beau's classmates, hockey teammates, the community of Moose Jaw, and indeed many more across the province are all cheering for Beau and his family. To show their support, community members have been taking photos and videos of themselves wearing their favourite hockey jerseys and then posting those messages of love and support on social media platforms under the hashtag #BraveBeau. The idea is that young Beau will see these posts when he wakes from surgery, and as he walks the path through recovery they will hopefully brighten his days. Beau's parents, Shane and Cassidy, are also encouraging people who want to show their support to donate blood through the Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would ask all members of the

Assembly to join me in wishing Beau and the Beddow family all the best and a full and speedy recovery.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Radiothon Raises Funds for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to acknowledge Z99 and Rawlco Radio as they raise funds for the neonatal intensive care unit at Regina General Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, having a baby is one of the most enjoyable, exciting, and fun times for a family. Every expecting couple hopes for a happy, healthy baby and a complication-free delivery. However, sometimes complications can arise and new parents are faced with heartbreaking circumstances. That is why it's so important to have the technology and equipment nearby to care for these fragile infants and their mothers.

Mr. Speaker, since the inaugural mission 35 years ago, the Z99 radiothon has raised more than \$10 million. Through the Hospitals of Regina Foundation, these funds have helped build the Rawlco centre for mother baby care and fill it with equipment our medical staff needs to provide innovative, family-centred care for mothers, newborns, and families. Mr. Speaker, approximately 500 babies each year require the support of the NICU [neonatal intensive care unit] to overcome unimaginable hurdles.

The radiothon continues today until 6 o'clock, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the House to take a moment and call or stop by and make a donation. I know the member from Coronation Park will be there after 4 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, thank you to Rawlco Radio, the Hospitals of Regina Foundation, their donors, and the people of our community for their generosity in raising funds for this very important need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Wholesale Trade Numbers Show Growth in Saskatchewan

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the member from Martensville-Warman reported on some of the great news from the latest labour force survey. Today there's more good news to report.

Stats Canada has released wholesale trade numbers for January 2022. Compared to January 2021, the value of wholesale trade in Saskatchewan had the highest increase of any province at 34.7 per cent.

Key sectors that saw strong growth year over year included farm products up 31.6 per cent; motor vehicle and parts and accessories up 17.3 per cent; food and beverage, machinery and equipment, both up 7.6 per cent.

But, Mr. Speaker, our economy was already showing significant strength in 2021. The value of our merchandise exports reached a record high of \$37.2 billion. The value of our agricultural

exports reached a record high of \$17.5 billion. The forestry sector hit a record high of more than \$1.8 billion in sales.

These numbers reflect a very simple fact. Even in the face of a pandemic, Saskatchewan businesses and workers were busy at work doing what they do best, producing world-class products. As we emerge from the pandemic, Mr. Speaker, the future could not be brighter for our great province. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lumsden-Morse.

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Annual Convention

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if I can adequately express how good it was to see 1,000-plus SARM delegates in person yesterday, Mr. Speaker. SARM was one of the last large events this province saw prior to the pandemic, and to see those reeves and councillors come back together, while it may not have been as raucous as a Rider game, it was another great reminder of life moving forward in this province.

Agriculture is the heart of this province, Mr. Speaker, and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities has been key in advocating for farms and farm families. The opportunity to engage face to face on agriculture, highways, environment, health care, and governance is something that every member of this government appreciates deeply.

I also want to thank SARM leadership and delegates for making their voices known on the impending rail services disruption. Over 800 delegates signed a petition that we will be presenting to the federal government asking them to intervene and ensure that rail service continues uninterrupted. But despite that, Mr. Speaker, there was a lot of optimism in that room yesterday. The opportunities ahead for rural Saskatchewan are huge, and this government looks forward to working with SARM to seize those opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for Rural Saskatchewan

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rural health care in Saskatchewan is a mess, and it's only gotten worse since the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook became the Premier — 82 fewer family doctors, an 8 per cent drop overall; 11 per cent fewer family docs in rural Saskatchewan, the lowest proportion of doctors, the lowest proportion of specialists in the entire country. Mr. Speaker, why is the Premier taking rural Saskatchewan for granted? Why is he leaving rural communities without primary care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I would just answer that question very shortly with, this government is not and will not ever take rural Saskatchewan for granted, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what the Leader of the Opposition is referencing

today and has been referencing for a number of days now is really cherry-picking a number of facts that are, a number of statistics that are out there, Mr. Speaker. And he's referencing active physicians, which are a portion of the physicians that are practising in the province. Active physicians are licensed physicians that are receiving \$60,000 or more in their fee-for-service billings, Mr. Speaker. That's what an active physician is. That's what the Leader of the Opposition is referencing. He is discounting and not counting all of the physicians across this province that are on the salary model, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to Rosthern-Shellbrook, Mr. Speaker, we have over 100 per cent increase of physicians that are serving people in that constituency — and there's stories like that in every rural constituency across this province — compared to under the NDP [New Democratic Party], Mr. Speaker, and over half of them are under salaried physicians. So why does the Leader of the Opposition not recognize the good service that our salaried physicians are providing to Saskatchewan people, in particular in rural Saskatchewan?

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier has no idea what he's talking about. Those are his own numbers, apples-to-apples comparison. Eighty-two fewer family doctors practising in the province since he became Premier. There hasn't been a big influx of community clinics and salaried physicians. They just don't exist, Mr. Speaker. There are fewer doctors practising.

I was at SARM this morning, as have my colleagues been all week. And if this Premier had been listening when he was there, he would have heard the same story. Communities, rural communities, who are seeing family docs leave and no one replacing them, Mr. Speaker. Local hospitals without ER [emergency room] services. Local communities that can't get ambulances, and if they can, they get a big, fat bill that a city person wouldn't get for the same ride, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Premier really think that it's fair that access to health care is so much worse if you live in rural Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

[10:30]

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, he has just described what access to health care in rural Saskatchewan looked like in 2007. Mr. Speaker, you had communities across this province that were stepping forward and moving into the place of attracting doctors from around the world because the government wouldn't do it. They'd sent almost 200 doctors out of the province, Mr. Speaker, in their ambitious agenda to close over 50 rural facilities across this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since then there has been a change in the commitment to investing in health care and health care professionals in this province. Mr. Speaker, we are improving. We have over 1,000 physicians that are now offering services to people in Saskatchewan. Some of those, yes, are under the salaried model, which the Leader of the Opposition does not count, Mr. Speaker. Over 4,300 nurses of all designations that are offering services in Saskatchewan; nurse practitioners that are

offering valuable services in rural community after rural community after rural community, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to continue to invest in health care. We're going to continue to invest in more health care professionals in our facilities, Mr. Speaker. And we most certainly are going to reopen the few facilities that have an interim break in services, Mr. Speaker, as soon as possible. And we're going to preserve the services that are offered to all Saskatchewan people, including those in rural Saskatchewan which the NDP Party has most certainly lost touch with.

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

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, we hear the same broken record of the Premier talking about the '90s, but the record that's broken is his own. He is the Premier who is chasing doctors away today. He is the Premier who has closed facilities that are closed today, Mr. Speaker. This Premier is rolling out these promises, but we've heard these promises before.

Months ago, months ago, we called for a health human resource strategy. At that time there were 1,200 empty positions — 1,200 vacant positions. Today there are 1,600 — 1,600 nurses, care aides, lab techs, missing people from our hospitals, our clinics, and our long-term care centres. Mr. Speaker, the Premier is promising to reopen the facilities that he has closed. How's he going to staff them?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — I can understand why a commitment to reopening services in rural Saskatchewan would be so foreign to the members opposite, given their record of closing those very facilities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what this government has done and will continue to do is listen. We will listen to all of the people in Saskatchewan, and that includes the people that live in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We were over at the SARM convention the last couple of days. The Leader of the Opposition and members opposite found the opportunity to actually remove their masks and go over to the SARM convention, Mr. Speaker. And at that convention, at that very convention, Mr. Speaker, we heard loud and clear from over 850 delegates that signed a petition to stand up for Saskatchewan people to ensure that we can continue to have rail service, access to rail service in our communities to service not only our export-based market, with record exports last year, Mr. Speaker, but to ensure that our communities can continue to receive the goods that they need to function, Mr. Speaker.

We're going to stand up for Saskatchewan people. After question period, we're going to be moving a motion to stand up for Saskatchewan people, and I trust the Leader of the Opposition is going to allow that debate to occur.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No humility. No humility whatsoever. No acknowledgement of his own failures, his own actions that are chasing doctors away and closing down health facilities today, and certainly no plan, Mr. Speaker.

Hospitals in Saskatoon are at 130 per cent capacity. And they've been over capacity for over a month. What was the answer? Oh, we can send them out to rural Saskatchewan. Well those facilities don't have the staff to care for complex patients, if they're open at all, Mr. Speaker.

The problem is getting worse. Why won't this Premier acknowledge the reality and commit to working with front-line providers on a health human resource strategy before they leave the province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the comments of the Health minister throughout the last number of months — close to a year now — he said, we are going to continue to do everything we can to utilize our entire provincial health care capacity, Mr. Speaker. That capacity today, in our health care system, is at about a 91 per cent level, just over 80 per cent when it comes to our ICU [intensive care unit] capacity that's being utilized here today, Mr. Speaker.

The ministers of Health, Minister of Rural and Remote Health are working very hard right now with all of their stakeholders, Mr. Speaker. And you're going to see — and this is the part that is foreign to the members opposite — you're going to see, Mr. Speaker, the funding in a budget very shortly that is going to invest in ensuring that we have health care personnel now and into the future in all of our communities across the province, Mr. Speaker. That is listening to Saskatchewan people, and that is acting on what Saskatchewan people want to see in the services that are provided by this government.

Mr. Speaker, this week we heard Saskatchewan people over at the SARM convention and beyond asking for this government to stand up for the transport of our products in and out of this province, Mr. Speaker. We're going to be moving leave for a debate right after question period. I would ask the Leader of the Opposition and all the members opposite to ensure that they support that and allow that important debate to happen on behalf of the people that we collectively represent in this province.

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

Automobile Insurance Rates

Ms. A. Young: — Mr. Speaker, it's great that the Premier finally cares about getting our product to market when it took him three tries to get it right when it was his base blocking the borders.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a government that is happy to take credit for things over which they bear no responsibility. But, Mr. Speaker, here's something which they do control: last week we asked for a gas-price relief plan from the Sask Party, a plan to help with the skyrocketing cost of living. Inflation is at a 30-year high, Mr. Speaker, and what did we hear? Crickets. So let's try again.

The SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] rebate, Mr. Speaker — introduced again by this government — helps, and we love when they take our ideas. But it does not address the upfront costs of auto insurance. Mr. Speaker, people are looking

to that government to make their lives more affordable, and we wouldn't need these ongoing rebates if we had lower rates. So, Mr. Speaker, this St. Patrick's Day, will the Sask Party stop filling their pot of gold and reduce rates?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Auto Fund is money that belongs to the people of this province. We chose not to politicize that in the last election. In the last election, the members opposite called for a rebate. We waited until after the election was over, did some careful research and analysis, and made a rebate and gave money back to the citizens of this province — money that they'd paid in, money that they were entitled to get back.

Mr. Speaker, we recently announced a rebate because it was a good idea to do it when people are struggling. Mr. Speaker, this is a time when people are coming out of the pandemic. If it's something the members opposite don't want to support, Mr. Speaker, if they want to send their cheques back, I'll leave it up to them. That's their choice if they choose not to accept them. But, Mr. Speaker, I think the people in this province understand the need. They want to have that happen. And, Mr. Speaker, it's a good idea. Ask anybody.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Love to hear that commitment from the minister to ensure that Crowns aren't being politicized. But, Mr. Speaker, we are listening to people in this province, and the SGI rebates came up at the bear pit at SARM. And the delegate made a good point: "I don't know why SGI keeps doing this." And Mr. Speaker, the Premier said in response that he would not be reducing rates.

The rate stabilization reserve, Mr. Speaker, has over, well over \$1 billion in it — hundreds of millions more than necessary even after that rebate. And why is that, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, it's because, quite clearly, the rates are too damn high. The Auto Fund continues, continues to balloon with Saskatchewan people's money. Will the Sask Party stop nickel-and-diming Saskatchewan drivers and commit to reducing rates today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SGI.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — [Inaudible] . . . oscillations in the rates. We're not going to have people having a shortfall on their rates. We're going to focus that fund on rate stability.

Mr. Speaker, those cheques were prepared by a company in Ontario. The members opposite complained about that. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to raise a few issues with what the members opposite do when they want to do things in dealing with out-of-province companies. During the last election, 26 of their 61 candidates used out-of-province people. Over \$130,000 went to out-of-province workers. Thirty-two per cent of the salaries that were paid during the campaign went out of province. The Leader of the Opposition had a hired gun from Winnipeg. The member from Regina University hired individuals from Vancouver and Edmonton. The member from Regina Douglas Park's campaign

manager was from Edmonton. Saskatoon Eastview hired an individual from Calgary.

Mr. Speaker, we believe in hiring local, and we'll continue to do it wherever we can.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Oh, Mr. Speaker, what a deeply tired answer from a deeply tired government. Come on, Minister. We've heard this before. And, Mr. Speaker, the minister wants to raise the cost of cheques, and the minister wants to talk about how we hate cheques being printed out of province. But, Mr. Speaker, the folks who hate that are the employees of SGI. The employees, Mr. Speaker, who do all of the work only to have this government turn around and hand that contract, good union jobs, off to an Ontario-based company.

But, Mr. Speaker, based on what's in the RSR [rate stabilization reserve] at SGI, you could reduce rates for drivers and there would still be more capital in there than needed. Now, Mr. Speaker, it's not just me who believes this. It is the rate review panel, with which that minister should check in. So again, to the minister: is the government trying to balance the books by routinely taking more money than necessary from Saskatchewan drivers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SGI.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the member opposite, we use generally accepted accounting principles throughout. We have summary financial statements, which is a difficult concept for the members opposite to understand.

Mr. Speaker, at SGI there is a fund. It is a stabilization fund to make sure that if we have a bad year or a change in market conditions, that we're able to service the claims that our citizens might have. Mr. Speaker, there is a minimum capital test that requires us to hold a certain amount of money in that fund. The members opposite want to throw that aside. They want to spend the money and say, oh we want to take credit for it. Mr. Speaker, we will have stability and strength in that fund, and we will continue to do that. And we will support the careful analysis that's done by the officials at SGI.

The members opposite may not like that idea, but it's good, sound business practice and will provide stability and strength. If you have a bad year where there's a lot of hail claims or a bad year in the markets . . . During the first three weeks of this year, that fund lost \$175 million in market variations and, Mr. Speaker, it's come back because of their careful work and hard work, and we support them in that.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really not that complicated a question, as much as the minister wants to condescend. This money is not his personal investment fund. This money exists to protect SGI, and the excess money in that fund should be going back to drivers.

Mr. Speaker, it is not that complicated. The members opposite, the members opposite want to crow about their accounting practices, but what they hope Saskatchewan people don't realize is that any money that doesn't go into that fund, any money that comes out of that fund shows up as a loss on the government books. So again to the minister: the rates for Saskatchewan drivers are too damn high. Will he commit to reducing rates today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SGI.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan customers have some of the lowest basic rates for auto insurance anywhere in Canada, and the reason they're able to do that was because they maintained an adequate balance in the rate stabilization reserve. We're not affected by market issues. We're not affected by a hail storm or bad weather conditions, Mr. Speaker. We were able to give a refund for a couple of reasons: people weren't driving their cars during the pandemic, and there was extremely good market conditions.

Mr. Speaker, as we go forward, we will monitor and watch the rate stabilization reserve fund. We will rely on the professionals at SGI. The members opposite may not want to do that. They may want to politicize it. But, Mr. Speaker, vehicle insurance in our province is too important to allow people like that ever to sit on this side of the House.

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

Accelerated Site-Closure Program

Ms. Ritchie: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear this government has no regard for protecting the public purse despite what we just heard from the minister opposite.

[10:45]

In December the Provincial Auditor issued a report that found the Ministry of Energy and Resources had paid out \$125 million without legislative approval.

The report concluded the ministry violated its governing legislation as it did not obtain Lieutenant Governor in Council approval before making significant grants to SRC [Saskatchewan Research Council]. Without obtaining this required approval, the ministry will continue to make significant program grant payments while not complying with its governing legislation — \$125 million out the door without approval.

To the minister: why did the minister choose to ignore legislative requirements intended to protect taxpayers' money?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Definition of a nothingburger, Mr. Speaker. Quite simply, with the \$400 million in federal funding, we were advised an order in council was not required in this case. When the auditor advised that it was, based on the payback clause, we got one. That is it. And the auditor said all funding had been allocated fairly. She was satisfied everything was "properly

approved and supported," nothing untoward, nefarious. End of story.

Mr. Speaker, the provincially administered site-closure program has been an amazing success. I'm told that everywhere I go. I just got a letter from Blair Way of Intricate Well Servicing last week. He said he was supporting us for supporting local businesses in "desperate times." We had just started to make a comeback, he said, and COVID came along, stopped us again. This was 35 guys left without a job. We were ready to give up, shut down with no way forward. We were broken, almost broke physically and mentally. And then, he said, we heard about the ASCP [accelerated site-closure program] Saskatchewan government project.

Mr. Speaker, we were anxious to get workers back to work. Guilty as charged.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we all want good jobs and a flourishing energy sector here in the province. But you know what . . . an industry that I have worked in, don't forget. We also want transparent government. We want accountable government.

The audit also found that the ministry neglected other key safeguards to protect the public purse. There was no formal risk management plan, no approved project charter for its steering committee, no detailed record keeping of steering committee meetings.

Why did the minister implement this program under the cover of darkness without the transparency of a properly structured steering committee, record keeping, and establishment of roles? And what steps have been taken to ensure program funding for essential oil and gas cleanup is administered properly moving forward?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Under our abandonment program, Mr. Speaker, 2,000 full-time jobs will have been supported; 8,000 sites cleaned up; \$305 million in contracts have been issued; almost 700 Saskatchewan-based companies have done program work.

Mr. Speaker, there's always this indirect, drive-by implication by the members opposite, which I take issue to, Mr. Speaker, that somehow taxpayers are on the hook for cleaning up wells in this province. That's never been the case. They've never been; they never will be, with or without federal taxpayers' money, Mr. Speaker. Industry is responsible for cleaning up wells in Saskatchewan. The orphan well fund is 100 per cent industry-funded, not taxpayer-funded — not a cent, not now, not ever.

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

Provision of Health Care

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan hospitals are in

trouble. Last week, medicine units were at 130 per cent capacity, and they've been at over capacity in Saskatoon for over a month. The SHA's [Saskatchewan Health Authority] head of medicine says the situation is "without precedent." The minister is the only one who thinks this situation is manageable.

To the minister: exactly how many people with COVID-19 are in our hospitals today? And how many are in ICU?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The opposition and the general public and the media will get that information, as they do every Thursday, on what our situation is in our hospitals. But what I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, is it is improving. We have less people in the hospital week over week from our information last week, Mr. Speaker, and it's continuing to trend in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, what I can say is that I do thank the health care workers out there. They are managing this, and they're managing it extremely well with the support of this government, Mr. Speaker. We've been able to provide that support, not just in our major centres but all across . . .

[Interjections]

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'll conclude with saying thank you to the health care workers that are managing this in an exceptional way in a very challenging situation, Mr. Speaker. We have a resumption of services that are coming back online every day, Mr. Speaker. I can't thank the health care workers enough. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Support for Survivors of Interpersonal Violence

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, nearly every day this week we've been calling for this government to step up and once and for all commit to providing operational funding for second-stage shelters. Nearly every other province in this country provides this funding except for this one.

Mr. Speaker, we have the highest rates of interpersonal violence in the country. Will this government finally step up, do the right thing, and provide this much-needed funding?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we acknowledge that interpersonal violence and domestic violence in this province is a problem, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we provide some significant funding, some significant programming to help with the issue, Mr. Speaker — \$22 million in funding to protect victims and survivors of interpersonal violence, Mr. Speaker; \$800,000 just in the last budget alone on these initiatives, Mr. Speaker.

There's a number of programs that the province provides, including our first program which we've just recently expanded, Mr. Speaker. A number of other pieces of legislation to take into

account some of the challenges with respect to supports for survivors of interpersonal violence and sexual violence, Mr. Speaker, including provisions, changes to *The Residential Tenancies Act*, privacy legislation on intimate images, Clare's Law, and many, many others, Mr. Speaker.

I only regret there isn't enough time left in question period to continue to talk about the great things that this province is doing to deal with a very difficult problem in this province.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 50, *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021* without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

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

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 50 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may now proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 50 — *The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2021*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 50 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Dennis: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 52, *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 52 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 52 — *The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2021*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 52 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Dennis: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 49,

The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021 without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 49 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 49 — *The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2021*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 49 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY
STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

**Standing Committee on
Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice**

Mr. Docherty: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 56, *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and

that the bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 56 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 56 — *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2021* *Loi modificative de 2021 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill 56 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 57 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 57 — *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2021*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 57 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 58, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 58 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may now proceed to move third reading.

[11:00]

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 58 — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2021*

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the

bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 58 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Docherty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 59, *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021*, a bilingual bill, without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee on the Whole on Bill No. 59 and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 59 — *The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2021/Loi modificative de 2021 sur les juges de paix*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 59 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I would like to ask the member from Regina University to withdraw and apologize for an unparliamentary word she used.

Ms. A. Young: — My first time, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would request leave to move a motion that is of urgent and pressing necessity under rule no. 61.

The Speaker: — Will the Premier briefly state the purpose of the motion and read the text of the motion? I recognize the Premier.

MOTION UNDER RULE 61

Action to End Canadian Pacific Railway Labour Dispute

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given recent events with respect to negotiations with one of our national rail lines, one of our significant rail lines here in the province, those negotiations have broken down. We saw a strike vote in the last number of days. We see now a lockout that is in place, Mr. Speaker. And all the while we encourage those negotiations to continue, Mr. Speaker. We do understand that we cannot have a disruption of rail service in the province of Saskatchewan.

Yesterday at the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities convention, over 850 municipal leaders signed a petition. They are calling on the federal government to (1) immediately implement back-to-work legislation should a work stoppage and disruption of rail service occur, and (2) introduce legislation to designate rail service as an essential service to prevent future rail disruptions caused by labour disputes.

Mr. Speaker, given that SARM's call to the federal government is appropriate and required, and as Ray Orb, the president of SARM had stated, and I quote, "It's probably the worst time ever for a major rail carrier to go on strike." Mr. Speaker, the pending job action at CP Rail [Canadian Pacific Railway] has the potential to irrevocably damage our already stained supply chains here given what is happening around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all understand the importance of the supply chain and providing Saskatchewan products to the world. You know, our agriculture industry, our producers, energy producers, our forestry industry, Mr. Speaker, our potash sectors, they're already struggling with getting their products to market, and shutting down this major rail carrier providing access and service to many communities across the province would have catastrophic impacts on Saskatchewan's economy. And it would

have catastrophic impacts on Saskatchewan people.

Therefore I would ask that this Assembly stand with the over 850 SARM delegates that are here at their annual convention, Mr. Speaker, and give leave to debate the following motion:

That this Legislative Assembly calls on the federal government to:

(1) immediately implement back-to-work legislation should a work stoppage and disruption of rail service occur; and

(2) introduce legislation to designate rail service as an essential service to prevent further rail disruptions that are caused by labour disputes.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave to move without notice a motion of urgent and pressing necessity under rule 61. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave has not been granted. Next order of business. Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Wotherspoon: — [Inaudible] . . . rule 61.

The Speaker: — Order, please. Could you just repeat that, please?

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I'm on my feet to seek leave to move a motion under rule 61.

The Speaker: — Will the member briefly state the purpose of the motion and read the text of the motion?

Negotiation to Resolve Canadian Pacific Railway Labour Dispute

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll read a motion that I hope we have leave for at the end of this. Certainly we have a situation that is a real challenge that Saskatchewan people are facing.

A rail stoppage at this point in time would be devastating for Saskatchewan people and producers, growers across this province, exporters across this province. It's a horrible time. Any time that there might be a stoppage in rail is a challenge, but the current set of conditions really create a horrible situation. Already exacerbated supply chains due to COVID and the challenges we've been experiencing are facing intense volatility at this point in time with the pressure of Putin's unforgivable invasion, Mr. Speaker.

There's a lot at stake right now in moving products to market by way of food and fuel, Mr. Speaker, by way of fertilizer. I think of the cattle that need to be fed right now, and this inordinate stress that producers and ranchers are facing in the province. I think of the crops that need to be seeded and the fertilizer that's needed. I think of those that work in forestry that are already struggling to get product to market. And there's an impact on jobs

on these fronts.

I think of our resource sector. I think of our potash industry that's stepping up right now in an unprecedented way to run flat out. Of course they need to get that product to market not just for their business lines, Mr. Speaker, importantly to ensure food security. And of course we need to get our energy products to market, our energy infrastructure to market, Mr. Speaker, which is why we're calling on the parties to get this resolved, calling on CP to ensure there's no work stoppage and to ensure a fair deal.

With that, I'll hope all members will give me leave to move the following motion:

That this Legislative Assembly recognizes the critical importance of rail access to the Saskatchewan economy, including to producers and ranchers, miners, energy workers, forestry workers, and exporters;

That a rail stoppage would be devastating at this time; and

That the Assembly recognizes the collective bargaining rights of workers; and

That the Assembly calls upon the Canadian Pacific Railway to urgently negotiate a fair deal to ensure Saskatchewan products keep moving to market without a rail stoppage.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont has requested leave to move without notice a motion of urgent and pressing necessity under rule 61. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The member may proceed.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The guffaws from the serious bunch opposite about something that is an emergency for Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. And I'm glad we have leave here today because we owe it to Saskatchewan people to do all we can to make sure there's not a rail stoppage here in our province.

You know, what I don't get though is why this government is always so willing to treat the rail companies — the duopoly, the non-competitive environment, that duopoly — with kid gloves, why they're unwilling to lean into those rail companies and expect and demand resolution and service to the people of Saskatchewan. We've seen this time and time again with a transportation system, a rail system that has failed to perform for Saskatchewan producers and exporters and people, for our economy. Obviously that's an additional conversation about the types of reform and pressure and change that we need to make sure is in place to ensure that our transportation system is performing.

But the current scenario, as I've already described, is a very strained one for Saskatchewan's economy, for workers, and for producers. The supply chains are already exacerbated and strained and behind, and are causing such challenge for Saskatchewan people and our customers and people around the world. And we owe it to Saskatchewan people and we owe it to

those growers and we owe it to those producers and we owe it to the ranchers, who are needing feed as we speak, to make sure that there's not a stoppage in rail.

And we need to hold accountable the parties that are responsible here, which is why we're crystal clear that CP can't be simply let off the hook here with legislation here, Mr. Speaker, that they need to get a deal, that they need to prevent any rail stoppage.

Now any rail stoppage is a challenge in Saskatchewan at any time, but this would be a particularly horrible time for producers and workers and exporters in our province. We've identified what some of that looks like, but we've got cattle producers, ranchers all across Saskatchewan that have come through a very difficult period, a horrendous drought of last year, that were short on feed throughout the winter, that need feed desperately right now, and they simply can't afford to be subject to a stoppage. And the responsibility they have for their livestock, for their animals is second to none, and you see that stress, you see that worry in producers in ranches across our province.

We need to make sure that fuel is able to be distributed across this province as we're coming around to a growing season, and that grain and fertilizers is able to be there to ensure the growing solutions are there for producers so that Saskatchewan can play its part in feeding the world. We need to make sure that our resources that are needed by the world, now more than ever, are able to be supplied, and I think of potash front and centre on this front. And at a time where we should be aggressively accessing export markets of Russia, we need to be making sure that we're supplying those markets with fertilizer, with food, with fuel, Mr. Speaker. And obviously rail is critical on all of these fronts.

And of course we've had debate in this Assembly about forestry itself. We have, you know, a pulp operation near Meadow Lake that's been hamstrung by the lack of performance of rail on this front. We've been pressing for action, Mr. Speaker. This official opposition will continue to press for real change and real reform to make sure our rail system performs. We're not going to treat the duopoly CP and CN with kid gloves, Mr. Speaker. We're going to always stand up for Saskatchewan producers and Saskatchewan exporters, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people.

And that's why I move the motion today, or will move a motion, that calls for a resolution without a work stoppage and squarely points to CP Rail to live up to its obligations to Saskatchewan people and exporters at this critical time. That being said, Mr. Speaker, I will move:

That this Legislative Assembly recognizes the critical importance of rail access to the Saskatchewan economy, including to producers and ranchers, miners, energy workers, forestry workers, and exporters;

That a rail stoppage would be devastating at this time; and

That the Assembly recognizes the collective bargaining rights of workers; and

That the Assembly calls upon the Canadian Pacific Railway to urgently negotiate a fair deal to ensure Saskatchewan products keep moving to market without a rail stoppage.

Thanks, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Will the members take the motion as read?

[11:15]

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Rosemont moved:

That this Legislative Assembly recognize the critical importance of rail access to the Saskatchewan economy, including to producers and ranchers, miners, energy workers, forestry workers, and exporters;

That a rail stoppage would be devastating at this time; and

That the Assembly recognize the collective bargaining rights of workers; and

That the Assembly calls upon the Canadian Pacific Railway to urgently negotiate a fair deal to ensure that Saskatchewan products keep moving to market without a rail stoppage.

I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At the conclusion of my remarks, I'll be moving an amendment to the motion that has been placed before this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we're all aware that yesterday CP Rail has issued a 72-hour lockout notice to the employees that it has across the country, Mr. Speaker. We're also aware that earlier this month, those employees, they voted in favour of a work stoppage, Mr. Speaker.

The Government of Saskatchewan would encourage all parties to stay at that negotiating table, Mr. Speaker, and to work through the negotiating process to ensure that they can come to a resolution that is not only beneficial for the company and the employees, but beneficial for all that they serve across this nation, including the communities and the industries here in Saskatchewan and ultimately the Saskatchewan people.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, there is an imminent danger. I think we can all agree there's an imminent danger of a major federal railway that may be shut down completely for a period of time. And we've seen this before in our province and in our nation, Mr. Speaker. That shutdown would cost Saskatchewan people dearly at this point in time. Mr. Speaker, it would cost Saskatchewan people and businesses dearly at this point in time. It would cost our rural communities and our agricultural communities. Our potash industry, our timber, our forestry industry, Mr. Speaker, our energy industry would all pay dearly for a work stoppage at this point in time.

I'll begin by quoting a member of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, back in 2018, the last time we had a rail backlog in this province. And I quote:

Issues with grain transportation over the last five years have cost producers in our province billions, with potential for further delays as there may be another transportation crisis . . .

It goes on, Mr. Speaker:

Our national rail companies have failed to meet their obligations and get our products to market in a fast and efficient manner. Successive federal governments have allowed our rail companies to run roughshod over producers.

Mr. Speaker, that's a quote from the member from Regina Lakeview. Just this past week, it was referenced by the member from Regina Rosemont. We had the member from Regina University talking about some service challenges that we're having in our forestry industry, Mr. Speaker, servicing some of the mills that are operating in the Meadow Lake area, Mr. Speaker.

And I think when you look at these comments that have come from the members opposite and when I read the amendment that we will put on the record here and vote on here today, Mr. Speaker, I think you'll see that even the opposition members will most certainly support this motion, Mr. Speaker. And maybe even go so far as to have some outreach with their federal counterpart — who in some ways does hold the balance of power at the federal level, Mr. Speaker — to lobby the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. To join with 850-plus SARM delegates that are lobbying our federal government, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that this work stoppage does not occur and to ensure that our service to Saskatchewan communities and Saskatchewan people is not interrupted.

Most certainly it is time for us to stop letting federal rail issues run roughshod over producers and farmers, the mining sector in this province, the forestry sector in this province, Mr. Speaker, and all of the other communities and sectors that rely on that. We can't sit idly by and let our Saskatchewan people hurt by completely avoidable labour disruptions. And they are avoidable labour disruptions, Mr. Speaker.

Our economy is in a strong recovery mode, Mr. Speaker, record exports this past year as we find our way through what was a very challenging drought year, Mr. Speaker. But in spite of all of this, we have once again set a record of \$37 billion in exports coming out of this province, providing the world with the food and the fuel and the fertilizer ultimately that the world needs more than ever today, given the world is finding their way through a global pandemic and we have a significant unrest in areas of conflict, Mr. Speaker, specifically in Ukraine.

Those record exports were led by agriculture, Mr. Speaker. Up 7 per cent, just under \$18 billion of ag exports left this province destined for markets all around the world. Forestry sector, up 60 per cent this past year, Mr. Speaker, up to just under \$2 billion in export sales. Our potash sector, Mr. Speaker, at seven and a half billion dollars this past year.

We see this morning, we see announcements of one of our significant potash companies in the province. We see one in here today with Mosaic. We see Nutrien has announced a 20 per cent increase in their production capacity that's going to come in the next number of weeks and months, Mr. Speaker. And they're out there actively hiring folks to ensure that they can bring some of that latent capacity that they have on, Mr. Speaker, to serve the world.

Mr. Speaker, all things are looking positive in the Saskatchewan economy, and a rail disruption at this time most certainly is going to be very challenging for the people of this great province. We are going to see record numbers continue, Mr. Speaker. But we will not see those continue if we have any degree of a lengthy shutdown of our main transportation arm. We're reliant on our rail lines to move those products out of our province. And we're reliant on our access to ports as well so that we can get those products ultimately on a boat.

Mr. Speaker, our livestock industry, our domestic livestock industry in this nation, I think in fairness would be particularly challenged by a work stoppage, given the lack of crop that we saw in Western Canada, and they're going further to source the products, Mr. Speaker. And our livestock industry in Western Canada and in Saskatchewan will be particularly vulnerable should a rail stoppage occur for more than just even a few days, Mr. Speaker.

Bob Lowe, the president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, he had this to state very recently, and I quote again:

... [we] are very concerned about the potential impacts of a rail strike on the ability of beef producers to feed their cattle, particularly feedlots ... It is imperative that essential services are not interrupted, including the movement of agricultural products by rail.

I want to repeat that last piece again: "It is imperative that essential services are not interrupted, including the movement of agricultural products by rail," Mr. Speaker. And that is part of what we are going to put forward in this amendment in just a couple of minutes.

The rail disruption has the potential to have a tremendous impact, negative impact on our potash industry. As I said earlier, we have Nutrien that is increasing their capacity, Mr. Speaker, to serve the world due to some unrest around the world, and due to some lack of supply from certain areas of the world, predominately, Mr. Speaker, Belarus and Russia.

Canpotex has shipped over 12 million tonnes of potash, largely by rail, Mr. Speaker. They have stated, and I quote again ... Canpotex's statement is, overseas partners are counting on Canpotex to deliver the potash, but reliable rail service is vital. And that is why we cannot have a break in our rail service in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this has come up in this House just this past week, the importance of rail service to our forestry industry. And we all know, not only is our Saskatchewan forestry industry growing — up 60 per cent in its exports over the course of the past year — but it has one of the significant, the most significant partnerships with our Indigenous communities and Indigenous businesses of anywhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Close to 30 per cent of those working in our forestry industry are Indigenous, Mr. Speaker. Many of the businesses that are operating in our forest industry are Indigenous-owned businesses, Mr. Speaker. We have worked hard as a government to allocate about 30 per cent of our allocations to Indigenous organizations. And that effort is going to continue, Mr. Speaker.

And we saw, with respect to the Meadow Lake pulp mill recently, that alarm was raised with respect to the service that they're not receiving, Mr. Speaker. And I would say that today's amendment that we will be moving will be an opportunity for all members of this House, wherever they sit, Mr. Speaker, to support Saskatchewan communities, and in particular to support the service into our forestry industry, which in turn is supporting Indigenous people, supporting Indigenous communities, and supporting, Mr. Speaker, essentially economic reconciliation in the province of Saskatchewan.

If these disruptions occur and are allowed to proceed, many of the alarms that we talked about in this House recently are going to become a reality. They're going to go beyond a conversation and a concern, and they're going to become a reality not just for the mills in Meadow Lake but mills in Carrot River, mills in Big River, Mr. Speaker, and other mills that are operating around this province.

Mr. Speaker, here's the kicker to all of this: all of this damage of a looming rail strike and shutdowns of that service, it's completely avoidable. And that's why I'm standing here today, and we'll see members stand and speak to this today.

I'm standing here today with 850-plus municipal members, Mr. Speaker, that signed a petition yesterday agreeing with the amendment that we are going to put forward, agreeing with the fact that the federal government should be preparing to put forward back-to-work legislation, and agreeing with the fact that we should pull our rail service under essential services legislation as well, Mr. Speaker. They signed that position. This government listens to our municipal leaders from across this province, Mr. Speaker, and we're acting on that here today.

I wouldn't say this is in any way an unusual request. Work stoppages or disruptions in our rail service, they've happened before. And they have repeatedly ended in back-to-work legislation — in fact more times than not, Mr. Speaker. I quote one of the reporters in a scrum I was in yesterday, and I know that the reporters would do all of the research and would never reference incorrect information in a scrum with myself or anyone else, Mr. Speaker, but eight out of the nine last work stoppages with CP had ultimately ended in back-to-work legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in 2012 back-to-work legislation was introduced to end the CP Rail strike. In '09 back-to-work legislation was introduced to end the CN rail strike. In '07 back-to-work legislation was introduced to end another CP Rail strike. In 1995, Mr. Speaker, under a different administration, the NDP government at the time, back-to-work legislation was introduced to . . . provincially, Mr. Speaker. They've never been a federal government, Mr. Speaker, but in 1995 back-to-work legislation was introduced to end both a CP and a CN rail strike at that point. Again in 1987, and we can keep going back through the number of years, Mr. Speaker, right back to 1950 when Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent tabled Canada's first back-to-work legislation to end a railway strike at that point in time.

And so this is not new, Mr. Speaker. It's occurred before many, many times, time and time again throughout history. Federal governments of all stripes have tabled back-to-work legislation in response to various railway disruptions that we have had over the last number of decades, Mr. Speaker. The federal government

does this because they know what we all know.

And we agree I think with the outcome or the goal of what we want, which is that important and essential rail access to our communities and to our industries in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. They are most certainly an essential service. They're providing essential service and they should be classified as such.

Mr. Speaker, rail service cannot and it should not be halted, or it should not be held hostage for any reason, Mr. Speaker, but in particular with respect to labour disputes, because it's not the railway companies that ultimately suffer. It's everyday people, Mr. Speaker. It's our ag producers. It's businesses in our communities, Mr. Speaker. It's those that are working at potash mines. It's those that are working in our forestry industry. It's those that are working in our energy industry, Mr. Speaker.

So we call, as we have repeatedly, once again for the federal government in this federal space of jurisdiction to end any disruption of rail service that may occur in the next number of days, Mr. Speaker. And they can do so by preparing their back-to-work legislation and having that legislation ready to go.

In saying that, that's a temporary solution, Mr. Speaker, that's been used time and time and time again to end these strikes. And what we need in this nation to provide that stable, secure supply chain, to be a trusted supplier of the goods out of Saskatchewan and out of other areas of Canada, we need something much more permanent, much more permanent to protect our export reputation, Mr. Speaker.

So instead of the federal government continuing on the merry-go-round of introducing back-to-work legislation each and every time there's a rail strike with one of our national railways, they need to step forward, Mr. Speaker, and deem that rail service is an essential service, an essential service to Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, that is a permanent solution for all, Mr. Speaker, of Saskatchewan people. They grow and produce some of the best, most sustainable products in the world. But we rely on railways to get that product to ports, and we rely on that port service to ensure that we can load those ships, Mr. Speaker, and provide those goods to the world. And that is more important today than I think it has ever been.

[11:30]

Railways are essential for a landlocked province like ours, Mr. Speaker. I often say . . . This is one time . . . I've said a lot of things this week that you never hear me say, but I would agree with Rachel Notley once, Mr. Speaker. She had said that Western Canadian provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, are not landlocked provinces. We're Canadians and we own a port. We own a number of Canadian ports, Mr. Speaker. And those are our ports in this province.

Saskatchewan people have every right to have access to those ports as the people that live right on their doorstep, Mr. Speaker. But we need the rail service to ensure that we can get our product to that port and get it to market and be that reliable, sustainable supplier of goods to the world.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for us in this Assembly to be strong

and to represent the people of our province, Mr. Speaker. We've heard from the over 850 SARM delegates, our municipal leaders from border to border to border, Mr. Speaker. This government has heard now from one additional border on the importance of this issue, Mr. Speaker. We will stand united, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House.

And I would ask the members on the other side of the House to stand with us as well, to solve not only for today and this particular time but for the future, to advocate and solve what are very harmful work stoppages that occur far too frequently in breakages of service in our rail service, Mr. Speaker.

We need a short-term solution, which is the back-to-work legislation. We need a long-term solution, which is deeming our rail service as an essential service, Mr. Speaker. We have those solutions, or we will very shortly have those solutions before us, solutions that have been endorsed by over 850 — nearly 1,000 — members that are down in Regina at the SARM convention representing communities across this province, Mr. Speaker.

In closing, I would move this. I would move the following amendment:

That all of the words after “That a rail stoppage would be devastating at this time; and” be struck and replaced with this:

“That this Legislative Assembly calls on the federal government to:

- (1) immediately implement back-to-work legislation should a work stoppage and disruption of rail service occur; and
- (2) introduce legislation to designate rail service as an essential service to prevent future rail disruptions caused by labour disputes.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Premier has moved an amendment to the motion that reads:

That all words after “That a rail stoppage would be devastating at this time; and” be struck and replaced with:

“That this Legislative Assembly calls on the federal government to:

- (1) immediately implement back-to-work legislation should a work stoppage and disruption of the rail service occur; and
- (2) introduce legislation to designate rail service as an essential service to prevent future rail disruptions caused by labour disputes.”

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and debate this important issue. And I'm also pleased to know that there's a great deal of agreement on the two sides of this House when we come to the importance of getting products to market. When we talk about agriculture products, potash, manufacturing, goods coming into the province as well as leaving, it is essential that the rail lines be open, that we be able to get Saskatchewan products to market for producers, for consumers, for everyone in Saskatchewan. It is crucial.

We've seen examples of the problems when that isn't the case, when there have been inability to get grain onto cars and people are missing an opportunity to sell at a time when prices are right, or even leaving grain too long in the bins. We see the issues in Meadow Lake with the pulp mill there not being able to get their product onto rail lines as well.

And one of the factors that has been a problem throughout this is that duopoly. My colleague from Regina Rosemont will throw that word out pretty often talking about CN and CP, and we have to be honest: CP has not, and nor has CN, always been a good actor when it comes to serving the needs of Saskatchewan, when it comes to serving producers, when it comes to making sure that the folks who are working hard to get export products ready for market are able to get those products onto cars and out to where they need to go. Not always a good actor when it comes to producers, and not always a good actor — and this is what we're hearing right now — when it comes to the folks who are working on those lines.

And let's remember, those are Saskatchewan people too. Those are Saskatchewan workers too. Those are people we have to stand up for as well. When this company puts the pinch on producers, we need to speak up for them. When this company puts the pinch on workers, and especially when those workers are raising issues of safety, raising issues of the number of hours they're behind the wheel, the number of hours they're working far past what they're able to do, fatigued, that's dangerous for them.

And we've seen how many derailments? You know, another one just these last few days right here in Saskatchewan. This is a safety issue. We don't want to see another Lac-Mégantic here in Saskatchewan. We don't want to see any more derailments. This is a safety issue when it comes to how workers are treated.

So I want to be very clear. We do not believe that it is a good idea in any way to have a work stoppage at this time. That is the last thing we want to see. It would be devastating for our economy. It's the last thing we want to see. Just like we didn't support border blockades that the Premier cheered on. We do not want to see our borders shut down. We don't want to see trucks stopped. We don't want to see train cars stopped.

But we also think this government should be very careful, and the federal government should be very careful, when it comes to stepping in early and stepping on the rights of workers to bargain collectively. These are constitutional protected rights, and it says a lot about this government when a dispute comes up like this that they want to put all the pressure on the workers and none of the pressure on the company. All of the pressure on the workers, but none on the company, the group that is directly hurting producers so often and willing to put their workers in dangerous

positions.

So my final point on this is that we absolutely need to keep the rail lines running. We should not . . . And this is where I started off by talking about the level of agreement that we have here. And I wish that this amendment coming from the government at this time, in their earlier motion, was actually about trying to achieve a quick and fair end to this, but it's not. It's about wedge politics. It's about trying to pit workers against producers. It's about trying to create divisions rather than come to a clear conclusion that helps everyone.

So, Mr. Speaker, because of that, it's clear that this amendment jumps the gun from where we need to be now. It doesn't allow for any resolution mechanism. It takes away every piece of negotiating power of the workers, doesn't respect their safety issues or the safety issues of our community. And for that reason, I cannot support the amendment, but I will happily support the motion put forth by my colleague from Regina Rosemont.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking to the amendment which our Premier has introduced and the immediate . . . to implement back-to-work legislation should a work stoppage or a disruption in rail service occur, and also introduce legislation to designate rail service as an essential service to prevent future rail disruptions caused by labour disputes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this has obviously been something that has been very important to the Ministry of Agriculture, has been since we've been hearing the rumours about what could potentially happen, when we heard the results of the strike vote. I have personally reached out to the executive level of CP and found out as of yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that binding arbitration was offered by CP and was refused by the union. So that is public and can be seen on a website, Mr. Speaker.

So obviously, you know, and the Premier said it, Saskatchewan's economy depends on the ability of our exporters to really deliver products to market, Mr. Speaker. And one thing I have done in the last little while is I've reached out to our stakeholders. Early as of just a couple days ago, met with all the grain organizations in this province, and last week met with the livestock sector as well, Mr. Speaker. And I heard very loud and clear their concerns around rail disruption and rail service and how it's going to impact, especially from the livestock sector. I heard it pretty loud and clear, Mr. Speaker.

I've also reached out to my counterparts, the Minister of Agriculture from also Manitoba and Alberta and their concerns around this as well, Mr. Speaker. And as a result of the drought last year in 2021 and the availability of feed supply for the livestock sector . . . And this is all livestock by the way, Mr. Speaker. It's not just the cattle industry, it's also the hog industry, poultry industry. It's all impacted by this to a huge degree, Mr. Speaker. And when I hear from feedlot operators that they are down to a 7- to 10-day supply of feed, it is very concerning that we could be in a position with a strike that it would have a severe impact on the livestock sector here in the province about feed availability, Mr. Speaker.

And I heard it, as I said, from the livestock sector, their concerns around availability to feed and obviously the importing of feedstocks for the livestock sector in all aspects of it, as is my counterpart from Alberta and Manitoba as well, Mr. Speaker. So I think, you know, as the Premier stated in his remarks, we heard it pretty loud and clear from over 800 delegates at the convention that signed the petition. I know there was far more there, but we passed the petition around in half an hour and got those kind of responses. That says a lot, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously a labour dispute currently anticipated by CP Rail and any subsequent shutdown to their network would obviously have a critical impact on our entire province at a time when . . . least afford disruption. Our government recognizes the serious implications of such a disruption on the supply chain that is already stressed, Mr. Speaker.

It is very unfortunate and surprising that the members opposite are not sharing the same concerns over this issue. Last week and even yesterday, the member from Regina University expressed her outrage and concerns over rail service coming out of Meadow Lake, Mr. Speaker. What has changed overnight? The country's worst job critic wants people to stop working.

Rail service in Saskatchewan this entire season has struggled with car supply and container availability. Despite this year's smaller crop due to drought, the railways have struggled to meet the shippers' demand for rail service this winter. The lack of adequate service to grain shippers has resulted in lost sales, paid penalties and demurrage, and ongoing erosion to our reputation and international markets, Mr. Speaker.

And I do want to speak about our reputation to international markets. I've been on trade missions. I've had people in my office from other countries talking about this very issue, about the logistics of our products getting to market and getting to them. As the Premier stated, we are landlocked. We depend on rail service to deliver our product to the ports and to overseas markets, Mr. Speaker. And when we trade agricultural products in well over 100 different countries around the world, it is critical that we have a reliable transportation system to deliver to the markets, Mr. Speaker. We face a lot of challenges, Mr. Speaker. The strike would be devastating to our shippers and our producers, Mr. Speaker.

Let me share additional information on the impact of job action. CP typically handles about 50 per cent of Saskatchewan's grain and grain products that move by rail. A shutdown at CP network would have significant implications for Saskatchewan shippers and producers. Despite the small crop volume, neither CP nor CN have provided adequate service for grain shippers, and as a result, grain shippers have lost sales, paid penalties, demurrage, and suffered reputational damage. These costs are typically passed back onto the producers, Mr. Speaker.

In the event of a strike, CP does not have enough qualified managerial staff to operate the network. It will likely shut its network down except for some critical goods, such as propane.

Potential impacts of strike include the following: the movement of feed, as I said, by CP from the United States to feedlots and hog barns, not only in Saskatchewan but in Alberta as well. This could really have an impact on animal health, and that is a very

concern for us, Mr. Speaker. The volume of grain delivered to the Port of Vancouver would fall by 50 per cent or more, which is also an increase in demurrage. The movement of fertilizer from the United States to Western Canada, and from Western Canada to British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada will be disrupted. We need adequate rail service to ensure we can receive imported products, especially corn and other feedstocks, as I said, for our livestock producers, Mr. Speaker. Any disruption in the feed grains could have serious implications to the provincial livestock sector.

We have heard from several sectors, such as grain, forestry, potash, and oil and gas, regarding the potential impact of a strike disruption. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, we have a letter from Federated Co-op and the importance of rail service for them to provide the product that they produce at the refinery, not only to people in Saskatchewan but to communities right across Western Canada, Mr. Speaker.

[11:45]

So it is very important. It's concerning for us on the impact it would have, so obviously we've had challenges this year anyway. We're seeing even from the agricultural community with products coming in. Whether it be fertilizer, chemicals, and things like that, we're hearing delays in that side of it. Very concerning as we're getting into, you know, the spring process where a lot of producers are trying to lock down their product and get it delivered to their farms so they can get ready for the spring seedings, Mr. Speaker.

It's very concerning. I think we really have to worry about the strike and the impact it's going to have. I think the year that we had last year with the drought and the lack of product there. And what we're really concerned about, you know, the agriculture producers as a whole, whether it's in livestock or grains and oilseed, had a very stressful year last year. And this is just going to add to that without the delivery of their products and being able to access products that come in from other countries would allow them to continue on their operations, Mr. Speaker.

Our shippers have no alternatives. They are captive in this network and are the ones who absorb the consequences of these work shortages. We're calling on CP and the union to accelerate their negotiations and really to avoid a work stoppage, Mr. Speaker. If an agreement can't be reached, the federal government should step in and impose a process for reasonable resolution for both parties, but again a permanent solution must be found. Our export sector simply cannot be held hostage by rail and export networks every month, every year. And it seems like, Mr. Speaker, we go through this every year or every other year where we're dealing with disruptions in the rail system, and we've seen it time and time again.

Mr. Speaker, we really have to . . . Our government has been very active on this file, recognizing the wide-ranging implications a strike would have and could have on the system here. On March 10th Saskatchewan's ministers sent a joint letter requesting the federal government to act swiftly to prevent a potential CP Rail dispute. The ministers of Highways, Trade and Export, Agriculture, and Energy and Resources sent the letter together, as a strike would cause problems across the entire province, Mr. Speaker.

I have taken calls and met with stakeholders, as I said, in the past weeks and heard very loud and clear their concerns about a rail disruption to their business. Livestock producers are particularly concerned, as I said, about the delivery of feedstocks, and we are concerned about that. On March 15th I met actually with the lenders as well, Mr. Speaker, on the impact it might have on producers.

And as I said, I've reached out to my counterparts from Alberta and Manitoba and heard pretty loud and clear, especially from the minister from Alberta, that they are essential for rail service for the livestock industry there. They go through unit trains a week in the livestock feed alley in southern Alberta. And when you see a disruption like this, we are very concerned about animal health and the industry as a whole.

I think we can't underestimate or understate the importance of the rail transportation and exports to the province of Saskatchewan. As the Premier stated in 2021, our exports were over \$37 billion. And I'll gladly give some facts, Mr. Speaker. You know, bulk revenue over \$8 billion; these are CP's facts in 2021. So their income comes from Western Canada and shipment of goods, and our producers rely on that service to be able to deliver that service, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will wind down. I could go on and on about the importance of the rail service to the agriculture industry here in the province of Saskatchewan. It's imperative that we do not see a disruption. We're probably already seeing a slowdown in service right now. We're probably . . . You know, even if we can get them back, get them back to the table and get them back to work, we're going to see a staging for ramping back up.

So this is obviously going to delay us. It could delay us even more than a week and that would be devastating, especially for the livestock sector here, where we are importing so much feed for that sector, in all aspects of it, Mr. Speaker. I heard it from the hog industry. I've heard it from the livestock industry as well, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will be obviously supporting the amendment made by the Premier to the motion and I support the amendment, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm pleased to get into this debate on the CP strike. Mr. Speaker, we have had so many problems trying to ship product. You know, as Minister of Highways, we are working hard to improve the highway system throughout the province so we can get our products out to market, but unfortunately the highways can only do so much.

We are a landlocked province. We have to rely on rail and we have to get our product out to . . . Well, it mainly goes to Vancouver, which I needn't mention a few things about our port out there. But, Mr. Speaker, what we need is we need a service that we have that can be absolutely . . . It's critical to us. And we have to have a service that we can use without all these constraints.

The Premier talked about how many times that they have put in

back-to-work legislation. This is critical for Saskatchewan. You know, the Ag minister talked about the problems with the ag end of it. I come from the northern part of the province, where we have the logging end of it and the lumber end of it. Mr. Speaker, this is a constant problem. Like, I know I've talked to Weyerhaeuser and they can ship. The most of their product goes to Chicago. Now they can ship that by truck but it's way more expensive. It's three times as much money to get that product down to Chicago, and there are times when basically it just becomes unaffordable to be able to do some of these things.

But, Mr. Speaker, there's also been, you know, a lot of other things have been brought up also on the agriculture end. And I want to quote Ray Orb, the president of SARM, who was talking about the effects it would have on a producer. Within three days, and I'm quoting here, Mr. Speaker:

Within three days some of those feedlots could run out of feed. We have a large number of cattle concentrated in areas where there is really no feed, and a lot of our farmers are stressed out already because they don't have hay. Some are running out of water. The grain is critical.

Mr. Speaker, Ray Orb is correct. We desperately need to be able to move our product, to be able to get it to our feedlots. That's one thing. What we really don't want to do is we don't want harm done to those animals. We need them to get there. But the other thing is, when you take a look at it, we've got . . . As the Premier once said, we have the food, the fuel; we have fertilizer. What have we got right here? With what's going on over in Europe right now, we desperately need to supply that food. We need to supply that fertilizer, and we need to supply fuel. We have to get that over there to try and strengthen Europe because of all the problems that they are having.

Mr. Speaker, having the rail line shut down is an absolute disservice. We are actually running into a problem out in Vancouver right now. Canada's reputation as a constant supplier, as a good supplier, has been dropping. Right now we have dropped down . . . Out of the various different countries who are exporting product, we've dropped down to 20th on the list.

Mr. Speaker, that is unacceptable. Having a strike come along right now is just going to hurt our reputation even more if we can't get that product out there. And as the Minister of Agriculture said, this is going back . . . We're paying demurrage on the ships. It doesn't matter whether it's our dehy pellets, whether it's our agriculture products, whether it's our fertilizer, Mr. Speaker. We are paying a demurrage on that, which is coming back and hurting the Saskatchewan economy.

Saskatchewan has an absolutely wonderful economy, but we have to get — we are an exporting province — we have to get that product out there. We have to get that product to our customers in a timely fashion. And, Mr. Speaker, so it is just unacceptable. What I am going to do, Mr. Speaker, because I know that my time is very short here, is I am going to be supporting the amendment that was put forward, and that is what I want to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Yea.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 11:56 until 11:59.]

The Speaker: — All members who are in favour of the amendment please stand.

[12:00]

[Yeas — 43]

Moe	Stewart	McMorris
Reiter	Merriman	Harpauer
Morgan	Tell	Wyant
Docherty	Cheveldayoff	Bradshaw
L. Ross	Carr	Eyre
J. Harrison	Dennis	Hindley
Marit	Buckingham	Hargrave
Fiaz	Lambert	Bonk
Kirsch	Steele	Ottenbreit
Francis	C. Young	A. Ross
Skoropad	Nerlien	Meyers
Friesen	Grewal	McLeod
Cockrill	Goudy	Keisig
Lemaigre	Jenson	D. Harrison
Domotor		

The Speaker: — All those opposed please stand.

[Nays — 8]

Meili

The Speaker: — Order, order.

Wotherspoon	Sarauer	Ritchie
Beck	Mowat	A. Young
Nippi-Albright		

Procedural Clerk (Ms. Drake): — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 43; those opposed, 8.

The Speaker: — I declare the amendment carried. Before the House is the amended motion that reads:

That this Legislative Assembly recognizes the critical importance of rail access to the Saskatchewan economy, including to producers and ranchers, miners, energy workers, forestry workers, and exporters;

That a rail stoppage would be devastating at this time; and

That the Assembly recognizes the collective bargaining rights of workers; and

That the Assembly calls upon the Canadian Pacific Railway to urgently negotiate a fair deal and to ensure Saskatchewan products keep moving to market without a rail stoppage.

The amendment reads:

That all words after “That a rail stoppage would be devastating at this time; and” be struck and replaced with:

“That this Legislative Assembly calls on the federal government to:

(1) immediately implement back-to-work legislation should a work stoppage and disruption of a rail service occur; and

(2) introduce legislation to designate rail service as an essential service to prevent future rail disruptions caused by labour disputes.”

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:04 until 12:05.]

The Speaker: — The question before Assembly is the motion as amended. All members that are in favour please stand.

[Yeas — 44]

Moe	Stewart	McMorris
Reiter	Merriman	Harpauer
Morgan	Tell	Wyant
Docherty	Cheveldayoff	Bradshaw
Kaeding	L. Ross	Carr
Eyre	J. Harrison	Dennis
Hindley	Marit	Buckingham
Hargrave	Fiaz	Lambert
Bonk	Kirsch	Steele
Ottenbreit	Francis	C. Young
A. Ross	Skoropad	Nerlien
Meyers	Friesen	Grewal
McLeod	Cockrill	Goudy
Keisig	Lemaigre	Jenson
D. Harrison	Domotor	

The Speaker: — All those opposed to the amended motion

please stand.

[Nays — 8]

Meili	Wotherspoon	Sarauer
Ritchie	Beck	Mowat
A. Young	Nippi-Albright	

Procedural Clerk (Ms. Drake): — Mr. Speaker, all those in favour, 44; all those opposed, 8.

The Speaker: — I declare the amended motion carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Support for Pipelines and Energy Security

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into the 75-minute debate this afternoon. At the end of my comments, I will be moving a motion:

That this Assembly support Saskatchewan's role in providing global energy security by supporting pipeline projects, including Energy East, Northern Gateway, Keystone XL, and Trans Mountain, and calling on the Government of Canada to repeal Bills C-48, C-69, and the federal carbon tax.

Mr. Speaker, as I start my comments, I first and foremost must acknowledge my friend, the member for Lloydminster. She's very, very well versed in energy, oil fields, pipelines, and I will be the first to admit she provided me much insight, wisdom, and information on my presentation this afternoon.

So, Mr. Speaker, off the start I want to share a few facts, some little known, about oil and gas. Mr. Deputy Speaker, did you know that the first oil was extracted from whales and that if we didn't discover oil in the ground, who knows what would happen to the whales? And did you know that for every 10 calories you eat, that 10 calories of oil and gas were used to make up those calories? Did you know that if we stopped producing oil and gas that five billion people would die from starvation?

How about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Did you know that Canada is one of the few countries that has First Nation consultation requirements for oil and gas development? Did you know that we have extremely conservative environmental regulations compared to other oil-producing countries? And did you also know that an effective way of reducing greenhouse gases on the planet is to get our natural gas to China so that they will stop burning coal?

Did you know that billions of dollars have been invested in the expansion of airports across the world? More airlines, more jet fuel burned. I believe our federal government just a couple of days ago committed \$142 million to Pearson International Airport for upgrades and a connecting transit system, clear evidence of course, that this will need oil and gas for our entire lifetime.

Okay, now that you realize oil and gas isn't going anywhere anytime soon, did you know that this country is a web of hundreds of thousands of underground pipelines? Did you know that catastrophic failure of pipelines is lower than railway accidents? Did you know that if we get our oil and gas to markets or to refineries that we will continue to import it . . . we will continue to import it from countries that have no social or environmental regulations?

Because we can't get our oil to markets, we are completely dependent on selling our oil to the US [United States]. And you know why we can't get our oil to other markets: because our own federal government's regulatory extremes and impositions such as Bill C-48 or the West Coast tanker ban, and Bill C-69, the no-more-pipelines bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And let's not forget the American-funded protesters and propaganda convincing our citizens that we are horrible to our environment. You can also add to that opposing list, members of the opposition and their federal leader, Jagmeet Singh, the man with the "no-pipeline-on-my-watch" stance.

Mr. Speaker, here's what I don't understand. There are members opposite who virtue-signal that they want pipelines, but they continue to hitch their wagon to a federal NDP leader who doesn't want pipelines. And they continue to prop up our Prime Minister and Liberal government who has blocked every opportunity we've had — have been offered by private investors I might add — to develop pipelines and ensure the energy security of our country.

Mr. Speaker, here are a number of facts I'd like to put on the record. First off, when we talk about the oil sector and production, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Saskatchewan and Canada we have amongst the most sustainable and environmentally friendly oil and gas production on the planet. Saskatchewan is the second-largest oil producer behind Alberta, the third-largest gas producer behind Alberta and British Columbia, in Canada.

The petroleum and natural gas industry continues to be the largest contributor among the primary industries to provincial GDP [gross domestic product]. Saskatchewan's oil- and gas-producing industry accounts for over 15 per cent of real gross domestic product. In 2021 the upstream oil and gas industry accounted for close to 30,000 direct and indirect full-time equivalent jobs.

There are approximately 300 oil and gas companies with operations in Saskatchewan, and the industry also contributes revenues in the form of corporate income tax, resource surcharge, fuel tax, personal income tax, property tax, and surface lease rentals. Oil and gas revenues, including royalties, are forecast at over \$745 million in the '21-22 mid-year update. Our government remains committed to supporting the long-term sustainability and sustainable development of Saskatchewan's oil and gas resources, Mr. Speaker.

Pipelines are by far the safest way to move crude oil. Now more than ever, we need improved energy infrastructure in North America to deliver our energy products to market and support what is a highly integrated energy market. A 2019 Canada Energy Regulator report found that pipelines are full and that Canada needs more capacity. Nothing we didn't already know. The Canada Energy Regulator stated, "Lack of sufficient pipeline

capacity has made it difficult to ship oil out of Western Canada." That, we very well know.

Without access to tidewater, Saskatchewan will continue to be forced to sell into a glutted market. In 2021 the lack of access to tidewater cost producers roughly 800 million in lost revenue, and Saskatchewan, 55 million in lost royalties, taxes, and other revenue. In an Angus Reid Institute 2018-2019 survey, 69 per cent of Canadians agreed that the lack of oil pipeline capacity would have a major impact on the Canadian economy. Many of the participants directly blamed the federal government for this shortfall. We're seeing many of those impacts right now. We will continue to encourage pipeline expansion and development within the province to support the industry and the people of our province, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[12:15]

So let's talk about Keystone XL for a little bit. Construction of the Keystone XL pipeline should be at the top priority for our Canada-US economic relations. It should not have been cancelled by President Biden, and the Canadian federal government should be doing more to fight for the pipeline, as they are critical for North Americans' energy security. Biden gets everything wrong, always. He was the only member of the congress 40 years ago to vote against the Alaska pipeline. He has never apologized for this, nor has he ever admitted how wrong he was. By the way, did you know that Alaska is only 53 miles from Russia across the Bering Strait? I think many do know that. Every Biden decision that is made is viewed through the lens of, how might this enrich the Biden family. Because the answer is so obvious: import more from Canada. You know for sure that they will do just the opposite.

In Saskatchewan it was anticipated to bring 2.97 million in annual property tax increases once operational. Overall, the project would eliminate . . . or generate, sorry, Mr. Deputy Speaker, an estimated employment income of \$1.6 billion during its construction. The most sustainable oil in the world would be in the Keystone XL pipeline, Mainline pipe systems which transport approximately 70 per cent of Saskatchewan oil, Mr. Speaker, which is what this would be.

Line 5 is a critical piece of binational energy infrastructure, which is key to the economy and energy security of the American states in the Great Lakes region and for Ontario and Quebec. Without Line 5, Quebec refineries would be required to increase reliance on crude by rail and imports from foreign countries via tankers in the St. Lawrence Seaway. Sounds like a lot less environmental sustainable practices than a pipeline, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Without Line 5, Ontario refineries would be required to increase reliance on crude by rail and trucking, passing the substantially increased costs on to consumers. Current rail infrastructure in Canada is operated at near capacity, moving many commodities of which crude oil is only a small fraction.

Trans Mountain pipeline has been delayed. It was expected to be in service by December 2022 and now is anticipated completion of construction to occur in the third quarter of 2023. TransCanada Energy East pipeline has been cancelled. The \$15.7 billion Energy East pipeline would have transported 1.1 million barrels per day of Western Canadian and North Dakota crude oil from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and North Dakota to an export

terminal in Saint John, New Brunswick, and potentially on to the refineries: Montreal, Quebec; Lévis, Quebec; and Saint John, New Brunswick, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In addition, TC Energy announced that the Keystone XL would have been a net-zero emission when it turns on and is powered by 100 per cent renewables by 2030, unlike oil from countries like Venezuela and Saudi Arabia. The line also garners significant support from Indigenous communities and would have had a tremendous impact on jobs.

Currently Western Canadian oil can only be exported in large volumes to the US, so this creates a depressed price because effectively Western Canadian oil has only the potential to be marketed in one jurisdiction outside of Canada. Also there is limited excess pipeline capacity to ship Western Canadian oil to the US, so that limits investment in Western Canada. That's why the Keystone XL, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was such an important project for Western Canada.

Now again back to Line 5, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan is very disappointed with the move by Michigan to attempt to shut down the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline, which would've . . . devastating impact and our province and our country and with our economic relationships with the US. Our government has been calling on the Government of Canada to be as active and proactive as possible on all fronts, including diplomatic and legal, to ensure this vital piece of national economic and North American energy security infrastructure remains in operation.

Shutting in Line 5 would immediately remove 550,000 barrels per day of takeaway capacity from . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, Northern Gateway pipeline project was dismissed in the application determining it was not in the public interest. Like the Trans Mountain Expansion, it would create a totally new export option to get Western Canadian oil directly to the highest value markets. In summary, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Northern Gateway would have provided market diversification advantages as well as overall extra pipeline capacity for the region as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, speaking about energy security, we know that national energy security continues to be an issue in Canada and around the world. An energy transition can't happen overnight, and Saskatchewan industries have taken many steps to reduce their emissions and produce environmentally friendly oil products while also investing in innovative new energy technologies that are being developed.

At a time when we should be working in spirit of collaboration and co-operation to recover from a global pandemic and the effects of the sanctions against Russia, decisions to implement the clean fuel standard, increase the carbon tax, and stop energy projects from moving forward will only add further pressure on families, communities, and economies that are trying to survive.

Mr. Speaker, energy security for Canada should have taken place years ago. Many have been saying that more recently. And building pipelines, getting Saskatchewan oil to tidewater would have ensured that energy security that is so needed right now.

Mr. Speaker, over the last number of years, members of this side of the House have stood time and time again on behalf of the citizens of Saskatchewan, on behalf of the oil and gas industry in

this province, calling on the federal government to engage with the USA [United States of America] at both the state and federal levels, to ensure the continued operation of existing pipeline networks and future expansions for the benefit of both our citizens in both countries.

More than ever we need energy security. We are in a crisis in the oil and gas sector in this province, in Western Canada, and in this country as a whole. This is one real crisis that those members opposite should clearly acknowledge and support, not the rhetoric and stance of their federal leader, Mr. Jagmeet Singh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was at a number of energy conferences over the last number of years. And by very well-respected politicians from all over North America, I heard some self-admitted, very much on the left side of the spectrum, environmental green-type people actually with environmental and science backgrounds that are very well versed in renewables and in the fossil fuels which they somewhat oppose. But even they would openly admit time and time again at these conferences amongst their peers — republican, democrat, conservative, and more liberally-minded — that oil and gas is not going to go away any time soon. We are 50 to 100 years away from eliminating.

What I heard from a lot of those members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was the best we can do, that the best technology we have right now with solar, wind, and all the renewables, is to freeze our usage as where it is, to make sure that we have that energy that we need, as I spoke about earlier of energy security, food production, all the rest of it, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So we're not going to go . . . It's not going anywhere anytime soon. We have to take full advantage of the resources we have for investing into our future economies, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Do renewables have a place? Sure they do, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But right now, in the next again 50 to 100 years, the best we can do is freeze our usage and invest in pipelines and use our North American, our ethical energy from right here in our province and our country, Mr. Speaker.

So with that, I will move:

That this Assembly supports Saskatchewan's role in providing global energy security by supporting pipeline projects, including Energy East, Northern Gateway, Keystone XL, and Trans Mountain and calling on the Government of Canada to repeal Bills C-48, C-69, and the federal carbon tax.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I so move.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Yorkton that . . . as soon as I get it. Thank you.

That this Assembly supports Saskatchewan's role in providing global energy security by supporting pipeline projects, including Energy East, Northern Gateway, Keystone XL, and Trans Mountain, and calling on the Government of Canada to repeal Bills C-68, C-69, and the federal carbon tax.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member for Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Apologies. Asleep at the switch here. I was thinking it's rare that I get the opportunity to stand up and say that I agree with the member from Yorkton, although I do think I heard him conclude by saying his goal was freezing usage, which is a strange talking point coming from that side of the House, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

But what I want to talk about today is, Saskatchewan New Democrats have been clear on this, Mr. Speaker. We support the economy. We support jobs. We support energy sector workers. We support pipelines. We support an all-of-the-above approach. An all-of-the-above approach, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And you know, for the members opposite who want to talk about energy security, yes, we need energy security in this province. We need all kinds of security. Our products, our exports, they leave this province. They leave this province by truck, they leave this province hopefully by rail, and they leave this province by pipeline, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And that is important to all members in the House, and both parties in this House support that.

But on the topic of energy security, Mr. Speaker, it can't just be about oil and gas. It can't just be jobs in the subsurface, which are important and which we stand in full support of, Mr. Deputy Speaker — 31,500 jobs exist in that sector, and we stand behind them. But, Mr. Speaker, for the members opposite who want to talk about energy security, they want to talk about their commitment to renewables, those members need to look at themselves in the mirror and have a strong discussion on what their plan is for power generation and energy security in this province as they continue to send it out of province, they continue to send it to private companies, and they refuse to have a discussion about ongoing power generation in this province for Saskatchewan's energy future.

Unit 4 Boundary dam, shut down right now, stranded assets, no plan. Mr. Speaker, their plan for the people in Estevan who are out of work is \$10 million. Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, \$10 million would sure be great for me, but when you look at an entire community, look at a community like Coronach where there's 50 houses on the market, where they're looking at having their livelihood shut down, \$10 million is a drop in the bucket.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the amount of money that this government went over, the amount of money that they wasted through their mismanagement of the Boundary dam carbon capture project, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they could have written cheques for hundreds of thousands of dollars to every single person in those communities. But instead they're happy to fritter that money away, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And to the people looking at losing their jobs, people who are looking at losing their livelihoods, they have \$10 million and a guy set up in the college helping people fill out EI [employment insurance] applications and resumés. Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's not enough.

We've been clear on this side of the House in our understanding and our support for the important contributions that oil and natural gas make to this economy. Sixteen per cent of our GDP in 2019 comes from that sector. That's good news, Mr. Speaker. We need more of that and we need more investment, not just in traditional industries but in innovation.

You know, the member previously spoke about a great number of things, and I believe there was even a Sarah Palin reference in there. But you know, Mr. Speaker, when we look at the oil and gas industry, and you look at if we need more investment, the answer there is, you betcha. And you know where we need that investment? We need that investment in innovation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. For every incremental 1 per cent that's currently sitting amongst the 22 billion barrels of oil in place in heavy oil reservoirs in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for every 1 per cent extracted, that is billions of dollars in revenue for this province, and that is hundreds if not thousands of jobs.

When we approach jobs, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we approach this industry, we need to be looking at, again, an all-of-the-above approach. And Saskatchewan New Democrats have been clear on this. We support progress, we support innovation, and we support economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, this is a government that has continually underfunded innovation, that is happy to take credit for the work of others and the discoveries of others. And these members, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have been in government since '07. They have not gotten one new inch of pipe to tidewater, even when, even when they had a Conservative federal government, even when they had a Conservative government in Alberta, and former Premier Christy Clark in British Columbia.

You know, Mr. Speaker, it's great to stand up and talk about this resolution. It's a fun thing to do in a 75-minute debate closing out a week of session. But the members opposite need to look at their own record. What is the record that you have here? Again, not one inch of pipe built to tidewater, even when you had a Conservative federal government, even when you had two Conservative governments to the west of you, and still nothing happened. What a shame, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[12:30]

When we look at the future of Saskatchewan's economy, we look at projections for world energy demand, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We're going to need an all-of-the-above approach. We will need traditional resources. We will need renewables. But we live in a cold province, Mr. Speaker, and I know as well as anyone we need that baseload power and we need good jobs in the traditional subsurface section.

Currently, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've got a billion and a half dollars of revenue that go to the government in royalties. We've got ten and a half billion dollars that go to this government, the combined value of oil and gas production, Mr. Speaker, and still we've got too many rigs sitting idle. And we don't have nearly enough support from this government for innovation and for ensuring that the resources that we have in this province are developed, are developed in a way that is in consultation with groups, with Indigenous communities in the province, and that those groups should be able choose to pursue projects. They should be able to exercise their right in self-determination.

Absolutely, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we know very well that the construction of new pipelines, which are the safest way to transport oil, will create good-paying jobs at the steel mill here in Regina. We need the construction jobs in that steel sector so that 1,000 people in my home community can stay employed.

Are there opportunities to innovate? Yes. Are the members opposite really so self-satisfied and comfortable that they don't think that there's better ways to do things, that we should be exploring further innovation in technology? No. I would remind members that some of the great institutions in this province, some of the great investments came under New Democratic governments. The Petroleum Technology Research Centre, New Democratic government. Initial indication for CCS [carbon capture and storage], a great technology that needs to be explored for fixed emitters in this province, under the NDP. Enhanced oil recovery, Mr. Deputy Speaker, again, again consistently under New Democratic governments.

And meanwhile the members opposite, again let's point to the record. They stand up. They beat their chest. They love to play cheap politics with what should be and what is a critical, critical issue not just for Saskatchewan's economy, not just for those of us who enjoy getting up in 75-minute debates here in this House, but for thousands of people in this province, nearly 32,000 people in this province who rely on those industries for work, for paying their mortgages, and for keeping their communities whole. This has huge consequences for our province. This has huge consequences for communities largely represented by those members, but that has consequences, as I said, for workers here in Regina and across our province again.

You know, Mr. Speaker, when I look at this bill again, I come back to the Saskatchewan NDP's strong and clear and unequivocal support for economic growth, for progress, for a traditional energy sector, and for innovation. It is an all-of-the-above approach. It is not either-or. And for this government with their shameful record that has left thousands without the certainty and without the security that they need for their future and for this province, I mean, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if I was them, I would just be embarrassed.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is my pleasure to stand today and second the motion from my colleague from Yorkton. Mr. Deputy Speaker, pipelines are the safest and most reliable way to move oil and gas across the country. Pipelines have been safely transporting Western Canadian oil to refineries in Canada and the United States for decades and will continue for decades to come. Demand for oil and gas continues to increase. With this demand, the need for additional pipeline capacity is apparent. The need for additional pipelines has never been greater than it is today.

Pipelines safely transport energy around the country and provide Canadians with energy. Canada needs additional pipeline capacity to avoid reliance on foreign oil and ultimately gain energy independence and security. Western Canada is home to the third-largest oil reserves in the world. And this country . . . This will provide Canada the opportunity to achieve energy independence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, pipelines have become the focal point of protesting oil and gas usage. Why are pipelines targeted? Protesters, like the interim leader of the NDP, target pipelines because they are easy for a few people to stage and garner media attention. Pipelines are an easier target because they follow a

narrow right-of-way, travel many kilometres crossing provincial and international borders, and are primarily targeted because pipelines require federal approval.

Activist protesters do not attack drilling locations. That will be too difficult. They do not protest parents as they fill their vehicle to take their kids to their activities. They do not protest the truck drivers as they fill with diesel so they can deliver food to our grocery stores. They do not protest your house in the middle of winter with temperatures at minus 40. Fossil fuels keep you and your family warm throughout our long, cold prairie winters.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, oil and gas impacts each and every person, not just when you drive, but in manufacturing for several products we use in our daily lives. Many will not fully realize how oil impacts their lives. I ask everyone to reflect on their daily routine: lights on in the morning, warm house, make coffee, hot shower, cook breakfast, commute to work on paved streets, and while at work, they use even more energy. Oil and gas impacts each of us and the industries we work in.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, energy protesters see pipelines as a choking point, an opportunity to slow the flow of oil and inhibit the opportunity for oil and gas companies to increase production and provide economical benefits for the people of Saskatchewan. Protesters in Quebec were successful in shutting down a National Energy Board public hearing on the Energy East pipeline project.

These hearings are very important to hear public concerns and for them to ask questions, a very important step in public consultations. Now the process is hindered and relies solely, solely on the approval of the federal Environment minister. Saskatchewan people know these approvals have not and do not get the minister's support very often. Bill C-69, otherwise known as the no-more-pipelines bill, needs to be scrapped immediately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, planning and construction of a pipeline takes time. Choosing a route, environmental assessments, consultations with stakeholders, engineering a design, approval of landowners and regulators, installation of the pipe, and reclamation of the right-of-way, commissioning of the pipeline, and eventually full operation.

With the pipeline in operation, there are many ongoing safety and integrity checks. Companies utilize smart pigging technologies to monitor the internal pipeline integrity. Externally the pipe is coated and cathodic protection is used for external protections of the pipe. Aerial and ground monitoring of the right-of-way, continuing consultations with landowners, municipalities, and regulators all aid in the safe operation of a pipeline.

In fact pipeline rights-of-way are very inconspicuous. Farmers may continue to use the right-of-way, or it is sown down to grass to maintain soil coverage. Applying today's technologies with a new pipeline will ensure a lifetime of safe transportation of oil and gas.

Mr. Speaker, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the need for Canada to ensure energy security for Canadians. Western Canadian oil can fill this need. Canada needs more Canadian oil. Achieving energy security for Canada, and indeed North America, we need pipelines. We need pipelines going east, west, north, and south: Energy East to supply refineries on the

East Coast; Keystone XL going to the United States to fill the energy requirements of our largest trading partner, a project that has been very, very political; Trans Mountain and Northern Gateway sending oil to our West Coast.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Keystone XL has been back and forth with approvals. A recent poll completed by Maru Public Opinion in the United States shows over 70 per cent public support for completing this pipeline, 70 per cent, over 70 per cent approval. With increasing support from the American people, presidential approval may become a reality. Western Canadian oil producers are ready, willing, and able to fill this pipeline with clean, ethically produced oil.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I ask the opposition to call the leader of the federal NDP and urge him to support Canada. Canada needs more Canadian oil. We need all hands on deck to get the federal government to support pipelines, repeal Bill C-48, Bill C-69, and remove the federal carbon tax.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm proud to second the motion:

That this Assembly supports Saskatchewan's role in providing global energy security by supporting pipeline projects, including Energy East, Northern Gateway, Keystone XL, and Trans Mountain, and calling on the Government of Canada to repeal Bills C-48, C-69, and the federal carbon tax.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite who was speaking there left a couple minutes on the clock to make his case here, and that's all right. You know, I think that we should be expressing our strong, united support for the energy sector in Saskatchewan, and I'm surprised that the member from southeast Saskatchewan couldn't make the case and use the clock to carry the clock and make the case on this front. But that's secondary.

What's nice is to have the chance to enter into discussion here this afternoon about such an important industry to Saskatchewan, and to talk about the importance of that industry and the need for us to be able to get our product to market to serve the world, to ensure jobs and energy security, Mr. Speaker.

And of course with respect to the energy sector and the oil and gas sector, this opposition has been consistent on this front as strong supporters of this industry, Mr. Speaker, strong supporters of those jobs and that work and that investment, and strong supporters of getting that product to market, and supporting pipelines as the most efficient and safest way to get that product to market — importantly the safest way to get that product to market.

You know, we have a time right now within our world that's horrible. What we're watching unfold day after day in the Ukraine is a wake-up call to us all about how evil certain actors in the world can be at a given time. Putin's unforgivable invasion of Ukraine causes huge stress and hardship for many within our

province as well, Mr. Speaker, and we can only imagine what those families are going through in Ukraine and those that are looking for safety right now.

[12:45]

It's also a reminder to the world and to countries around the importance of who you're sourcing your product from. And certainly it's important for Saskatchewan and for Canada to extend our resources to the world, Mr. Speaker — to do all we can of course to access export markets of Russia, of Putin to certainly cripple his ability to fund his unforgivable invasion — but to make sure that we secure those markets from a safe, peaceful, democratic actor in the world, as in Saskatchewan and Canada and North America. And that's why this industry is, you know, a very important one, Mr. Speaker.

So there's not a whole lot of debate in the matters that have been brought forward by members here today because this is a sector that doesn't need polarized, divisive, partisan debate. What it needs is good, strong support from our Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And you know, certainly, as I say the official opposition New Democrats have been consistent on this front. Certainly as a long-serving Finance critic I've been consistent on this front around the importance of this industry, the importance of getting our product to market, the importance of pipelines, and you know, accessing other markets, getting pipelines built to tidewater, Mr. Speaker.

And this government, you know, does not have a good record on this front as far as accessing markets and building out pipelines, Mr. Speaker. They haven't got a pipeline built out to tidewater, Mr. Speaker, and that's despite the fact that they've been in government for a very long period of time. They've professed that these are matters that they care about. But their ability to get the job done, their performance on this front has not been strong, Mr. Speaker, and that's even with a Conservative prime minister, Stephen Harper, that occupied office at that same very time, Mr. Speaker. But that's why we've been consistent on this front and we'll continue to be as well, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to this sector and energy in general, it's sort of an all-of-the-above that we need. Of course we need to utilize our traditional oil and gas resources, and serve and supply the world and provide the jobs that we have here in Saskatchewan. I know what those jobs look like in through southeast Saskatchewan. I know what the investments of companies like Crescent Point provide in through that region. I've had conversations with folks in that industry from all levels, from drill hands through to senior leadership.

We also need to, of course, be doing what we can in Saskatchewan to tap new opportunities and build strength in other ways. And we have a government that, you know, are real laggards on this front. And we have opportunities with renewable power that have been left untapped that could be making life more affordable for Saskatchewan families and businesses, and could be bringing jobs to Saskatchewan people, creating thousands of jobs and supporting workers and businesses across Saskatchewan.

So it shouldn't be, you know, an either-or approach. It should be an all-of-the-above. I think of basic but important measures

around things like energy efficiency retrofits, Mr. Speaker, that can create thousands of jobs across Saskatchewan for Saskatchewan workers, that can work and support so many local businesses and that can make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people as well, Mr. Speaker.

So these are the things where we see this government really failing to secure the economic opportunity for Saskatchewan people. They've failed to advance pipelines and energy security in a meaningful way, Mr. Speaker, and then they failed to create those other value-add opportunities and some diversification and strength for the long term, Mr. Speaker.

We see a lot of good things happening in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We see all the canola crush activity and investments that are being projected to come online. We see partnerships. I think of the FCL [Federated Co-operatives Ltd.] refinery, such an important leader in Saskatchewan's economy and in Regina's economy. I see their partnership with AGT and some of their foray into sequestration and some of their efforts into renewable diesel, Mr. Speaker. These are wonderful innovations and investments that we see within our province, Mr. Speaker.

But we have also seen a government, as I say, that, you know, presided through a period, a time where we actually experienced an energy boom. We had a commodity super cycle that presented, and that was all after the previous government had changed royalty structures and created a very competitive environment that was there to stimulate investment and get that economy on track and to get our finances on track. And that's exactly what happened. And you know, the former premier, Premier Wall, would often say, you know, when's something's working, you don't mess around with it. And would point to the policies of the previous NDP as very strong economic policies that set the economy up for boom, a commodity super cycle that was experienced.

Now what happened during that time, unfortunately though, is that again this was a government that wasn't able to access the needed pipeline capacity during that time, so we got shortchanged on our energy price, both as a province but on the jobs and investment side, Mr. Speaker, and by way of the revenues that were being supplied to government at record levels through many of those years.

We had a government that just couldn't manage, that squandered a historic opportunity, that didn't save a dime for the future, Mr. Speaker, that tripled the debt and failed as well — all while failing to advance needed pipeline capacity and pipeline projects, Mr. Speaker — failed to create those value-add opportunities as well and to diversify our economy and to create those new opportunities. Because again, Mr. Speaker, it's not either-or, Mr. Speaker; it's all of the above. And we need public investment. We need private investment. We need our resource sector to be strong, Mr. Speaker, and we need new industries to be supported and emerged as well, Mr. Speaker.

But what we've seen from the current government is one of mismanagement, of political interest ahead of the public's interest, and a very short-sighted approach that's failed to secure the benefits and the kind of future that Saskatchewan people deserve. But with respect to this important industry, of course we stand with the oil and gas sector, and we stand to make sure we're

getting pipeline projects approved and built out, Mr. Speaker. And that's the consistent entries that I've taken and that we've taken for years, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the Legislative Assembly today to enter into debate regarding Saskatchewan's role in supporting pipelines. Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan and Canada, we have the most sustainable and environmentally friendly oil and gas production on the planet. In Saskatchewan, we are the second-largest oil producer in Canada. Part of our government's plan when re-elected was commitment in proceeding with 30 goals for 2030. This includes enhanced oil recovery; carbon capture, utilization, and storage, which will position Saskatchewan as the best place in North America to test, commercialize, and scale new oil and gas technologies.

Saskatchewan's oil- and gas-producing industry accounts for over 15 per cent of our gross domestic product, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It generated 5.9 billion in combined value production in 2020 and more than 29,000 indirect jobs in the province. We presently have approximately 300 oil and gas companies with operations in Saskatchewan, with oil and gas royalties forecasted at over 745 million in the '21-22 mid-update.

Mr. Speaker, pipelines are by far the safest and economical way to move crude oil. In my former position as a CAO [chief administrative officer] for a rural municipality, it was quite obvious to me that the oil moved by pipeline saved municipal road infrastructure from damages caused by heavy trucks, which in turn served the municipality funds for repairing those roads, which in turn saved taxpayers having to pay additional taxes for road construction and maintenance costs.

In 2019 a Canada Energy Regulator report found that pipelines were full and that Canada needs more pipeline capacity, not less. This is not new information, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They went on to say lack of sufficient pipeline capacity has made it difficult to ship oil out of Western Canada.

In 2021 the lack of access to tidewater caused producers roughly 800 million in lost revenue. Saskatchewan alone lost 55 million in lost royalties, taxes and other revenue which could have benefited Saskatchewan residents in providing enhanced services.

The federal government is directly to blame for this shortfall, Mr. Speaker. As stated in an Angus Reid Institute survey from 2019, 69 per cent of Canadians agreed that the lack of oil pipeline capacity would have a major impact on the Canadian economy.

In 2021 the federal NDP convention motion was "For rapid conversion to green, renewable energy. No new pipelines," Mr. Deputy Speaker. "Therefore, be it resolved that the NDP actively campaign . . . [in opposition of all new pipeline construction]."

There was further that the EDAs [electoral district associations] in Regina and Saskatoon University passed: "Therefore, be it resolved that the NDP oppose all carbon intensive energy products, including those already in development such as Coastal GasLink pipeline and Site C dam."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are already seeing these impacts now. Unfortunately, pipelines as a Keystone XL pipeline was cancelled by President Biden. Had this pipeline gone forward, this could have been beneficial in assisting — in reducing — the US's reliance on oil from countries such as Russia, who is presently invading Ukraine. While they have sanctioned importing oil from Russia, this could have been a key pipeline in helping meet the US's energy needs from Saskatchewan and Canada.

We need the federal government to do more to fight for pipelines as they are crucial to energy security for North America. The restoration of the construction for the Keystone XL pipeline should continue to be a top priority for Canada-US relations.

In Saskatchewan alone, it was anticipated to bring in 2.97 million in annual property tax increases once operational. The Keystone XL project would have generated an estimated employment income of 1.6 billion during construction, providing much employment not only for Saskatchewan residents but for Canadian people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the most sustainable and environmentally produced oil in the world is found right here in Saskatchewan, which could be in that Keystone XL pipeline, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Enbridge Line no. 5 is presently at risk of being shut down. Our government's been calling on the Government of Canada to be as active and as proactive as possible on all fronts to ensure this vital piece of national, economic, and North American energy security infrastructure remains in operation. Mr. Deputy Speaker, shutting in Line 5 would immediately remove 540,000 barrels per day from the overall mainline pipeline system, which transports approximately 70 per cent of Saskatchewan's oil production.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan is a world leader in carbon capture technology, and our government is proud to support expanding the use of carbon capture and storage in this province. We have outlined our priorities around carbon capture, utilization, and storage to show our commitment to this vital technology. Enhanced oil recovery by using carbon capture, utilization, and storage reduced emissions by 82 per cent compared to traditional extraction methods.

Saskatchewan will aim to expand the provincial pipeline oil infrastructure investment program to include CO₂ pipeline projects. Work with the energy sector to evaluate the enhanced oil recovery royalty regime to ensure that CO₂ injection projects remain highly competitive. Amend and clarify regulations to support investment and provide certainty around pore space ownership, access, and utilization of high-potential enhanced oil recovery plays, and long-term obligations and accountability for CO₂ storage.

Explore opportunities for carbon capture, utilization, and storage infrastructure hubs and distribution models, including the Regina-Moose Jaw industrial corridor to the southeast Saskatchewan and greater Lloydminster area. Advance the development of a carbon capture, utilization, and storage greenhouse gas credit generation program, recognized under Saskatchewan's emission management framework, focused on predictability and minimal administrative burden for industry prior to investment; and provide the maximum credit generation

for captured and sequestered CO₂.

These concerns are echoed by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, who have said, and I quote, "The impacts of a flawed Bill C-69 go well beyond hurting Canada's oil and natural gas industry."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan oil is among the most sustainable in the world. Mr. Deputy Speaker, our government will continue to support the development of oil infrastructure in our province to create long-term, sustainable growth of our energy industry. We will continue to advocate for the importance of North American energy infrastructure, and we will take every opportunity we can to stand up for Saskatchewan's economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — It now being 1 p.m., this Assembly stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:00.]

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Minister of Highways
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Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

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