

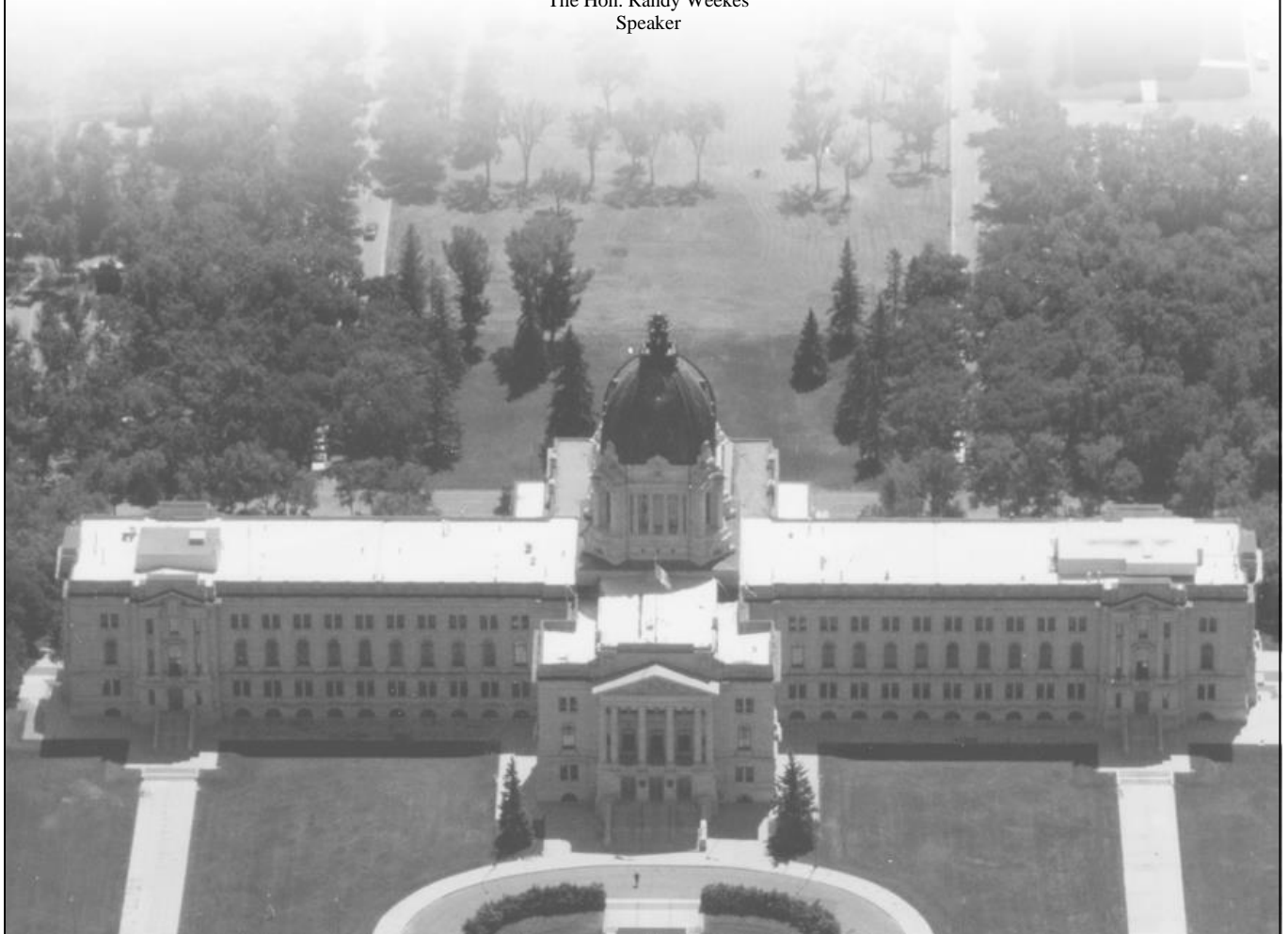
SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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)	Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)	Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)	Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
Bradshaw, Hon. Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)	McLeod, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)	Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Cockrill, Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)	Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)	Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)	Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)	Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)	Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)	Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)	Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)	Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)	Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)	

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

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reception

The Speaker: — Just before introductions, I'd just like to invite all members to join me today at the welcome reception for Ms. Tara Clemett and a farewell reception for Ms. Judy Ferguson, provincial auditors, today at 3 p.m. in the Saskatchewan Gallery. There'll be a short program starting at 3:15.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of this legislature, it is my distinct pleasure and honour to introduce Deborah Chatsis and her family who are seated here today in your gallery on the left.

Deborah was first introduced in this legislature in the 1970s as a Girl Guide for receiving the Canada Cord award. But that was just the beginning. Deborah is a member of the Ahtahkakoop First Nation. She grew up in Prince Albert and graduated from École St. Mary. She earned a degree in mechanical engineering at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], took her Master of Laws at the University of Ottawa, and entered into the Canadian Foreign Service. Deborah later received her Master in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard as a Fulbright scholar.

In 2018, after a lifetime of service to her country, Deborah returned home to her roots in Prince Albert. Now retired, she is taking a writing class and an agility class with her dog, Ginger, who she brought as a rescue dog from Guatemala, and she's taking Cree lessons.

Deborah has spoken to students in Prince Albert and Ahtahkakoop First Nation about her work overseas, giving them a sense of what is possible with education, dedication, and determination. In December this year, Deborah was appointed to the Order of Canada, which you will hear about later.

Alongside Deborah today are her sisters, Sandra Ahenakew, who is a federal government employee; Verla Chatsis, who is a retired pharmacist and who has an unshakable faith in God; her brother-

in-law, Dr. Randy Friesen, who is a well-known surgeon up in Prince Albert; and nephew Luke Friesen, who is studying to be an EMT [emergency medical technician] and will soon be on the front lines.

May God's grace and blessing follow your every path that your family takes and every move you make. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming Deborah and her family to their legislature.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the member opposite in welcoming Deborah and her family to the legislature. Order of Canada is quite the accomplishment. It sounds like you've had a very full life and contribution to our society already. And I want to thank you and your family members, who are serving in their own ways as well, for what your contributions have been and for making the trip to the legislature today.

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

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my colleague, the hon. member from Meadow Lake, I would like to welcome in the west wing gallery today a group of students from Northwood Christian School in Leoville. They are accompanied by their teachers: Glen Jantz, Miss Isaac, and Trent Loewen. I look forward to meeting and having a chat with them after routine proceedings. I ask that all members join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Friesen: — Mr. Speaker, I 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.

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is another great day in Riversdale. And I would like to introduce a new resident of Saskatoon Riversdale sitting in your gallery, Maryam Masoomi. This is a very accomplished young lady, Mr. Speaker, both back in her country of Afghanistan, and in the short time that she's been here in Saskatoon she's already received a scholarship from the city of Saskatoon police. She's starting an Afghan radio program which starts next month, I believe, starting in May on CFQR, and just has so many accomplishments that I'm going to have to do a member's statement on her in the near future, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like all guests to welcome Maryam Masoomi to her legislature.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of introducing one of Saskatchewan's smartest radio listeners, and

a very caring and compassionate young man who happens to be my CA [constituency assistant], Terry Bubnick. I'm very proud to be able to work with Terry. He's very passionate and just an amazing person to the residents of Riversdale and surrounding communities. So thank you, Terry, for being here today.

Beside Terry is his wife, Deb Davies. She's well known in this building. And for Deb's birthday today, I'm going to not sing. That's definitely a birthday gift. Deb works very strongly with foster families in Saskatoon and has done amazing work in our province. So again I'd ask all members to welcome Deb Davies and Terry Bubnick to their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, I'd 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. Mr. Kaeding: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce one of our newest Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal recipients. Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is Bob Bjarnason of Churchbridge and his family: his wife, Grace, and his sons, Brett and Curtis, who are third-generation employees at Mosaic in Esterhazy.

Bob is a retired electrician who has worked at Mosaic Esterhazy for over 36 years. Bob was recognized with eight other very deserving recipients this morning for outstanding volunteer service to their community, to their province, and to their county.

Bob graciously and humbly served in some capacity over his lifetime in Churchbridge, whether it was for baseball, for hockey, curling club, the swimming pool, school activities, drama club activities, Churchbridge in Bloom, cemetery committee, and is a lifelong member of his church and the Lions Club. It was a privilege to be with Bob and his family as he was recognized this morning at Government House, and I would like the Assembly to welcome Bob and his family to their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I would also like to welcome my lovely wife, Carla, who hates it when I introduce her, so I won't. So I'd like the Assembly to welcome Carla to her Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, somebody sitting in your west gallery, and I can say that it was a delight to see him there. He . . . I'm sorry. He means a lot to my family, and you know, my parents. At times we all need support, and this man and his family have done a lot for a lot of Saskatchewan people. And Harold Lutzer, you're welcome here. Sure appreciate all that you've been in my family and for our province. And I'd like everybody to welcome Harold Lutzer to his Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents as it relates to the Sask Party's takeover of security here at the legislature, the people's building, an unprecedented politicization of that incredibly important role of the Sergeant-at-Arms and the function that it provides to the people of Saskatchewan, all people in this building, all members, the media, all folks, all people of Saskatchewan who come to this legislature, undermining the very important independence, Mr. Speaker, having the Sergeant-at-Arms reporting to you as the Speaker of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

And sadly, I'm presenting this petition because the Sask Party simply hasn't seen the error in their ways on this front, and they continue to ram forward with the scrapping of the incredibly important role of the Sergeant-at-Arms and this grubby takeover of the security in this very important building, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to stop the passage of Bill 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*.

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

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it gives me no pleasure at all to again be on my feet to present a petition calling for changes to the heartless program that is now known as SIS [Saskatchewan income support], Mr. Speaker. SIS is a program that represents further cuts to the most vulnerable when they were already struggling and barely hanging on by a thread, Mr. Speaker.

One of the things that SIS does is take away the coverage of utilities at a moment when inflation is through the roof and people are struggling more than ever to cover those costs, Mr. Speaker. My office hears from folks on a daily basis that simply cannot live in dignity, cannot make ends meet on this program. And it is incumbent on this Sask Party government to get back to the drawing table and fix the foundational issues with SIS, Mr. Speaker.

So with that I will read the prayer:

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

The concerned residents of this province reside in Regina, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Proud to be on my feet today to bring forth a petition that's been signed by good folks in LeRoy, Saskatchewan. No less than about a dozen folks have signed this petition calling on the Legislative Assembly for home supports for older adults in Saskatchewan. The thing that I'd like to bring to the Assembly today that the petitioners raise is that providing supports for older adults in their homes comes at a much lower cost than providing institutionalized care.

Now this isn't to say, I don't think, the petitioners feel that long-term care should be provided in the home, but other supports that go beyond health care needs can help seniors in Saskatchewan age in their homes and avoid the type of declining health that's often precipitated by an incident like a fall or an illness. So this is definitely something that can help people to age better with a higher quality of life so that they can delay the need for further medical and health interventions.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to work with older adults, stakeholders, and municipalities to design a home supports program that will allow seniors to age with dignity and autonomy in their homes and communities.

I do so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present a petition to the government to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities, leading to many emergency room acute lab and X-ray service disruptions; that the ongoing pandemic has created burnout and led to early retirements and resignations, which has rippling effects for our small cities and towns.

Health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies, and we know that at the 2021 SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention, over 94 per cent of rural leaders voted to support a resolution acknowledging the nursing and health care worker shortage across Saskatchewan.

[13:45]

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the rural health care staffing crisis.

This petition today is signed by individuals from Wilkie, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly calling for the funding of in vitro fertilization treatments here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to our attention the following: one in six couples in Canada here in Saskatchewan will experience infertility; and these treatments are prohibitively expensive, with one cycle before drugs, which can be \$7,500, with one cycle typically costing at least \$10,000; despite public health care being a right in Canada, despite this being a health issue, there is no government financial support for Saskatchewan couples or individuals requiring IVF [in vitro fertilization] treatments; and people's ability to conceive and to grow their families here in Saskatchewan should not depend on their socioeconomic status.

It makes economic sense to support people here in this province hoping to grow their families. Other provinces have created programs that financially assist in providing IVF treatments to those struggling to conceive. And, Mr. Speaker, I have a stack of petitions this high from people all over the province who care deeply about this issue, and so I hope members of the government are listening and speaking to their constituents.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately move to cover the financial burden of two rounds of IVF treatments for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition today reside in Wilkie, Unity, and Battleford. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Earth Day

Ms. Conway: — I stand in honour of Earth Day, Mr. Speaker, because climate change is impacting every corner of the globe as we see right here in Saskatchewan. Record cold, heat, drought, and storms come more than ever and have increasing ecological and financial cost. Saskatchewan has the highest per capita carbon footprint in the country, to which the Premier recently said, "I don't care." That's the Sask Party mantra: purse first, earth later. They put their notions of the economy over the well being of just about everything else — the air we breathe, the water we drink, the future of our workers, and the health of our communities.

But here's the thing: it doesn't work, Mr. Speaker. For two years now the Sask Party pitted the public health against the economy and, surprising no one, failed at both. If any doubts were left, it's obvious you can't sacrifice people — or, for that matter, the planet — for the sake of the economy. We badly need a government that fights for the economic necessity and opportunity in decreasing emissions while creating good, long-term, well-paying jobs, one that recognizes that the best economy is sustainable and resilient.

The new green economy is coming, Mr. Speaker, and we need a government that leverages our incredible potential right here in Saskatchewan to lead, not one that denies climate change exists, dismisses it as witchcraft thinking, and minimizes the crisis at every turn. We need a government that cares. We need a Premier that cares. So with that I'd ask all members in joining me in celebrating Earth Day and step up to the hard work required, and indeed the opportunities in the face of our changing climate.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Rook I Uranium Project

Mr. Lemaigre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to announce another major investment in northern Saskatchewan. NexGen Energy Ltd. has announced a signing of an impact benefit agreement with Clearwater River Dene Nation. Mr. Speaker, this agreement covers all phases of the Rook I project, which hosts a 100 per cent owned Arrow uranium deposit.

The Rook I project is the largest development-stage uranium project in Canada, and it's located within the traditional territory of my home community, the Clearwater River Dene Nation. The impact benefit agreement signed between the two parties defines the environmental, cultural, economic, employment, and other benefits that will be provided to the Dene Nation in respect to the project.

Mr. Speaker, this government is very supportive of the Rook I project. They help high-quality Saskatchewan resources get to the market while respecting and prioritizing the right of local Indigenous people. I quote Chief Teddy Clarke of CRDN [Clearwater River Dene Nation] here, Mr. Speaker: "Our community and NexGen have built a meaningful relationship over the past 10 years based on respect, trust, and confidence, and this agreement formalizes this relationship."

Uranium continues to look like one of the best sources of sustainable energy, and there's nowhere better than northern Saskatchewan to invest in sustainable energy projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Activist and The Ballantyne Project

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to draw attention to a resident of Saskatoon Eastview who I've mentioned before, but someone who deserves recognition once again. Last summer B'yauling Toni, a 21-year-old engineering student, cycled his way around the province to residential school sites to deliver handmade moccasins made by Chokeycherry Studios in Saskatoon. But then in December, he partnered with The Ballantyne Project, an organization that supports Indigenous youth in remote regions of Saskatchewan. B'yauling this time snowshoed 300 kilometres from Saskatoon to the site of the former Timber Bay children's home. The trek took 10 days and he slept mostly outside in his tent during what was one of the coldest stretches that we had all winter.

He joined his voice with that of Lac La Ronge Indian Band in asking the Timber Bay children's home be officially recognized

as a residential school. The home operated from 1952 to 1994 but is not recognized as a residential school because funds were transferred from the federal government to the province of Saskatchewan, who then paid the church to run the school. B'yauling's snowshoe trek raised awareness on an important point — survivors of the home cannot access the same support and compensation as other survivors of the residential school system.

I invite all treaty people in the Assembly to join me in thanking B'yauling and The Ballantyne Project as they seek justice for the youth who attended the Timber Bay children's home. Thank you.

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

Indigenous Achievement Conference

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Edwards Indigenous Business Students' Society recently hosted its second annual Indigenous Achievement Conference. The conference included guests from all over Canada, with a focus on young people. The event included a women's panel on being an Indigenous woman in the business world, speakers on Afro-Indigenous perspectives, business opportunities for Indigenous students, a cultural showcase, and a keynote from Cree-Métis podcast host, Shayla Stonechild.

Mr. Speaker, the theme of this year's conference was miyo-pimâtisiwin — "living the good life" in Cree. This term, living the good life, means to be as healthy, balanced, and successful as possible in one's life. The conference attracted 135 participants and was open to everyone. Nutrien sponsored the event and featured a presentation by Lyle Acoose, a member of the Zagime First Nation and an advisor to Nutrien.

These events that empower young Indigenous people are important for connecting Indigenous business students. Indigenous participation in all levels of Saskatchewan's economy is vital to building new and diverse initiatives that support reconciliation. Mr. Speaker, I applaud these young students and am very excited to what they will contribute in the future in Saskatchewan and in their home communities. Let's all strive to live the good life. Thank you.

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

Saskatchewan Citizen Appointed to the Order of Canada

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Deborah Chatsis was appointed to the Order of Canada for her leadership as the first woman of a First Nation to serve as ambassador for Canada, and for her advocacy for human rights around the world.

The Order of Canada is one of the highest honours in our nation. It was created in 1967 to honour people whose service shapes our society, whose innovation ignite our imaginations, and whose compassion unites our communities. The Order of Canada recognizes recipients for their outstanding service to their community and service to our nation.

More than 7,500 people from all sectors of society have been

invested into the Order of Canada. Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched lives of others and have taken to heart the motto of the order: "They desire a better country." Deborah exemplified the Order of Canada as Canada's ambassador to Vietnam, ambassador to Guatemala, and High Commissioner to Belize, and for her years in Beijing, Bogotá, Miami, Geneva, New York City, and Hanoi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Deborah on her appointment to the Order of Canada and for all she has accomplished and continues to achieve. Thank you.

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

Samuel McLeod Business Awards

Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill once said that "Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts." I'm reminded of this when I see the resiliency of our business community. Along with my colleague from Prince Albert Northcote, I was recently pleased to attend the Samuel McLeod Business Awards celebration in Prince Albert. Over 30 businesses and business people were nominated in 10 categories.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Corinne and Lee Penner of Pet Planet for taking home both the Business of the Year and Business Transformation awards. During the pandemic they did what they could to refresh their business and they hired local contractors to get the job done.

Other recipients were Lake Country Co-op for Community Involvement, Carlton Trail Hearing Clinic in the Customer Service category. Mona Selanders with Coronet Hotel was awarded Female Business Leader. Mark Ripley with Mann-Northway GM was named Male Business Leader, and he also received the Marketing Award. Alumarine won for New Venture, and Amy Lamb with WillowGrove Pharmacy received the Young Entrepreneur Award.

Mr. Speaker, thank you to the chamber board of directors, Chair Bill Powalinsky, past Chair Tracy Feher, and their hard-working staff and volunteers. I ask that all members please join me in congratulating the 2021 Samuel McLeod Award nominees and winners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Cheerleading Championship

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rebels Cheerleading Athletics has made history. They have finished in the first place at The Cheerleading Worlds in Orlando, Florida. Smoke, the International Open All-Girl Level Five team, beat 26 other groups from around the world to claim the title at the Allstar cheerleading championship. Mr. Speaker, no other team from Saskatchewan has ever made it to the final round of this prestigious competition.

Other local teams also hit the world stage for this weekend, including two of Regina's Boss Athletics teams, Lady Luxe and Desire. The other Regina gym, 306 Elite, finished in the 16th spot

in the international open Level Six category. Saskatoon Prairie Fire finished 16th as well.

Long hours go into the perfecting routines and building strength for these cheerleaders to be able to perform at such a high level. Mr. Speaker, every Saskatchewan athlete that participated in Orlando over the weekend has something to be proud of.

I'm looking forward to seeing what exciting news comes out of Saskatchewan cheerleading scene in future. Congratulations to all participants and Rebel nation as well. And well done to the Smoke and Rebels Cheerleading Athletics for their achievements in becoming the first Saskatchewan cheer team to win a world title. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Provision of Health Care

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, as of December 31st, there were 36,426 patients waiting for surgery. I asked the minister in estimates committee how many people are currently waiting for surgery, but he couldn't answer, claiming that this information is only collected quarterly. We're 26 days into the new quarter, Mr. Speaker. The minister has that information. Exactly how many people are waiting for surgery today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We've been very transparent, and we very much appreciate the people of Saskatchewan being patient during the last two years where we had some very big challenges in our health care system and across our province. We've had to delay programs. We've had to delay surgeries, Mr. Speaker.

But what I can report to the House, Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday in the media, in Saskatoon we are now at 100 per cent of our scheduled surgeries are being completed, and in Regina we're at 90 per cent. As far as the most accurate number, this fluctuates every day as doctors go in, put their patient information into the surgical queue. So every day this does change, but I will endeavour to get the information to the member as promised in committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

Ms. Mowat: — It's really shameful that the minister does not have an answer to that question today, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government claims that the surgery backlog is a priority. If it were, the minister would have those numbers at his fingertips.

For people like Theresa Rebalin, this isn't a problem that she can ignore. She's joined us on the floor of the Assembly today because she's frustrated and she's tired of waiting in pain for a parathyroid surgery that took far too long to be scheduled because our hospitals are bursting at the seams.

Does the minister recognize that his government's choices in this pandemic have left people like Theresa without the care that they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I welcome Ms. Rebalkin to her Legislative Assembly. I had the opportunity to briefly introduce myself as I saw them coming into the Assembly. I've committed to be able to meet and sit down with them after question period and after possible media, to be able to discuss where we're going.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I've said in the media and I've said in this House is the difference between us and other jurisdictions that are also facing this challenge across our country is we have the dollars invested in the budget — that they voted against — and we also have a four-point plan to be able to bring the specialists in but also incentivize the individuals who are here to be able to work that surgery list.

We recognize that the surgical list is higher than normal, Mr. Speaker, but we have a plan. We have the resources, we have the funds, and we certainly have the front-line health care workers to be able to work that surgical list down to where it should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, people should not have to come to the legislature, make the trip from Saskatoon, to be able to get a meeting with the minister, to be acknowledged by this minister.

Theresa has been living with kidney disease since 2008. She needs dialysis three times a week and is in desperate need of a kidney transplant. But she can't even get on the list until she has this surgery. Her doctors have told her they haven't been able to do the surgery because there's no room in the hospital for her to stay after her operation.

How is it that now, six waves in, this government has not learned that pretending the pandemic doesn't exist and redlining our health care system has massive impacts on people like Theresa who are in need of non-COVID care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank Theresa for coming down to her Assembly, but that's not how they get action, Mr. Speaker. We have constant contact through our constituency offices, through my office, through the member from Swift Current's office, the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, Mr. Speaker, to be able to make sure that we're staying up to date with what's going on.

We recognize that there are challenges out there, Mr. Speaker, but I can tell you from the word go there was never a denial about COVID. The members opposite keep saying this. They keep spinning it in here. They keep spinning it on their Twitter accounts. We have not once ever said that COVID isn't real. COVID is real. It's in our communities. The difference right now, as opposed to this time last year, is we have vaccines. We

have test kits. And people in Saskatchewan have the education to be able to self-monitor and be able to live with COVID. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, that's not what I said. I said that they were downplaying their role in managing the pandemic.

Theresa and her husband have joined us today because they feel shut out from their health system, and because they know that they're not alone in this. They feel the government has not been transparent with Saskatchewan people on how bad things have gotten. And they are among many Saskatchewan people who have paid the price for this government's pandemic mismanagement — Jessica Bailey, Eden Jansen, baby Helen, Blake Turnbull, Brennon Dulle.

To the minister: how many surgeries have been held back or cancelled because there is no room for patients to recover?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, they act like having our hospitals at or near capacity is a bad thing. That's what we're doing are surgeries. We're doing our surgeries in the hospitals, so we have to be able to have those beds. People come in, Mr. Speaker, and they need their surgeries and we try to get them through and back to their normal life as fast as possible with rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, we have a plan of bringing people in. We have the dollars. And we also have the front-line health care workers that are out there working very hard. And for them to disparage the hard work that they're doing to be able to get our surgical capacity up to 100 per cent, Mr. Speaker, that is just discouraging.

These front-line health care workers have helped us through this pandemic and we need to be able to continue to support them. This side of the House certainly will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — I don't even know where to start, Mr. Speaker. That minister is listening more to his spin doctors than medical doctors, which is what we're doing on this side of the House, is listening to people who are on the front lines, and patients like Theresa who are coming forward to raise their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, where does this government think that people like Theresa turn as their health deteriorates while they wait for care? The emergency room. The ballooning surgical and treatment backlogs from the pandemic are adding another layer of pressure to our emergency rooms.

We learned in committee that for people living in Saskatoon, like Theresa, the wait time for a bed on the ward after being admitted is 38 hours. Does the minister think it's appropriate for anyone needing to stay in hospital to wait 38 hours or be turned away from the hospital who needs a bed?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to try to alleviate some of the pressure in our emergency rooms, Mr. Speaker, we have opened a new urgent care centre in Regina. We're making sure that we've broken ground on that and we're getting it opened as soon as possible. We're also working on the urgent care centre in Saskatoon. We're also increasing the ICU [intensive care unit] capacity from 79 up to 90 this year. That was committed in the budget. We also have 10 high-acuity beds in Regina, Mr. Speaker.

This is all designed to be able to take some of the pressure off the health care system. But on top of that, Mr. Speaker, we also have the investment in the people — the backbone of our health care system — to make sure that they have the tools and the equipment and the supports of other nurses coming in, that we're recruiting across Canada and around the world. We're retaining our nurses and our health care workers to be able to do the work that the opposition is calling for. And again for them to disparage what is going on in our health care system and the work that those front-line health care workers are doing, day in and day out, is just disappointing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — We're speaking up for those exact health care workers, Mr. Speaker. And those answers are shameful. The minister acts like this is business as usual, but these are unprecedented realities, Mr. Speaker, and that is what we are hearing from folks on the front lines.

We also learned in committee that in Regina, the wait time is 5.1 hours to even see a doctor. You could drive to Saskatoon and back before you would have even seen a physician. We know there aren't enough doctors on staff. Yesterday we asked the minister about Regina ER [emergency room] staffing, and the minister couldn't answer that question. I trust that his staff have had some time to brief him up since.

What exact steps will this government take to address short-staffing of doctors in Regina emergency rooms that were identified three years ago?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm actually, I'm glad that the member asked the question because when the Leader of the Opposition, the interim Leader of the Opposition went out in the rotunda, he said, "The memo said you need 37 positions, six more doctors. Instead we have zero." Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report to the House that we didn't have zero. Again the Leader of the Opposition was dead wrong. We have three additional doctors that are in the emergency room from that 2019 memo, Mr. Speaker.

But I'll remind the members opposite, there was a pandemic between then and now, Mr. Speaker, that we had to deal with, that we had challenges where we had to move people and resources all over this province to be able to deal with the pandemic. They were the ones that were calling for it; so was the general public. And we were the ones that actioned that. To be

able to say that, again, that we haven't done anything, it's just completely wrong. They need to complete their fact checking over there again.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, maybe they've hired three more doctors, but those aren't additional positions that exist within the Regina emergency room departments. That is not what we are hearing from folks on the front line, and the minister cannot spin this information. That memo stated that 37 positions were required to provide adequate care in Regina ERs, to be able to keep pace with Saskatoon and other centres. The SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] was lobbying government to get there. How many additional positions have been created since that 2019 memo?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that that we have 34.4 FTEs [full-time equivalent] in that position, and we are actively working on recruiting the remainder of those positions. Thank you.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this government has all but given up on reducing ER wait times. In 2012 Brad Wall promised that no one would wait in an ER. Then the target was watered down to 60 per cent reduction, then down to a 35 per cent reduction. Now no target at all.

The minister seems to expect Saskatchewan people to be okay with waiting more than a day for a bed on a ward, or not to be concerned that our ER doctors are telling us that they can't care for emergencies anymore. The minister just said that we're not even up to the 37 positions that were needed three years ago, and we know that the pandemic has exacerbated these challenges. That these folks are not getting the support that they need, it's ludicrous. To the minister: what is the plan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — I find it interesting, Mr. Speaker, that they're running out of questions at question period, so we're rehashing what we did two weeks ago in committee in estimates. This is amazing that they're asking questions about committee, which we had 10 hours for . . . be able to debate that, Mr. Speaker, which we did commit that we would provide the answers.

But as far as our plan, Mr. Speaker, the budget, the budget that we produced, the budget that we tabled on this floor, that they voted against because they didn't want any of those dollars flowing out. But we do have a plan. I've told them this time and time again, Mr. Speaker. We have a four-point plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain our health care workers. We are actively doing this. We have people around the world that are looking for these positions, Mr. Speaker. We are recruiting in the Philippines.

But, Mr. Speaker, this isn't a challenge just unique to Saskatchewan. They think that this is a challenge that's just happening in this province. This is happening across our country, North America, and certainly in Europe. But the difference is we have the plan. We have the dollars to be able to action this to make sure that our health care system is at the capacity and running to the expectations of the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Economic Development and the Hospitality Sector

Ms. A. Young: — Mr. Speaker, people waiting 38 hours for a bed, five hours to see a doctor, people sitting on the floor of this Assembly waiting years for life-changing surgery, and this minister is going to be glib and cavalier about having to answer questions about his failing health care system? Shame on that minister.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's not just health care. This government is moving in all the wrong directions. Population growth, worst. Mortgage delinquency, worst. Minimum wage, worst. Job creation, worst. And nowhere can we see this more in the province than in our hollowed-out downtowns.

So why then, Mr. Speaker, did this government keep PST [provincial sales tax] on restaurant meals and slap 32 taxes and fees predominantly on our visitor and entertainment and hospitality industries?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, as the member previous to me said, they've run out of questions because they still want to debate the 2017-18 budget obviously, which was when there was PST on restaurant meals.

And there is a member chirping away about the taxes and fees. Some of those are fines, Mr. Speaker. I don't know whether he even knows what they are. It would be interesting if we ask them to table the 32 increases that they are referencing because I don't think they can do it, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker.

But as we have said before we are very, very mindful that we have a stable base to our budget to ensure that we can sustain and maintain the services within our province, services that the member previous to me just spoke to. We have a huge increase for health care. We need to maintain and sustain that going forward so that people can access the health care that they want in our province. That takes a stable revenue base.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Well, Mr. Speaker, a sorry day for conservatism in Saskatchewan when the Finance minister wants to stand up and applaud herself for having PST on restaurant meals for five years.

Speaking of five, Mr. Speaker, in Regina nearly a fifth, a fifth of downtown office space is vacant; in Saskatoon, nearly a quarter.

And a balanced vacancy rate should be under 10 per cent. Record levels of downtown vacancies, downtowns which are touchstones to measuring the economic health of our cities and our provinces.

Now the Minister for Parks, Culture, Sport admitted in estimates that she'd done no analysis on the economic impact of these 32 taxes and fees on entertainment and hospitality industries, so many of which are centred in our downtowns. What's the plan to bring businesses back to our hometown downtowns?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting when she comments in a snide way about conservatism and how she obviously mocks it; however economic development is what's going to regenerate the downtown in Regina and across our entire province. That is why we have gone above and beyond to attract just about \$14 billion of outside private investment. And when that construction starts, that's jobs. That's people that are going to be eating in restaurants. They're going to be buying goods and services. There's going to be spinoff generation of suppliers to those corporations.

And what do the member opposite, what do they have to say about corporate expansion within our province? Well I can tell you, Mr. Speaker. We have a tweet by the member from Saskatoon University: they are “. . . not the greedy interests of their corporate friends & donors.” Greedy interests of corporate friends and donors. We have a tweet by the member from Lakeview, who wants to be leader, “. . . to stop corporate price gouging . . .” Mr. Speaker. That is the way the members opposite were. That's what drove economic development out of our province, and they have not changed one little bit.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to see the Minister for Finance is spending her time doing opposition research on Twitter instead of listening to local businesses. Because economic development, boy, that's a strange way to say 32 taxes and fees. Now, Mr. Speaker, the national vacancy rate, both of our biggest cities are well past that. Nearly 10 per cent in Saskatoon. Empty offices mean fewer retail and hospitality opportunities which make downtowns and main streets less attractive to visit. Small businesses are already facing rising costs with inflation and now increasing interest rates.

In their attempt to make a few more bucks off the people of this province, the nickel-and-dime Sask Party is intent on keeping small businesses struggling and making it 6 per cent harder for people to support local.

So to the minister: what specific actions is this government taking today — not five years from now, not 10 years from now — to help struggling downtowns and businesses?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — What we're not going to do and what

we didn't do, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, was keep them shut down, which is what the members opposite asked for time and time again was to keep them shut down, not allow them to do business, and to mean that they would be struggling even more.

We are going to encourage economic development, and we have seen some huge success stories in that. And this summer when that construction begins and those jobs start happening around our major centres, Mr. Speaker, you are going to see people that are employed at high-paying jobs, that are going to be eating in those restaurants. They're going to be in those retail stores. You are going to see suppliers needing to supply the materials needed for that construction. And when those projects are completed you're going to see permanent employees, Mr. Speaker. And that is what will regenerate this city as well as many other communities around our province.

Economic development, Mr. Speaker, is what keeps our communities vital and alive, and it's what is going to be the tax base for the future to keep our health care and social services and education sustainable and maintainable going forward.

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Education minister said that he's looking forward to seeing the budgets that will come his way the next few months. He can't be serious, Mr. Speaker. Seriously? If he'd been reading the letters coming from school divisions, he would know what's going to be in those budgets. It'll be cuts, cuts, cuts on top of years of underfunding, cuts on top of the 352 fewer educators in classrooms this year compared to last year.

Is the minister actually looking forward to signing off on budgets with cuts to the supports our kids need? Or has he completely lost the plot?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the member's question: I am looking forward to seeing those budgets. Seriously I am. Seriously. Seriously. Can't wait for it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, but just to be serious, when the member opposite talks about the number of teachers this year compared to last year, what he is clearly leaving out is, in the midst of a pandemic — particularly when we were at a time when we didn't have vaccinations in this province or anywhere in the world — he knows that every single school division in this province was trying to hire every single person that they could find with a teaching licence, including students that were finishing at the College of Education and being granted provisional licences so that we could ensure that classrooms were open and that students were in front of a teacher, whether that be their regular teacher or whether that be a sub teacher, Mr. Speaker.

So I would hope that he would not try to leave the impression with people in this province that somehow we are drastically short of teachers in this province, when he knows what the

situation was in the first two years of the pandemic. Seriously.

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

Mr. Love: — I cannot overstate how insulting it is to have an Education minister that is proud of the cuts that are coming to classrooms. That's an insult to our teachers and our students. Mr. Speaker, they deserve so much better.

So here's a simple question to the minister, straightforward. When those budgets start landing on his desk in May and June, will he commit to not signing off on a single one that includes cuts to our classrooms?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's certainly my expectation is that there are not going to be cuts to the classroom. That's why we're putting actually additional money so that goes directly into the classrooms: 200 full-time EAs [educational assistant], Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, school divisions have a record \$1.99 billion to develop their budgets. And they have \$145 million in reserves, unrestricted reserves that school divisions have built up over the last number of years that they've been able to put aside. That's on top of the over \$240 million in restricted reserves. Over \$400 million reside in school divisions' reserves, on top of the \$1.99 billion, Mr. Speaker. So yes, I am looking forward to seeing what they present to me as their budgets. Seriously.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, this is the 11th day this spring I rise on behalf of Saskatchewan families, today the Sanderson family, who has lost a loved one to suicide. When will we see a real plan to save Saskatchewan lives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I extend my condolences to the Sanderson family and all families across this province who have lost a loved one to suicide. We continue to invest into suicide prevention initiatives in this province, another \$1 million this year into our suicide prevention plan, the Pillars for Life plan, Mr. Speaker, which now brings that total to \$3.24 million in investments into this very, very important area for people across this province.

We're going to continue to do that work, meeting with the community leaders and with our partners across this province to continue to put forward suicide prevention plans and initiatives that will help people across this province in various communities that are struggling with this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, we have so many people

suffering with mental health and addictions and the suicide. I know in the North we just lost another young person to suicide. Parents, organizations, leaders have been asking this government. Time for action.

Yes, I've said before, you say you're genuine, and I believe you're genuine when you say your condolence to the families. But the families need action. They want action. They want no one to suffer anymore. It's time for some real action. Please listen to what the people are asking for.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each and every one of us in this Chamber takes this issue very seriously. This affects community members across this province, including those here in this Assembly, elected members. Mr. Speaker, we are all committed, I think, to doing as much as we can to make sure that we are working with families across this province to provide the supports that are necessary and to do so in a collaborative fashion.

We're going to continue to do that work and engage with our partners, First Nations partners, non-First Nations communities, North, South, urban, rural, Mr. Speaker, as we know this impacts so many people across this province and we're going to continue to do that good work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on her feet?

Ms. Mowat: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Please state your point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, during question period the Minister of Health referred to the Leader of the Opposition as the interim Leader of the Opposition. That's not his title, and that's inappropriate. And I would ask that he withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy House Leader.

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like you to take that under advisement and look at it and report, please.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As that is not his title, I withdraw and apologize.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 70

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Tell that **Bill No. 70** — *The Legislative*

Assembly Amendment Act, 2021 be now read a second time, and the proposed amendment moved by Ms. Sarauer.]

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to be on my feet, but I take no privilege at all in entering into debate on Bill No. 70, *The Legislative Assembly Amendment Act, 2021*.

And as we know, this was a bill that was brought forward by the House Leader, the member for Meadow Lake, who continues to refuse to speak to the need for this bill. He continues to avert media on the topic. We still on this side don't know why the government felt the need to table this bill, Mr. Speaker.

The last time I entered comments into the record about Bill 70, I spoke about a concerning pattern of behaviour in this government, and that is a pattern of taking institutions and organizations that should be neutral and third party and driving away the competent people that staff those institutions. And this appears to be another example of that trend, Mr. Speaker.

Other examples I can think of, of course, is the departure of Scott Livingstone, a man that guided us through some of the darkest times that this province has ever seen; and then of course the shameful and subsequent decision of this government to create a position out of thin air for Raynelle Wilson, a political staffer, someone who has no prior health administration experience and one who now occupies one of the highest titles in the Saskatchewan Health Authority, Mr. Speaker — the vice-president of enterprise initiatives, whatever that is. They can't really tell us, Mr. Speaker. There is a theme here.

They also can't tell us why there is a need for this bill. All we hear from the Minister of Corrections and Policing, who has taken on the unfortunate task as being the spokesperson of this bill, is that the world is changing. What does that mean, Mr. Speaker, that the world is changing? Have there been threats to this building? And if there have, why haven't the members on this side been informed about them? The members opposite know that I bring my three-year-old, I bring my three-month-old into this building. Are there threats that have happened that we have not been informed about, Mr. Speaker?

The other thing I spoke about is the importance of freedom of expression, Mr. Speaker, and our concern on this side that one of the motivations for Bill 70 is to quiet the expressive activity that we see on the premises of this building, Mr. Speaker, an institution where folks often exercise their sacred duty to be heard by their government, Mr. Speaker.

And we saw from the Premier a concerning contradiction, for example, in how he spoke about the so-called freedom convoy compared to how he spoke about other protesters such as the Justice for Our Stolen Children, Tristen Durocher, who of course were here to protest the ways in which young Indigenous people are treated in this province, the high suicide rates, the high rates of individuals in care, the over-incarceration of young people in incarceration, Mr. Speaker. And we saw the Premier denounce one of those groups and defend the other. Why, Mr. Speaker?

The right to freedom of expression, no matter the views being

expressed, deserves full respect and protection from this government, and it goes to the importance of ensuring that these institutions are neutral and arm's-length. Because God forbid we have individuals with ideological blinders that are tasked with protecting our rights, with protecting our health, with protecting our security in an institution like this, Mr. Speaker.

[14:30]

But that's exactly what this bill represents. It is basically the Sask Party personal protective service, Mr. Speaker. And we still don't know why it was necessary to change decades of history, decades of a legacy from a Sergeant-at-Arms that has done excellent work, work that is beyond reproach, and work that was on full display when we did see the so-called freedom convoy here on the steps of the legislature. The way that they dealt with that situation was beyond reproach, and members on both sides of this House know that.

So why the need for this bill, Mr. Speaker? Why the need to make the Sergeant-at-Arms a purely ceremonial role? We don't even know if he will be tasked with protecting the galleries within this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. It makes absolutely no sense.

If there is an issue with the Sergeant-at-Arms, provide resources. If we need more staff, provide the staffing. This is an institution that has proven itself to be highly competent time and time again, Mr. Speaker. And this bill frankly represents wild, wild overreach on the part of that Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker.

We're still not clear what the agenda is here, Mr. Speaker. We still don't know why this bill is needed. They can't tell us, and it begs the question. One wonders if this is just a bill to distract the public, Mr. Speaker, distract the public from a failed pandemic handling, highest death rates in the country, low vaccine uptake, the preventable loss of far too many lives, and shocking numbers of hospitalizations that we see even today, Mr. Speaker.

One wonders if it's an attempt to distract from their terrible record on social issues, Mr. Speaker — some of the highest child poverty rates; some of the highest rates of HIV [human immunodeficiency virus] infection; some record per capita overdose, death-by-overdose rates, Mr. Speaker; highest domestic violence rates in the country.

One wonders, Mr. Speaker, if this is a bill to detract from their economic record, Mr. Speaker, some of the highest rates of out-migration, young people 18 to 25 leaving this province in higher numbers than almost anywhere else in the country. They don't see a future for themselves here. The highest rates of out-migration, fewer and fewer families see a future for themselves in this country, Mr. Speaker. And if that isn't an indictment of this government, I don't know what is.

So maybe, Mr. Speaker, Bill 70 is an attempt to distract from the 32 regressive tax and fee hikes that they have imposed on the people of Saskatchewan at a time that they are enjoying record revenue windfall, Mr. Speaker, record resource revenues, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's quite clear from the comments of myself and my

colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that this opposition does not support this legislation. We are deeply concerned about it. This is a complete breach of tradition in how issues of security in this building are dealt with. They should be dealt with in a non-partisan, non-ideological, collaborative way through professionals that are competent, that have served for years in policing as we see now, who understand the balancing act that they have to do, the difficult balancing act, Mr. Speaker. This bill reverses the clock and it doesn't move us forward, Mr. Speaker.

I would also say that this is a way of providing security in the building that is good enough for Ottawa, and if it's good enough for Ottawa, it should be good enough for us as well, Mr. Speaker. And if it's not good enough, this government needs to tell us why it isn't. They need to be transparent and they need to be accountable, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I will ask for leave to adjourn Bill 70.

The Speaker: — The member has asked leave to adjourn. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the member.

Ms. Conway: — Oh. At this time I move to adjourn Bill 70.

The Speaker: — She has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the House to adjourn?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 79

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. J. Harrison that **Bill No. 79 — *The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 79, *The Saskatchewan Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act* of 2022. I'll keep my comments fairly brief today, but there's a few things that I just wanted to note here. Certainly on board, you know, with the premise that the goal here is to support increased Indigenous participation in the economy and stimulate economic development in Indigenous communities.

So I'm mindful of the ways that if we think about economics, you know, often we think about economics with big numbers, GDP [gross domestic product] and per capita economic development, things like that. But you know, if we really break it down, the point of a strong economy is to improve the lives of the people, that we need to see . . . A functioning economy will be increasing our health, increasing our wellness, increasing, you know, our own individual autonomy and our connections to our community.

And a strong economy, you know, economic reconciliation is

something that's drastically needed in this province. And you know, I would just ask the Assembly and all of us who are considering this new legislation to be mindful of our need for economic reconciliation. And if we look at the history that we have, the history of Turtle Island, the history of the nation of Canada, the history of the province of Saskatchewan is one in which we have atrocities of the past and decisions of lawmakers in the past, folks like us who debated legislation, who created policies and practices that discouraged participation in the economy for our First Nations and Métis people.

In particular, if you look at our history of residential schools and all of the ways that that policy was morally, ethically wrong, and the genocide and cultural impacts that took place, there were also economic impacts as obviously those schools were never ever designed or intended to improve the engagement for Indigenous peoples to engage in the economy.

Now I don't feel it necessary to educate the Assembly on all of this, but I just want to note that the point, or one of the consequences of residential schools was to create disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners. The First Nations children who were forced to attend these schools were never prepared for professional careers, for a life of economic success.

These were policies that were meant to impoverish. And so it is absolutely upon us as legislators to consider this goal of increased Indigenous participation. That will take investment. That will take work. And part of that is to balance the scales of history, and that is the work before us.

You know, I'm curious to see how this investment will increase the engagement and participation of Indigenous-owned companies as well as the folks who work for them. So you know, we'll continue to watch the progress. But I think from the outset, I'll say that I'm in favour of this new Act and I'm curious to see the results that will come from it. And I think that this Act will not be measured by its intended consequences, but by the actual results that come from it once it's implemented.

So I'll wait to listen to my colleagues in opposition and our critic, and we'll continue to watch and see that there's success for Indigenous participation in the economy of Saskatchewan. But at this point, I will adjourn debate on Bill 79, the Indigenous Investment Finance Corporation Act. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 80

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. J. Harrison that **Bill No. 80** — *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join on Bill No. 80, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022*. I know that initially looking at the bill, I asked the critic what kind of work she's going to be doing on this bill and looking into it. And I think she'll reach out. She was going to consult and find out exactly . . . She will get an opportunity as the critic in the committee to do some good work and ask some questions, making sure this is great with innovation and moving forward.

What this amendment does in it, it takes one agency and moving it to another agency, I understand, or taking two organizations and moving it under one to manage it. And hopefully manage it in a positive way so that, you know, when we look at innovation, our province is there supporting business, industry. Whoever it is, whether it's our First Nations, our Métis, there's many organizations in our province who are doing some great things.

And this is exciting news. And hopefully this will be great for our province, but also making sure that those individuals that will be impacted had a chance to say this is what's best for it. And hopefully this is the best way to go.

And I'm not going to take a lot of time, Mr. Speaker, speaking on this bill. As I said, it's taking two agencies into one. And I know my colleague, the critic, will have opportunity to do some good work and ask some questions in committee. So I'm prepared to actually adjourn on Bill No. 80, *The Innovation Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2022* at this time.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 81

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. J. Harrison that **Bill No. 81** — *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act* be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honoured to be on my feet to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 81, *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act*. I think I'll keep my comments fairly brief again here, and I'll say that I am looking forward to continuing to listen to members in opposition and our critic.

And I know there's a lot of work being done to really examine this bill as it certainly addresses some concerns that we've had and that obviously are shared on the government's side. But we want to make sure that we take our time to look at this one so it doesn't have any unintended consequences or perhaps hasn't met the level of consultation with folks and trades and professions that will be impacted here, large employers and other sectors of our economy.

But certainly, you know, I think that this bill is trying to address

a big concern that we've had, which is wanting to make sure that folks who want to work in Saskatchewan, coming from other jurisdictions who come here with credentials and expertise, that they can make their home here.

And let's be honest, we need to address this because we lead the country in out-migration. We have more people leaving this province, you know, per capita, than any other province in Canada. And this, by the way, this isn't a blip. This isn't a one-time event. This has been going on for a long time. For most quarters over the last seven years, we've had more people leaving than moving here. That's seven years. This isn't just all of a sudden we've, you know, had a little event happen and we're raising the alarm. This has been going on for a while. And so there are deeper issues about why folks who are working here are choosing to leave, and I think that we really need to investigate that. And hopefully some of the answers can be found in changes in this legislation that are before us here today.

Certainly we have shortages and projected shortages in a number of very important professions, in particular in the health care sector. You know, we have struggled to staff our facilities and it's led to a number of rural health care closures, emergency rooms closed in communities all over this province. And that is predominantly due to this government's track record and inability to recruit and retain health care workers. I'm talking about nurses, doctors, care aides, folks who work in hospitals, emergency rooms, physician offices, long-term care centres.

[14:45]

You know, there's a lot of challenges out there in some of our smaller centres, but the solutions are there. And we've called for a round table on health care human resources to make sure that our health facilities are staffed up to an adequate level to provide care where you need it, when you need it.

So we also know shortages where the minister get up and put on a bit of a display today about the number of teachers who are not working in Saskatchewan. There's 352 fewer in-school educators this year compared to last year. And it's nice to hear him acknowledge that that's a fact, haven't heard that yet. But it's true that even our schools, our 27 school divisions, they face challenges too. And I think that it's upon us to consider in this Assembly what we need to do to make Saskatchewan a place where people want to move to, where they want to raise a family, that we could aim to make this the best province in Canada to raise a kid, to teach a kid, and to be a kid.

And I also hope that it's on the minds of those members opposite to make this the best province where, if you have the unfortunate time of being sick or needing health care, needing a family doctor, needing a specialized doctor, needing to visit emergency, that this would be the best province in Canada for you to have that bad misfortune. You know, it's not something that we want to think about. We hope that that doesn't happen to us and our loved ones, but if it happens, I hope it's on us to make this the best province where one needs access to health care.

So as far as this Act goes, yeah, we've got some big problems to address. I'm not sure that . . . [inaudible] . . . I am sure this bill will not address all those concerns, but I hope that we can see something positive come out of this to reverse the trend of folks

packing up and leaving Saskatchewan, that we can create a better place for people to come and raise and family, join a profession, and get to work making this a better province.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my remarks and adjourn debate on Bill No. 81, *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 82

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 82 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 82, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*. Now this bill represents amendments to the *Income Tax Act*. It implements income tax initiatives announced in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, including an annual credit cap being increased from 2.5 to 3.5 million for the tech start-up incentive program, Mr. Speaker.

And the opposition does welcome value-add and investment in business and technology in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We know that we've had many success stories in the tech start-up industry. I've spoken in this House before about my personal connection to 7shifts, which of course is one of those wildly successful tech start-up companies that's based out of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. And my partner, Nick, was one of their first sales reps back in 2014 and was with that team for many years, and so I was able to witness the early years of their success, Mr. Speaker.

And it's interesting, I've spoken before about, you know, what the story of my partner means to me about the future of this province. You know, he's someone that was born in Ontario, but came to Saskatchewan for this opportunity with 7shifts. It allowed him to get a good-paying job. He was able to thrive in that position, get his feet under him, and was charmed by Saskatchewan and decided to stay. He was charmed by its people, by its history, by its warmth, Mr. Speaker. Warmth of the people, not the climate of course, Mr. Speaker. And I've spoken about the need for us to create conditions where there are more Nicks, Mr. Speaker. He was a young person that had this economic opportunity here and then built a future here. But unfortunately his story, it bucks the trend a bit.

We see out-migration at some of the highest in Saskatchewan, and that number is particularly bad with young people aged 18-25, which is a concerning statistic given that they are the future, Mr. Speaker. And there is some concern on this side that with our education system and our health care system undergoing repeated cuts, struggling to get by with insufficient funding, that

young people, and all people for that matter, Mr. Speaker — folks who know that they will come to rely on the health care system in their later years, know that they will come to rely on the long-term care system in later years, Mr. Speaker — that many of those people will pack up and leave this great province, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, one of the things that Nick was able to do in that position at 7shifts is it, you know, it expanded his horizons and created the conditions for him to ultimately pursue a career in teaching, which was his dream, to be a teacher. And he's now in our education system teaching many communities, including some of the most vulnerable children we have here in Regina, Mr. Speaker. And so he's seen first-hand what those cuts to education and health care, the impacts that those are having on our communities, Mr. Speaker. And of course, it creates a great deal of stress for the front-line teaching staff. But, of course, what he tells me is that ultimately the burden of these cuts and this insufficient funding, insufficient resources that we see year after year from this government, unfortunately that burden is shouldered predominantly by students, Mr. Speaker.

And the same goes for our health care system which is in dire straits, Mr. Speaker. We hear on a daily basis from folks who can't find a family doctor. You know, a family doctor is the primary person in your life that helps you to navigate the system, that helps you to develop . . . you know, that helps you to maintain your health, that helps you to identify some more serious issues early so that you can engage in preventative treatment. And a family doctor is really, when done right, a great support to families. And of course we have some of the lowest rates of family doctors in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Our surgery lists, you know, I have many family members and friends that are languishing on these surgery lists, waiting years and years for surgeries that would have such an impact on their quality of life. And while they languish on these lists, their health worsens and they become more of a burden on the health care system. It is not a humane or economically efficient way to conduct our health care system. And we see a Health minister that gets up day after day who appears to think that no improvements can be made. And the arrogance from that member is something that continues to shock the members on this side, Mr. Speaker.

The same can be said of our emergency rooms, Mr. Speaker. People waiting, you know, 30-plus hours to be seen, to receive at times, you know, life-saving care. Emergency room doctors saying that they are afraid that they cannot provide care to people, that they are not able to fulfill their duty to keep people safe and keep them well because of the lack of resourcing, Mr. Speaker.

And so we continue to be concerned on this side that folks will hesitate to come to Saskatchewan and then they will not remain here if they do come, Mr. Speaker. With that, I will look forward to seeing the critic flesh out this bill more fully. And of course it's not in my wheelhouse, so I'm happy to adjourn debate on Bill No. 82, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2022*.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 83

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 83 — *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always a privilege to be on my feet. And today I'm on my feet to talk about Bill No. 83, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act*. You know, as has been well canvassed by many members on both sides, we know about the increase of 2 cents per cigarette, along with an 8 cent increase for smokeless tobacco, 1.3 for heated tobacco, and an 8 cent per gram increase for roll-your-own tobacco. And you know, Mr. Speaker, sin taxes of course are . . . You know, they make sense to a certain extent, of course, but what doesn't make sense is just the sheer number of taxes in this budget. My gosh.

When I look back as, you know, somebody who's always been interested in politics and somebody who looks at the history of politics in Saskatchewan — which is really cool, Mr. Deputy Speaker — for a small province we've had some absolutely wild times in and out of this Assembly. But I look back on the history of the members opposite, and I remember when they were in opposition. And they would stand up, and they would present petition after petition after petition in this very Chamber, shouting from the rafters about a government considering taxing food. Don't tax our food, they'd say every day, time and time again. There's a legend — I don't know if it's true, Mr. Deputy Speaker — that the Finance minister sent pizzas to every member in this building missing a piece of pizza representing that tax.

And now we have the members opposite so tax happy that they're slapping taxes on everything from craft fairs to hunting and fishing fee increases. You know, today they're up talking about, well you shouldn't care about PST on restaurant meals because we did that five years ago. What a wild turn of events, Mr. Speaker.

You know, sometimes this place is like a bit of an echo chamber. Sometimes it's like living in the upside down or an alternate reality. But you know, I'm standing here with my colleagues in the NDP [New Democratic Party] opposition talking to the Sask Party conservative government, and they're here celebrating the taxes that they've introduced in this bill. You know, it's wild, Mr. Speaker.

My colleague from Cumberland the other day talking about, you know, the hopes and dreams that the people of Athabasca apparently have, based on the comments by the new member there. You know, now that they've got a member in government, they'll finally see something coming forward for the North, right? That was the promise.

You didn't vote for us so you're not going to get anything. You didn't vote for us so we don't care about you. If you vote for us, maybe we'll consider making some investments. Maybe we'll consider doing our job as a government to care, give some stewardship, give some investment, but only if you vote for us.

So you know, the member fought and won an election fair and square. It's what you do. But you know, the government's been saying, vote for us and we'll care about the North. And so now, you know, the member from Cumberland has been telling me, you know, the member from Athabasca's made some promises in his constituency. But I would be astonished if he promised those folks 32 new taxes and fee increases. An extra 2 cents a cigarette — boy oh boy, that's a weird election promise, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, well of course we want smoking rates to decline, and of course we want to provide some revenue for our health care system. We don't want to see every budget just full of taxes because this government can't control its spending.

But, you know, Mr. Speaker, I'll have more to talk about on the next bill before this Assembly. There's unfortunately many more taxes to address, and this Bill No. 83, *The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act* really addresses but one. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 83.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 84

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 84 — *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2022*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Well thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Here I am again on my feet talking about this time Bill No. 84, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act*, which of course as we know expands the PST, the provincial sales tax that the Minister of Finance has talked so defensively about as, you know, the only thing that this government can do to create a stable revenue base; supporting that stable revenue base, which is a really strange way to talk about and characterize the people of this province — a stable revenue base.

[15:00]

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's not just the people of the province that this government is taxing; it's their fun. We're coming out of a pandemic. People want to enjoy life a little. I mean I hope we're coming out of a pandemic. I think folks will riot this summer if we're not. But what does this government do? They turn around and slap 32 taxes and fees on everything fun — everything fun, Mr. Speaker.

Not content with taxing children's clothes . . . And you know, as I'm learning, kids grow fast. And just because an article of clothing is small doesn't mean it's any less expensive. Sometimes it's more — my gosh — and they're making 6 per cent off people trying to clothe their kids.

They're making 6 per cent off everybody selling a used vehicle.

You know, Mr. Speaker, this government was outraged a couple weeks ago about, you know, this mythological truck tax. Meanwhile the members opposite . . . Like I was looking at some auctions online the other day because we're looking to buy, well, a new-to-us truck. And boy, is it a bad time to be doing that. And you've got like 10-year-old trucks with hundreds of thousands of kilometres going for \$50,000 — used trucks.

And meanwhile . . . I'm not sure what the member from Walsh Acres is mad about, but if you pipe up, I'll read it into *Hansard*. But meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, \$50,000 for a 15-year-old truck, that'd be fine for me but not good for work . . . I'm not talking about the gas taxes. That's what the member from Walsh Acres is yelling about. We'll get to the gas taxes. We're talking about the PST you charge on used vehicles.

You guys are freaking out about a pretend truck tax. Meanwhile your government is already making 4, \$5,000 off every used F-150 sold in this province. Come on, guys. Nobody likes hypocrisy, least of all from politicians. So you're making a buck on people who need a truck to get to work and do their jobs. Well lots of bucks — you're making 4 to 6,000. You're making money off people trying to clothe their children. You're making money off restaurants and people trying to go out and support local. I get it. I get it, but come on, Mr. Speaker. Coming out of a pandemic, these are industries that have been hard hit. These are industries that contribute enormously to the economic prosperity of this province and to the economic development of this province.

Many of these businesses, many of these things that the members opposite might see as frivolous and unimportant — whether they're restaurants, whether they're outfitters, whether they're music venues, whether they're performers — these are things that add to not just our culture, not just our health and our mental health, but they add to our quality of life.

And these are things . . . If we want to attract people, if we want to stop people from leaving this province in droves, these are things that we need. People want to be able to go out and celebrate. People want to be able to go out and support local, but you know, having a 6 per cent tax on things, let alone a 6 per cent tax on the fitness industry, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . And like Plato said, "healthy body, healthy mind."

But to turn around and hit an industry that has been amongst the hardest hit, an industry that does wonders for prevention in our health care system . . . A dollar that you spend in prevention in the fitness and wellness industry will save you six in health care costs — six, which is interesting because that's the PST that's been added to it. To see the government do this is just absolutely out of touch and comes off as grubby and greedy.

And you know, it's no wonder that they need to talk about their stable revenue base, when in the 15 years that the members opposite have been in government, they have doubled the size of that government. You need a stable revenue base if you have doubled your spending, all the while having some of the worst outcomes in the province on things that we canvass day in and day out in this House, but truly should be tragedies and truly should garner more attention than things like Bill 70.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, our caucus absolutely does not support the expansion of the PST, and if anything, we were hoping to see

it scrapped from many of the things that I've canvassed. This expansion on all things fun and healthy will have a chilling impact on the industry and will disincentivize people from seeking out those services and opportunities.

With that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 84, *The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In order to get ready for committee today, I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned till tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:06.]

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