



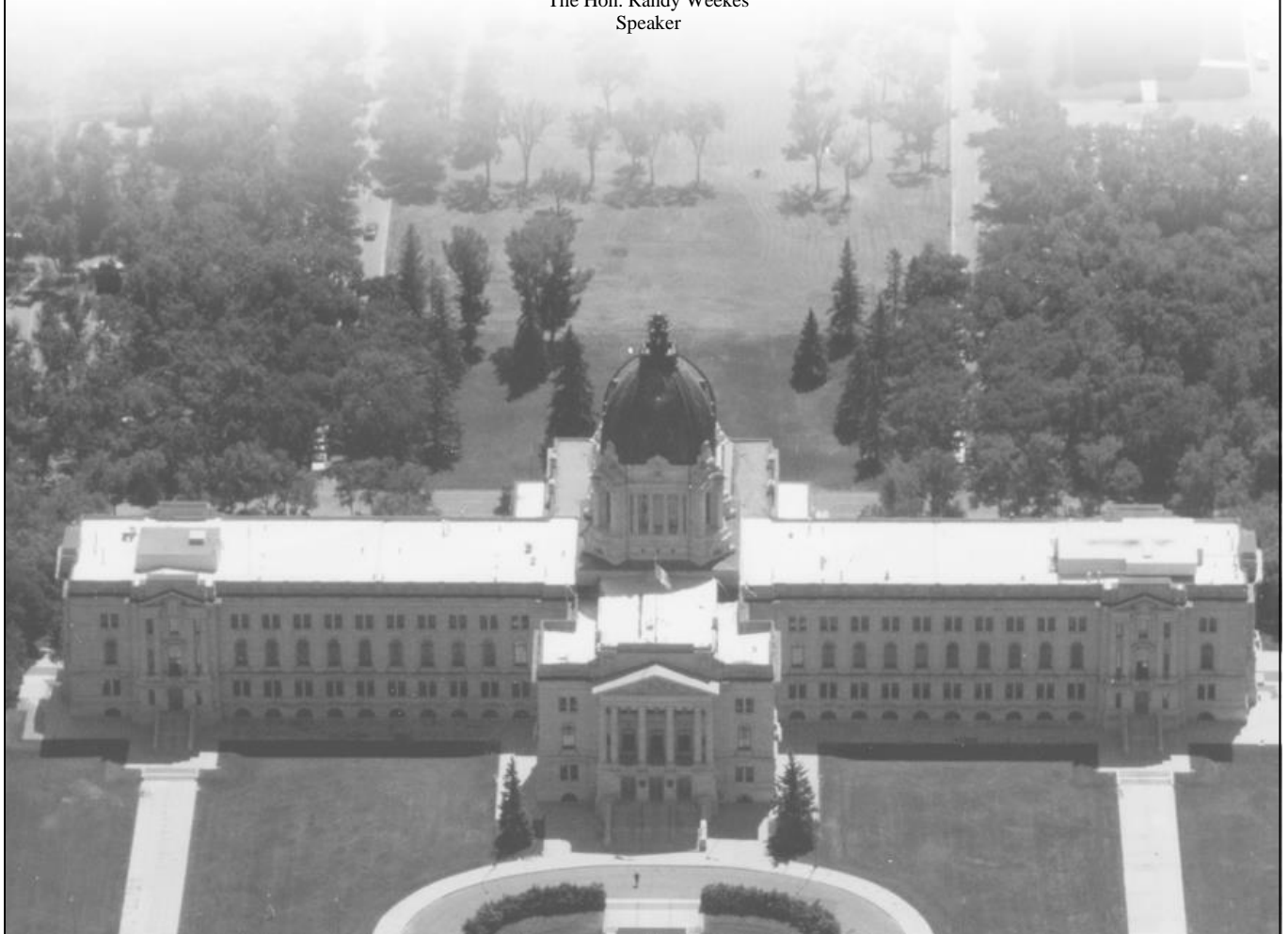
SECOND SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

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

Deputy Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyak

Sergeant-at-Arms — Sean Darling

Hansard on the internet
Hansard and other documents of the
Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.
<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/Calendar>

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker.....	2531
Meili.....	2531
Moe.....	2533, 2534
Mowat.....	2533
Cockrill.....	2534
Love.....	2534, 2535
Hindley.....	2535
Nippi-Albright.....	2536
Keisig.....	2536
Beck.....	2536
Wotherspoon.....	2537

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Government's Leadership

Beck.....	2537
-----------	------

Government Insurance Rebates

Fiaz.....	2537
-----------	------

Constituent Selected Third in Canadian Football League Draft

Love.....	2538
-----------	------

Work Under Way on New Canola Crushing Plants

Keisig.....	2538
-------------	------

Lumber Company Invests in Saskatchewan

Bradshaw.....	2538
---------------	------

New Arena Is a State-of-the-Art Facility

Marit.....	2538
------------	------

Province's Economy and Finances Are Back on Track

Bonk.....	2539
-----------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Cost of Living and Resource Revenues

Meili.....	2539
Moe.....	2539

Funding for Education

Meili.....	2539
Moe.....	2539

Provision of Health Care

Meili.....	2540
Moe.....	2540

Support for Mental Health and Addictions

Meili.....	2540
Moe.....	2540

Provision of Social Services

Conway.....	2541
Carr.....	2541

Rising Fuel Prices

Young, A.....	2541
Bradshaw.....	2542
Harpauer.....	2542

Sales Tax and Provincial Economy

Love.....	2542
Harrison, J.....	2542

Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Providers

Mowat.....	2543
Merriman.....	2543

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health

Vermette.....	2543
Moe.....	2543

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Ottenbreit.....	2544
-----------------	------

MOTIONS

Expression of Thanks

Beck.....	2544
-----------	------

Moe.....	2545
Mowat	2546
Wotherspoon	2547
Ritchie	2547
Conway	2548
Bowes	2548
Love.....	2549
Meili	2550
The Speaker.....	2553
STATEMENT BY A MEMBER	
End-of-Session Acknowledgements	
Harrison, J.....	2553
Mowat	2553
The Speaker.....	2554
MOTIONS	
Session Adjournment	
Harrison, J.....	2555

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: — I would just like to thank all our guests today in the galleries. It's appreciated having lots of people come out. I'd just like to caution you that you're not to take part in debate and that means no clapping, no talking — or shouting, obviously — and also you're not to take . . . to use your iPhone or whatever you have as far as texting and emails, and certainly no photos.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I'd like to start off by welcoming the new parliamentary education and heritage staff. The summer tour schedule for the Saskatchewan Legislative Building is about to start this upcoming Saturday, May 21st, 2022. Tours of the building are offered every half-hour from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., seven days a week. They're available in French and English, and visitors from all over the world will be exploring provincial history and visiting our Legislative Assembly.

Seated in the Speaker's gallery, please give a warm welcome to the parliamentary education and heritage team: Cassandra Baragar — give us a wave, please — Kaitlyn Guillaume, Mark Walker, Molly Dea-Stephenson, Susana Alarcon. Part of the summer team but not present are Nolan Schauerte, Mason Dieno, Baptiste Labrie-Boulay. They're accompanied by Antoine Guenette, parliamentary education and heritage supervisor. Please join me in welcoming the PEH [parliamentary education and heritage] team to their Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, 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. Meili: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today we're joined by a number of guests in your gallery, in the gallery behind us, and also right here on the floor. And a number of these guests are here to say hello and goodbye to me in my role as MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Meewasin and Leader of the Opposition, as on July 1st it will be my final day in this seat. And I'm very pleased to be able to welcome some of these good friends and family.

I'll start with the folks on the floor. We are joined by Mr. David Forbes, former minister of the Environment and minister of Labour, former member for Saskatoon Centre and our caucus Chair for a long time, guided us through many . . . some pretty challenging discussions and great conversations. Mr. Forbes.

And beside him is a young man from the Cut Knife area, Mr.

Yens Pedersen, a lawyer here in town. He was elected in a by-election in Regina Northeast and was a great member of our team and was critic for Agriculture and a number of other areas, Environment as well, during his time. And I ask folks to welcome Mr. Pedersen back to his legislature and thank him for his service.

In the west gallery, we are joined by our NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus staff. I'm going to start with Cheryl Stecyk because she's been here the longest, so she deserves a little extra love. 1978 she started working in this building. And with the exception of a few years in what she calls department-land, she's been with us non-stop throughout and does an incredible job of guiding our team, supporting our team, and just being the best auntie to all of us you could possibly imagine.

With her, right beside her is Kat Norton, our chief of staff. Kat's been doing an incredible job, stepping into that extremely important role. I'm so honoured to have had a chance to work beside Kat Norton. Sitting beside her is Brock Bowman, our communications director, terrific young guy looking sharp in a nice suit today and extremely talented comms director. Beside him is Nathaniel Cole. He is part of our issues management team — some issues, some management. Nathaniel does a terrific job, and he works alongside Kelsey Morrison. And those two . . . You will often notice we have visitors coming into the House to share their story. That takes a lot of courage, and it takes a lot of work to help support people to be able to do that safely and well. And they do incredible work supporting people.

Beside Kelsey is Kerri Martin, who has joined us leading that issues management team and the House business and doing an incredible job this session. We've been so pleased to have Kerri join us, and another new addition, Andi Bauer, whose bright smile and enthusiasm are matched only by her mad social media skills. Love working with Andi.

Unfortunately not able to be joined by Landen Kleisinger today, but he's the other great member of our team. And of course Mitch Bonokoski will be returning soon from his pat leave.

And one more member of our team, Jannet Shanks, has just joined to sit beside Cheryl. Jannet's been in our office a long time. She's the smiling face and great energy you meet when you come into the caucus office. And that's enjoyed by many, but by no one more than Gus, who has absolutely adopted Jannet as his favourite person in this building. And I mean favourite. I'm at best a distant second.

Now turning to your gallery, Mr. Speaker, start with a couple of folks who have worked with me in my office, Jason Hicks and Graham Reid. Jason Hicks and Graham Reid have been incredible CAs [constituency assistant] for me and for the member for Saskatoon Fairview. They've swapped back and forth. Both of them have not only spent time in that little orange office on 3rd Avenue, but also on the road with me, and have experienced both my choice in road tunes and driving skills. And I'll leave any further comment on that off the record.

Jason is joined by Ashlee Hicks, who was our candidate in Riversdale last year, is an amazing leader in the union movement, and just an incredible person. Love to see Ashlee here.

Beside Ashlee is Kaitlyn Harvey. Kaitlyn is, along with the member for Regina Lakeview, seeking the leadership of the New Democratic Party. Great to see Kaitlyn with us today, and she's joined by her daughter Ariana. And it's really neat to see Ariana. There's a drawing on my billboard here in my office from Ariana — this was a few years ago — giving me encouragement in this work, and I look at it often and appreciate that.

Right next to Ariana is Amanda Freistadt. Amanda recently returned from years working in Alberta in the labour movement, is a leader in the labour movement here, also very involved in the Alberta New Democratic Party, and getting more involved here. And I'm sure is watching the events unfolding to the west of us with great interest.

I'm going to come back to the person next to her. Well no, I'm going to talk about chiefs of staff. We talked about Kat Norton. I've had the chance to work with more chiefs of staff perhaps than I intended, but you know, it's that kind of job. And the first of those chiefs of staff was Deb McDonald, stepped up and did a terrific job for us right as we made that transition. And I loved Deb's sense of humour, which does not have a lot of limits on it and very straight-talking approach, and the great way she guided me to try to understand this building with all of her experience.

We then had Olin Valby work in that office. Dave Mitchell is here, and Dave Mitchell was the chief of staff for a period. He was also communications director, is one of my best and oldest friends, and has been involved with every political misadventure that I've engaged in, some electoral and some otherwise, and is just a great person to work with. And so grateful for Dave Mitchell.

Adrienne King is the one I was going to come back to, just put a little pin in that. Ms. King, thank you for joining us today. Thank you for your time when you came from Alberta to Regina and helped our team get ready for that last election. You did an incredible amount of work for us, and you did it with humour and heart. And we're very grateful for you being able to join us today and for that contribution and friendship.

And then we had Sally Housser. Most recently, unfortunately, she works now for a company out of Alberta who is trying to figure out what the world means now that Jason Kenney has imploded.

Moving on to some other great friends in here, I want to recognize the former president of the NDP. Linda Osachoff, president for most of the time that I was in this role, has become a true friend and confidante. And very grateful that she was able to join us.

Sheila Whelan, the current president of the provincial New Democrats, is here in the House as well. And seated beside her is Tim Williams, who is our party secretary and CEO [chief executive officer], does an incredible amount of work. And right now in the middle of a leadership race . . . You know, sadly we have a lot of experience in leadership races, so he's got lots to draw on. But he's doing an incredible amount of work, and does so with a very, very great attitude and what he describes our shared Irish humour.

Mr. Dion Tchorzewski, as some CCF-NDP [Co-operative

Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] royalty, son of Eddy T., a lawyer and business leader here in the community of Regina, and a great friend and advisor. Great to see Dion. Next to him is Shawn Fraser, former city councillor here in Regina, a man of many ideas. And I get some odd texts from Shawn about the things we should do next, once in a while, and I always give them full consideration and enjoy our walks and skis together.

Next to Dave Mitchell we have Rodrigo Pino. Rodrigo is the president of the Saskatoon Meewasin constituency association, has been a great volunteer locally, is an early childhood educator and all around cool dad. And in the front row, we see some good pals: my downstairs neighbours, country musicians Blake Berglund and Melanie Berglund, also known to you all as Belle Plaine. And they are parents to Sam. They are great neighbours and friends and just such delightful people. I've been so grateful to get to know them during my time at the good old Bartleman.

Next to Melanie, you'll see Tyson McShane. Tyson is a city planner. He is the lead singer and major mover behind the alt-rock band, indie rock band, Slow Down Molasses. What is it, shoegaze? Maybe not these days. The sound changes from time to time. But the energy he puts into that effort, just returned from tour in Germany and in the UK [United Kingdom]. On his lap is Wren, who is a good buddy to Gus, and Elspeth just beside Wren. Tyson and Jeanna McShane are very close friends to Mahli and I, and grateful for that friendship and really excited to see him here today.

Which brings me to my family. My dad is here today, Wally Meili. And as you folks know, Wally had a pretty rough year, had a stroke just a little over a year ago, spent a long time in Regina, and has been working hard on his recovery. We're so, so glad he's with us and we get to continue to enjoy him and learn from him. Wally's an incredible guy, such strength.

And beside him, behind him, around him, with him for over 50 years now is Lea, my mom. And you talk about strength. Wally was a farmer, real estate agent, businessman. Lea was an RN [registered nurse] and then ran the Extendicare in Moose Jaw for many years. And she is such a source of strength for all of us in the family and has done incredible work supporting Dad through this challenging . . .

And right next to Dad is Uncle Jim, as we call him — not my uncle, Gus's Uncle Jim — my brother, middle of the three of us. I'm the youngest. Miles is the eldest. Jim's a farmer. He's the smartest one among us, best sense of humour, terrific guy, and so glad he gets to join us for the first time in the legislature today.

[10:15]

And then in front of Uncle Jim, you'll see Françoise Tchou. C'est ma belle-mère, qui nous appuie tellement et qu'on aime tellement fort. Et on est très, très content qu'elle est capable à passer du temps ici avec nous. Et comme tu vois, Augustin et Abraham l'adorent.

[Translation: She is my mother-in-law, who supports us so much and whom we love so deeply. And we are very, very happy that she is able to spend time here with us. And as you see, Augustin and Abraham adore her.]

So thank you very much to my mother-in-law, Françoise, for joining us.

Next to her is Gus, Augustin Bleu Meili, known as Boudhi. And he's got some energy. He's into Spider-Man. He's into things that roll and make noise. And he was loving touring the legislature with Jannet today. So Gus is four.

Abraham is 10. He's in grade 5 at Caswell School. And he has taken up fencing, so he likes to spend the weekends pointing sharp objects at his friends. And then when it comes to debate, he's got a sharp wit and tongue as well. He had a debate match with Mr. Love last night, and I think it was pretty close. Matt was saying he should be the judge and debater, so I'll leave it to him to decide. But incredible debater — he and his debating partner won, in their first year of debate, won their age category for the province this year. So it's good that someone in the family knows how to debate.

And then, of course, between them is the girl of my dreams, Mahli Brindamour. Mahli, as folks know, is a pediatrician. She's originally from Quebec, in Montreal. Came out here to do her residency and had every plan to get back to Montreal as soon as she possibly could, but ran into some fella and got stuck here. We went for a walk one night, first time we met. And you know, a friend had said we should get to know each other. And as you do in Saskatoon, you walk around. We walked around one of the bridges. You want to go home? No, let's walk around another bridge. And kept doing that for hours and hours, and still walking today.

Love you so much, Mahli. Thank you for all you are in my life. Thank you for being such a great pediatrician. I admire the work you do and the advocacy you do so much, but above all thanks for being with me.

I'd really like to ask folks to join me in welcoming these friends, family, my people to the legislature here today.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask leave for a brief but extended introduction.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked leave for a brief, extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — If there's such a thing, Mr. Speaker. But thank you to my colleagues. And I'd just like to follow the Leader of the Opposition with a number of introductions as well. And I know we'll have an opportunity to speak a little more in depth later today.

But beginning with two former MLAs that have joined us here today, David Forbes as well as Yens Pedersen, thank you for coming here today. Thank you for your service to the people of the province. We didn't always agree on everything on the floor of this Assembly, but I think it's fair to say that we did agree on more than we disagreed on, but did debate that very well. And

they were two of the finest in this Assembly. I had the opportunity to serve with both of them. And welcome back to your Legislative Assembly.

To the staff that have worked in the caucus office, in the constituency office, Mr. Speaker, nice for me to put a face to some of the stories. I happen to be in some of those stories, Mr. Speaker. But welcome as well to the Assembly itself.

And to all of those around that have supported the Leader of the Opposition, supported the opposition caucus, you know, over the last number of years, in particular over the last year, welcome to your Assembly. I think this is indicative, Mr. Speaker, of the work that happens on the floor of this Assembly. It is, yes, done by elected members, but there is many, many individuals that are supporting each of the elected members on the floor of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And I think we're happy to welcome all of those that are here to join those that have supported the Leader of the Opposition in his work, Mr. Speaker.

And I think it is also a time for us to just reflect on the fact that, yes, we do disagree on much across the floor of this Assembly, but as I said, we agree on much as well, Mr. Speaker. We debate obviously the disagreements, but we can be thankful that we can have that debate in this Assembly, in this province, and in this nation, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to just thank all of those that are here today in support of the Leader of the Opposition and thank them for their work and their participation in ensuring that that debate can happen on the floor of this Assembly, with their support of individuals that are on the floor of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, last and not least, I've said it many times. No member in this Assembly serves without the full support and the love of their family, and that's no different in the case of the Leader of the Opposition. In fact, Mr. Speaker, with two young boys that are at home, Mr. Speaker, and the Leader of the Opposition being down here and across the province, I know that he has spent many days away from his family in Saskatoon.

And so I would just like to make a special note, a special welcome to Mahli. I thank her for her support of the Leader of the — I'm going to call him by name later today, Mr. Speaker — the Leader of the Opposition. But in particular, Mr. Speaker, to Abraham and Gus, I know Dad has been away a fair amount over the course of the last number of years. And I would just say to the two of you that he has done some good work in this Legislative Assembly, and the two of you can be proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a lot of love in my heart for a lot of folks who are in this Assembly today. But I do want to single out just a few of them, as sad as it makes me to not welcome every person who's here.

Very specifically, I want to welcome David Forbes. I do not think I would be here right now if it wasn't for David's mentorship and his guidance in the early days of the nomination process. I knew him in community leadership roles through the cadet program before I ever got interested in politics, and I want to thank him for his encouragement before that process and after. And I know

that he's always someone that I can give a call to. So I am very pleased to see him back in his Assembly today.

I also want to join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming our joint constituency assistants to this legislature today. I think they are some of the most avid viewers on television of the proceedings in this place, so it's always nice to feel like you have a friend watching from home. And they have also worked in my office for the past year. Graham Reid and Jason Hicks, both lovely humans and both very different in terms of what they bring to the table.

So, Graham, thank you for your work with the people who came in the door asking for change, facilitating people coming to their legislature, and for your sharp political wit. And, Jason, thanks for keeping me on track, holding our administrative tasks together, and calling people after hours, putting in that, you know, additional time to really show that you care about them. It's great to have you here in person today.

I also want to join with the leader in welcoming his family to this Assembly. Little Gus stole my heart several years ago and has not yet given it back. I love that kid. And Abraham is one of the most interesting people that I know. I love having conversations with him. He's incredibly sharp and I think keeps me on my toes, and I think he's still very disappointed in me that I haven't learned French yet.

And in particular, I want to welcome Dr. Mahli Brindamour to her Assembly today in my role as Health critic. Such impressive work that has come from Dr. Brindamour, and she's not even 40 yet. It is amazing to think about all the work she's done with Sanctum 1.5, the REACH [Refugee Engagement and Community Health] clinic with refugees, working in the hospital, working up north on our tuberculosis outbreaks now, Mr. Speaker. All of this dedication, I am . . . I have a tremendous amount of respect for you, admire you, and I can't wait to see what you get up to next. So thank you for spending some time with us today. And I'd like to ask all members to welcome all of these guests to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for 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. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege today, to you and through you, to introduce somebody in this legislature, one of the people in Saskatchewan that I'd have to say that I admire the most in this province, and that's Tarrant Cross Child up in the gallery. Give us a wave, Tarrant. Thanks for being here today.

You know, Tarrant, you might have read, some of you might have read Tarrant's story either through different media sources . . . There's a great profile on him in the *Canadian Running*

magazine that I would really highly recommend all members and all guests to take a read through if they get a chance.

But Tarrant is somebody in our province who has lived the ups and downs of addictions in his life and is here today to tell the story. And what's so special about Tarrant and his story is that now, through his organization Prairie Run Crew, he travels all across the province doing running clinics at elementary schools and high schools all across our great province. And you know, Prairie Run Crew, it's an organization that brings a message of hope and restoration through encouraging people to live a healthy and active lifestyle.

You know, I had the opportunity last week, Mr. Speaker, to attend one of Tarrant's clinics at North Battleford Comprehensive High School, and we always appreciate Tarrant coming to The Battlefords. And then just this week, the member for Walsh Acres and I had the opportunity to join him at St. Jerome School here in the city of Regina.

You know, Mr. Speaker, you know, I would encourage all members to check out Prairie Run Crew and the work they do in this province, really. When you think about the truth and reconciliation Calls to Action, call no. 89, breaking down barriers to sport, Tarrant does that work every single day in this province. And we're really grateful for that, you know, and not to mention the partnerships that he's built with New Balance and Cameco. He told us this morning, the Premier and the Minister of Education and I, that over a million dollars of product has gone through his organization to kids all across this province. And that's really special, Mr. Speaker.

And so I just want to recognize Tarrant, you know. And I know in this House we debate difficult issues every day, every week, Mr. Speaker. You know, we debate policies. We debate strategies. But I know what gives me hope is that there's people like Tarrant out in our province doing good work every day and serving the fellow residents of their province. So I want to ask all members to join me in welcoming Tarrant Cross Child to his legislature.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join the member opposite, the member from The Battlefords, in welcoming Tarrant to his Legislative Assembly and just show appreciation for the words that he shared in his welcome. I have noticed the work that you do on that member's social media and the way that you're out there inspiring young people, that you're using physical activity as a way, not just a tool for reconciliation, but also an outcome, getting young people active, building community, building bridges.

The member is correct. We do debate difficult things. This isn't one of them. Thank you for the work that you do. Welcome to your Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my colleagues for granting this extended leave. To you and through you and to this Assembly, I'd like to introduce two very special guests that have joined us here today.

With us today is Phil Richards. Phil Richards is a renowned artist who distinguishes himself as one of Canada's most accomplished portrait painters, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Richards is accompanied this morning by his wife, Jennifer. If you can give us a wave? Hello, Phil and Jennifer.

Mr. Speaker, the Richards are visiting Regina to take part in a celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee over at Government House that is happening. As part of that celebration, Government House is hosting an impressive portrait of Queen Elizabeth, which we heard about the other evening with His Honour. It's painted by Mr. Richards to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, Mr. Speaker.

This painting will be unveiled by the Lieutenant Governor and Mr. Richards later this evening, and it will remain at Government House over the course of the new year. I believe it was moved from Rideau Hall here just a while ago. Mr. Speaker, there's also a very informative exhibit about the making of the portrait created by the staff at Government House and it's a fascinating and a very involved story, and I encourage all to go have a look, Mr. Speaker.

During the 2010 royal tour of Canada, Mr. Richards oversaw a series of photographs that were taken of Her Majesty. He met with the Queen to discuss the concept of the painting and how the work of that painting would proceed. He undertook extensive research and completed more than 300 sketches, drawings, maquettes, and models before actually getting to and completing the actual portrait. The entire process took about seven months, seven months over a two-year period. The end result, I think we could all say, is quite magnificent as it is a very vibrant and finely rendered portrait of one very dignified and, I would say, very determined Queen.

[10:30]

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Richards has completed many other portraits over the years. Some of those you will see on display in this building, Mr. Speaker. There's premiers, there's Speakers, there's Lieutenant Governors, there's university presidents, there's business leaders. And those paintings do include one of Saskatchewan's former Lieutenant Governors, Her Honour Vaughn Solomon Schofield. And that portrait will be unveiled here at the legislature later this year.

So I would urge everyone to take the opportunity to visit Government House in the days ahead to view the portrait of Her Majesty and to learn more about the effort that goes into creating what a wonderful work of art this is. And I would also invite people to explore Mr. Richards's catalogue online, as it's

available for all to see — not just the portraits but all of the still-life paintings that he has available there. I have looked, Mr. Speaker, and it's quite something.

So I would ask all members of this Legislative Assembly to welcome Mr. Phil Richards and his wife, Jennifer, to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming Mr. Richards and his wife to the Saskatchewan legislature. I was at Government House last week and heard His Honour speak with great excitement about this unveiling event and the work that we'll all be able to enjoy. I want to thank you for sharing your talents and your gifts with our province and also for being here for the unveiling. We're excited, looking forward to it. Thank you for honouring Her Majesty on her Platinum Jubilee. On behalf of the official opposition, welcome to our legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for just a slightly extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce three guests who join us today and are seated in the west gallery. And the guests are accompanied by one of the staff in my office, Aaron Hill, who is a case worker and does just absolutely fantastic work in our office, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to first introduce Aaron's mother, Lorie. After Lorie met her future husband, Robin, in 1981, the couple soon married, started a small family, and took over the Hill family farm located just south of Moose Jaw. Since their move to the farm, Mr. Speaker, the couple decided to grow their small family into a big one by having a total of seven children. Mr. Speaker, Lorie has dedicated her life to her family and everything she does is for the betterment of her children and grandchildren.

And next, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Aaron's younger sister Emma who I had the opportunity to meet earlier today. Emma is known for her enthusiasm and her love for both live theatre and also women's fashion. And most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Emma is also known for her ability in leaving a positive, lasting impression on everyone that is around her, whether you've known her for 21 years or only met her for 21 seconds, she takes the time to make sure that you feel noticed and makes you feel better about yourself and truly leaves you with a sense of joy.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Aaron's wife, Bailey. Bailey is an RN who currently works at the medical surveillance

unit at the Regina Pasqua Hospital. Shortly after her graduation from the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] in 2020, she joined her nursing sisters at the MSU [medical surveillance unit] and, despite starting her nursing career right in the middle of a pandemic, Mr. Speaker, Bailey has quickly gained the respect of her colleagues, hospital staff, and patients. We want to thank her for the work she does as a health care worker, along with her colleagues at Regina Pasqua and across this province, Mr. Speaker. I might add as well, we joke a little bit around the office that Bailey is Aaron's secret wife because last summer, Mr. Speaker, Aaron went away on holidays for a week and he came back and we asked him, we said, hey, what did you do for your holidays, Aaron? And he said to us, he said, oh I got married. And he didn't tell anybody, so we said like, what? So from now on, we always ask Aaron what he's been doing on his weekends just in case it's something as monumental as, you know, running off and getting married.

So, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd ask all members in welcoming Bailey, Lorie, and Emma to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I ask for a 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.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to . . . It's always wonderful when guests come here and it's really, really good when I know the people that are in the gallery. And I just want to recognize my dear buddy, friend for . . . I've known him since he was a teenager. Rod, it's wonderful to see you here.

And also I want to recognize Graham, Graham Reid. Graham was fantastic. I worked with him when we shared offices and then he became my CA for a while. He got my office up and going when I got elected, and he is very witty and I loved when he said, do you want to do this punchy or what? And so that was always appreciated. So I just want to say hi, Graham.

I also want to give and recognize a mentor, my guide, my elder, and the former MLA that held my seat for over 20 years, David Forbes. I want to say thank you, David, for your wisdom, for the support you've given me knowing that I as a First Nations woman faced a tough battle entering politics. And I want to say thank you for your ongoing support and your wisdom. So thank you so much, David.

Mr. Speaker, it's always wonderful . . . We don't have . . . First of all it's wonderful to see Indigenous women in the gallery. It's even more heartwarming to see Indigenous women entering politics, because sitting in here as a visible First Nation woman is lonely. So to see First Nation and Métis women get involved in politics is heartwarming.

And I just want to acknowledge and recognize two ladies here, two women, two of my sisters, my Indigenous sisters, Ashlee Hicks and Kaitlyn Harvey. We need representation in this legislature and I'm so grateful you came. And for me, I know when I sit here I'm not standing alone. So, Mr. Speaker, to you, through you, through all members, I welcome these folks to their gallery.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to welcome two guests, Mike and Kristy Sveinbjornson in your gallery. Just give us a wave there, guys. Kristy grew up just down the road from my farm and she works at McDougall Auction as an executive assistant. Mike, 16 years he's been at Gang-Nail Trusses out at Pilot Butte, and they build a fabulous product out there.

Now Mike and Kristy are very passionate motorcycle enthusiasts, and they're very actively involved in the Salvation Army motorcycle Toy Run. So they've raised a ton of money for different charities through the years.

One more thing, Mr. Speaker. Mike's grandfather was Ed Kaeding, and he was an MLA for Saltcoats from 1971 to 1982. So good old Saskatchewan, everybody knows everybody. So we had a chance to go visit the Minister of Environment now and they are distantly related. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, welcome Mike and Kristy to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I request 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.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to welcome all of the guests here with us today to their Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker. It's a special day. I did want to join in welcoming all the guests who have been welcomed so far, but I also wanted to add a few remarks on the record, some special thanks to some of the folks who are here today.

First among them, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to welcome David Forbes. I've heard two people ahead of me refer to David as mentor. And I have to tell you, I thought I was the only one who felt that way. So that tells you a little bit about how David takes time with people and how he makes them feel. I followed David as the caucus Chair, Mr. Speaker. And you know, it's one of those roles where you're not sure what you're getting into until you get into it, and then you realize it's very good to have a mentor like David, who's so patient and kind.

Seated beside him is another colleague, Mr. Speaker, and a long-time, a very long-time friend, Mr. Yens Pedersen. Yens and I go

back over two, probably almost two and a half decades at this point. I can count . . . Our daughters are nearly the same age, our eldest daughters. Mr. Speaker, Yens was a friend and neighbour for many decades and, you know, really is the reason that I stand here today if I'm being honest. He was so helpful. I had a contested nomination when I was running to be the member in Lakeview. And the list of what I knew was very small compared to the list of what I didn't know or even that I didn't know that I didn't know.

I'll tell one story. I remember winning that nomination, Mr. Speaker, and turning to Yens and, you know, asking sort of, what now? And are you going to be my campaign manager? And I believe he said to me, no, if I was going to work that hard I would have run myself, Mr. Speaker. Which, you know, it's true. I didn't know what I didn't know at that point. You know, coming through a contested nomination in the party. He put us in good stead.

And speaking of that contested nomination, my colleague Kaitlyn is here today. I want to welcome her and to just thank her for the positivity, for the ideas that she and her team are bringing forward. And regardless of what happens, I want you to know sincerely: I'm grateful that we share values. I'm grateful that we share a love of this province. And I'm grateful that all of us — all of us here in the gallery, all of those who have held roles in our party, past and present — that we're on the same team and that we're going to keep fighting for better for people in this province.

So I thank all of you, and I invite all members to join me in welcoming all of the guests today to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a tremendous honour for me to welcome 104 guests to their Assembly here today. I'm going to introduce each of them individually here this morning, Mr. Speaker.

But I have an incredible contingent here, constituents, Mr. Speaker, constituency schools that are here today. Five teachers, five amazing teachers and 99 brilliant, young students that really show us so much hope for our future and remind us as well of the duty that we have to make sure that we're doing all we can to make sure that they have the supports and the systems in place to live up to their potential, Mr. Speaker.

I had the privilege of meeting with the very fine group of McLurg Mustangs seated behind me in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, as Blake Berglund might call it, the western gallery, Mr. Speaker. What a fine group. I've known many of their families and parents my entire life, count many as friends. They had so many good questions, insightful comments, and we talked a little bit of hockey and other things as well. But it's a real pleasure to welcome them here today. So 25 students from McLurg, and their teachers that are here today are Ms. Sandra Schenher and Ms. Jara Langill. Maybe you can all just give us a big wave.

And over in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be meeting with these young folks real soon, an amazing contingent from St. Francis. These are Firebirds, Mr. Speaker. Ninety-nine

students: grade 3, grade 4, grade 5. Give us a great big wave. And their teachers are Ms. Della Weafer, Ms. Melissa Ray, and Ms. Chelsea Romanyk.

Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to have these constituents, these friends, here in their Assembly. I ask all members to give them a very warm welcome.

[10:45]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — No petitions today. I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Government's Leadership

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, on this the last day of our session, through you I would like to ask all members to look around this Chamber and consider why and for whom we're here. Mr. Speaker, the last couple of years have been tough for people in our province, from the health effects of the pandemic to the fear of job losses, the impacts of climate change, the rising costs of everything, and the stress of it all.

All of these challenges and the opportunities before us require leadership. And that leadership should come from this place, and particularly from the government. Instead we have a premier who says he doesn't care. More than words, Mr. Speaker, is showing he doesn't care. Because caring is an action word, and on that side of the House they have the power to take action and to make changes that could actually help people. They can fund hospitals, schools, communities, ensure fair wages, build the economy, and make sure that those in need have what they need.

They could and should support the member from Cumberland's pleas for a real mental health plan that would save lives. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot that Saskatchewan people need their government to do to show that they care. And if the Sask Party won't do any of it, they should reconsider why they're here, because on this side, Mr. Speaker, we're ready to deliver. Thank you.

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

Government Insurance Rebates

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week and throughout the spring my colleagues and I have been highlighting good news stories across the province. I rise today to announce another piece of good news that Saskatchewan people will soon see — a few more dollars in their bank account.

SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] has begun the process of mailing out over 600,000 rebate cheques to their customers across the province. By providing this rebate to Saskatchewan people, we are making life more affordable. As these cheques arrive in mailboxes over the next few weeks, people will fill up their gas tank, go out for dinner, buy groceries, and pay their bills.

Mr. Speaker, this rebate was made possible due to well-performing investments at SGI. We felt that the best use of this

money was to give it to the people of Saskatchewan. In total, nearly \$90 million will go back into people's pockets. This is in addition to the nearly \$2.4 billion that our government is providing in affordability relief this year.

Mr. Speaker, our government will continue to make life more affordable for people of Saskatchewan, and the SGI rebate cheque is just one more example. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Constituent Selected Third in Canadian Football League Draft

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, it's an absolute honour today to rise and congratulate my constituent Nathan Cherry on being selected third overall in the CFL [Canadian Football League] draft. What an incredible achievement for an outstanding young man.

When the *StarPhoenix* asked him about the life-changing moment when he got the call from the head coach of the BC Lions, Nathan said, "I was in the middle of eating some chicken wings, and I had to clean up, get everyone to quiet down, and take the phone call. And it was excitement from there on." Eloquent words from the best defensive lineman in U Sports last season.

Nathan was a standout on the Huskies D-line [defensive line] and is recognized as a first-team all-Canadian. The Lions clearly saw a long pro career ahead of him and they snagged him with their top pick. Now not only that, but the Lions spent four of their first six picks on Saskatchewan athletes. That's three from the Huskies and one from the Rams.

I first met Nathan when he walked into Aden Bowman Collegiate as a 14-year-old, looking a whole lot more like a grown man. He was a standout in high school and he's found success at every stop along the way. Nathan credits his parents, Daryl and Lois; his siblings Shad and Kailey for their support; as well as his teammates and Huskies Head Coach Scott Flory for helping him to reach his goals.

I invite all members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating Nathan and offering him and all CFL teams our full support for the upcoming season that's back on track.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Work Under Way on New Canola Crushing Plants

Mr. Keisig: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, canola is one of the most valuable crops grown in this great province. It is well over a billion-dollar industry. Five new canola crushing plants have been announced in this province. I'm very excited to provide a quick update on what I hear in the agricultural community, Mr. Speaker.

Richardson's plant in Yorkton is well under way with hundreds of tradespeople on site. The loop track is done and some cement work is nearing completion. Ceres Global at Northgate has land purchased, wells drilled, and civil work is beginning soon. Mr.

Speaker, Ceres is uniquely located that it has access to Burlington Northern Railway to export its product straight to the American market.

The \$350 million Cargill project has purchased land just west of the city, and we will be able to see dirt moving this summer. There will be roughly 1 million hours of employment available throughout the construction phase. Viterra and FCL [Federated Co-operatives Ltd.]-AGT plants are heavily into engineering work.

Mr. Speaker, everyone involved in agriculture is excited to see these plants moving forward. Adding value to our agricultural production is a cornerstone policy of this government and we are very proud of this. The synergy of adding value to our agricultural products benefits rural and urban residents and helps get this beautiful province back on track. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Lumber Company Invests in Saskatchewan

Hon. Mr. Bradshaw: — Mr. Speaker, Dunkley Lumber in Carrot River has seen some impressive improvements over the past year, and the improvements will continue. They are approximately 25 per cent of the way through the capitalization plans that will be completed in 2024. This will see productivity increase by 70 per cent, with a total investment of approximately \$140 million once completed.

To date, the outside residual by-products handling project is being completed, and we'll see the beehive burner permanently eliminated in the coming days. Installation of a new industrial scale, new mobile equipment shop, new fuelling station, administration buildings are all being completed, as well as many yard improvements. The next phases will include a new log-in feed and handling system, secondary-primary breakdown saw line, lumber and trimmer line stacker, and dry kiln.

Over the past six months, Dunkley's workforce has grown by 12 per cent, with further new jobs yet to come as new equipment and manufacturing processes come online. Currently Dunkley employs 162 full-time employees, and this number increases significantly during the winter months when contractors start working in the forest, harvesting trees and hauling logs.

Another success story for Saskatchewan. Please join me in congratulating Dunkley Lumber on an impressive investment in the community of Carrot River and the Carrot River Valley constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Wood River.

New Arena Is a State-of-the-Art Facility

Hon. Mr. Marit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand here today to celebrate the new Southland Co-op Centre Arena in Assiniboia. Discussions and fundraising efforts on this new facility began in November 2011. There was a need to replace the 1956 rink and to increase the community spaces. Assiniboia had ambitious plans to have its own state-of-the-art facility in the

heart of the golden South.

Due in large part to the town of Assiniboia and from community fundraising initiatives by the Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association, almost \$6 million was raised. Additionally, timely provincial government funding of over \$5.2 million helped push this project towards the finish line.

Once completed, this new facility will feature an NHL [National Hockey League]-sized skating rink with 21-foot video scoreboard; two-lane walking track; a teen youth centre; a Lakota First Nation education and interpretive centre; and an additional gymnasium including courts for pickleball, badminton, basketball, floor hockey, and a climbing wall — you name it. Last but not least, Mr. Speaker, a 27-foot TV screen outside. This will give people the opportunity to watch a game and congregate outside. Bring out those lawn chairs and let the tailgating begin.

Mr. Speaker, this will be the first town in Saskatchewan to have an area like this. I want to congratulate the people of Assiniboia and surrounding communities on their efforts and their new facility. I look forward to the grand opening September 10th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Province's Economy and Finances Are Back on Track

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few days, my colleagues and I have talked about all the good economic news the province is seeing. We've talked about how our province is leading the nation in a lot of key economic indicators, the strength of our labour market, and a record level of private sector investment flowing into our province. Our economy and finances are back on track and helping to grow our province and provide jobs.

Mr. Speaker, in spite of these facts, members opposite have tried to spin a different story. But here's the reality. This spring's provincial budget makes key investments in health care, education, mental health and addictions, and work in this session is focused on addressing affordability issues.

In addition to the \$2 billion of annualized measures, we've introduced rebates to help offset fuel prices, a plan to increase the minimum wage, reductions to the cost of child care, and two Indigenous-led temporary housing initiatives in Regina and Saskatoon. This spring we've also placed a significant focus on growing our economy by charting a path to a balanced budget, expanding trade opportunities, and securing new investment in our energy and resource sector.

Mr. Speaker, the rhetoric from members opposite doesn't match the reality in our communities. This side of the House is full of optimistic, positive, forward-thinking members who can see Saskatchewan's bright future. And we will remain focused on continuous growth, opportunity, and a Saskatchewan that works for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Cost of Living and Resource Revenues

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the biggest factors in whether people will be in good health, physical or mental, comes down to whether they'll have a safe and comfortable place to stay, enough money to fill the tank to get to work and school, to fill up the fridge with nutritious food. But today too many Saskatchewan people are struggling to afford the basics. Prices are through the roof and with them, government revenues and windfall profits for resource companies. Why has this Premier, who right now has the means right in front of him to help people make ends meet, why has he chosen to do nothing instead?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is correct. Natural resource prices have increased over the last number of months, Mr. Speaker. That will have an impact, quite likely on the bottom line of the province, Mr. Speaker. But we are about 40 days into this fiscal year, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to make a decision about 40 days into a fiscal year that may have impacts that would affect the entire year.

As we find our way through the weeks, Mr. Speaker, and the months, the next number of months, the Minister of Finance, the Deputy Premier, is watching very, very closely, Mr. Speaker. In the event that we do have higher-than-expected revenues to the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, understanding they're coming from natural resource revenues that have increased and the people of this province own those natural resources, Mr. Speaker, we would look at what opportunities we have to benefit the entirety of the province, all of the people equally across the province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Windfall profits are being gathered now. Prices are through the roof now. People need that help now.

And if we want a healthy future, education is the cornerstone of that future. But in the Education minister's own backyard, the South East Cornerstone School Division has announced they're going to have to cut 35 positions. Twenty-three of those positions are teachers. And they place these cuts squarely on the shoulders of this government.

To the Premier: does he really think that what Saskatchewan kids need right now is fewer teachers and less support?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, also this fall right in the Minister of Education's backyard, those students will be returning to a new school in the community of Weyburn, Mr. Speaker, one of over 65 schools that have been built across this province. We have 19 that are currently in the planning stages, Mr. Speaker.

And with respect to this last year's education budget, Mr. Speaker, it was again the largest education budget that this

province has seen. It was \$2.88 billion. Just under 2 billion of those dollars flowed through to the education boards across the province, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Education has just informed me that this particular budget has not been approved, Mr. Speaker. And he's working with the various school divisions across the province, Mr. Speaker, with the increase of funding that they have received this year.

[11:00]

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

Provision of Health Care

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, a new school is very nice, but with 23 fewer teachers, who's going to be taking care of those kids? Who's going to be teaching them?

The Premier and his Health minister chose to ignore Saskatchewan doctors, to ignore the science. And the result? The worst response in the country to the greatest health crisis of our lifetimes, a health care system that is still overwhelmed, top doctors leaving the province because they're too frustrated by this government to go on practising here, hundreds of avoidable deaths. How many hundreds? Well we still don't know.

Stats Canada released data this week that indicates 1,288 excess deaths in 2021 not accounted for by COVID-19. But the Premier has shown no curiosity at all about what's driving this loss of life. Mr. Speaker, it's as clear as day. We need an inquiry into this province's COVID-19 response. There are too many unanswered questions and too many lessons that need to be learned.

Why is the Premier unwilling to take this simple step? What is he so afraid of Saskatchewan people discovering?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the report, Mr. Speaker, I think it started at 7,000. It was 4,000. It was 2,500. I think, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, is when it comes to fatalities, whatever the reason, Mr. Speaker, it's the attending physician that ultimately will sign off on what that fatality is, if they are able to identify, Mr. Speaker, or they'll involve the coroner's office if necessary.

The facts of our health care system, and admittedly, Mr. Speaker, like the rest of Canada and many places in the world, two very challenging years in our health care system and in society in general I think. Where we are today in our Saskatchewan health care system is we're about 87 per cent of our medicine acute care beds are being utilized in the province, about 73 per cent of our ICU [intensive care unit] beds.

What we're seeing with respect to attrition rates across the Saskatchewan Health Authority is about three and a half per cent. That is very similar to what we saw pre-pandemic, Mr. Speaker.

And I think we can be thankful. We have 17,000 nurses of various designations that are working in this province. It's 4,300 more nurses than when we took government, Mr. Speaker. We have over 1,000 additional physicians that are practising in communities across this province, Mr. Speaker.

We can be thankful they are there, but we can also understand that we have more to do, Mr. Speaker. We do need to add to the complement, our staffing complement in our health care sector in communities right across this province. We're doing that and that's supported by the dollars that were provided in this budget.

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

Support for Mental Health and Addictions

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Premier agrees with the minister that Stats Canada is wrong, but the numbers are clear. And the fact that the Premier of the province isn't curious about an added 1,300 lives lost is very disturbing, Mr. Speaker. Very disturbing.

One of the sources of lives lost in this province, too many lives lost, has been mental health and addictions troubles. Yesterday my colleague from Cumberland, he used some strong language to describe the lack of concern from this government for the families mourning loved ones lost to suicide, for the families living in fear that they too will lose a child to addictions, to overdose. What he said may have been unparliamentary, but he wasn't wrong.

The Premier, his cabinet, his backbenchers, they've been so offended by the suggestion that they don't care. But when they have an opportunity to show differently, there's nothing. Families are asking for an all-party committee to address our mental health and addictions crisis. This team is ready to do that work alongside the government. Why isn't the Premier?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question, we've discussed a number of times over the course of the last number of days the strategic and oversight committee that we have and how that guides our suicide prevention strategy here in this province, Mr. Speaker. And I think it's fair to say that many members, if not all members, share the emotion that was shown by the member from Cumberland on the floor of the Assembly yesterday, Mr. Speaker, in particular on this topic that transcends politics and is very important to all Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

And it's disappointing, quite frankly, to have anyone in this Assembly say in any way that there are members in this Assembly, that were elected, duly elected, Mr. Speaker, by their constituents, to indicate in any way that they might not care about this topic.

We had a very passionate debate in this House a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, where we had members from both sides talking about very personal stories, Mr. Speaker, on this topic, the topic of suicide and how it's impacted their lives, their family lives. How they have been there to support others in their family and friend circles, Mr. Speaker. How they have been there to support constituents. How others have been there to support them.

Mr. Speaker, we have Tarrant Cross Child here today, who is supporting so many across the province of Saskatchewan and across the broader North America, Mr. Speaker. To insinuate in any way that there's any member in this Assembly that doesn't

care, Mr. Speaker, is just simply wrong. And the fact that they're in this Assembly, elected by their constituents, I think most certainly does say they care.

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

Provision of Social Services

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier's right. Passionate words were spoken, but they were words, Mr. Speaker. And on this side, we want to see more action.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Social Services tells Saskatchewan people struggling to put a roof over their head, at risk of eviction, to just come on down to her office, to give her a call and they'll figure it out.

Beyond the absolute absurdity of this approach to housing people — one that doesn't even involve tracking costs of hotel rooms — it seems this promise, like so much of what we've heard from that government, was no more than big words while the cameras were rolling. To the minister: can you update us on what steps have been taken to support single dad Frank Francoeur and his two boys since his meeting here last week?

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member opposite for the question. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is fully aware that we don't talk about personal matters on the floor of the House. But what I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that this side of the House does care. We care about those individuals that need a helping hand when they are in need. We have the Saskatchewan housing authority that does have housing for individuals, Mr. Speaker. We have income assistance programs that will help people out when they're in need. We have different avenues that they can apply for if there are special circumstances, Mr. Speaker. This side of the House does care, regardless of what that side of the House says. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, that minister knows full well they've received a consent allowing them to discuss Frank Francoeur's case. Here's what happened to Frank Francoeur, Mr. Speaker. Here's what happened. Instead of an effort to keep a roof over his family's head or providing support for his rental arrears, or any recognition that SIS [Saskatchewan income support] is not enough for people to live on, this government cut him off his benefits three days ago.

Three days ago Frank, who's here with us today, got this shocking news. So he and his boys not only don't have a roof over their head now; they don't have income, Mr. Speaker. Frank is here again today. He's here and he wants to know, like myself: is this some kind of sick joke? Does the minister have a streak for vengeance? Tell us that this was a mistake.

The Speaker: — Please, I just want to remind the member from Regina Elphinstone not to make personal comments. I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of what she's talking about right now. I don't know that he's been cut off. I don't know why he would be cut off, Mr. Speaker.

But what I can promise you is I will endure to find out, and we will work with Frank to try and help him work out the circumstances that he is finding himself in, Mr. Speaker. We will try and help him find a plan that we can work together on to get him back on the right track, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Conway: — Frank was kicked off his benefits because he called his worker explaining that he'd been evicted and asked for help. He was told that because he now doesn't have an address, his benefits are cut off, Mr. Speaker. Frank sat in that minister's office to explain his family's plight. His only ask was to stay in his home, and this is what he got in return, Mr. Speaker. Four days after speaking to the media about his struggles, four days after meeting in that minister's office, he got a letter from that ministry cutting him off his benefits.

This government doesn't like hearing that they don't care. Sure, no one would want to be part of a government that doesn't. But why, given every opportunity to show that they do care, do they take actions that prove that they don't? No more "I'll meet with the family." No more "we'll review the case." The question is simple. It's a yes-or-no question. Will the minister commit today to keep Frank in his home, to restore his benefits? Yes or no?

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I can commit to, Mr. Speaker, is having another conversation with Frank, working through his set of circumstances, working through his housing issues, and working through what we're talking about on the SIS program, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, clearly if what she is saying is in fact accurate, Mr. Speaker, we're not going to cut someone off a program just because they are having an interim problem with housing. Mr. Speaker, with the SIS program, we truly are there to try and help individuals to better themselves, to work with them to try and get them back on the right track, enable them to help themselves, along with our help, Mr. Speaker. And that is exactly what the SIS program is designed for, and in conjunction with that, having housing that may be available.

Mr. Speaker, we're more than happy to work through these issues with Frank. Thank you.

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

Rising Fuel Prices

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's astonishing to see a government that's been in power so long, is so comfortable and delighted with that, have absolutely no idea how their own ministries work.

Mr. Speaker, March 7th, March 7th was the day that we called for a fuel price relief program. That was 11 weeks ago, and since then this government's abject failure to act on generational, a generational affordability crisis, has hurt families and is hurting our economy. Heavy construction, our road builders, are saying this government is failing them. Thousands and thousands and thousands of extra dollars are being added to existing projects. Some may be deferred till next year. And the current plan — which, reminder, is doing nothing — isn't working. Government is raking in the cash, but their inaction on fuel relief risks crippling our economy.

Will this government finally do their duty and provide inflationary relief to this province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank the member for the question. Actually we value the relationship we have with the heavy-duty road construction association. They do great work throughout our province. And we're building highways in this province, Mr. Speaker, unlike the people from the other side when they were in power.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that we met with the heavy-duty road construction yesterday. The Minister of SaskBuilds and I met with them, and what we'll do is we are going to be providing some fuel adjustment relief under the current budget allocation. And we'll continue to engage with the construction industry and the stakeholders.

But you know what we won't do, Mr. Speaker? We won't be telling municipalities to fill their own potholes like the members opposite did.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Great to hear, but sadly it isn't just construction. It's also small business, the taxi industry, trucking industries — all being squeezed.

Susan Ewart, director of the STA [Saskatchewan Trucking Association], wants this government to follow the lead of other provinces and provide some much-needed fuel relief. Trucking is part of the backbone of the economy here, and the STA says that there may be lasting impacts to the fuel cost crunch.

And you want to know why folks think you don't care? Well you spent weeks bragging and backslapping about your record resource revenues, revenues that do not belong to the Saskatchewan Party; they belong to this province. For 11 weeks, 11 weeks, you haven't offered a stitch of relief. In fact you shook folks down for more, raised taxes or hiking utilities and increasing fees.

So when, Mr. Speaker, when will vital Saskatchewan industries, farms, families, and small businesses get the support they need?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, there is support in our budget. Just for direct affordability for individuals and families,

there is over \$2 billion in our budget of direct affordability items within the budget, Mr. Speaker. As well, we've been monitoring the revenues as we get farther into our fiscal year.

[11:15]

But let's be real, Mr. Speaker. Let's be real. High inflation is because of high energy costs. High energy costs are because of the carbon tax and the lack of pipelines. The carbon tax and lack of pipelines is because we have Trudeau as a prime minister. And Trudeau is still the prime minister why? Why, Mr. Speaker? Because he's propped up by the NDP, the NDP that they support.

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

Sales Tax and Provincial Economy

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, we've seen it all session long — an old and tired government offering old and tired answers.

Only this government could find 32 new things, new fees and taxes, to slap on Saskatchewan people in the middle of an affordability crisis. The PST [provincial sales tax] expansion will hurt Saskatchewan people's physical and mental health outcomes because this Sask Party plan will price people out of their gym and fitness memberships. With the price of fuel and no relief, many gyms in smaller centres are already feeling the crunch, Mr. Speaker, because clients can't afford to drive into town. With another 6 per cent on top of that coming this fall, it'll harm our health and our economy.

Now with all the challenges that we're seeing in health care, how on earth does it make any sense to slap PST on fitness and gym memberships that are there to help people stay healthy?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And there has been some wonderful economic news in this province over the course of the last year, Mr. Speaker. Fourteen billion dollars of private sector investment that are coming into this province going forward. Really a record of investment, a pace of investment that we have never seen before in the history of Saskatchewan.

And these investments are being made for one reason: because companies have the confidence to make those investments, who could make those investments anywhere in the world, are choosing here, Mr. Speaker. Why are they doing that? Because they have confidence in this province, in our people here, Mr. Speaker, in our workforce, and the fact that the policy environment exists for them to have comfort in the long term that there's going to be stability in these sectors, Mr. Speaker.

And it's being reflected right now. Manufacturing sales, Mr. Speaker, this month, up 11 per cent over the course of the last month, 45 per cent year over year, Mr. Speaker. Wholesale trade, 29 per cent increase, the highest increase in the entire country. Urban housing starts, Mr. Speaker, up 44 per cent over the course of the last year. Mr. Speaker, there is great positive momentum in this province, and we're going to keep it going.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, it's embarrassing this government won't face those sectors of our economy that they are hurting every day with these changes.

The other struggling sectors that are being kicked while they're down is our creative and tourism industries. Life is getting more expensive and families are being priced out, thanks to the Sask Party PST on fun. Times have been tough. Saskatchewan's economy is falling behind. And after years of the pandemic, people just want to get back to normal. But there's nothing normal about taxing struggling industries just as they're trying to get back on their feet. Will this government do the right thing and scrap this ridiculous tax grab?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. But again, what we hear from the NDP constantly talking down the economy, constant negativity, attacks on our job creators, attacks on our industries.

Mentioned tourism over there, Mr. Speaker, an industry for which we are providing record support this year. And I'll tell you another thing, Mr. Speaker, that we have made a very, very clear case to the Government of Canada who continue to have ridiculous restrictions in place on travel into this country, Mr. Speaker. Mandates, face coverings, all of these things, Mr. Speaker — they need to go. And we have made that case very clearly.

What would be nice, Mr. Speaker, is if we had the support of the opposition in making that case. But I guarantee you this, Mr. Speaker: we don't. Mr. Speaker, they continue to support Trudeau's restrictions on international travel, which need to go, which need to go immediately, Mr. Speaker. That will have a major impact on our tourism industry in a positive way. They need to get behind that.

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

Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Providers

Ms. Mowat: — Utter nonsense, Mr. Speaker. Doctors and other health care workers are leaving the profession or leaving the province altogether because of that government's failed leadership and a premier and that minister that don't seem to care. One out of every five doctors set to retire over the next two years. Dr. Hassan Masri, an intensive care doctor, leaving the province and laying it squarely at the feet of that Premier. What did this government expect after years of health care workers and experts pleading for this government to listen and take accountability, only to feel that their pleas have fallen on deaf ears?

The first step to stemming the tide of health professionals finding greener pastures is admitting that you have a problem. Will this government acknowledge their role in creating chaos in our health system, and will they commit to fixing it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, we've done nothing but support our front-line health care workers throughout the challenging last two years, and we're continuing to do that, Mr. Speaker. We have a very robust plan in the budget, Mr. Speaker — which again, those members opposite voted against — to be able to increase nurse seating up to almost 1,000, Mr. Speaker, increase our doctors. We're actively recruiting across Canada and around the world, Mr. Speaker, to be able to bring those people in Saskatchewan. We have to sell the Saskatchewan story, Mr. Speaker, on why they want to choose Saskatchewan over other provinces.

But, Mr. Speaker, if they're listening on what's happening over there, the group over there just keeps running down our province in every aspect possible, Mr. Speaker. But what we're out there to do, Mr. Speaker, is to continue to support our health care workers with the dollars, with a plan, and with the facilities to be able to treat the people in Saskatchewan, the patients that are out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, they won't listen to experts, to the health care workers, to families, to our leaders. The Premier and the minister need to listen to the government backbenchers who in the 75-minute debate did make it very clear they've gone through some rough times. And they know more needs to be done, and they were willing to work together.

Will the Premier and the minister take this opportunity to show you care, once and for all, and work with opposition members and government backbenchers and your cabinet and come up with a special committee to deal with some serious matters that must be addressed once and for all? Please do that.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, that debate a number of days ago, Mr. Speaker, I think was very impactful and, I think, in many ways was precipitated by the passion that many in this Assembly share on this very important topic. But in particular of note is the member from Cumberland and his passion on suicide prevention in this province, and I thank him for that, Mr. Speaker.

We have been working together with the members opposite, most notably in the passing of that member's bill in this House. I walked through in estimates how we are addressing, clause by clause, that bill, Mr. Speaker, how we are guiding our Pillars for Life suicide prevention strategy here in the province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we most certainly are working together, not only by passing that bill with the opposition, but working with families that unfortunately have lived experience in this area, Mr. Speaker.

I would just say, Mr. Speaker, this has been two very challenging years for all of us in this Assembly and across this province, Mr. Speaker. Most certainly I know we're all eager to leave this Assembly now for the spring and to go out and engage and represent in our communities. And I would just add, Mr. Speaker,

as we do that, I would encourage each member in this Assembly just to take a few moments for themselves, Mr. Speaker, take a few moments for themselves, their family, their close friends at home, and ensure that they are, you know, strong themselves, Mr. Speaker, so that we're able to ensure that we come back and have the rigorous debate in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, wherever that might be, Mr. Speaker.

But we are not able to perform our duties of bringing that debate to this floor, to our caucuses, Mr. Speaker, and to represent the people that we do, if we're not strong right here, Mr. Speaker. And I encourage all members just to take a few moments as we leave this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, a few moments for themselves to ensure that we are able to return this fall, to return to our service to our constituents this summer in the very best form.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 44 through 55.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has ordered questions from 44 to 50 . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . 55? 55. I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to move a motion of thanks.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I further ask leave to request that members be allowed to use members' names in debate.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

MOTIONS

Expression of Thanks

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to rise today in this House and recognize the sacrifice, the work, and the contribution of "Meili-der," Ryan Meili. Mr. Speaker, for those of you who caught it, that was my first and hopefully last terrible attempt at wordplay. And if you missed it, just count yourself lucky.

Ryan is the 38th Leader of the Official Opposition and the 13th leader of our party to take on that role. Mr. Speaker, we've been running up the count a little lately over the last 15 years, but it is still truly a rare honour. And one of the reasons that not many people take on these roles is because they are simply not easy. In

fact, some members opposite will remember when Brad Wall ran for the job, no one else was interested at all. Still, Mr. Speaker, it is a role that Ryan fought for.

And having worked with him, having campaigned with him, and having sat around the caucus table with him, I can say with certainty that Ryan Meili fought for this position for the same reason that he pursued other roles, put simply: because he simply wanted to help people. As a leader, as an activist, as a doctor in Saskatoon and right across this province, as far away as Mozambique, Ryan Meili has made a lot of sacrifices in the name of helping others.

And on that score, and especially during the pandemic, no one in this House can deny that he has succeeded through his advocacy, his expertise, his advice in and out of the Chamber, despite some terrible puns. And even though he wasn't always listened to, Mr. Speaker, when he was, lives in this province were unquestionably saved. And so I say thank you, Ryan.

And, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't even include the work he did while he continued to practise medicine — administering vaccines; a few weeks and a few blocks away from here, actively saving a life — while also serving as full-time leader and father. So again I say, thank you, Ryan.

And speaking of being a father, Mr. Speaker, we all know that none of us here serve alone. The sacrifices that our families make are significant. Since becoming an MLA, Ryan and Mahli welcomed a baby to their family, and no doubt both Abraham and Augustin have missed their dad as much as he's missed them. We know this hasn't been easy. And through it all, Mahli has continued to be a successful and dedicated doctor, a truly extraordinary pediatrician in her own right.

Now I'm lucky to live and represent people right in this city, even just right across the street. And my own kids aren't really children anymore and are often just as happy to see me leave as they once were to see me come home. My dogs are still happy. I can only imagine, Ryan, the challenges of the back-and-forth to and from Saskatoon, the events, the travel, the public scrutiny. All of this weighs heavily on a family, so I want to ask all members to join me in saying thank you. Thank you to Gus, to Abe, and thank you very much to Mahli.

Mr. Speaker, you don't have to know Ryan very well to know his commitment to helping people led to his commitment to social democracy, and ultimately to him taking his seat in this Chamber, in the same way that many of us found our ways here. Ryan understands that caring for people starts long before they find their way to his clinic. Ryan is focused on addressing and improving upstream factors, the social determinants of health. He even wrote a book on it.

[11:30]

A commitment to helping those who need help the most, fighting to improve access to affordable housing, healthy food, head-to-toe health care, good jobs, equity, fairness, justice — all of it for all of us. It's driven by core values that I'm proud to say I share and we all share with Ryan Meili. And for putting that commitment into action, again I say thank you, Ryan.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there are many of my colleagues who have things that they want to say, so I'm going to truncate my speech a bit, but there are a few extra things that I do want to say.

In the cut and thrust of all of this, Mr. Speaker, it's easy to forget that all of us on both sides of this House are just people, humans. We came here with the intention to do our best to help people in our province, and we certainly don't all agree on how to get there, and we don't always get results that we want. And unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this place is not always a meritocracy. The work we put in isn't always reflected in the results that we get. But we put in the time and the effort for as long as we are able, or as long as the people who represent us allow, and we move on. We hope we've had an impact. After the sacrifice, the effort, and the energy, we cannot deny that Ryan Meili has had an impact and no doubt will continue to in our province. And so again I say simply and sincerely, Ryan, thank you.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move a motion:

That this Assembly gives thanks to the Leader of the Opposition for his service and dedication to the residents of Saskatoon Meewasin and to all people in Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Regina Lakeview:

That this Assembly give thanks to the Leader of the Opposition for his service and dedication to the residents of Saskatoon Meewasin and to all the people of Saskatchewan.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion? I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And just let me begin with a very heartfelt thank you and best wishes on behalf of all of the MLAs on the government side, all the Saskatchewan Party MLAs, Mr. Speaker, to the Leader of the Opposition, to his family for supporting him over the course of his political career up to and including today and out a little time yet, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for your service, Ryan.

Mr. Speaker, I was thinking this morning about, you know, a couple of things with respect to Ryan Meili and two things popped into my mind. I'm going to maybe discuss both of them. The first was Ryan Meili's truly a guy that lives and acts on the beliefs that he has, Mr. Speaker. He has a number of beliefs. He brought them to this Assembly. They've gotten him elected, and he truly believes them and he acts and he lives his life true to those beliefs, and that is admirable. That's admirable in any individual and most certainly is admirable in Ryan Meili.

Mr. Speaker, second to that, I think the perseverance that Ryan Meili has shown over his political career thus far, I think is commendable, Mr. Speaker. And I say this, I say this in all admiration. Ryan Meili, he ran in a number of leadership elections — he was elected as an MLA, ultimately came in as leader — over about a 9- or 10-year period, and then served a number of years in this House, up to and including maybe a 13-year run there, Mr. Speaker. That's longer than many, many political careers. That's longer than the average political career, Mr. Speaker.

And I say this in all earnestly, that perseverance is admirable. That perseverance to the beliefs that he has and to his determination, Mr. Speaker, to come in as the Leader of the Opposition, or an MLA originally, to ask questions with respect to those beliefs on behalf of his constituents and those who elected him, I think is something we can all admire, Mr. Speaker. I think it's something that we feel that every member of this Assembly has. But again, Mr. Speaker, Ryan Meili, he lived his passion with respect to . . . and showed the perseverance to ensure that he was able to act out on the beliefs that he has, Mr. Speaker. And for that, I commend Ryan Meili.

Mr. Speaker, on those beliefs, we have debate in this on the floor of this Assembly each and every day. And all of the differences between our views come out and spill out onto the floor of this Assembly, like they have for over 100 years in this very spot, Mr. Speaker. And I think often when you step back, step back from the floor of this Assembly, step back into our communities, which we're all going to do here today, it's incumbent on us to take a moment and just realize that we likely agree on more than we realize, Mr. Speaker, in this province more generally.

This might be a time for all of us in this province, not just elected members, to pause, and you know, after two very difficult years, just pause and realize that we likely agree on much more than we realize. We'll have debate about, you know, how we get to that destination. We may agree closely on where that destination is. And we'll have debate on this floor on the method on how we're getting to that destination, on the rate at which we're trying to get to that destination, rate the government is trying to get to that destination. The opposition will ask fair questions with respect to that, Mr. Speaker.

But more often than not, we do agree on the destination, whether it's conversations around, you know, climate change, Mr. Speaker, and our environmental sustainability; whether it's conversations on the health care that folks are receiving in their communities. That's a debate that I know members on this side — and David that has joined us today — would remember back in 2007, when there was a change of government. There was much debate about health care at that point in time. I myself was a volunteer in my community recruiting health care professionals at that point in time, Mr. Speaker.

And I think there is much more that we agree on than we sometimes realize in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and I would just extend that across the province to all residents of the province. There is much more that we agree on than we disagree on. And if we'd just take a minute and understand and realize that, Mr. Speaker, I think in the months ahead we will certainly be able to achieve much more collectively as a government and opposition, but also as people in the province of Saskatchewan.

I read back a media story from some years ago, Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition was elected, when Ryan Meili was elected as the Leader of the Opposition. And he had pledged a message at that point in time . . . and I'll maybe just mention this briefly to his boys who likely maybe got bored with sitting in the Assembly this long. There might be some others that might be bored sitting in the Assembly this long as well, Mr. Speaker, but understandable with young boys.

But he pledged a message of change, Mr. Speaker, change in

some very focused areas: health care, education, child care, and seniors. Mr. Speaker, I think it's fair to say — and again, this is a testament to the perseverance that Ryan Meili has — that he has made change in these areas. Through questions on the floor of this Assembly, through political pressure, obviously, that the opposition has always been able to apply to the governing party or to the ministers specifically, we have seen change in each of these areas, and we continue to see change in each of these areas. And I would credit Ryan Meili for some of that change that most certainly we are seeing in our communities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, just maybe a couple of notes on a little more of a personal note with respect to Ryan. And I talked about his perseverance. I talked about him being true to his beliefs, Mr. Speaker. And we saw this, and I don't know the Meili family, but I do know what a family goes through, in particular when you don't live in Regina, and you're away from home for long periods of time during session. I do know what a family goes through as a leader of a political party in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And your family's involved. Your family's involved by supporting one another, because quite frankly, you're not there. But they're also involved in the daily politics that may be happening, whether they're directly included in whatever's happening by association, Mr. Speaker, or whether they're watching what is happening to a family member that they most certainly love.

And I would very earnestly like to thank the entire Meili family for the support that you've shown to Ryan in his political endeavours for over a decade now. I get the opportunity to experience that support from my family and I can most certainly . . . I know how thankful I am and I know that Ryan most certainly is equally as thankful.

Mr. Speaker, this is a man, Ryan Meili is a man . . . He did serve true to his beliefs. He can be proud of that. He's showed utmost perseverance in his political career in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of our entire governing caucus on the very last day that he will be in this Assembly, I think it's fair to say that we wish Ryan, we wish Mahli, we wish Abraham and Gus the very best in whatever you choose.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm struggling with how to summarize this farewell in a short four to five minutes, but I'm going to do my best here.

We all make friends with our colleagues in workplaces that we find ourselves in, and I've had the pleasure of working in a number of different spaces, meeting a number of different people. And there are some people that you meet there where . . . My partner and I have a word for this. Maybe it's disrespectful, but it's "workplace proximity associates." We're like, we're friends with these people because we work with them. And so we actually use this word to each other sometimes because we're nerds.

But I want to say that Ryan very firmly is not a workplace proximity associate to me. He has become a very good friend to

myself and to Grayson, and we are going to miss him dearly in this space and in this political fight that we're all in here. It has always meant so much to me that Ryan has had the faith in me to appoint me as House Leader, to appoint me as the critic for Health when I know that this is his whole reason for getting into politics. I have always been quite humbled by his trust in me professionally in this portfolio, and I have always felt quite supported by him in both of those roles.

As a fellow nerd, I quickly became friends with Ryan even though he's much older and I don't really understand a lot of his references. We've had very different lives, Mr. Speaker. I did talk to Ryan, though, often throughout the pandemic. And in periods of time where we were working from home more often, I know that we spoke at least once a week, sometimes once a day. And some of those conversations were some of the most meaningful conversations that I had throughout that period of time.

And this is an isolating role to be an MLA as it is, and very isolating to be a critic of Health and the Leader of the Opposition during the pandemic. And I really felt that I had a good friend in those conversations, and they really helped to keep me going in times where my own mental health was struggling. You know, I think we've all sort of had those moments throughout the pandemic. And that friendship has meant a ton to me.

We know at normal times this is not the healthiest workplace. We have people yelling at each other, your colleagues . . . It's okay for us to yell at each other while we're in our place of work — while we're delivering speeches that we have worked hard on — which is probably one of the most bizarre places. But throughout the pandemic, it has been those supports that have meant so much to me.

We have shared a ton of experiences. The most frightening storm I have ever driven through was with this man — behind the wheel, I might add. We have shared many a press conference in Saskatoon and all over the place; many trips to The Battlefords; countless text messages about Wordle, Octordle, all nerdy daily word games that have existed since then and become spinoffs. We've shared food and drink, book recommendations, fears and hopes, dreams . . . sometimes quite literally. We've shared tears. We've shared laughter, especially over his ridiculous puns, which just flow out of him. I don't think he can control them.

[11:45]

And we have shared constituency assistants as well. In this time, I believe that we have become lifelong friends. I have a ton of respect for the work that he's done in his time as an MLA and as leader of the Sask NDP.

We always say that people work tirelessly, but he really is an Energizer Bunny. I stand by that statement. Being with him on the road, he won't take . . . If there's a 30-minute break in the agenda, he'll want to go out and meet local business owners. If there's lunch on the agenda, forget about it. That is getting scrapped for something else. I always pack a lot of snacks and usually enough for the staffers that are along for the ride too because they don't always anticipate that they're going to need to bring their own lunch as well.

He's constantly in touch with people. People are always reaching

out to him. He's talking to them. He takes this job so seriously, hearing their concerns and driving all of us to do better in our daily work. I admire his character. I thank him for his service, and I will certainly be supporting this motion, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly rise in support of this motion. Long before Ryan was elected into his service in politics, the member for Meewasin, the Leader of the Opposition, Ryan Meili, was making a direct and meaningful difference in people's lives and working to build a better future in this province. His service on these fronts are frankly remarkable, you know, the work through medicine directly, but well beyond that.

All the work into the community as a community servant through SWITCH [student wellness initiative toward community health], the student wellness toward community health care initiative, bringing multiple disciplines together in Saskatoon's core, to the College of Medicine's Making the Links, and his service in through northeast Saskatchewan, through leading a very important discussion around the social determinants of health, the building of Upstream as an organization and the leading of that conversation and that way to approach policy.

All the work around the terrible and the horrible costs of poverty, the need for action and the better paths forward, his work with the Canadian Doctors for Medicare, through to international work in Mozambique, the list goes on. His service to his community and to our province long before he was elected is nothing short of remarkable.

He's also worked to make a difference in people's lives politically as he stepped up and clearly demonstrated the ability to generate ideas, to lead a conversation, to build enthusiasm, and to organize. And yes, perseverance. I know these better than most on these fronts because I have had front-row tickets to watching Ryan in action on these fronts as he stepped up, watched those exceptional skills on these fronts. He bettered me twice in leadership processes where he always went at it with a big heart and good humour as well.

And we all know his love of a good pun and of course, as I referenced, that awesome sense of humour that we all appreciate. I know that his desire and conviction to make a positive difference in people's lives and his province, and build a better tomorrow, has driven him. And certainly that includes his service as the MLA for Saskatoon Meewasin and as the Leader of the Official Opposition and the leader of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party.

Serving is an incredible honour and it's also an incredible grind, Mr. Speaker, a sacrifice of time with family. Make no mistake, the leader of this opposition, the leader of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party, Ryan Meili, has sacrificed much on this front and offered much also. To Mahli, to Abe, to Gus, to Wally and Lea, to Françoise, and the whole family, thank you for sharing your dad, your partner, your son, your brother with all of us and with the province. And thank you also for all the ways you all serve within this community and within this province as well. The group that's seated here today, that's a pretty special bunch

I know to Ryan and to this province. But I know how important they are to him with respect to the ideas, the input, and the care and support that they'll have offered him and that they'll continue to offer him.

Mr. Speaker, a caucus and a party, a democratic party is also much like a family. It's an incredible honour to be a part of but also challenging at times. And like a family, from time to time there's debate and disagreement, but importantly there's an abiding care and respect for one another and the team for what it's all about.

Throughout his service and leadership, there was never any question that the member from Meewasin, Ryan Meili, never any question that he was always committed to making a positive difference in people's lives and in our province. This was always his focus, and he put his heart and soul into that work. And as we've seen through this last session, as the leader has made some personal decisions regarding change and his next steps, he's continued to hit the floor of this Assembly, this legislature with good fight for the people of this province who deserve nothing less.

Thank you to Ryan Meili, the Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party for his service and his efforts to protect and improve lives of people today and to secure a better tomorrow. I know he'll continue to work towards these goals as he takes on next steps and new roles, making a direct difference in the lives of many as he always has, in doing his part to build that better tomorrow.

With that, I want to extend my thanks and my best wishes to Ryan as he takes those next steps and as he takes on those new challenges. Thank you, Ryan. Of course I support the motion.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try to keep my words and my remarks brief. We've heard some very eloquent speeches here so far today. It's truly an honour to stand here in my place and pay tribute to someone who I consider to be a true friend and a true leader, Ryan Meili.

Ryan and I have been colleagues for a relatively short time, but in the course of the past two years that I've had the deep pleasure to work alongside of him, his compassion and capacity to give of himself to create a better society has been truly inspirational. I never cease to be impressed by his wise and principled nature, his healthy sense of humour, and of course his witty puns. Ryan embodies all it means to be a social democrat. By fighting the upstream roots of poverty and in health, his commitment to this province runs deep.

Throughout the pandemic, he divided his time between leading our caucus with delivering vaccines and volunteering on Fridays at the Lighthouse supported living facility in Saskatoon. One of my fondest memories of my time with Ryan since becoming elected was preparing and serving lunch with the rest of the Saskatoon caucus at the Friendship Inn on 20th Street.

Ryan is truly a servant of the people. His big heart is matched only by his keen intellect. During a time when our province faced

one of its most challenging times, Ryan was a voice of reason in the middle of a storm. And being a leader, as has already been stated, can be a lonely role.

And I want to acknowledge Ryan's family, in particular Mahli and Abe and Gus, for taking such good care in your unwavering support so that Ryan can do the work that he has done for us as a party and as a province. Thank you.

Ryan, I want to leave you with these final words by one of Canada's most cherished poets:

Ring the bell that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That is how the light gets in.

Ryan, you've left an indelible mark on our caucus, on our party, and this entire province. Thank you for your service. I will be supporting this motion.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak about my friend Ryan. Ryan is a decent and courageous doctor, a good friend, a notorious punster as many have noted, a devoted though I'm sure not perfect partner and father, a polyglot, and as so many have remarked and something I believe deeply myself, the best premier that Saskatchewan never had.

Throughout the biggest health care crisis we have ever experienced in this province, Ryan was a strong and unflinching voice for measures that would save lives. A principled proponent of evidence-based decision making throughout the pandemic, he for many weeks was leading the government in terms of what steps were necessary during the pandemic. For many weeks he led the government and had they kept listening to him, had they agreed to take him up on his offer of a bipartisan approach, far fewer would have died from COVID-19, not to mention avoid the crisis in staffing and morale we're currently facing, Mr. Speaker.

In medicine Ryan made unique contributions to understanding the origins of sickness, mental health, suicide, addiction, death by overdose as coming from our society's collective failure to address poverty, inequality, racism, and their impact on people's lives and health. His principled calls included approaching these issues from an upstream approach, not to keep applying reactive bandages, inadequate bandages downstream to society's weeping wounds.

He used his training as a physician and as an educator to serve people's needs, not to seek personal gain, and he will go back to that role now. He gave up the comfort and daily rewards of a meaningful medical practice serving the poorest and the most vulnerable to try to make a bigger difference here, Mr. Speaker. And it was always for them, for those patients that he served before, to do the hard work of addressing systemic injustice, poverty, racism, disenfranchisement.

That's Ryan the doctor, Mr. Speaker. Ryan the politician, well when he got involved in the party, he galvanized a lot of young

people. He signed up many new members to our party. He organized. He did some really new and exciting things with social media, with outreach, and he and his team stirred people's passion and their vision. He pushed this party in an amazing direction.

From the get-go, his focus on a healthy society was a viable challenge to the doctrine that we see too often — it's the economy, stupid — which our experience with COVID has borne out, because you can't pit people against the economy or you fail at both, Mr. Speaker. Ryan was trying to teach us that far before we had to learn that lesson the hard way.

Politically Ryan didn't have a killer instinct, in the best sense of that. He set out to do politics different in a world where politics often descend into such ugliness, attacks, negativity, where money so often calls the shots. Ryan kept his eye on what he wanted to build, his commitment to service, his vision for this province, a fervent commitment to expanding social programs for the majority.

Like many committed reformers in difficult times, I know he often felt stymied by the down and dirty aspects of party politics, but he kept his principles front in mind, front and centre. He kept his ego in check and he kept his eye on the prize.

Within caucus he was committed to gender equality. And it was no accident that under him we have such representation as you see today of women, including young women with children, because he is committed to the many things that women need to combine their many roles in society — their children, their jobs, freedom from violence, adequate housing for themselves and their children.

[12:00]

And finally Ryan pushed to integrate a respect for nature and recognize the increasing perils of climate change and the disasters that await us if we don't act urgently on that front, Mr. Speaker.

Ryan will be missed by this caucus, but we will take forward these principles. Make no mistake, we will continue our steadfast commitment to the issues that he brought to the fore in this House as well as out there, Mr. Speaker, and which we must all face and address with the same quiet and dignified resolve. Ryan, I'll miss you so much and I'm pleased to support the motion.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise in support of this motion and to pay tribute to my friend Ryan. I first heard of this guy, Ryan Meili, when I ran for the NDP nomination in Saskatoon University back in 2015. I was still quite new to the party then.

And as I met with our members, Mr. Speaker, I heard from many of them how Ryan Meili had inspired them to join our party, how his message had instilled in them a sense of real hope for the future of our province, how he had spoken to their dreams of a Saskatchewan that would once again truly care for its people, a province that refused to cast aside those people who are

systemically marginalized and oppressed in our society, a province that would make sure everyone would have access to those things that are needed to live a life of dignity. Those things are what make up the social determinants of health.

Those social determinants of health are what Ryan believes more than anything will decide whether a person in our society has the chance to live a good life and to thrive or whether they will be relegated to a life of structural misfortune and suffering, Mr. Speaker. The social determinants of health are those things that will often cement a person's place in society, things like a person's income, their education, their employment, whether they are subjected to discrimination, racism, and historical trauma.

The social determinants of health largely dictate how each of our lives will play out, how much privilege we will enjoy in society, or how much oppression we will be expected to bear. Ryan Meili has dedicated his career to fighting for a systemic reworking of how the cards in life are dealt to people. He has fought to ensure that deck will no longer be stacked against any one person or group of people in our society. This is the mark of great integrity. It is the mark of someone who has given everything they have to the people of this province and someone who has done so selflessly and with considerable personal sacrifice.

I know Ryan will continue in his fight for a more healthy and equitable society for all people, and it has been a true honour to serve alongside him in this Chamber in service of the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you for your exceptional advocacy, my friend. You have served the people of this province with great dignity, with unwavering conviction, and with great compassion. You have my most sincere gratitude. Thank you.

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to stand today and speak in support of this motion, just like I'm honoured to serve alongside all of my colleagues in opposition, but especially my friend and our leader, Ryan Meili. You know, I didn't really know Ryan very well before I came to work here. I knew of him. And I think a lot of folks in Saskatoon over the years, of his just incredible work and track record, developed just a real appreciation and a liking to him as just a fine human being.

I looked at him as someone who is the exact kind of person that we want serving in this building. And I looked at his path towards politics and his belief that, as a family physician serving the marginalized, serving the oppressed, serving the folks who need help from a government who cares, he saw that the problems he was witnessing were social and the solutions were political.

Now we all have a story about how we ended up here, but my story starts with Ryan in a place that I didn't expect. It was the men's locker room at the YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association].

An Hon. Member: — I do all my recruiting there.

Mr. Love: — Where he does all his recruiting, apparently. And I think that I had the appropriate amount of clothing on to carry out the conversation that took place, but it was Ryan saying, hey,

I know you're a teacher. We connected, you know, in a couple ways over the years. He said, have you ever thought about running as a candidate? And I laughed out loud. I said, no, I have a young family. He said, I've got a young family. And I said, I like teaching. He said, I like being a doctor. And that was the start of a conversation that resulted in me being here with one of the greatest honours of my life to serve next to him.

I want to talk a little bit about his leadership qualities because I think with Ryan you've got somebody who was always a leader and always will be a leader. So he's gone from being a leader to being the leader. And my prediction, he can't shake these qualities that I'm going to name. They're part of who he is, and he'll always be a leader in our province.

The first quality that I've gained a ton of respect for . . . and I saw it, you know, before that interaction in the YMCA. The first one is that he's here to serve. I believe that there's a number of different models of leadership. There's, you know, like the great-man theory or the born leader. And those might describe Ryan's leadership, but the most accurate one is servant leadership. I believe that Ryan really embodies those values of wanting to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly.

This guy's got all sorts of integrity. And my definition of integrity is being willing to do the right thing even when no credit is given, being willing to do the right thing even when it's hard and even sometimes unpopular. And I've seen him embody that every day that I get to come work with him.

One of Ryan's qualities that often goes unnoticed is just how tough he is. And unfortunately the best stories of his toughness are probably ones that I can't or won't share in here. But what I will say is that he shows his toughness in his just incredible work ethic. It's never about ranking members in here, but I'll say I don't know anyone that works as hard as this guy to serve the people of Meewasin and the people of Saskatchewan. He is a hard-working human being.

And the last leadership quality I want to point out that's been canvassed by my colleagues is his vision. This is a guy who literally wrote a book on it, his vision for a healthy society, you know, a society where we consider health in all policies, what do we need to do to be healthier, his vision for upstream thinking. How often these are ideas that he's put forward, that not only make our lives better but can save us money, that can be a better use of public funds to improve our democracy, to make people healthier. And I bought into that and I hope that we will continue to carry that torch after he leaves this Assembly.

I want to close this by thanking Ryan for giving us so many reasons to be proud. As your colleagues, Ryan, we have endless reasons to be proud of you and your leadership. As New Democrats, and New Democrats all around Saskatchewan and the country, we have so many reasons to be proud of the ways that you have changed each of us, inspired us, and changed the lives of people for the better in Saskatchewan.

But most importantly his family, the Meilis and the Brindamour families, Wally and Lea, Mahli, Abe, and Gus, you have so many reasons to be proud of this man. And I predict that whatever he does next will just add to that pride. Thank you.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And that's something to hear that for the last time, isn't it? Thank you for the kind words to everyone today: to the Premier, very gracious words; to my colleagues, generous words. And I would say, I mean, we're often cautioned here to not question the veracity of the statements that our colleagues put forward in the House, but I knew that there was a level of hyperbole going on when they start referencing appreciating my sense of humour. One of the reasons . . . I'm so pleased to have all of these folks close to me here today, but especially it's always important for me to introduce people to my dad so they understand that it's not my fault. There was no way I was not going to be making puns all my life after being raised by Wally.

And this is a nice, little going away party. And it got me thinking about when I was a young man working up in Fort Nelson, BC [British Columbia], flipping eggs and cooking breakfast at the Coach House restaurant. And they threw a going away party for me, a surprise going away party for me. And it was great because it was really a surprise. I didn't even know I was leaving town. Okay good, I got a laugh out of a first joke. That makes me relax because I've been nervous about this speech. Because if I blow it, you know, that could be the end of my political career. You know, it's just high stakes, high stakes . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yeah, I've got a groaner too. That's really the goal is what people don't understand, giving me exactly what I wanted.

You know, coming and thinking about the last day, I looked back at maiden speech and some of the experiences coming in here, and was laughing at the maiden speech where I shared a story. When I was a little older than Abraham but a debate nerd as well, briefly and nowhere near as successfully, we had model legislature here in the House, which was really cool. You had to come and sit in these seats as a grade 9 and debate. I think we organized a crossing of the floor. It was intense.

But I was also, like, 14 and a fidgety kid, so I took the old analog microphone apart to see how it worked. And then I put it together again and apparently it didn't anymore. And my debate coach was so embarrassed about that that he, like, stopped coaching debate. And I was telling a friend about this a few years later — Deron Staffen, many of you will know. He was a debate coach and I told him that story. And he looked at me and he said, that was you? Apparently I'd been a cautionary tale for years for young debate students. And you know, maybe I'll remain a cautionary tale after this role as well.

I was looking at my first budget response, and you know, at the end of the budget you just conclude your budget response. You just conclude your remarks, but instead I said that I would adjourn debate. And Speaker Tochor, your predecessor, was quite flustered about that because if we got on with that, I would have deprived the people of Saskatchewan hours of riveting responses to the budget.

You know, five years ago and those things that, where at first you make those mistakes — you fumble, you flub — were alien, become regular, become something you're used to. Hundreds and hundreds of question period questions. How many introductions of guests, presenting and receiving petitions, statements by members? A few apologize-and-withdraws along

the way as well. It becomes a bit routine. But as my seatmate and I — the member for Douglas Park, Nicole and I — often reflect, every time you get up for question period, every time you get up to give a speech, you still got that bit of a lump in your throat. What is this going to be like? And you get that little bit of nervous because this place matters, and what you say on the record, it matters.

And each of us plays for a season or two, but long after we're gone, what we say on the record will still stand. This building will still stand long after everybody here has been laid to rest. That's the permanence and the importance of what we're doing because, yes, it matters for that history. It also matters because of what the words said in this place can do, what they can do for people alive today and for those who have yet to join us, for what they can change, and at times for what they can preserve and protect, the difference that they make. And that's why I came here. I came to make a difference, just like everybody in this room. We all come to make a difference.

I'm going to tell you a little bit about where I came from and why I do things the way I do, and share a bit of that story. As folks know, I am a farm kid, grew up on the farm outside of Courval, youngest of three boys, Jim and Miles, my older brothers. And we went to school in Moose Jaw after a few years on the farm and going to school in Coderre. Graduated from Vanier and then went on to university in Saskatoon, studied there, eventually studied medicine. Somewhere along the line, got interested in health and got interested in social justice.

[12:15]

And I know that's a term that some folks, maybe some folks, will turn their noses at that. You know, there's a radio person who calls me a social justice warrior from time to time, like it's a dirty word. But in my faith, in my world view, in my profession of medicine, that concept that you would be working to make the world more fair and to, in particular, have that preferential option for the poorest, the most vulnerable, there's nothing more important than that. That's exactly what people who are fortunate, the way everyone in here is fortunate, that's what we should be working to do.

And I was grateful to be able to study medicine and to work, to work as a family doctor in northern Saskatchewan, mostly Ile-a-la-Crosse; in Mozambique; in rural Saskatchewan, as a locum doc all over the province; and the last several years before I was here, the Westside Clinic; and recently at the Lighthouse and some other work through the pandemic. And I remember having this naive notion when I started seeking to study medicine, trying to get in there, and it was this idea that doctors, their job is to make friends all day. People sit down. They tell you their story. You listen. You try to help. You try to make a difference in their life, and in the process you make a connection.

And in many ways, I feel the same about politics. And that's going to sound a little strange right in this building. But what do we do but we make friends all day? We go out and connect with people, understand them, and try to have a meaningful connection, mean something in their lives. And as a result, you know, the friends that I have made along the way, it's been incredible, good fortune and joy. Oh, I need to say hello to one particular friend who's watching at home, Patrick Schmidt, who

is also known as “dirty Schmidt” for reasons I’ll let him explain. But hello, Patrick, and hello to all the friends who might be watching at home.

And I say that about making friends all day in politics and then recognize that, you know, it doesn’t always work out that way. Sometimes there is some animosity, and it’s not exactly how I’m built. It’s not what I come ready to do, is to scrap and fight and separate from others. But I expect the Premier and others might suggest that I’ve leaned into that element of the job in here. And I guess what I would say is, I certainly will not put any apologies on the record about standing up for what I believe in and fighting for people. But I will say that those times when I’ve confused the people for the politics, when I’ve made it personal, when we’ve crossed those lines, I apologize and I’m sorry. And it’s something that we get dragged into in this work. It’s hard to avoid. But it’s the part that I think none of us like.

But yes, mister freaker . . . Mr. Speaker. Mister freaker, that’s a good one. You can have fun with that one.

Making friends all day, that’s what medicine was about to me. But at the same time, it was often a source of frustration to be unable to help those friends in a real way. You know, I can give them a medication. I can send a referral. I can be that listening ear. But I send people back into the conditions that make them sick in the first place. And it was really for that reason that I recognized I wanted to change where I was working on health. I wanted to work upstream.

And I recognized that we are right now in the biggest, most important hospital in this province. You know, this is the emergency room. This is the operating theatre, and, you know, theatre is part of it, but it is operating theatre. It is the ICU. It is where we make the critical, life-and-death decisions. The choices made here make a difference whether people will be sick or well, whether their lives will be long or short.

And I fully believe — and I’ve said it enough times but I’ll say it again — that our first and foremost primary goal in this House needs to be the health of the people of Saskatchewan. That is why we’re here. We must remember that every day, that as Virchow said, when we do this work, politics is medicine on a larger scale.

So that’s why I made that choice to try to practise medicine on a larger scale. At the urging of Mr. Calvert, I threw my hat in the ring for the leadership in 2008, 2009, again in 2013. The Premier described me as having perseverance. Others might have called it stubbornness, or I think my seatmate muttered something about obsessiveness, something along those lines. You know, kept at it, ran in Meewasin in 2017 in a highly contested by-election. And it’s something I always loved about being elected in Saskatoon Meewasin, is Meewasin is a Cree word. It means “beautiful” and it means “good.” And every time I think about that, I try to remember that’s what we’re here to work for, is what’s good, is what’s true.

And then five years ago yesterday, I announced that I was going to see if third time was the charm. I ran again for leader and since a few months after that have served in this role, now for four years. And it was quite an experience to be the Leader of the New Democratic Party, Leader of the Opposition, an incredible honour to lead our party through an election, to do all that work

of finding candidates and building a platform and being part of that exciting project, and to walk in the footsteps of some folks I really admire.

Gus was here. He’s made the good-sense decision to run out on the speeches and go play with Jannet, I think, and Wren and Elspeth. But I was showing him around, and he was checking out the statue of Tommy Douglas. And I was telling him about what Tommy Douglas meant, and about medicare and how his leadership changed the province, and what an incredible honour it is to have hung out in an office he spent some time in, to have had a job that he held and others like Lorne Calvert, Roy Romanow, Allan Blakeney, so many who have made incredible contributions in that seat to our province.

Now throughout this time I’ve tried to maintain that focus, tried to remember that that’s why we’re here — health is the primary goal — that that’s why I’m in this job. Make sure that whether it’s in the policies or the politics, that that’s always in mind. And usually when we talk about that concept of upstream, of taking action to prevent illness by the choices we make here, usually we’re talking about years down the road. You know, you put more money into early childhood education, you have, 10, 20 years down the road, fewer costs, less expensive social programs, and people with better, healthier lives.

But what an experience it has been to see, in the last two years, that cycle go from decades to weeks. Choices to have widespread masking on Thursday can reduce transmission by the next Sunday, reduce deaths by the end of the month. Modelling ignored in June can result in our hospitals being overwhelmed in September. And what an incredible thing it has been to live in that compressed time of that upstream factor and the importance of prevention. And what an incredible call to duty. I hate to say opportunity because nobody wanted this, but what an incredible call to action to be a family physician and Leader of the Opposition in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And I know this is a moment where we’re being gracious and kind. And I do want to do that, but I do need to be honest. It has been frustrating to be in that role with a government that did not, at least in the way I wanted to see, show evidence of health as the primary goal, whether from those early days where they named us doctor doom and the caucus of gloom — which, you know, is a pretty good rhyme — to the devastating second wave and the impact in long-term care. The third wave we all remember being locked here in Regina, ICUs overwhelmed. The fourth wave, where we’re sending patients out of the province, and the ongoing illness, ongoing loss of life, and how important it is that we look hard at what that tells us, that we learn those lessons. It’s why we keep calling for that inquiry into the pandemic response.

But it’s not just the pandemic response. COVID didn’t create the problems in our province in long-term care, in our hospitals, in education, in the way we treat the most vulnerable. It revealed them. It exacerbated them. And as the Premier said, if we’re all interested in getting to the same goal, we need to be honest about the reality of what that revealed. We need to do the work to learn those lessons.

I’m proud of this team and proud to have been part of standing up, standing with science, standing up for health and life. And at times we did. We took tough positions. We made choices that

were unpopular, advocated for steps that were needed but that maybe weren't what people wanted to hear. And you know, I wear that choice. I understand that.

And you know, a doctor in the pandemic maybe was exactly what we needed in the Leader of the Opposition, but as I said a few weeks ago when I said my eventual intention to move on from this role, I described how early on in the pandemic everybody wanted a Peloton, those exercise bikes. You know, it was the coolest thing. You're stuck at home, you want a Peloton. And then at the end of things, as things opened up and people were able to get out, the last thing they wanted to see was, well, the clothes rack that the Peloton had become. They didn't want to deal with that anymore.

Maybe it's a bit much of an analogy, but I sort of think I'm the Peloton at this point. People are ready for a new voice, a new face. We can't forget to learn the lessons, but it is time to talk about how we apply them moving forward. And I am excited to see the New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan bring in a new voice. And it is exciting to see, we have the first female leader of the party sitting next to me, interim leader. We'll now have the first permanent, elected leader, elected by the membership, and my great hope, the first woman to lead this province as premier. Very excited to see that.

And in the lead-up to that, I guess it's time for me to get on my Peloton and ride off into the sunset, which I suppose is difficult to do maybe. Maybe I need a skateboard instead. It is with mixed feelings that I am making the decision I'm announcing today. Feelings of yes, some regret, some disappointment. Didn't do all I wanted to do. No one becomes Leader of the Opposition to stay Leader of the Opposition. I know none of us will ever achieve all we want to do here, but I know I'd hoped to do more.

At the same time I leave with some pride, with real joy, and I know that the building here will continue to be here and the work will continue. And I look at these folks that I got to work with. Trent, your connections with the farming community and business community and your deep passion for the issues you represent. Doyle, the way you have spoken up for the community with such passion. And the families affected by suicide, they know where your heart is. Betty, the great work you've been doing on duty-to-consult, so important. Keep that going.

Aleana, a business leader that you are yourself and standing up for affordability and doing so with flair, even a degree of panache. Ms. Sarauer, a voice for justice, and in particular I see in you that same voice for the most vulnerable, those who are at greatest risk. Jennifer, the Labour critic and a voice for working people and fair wages and decent conditions.

Vicki is our House Leader, keeping us doing sometimes the right things here, you know. If it was up to you, we would do the right things. Otherwise Trent will pop up randomly for petitions. And your great work as Health critic, and it has been so fun to work together as your associate Health critic through this time.

Carla, I know your work right now is on our party and how much work you're putting into making sure that that party is renewed and has a chance to grow. Erika, your deep passion for the climate and for keeping the planet — which is the basis of all health — healthy, means so much.

Meara, you're a voice for the most vulnerable. Social Services critic is such a perfect role for you, and you do such a great job. And my teacher friend, so great the way you speak up for seniors and the way you speak up for kids in our classrooms.

[12:30]

And yeah, you're a great bunch. You're a great bunch. And you know, kind words have been directed at me, but they much more belong in your direction today. I hope, you know, I hope we have some . . . When this building comes back together and the seats are rearranged and there's a new member for Meewasin here, you forget pretty quickly who was here before. I hope something I had to say along the way, some of the things we got to do together, some of these drums that I've been beating so long, some of that rhythm sticks in your head just a little bit.

And I am wrapping up, Mr. Speaker, but I just want to say that I love this province. I love living in Saskatchewan. Sometimes that love is a bit of a love like a brother watching his brother mess up, you know, wanting us to do better, knowing that we could do so much better. Sometimes there's some frustration in that love because I know what we could be, how we could lead, and I want to see that happen. I don't want to see us . . . The folks across sometimes accuse us of running the place down. Nothing could be more true: we want Saskatchewan to succeed; we know we can. Failing to acknowledge our shortcomings and failures is the way we don't achieve that.

But it has been an incredible honour. And folks have spoken about sacrifice, and sure, there's been a little bit of that. But the reward has been incredible. The joys of this job have been so much. To be a tourist in my own province, the places that we've gotten to see together up in Hatchet Lake or Fond du Lac — what would have brought me there? — down in Estevan, down in Maple Creek, all over this province, and getting to connect with people, understand people.

Cruising around the drought-stricken areas in the Southwest last summer, it was so powerful to get there. You know, riding a horse out at Rocanville, seeing the potash mine and learning what's going on there. Being invited into people's homes. I think of joining Doyle in Red Earth Cree Nation and sitting in the living room with a young family sharing with their grief, or sitting in the tipi with Tristen or Prescott when they were bringing those important concerns right out there in Wascana Park. Walking the picket line with Crown workers who were scared for how they were going to keep things going.

We have shared tears and we have celebrated success. Just as in medicine, you know, we share the sorrows of illness and death. We share the joys of cures and of new birth. It's bittersweet. This whole thing is bittersweet. But do you know what else is bittersweet? Lemonade. And you know, when life gives you lemons, you make lemonade. And I've got a great recipe for lemonade; I always have. I think it's probably a family recipe. And that's how I look at life.

I have had a chance to live such great adventures in medicine and politics. Health and adventure is kind of all I know, and that's where I'm headed next. Who knows what exactly that will look like, but I know this experience will have done so much to inform the next steps.

And I'm so grateful again for the kind words and for all of the folks who came to join us and show support today for my colleagues here. And understanding that the praise is excessive, but nonetheless I will reluctantly support the motion.

The Speaker: — I would like to take this opportunity, Ryan, to thank you for your service and wish you and your family all the best in the future.

The motion moved by the member from Regina Lakeview:

That this Assembly give thanks to the Leader of the Opposition for his service and dedication to the residents of Saskatoon Meewasin and to all the people of Saskatchewan.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for leave to make some brief comments regarding the end of session.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested to make some brief comments. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

End-of-Session Acknowledgements

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to colleagues for granting leave. Traditionally at the end of a sitting and at the end of a session, we have brief remarks from the House leaders and offer thank yous to those who deserve thank yous. So this year will be no different, although perhaps, Mr. Speaker, a tiny bit shorter than is the normal practice, given the fact that it has been a bit of a lengthy day here.

So I first though do want to say thank you to you as the Chair occupant for your leadership in that position, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank, through you, your staff — the Clerk, the Table Officers — very much for the professionalism as always that we rely on as members, both in this Chamber and at the committee level as well, in making sure that things go appropriately and according to the rules of the Assembly.

I want to thank as well all of those who work for LAS [Legislative Assembly Service], the Sergeant-at-Arms, Hansard, broadcast services, our custodians, and all of those who play such an important role in this building and the functioning of this building, that allows these proceedings to take place every day.

I want to thank colleagues here on the government side of the aisle, just a wonderful group of folks, great colleagues to work with, and really just a great group of friends who have the

opportunity to work together and serve their constituents and, in an aggregate sense, the people of this province here in this Chamber.

And also to all MLAs, including those on the other side, for their dedication. And I think we all, you know, had a good day in here today speaking about and recognizing contributions that are made by those members, particularly the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank as well, of course, all of our families. None of us serve alone, as the Premier often says, and it's very much a truism. Being away from family in this Chamber, whether it be for the day or for many of us, away from our homes which are located many hundreds of kilometres away across the province, Mr. Speaker, so through you, thanking all of those family members.

Specifically want to thank the Premier. And I think all of us here who have that opportunity to serve with the Premier recognize truly remarkable leadership characteristics, Mr. Speaker, a levelness of temperament, a character that has made him really uniquely suited to do the job that he has been entrusted to do by the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. And I want to say a sincere thank you to him for that leadership.

I want to thank the staff that work in this building and also the staff that work in our constituency offices, Mr. Speaker, the front lines. They're the ones that get those calls, and they're the ones that really work in a very, very comprehensive, diligent way to resolve issues that people in this province have and do so in good faith and good humour, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank our staff in House business here on this side of the House, Cole Zawislak and Jared Dunlop, for the work that they do in supporting what goes on here every day.

And I want to of course thank the Opposition House Leader, who I have had the real pleasure of working closely with now for a number of years, displayed great professionalism as always, forthright, honest. We can, I think, take each other at our words, not that we always necessarily like what the message is, but really have a relationship of trust, which is something that really is integrally important to how this place operates.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I know my colleague across the way will have some comments and subsequent to that we will move the appropriate motion to bring the Chamber to a close. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I seek leave to make a statement.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested to make a statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the Government House Leader briefly in offering

some end-of-session thank yous. This has been a long session. It was the first long session that we've had since the 2020 election. So I think some of us maybe forgot what it was like, and for new members, got a bit of insight into it. So we finally made it, and I feel like there's a bit of a breathing a sigh of relief today, at least for myself.

I want to thank the Clerk and Table Officers who helped us get here, and especially Iris, who we leaned on a ton this session to provide procedural advice. And yeah, I want to thank her for, you know, working extra hours to provide us with that support when we asked some very specific questions of her. So really appreciate that. There was a lot of extra support around our questions on Bill 70, and we really appreciate that as well.

And the committee Clerks. During the spring, committee is very busy. We know that both of the sides on House biz spend a lot of time coordinating committees, but that those wouldn't happen so seamlessly without the Clerks. And if anyone has ever chaired a committee, any of the members here, they know that we rely on those Clerks very heavily to know what we are doing in those committees. So thanks so much to those folks as well.

To the Legislative Assembly staff: broadcasting; Hansard, who has to deal with when the Leader of the Opposition turns around and starts thanking people and you have to try and hear what he's saying; the custodial staff; you know, the staff in the Speaker's office; everyone who's involved in keeping this building going and making it look so seamless, helping us communicate what's happening in this space outside to the broader public.

Thank you so much for the work that you do in making sure that that message gets out. We know not everyone can spend time in this legislature every day as a hobby, but we do have folks that tune in every day and watch the proceedings here and watch with great interest and incredibly appreciate the access to that information that they have.

In particular I want to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms' office. Starting with our Sergeant-at-Arms, Sean Darling; Special Constable Bob Pilon, who we've heard is retiring this fall; Lyall Frederiksen, special constable; John Yee, special constable, who has announced that he'll be retiring on June 3rd, so wish him a good summer and a happy retirement and thank him for all of his service as well. And John Ford, special constable, and of course the team of commissionaires and the whole team there that works to make sure that we are supported and feel safe in this space. Tremendous amount of respect for these folks.

I also want to thank the Government House Leader for our open communication throughout this past session. I know sometimes we can get quite heated in this space, and it is comforting to know that sort of no matter what that looks like, we can still go have a conversation after about what the next day looks like and have some predictability in this space on what's going to happen. So I want to thank him and his team for that as well, although I do miss his Deputy House Leader being over here so I can visit with him about curling. I do thank them and their team in House business for the work that they've done.

I want to thank our caucus staff for making us look like we know what we're doing while we're in here — which is not always the case — and answering questions about when we stand up and

how everything works.

In particular I want to give a shout-out to Kerri Martin who joined us for this session in place of Mitch Bonokoski. Really big shoes to fill but she has approached the work with such vigour and she has, you know, endeavoured to learn all of the pieces of the ropes around here. She's worked so hard and we have a tremendous amount of appreciation for the work that she's done here.

And to Mitch Bonokoski for still texting and following along and watching what's happening and telling me that he's viewing from home as well. He might still be here — no. He joined us here today as well.

I'm wrapping up here, but I want to thank all of the MLAs in this Assembly. I know we were kind of getting testy in the late days here. For their patience, in particular, the spouses and family members who have allowed this to happen. And our caucus staff for their support in all of this work that we've done and that I've done this session. And in particular thank our leader. We've spent a lot of time doing that today so I don't think I'll add any additional remarks on that front, Mr. Speaker.

But with that I would conclude my remarks. Thank you.

[12:45]

The Speaker: — As we close the spring session there are many people that I would like to acknowledge. The Clerk's office, Greg Putz, Iris Lang, Ken Ring, Kathy Burianyak, Rob Park, Anne Drake, the Pages, and the staff of the Legislative Assembly Service. Thanks to you and your teams for the extraordinary work that you do to serve members.

Thanks to Monique Lovatt for her dedication to supporting members' participation in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Special thank you to Sean Darling, Sergeant-at-Arms, and the security team and his sessional staff. Thank you for your diligence in maintaining the security of the Legislative Building and keeping staff and visitors secure.

To Steve Bata and his team, you are awesome, always on call to respond and accommodate the building needs of the members and staff at any time. To the Hansard team, broadcast services and the committees branch: we appreciate your many hours of recording, documenting, and facilitating the legislative process. Not always an easy job during lively debate.

Thank you to my staff Sheila, Twyla, and Savanna for their support, especially in dealing with programs, initiatives such as the SSTI [Saskatchewan Social Sciences Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy] and the various events that are coordinated out of my office. These programs take a lot of extra time but are well worth the effort. Thank you to Janet in my constituency office for your diligence and hard work and especially when I am in the Assembly.

I'd like to thank my wife, Cindy, and my family for their ongoing support of my role as MLA and as Speaker. And I'd like to mention Zane. I do that occasionally. He had a wish that he wanted a baby brother and his wish came true. Baby Luca was born March 28th, 7 pounds 8 ounces. And Des and baby are doing well.

Thank you to both caucuses and the members for their many hours of service to Saskatchewan, for the long hours and days away from their families. It is our families that make the sacrifices so that we can serve. It is time we return to our homes and spend some quality time with your family. Members, drive safe and enjoy your summer.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Session Adjournment

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

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October the 26th, 2022, unless earlier recalled by the Speaker upon the request of the government, and if recalled, the Speaker shall give each member seven clear days' notice, if possible, of such date and time.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of the sitting day, in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 26th, 2022, unless earlier recalled by the Speaker upon the request of the government, and if recalled, the Speaker shall give each member seven days' notice, if possible, of such date and time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:48.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe

Premier

President of the Executive Council

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Fred Bradshaw

Minister of Highways
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Hon. Lori Carr

Minister of Social Services

Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre

Minister of Energy and Resources

Hon. Donna Harpauer

Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. Everett Hindley

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Warren Kaeding

Minister of Environment

Hon. Gene Makowsky

Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. David Marit

Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Don McMorris

Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the
Provincial Capital Commission

Hon. Paul Merriman

Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan

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

Hon. Jim Reiter

Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority

Hon. Laura Ross

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

Hon. Gordon Wyant

Minister of Justice and Attorney General