



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

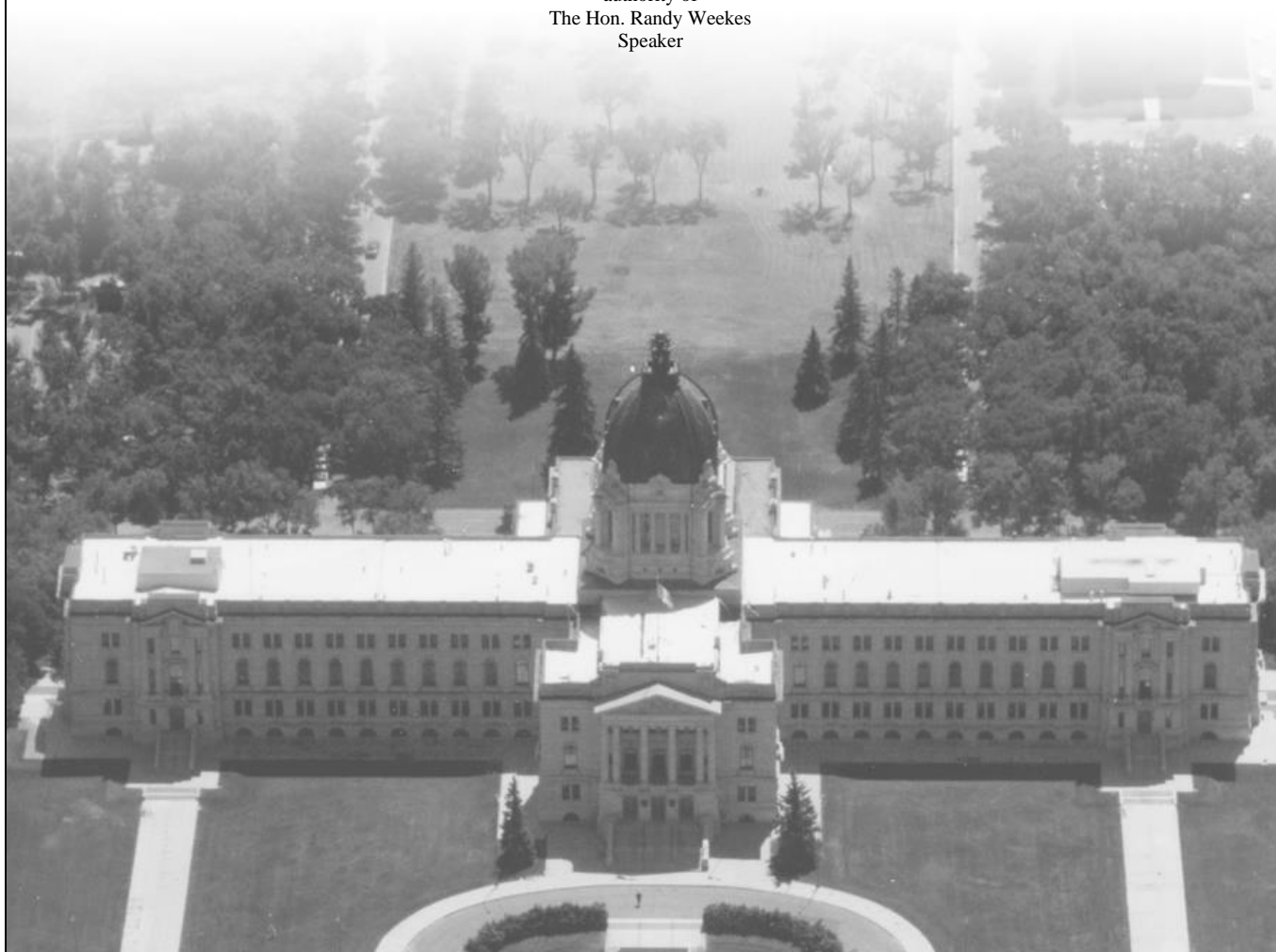
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
AND  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)  
Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Randy Weekes  
Speaker



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**3rd 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** — Carla Beck

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<b>Goudy, Todd</b> — Melfort (SP)	<b>Sarauer, Nicole</b> — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
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<b>Kaeding, Warren</b> — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	<b>Wilson, Nadine</b> — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)
<b>Keisig, Travis</b> — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	<b>Wotherspoon, Trent</b> — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
<b>Kirsch, Delbert</b> — Batoche (SP)	<b>Wyant, Hon. Gordon</b> — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
<b>Lambert, Lisa</b> — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	<b>Young, Aleana</b> — Regina University (NDP)
<b>Lawrence, Greg</b> — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	<b>Young, Colleen</b> — Lloydminster (SP)
<b>Lemaigre, Jim</b> — Athabasca (SP)	

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

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**Clerk** — Gregory A. Putz

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

**Deputy Clerk** — Iris Lang

**Principal Clerk** — Kathy Burianyak

**Clerk Assistant** — Robert Park

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[The Assembly resumed at 19:00.]

### EVENING SITTING

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It is now 7 o'clock, time to resume debate.

### SPECIAL ORDER

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Mr. Meyers, seconded by Mr. Lemaigre, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Ms. Mowat.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Mr. Speaker, I am honoured amongst my colleagues to stand here today and provide a response to the Speech from the Throne. First, I will be supporting the motion — might as well get the work out of the way — put forward by the member for Regina Walsh Acres and seconded by the member from Athabasca. Thank you.

It is humbling privilege to be standing here serving my constituents as their representative for over 12 years. I would also like to thank my family and friends who have supported me for so many years and extend a thank you to my constituency assistants, Jackie Burchi, Kirsten Burchi. And my ministerial office staff, I'm not going to say all their last names: Daniel, Shelley — they know who they are — Michelle, Jalen, and Debbie.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Yeah. That's what I think.

Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech touched on several topics and issues and challenges that are important to the citizens of our province. This includes our government's efforts to ensure that strong economic growth continues and works for everyone.

Investing in health and education measures are indeed important, but also our commitment to protect and enhance public safety measures to reduce crime. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the past few years have indeed been challenging. I would like to thank all the doctors, nurses, all the health care staff, educators in this province who have dedicated their lives to taking care of others.

I think I speak for everyone in this House, on particular this side of the House, when I say that we are grateful for the sacrifices their families have made and gone through to take care of our community and guide the next generation of young people. The release of the health human resources action plan in September is already showing results with the resumption of 24-hour emergency services in Biggar as well as the hiring of six registered nurses in Kamsack.

While health care positions are important, we also need to expand and invest in preventative and mental health initiatives. Our government is adding over 150 new addictions treatment spaces over the next three years. This is in addition to increased mental health capacity for schools and the expansion of the rapid access counselling program. We will continue to invest in Saskatchewan's health care and provide our residents with growth that works again for everyone.

Our government recognizes the challenges faced by inflation and understands the pressure it has put on everyone in the province. Therefore we have responded by investing \$20 million into school divisions to assist with rising fuel and insurance costs. We've also made a one-time investment which has seen the operating budget for school divisions across the province from kindergarten to grade 12 increase to \$2 billion total.

While funding is important to keep schools operating, we also recognize that Saskatchewan's population continues to grow. And of course that's a good thing, which is why capital investment is so very important. Our government has announced and is investing in 15 schools, 3 of which are already under construction.

While it is important to develop the next generation of students, it is also equally important to fund post-secondary educational opportunities, which is why we are committed to providing \$680 million to post-secondary institutions in this fiscal year. Education is an important growth indicator for societies, which is why this is growth again that works for everyone.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes that public safety, community safety are concerns for many families and citizens throughout our province. Over the past several years we have heard from individuals, communities, and organizations who have emphasized the need for keeping our communities safe. Saskatchewan citizens deserve to live in safe communities free from gangs, drugs, and other people who may threaten that security and our daily lives. That is why our government continues to take significant steps in order to ensure our families and communities remain safe.

We are investing in Saskatchewan trafficking response team who will be working very closely with police services across provinces and the prairie provinces to enforce laws specific to and gather intelligence for regarding drugs, illegal weapons, and human trafficking.

The expansion of the warrant enforcement and suppression team targets violent offenders, high-risk offenders, and gang members with outstanding Criminal Code warrants. Our crime reduction teams across the province assist in specific and targeted areas that will address crime in communities across the province.

The new provincial protective services branch is providing specific and targeted resources that assist and provide additional policing resources to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and municipal forces that will help address crime in communities across the province. All these existing and expanding programs are here to serve and keep our communities in which we all work, live, and play, safe.

Not only provincially but on a national scale, public safety services across Canada are dedicated to providing communities with the best service possible. That is why we continue working with our partners across Canada, in particular Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia, to join us in creating policing units that will protect and keep our communities safe in all of these provinces. These existing units will ensure greater accountability and better collaboration with the RCMP and municipal police, allowing all of them to respond to a greater number of concerns within our communities.

Another way we will build a safe Saskatchewan is by the creation of the Saskatchewan marshals service. Saskatchewan marshals services will provide an additional law enforcement presence across Saskatchewan that will conduct proactive investigations and provide supports to the RCMP and our municipal policing services. With the recent and very tragic events at James Smith Cree Nation and the village of Weldon, it is understood that the need to increase resources, and very targeted and specific resources, is necessary in order to keep these communities as safe as we possibly can. That is why this new unit will work with existing provincially funded resources as well as the RCMP to provide enhanced services to residents in Saskatchewan, especially those in rural areas.

In addition to the new Saskatchewan marshals service, we will also expand the warrant enforcement and suppression team. One team will be located in Prince Albert and another crime reduction team in The Battlefords area.

Our government recognizes that there are public safety concerns on Saskatchewan First Nations communities. That is why we have taken a significant step and signed a letter of intent with the Government of Canada and the Prince Albert Grand Council to explore different public safety models that will work for their communities. This is an exciting new step that builds on the work we have already done and continue to do with File Hills First Nations and their self-administered policing program.

Mr. Speaker, as I — well I don't know how close I am to the actual end — as I get to the end of my reply, we have heard increasing concerns about service delivery issues and response times in rural and municipal areas of the province. These are not unique or new issues to Saskatchewan and have been concerns that provinces and municipalities have raised across the country for a number of years. Contract policing by the RCMP is becoming increasingly difficult to manage and has been described by some as unsustainable. The RCMP is the only police service in the world that handles everything from municipal, First Nation, provincial, and national policing concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this is not to say that the hard-working women and men of the RCMP are not doing their very best. Because they are. In fact we know they are doing tremendous work to protect and keep our communities safe. However they need supports, more support, and that is why the WEST [warrant enforcement and suppression team] and the marshals service and the new CRT [crime reduction team] is going to be there to assist in that regard.

Our government recognizes the challenges faced to keep these communities safe, and that is why over the past number of years we have increased our capacity, have increased the numbers that

can assist the police of jurisdiction. The warrant enforcement and suppression team, crime reduction team, community safety officers, provincial protective services, internet child exploitation units, and now the Saskatchewan marshals service. All of these programs that have been introduced in Saskatchewan are now standards that we can rely upon to keep, again, our communities as safe as is possible.

While we live in a rapidly changing world, this government recognizes the challenges the future holds. We will hold those who threaten our communities, who threaten our safety, accountable, and we will ensure that Saskatchewan residents are safe and secure in their communities. We want to make sure that families can walk down the streets in any area of Saskatchewan and be safe.

While this will be a process, we are acting now to secure a safe future. In the coming years, we will likely see different needs in our communities as we prepare for tomorrow's changing landscapes. And it's ever changing. We desire that we will be responsive to whatever our communities are facing.

With WEST and the CRT and the marshals service, that will give us the ability to respond to very specific concerns of any given area and do it very quickly to again keep our communities and families safe. As we move into the future, our government will ensure Saskatchewan communities are safe and any future policing models will meet the needs of communities across this province.

Mr. Speaker, let me finish with this. This Throne Speech supports Saskatchewan's growth plan goal of building a safer Saskatchewan, a Saskatchewan that is stronger, a Saskatchewan that is safer, healthier, better educated, and more independent. And we believe we can get there. We believe in the people of this province. Our government is committed to managing the provincial finances carefully with targeted, specific investments to improve the safety and well-being of Saskatchewan residents. This Throne Speech focuses not only on a strong economy but also on other critical areas that deserve attention and our support. We'll continue to provide growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I will be supporting the motion put forward by the member for Walsh Acres, and I will not be supporting the motion put forward by the members opposite. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Friesen:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. And there's been some great speeches last week and today. And you know, what I find interesting is the really good speeches with a lot of good heart have been on this side of the House.

On the other side of the House, I'm listening to those speeches, and I'm wondering if they even live in the same province. There doesn't seem to be happiness over there. I don't know if there's not good things happening in their constituencies. But I'm really happy to be part of Saskatoon Riversdale because there's many great days in Saskatoon Riversdale, Mr. Speaker.

And this is such an honour to rise in this House. And I've said

this multiple times before in this House, but the first time I was elected I walked up those steps coming up to the front door and really reflected on, you know, what it took to get here. I ran in 2016, failed attempt, came close. But really got focused and really wanted to represent the people of Riversdale, because that's where I was . . . I was born in the area and grew up in the area. And I just have to say again that I do not ever take this lightly. When I walk up those front steps I am so humbled and honoured to represent the people of Saskatoon Riversdale and actually more broadly the people of anywhere really in Saskatoon and this province, in this House.

I had a great start to this summer. In May I was given the Premier's appointment to Legislative Secretary for Parks, Culture and Sport. I wasn't really sure what that was going to entail. And it's been an amazing, amazing summer. I've been extremely busy with events. Absolutely love it, getting to know so many people in the art community, in the film industry, and just been having a great time with that. And I will speak a little bit more about that later.

[19:15]

I do want to, you know, definitely thank the Premier for this opportunity. It's been absolutely, as I said, fantastic. I really want to thank my colleagues as well, because you know, I've had a bit of an interesting year this year and the outcoming of support from my colleagues has just been second to none. You know, I have a really good support group of family and friends, but this is really such an important group that we have here, and we really always have each other's back. And I'm just so thankful to all of my colleagues for always being there, reaching out, helping in any circumstance. The ministers have been incredible, like when I have questions. It's just been unbelievable. So really a big thanks to my colleagues.

My family, my kids have just been so amazing throughout this bit of a roller-coaster ride over the last couple of years that it's been very busy. But my kids have been just an incredible support mechanism for me. And you know, in the last couple of weeks I had a really, really important kind of discussion that happened. In fact, we had our fundraiser in Riversdale which went really well — and a big shout-out to my constituency association and all the people there, all the great work they did to put that together.

We do a bit of a car show and we have a dinner and kind of cocktails around the cars, which is kind of neat. We do a bunch of vintage cars. But that went over really well. After that my middle daughter's boyfriend wanted to meet back at the house and had to have a discussion with me. And I kind of knew where this was going, but I'm still very impressed that the young man asked for permission to marry my daughter. And so in the last couple of weeks, my daughter was engaged. So that was exciting news.

And my oldest daughter is in Vancouver and she, Danielle, graduated from UBC [University of British Columbia]. And I'm really excited about attending her convocation coming up here in the next couple of weeks. So that is also very exciting news. My son is right now currently in Edwards School of Business and going on to an accounting degree is where he's going. So really excited for him as well. And anyways, a little bit about my family

and really, really proud of my kids. They've been doing so well. And I'm almost out of paying for their education, so that's another bonus.

As I said a little bit earlier, you know, it's been a great summer and also a bit of a tough summer. I do have to touch on this. My constituency assistant, a lot of people in this building knew quite well, Terry Bubnick got sick. And within 12 days of being in the hospital, he passed away. And it was certainly a difficult time.

You know, Terry is not replaced that easily. Terry had such an interesting dynamic of a personality. He was a little bit scary-looking actually which I thought was, you know, probably good in Riversdale and in the office that we have. You know, he'd intimidate some people, but the biggest heart, just unbelievable. He had done over and above for my constituents and, you know, for his wife, Deb Davies. You know, I'm just . . . We're absolutely heartbroken over the loss of Terry, and just so thankful that I had those couple of years working with me.

And that's one of the things that Terry was very concerned of is that I was going to get re-elected, that this could happen again, because he really liked working with me and hoped that we could continue to serve the people of Riversdale. So that was a bit of a tough time, you know.

But again, going back to the positives, there was so many positives throughout this. Terry really was able to guide me very well, look after my calendar really well, take care and make sure because there was a 38-day stretch where I actually had an average of three events a day. Sometimes this was five events.

And I would speak at just about every one, which is a little challenging for me because I have a little bit of OCD [obsessive-compulsive disorder]. I've got a few letters in front of my name, a little ADHD [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder] maybe. I see some squirrels once in a while. But I do like to really focus and know what event I'm going to.

And I'm kind of funny with the OCD because I actually try and memorize my speaking notes, which is a little interesting too. But when you're going to this many events, it takes up a lot of time. But you know, Terry took really good care of me that way and really had things printed out. And he had everything ready, just did such an amazing job for me.

But kind of going back to that I met so many amazing people over the summer working with, whether it's Inclusion Sask or whether it was — been to many events with them — going to some of the announcements that have happened, some of the housing projects we've done, a lot of things in Riversdale. We had a round-table elders' lodge that was opened. We had groundbreaking at some affordable housing, in fact a few of them in Riversdale area, which again was just . . . has been an amazing part of the summer.

You know, we hear that this province, and it's been said many times, we have the . . . [inaudible] . . . the fuel, and the fertilizer. And you know, the world is really starting to recognize this, you know, with our trade offices and all the things that are going on in this province.

There's also one thing that the Minister of Parks, Culture and

Sport has mentioned, and I think it bears repeating. We have the fun. We really do. We have great parks in our province, which also have been part of going to some of their AGMs [annual general meeting] and some of their events which have been amazing and also a lot of the art events. You know, I just can't stop talking about this. It's something I talk to my kids about a lot and friends around me. They probably get tired of it.

But some of the art events that I've been going to, one in particular at the Persephone Theatre . . . And I got to meet . . . I looked across. I saw on the speaking notes it said that the executive assistant was Chip McDaniell, childhood friend. I actually worked with him at McDonald's. Used to do french fries with him at McDonald's. And so when I looked across the room, you know, of course I go into the room and I'm shaking hands — a little dry here — talking to some people and really enjoying, you know, the conversations going in, but I'm just focused on Chip. Chip's across the room. That's got to be Chip. I've got to see.

And so I got over there, and Chip was very engaged in a conversation. He looked, and the beard is a little . . . It threw him off. It throws a few people off. But he looked twice, and he's like, Marv? Yeah, yeah. And instantly he apologized to the person he was talking to, and I got a big hug from Chip. I got into the . . . So it clearly changed my speaking notes for the evening. And I got into my speaking for the night. And I was told afterwards that that's the first time they'd ever heard McDonald's mentioned in speaking notes. So anyways I guess it was time for a first. But really, really enjoyed being part of the group and met so many great people.

Talking a little bit more about my Legislative Secretary position because it's been a very integral part of my summer. But at the Premier's golf tournament this summer, I got put with a group. And they weren't actually sure; there were some extra people. And all of a sudden I was in with another group. And it was the executive director, Ken, from the film industry. And we started having a great discussion about what was going on and what a great job that our minister has done and how involved she was with the arts and with the film industry.

And so great to be able to announce that there's additional funding now with this, as the money that was already put out by government has already mostly been looked after because of all the things that are happening here. So you know, really great engagement that day golfing. And I'm really looking forward to putting together a tour for some of the caucus members here to actually go see some of the filming. And we're going to do that with Ken. So that was a lot of fun.

Another great thing that I've been able to do, which I've been trying to do since I was elected — and I've been involved with one of the schools in my constituency in my area for now nine years. I've been a mentor at St. John School, and I've been really trying to get in and speak to the students, not as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly], just actually as a person that started really with, you know, not a lot. And my parents really didn't give me anything to get going, and I started a business on my own and was quite successful with that and able to sell that to, actually my staff, who have taken over and, you know, quite proud that a couple of my staff have now taken complete ownership of that.

But you know, really awesome thing that I got to do was to go speak to some of the classes. And I love talking to the kids. I've worked with kids for, as many know, for well over 30 years, almost 35 years now, and I just love engaging with those kids. And it was so interesting the questions that came. You know, some of them knew that I was into cars, so then it was all about the cars. But a lot of them just actually relating to the different levels of government, which was also interesting because I just had some great engagement with that. And they really look forward to me coming back again. So you know, I really had a lot of fun with that. So just so many great things. And I say a lot of . . . Just another great day in Riversdale. And I have so many great days in Riversdale.

I was asked recently to be on a panel. I didn't really understand what this looked like, but I was, you know, supposed to bring greetings on behalf of the province to a Crime Stoppers event. And it was . . . Speak Out is part of it. So I went to this and I thought I was pretty prepared. But I was sitting up on a panel and didn't really understand what this meant, but, you know, brought greetings on behalf of the province. And all of a sudden I found out there was breakout sessions and this is actually a four to four and a half hour event.

And what happened is there was about 150, roughly, students that were very well versed in issues regarding social services and actually foster care and mental health and addictions. And I was quite surprised because what happened next was the mayor, Charlie Clark, and I were put on a panel and the individuals were in five different breakout sessions, and we were really put on the hot seat. It was quite incredible, actually. We had great discussion. I was really impressed with these students' questions. And these young youths' questions was quite amazing, and we . . . Quite honestly I didn't want to leave these rooms. We were only given so much time in these rooms. But we had an incredible time. It ended up going on for about three to three and a half hours, and it was really incredible.

Another thing that I've really had a great time being a part of is community cleanups in Riversdale. There's quite a few of these go on a couple of times a year usually in all my different areas, which is . . . I love being a part of that.

I've mentioned this before, but I've moved into my constituency now. It's a little over a year and a half ago. And this year Montgomery — well, technically two years ago — Montgomery celebrated 75 years anniversary.

So developed for the veterans, you know, there was some incredible speeches by some of the older people. We had five actual World War II vets there, a lot of the families. There was probably 300 people there. I was able to join in that day and actually bring greetings on behalf of the province. And a few of the vets were actually unveiled the plaque that was given to them for their 75th anniversary.

And it was quite awesome. It was quite cute. There was a few of them when they got together up by that plaque, there was absolute silence in the . . . It was outside. It was done outside, but it was absolute silence.

And all of a sudden when a couple of the elderly people — one guy was 100, the other lady is 99 — and they started talking



exceptionally loud, because they obviously have a little hearing problem. And it was quite humorous because it was dead silent, but yet they're, "How are you doing, Robbie?" And you know, it went back and forth. It was quite interesting.

But it was really good. So I'd like to, you know, pay some special respect and thanks to Barb Biddle, who is the president of the Montgomery association, and her team. They did an amazing job. And like I said, there was probably 300 people there. So it was really good.

In my travels in the community this summer, I've also been able to speak to many businesses and explain how . . . And it also pointed out in our Throne Speech that we're expanding the small-business tax credit. And this is a really big deal for our small businesses. And small businesses, as a lot of us know, drive our economy in this province.

[19:30]

And as a small-business owner myself, I really understand the value of this. And it's really important that I thought that I needed to get out to my businesses and just remind them that, you know, we're doing this for them and we are there for them. And we don't forget how important they are. Also, I'd mentioned this already, but you know, Ed McNeill and Dallas are now the sole owners of my business that I owned for 25 years. And I was super proud of those two young men that they've taken this over and they've been able to do quite well.

You know, touching on a few of the other things. We've got over 20,000 more workers in this province, year on year — 20,000. And yes, we need more because we have the lowest unemployment rate in the country. Lowest unemployment rate in the country. You know, we talk about a lot of things. Affordability measures. We have done a lot in affordability. I'm not sure if the opposition doesn't actually read, you know, the things or listen to actually what we say in the House here, but we've got, you know, SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] rebates. We've had three of them. We've got . . . and now another \$500 credit. We had the SaskPower 10 per cent reduction rebate.

You know, we can go on and on with the over \$2.1 billion of reductions that we do year on year, but I would like to touch on something else here before I get to a close here, a couple things that are really important. Fifteen new schools. Fifteen new schools. One of these is in Saskatoon Riversdale. And we've got schools in Riversdale, three of them that were needing over \$60 million of renovations. And we are getting one beautiful, new, inclusive school in the heart of Riversdale, and I'm so excited about that. I've actually seen the preparation for this starting already.

Mental health and addictions and suicide are very important to me. I'm speaking with constituents in my area and people in and out of my area on a regular basis, and I'm so proud to say that we have \$470 million into mental health and addictions. Another beautiful thing that we are doing with the Ahtahkakoop First Nation that was just announced is an urgent care centre in Saskatoon. And you know, I'm hoping that . . . I'm pretty sure this is going in the west side, really hoping that it goes in Riversdale. Another great thing that is going to alleviate pressure

on our health care system and also has a mental health capacity to it as well, which is so important, and I'm so glad that we're doing this.

And I know I'm running out of time here, but you know, there's so many great things I want to talk about. We have also 150 new additional spaces for mental health and addictions coming up in the next three years, which is something that I hear is very, very important throughout the province. And I do want to touch on the sawêyihotân project, which I've done a member's statement on. And this really takes people from the homeless shelters and actually is transitional housing, helping them get into . . . just move up. It's a hand up for them in life.

So I do want to say that I really, really enjoy my job that I have. I really enjoy representing the people of Saskatoon Riversdale. And I will not be supporting the amendment put forward by the opposition. And I will absolutely support the motion put forth by the member from Walsh Acres and seconded so eloquently by the member from Athabasca, who I'm really surprised didn't get a standing ovation.

And I would just like to say thank you again for the opportunity to the residents of Riversdale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Martensville-Warman.

**Mr. Jenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's a pleasure to be on my feet this evening to provide some remarks in response to last week's Throne Speech.

Before I get started, I do want to do the traditional thank yous and recognize some very special people in my life. First of all, my wife, Angela, who's at home right now. She's looking after the kids, looking after the business as she usually does. And she does it with great intelligence and great compassion. She's also a very caring person holding down the fort.

My son Asher is turning 16 this weekend. And I see the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] Responsible for SGI is sitting here. You don't have to worry; he can't go for his road test until January. So we bought ourselves a couple of months.

But that said, I have been driving with him quite a bit, and he is a fabulous driver. And I have all the confidence in the world he is not going to get a speeding ticket in the first two weeks of having his licence like his dad did.

And I should also mention Asher is playing hockey again. He's a grade 11 student at BJM [Bishop James Mahoney], and I just want to throw a shout-out to some of the teachers at Bishop James Mahoney in Saskatoon. Last week, Angela and I had a chance to meet a few of them during parent-teacher interviews. And I'm going to say this, put it on the record: these teachers at BJM in Saskatoon are beyond awesome. They are some of the best teachers, I think, in the province.

I also want to say hi to my daughter Kolbie tonight. It's Halloween night. She is out trick-or-treating. I'm getting pictures sent to me literally every five minutes. She is out with her friends. She's having an absolute ball.

I'm hoping she is home by now watching this, but I kind of doubt it because Halloween treats will always trump a Throne Speech reply, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I don't blame her for that.

**An Hon. Member:** — Don't forget the dad tax.

**Mr. Jensen:** — That's right. I'll be collecting a dad tax when I get home. That said, I am proud of my kids. I'm equally proud of my wife. And they mean the world to me, and they're so supportive of the work we do here in this legislature on behalf of the people of the province.

Somebody else that I do want to take a couple of seconds to recognize is my constituency assistant, Whitney Friesen. Whitney serves our constituency so well, and he's done it for 28 years. So if he is not the longest serving constituency assistant in the province, he's got to be right up there.

We did add another member to our constituency office this year. Whitney and his wife Rebecca adopted . . . I'm not even sure what kind of breed it is, but his name is Linus, and he is the most excited four-legged creature you will ever meet when you walk into the constituency office. So I'm not sure Linus is watching this, but if he is, good on him.

I'd also like to say thank you to all my constituents of Martensville-Warman. We always have good discussions, wide ranges of issues. Our dialogue is always very respectful, and quite often we agree on more than we disagree about. And I really appreciate that from the constituents that I meet with. And it's an honour to be able to serve them and serve the communities that I represent.

And finally I want to say thank you to my colleagues on the government side of the House. Yes, the member from Canora-Pelly is jumping up and down saying, what about us? What about us? Well here you go. The teamwork on this side of the House is beyond measure. The friendships that have been made, it's like having a second family. It really, truly is. And it makes coming to work really rewarding unless you run into the member from Kindersley. I'm kidding. I'm kidding. It is a wonderful group to work with, and I look forward to many more years in the future.

So what's been happening in Martensville-Warman? Well just a quick overview as part of my remarks to the Throne Speech. And I'll get to how this all works in, but back in June I had the privilege of visiting several schools in my constituency: Lake Vista in Martensville, École Warman Elementary, Osler School, and Valley Christian Academy.

Now those visits to those schools, it was myself, some trustees, division staff, as well as the principals. We had a good discussion as we walked up and down the hallways and we poked our heads into the odd classroom and had a chance to do some Q & A [question and answer], Mr. Deputy Speaker, with some of the classes. And it was the first time that I'd been able to do that as an MLA because we had COVID and we weren't in the schools. So this was my very first time doing a Q & A with the students, and it was incredibly rewarding. I also had a chance to read a couple of books, and one of those books, you know, it was a French book. It was *en français* [Translation: in French]. I passed. The class gave me a passing grade. Now full disclosure, it was a grade 1 class. But I passed.

I also spent a lot of time with some municipal councils over the last few months talking infrastructure. As you know, in our area of the province we have growing communities so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there's lots of discussions happening at the municipal level. There are some health care challenges in our constituency. And I have to thank the Minister of Health and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health for taking the time to come out to meet with our stakeholders, meet with our city councils, to work forward and work to find some solutions to the issues that we're seeing.

This year's Throne Speech theme of "Growth That Works for Everyone" pretty much sums up what I think myself and all my colleagues on the government side of this House are working each and every day to achieve for each and every person in this province. My neighbours in Warman on one side of me are Tess and Robert. And when I think about growth that works for everyone, I look at Tess and Robert. They are a retired Filipino couple that relocated from living in Alberta for the past 30 years to Warman to be closer to their family. Their family actually live around the corner, their daughter. So I look at Robert and Tess, and the growth that works for everyone really does fit with them as retirees. You know, we have prescription drug plans that cater directly to their needs.

On the other side of me, on the other side of our house is Nathalie and Carl. And Nathalie and Carl are transplants that came from Quebec to Saskatchewan, and they both work on the University of Saskatchewan campus. Carl works in agriculture sciences, and Nathalie works at VIDO, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization. Together they're raising their two kids, and they put down their roots in Saskatchewan. And Carl and I have discussions quite often. And this is home. This is where they want to be.

And part of it is we're building an economy. We're building a way of life for people in this province so they can prosper. That's what growth that works for everyone. So when I look at Robert and Tess and I look at Carl and Nathalie raising their young family, that's what we're here to do and we're here to do that each and every day.

Some of the investments that we've made and continue to make in helping grow this province: better highways and roads; more new schools — 15 of them, three under construction already, 12 more in the procurement and design stage. We're building urgent care centres in Regina and in Saskatoon. Putting \$60 million towards recruitment, retention, training, and incentivization, and a comprehensive plan that goes with that for health care workers: getting foreign-trained health care workers already living here credentialed; recruiting new international physicians, nurses, lab techs, and other disciplines to work in communities across our province.

I'm very proud of that plan that's been put forward by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health. No other province has that type of plan, that type of investment that goes along with it to make this a reality in the weeks and months ahead.

Our strategy is already showing success, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. The Saskatchewan Health Authority has already received over 3,500 applications so far, 3,500 applications so far

from people in the Philippines looking to fill positions here in Saskatchewan in the health care field. Nearly 400 applications were received following a call that we made, that our government made through SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] for internationally educated health care professionals from Saskatchewan and Canada who may qualify for future training and employment right here in Saskatchewan.

Thirty new applications were received from Ukrainian newcomers, including three physician candidates. One of those candidates happens to be in Martensville. And he's Suhyb and his wife Oksana. And I had the opportunity to meet them at the airport on April 8th as they landed in Canada for the first time. Suhyb is going to make a fantastic physician here in Saskatchewan.

So not only attracting international health care workers but also increasing training seats at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], the U of R [University of Regina], and Sask Polytech and increasing the number of full-time positions available to those who currently work in our health care system.

And I'm just going to toss this in really quick, mister deputy committee of chairs. Just today the announcement was made that STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service], STARS won an international competition in Tampa, Florida this weekend. They competed against eight other similar emergency services, air services. And they won this championship. It's the second time a Saskatchewan air crew has won this championship. This championship . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Right.

[19:45]

This type of professionalism in our health care industry, as exemplified by STARS in Tampa last week, doesn't just happen. It happens because we are growing and we can take and put that growth towards improving services for the residents of this province.

We're putting \$8 million from the different government Crowns . . . \$10 million per year over the next five years between SaskTel, SaskPower, SGI, SaskEnergy, and CIC.

The province is funding STARS \$11.88 million in 2022-23 because it's a service that the people of this province rely on from border to border to border. That's growth that works for everyone.

There's other needs in our economy, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. It's a familiar message that I've heard in my constituency, and no doubt my colleagues have heard the same thing. We need more people. We need more people in retail. We need more people in manufacturing. We need more people in service industries. It crosses all lines. We just need more people.

Well the member from Canora-Pelly was there; the member from Melville-Saltcoats was there; the Minister of Trade and Export Development was there last week at the Regina airport when we welcomed 236 displaced Ukrainian people. Those 236 Ukrainian people will be making Saskatchewan home.

But we need more than that, and that's why it makes me very happy that we are introducing the Saskatchewan first Act and

with that, the Saskatchewan-Canada immigration accord. We need more autonomy and flexibility over our province's immigration to respond to the call that I'm hearing, and undoubtedly everybody else on this side of the House is hearing, that we need more people.

Quite frankly, our economy is outperforming every other economy in this country and dare I say probably in North America. But we need to open the borders to our province for the thousands of jobs that are waiting to be filled, and also the ones that will be created after those jobs are filled.

As a third-generation small-business owner in Saskatchewan for nearly 25 years prior to being elected, I know the entrepreneurial spirit in this province is strong, very strong. There were dark days under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. There was no population growth. That meant no new opportunities . . . Hey no, you know what? The best a young person could hope for when the NDP were in power is that the electrician retired so that the new guy coming up would take over the company. That was success measured by their standards. My grandparents lived through those times, my parents lived through those times, but my two sisters didn't have to because they packed up and headed west. I don't ever want to see my kids do what my sisters had to do.

We want to have a province that is economically diversified, strong, and resilient. And with that diversity, strength, and resiliency comes wealth. The wealth that is generated in our communities, by our people, supports the services — health care, education, social services, and other areas — that government provides for the people.

We're building on a province that recognizes the importance of engaging and partnering economically and culturally with our Indigenous friends and neighbours in the spirit of continued reconciliation and healing. And, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, we're building on successes in our manufacturing, natural resources, mining, forestry, agriculture, information technology, and other sectors to provide more jobs in communities across our province.

So when I mentioned earlier how proud I am of my children, I want them to be proud of the work my colleagues and I do on this side of the House on behalf of the people in Martensville-Warman, on behalf of every constituency across this province. We're building a province that we can all be proud of. Our best days are still ahead.

This includes people like I mentioned before — Robert and Tess, Carl and Nathalie, Suhyb and Oksana — and all the others who have come to Saskatchewan and now call it home. The only way to achieve all this is through continued growth because that growth is growth that works for everyone.

So with that, I'll be supporting the motion made by the member for Regina Walsh Acres and seconded by my colleague from Athabasca, and I will not, I cannot support the amendment put forward by the opposition. Thank you.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to rise from my seat tonight on October 31st, Halloween night actually, in the third session of the twenty-ninth legislature in the province of Saskatchewan in reply to the Throne Speech.

Many happenings have occurred in this past year since I decided to sit as an independent. Some good, some fruitful, some insightful lessons learned of human behaviour. I've had the ability to speak freely of what's on my mind, of what's on my constituents' and other Saskatchewan citizens'.

However tomorrow is the wedding anniversary of my dear husband and I of 42 years. He chose me; what a brave man. Together we raised four children, two sons and two daughters, who are raising their own children now with morals, values, and work ethic that our forefathers taught us, how to survive, find our respective villages in our heartland that accepts our traditions and independent thinking.

Our children brought partners into our family who bring strength and new energy, with a variety of passions and interests that keep our family healthy, growing, and moving forward. They are prepared in this new world we find ourselves in. The human experience that once existed and we thought we knew has now evolved. We find ourselves walking into the arena, whatever it may be — whether a new relationship, an important meeting or a creative process or a difficult family conversation — with courage and a willingness to engage. Rather than sitting on the sidelines and hurling judgment and advice, we must dare to show up.

The public has divulged to my office it is difficult to show up for work, for school, or maybe even a family function due to the criticism they must endure because of government and media commentary. My office has had the experience of listening and forwarding concerns and issues surrounding the pandemic to our government offices. Thank you to Donna, my constituency assistant, for having the patience, wisdom, listening skills, and strength to endure this past year's challenges.

Nothing in my lifetime has prepared me for this influx of trauma from Saskatchewan citizens. I was watching for something, anything, to indicate in this Throne Speech an ounce of empathy or recognition of what Saskatchewan people are experiencing with their health, their businesses, their education. Governments signal business stability and economic feasibility to stay and grow in this province. Government stability and debt influences businesses' growth and the ability to create large workforces with happy staff. Staff and all workforce need a healthy economy to purchase and create growth.

All Saskatchewan people — again, all Saskatchewan people — need timely and efficient health care to stay in the workforce. They also want a good and reliable education system that listens to the needs of their families and with more parental involvement included. This is not rocket science. This is not so difficult to listen what the people have to say and what they want. This government's accountability and transparency are sadly lacking in this Throne Speech.

SHA continues to push people to mass vaccinate and shame them, while over 2,000 positions are open in government job sites

two weeks ago when I looked. Presumably people are walking away from the toxic, confining government. Yorkton hospital has a barrel downstairs to collect rainwater from the falling and failing infrastructure. It's black mould in the building. Is that healthy for patients and staff? Other hospitals are closing and rural health care is in crisis and chaos. Doctors have been sounding the alarm. There isn't enough to cover shifts. There isn't enough staff to accommodate everyone. There is a big problem, and Saskatchewan people are in failing health due to this government's instability and inability to listen to the people.

In the Throne Speech, I was listening carefully for anything that would help the people of Saskatchewan, the ones that are talking to me. Sometimes the policy changes can impact entire industries or change education and health outcomes or direction. Business hates political uncertainty and instability. Economics are at play here, such as farmers deciding on when and how much inputs to purchase. Livestock producers are looking for something for them in the Throne Speech. And the local hardware store purchasing its inventory is looking for stability in the Throne Speech. In this world of uncertainty, politics affects us physically, socially, and in our business portfolios and investments. Does anyone want to invest in Saskatchewan right now? The Bank of Canada, the interest is going up.

School boards, teachers, and parents offer solutions through experienced lenses to educate the young people of Saskatchewan. They are worried, tapped out emotionally after mismanagement and talks falling on deaf ears. These children are of such importance that they must be educated properly at a cost. Instead of handing out \$500 cheques at the expense of the children, this could have been added more to the education system. These children are critical to the future of Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker — future doctors, future teachers, and the future to our economy.

The people's priorities need investments for a future in Saskatchewan. In the Throne Speech I heard of a little tidbit: the creation of a new Crown while eliminating another. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the fall Throne Speech the Saskatchewan government has decided to eliminate the remaining publicly owned liquor board stores in Saskatchewan. This came as a surprise to most people, although the process was started some time ago. This aligns with the government's approach that government should not interfere where private enterprise can succeed.

In the same Throne Speech, this government appears to be heading down an opposite route by creating a shiny new corporation to deliver online education in Saskatchewan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. However early information suggest that this will be at the expense of a private enterprise. Flex ED is a private business that has successfully delivered online education in Saskatchewan for 17 years. The people that need their services are for reasons such as sickness, the need to travel with family, or even family lifestyle.

I like choices. I don't know about anyone else, but I think choices are good, and competition sometimes is too. However Flex ED clients have come forward to share how they are absolutely thrilled with how Flex ED gives them the flexibility to educate their families.

In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Flex ED was somewhat of a saviour

and worked with the provincial government when schools were shut down during COVID because the provincial education system doesn't have the tools to deliver education online efficiently. There goes our education system and our children again. These poor children. But now the government is telling Flex ED that they will have to now apply to be a qualified online education provider. But there's no application for it yet.

The Minister of Education has also stated that if approved, Flex ED will need to adopt the province's online education platform, which doesn't yet exist either. In other words this government is telling a business it must abandon all its hard work if it wants the privilege of doing what it has already been doing successfully for 17 years, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

[20:00]

Why? Is this a move that will ensure in the future only government-approved information can be used to educate our children? The public has a right to know what rationale this government is using to force online educators to comply with its yet-to-be-developed system. And at the same time, it needs to explain why it would shut down an existing Crown corporation that will put 350 people out of work before Christmas while dreaming up another socialist-style Crown that will kill private enterprise. This government needs to pick a lane, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

As I was listening to the government members discuss their summer tours, I was reminded by my own freedom tour, I will call it, since I was able to enter restaurants, I was able to enter church without having to show a piece of paper. I even attended the funeral of two friends: a former family farm labourer, Ernie Plummer; and the other was Arne Petersen, the architect of Elk Ridge. It was an honour and a privilege to attend these two kind gentlemen's services, as I had missed out on so many other funerals before that because of government mandates.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I took the opportunity to watch the movie titled *Don't Look Up*. It was very entertaining. However the realistic prose of the world we live in today was evident. In the movie scientists are basically blown off by politicians and the social media. The scientists grapple with some alarming reactions to the reality of the serious situation confronting humanity and the survival of the entire world. The highest level of government refuses to see the dire consequences looming, instead choosing money and power over saving the people. The president, when confronted with a potential cash grab, opts to put all of humanity in danger for her own greed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hellish world of insanity and madness ensues for greed and power while experts of science cannot get the world to listen. The movie goes on to say, for humanity can overcome apathy and greed when human connections versus a catastrophe and fate of the planet are exposed. The actors in the movie finally turn off the news to enjoy their last supper together in peace. Their final moments are engaged in each other — no news, no distractions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, self-reflection is needed by all of us. We are complacent and pleasure-seeking, material-owning and self-disillusionment, our own satire of the complications that can arise in crisis when we ignore warning signs.

The correlation with health and freedoms in general. Researchers, university professors, and medical experts are asking questions regarding the lack of research data on long-term effects of vaccines and natural immunity. In fact there's financial hardship and poverty in correlation with this.

Which brings me to rural crime. During the Throne Speech, rural crime was discussed, and Saskatchewan Rivers has had its share of rural crime. The very day of the Throne Speech, I get a phone call from a distraught citizen of Saskatchewan Rivers — another robbery and car hijacking along Highway No. 2. Only time will tell if these eight additional officers will make a difference. Experts tell us more mental health and addictions is needed to address this crisis. I believe we've all experienced rural crime as well as urban crime.

The current global threat confronting our dear province of Saskatchewan and our society as we know it has affected so many aspects of our life, Mr. Deputy Speaker. These past two years have been stressful for many families as the dark cloud above us swirls with unknown threats and attacks on our persons, our communities, and our livelihoods.

Historical context shows how civilizations can be altered into another state due to propaganda material and government direction. Fearmongering and hatemongering began. Morality, moral norms, social conscience, and human values were obliterated with blurred lines so Saskatchewan citizens could put blame on almost everyone and anything without government taking accountability.

The pandemic and thus government overreach suspended civil and legal rights, incremented restrictions, and thus human rights. A series of humiliating and comparisons to lower life forms began circulating in office workplaces, elementary, post-secondary schools, and voluntary organizations. Discriminatory opinions against each other's personal values divided family units, friends, neighbours, and co-workers.

Where in the Throne Speech was any of that addressed? I was waiting. I was watching, as many other people across the province were.

The real disease was the acceptance of the inequality and discrimination disregarding privacy acts of every and each Saskatchewan citizen. What is the objective of these laws and regulations? The social, business, and human casualties are mounting and escalating. How can a society accept this moral decay that is poisoning the fabric of society? Not freedom of speech or a blatant disregard for laws have I ever encountered in my lifetime as now. The Throne Speech did not address any of that.

Constitutional-protected legal and freedom rights have been swept aside, laws being crafted to side with government dictatorship. Doctors need to adhere to their Hippocratic oath to save lives, to uphold specific ethical standards, one of the earliest expressions of medical ethics in the Western world, establishing several principles of medical ethics which remain of paramount significance today, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We need to object to the silence of those fearful and of muzzling medical ethics. We need to develop a great moral boundary

involving the research on humans, an assertion of the dignity and respect of the human being. We are one family and equally important to each other. We need to feel safe in our homes, in our provinces, and that our governments will stand by us, not say, “I’m going to make life uncomfortable for you” or “We’ve lost patience with you.”

We need our governments to back us. We need our governments to listen. We need to feel ethical and moral grounds after the world coercion became a daily staple in everyone’s household and feel free to say no. The government should do no harm to its citizens, Mr. Deputy Speaker. No harm.

Human rights should be upheld, ethical principles. Voluntary assent is absolutely essential with the persons’ involved, legal capacity, and free power of choice without the element of force needs to be considered. An enlightened decision including the future effects on his or her person needs to be adhered to. Any government not doing this is betraying its citizens. The state of the province is in the hands of the people, not the government put there by the people of the province.

We realize the food, fuel, and fertilizer potentials in Saskatchewan as the Throne Speech states. However our greatest resource is the Saskatchewan people, Mr. Deputy Speaker — the very people who were not allowed to go back to work, the very people who attend institutions of learning, or possibly even get surgery, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Did the Throne Speech address that?

Should we not encourage these people to work and go to school again by making them feel valid and respected again? We must renew, repurpose, regenerate this province. Our Saskatchewan people will provide the strengths and successes to restore economic prosperity and future success for this country. Without the people onside, we are nothing. All our resources, we are nothing without the people. They need a government that will truly empower them rather than the government impose its own will and desires on Saskatchewan people. It’s the Saskatchewan people who bear the promise of this province’s future, and we elected officials are merely servants to the province and its people. We are the servants of Saskatchewan; we serve the people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, to claim that Saskatchewan’s response to the pandemic has been successful is to ignore the immense medical, social, and business harms experienced by Saskatchewan residents. An acknowledgement by the Saskatchewan government to craft a humane and responsible policy is needed for the public to heal and trust authority again. The Throne Speech did not contain any of that.

Saskatchewan government has a legal obligation to demonstrate any restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms that are justifiable during the pandemic. It is vitally important that Saskatchewan citizens evaluate the responses of their government that has denied vital health care services; forced them into isolation, bankruptcy; removed them from places of recreation, worship, work, and education, not to mention prevented families from seeing their lonely loved ones in nursing homes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Throne Speech did not mention that. It

did not mention the missed medical appointments, the increased substance use, and criminal acts that have all been contributed to the chaos Saskatchewan residents face daily because of the lack of action by the government.

I understand and realize the Saskatchewan government would like the public to forget, forgive their challenges created by government mandates. But I also understand and realize that the Saskatchewan people are not willing to move on, forget, or forgive the government for their grief caused by the government — the suicides, the bankruptcies, the loved ones that died without someone by their side, the no funerals, the no weddings, the no births together. I could go on and on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, from the calls that come to my office.

The words that were uttered by the Saskatchewan Premier, I’m going to make your lives uncomfortable, and the words, the time for patience is over, that’s not the words Saskatchewan people want to hear from their Premier or their government that’s supposed to be there for them in all times in need, in all times of challenge, Mr. Deputy Speaker. That’s not very reassuring. That’s not having the back of the people, is it?

The Saskatchewan people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, want and need an apology for the way people have been treated by the government. The Throne Speech addresses none of these issues that need closure, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Will the Premier speak to his people? Time will tell. But they need action from him now so the healing can begin, so the divide can close and our Saskatchewan people can become unified again. I think an independent inquiry would help heal, an inquiry into the handling of the pandemic, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

In conclusion, I cannot accept this Throne Speech which so sadly lacks in moral concerns to the Saskatchewan people who are suppressed, unhealthy, and suffering physically, economically, and emotionally. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And thank you to my colleagues and the members in the House for allowing me to speak and address the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, just on the formal side of things, I want to say that I’m supporting the motion that was brought forward by my good friend in Walsh Acres and seconded by my new good friend from Athabasca, Mr. Speaker, who both of them gave very spirited speeches. And we’ve heard lots of spirited speeches in this Chamber, some factual, some other, and I’ll just leave it at that, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I’ve got to do the traditional thank you. I’ve first got to thank my wife, Leane, for being the pillar in our house, Mr. Speaker, to be able to make sure that everything’s getting done on a daily and weekly basis. Just an amazing woman in her own right, Mr. Speaker. And very happy to be able to share as much time as I can with her. Even though we are busy down in Regina, I try to at least touch base back home once a day to be able to see how things are going and get that reality check of what’s happening outside of this Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

[20:15]

My son Carter and my daughter Courtney. My son is pursuing his university career, also working as a paver in the last two summers, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to be able to earn some of the money that he's using to go on a trip very soon to Australia. And I hope he has the safest of trips and has a lot of fun while he's there.

My daughter is still out at Farm in the Dell and enjoying her farm family out there, and really is enjoying life, Mr. Speaker. It's so enjoyable to watch her being so content around her friends and her family.

My stepdaughter Keely, who is third-year nutrition right now, Mr. Speaker, very athletic young lady. Every night at about 9:30 she ventures off to the gym to be able to go and keep in shape and keep all of her physical needs but also her mental health needs, as we all need to be able to do that, Mr. Speaker, to be able to get all that stress of school and be able to relax and have a solid sleep.

My stepdaughter Kassidy, who has moved this year, Mr. Speaker, who's relocated and she's working diligently with her husband. And we're very happy that Kassidy has made some very, very positive choices this year, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

My parents, Ted and Marie. As many in this House know, my father was an MLA from '03 to '07, and has given me lots of advice, and I very much appreciate his sage outside perspective of what happens in this House. Sometimes it's unsolicited, Mr. Speaker, but it is there.

And my mother who is — I've always said this — is the heartbeat of our family. I thank you, Mom, for everything that you've done, not just in raising us but all your continual guidance and your continued optimism. And there's lots of times that I'm glad she's not in the Chamber when things are going on because I'm sure she would be shouting at the members opposite for picking on her little boy, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Also to my in-laws . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Always little boy, always her little boy.

Mr. Speaker, also my in-laws, Leo and Sylvia, farmers down in the Willow Bunch area, have been for their entire life. Had raised four amazing girls in a small farm down in Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan with his brothers. Just amazing, salt-of-the-earth people who have taught the kid from Toronto a little bit of inside information about how a farm operates. They both had cattle and obviously they were seeding as well, Mr. Speaker. But not a big farm, but a very family farm. It had been in the family for generations.

A few other thank yous. I've got to thank my CA [constituency assistant], Debbs, for keeping everything working and keeping me on time when I'm back in my constituency. Obviously my chief of staff, David. I've got James and Aaron and Lisa in my office, who keeps us all in line, Mr. Speaker, and the support team that also comes out of the Minister of Rural and Remote, as our offices do work very closely together. They have Elias, Cheyenne, Jenn, Angela, and the new kid on the block, Derek, who's just amazing. Brought a lot of energy to our office.

And I'd also be remiss if I didn't thank my friend and my counterpart, the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, the member from Swift Current, who is just doing an amazing job. His first post in cabinet, two years in coming in, helping with the pandemic, coming into some very difficult times in rural Saskatchewan with some of the challenges that we faced there during the pandemic, and some of the exciting opportunities that we've had this year, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm probably going to go through a little list of some of the stuff that we have been able to be successful on this year. And, Mr. Speaker, I also want to, just for a second . . . I'll touch later on on the budget from health. But I have to first back that up, Mr. Speaker, on how we are able to spend the money in health care that we are in education and highways, environment, government relations, Mr. Speaker: it's our economic engine. And Premier Wall said this years ago. It was always about the economic engine that would be for the social side of things — the human services, as we call them on this side of the House — the education, social services. We have to have an economic engine, Mr. Speaker, to be able to pay for the stuff that we're doing here that the people of Saskatchewan expect.

The economic engine that was coming from the opposition from years when they had the privilege of forming government was mostly channelled through funds transferred through Ottawa, Mr. Speaker. That was mainly the economic engine.

We saw people leave, droves after droves after droves, Mr. Speaker, in this community. I graduated, Mr. Speaker, in 1990 from high school, and I saw three-quarters of my classroom leave, leave this province, Mr. Speaker. Because there was no opportunities. There wasn't any opportunities here.

But now we have opportunities. We have economic growth. Just going to touch on a few of them. The biggest one obviously that we certainly have to touch on, Mr. Speaker, is the BHP Jansen mine. This is a huge investment, largest investment in potash history, Mr. Speaker. This is amazing for our province.

And these kind of corporations don't invest for the short term. They're here for the long term. They're planning on several mines in our province, Mr. Speaker, not just one mine but several mines. Because they understand the value that we have here with potash that we are able to feed the world, Mr. Speaker, not just by what we grow here but by the potash that we're able to supply around the world so other countries can grow product as well to be able to feed the world, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

We've got Cargill, Viterra, Co-op, AGT Foods, canola crush. These are all huge, huge investments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we have in our province. Billions and billions of private investment, Mr. Deputy Speaker, coming into our province.

This is what gives us the opportunity to be able to grow, to be able to pay for the dollars that the people of Saskatchewan expect in our health care, in rural and remote health, education, environment, highways. This is how we are able to do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of bringing money into the province.

And it can't be all money generated by the government, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's got to be people that are investing in our province, and they see the value of Saskatchewan. What they see

is opportunities here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They also see a very stable government that has had the privilege of forming government for 15 years, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And a very strong government that works for the people of the province, Mr. Speaker.

What I will also touch on is some of the other things that we've had to be able to do, that we've had the privilege of doing. And nobody over there is certainly talking about this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, of the \$1 billion that we put onto our debt. That is not an insignificant amount. When we had surplus investment or money coming in through the Minister of Finance, we put that money at our debt which saves a huge amount in interest rate payments, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I have to thank the Minister of Finance for being that steady hand. We've had a very, very good history of ministers of Finance on this side of the House that have had a steady hand in making sure that our finances are stable. And the member from Humboldt has just done an amazing job on that. I want to thank her on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm just going to touch a little bit on some of the investments that we have had in our health care system, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again we've had the privilege of spending \$6.44 billion in our '22. That's an increase of \$319 million, again something that you won't hear from the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. A 5.2 per cent increase. That is a huge amount when we're talking about health care.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also be remiss if I didn't thank the health care workers. It was Health Care Providers' Week last week, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The people that I get to meet . . . and they're coming forth with their challenges on the tours the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself have been able to . . . They're coming to us with real suggestions on how they can improve, and we're acting on some of those. We're certainly implementing a lot of that within our four-point plan of recruit, retain, train, and incentivize individuals across this province. We've had some huge successes with that already.

As I addressed in question period earlier today, 400 individuals that have international education in health care background have applied in Saskatchewan. We've had 3,500 people from the Philippines apply for employment here in Saskatchewan. We have a team over in the Philippines working right now to vet those individuals.

We have 150 people that are in advanced education, our new nursing seats. That brings them up to 944 total, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Earlier the member from Rosemont just completely disregarded that and didn't say that there was anything that we had done. We have recruited 107 doctors into our province in the last 12 months — something that you won't hear from the members opposite at all, Mr. Speaker — and 51 of those individuals are general practitioners.

We've also added in to nurse practitioners, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we're looking at expanding with the college of physicians and also . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, the member from Cumberland is just . . . It just keeps going over there and going over there. I'm not sure what he's saying, but I don't know if anybody does, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've been able to invest in this province. When they say nothing is done, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is completely, completely wrong. And I just want to go through a little bit, because there was an accusation thrown out by many members on the opposite side that the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself weren't doing anything this summer, that we took the summer off. I'm just going to give you a small list of some of the places that we visited during the summer, Mr. Speaker, because as the members opposite might realize, there was three days a week almost every week this summer that I was in the office, just down the hall, working in Regina. And when I wasn't there, I was on a tour or I was working out of Saskatoon, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

What I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, is I had a tour of Estevan on August 3rd, went to the hospital and also met with the foundation. Went to, on August 12th, Humboldt. Toured the hospital, met with the foundation to discuss what was going on. North Battleford just the other week, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Toured the hospital, met with the foundation. Again, Mr. Speaker, toured in Outlook on August 18th, Prince Albert on August 17th, Prince Albert again on September 8th.

Mr. Speaker, I was on my way down to Redvers, and I had a very good tour set up there, and then somebody scooped me on it. And they said oh, I'm sorry, we don't have time for the health minister right now because you know what? It was so important, our Premier went down there. Our Premier went all the way down there to be able to talk with the community, and they said, you know what? The Premier's coming on the same day. I said, if the Premier's there and he's meeting with you, that's great. Just goes to show the dedication of our Premier that is going down to Redvers to be able to make sure that their concerns were heard at the highest level. He's passed on that information and we've acted on it. And since we've done that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to say it's back open again, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is something, again, that we have accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, obviously I toured the hospitals in my hometown of Saskatoon. I've toured all four of them a few times, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I've also toured, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Plains . . . Or sorry, not the Plains because that's just closed, Mr. Speaker. I've toured the two hospitals, the General obviously, Mr. Speaker, to see what's happening there, and had some great conversations not just with the ER [emergency room] physicians, but with the technicians, the people up in the ward on how we can do things.

And what they were doing, Mr. Speaker, is they were telling us a few consistent things: we need more people. And they were offering us suggestions. Can we do this instead of this? How about we have this idea? And we've taken that back and we're working with our officials to see on the implementation. Also out to Warman a few times, Mr. Speaker, and down to Weyburn.

Now I want to address a couple of things that was brought up by the member from Rosemont earlier today, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It was just very concerning, and I did heckle him a little bit on this because, Mr. Speaker, it was just factually not accurate.

In this afternoon, a quote I will say the member from Rosemont said: not a single hospital reopened that we hear about from the opposite side. Well here's the list. I'm going to start way back



earlier in the year. February of 2022, Porcupine Plain community hospital welcomed two new SIPPA [Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment] doctors. March 23rd, Redvers Health Centre fully resumed 24-hour emergency services. On April 4th, 2022, Herbert community hospital partially resumed emergency services. May 2nd, Broadview Hospital partially resumed emergency services.

On May 9th Lanigan Hospital emergency services partially resumed. June 12th, Assiniboia Union Hospital emergency services fully resumed. On July 6th Wilkie and District Health Centre added out-patient services including lab services and the local physician being offered appointments that day, Mr. Speaker. Wolseley community hospital has produced two new physicians through the SIPPA . . . [inaudible] . . . On July 4th, five of the Shellbrook Parkland Integrated Health Centre's 20 in-patient beds were reopened, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

On August 2nd Prairie Health Centre in Cabri resumed their X-ray services. On August Balcarres health centre hired a combined lab and X-ray technician. St. Peter's Hospital in Melville had just recently this summer recruited additional RNs [registered nurse] to stabilize services. At the end of this month, September, Radville health centre will be reopening their emergency department, Mr. Deputy Speaker. September 6th, Preeceville health district partially reopened most of their beds. The Biggar district hospital fully resumed providing 24-7 emergency services on October 2nd, 2022. This was made possible by the hiring of four additional registered nurse staff. The Weyburn hospital reopened nine acute beds.

So when the member says that nothing's been done, it's just completely false, Mr. Speaker. Do we have some more work to do? Absolutely. But have we done nothing? And let's also recall that this is on the tail end of the most challenging health care concern that we've ever had in this province, Mr. Speaker, where we had to modify our services over the last two years. And we're in the process of reopening. The members opposite don't want to talk about any of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They want to cherry-pick out stats.

Do we have some challenges? Yes. Just talked to the SMA [Saskatchewan Medical Association] last weekend. I meet with the board every two months to be able to sit down and talk about doctors' concerns, every two months, Dr. Gjevre and the president before him, Mr. Speaker. They have my personal cell phone number. They call me often when they have some challenges. This is the relationship I have with the SMA.

[20:30]

Met with the nurses, met with the College of Nursing, just attended the white coat ceremony a few weeks ago — didn't see anybody from the opposition over there, Mr. Speaker. Also attended the white coat ceremony for the pharmacists. Also attended the postgraduate medical educators where the doctors are actually convocating and they're moving out into the system.

Had some great conversations with them wanting to choose Saskatchewan. And they brought some concerns forward. Some of them were on the fee-for-service for salary so we sat down and had the conversation. I said, what is it going to take to keep you in this province? They laid out a couple of things. Absolutely we

can do that. We already have programs that are covering those things. So they're going to choose to stay here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So what this side of the House is doing, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is we're out there trying to sell Saskatchewan. We're saying this is a great place to raise your family. This is a great place for you to choose to live and choose to live for a very long time, set down your roots in Saskatchewan. And do we have some challenges? Absolutely in our health care. But those are the same challenges that we're seeing across the province. The difference is we're seeing results from the plan that we put in place earlier this year in March, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the budget, now with our four-point plan that we've brought out in September — 107 new doctors. We can see the results out of this, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The opposition doesn't want to talk about that. They don't want to talk about anything good. All they want to do is just continuously run down our province, run down our health care system, and run down any business that tries to operate in this province, Mr. Speaker. How are we supposed to go out and sell and our province as an opportunity to grow when all they can think about is just the province shrinking and throwing it under the bus.

On this side of the House we're very proud of our province. We want to sell our province. We want to be able to make sure that the people of Canada and the people around the world know that Saskatchewan is here. We've got an economic plan. We've got a health care plan to be able to do that. The member from Cumberland just keeps heckling, Mr. Speaker. If he would pay attention instead of talking all the time maybe he would absorb some of these facts and he can incorporate that when he has the opportunity to speak in this House. But, Mr. Speaker, he just hasn't stopped talking since I've been able to stand up here, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'm not sure where I'm at with my time. I'll turn around and talk to my counterpart, see where I'm at. I've got 18 minutes left.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will touch on a couple of things because it's not just us saying this, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Here's a quote from SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], Mr. Speaker, and I'll quote. It was a tweet that was sent out early in October:

SUMA is pleased to see that @SKGov is making progress with its Health Human Resource Action Plan. We advocated for additional recruitment and retention efforts, including . . . properly incentivizing the positions and adding . . . seats to training programs throughout the province.

Second half of that is:

We are also pleased to read about service resumptions but know many of Saskatchewan's hometowns are still experiencing . . . [some] disruptions and insist that more work be done . . . [in] ALL of our hospitals and our health care . . .

That's SUMA supporting our program because they can see the results. They're hearing from their members. They are hearing exactly what the plan is, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a plan to be

able to grow our health care system in the short term, the mid-term, and the long term, Mr. Speaker.

It is very important that the members opposite try to find something positive to say about our province as we're out there trying to sell our province on an economic front but also on the human services front to be able to make sure that we can recruit. We need more people to help grow this province. I know their plan was always to be able to reduce the population, keep it under a million. I think the quote was, well there'll be more left for the rest of us.

We want to grow this province. We want to bring people into this province. We want to see them come from across Canada and around the world. We are from many peoples, strength, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and we're going to continue to do that.

I really hope that the member from Cumberland has a fabulous speech when he gets up because he certainly has been talking for 20 minutes while I've been up here speaking, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I'm sure he's going to absolutely rivet us with another great speech from Cumberland about how positive this Speech from the Throne.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be supporting, absolutely, the speech brought forward by the member from Walsh Acres, seconded by the member from Athabasca. And thank you for allowing me to speak tonight.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Mr. D. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. It is an honour to stand in this House today and provide my reply to the Speech from the Throne on behalf of the people of Cannington.

I would also like to extend my condolences to the residents and families of James Smith Cree Nation and the community of Weldon following the tragic events of September 4th.

On September 8th we learned of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, reigning as Queen of Canada and the Commonwealth for over 70 years. I, like so many of us, have known no other one to sit on the throne. Growing up in a small community and attending Alida elementary school, I have vivid memories of beginning every school day standing and singing "O Canada" followed by the Lord's Prayer. At the end of the school day, we again stood and sang "God Save the Queen" before being dismissed to catch a ride home on the school bus. Fond memories indeed. Long live the King.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, I, like many of my colleagues, know that we do not serve alone. We have families supporting us every step of the way. Supporting me at home is my wife, Cheryl, and my son Thomas. They keep the home fires burning and the livestock fed. Thank you to both of them.

Contrary to what my colleagues say and think, I will have to correct them. I have the best constituency assistants in the province. I truly appreciate the hard work that Trisha and April do. Thank you to both of them.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, my son Thomas had a summer job working for a building contractor, Evergreen Construction, based out of Redvers. His experience allowed him to see the many different ways to build and remodel. He quickly learned how much knowledge and workmanship goes into a house or a shop. Now when he walks into a building, he walks in looking at how everything was put together. He knows full well how much time and effort is in construction.

As part of the construction and the materials used in construction, I need to mention how important oil is to building, how important it is to make a home energy-efficient. Oil and oil products are part of every single aspect of constructing a house, from the asphalt shingles on the roof to the energy-efficient poly windows, the plastic vapour barrier, oil-based paints, the styrofoam insulation, the insulation on the wiring, and the plastic water and sewer piping. Oil and oil products are in demand today, tomorrow, and well into the future.

I am very proud that Saskatchewan is a producer, a sustainable producer of oil and gas, helping families stay warm and comfortable in a bitterly cold Canadian winter.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, Saskatchewan has the food, fuel . . . sorry, excuse me.

**An Hon. Member:** — Fertilizer.

**Mr. D. Harrison:** — No. I skipped a page. Construction the materials use . . . sorry, distractions, eh?

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, Saskatchewan has the food, fuel, and fertilizer that the world so desperately needs. And I'm very proud that our great province is able to meet the world's needs. We're not only able to provide the food, fuel, and fertilizer that the world needs, but we deliver it in a sustainable, stable, and reliable manner that countries around the world can count on. We are opening a new trade office in Germany, joining trade offices in eight other countries. Marketing our products around the world is a priority for your Saskatchewan government.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, the people of Cannington play a large role in producing the food, fuel, and fertilizer. Our area is a prolific oil and gas producer. Some of the busiest and most active explorers are operating in the southeast corner. These explorers are creating jobs and are creating opportunities for small-business growth in our rural communities. Your Saskatchewan government is supporting small businesses and has extended the small-business tax credit. A strong, small-business sector supports a strong economy.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, our oil and gas producers are keeping the lights on, homes heated, and our Saskatchewan products growing and moving to markets around the world, sustaining the lifestyle that citizens of this province and of this country have come to enjoy and expect. Thank you to all those working in our oil and gas industry.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, our federal government and the de facto deputy prime minister, Jagmeet Singh, have not been very supportive of the oil industry and actually have made several decisions that are aimed at stopping our industry from growing. The point person to accomplish this goal is federal environmental

minister, Steven Guilbeault. Minister Guilbeault has been in the lead supporting Bill C-48, otherwise known as the no-more-tanker bill, and Bill C-69, known as the no-more-pipelines bill — legislation designed to kill western oil and gas.

While raising the cost of heating the homes of Canadians, Canada's clean-fuel standards and the ever-increasing carbon tax are making the cost of living skyrocket, making life unaffordable for Canadians. Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, Canada and the world need more Western Canadian oil and gas. If the world produced oil as environmentally sustainable as Western Canada, the world's emissions would be reduced by 25 per cent.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, the federal government's outright hatred of the oil industry is very clear. Prime Minister Trudeau's comments, and I quote, "We can't shut down the oil sands tomorrow. We need to phase them out. We need to manage the transition off our dependence on fossil fuels." That makes it very clear to Western Canadians that they do not support the oil and gas industry, the hard-working people of the industry, or the provinces producing oil and gas.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, it would come as no surprise to me or many others if Minister Guilbeault would revert back to his environmental activist ways and demand that the Premier's beloved Edmonton Oilers hockey team's nickname be changed, or even worse, trying to put out the flame on my favourite NHL [National Hockey League] team in Calgary. Perhaps he might prefer Edmonton wind turbines or the Calgary sunshine. With names like that, I may have to cheer for the Bruins.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, agriculture is the spinal cord of the province. Saskatchewan's farmers and ranchers are the very best in the world at what they do. Our ranchers produce some of the most sustainable beef in the world and quality second to none. The farmers of Saskatchewan produce large volumes of high-quality grains, oilseeds, and pulse crops that is beyond compare to anywhere in the world.

While our producers are the best in the world, world-class companies are building value-added facilities right here in Saskatchewan. Cargill has broken ground on a \$350 million canola crushing facility just west of Regina. Viterra is moving forward with a new canola crush plant in Regina, and Federated Co-operatives Ltd. is partnering with AGT Foods to construct a canola crush that will supply feedstock to a new 15,000-barrel-per-day renewable diesel plant.

Value-added processing is critical for Saskatchewan. Adding value to crops and products we produce creates jobs here and families living in our communities. That's growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, this past July Saskatchewan signed on to the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership with the federal government and all of the other provinces and territories. This agreement will increase support in five areas: growth and competitiveness; climate change and environment; science, research, and innovation; market development and trade; resiliency and public trust.

Your government will continue to support our agricultural producers with business risk management programs, including

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, now providing the most comprehensive coverage in the history of the province.

Our farmers and ranchers are simply the best, the best at sequestering carbon in our rich Saskatchewan soils. In 2020 Saskatchewan sequestered nearly 13 million tonnes, the equivalent of taking 2.78 million cars off the road for one year. With 95 per cent of Saskatchewan farmers using zero-till or min-till practices — highest among all the prairie provinces — farming practices such as this make our farmers the most sustainable in the world. That's growth that works for everyone.

In the last few years we've taken important steps to enhance the availability of veterinarian services in rural Saskatchewan. Sask Poly vet tech training seats have increased to 32 per year. The rural veterinarian and veterinary technologist loan-forgiveness program is being expanded. In the coming year we will also increase the number of training seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine by 5, from 20 to 25 per year.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, Saskatchewan has seen record population growth supported mostly by immigration. To date, Saskatchewan has welcomed nearly 2,000 displaced Ukrainians and looking forward to more.

[20:45]

With the lowest unemployment in the country, we need more people to fill these jobs. In Cannington, virtually all businesses are searching for employees in all sectors. There's jobs in agriculture, jobs in oil and gas, jobs in trucking, jobs in health care, and jobs in the service industry. Saskatchewan is leading the nation. That's growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, in the past three years more than 3500 kilometres of highways have been improved. Nearly 60 set of passing lanes have been added and many safety improvements have been made to highway intersections.

SaskTel is doubling their investment in the rural fibre initiative — \$200 million to bring fibre optic internet to more than 110,000 residents and businesses in 131 rural communities by 2025.

SaskPower will have the new Great Plains power station in operation next year. This is a 360-megawatt facility that will complement the other 10 natural gas power-generation plants in the province. Last month SaskPower announced Estevan and Elbow areas as potential sites for a small modular reactor. Included with the Estevan area is a site near Grant Devine Lake, near the community of Alameda. Significant public consultation and engagement will take place before a final decision is made on whether to construct a small reactor by 2029.

A growing population, growth in mining, growth in oil and gas, growth in agriculture, and growth in value-added agricultural production will lead to increased electricity demands. SaskPower is ready to meet these demands. This is truly that growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, earlier this year Alberta Chief Justice Catherine Fraser said, "Through this legislative scheme, parliament has taken a wrecking ball to the constitutional rights of the citizens of Alberta and Saskatchewan and other provinces

to have their natural resources developed for their benefit.”

The federal government has been intruding on provincial jurisdiction time and time again. The Saskatchewan first Act will clarify and defend Saskatchewan’s constitutional right to control our natural resources and our economic future. Our government will amend the province’s constitution to state that Saskatchewan continues to retain exclusive jurisdiction over its own natural resources. This is similar to what Quebec has done with regards to making French its official language.

Our government will sign the Saskatchewan-Canada immigration accord, allowing Saskatchewan similar authority as Quebec over immigration. It’s time for Saskatchewan to draw the line and defend that line. Securing our future will create growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, our government has a four-point health human resources action plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care providers and add 1,000 health care professionals in Saskatchewan. A recruitment mission to the Philippines to promote health care opportunities in Saskatchewan. Introduction of a first-in-Canada accelerated training assessment and licensure pathway for internationally educated nurses. A new incentive program providing up to \$50,000 to health care workers who accept hard-to-recruit positions, mainly in rural and remote locations. Creation of 100 new permanent full-time positions. Conversion of 150 existing part-time positions in rural and remote areas to full-time permanent positions.

We have added 150 nurse training seats. One hundred seven physicians have been recruited to Saskatchewan, including 51 family physicians and 56 specialists.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, the last two years has placed stress on our health care system. Our government is the only jurisdiction in the country with an action plan to get our health care back on track and where it needs to be.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, our economy is growing and leading the nation. We need people to fill the jobs created by our strong economy, and immigration will help fill this need. With so much uncertainty in the world, Saskatchewan is the bright light that will shine around the world. Saskatchewan is well positioned to provide the world with a safe, stable, sustainable . . . [inaudible] . . . supply to food, fuel, and fertilizer — growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, I will not be supporting the opposition’s amendment to the Throne Speech. Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees, I will be supporting the Throne Speech moved by the member from Regina Walsh Acres and seconded by the member from Athabasca. God bless our veterans. God bless Saskatchewan. God bless Canada. God save the King.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the Minister of Highways and Water Security Agency.

**Hon. Mr. Cockrill:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s a pleasure to rise today in this House to make some comments on the Throne Speech that was delivered last week here in the legislature. And you know, I’ll take the suspense out of it for the member from

Cumberland. I will be supporting the motion moved by my colleague from Regina Walsh Acres and seconded by my colleague from Athabasca. So I’m sorry if that member was holding out hope.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin I do need to thank a few people. It’s been a busy summer. And first of all and first and foremost, I’d like to thank my wife, Meagan, for the support that she offers me. I’ve spent a lot of time on the road this summer, and so the yard isn’t looking quite as good as it normally does. And I’m not at home quite as much, but I really have appreciated Meagan’s support before the summer and over the summer as well.

You know, certainly I know other members have talked about this as well, but you know, our constituency assistants, for every member in this House, are a key part of how people every day in our communities interact with government. And I’m really proud of the work that Gail and Claudette do every day in The Battlefords in terms of helping people. You know, and sometimes you get a call late on a Friday afternoon. Somebody needs some help, and both these ladies jump into high-gear action to try and deliver the help that an individual constituent may need.

You know, I should also . . . Well I’d also like to thank my staff here in the minister’s office, you know. And we’ve had a few people move on to different roles over the summer, Ange Currie and Brayden Fox, and I’d like to thank them for the work that they did as I stepped into a ministerial role for the first time and certainly very valuable work that they did. But our current team, Lee and Candace and Linda and Ryan, do a fantastic job of keeping the trains running on time and responding to concerns that we hear from people across the province.

You know, I’d also like to thank a couple colleagues in particular, you know, my colleagues from Cut Knife-Turtleford and Kindersley and Martensville-Warman. You know, obviously with my new role and travelling more around the province, there’s a couple of constituency events that I’ve had to miss this summer unfortunately, and so I know those three colleagues have all stepped in in my stead. And I certainly appreciate that. That’s what good neighbours do, right?

You know, and really it’s . . . I was thinking about this on Friday. And I think about it every day, Mr. Speaker, but I’m really fortunate to serve the constituency I do. I’m honoured to serve the people of The Battlefords and this really, you know, hit home again. On Friday we had the protocol office up to The Battlefords, and we did a presentation for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Medal. We had 24 people from The Battlefords and surrounding area honoured with this medal. And you know, it was . . . And I had a couple colleagues join me for that.

But you know, when you look at the names that were honoured on Friday, I’m just impressed to live in the same community as these people, Mr. Speaker, you know, honoured to be their neighbours, honoured to have volunteered with some of these people. I think about a couple people in particular. I think about a couple of people in particular. I think about Larry Gabruch, who’s been our fire chief in the town of Battleford, a volunteer fire department. He’s been our fire chief for over 40 years, Mr. Speaker. You want to talk about serving your community? You want to talk about serving the province, serving the people that

we call friends and neighbours? That's service, Mr. Speaker, right there.

And I also think . . . The other gentleman I thought of, and unfortunately he passed away earlier this summer, is Floyd Andersen. And if you've ever visited the town of Battleford, you know, kind of right in the middle of town you'll see this big white building. It's called the Fred Light Museum. And it's a fantastic museum in our community, and of course we have a very historical community in Battleford.

But this Fred Light Museum, some of the displays in there are fantastic. Artifacts from a whole range of history in Battleford. And this gentleman, Mr. Andersen, he was absolutely key over the last number of decades in terms of serving this museum and making sure this museum is a place that people of all ages can come to and learn more about our history in Saskatchewan, of course our history in The Battlements.

You know, I also want to say that I'm quite honoured to have been asked by the Premier to serve in this role in terms of having a portfolio of Highways and Water Security Agency. And I should thank the former minister, my colleague from Carrot River Valley, for his support over the summer, always available to answer a call and answer a question if needed.

I was thinking back this weekend to my maiden speech in this House. And I think in my maiden speech I said that there were nine constituencies in this province that I hadn't visited yet. And I think I made a promise to visit all nine of those constituencies, and I'm still short of meeting my goal, Mr. Speaker. There's still three that I haven't visited. But I've been travelling all across the province this summer, Mr. Speaker, in an effort to engage with different communities, to engage with different stakeholders.

And you know, so the three I haven't visited I'll just, you know, for clarity I'll just say them. You know, it's Cannington and Estevan and Weyburn-Big Muddy. But I can commit to my colleagues from those constituencies that I will make it there.

And I know, you know, I know that much has been made about the number of kilometres the Leader of the Opposition has put on this summer touring the province. And it's great to see her out and about of course, Mr. Speaker, but I'll put my odometer up against hers any day of the week.

But you know, when we're around the province and we talk about growth that works for everyone, we really . . . It's been amazing to see the amount of work that we've been able to do in Highways this summer. You know, we have a growth plan goal of improving 10 000 kilometres of roadways in this province over 10 years before 2030, Mr. Speaker, and we are ahead of that goal, Mr. Speaker. By the end of this year, we're going to be about 3500 kilometres over three years. We're well on pace to hit that and hopefully exceed that goal of 10 000 kilometres, Mr. Speaker.

I think about some of the passing lanes that we opened: Highway 7 between Kindersley and the Alberta border; Highway 12 north of Martensville on the way to Hepburn, Mr. Speaker; Highway 16 in the Yorkton area. Think about Highway 55. I was just up in Carrot River Valley area a couple of weeks ago and, you know, I know the member here spoke about the difference that that

stretch of road is going to make for that region, for the people who travel between The Pas and Carrot River, for the forestry industry, Mr. Speaker. I may come back to the forestry industry later on in my comments here.

And then of course we have a large twinning project on Highway 3 just west of Prince Albert, and I'm looking forward to being there later in November to officially open up that stretch of road. That's an important stretch of road between Shellbrook and Prince Albert. A lot of people travel that to go to work every day. A lot of people travel that to go north on Highway 2 into lake country, Mr. Speaker. So we're excited to get that project done here this year.

And I think some improvements I'm particularly proud of, Mr. Speaker, is some of the work that we've done in the North this summer. So we did, you know, we did about 14 kilometres, Mr. Speaker, of segment improvements on Highway 155 and 908. And, Mr. Speaker, our segment improvement program at Highways is something that I think as government we can be particularly proud of, because I think it does make a significant difference in how people travel to and from the North, Mr. Speaker. We take a segment of the road. We take it right down to base. We rebuild it up to primary weight, Mr. Speaker. And as we attack little segments down the road, Mr. Speaker, each and every year it's making that highway safer and more efficient. We have some exciting economic development in that area, specifically in the uranium space, Mr. Speaker. So we're very excited to see those improvements come to fruition each and every year.

Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss if I didn't also talk about what's happening in Water Security Agency around the province. And I think this is something that a lot of people in this province don't always get to see, Mr. Speaker, but our agency operates 72 dams across the province. You know and I know that, you know, perhaps folks in Saskatchewan here wouldn't believe that we have 72 dams in the province. But we do, Mr. Speaker. And WSA [Water Security Agency] staff faithfully operate those structures each and every day. And those structures, you know, I think about Gardiner in particular, you know, obviously offers flood protection for the Saskatoon area. There's the Coteau SaskPower plant there, Mr. Speaker. And I'd also . . . As we look forward to what irrigation offers in terms of opportunity for this province, Mr. Speaker, exciting to see how Gardiner will play a role in that on the west side expansion.

So, Mr. Speaker, you know, this Throne Speech that was presented last week, it really . . . The title is "Growth That Works for Everyone," right? And I don't want to belabour that line. We've heard it many times here in the House over the last number of days. But you know, it was curious. A member in the House earlier tonight said, who'd want to invest in Saskatchewan? Can I tell you this, Mr. Speaker? Let me tell you who wants to invest in Saskatchewan.

[21:00]

I was at two events this summer in Saskatoon. One event was BHP. I was at another event with Canpotex. You know, BHP investing a significant amount of dollars into the Jansen mine, accelerating that project, moving it faster. They're going to be bringing potash online sooner than what they originally expected.

Then I think about that Canpotex event I was at, Mr. Speaker, and I know the Premier was there as well. You know, all the companies that make up Canpotex that mine in this province, both of them announced expansions to production this year. More potash coming out of the ground, more potash being shipped all over the world to world markets, and more of those royalty dollars coming back to this province and supporting things in each one of our communities, Mr. Speaker.

But at that Canpotex event, it was interesting. There were representatives from 17 different countries. Seventeen different countries were there, and these are long-time customers of Canpotex. Canpotex of course celebrating its 50th anniversary this year in 2022. And I can tell you from speaking to a number of these representatives, Mr. Speaker, there is an excitement around the world about what's happening in this province.

So when we have people in this legislature, duly elected by the citizens of this province, thinking that nobody wants to invest in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, I'll correct the record happily today and every day, Mr. Speaker. There are companies looking to invest significant dollars and create significant economic opportunities here in Saskatchewan and for the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

You know, another project I had the opportunity to visit this summer was Foran Mining's McIlvenna Bay project up on Highway 106 in the Cumberland constituency. And I can say that this Foran Mining operation, this is an exciting development for what's happening in Saskatchewan. There's going to be significant copper and zinc development at that mine, Mr. Speaker. In fact I think it's going to be the province's first net zero mine in this province, Mr. Speaker.

That's good news. That's good news for the people who live in Creighton and Denare Beach, Mr. Speaker. That's good news for those people, with the closing of the smelter in Flin Flon, now creating great jobs at the Foran Mining site at McIlvenna Bay, Mr. Speaker. That's growth that works for everyone. That's growth that impacts people and gives them economic opportunities so they can support their families and continue to live in the community where they grew up, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I was just in Carrot River not too long ago, a couple weeks ago. Dunkley Lumber's putting \$140 million of additional investments into their mill in Carrot River, Mr. Speaker. The local MLA and I, we drove through the parking lot of the mill, Mr. Speaker. We didn't have a tour scheduled, but we drove through the parking lot. And you can see all the brand new equipment lined up, ready to go, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is real investment that makes a difference for the people who live in Carrot River. It makes a real difference for the people who live in that area, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, you know, the other one I think of, Mr. Speaker, is the company Cameco. And it's well known to people in this province, really a flagship Saskatchewan company, Mr. Speaker. And obviously they've restarted some of the operations at their mines over the last year here, Mr. Speaker. It's exciting to see a lot of people who are employed at these Cameco facilities live in the North, they work in the North, Mr. Speaker. And those jobs make a real difference for our northern communities, Mr. Speaker.

But you know what's exciting about what's happening with Cameco, Mr. Speaker, is their recent acquisition of Westinghouse in a partnership with Brookfield Renewable. And what that does, Mr. Speaker, it offers a vertical integration opportunity for Cameco that is going to have massive implications for this province. It's going to have massive implications for our domestic development of small modular reactors. And that's exciting about what that opportunity presents for so many sectors and so many different communities in our province, Mr. Speaker. But it also is exciting to think about the potential that Saskatchewan-mined uranium has to power countries far and wide across the world, Mr. Speaker.

So again, when people in this House, Mr. Speaker, when members in this House say who would want to invest in Saskatchewan, I could keep going, Mr. Speaker. And I know there's other members who want to get up and speak here tonight, so I won't keep going. But, Mr. Speaker, even those companies that I've named here today that are investing in this province, that's growth. And when we talk about growth that works for everyone, that's the growth part, Mr. Speaker.

Now when we talk about works for everyone, Mr. Speaker, there's some exciting things coming out of this Throne Speech. And you know certainly, Mr. Speaker, we know that we have challenges in the health care sector. Every province in this country does, Mr. Speaker. We know that. We acknowledge that. And as, you know, the minister just eloquently said here just a few minutes ago, you know, hard work is being done each and every week to get those facilities open again, to staff up, Mr. Speaker, and to ensure the people of this province can receive the care that they deserve, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, again, as this growth in our province, as this growth creates economic opportunity in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that gives us the ability to invest in health care human resources. That gives us the ability to invest in education, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that also gives us the ability to invest in the public safety for the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. I know in the community that I live in, you know, and certainly in communities around the Northwest and in the North, Mr. Speaker, we know that public safety has been an increasing topic of conversation on coffee row. And, Mr. Speaker, you know, I truly love living in the community that I do. I'm blessed to do it. My wife and I walk along the river often.

But the reality is in recent years people are feeling more and more at risk when they go out for that walk after dinner, Mr. Speaker. And so it's exciting to see out of this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker, a new crime reduction team investment in The Battlefords, more additional policing resources for our RCMP detachment. And that's going to have a real impact on helping people feel safe, Mr. Speaker, in our community.

Think about the Saskatchewan marshals service. I think about the additional WEST team that we're going to have based out of Prince Albert, Mr. Speaker. These are all provincially funded, provincially focused resources to address some of the public safety concerns that we've heard around this province, Mr. Speaker, and specifically in that Northwest region over the summer.

You know, Mr. Speaker, you know, obviously these recent investments are from the Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. But you know, when I look at what's happening elsewhere in the community, Mr. Speaker, it also illustrates that works-for-everyone part of growth that works for everyone. We currently have one of our high schools undergoing a significant renovation, Mr. Speaker. That is going to be a generational investment in the students of The Battlefords and going to have a massive impact on our community.

I think about the ICIP [Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program] project that we've been working on over the last number of months, Mr. Speaker, to basically refurbish the truss bridge over the North Saskatchewan. And it's not a driving bridge. It's not part of the highway network, but it's an important pedestrian and cycling link between Battleford and North Battleford. And you know, the mayor of Battleford was actually here last week and the comment he made to me was, you know, you don't know how important something is until you don't have it.

And so, you know, unfortunately we've had to close this pedestrian bridge over the summer obviously while we're working on this project, and that's a bit of a frustration if you like to bike between Battleford and North Battleford or if you like to walk across the river. So, Mr. Speaker, we're looking forward to that, Mr. Speaker, being up and running again.

You know, Mr. Speaker, you know, I hear the members opposite making a few comments. And you know, I'd be remiss if I didn't point out some of the inconsistencies I think that we've seen on that side of the House over the last number of weeks, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these members opposite, this NDP, they can't decide on nuclear. They can't decide on liquor stores.

They can't even decide on trade offices between 12 of them, Mr. Speaker. Trade offices where . . . By the way, we're opening our ninth trade office in Berlin out of this Throne Speech, Mr. Speaker. I mean, we have one member on that side, Mr. Speaker, questioning why we need trade offices. Questioning the work, Mr. Speaker, of our public servants who dutifully serve this province internationally and sell our products in those countries, Mr. Speaker. And then we have the leader saying we need to sell Saskatchewan more and, Mr. Speaker, we couldn't agree more. That's why we're opening that ninth trade office, Mr. Speaker, and we're not going to apologize for that, Mr. Speaker.

And we are going to continue to look for opportunities, Mr. Speaker, in countries all around the world. We know that 70 per cent of everything we grow and make in this province, Mr. Speaker, that goes outside of international borders. So, Mr. Speaker, it's a key principle of business: you've got to go where your customers are. And we're doing that, Mr. Speaker. We've got eight trade offices. As I said, we're opening that ninth in Berlin, one of the largest economies in the world, Mr. Speaker. And so we're looking forward to representing our producers, our manufacturers, our miners, in that massive economy in Germany, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I talked about all the kilometres I've put on this summer. And as I said, I'm still missing three constituencies in my collection, so I'll get there, Mr. Speaker. But you know, Mr. Speaker, I've met some really fantastic

people along the way this summer. And that's why I want to talk about that middle part of growth that works for everyone. It's work, right? It takes work to do this. It doesn't just happen, Mr. Speaker.

And when I meet small-business owners like Ryan in Maple Creek, Mr. Speaker; when I meet mayors like Bruce in Creighton, Mr. Speaker; when I meet producers like Kent and Mark in Marysburg, or Murray in Atwater, Mr. Speaker, these are people who work every single day in their respective fields, Mr. Speaker. They are working hard to provide for their communities, for their families, for their businesses, Mr. Speaker. And they expect a government that's going to work for them. And, Mr. Speaker, I can say this: this is a government that's working hard to improve life here in Saskatchewan.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, I was thinking about this a couple of weekends ago. And again I spend a lot of time on the road, so I was driving, I think, one night and . . . Oh, I was in P.A. [Prince Albert], Mr. Speaker. I was driving home and it was late. And I was trying to stay focused; I didn't want to hit a moose or anything. But you know, I was thinking what ties, what kind of ties all these people together? What does Murray in Atwater have in common with Ryan in Maple Creek and Jeremy in Battleford, Mr. Speaker? Why is our government so focused on growth that works for everyone? Why has our government produced a white paper talks about drawing the line and defending that line, Mr. Speaker? Why is that important?

You know, Mr. Speaker, when I think about it, all these people in every section of the province, in every sector that I've met people, Mr. Speaker, you know what they want? They want a hope. They want a future. That's what they're looking for. They're asking themselves questions every day, every week: do I have a hope and a future in this province? Do my kids have a hope and a future in this province? Do my grandchildren have a hope and a future in this province?

You know, Mr. Speaker, when our government talks about drawing the line, when our government talks about restoring Saskatchewan autonomy over natural resource development, over immigration, Mr. Speaker, you know why we're doing that? It's not about Prime Minister Trudeau. It's not about the federal Liberals, Mr. Speaker. They're certainly not helping, they're certainly not helping, Mr. Speaker, but it is about the people in our province, Mr. Speaker. It is about Dan and Vicki in Consul, Mr. Speaker. It's about Murray in Atwater, it's about Jerry in North Battleford. It's about people that we meet and talk to every single day, Mr. Speaker, who are looking for that hope and a future.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I certainly believe that we have a strong hope and a future here in Saskatchewan. That's why I'm supporting the motion for the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

**Mr. Dennis:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair of Committees. I would just like to say this is going to a tough act to follow, a positive, great speech. And I thought I was going to following the NDP, but it would have made my speech look that much

better.

Anyways, hon. members, ladies and gentlemen, people of Saskatchewan, it's truly an honour to stand up here today and represent our province and support the Throne Speech moved by the member from Walsh Acres, seconded by the member from Athabasca.

At a time of turmoil and change, maintaining and strengthening relations between both people and their representatives must be a high priority for us all. As a member of the Legislative Assembly representing Canora-Pelly, I'd like you to know that I am here for the most . . . to represent my constituents and the people of Saskatchewan. Recognizing that so many issues, your opinions and concerns are a high priority, I'm here to work collaboratively with you and ensure you that we have a system that treats everybody fairly while putting people first.

[21:15]

I'd also like to first of all thank my family. My wife over all these years has been so supportive for me in a new career that sometimes she questions me and keeps me in line. She's a lot better than the opposition on that side some days.

Also my kids, Jasmine, Jade, and Carson who all live in Saskatchewan, who went to school, came back to work in Saskatchewan. My two daughters are living in Regina and my son in Melville. And I have three wonderful grandchildren — Lewis, Oliver, and Henrik — and I just love them so much. And it's just a pleasure to come to work and be able to actually run away and see them today in their little costumes and everything else, so it was great to see them.

Mr. Speaker, Wednesday's Throne Speech laid out a plan that will continue to grow the growth of our province, and it will work for everyone. We want to build a stronger, safer, healthier, better educated, and more independent Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, our strong economy will be allowing our province to continue to grow, and we should hit 1.2 million by the end of 2022.

Mr. Speaker, 20,000 more people are working in Saskatchewan this year over last year. Our unemployment rate is the lowest at 4.1 per cent, the lowest in Canada. We continue to see private investments of over 16 billion just this year alone. Investments in potash, oil, gas, and agriculture continue to grow, along with the need of more employees. This fall over 650 workers have started to work again in McArthur River's uranium mine and Key Lake mill in northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there is an expansion and builds in canola crushing plants. A brand new one is being built in Regina starting in July of 2022 at Cargill, \$350 million project which will crush over a million tonnes annually. Right in my home constituency in Canora-Pelly, the Yorkton Richardson announced an expansion that will double the production to over 2 million metric tonnes of canola per year. This is great news, creating new jobs and allowing the farmers in my area to expand their canola production.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing increased building permits, construction investments, housing starts, and trade strengthening that will help our families, workers, and communities. This is

growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, we recently announced the four-point affordability plan. In November we will deliver a \$500 cheque to everyone 18 years and older. We will exempt fitness and gym memberships and other activities from PST [provincial sales tax]. We will continue to extend the reduction on small-business tax. And most important of all, we have paid down the debt \$1 billion, saving \$50 million a year on interest alone. This will all be done by balancing the budget four years early. This is all due to stronger tax revenues and higher resources, which we are sharing with the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, our strong economy and strong finances allow us to make much-needed investments in health care. This year we set a target of 97,000 surgeries. This will be done through an agreement with partnerships of private surgical providers and increasing public-funded surgeries. We'll also open up an in-patient joint replacement clinic in Regina by the end of 2023. This, along with the new urgent care centre in Regina that is under construction along with the new urgent care one that'll be built in Saskatoon, should help reduce wait times in the emergency room.

Mr. Speaker, health care has been a struggle over the past few years, not only for Saskatchewan but across Canada and North America, and they're mainly due to shortages of staff causing bypasses and temporary delays. Mr. Speaker, in September my government released a four-point health action plan to help address these. We'll be spending more than \$60 million to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care providers.

We will also add 1,000 health care workers to our province. This will be done by recruiting in the Philippines this fall to promote them to come to Saskatchewan, introducing the first Canada acceleration program to license international-educated nurses, and a \$50,000 incentive program to attract health care workers to hard-to-recruit rural and remote areas, and also create 100 permanent full-time positions in Saskatchewan and also convert 150 part-time positions to full-time. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that these incentive changes are already paying off, especially in my constituency in Canora-Pelly.

On July 14th in Kamsack it was a tough, tough decision to close the five remaining beds due to shortage of staff. This of course was not popular with many people that showed up to demonstrate and voice their concerns. And contrary to what the member from Regina Rosemont said earlier about me shuffling and moving away, that was a long day. And I, along with the Health minister, we stood up in front of approximately 300 people and vowed that we would work hard to restore services. And I would say that maybe some of that shuffle was when the NDP were closing their over 50 hospitals. I think that's where part of the shuffle came for Rosemont.

Today I'm happy to say that Kamsack is hiring six nurses. Emergency services have already expanded, and in early November we'll be opening four alternative-level beds and one palliative bed. This is all great news, and we'll continue to work hard to restore and stabilize all the services in Kamsack and area.

Mr. Speaker, in October we posted over 100 full-time health care jobs. CCA [continuing care aide], X-ray, lab techs, medical and



radiation techs are all needed across the province. As we fill these positions, we'll restore the services. We have added 150 nursing seats, totalling 944, more than doubling it since we took office. This year alone we've added over 100 new physician positions, and we're also adding another 150 new addiction treatment spaces over the next three years.

Mr. Speaker, we're investing more money in mental health and addiction services: 470 million or 7 per cent of the total health care budget. This will help us to continue programs expanding the rapid process counselling program and the mental health capacity building in our schools. We'll be expanding the number of detox spaces around the province.

Mr. Speaker, we'll also invest over \$150 million on infrastructure, continuing building new hospitals, long-term care homes in Meadow Lake and planning new care homes in Grenfell and La Ronge, as well replacing homes in Watson and Estevan. Construction of a new hospital in Weyburn and expansion and redevelopment of one in P.A. is under way. Also some planning is moving forward in Yorkton.

Mr. Speaker, all of the work increasing our commitment to health care and increasing service and new infrastructure is being done by our strong growth in the economy increasing revenues. This is growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, this year has been a great year for farmers right across Canada and Saskatchewan. My constituency has had one of the best crop years in a long time. Amazing yields and high commodity prices is great news, not only for our farmers but other countries around the world that depend on our high quality of food grown right here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the strength of our agriculture is attracting investment around the world. Cargill is investing \$350 million in a canola crushing plant at the Global Transportation Hub west of Regina. Federated Co-op and AGT Foods are building a \$2 billion integrated agriculture complex in Regina area. This joint venture will include \$360 million canola crushing and supply feedstock to a new renewable diesel plant. AGT Foods is constructing a new processing plant near Aberdeen. And right in Saskatoon Great Western Brewing is investing \$40 million, expanding the brewery right in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to support agriculture in Saskatchewan. Our AgriStability compensation rates have increased from 70 per cent to 80 per cent, and we've signed a new five-year agreement. The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership with the federal government and all the provinces will help the farmers with growth and competitiveness; climate change and environment; science, research, and innovation; market development and trade; resiliency and public trust.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan will continue to be a world leader in agriculture. It has sequestered 13 million tonnes of carbon into its ag soils. We will continue to maximize our production in a sustainable manner.

We continue supporting farmers and recently provided the most comprehensive crop insurance coverage in Saskatchewan history at \$405 an acre and a 48 per cent increase over 2021.

Mr. Speaker, we'll be addressing the shortage of veterinary services around the province. We'll be increasing seats in Sask Polytechnic and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Along with that, we will also be implementing a rural veterinarian loan-forgiveness program. These are continued investments in our agriculture and in Saskatchewan that'll help. This is growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, SaskPower continues to work expanding on renewable energy. This is SaskPower's work on further development, and wind and solar projects are being built in the southwest Saskatchewan. SaskPower is also purchasing electricity from two solar-power projects by the George Gordon First Nation and Star Blanket Cree Nation that is built by Weyburn.

SaskPower is also expanding its natural gas generation capacity. Next year the Great Plains power station will be opening near Moose Jaw which will make 11 natural gas facilities in Saskatchewan. They are also planning on developing small nuclear reactors with the hopes to have them operating by 2029 if, you know, if they move forward, potentially in sites in Estevan and Elbow areas.

Mr. Speaker, with Saskatchewan's economy growing, we need not only to grow it, but we need to take steps to protect it and defend it from the unwanted interference of our federal government. Thus we've introduced the Saskatchewan first Act. This will help us protect our resources, take control of our immigration, and collect our own taxes. This is needed to move forward so that Saskatchewan can continue to grow its economy to its potential.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is one of the world's top exporters, shipping 70 per cent of what we produce around the world. With these opportunities to continue in growth, we need to open trade offices to further support and grow Saskatchewan's industries. We have offices in Mexico, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, India, Singapore, China, Vietnam, and Japan, helping Saskatchewan businesses with customers and trying to attract investment to our province. And I'm proud to announce that we'll soon be opening an office in Germany.

Mr. Speaker, February of 2022 the world watched the horror as Russia invaded the neighbouring country of Ukraine. Saskatchewan's always welcomed newcomers, so this was an opportunity to provide safety for people escaping violence and chaos in Ukraine. Mr. Speaker, about a year ago I had the honour to be asked by the Premier to be the Legislative Secretary for Ukrainian Relations. And I would say it was an interesting conversation. The Premier asked me, and of course it was quite the honour. And as I quickly accepted it, he goes, can I ask you one question? How is Dennis Ukrainian? And I said, well, actually I'm full Ukrainian. Dennis, when my grandparents came over, it was D-e-n-y-c. And of course they changed it when they come in through the immigration law, and then on my mother's side is Klimuik. So they both grew up in the Canora area.

[21:30]

So it was quite an honour for me to be part of this. And this duty escalated with the war breaking out and the need for the province to step up. And I was quite honoured and asked to go to Berlin,

where thousands of Ukrainians had fled and they were in camps. And we needed to see what we could do to help speed up the process of transporting our Ukrainians to Saskatchewan. I spent four days touring camps, train stations, meeting with Ukrainian people, and meeting with the government of Germany. We found out things that we needed when we're going to accept them to our province, things that they did, things that we can do better, you know, just to welcome these families, and kind of what to watch out for. For example, the first couple of weeks there was sex-trade traffickers targeting women and children. And we just wanted to make sure we got everything right in Saskatchewan, and obviously we have.

Our Saskatchewan government team along with UCC [Ukrainian Canadian Congress] in Saskatchewan, we put together this plan and we received our first plane on July 4th. It came from Warsaw, Poland. It was in a partnership with our government, Solidaire, and Open Arms. On that day over 200 men, women, and children walked off that plane to start a new life in Saskatchewan.

You know, after touring Berlin in Germany and watching these kids lay around in camps, laying on their bags and not being able to go home, and seeing them come off those steps, I had tears in my eyes. And it was pretty emotional just to see them coming off to safety, seeing the kids, the grandparents ready to start a new life.

Well we were prepared. We provided them with comfortable lodging in the U of R. And there was food waiting for them, and the service was simply amazing, and emotional. They were there for about 10 to 14 days, and it was good. We had things right. We set everything up. We had the one-stop shop fair. We helped them out with social insurance numbers, health cards, driver's licence, banking, housing, income paperwork, jobs, and much, much more.

And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, on August 10th when the second flight came in, Solidaire and Open Arms were there again. And even better, we signed an MOU [memorandum of understanding]. The Premier signed an MOU. They were so impressed with the job we did with humanitarian work with the Ukrainians, they signed an MOU for a total of five planes.

And we just last week, we had our third plane come in. And I was joined by the Minister of Trade and Export, my colleagues from Martensville-Warman, Melville-Saltcoats, Regina Pasqua, and Regina Coronation Park watching 236 men, women, and over 60 children come in. And those who attended, it is something to see. And I would say to the rest of the people in this room, it's something that we should all see and be part of. And I would invite the opposition to show up maybe. You haven't yet.

So far we've had over 2,300 Ukrainians that have come to Canora since the war . . . Saskatchewan. Sorry — Canora person. And we'll continue to help out with jobs, housing, and putting children into school and being safe in our province.

On Sunday, just before I came here, we had a busload of 44 Ukrainians come on tour to rural Saskatchewan. They did Melville, Yorkton, and Canora where I toured them around, showed them what life in Saskatchewan is, what our province looks like, and they were quite impressed. And I'm hoping . . . We have five families in Canora so far and I think there's many

more to come. It's just great to see that they're happy and relaxed.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Solidaire, Open Arms, UCC Saskatchewan, SURAC [Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations advisory committee], nine welcoming centres across Saskatchewan, our Saskatchewan government response team which was fabulous in all this planning, and most of all, all the people of Saskatchewan for their continued help in welcoming these displaced Ukrainians. And we will continue to welcome them as long as we can. Slava Ukraine.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's an honour to be on my feet and to put some comments on the record here, my remarks in response to the Speech from the Throne. Before I get there, I'll start off like many members do and to say a few thank yous. And I'm going to start and end my comments this evening just by saying thank you and reflecting on the needs of my constituents in Saskatoon Eastview.

You know, I don't think the folks in Eastview are that different than folks in a lot of places in Saskatchewan. You know, it's an interesting riding. It's a riding that's been represented by politicians from many different parties over the years, and I'm certainly honoured and fortunate to represent the people of Eastview here in this Assembly and this legislature.

And that was really impressed on me throughout the spring, summer, and fall as I spent a lot of time out chatting with constituents, with families, individuals, seniors, folks living in Eastview. I spent a lot of time catching up over the summer months as I'm sure many of us did. Knocked on a lot of doors with my team and I had a lot of conversations. And I'll say that the direction of this government as laid out in the Throne Speech simply doesn't align, doesn't come close to the concerns, the wishes, the worries, the excitement that I heard from folks in Eastview. So I won't be supporting the Speech from the Throne because I simply don't think that it meets the needs of the folks that I represent today.

The summer months spent . . . Other than door knocking, of course, and the by-election, I spent a lot of time in Meewasin. And you know, I didn't hear a lot of different stuff in Meewasin than I hear in Eastview. But during the summer I did get out and we were hand delivering our newsletter, summer newsletter instead of, you know, paying Canada Post to deliver it. We went and delivered it by hand to as many houses that we could get to. And you know, heard the very real concerns. Folks asking questions about cost of living, affording life in the province today. Questions about health care. Questions about education, and especially at the time school budgets were coming out and we saw these additional fees that school divisions were forced to apply due to the just incredible lack of investment into our classrooms coming from this government. Those are the real concerns that we heard, and I'll share more about those later.

But I want to thank my constituents for meeting with me on the doorstep, meeting with me in seniors' homes, meeting with me in Market Mall where my office is located and sharing with me their hopes and concerns for this province. Of course, when I did that I was joined with an incredible team of constituency

assistants on many days chatting with folks in the mall and around the community. And I want to say thank you to those folks. I've got an awesome team, but it's changed a bit over the last few months. My full-time constituency assistant, Katie, she's on maternity leave. So she left my office mid-June — a little earlier than expected, but she became a first-time mom to a very happy and healthy little boy. He is adorable. They came by the office about two weeks ago. We brought in pizza and had all of the staff together for lunch, and that was awesome to meet her little guy and to say congratulations. And I sure am looking forward to the day when she's able to come back and we'll be able to work together again.

I also want to say thank you to Judy. Judy works in my office on Mondays. She handles most of the financials, but Judy is just a wealth of knowledge and wisdom. She's worked in many offices around Saskatoon for a number of MLAs, and she's particularly excellent to work with as critic for Seniors as she's got lots of experience with that file.

Throughout the summer I also had another CA come to work with me. She worked in a few other offices, but Liz Donnison, just an outstanding individual. We did a lot of outreach together and she spent a lot of time working in the office. Fantastic on casework and just full of wisdom. I found I'd often go to Liz and just get a real strong and informed opinion on any number of issues.

And finally I want to say thank you to Julia. Julia helped organize a lot of the outreach that we did around the constituency, setting up meetings in group homes and seniors' residences, different events around Eastview. And Julia is a university student who is just a real bright individual, you know, wisdom beyond her years and very thankful for her time in my office this summer and happy to say she's continuing to put in some hours throughout the school year while she gets back to full-time studies.

The next people I want to say thank you to, as many of us do, is my support at home, my family: my wife, Emma, and my three children, Myles, Tom, and Etta. Now many members will remember that my wife and my two boys were able to join us here on Throne Speech day. And I don't know if that's uncommon but I'd encourage, you know, any members. It was a good experience for them. I'm not sure that they'll do it again. You know, they had to sit very quietly, and you know, the kids are young. But they . . . I was very proud of their behaviour, I will say. I wasn't 100 per cent confident in how that would go, but they did great. And it's always an honour to bring our families into this place.

I want to say thank you to Emma for just being the best partner an MLA could ask for and just the best support for me in this work. More importantly for being a person that I look up to, that I go to for wisdom, and she's just my absolute rock. And I love her and I want to thank her for her support in this job.

I also want to start early on in my remarks here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with sharing members opposite. We've said many times in our few days to start this session, condolences and support for James Smith Cree Nation. The tragedy that took place there and at Weldon, Saskatchewan really shook our province, shook our families, the families of my colleagues in opposition and, I know, the families in government that were really shaken up with this

news. And of course the impact on the communities is just beyond imaginable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had the honour of spending a day at James Smith Cree Nation to join with the community, the chiefs, and the leaders and also to spend a day with my colleague from Saskatoon Centre who was there providing support to the community throughout the ordeal. It was powerful on that day when the big press conference was taking place and the Premier was there and the member from Melfort was there to hear words of forgiveness, words of forgiveness from the leaders. Those words of forgiveness were mixed in with pleas for help, pleas for support, and pleas to follow through on promises.

And today my challenge to the Assembly today is that we don't simply make our statements in here about the tragedy and congratulate ourselves for saying things in here, but that we continue to be mindful of the impact of those events in our province on the communities of Weldon and James Smith Cree Nation.

And I say this as somebody who's been through a similar tragedy in my life. In April of 2014 I lost a family member, a cousin who was killed in a mass stabbing in Calgary. At that time it was the worst mass stabbing event in Canadian history. Of course the events here in Saskatchewan were worse. I lost a cousin in that event, but I take out of that my experience and the experience of my family. It was my cousin Josh, son of Kelly and Barclay Hunter.

But what I take out of that event is how much it meant to my family and to the other affected families. There was five university students who were killed on the last day of classes at a very small gathering. But how much it meant to my family to have leaders not just show up once or not just show up at the funerals and memorial services, which they did — you know, Mayor Nenshi was there; others were there; that meant a lot — but to have those leaders continue to show up weeks later, months later, and now even years later to show that family that that support is still there, that they haven't forgotten. And how important that was to my aunt and uncle, to my grandmother, and to everyone in our family. It is my reminder to this Assembly that we don't just make statements and move on.

[21:45]

I also want to remind the Assembly that on that day at James Smith Cree Nation our Premier was given a medallion, and it was a meaningful exchange. He was given a medallion and a task, and that task was to keep his promises to the First Nation. That was the task that came with the exchange of the medallion: to keep his promises. Part of that work falls to us in opposition. I know that my colleagues, my Indigenous colleagues, will do this work, and also they have all of our support to ensure that this government is held to account to keep their promises to Indigenous people in Saskatchewan.

As for the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I won't be supporting this Speech from the Throne. I think it falls short on addressing the real pressing issues that Saskatchewan people are facing, the pressing issues that I've heard on the doorsteps around Eastview throughout the summer and fall. We see a lot of recycling in this Throne Speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, recycling

of old announcements, old promises, old commitments. And I'll take my time to talk about that as it relates to some of my critic areas.

I'll start with education. To talk about education in Saskatchewan I need to start by thanking the teachers, the school staff, the administrators, the cleaning staff, the support staff, the EAs [educational assistant], division leaders, trustees, school boards left to make the real tough decisions, and all the folks of this province that make education work.

Our best hope is well-funded, adequately funded, sustainably funded, publicly funded education in the province of Saskatchewan. I think a teacher from Regina put it best when he posed this statement to our minister at a gathering just last week, and the teacher said to the minister, "I love my job but you guys sure make it hard to do."

Teachers around this province are giving everything that they have, literally everything that they have to serve their students, to serve their communities. They make up the debt in education that this government has created with years of underfunding. It's been a decade of underfunding education in this province, and teachers are left to make up the difference.

They make it up by paying for things out of pocket. They pay for supplies. They pay for things in their classroom. They pay for things that their students need for learning and growth to move forward, out of pocket, because they're in that role as teacher to serve their communities. And they do it so well.

But they also pay out of this emotional debt that is created when teachers give more than they have, when they continue to give their energy, their time, and their emotions to serve children and youth in this province. That's creating a debt in our teachers, and we see that as burnout. But it doesn't just happen like that. It happens over years — months, years, and weeks. And I talked to a teacher recently who shared with me about a very difficult breakdown in their mental health. And it comes from this burnout and this debt of emotionally and physically draining work on teachers.

So I want to start by thanking all those folks who make our education system work. And I want them to know that they have supporters and advocates here in the official opposition for adequate, sustainably well-funded public education.

Now in the Throne Speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we saw a couple interesting commitments. First of all we saw a statement off the top that says, despite what the Minister of Education said when this budget was released and said that inflation doesn't affect school division budgets, the first line under the subheading of education: "Inflation has also put pressure on school division budgets." It's a complete reversal. And I know that he's tried to walk back those statements, but it just goes to show how out of touch this minister is with the realities facing schools.

The next statement in the Throne Speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was a commitment to a new model of online learning that "... will improve learning opportunities for all Saskatchewan students by allowing students to enrol in all courses offered in our province, regardless of where they live."

You know, as far as this issue goes, it's a bit of a breath of fresh air because up until this point, the only explanation that I've heard from this minister: use the word "efficiencies" over and over and over again. There's been no indication this will be good for learning, and it's creating chaos in the education system as no one is getting answers that they need of how this system will be rolled out. It was a complete surprise to every division that I've talked to. And again we see a government rolling out things hastily that's creating more questions than answers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'll move on to another critic area: rural health. You know, you'd think that earlier this summer we had, in just one month, 37 closures of hospitals, service disruptions in health care in the province. You'd think that with that much chaos in just one month that we'd see some major investment and serious action. But that's not what we see in this Throne Speech. It's not what we see coming from this government. In fact their plan, their four-point plan to recruit and retain health care workers has . . . Nearly 50 per cent of its points are recycled from previous announcements that they've made. Fifty per cent is good content for recycled toilet paper but not for a health care plan.

We see a complete lack of consultation with health care workers in the province. After this plan came out that's referenced in the Throne Speech, we saw health care workers, those heroes that have got us through the last two-plus years of a pandemic, who weren't even asked, weren't even included. They didn't even go to those front-line workers or nurses or LPNs [licensed practical nurse] or care aides or hospital staff. They didn't even go to them to develop this plan.

Now we've heard a lot of mention of the situation in Kamsack, and it's interesting that it's also referenced here in the Throne Speech because I understand, you know, it would have been very embarrassing for the government to have that situation, a very embarrassing situation where the local MLA and the Minister for Rural and Remote Health are literally booed by the people that they represent, booed by the people, because they simply don't have answers to a problem.

Folks want health care where they need it, when they need it. And when they show up without answers and tell the folks, you can just simply drive down the road to Canora, it is not good enough. And then that's followed up by going to visit Canora and find a poster on the door that says, if you need help go to Kamsack. I mean it's just the kind of incompetence that you would never expect out of any level of government.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also had a chance when I was in Kamsack to go visit and chat with some older adults at Eaglestone Lodge. They told me the same thing that I hear from seniors at St. Volodymyr's in Eastview or St. Ann's in Eastview. They're concerned about the state of our health care system.

They want to know that when they go to a hospital, they're going to get the help that they need, that that's going to be available to them. They hear stories. They read the news. They're informed. And they know that if they were to have the unfortunate need of taking an ambulance to a hospital in Saskatoon, the likelihood that they would sit in the hallway for hours and hours and hours is incredibly likely. And these folks that I've talked to, whether it's in Kamsack or in Eastview, that doesn't pass for them.

They're not satisfied with that level of leadership in our health care coming from this government, from that health care minister.

Now one thing that I found of interest in the Throne Speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, was the following quote. The following quote says . . . When it comes to planning for the future of long-term care, it says, "Planning continues . . . on new long-term care facilities in Grenfell and La Ronge and on replacement long-term care facilities in Watson and Estevan. Now the interesting thing here is I'm reading this from last year's Throne Speech, and it was the exact same phrase in this year's Throne Speech, word for word, copied and pasted from last year's. Now if this is the pace that this government is moving to serve seniors and older adults in our province, then they better give their head a shake. That's not good enough.

One other thing that stuck out to me on the issue of affordability, and this one I'm just raising because personally it's kind of funny. You know, we were raising this alarm last spring after the budget came out over the health tax — taxing fitness, taxing folks who want to go to a gym, be healthy, improve their fitness — and it didn't make sense to us that that would have PST added to it. Well I see here under affordability plan, "continue to exempt fitness and gym memberships." Well that's all good and well, but they're taking credit for something that they had just tried to implement months earlier. And I'll remind this Assembly that when I stood here and asked the government not to implement this tax, I was called an idiot by someone opposite. I was called a name. I was personally attacked for doing this very thing. Again the kind of mind-numbing incompetence that just blows my mind.

Let's get to a couple other issues here before I try and wrap up, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, a big reason why I won't be supporting this Throne Speech is it continues what I've seen in the history from this Sask Party government, and that is putting politics ahead of people, playing political games instead of solving the real problems that Saskatchewan people face every day. I have two pieces of evidence to bring forward for this particular claim, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Politics over people, exhibit A: taking credit for our current economic outlook. And I'm going to go to a piece written in the *Leader-Post* and *StarPhoenix* recently by Phil Tank, who I think does a good job with this. So I'm going to quote from Phil Tank, who's providing some analysis on the situation. He says:

Some of the great economic news needs to be viewed by considering that the province's economy has been mired in the doldrums for several years. In other words, some of that growth is merely digging out of a hole.

The writer goes on to say the report that the government likes to quote their economic numbers from, in terms of the forecast, is actually titled *Nowhere to Go but Up*. It indicates that this government has led us to some of the worst economic performance in the country year after year after year, and now the report is literally called *Nowhere to Go but Up*. And they quote from that like they're proud of that record. That is shameful, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'll continue on from the article that I'm quoting. And he says,

" . . . if the same government wants credit for prosperous times, it should bear a similar degree of responsibility for down times." And this is where we're at with this government. I'm shocked that they can hear our heckles from this side of the House over the sound of patting themselves on the back over and over again. It's amazing to watch the self-congratulatory behaviour that goes on when we've been at the bottom of economic performance in the country five out of the last seven years. I believe it's somewhere in that area. And yet they celebrate it like they've done all of this.

The reality is, as Phil Tank goes on to say, "And, as most people are aware, Saskatchewan's surging economy owes more to Vladimir Putin than Moe. The Russian dictator's invasion of Ukraine . . ." Which we all stood up unanimously against here, absolutely. We stood together, the members from both sides, at this illegal, unethical invasion of Ukraine. It is wrong and we stood in unison against it. But Phil Tank goes on to say that that " . . . invasion of Ukraine has created chaos for the global economy, but has benefited key Saskatchewan industries due to an increase in commodity prices."

I've heard our own Premier acknowledge this. In a few moments of honesty in interviews, he said that he acknowledges that this invasion of Ukraine has led to the spike and has nothing to do with his leadership. Good to hear. But this government is like a friend who will take you out for dinner and then take credit for the delicious meal that they absolutely had no hand in preparing, and then they'll dash out the door and leave you to pay the bill.

The cost being left for Saskatchewan families, driving up the cost of living while they pile on with 32 new taxes and fees, making life more expensive for Saskatchewan families — even in times of soaring windfall resource revenue — is unfortunately the kind of leadership that Saskatchewan people have come to expect out of this tired government.

[22:00]

Let's move on to exhibit B. Exhibit B, the white paper autonomy sideshow. Now this would normally be the part of my speech tonight where I come up with some witty remarks on the obscenely partisan public relations dumpster fire that this government has been engaging in. Luckily for me though, I don't have to come up with the witty remarks because they've already been written. They've already been written by their own, you know, conservative friends who have looked at what this government has put out and has lambasted it. You know, journalists, politicians across the country, they've had a field day with this sideshow calling it sloppy, asking where the adults are, and labelling this whole process as both insane and unserious.

I'd like to read a few quotes coming from Howard Anglin, who wrote about this and said, "*Drawing the Line* is a new low in political communications in Canada. It is doubtful that any government in the history of confederation — federal, provincial, or municipal — has published something so badly written."

You know, I could read the whole thing into the record. I don't think I'll do that, but you know it actually just gets worse from there. I'll give one more quote here since I've got lots of time left: "At times the report reads like the original draft in Finnish was run through Google Translate; at other times it barely reads

at all.”

I mean this isn't serious governing, is it? If we're going to put out this kind of stuff that gets lambasted across the country by your conservative friends, it's hard to imagine that this is the best work of a serious government trying to solve problems that real people in Saskatchewan are facing.

You know, I also want to come back to that medallion. That medallion that was given to the Premier to uphold his promises — his promises to First Nations, Indigenous communities. And one response to this Throne Speech that I think needs to be read in this Assembly comes from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. Mr. Deputy Speaker, in this Assembly, like all people in Saskatchewan, we are all treaty people. We believe, we believe in this agreement to share the land and to share its wealth.

But here we have, and I'll read a quote. This comes from a CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] article posted October 28th:

Despite the length of time the government has been considering the changes, Saskatchewan's Office of the Treaty Commissioner says that they are not in the interest of citizens, governments, industry, or treaty rights holders, and “offends the Treaty and inherent rights of Indigenous people.”

In a statement released on Thursday [of last week], the office said “there continues to be no consideration to the impacts of implementing these measures to First Nation inherent rights to access those resources,” calling it a “complete disregard of obligations and infringement of Treaty.”

How is this the work of a serious government if they ignore their treaty obligation in the province of Saskatchewan? This is not serious leadership. It's what the pundits have called sloppy and embarrassing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'll close by getting back to my constituents in Eastview. Folks I met on the doorstep I don't think would be impressed with the direction of this government laid out in the Throne Speech.

And we've heard a lot of talk about growth that works for everyone, growth that works for everyone. Well tell that to my constituent who shared with me on the doorstep that he took his sick child to an emergency room, sat there for hours, and then got up and left without getting the care he needed because there was no one there to give him that care.

Tell “growth that works for everyone” to the folks living in parks and in wooded areas — yes, even in Eastview — because of the failed SIS [Saskatchewan income support] program and the leadership that is overseeing it. Tell “growth that works for everyone” to the health care worker in Eastview, single parent who can't afford \$100 to have their child eat lunch at school because of this government's underfunding of education.

Tell “growth that works for everyone” to the parent working two jobs who has to stop at the food bank on their way home to provide for their family. And while you're at it, tell “growth that

works for everyone” to those kids, those kids who make up the 40 per cent of people who use the food bank in this province.

These are the folks that I'm working for, and these folks are the reason that I will not be supporting the Throne Speech and I will be supporting the amendment. Thank you.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

**Mr. Francis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm once again very honoured to have the opportunity to speak in support of this year's Speech from the Throne. This being my fifth year, I found it appropriate to reflect on past speeches, to take a look at theme and content, yes, but also to see how our focus as a government changes from year to year and session to session, and also to recall and measure not only our successes but to acknowledge the areas that we could have performed better. There are certainly instances of both, but I am truly proud of this government. I'm very proud of this group on this side, as well as the group that were here with us pre-2020.

COVID at its peak was obviously a challenging situation to say the least, and very impossible to handle perfectly. But I can honestly say confidently that this government handled it better than anywhere else in the country. Of course that's my opinion, and I'm sure there are several others that disagree and for sure the members opposite, who disagree at every turn. And they are very, very seldom to say anything positive.

But you know, I talk to my constituents, Mr. Speaker, and they frequently tell me the same thing over and over. They say that you guys did the best you could in a very difficult situation that no one was prepared for and that we had a very, very balanced approach, a balanced approach to restrictions, for our vaccination rollout. We tried very, very hard to have balance in all of our decisions from a health perspective, from an economic perspective, and yes, from a political perspective as well. But, Mr. Speaker, the only true way to measure political performance is at the polls, and the 2020 general election once again clearly showed the people of this province prefer our government over the members on that side.

Now admittedly I have been accused of being abrasive and somewhat combative in this House at times. I know that's a shock, I know, but I do consider myself a fair-minded person and I do like to give credit where credit is due. And so I find it appropriate to congratulate the member from Saskatoon Meewasin on his recent by-election win. I know first-hand how daunting it is to come into this place as a newcomer mid-term, and it must be especially difficult to do that alone. So I really do wish him the best of luck as he begins his new career as an MLA.

Now it's rumoured that he has some business experience and reportedly is a bit of a free enterprising entrepreneur type. And it's quite refreshing to see that from someone on that side of the House that possesses those types of skills. I hope he doesn't lose that entrepreneurial spirit and become another “the government shall rule all” type like his colleagues are. And by all accounts thus far it seems he knows the importance of small business in our provincial economy. We'll see if his counterparts try to coach that out of him.

But back to my commentary on how COVID affected — in some cases really shook — and continues to affect the political landscape. Close to home here we see both voluntary and forced leadership changes in neighbouring provinces. We see members leaving their parties and even new parties trying to form.

But here we managed to avoid that, and I believe there are two main reasons that we did. The first is that we have always embraced a team concept. With such a large and diverse group, a team concept can be very difficult, and that's where the second critical component comes in, and that's leadership. This side exemplifies both of those critical components. It's a culture here, and it's a reason we have had resounding majorities over the past 15 years. And it's exactly why the members on that side of the House have been there for 15 years and will remain there for many, many years to come.

Now be assured that our group does not always agree, but we openly discuss the issues and we get to have our input as members. Whether you're rural or urban, male or female, young or old, we have a say on this team. And that's why our Premier considers us the strongest caucus in the nation, and that is also why he continues to be the most popular Premier in the nation.

Now you may wonder why I'm talking about this stuff in a Throne Speech reply. Well the team approach has brought us through some very difficult times over the last five years, and even the last few days. We find ourselves in need of one another's support, and Saskatchewan is a place where people support one another. It's what we do. We support family, friends, our colleagues. We support our neighbours at James Smith Cree First Nation. We support a community and hockey team after a tragic bus accident. From bigger initiatives like supporting folks from Ukraine fleeing a war-torn country to simply helping out a hitchhiker or a stranded traveller in a prairie blizzard, help and support are simply a way of life here in the province.

And now because of this current global crisis, our province is being called upon to provide that help and support on a global scale. The world is desperate for food and energy. Saskatchewan can help feed the hungry with our agri-food and fertilizer products. Saskatchewan can help the world with our energy and technological advancements and innovations. Food and energy security has been so much taken for granted, and lack of foresight, coupled with flawed, virtue-filled climate policy, has put many jurisdictions in a very, very bad place.

Canada should be a leader in helping solve this world crisis, but a federal Liberal government, propped up by a federal NDP, is doubling and tripling down on their own flawed, virtue-signal-filled agenda. In a time where fuel and inflation are already high, the carbon tax is set to be tripled in the new year. That should help a lot. And when the world needs more food, how can a federal government coalition push for less fertilizer use? It makes absolutely no sense, Mr. Speaker. The irony and hypocrisy continues to pile up almost as fast as the federal debt.

You know, it's awfully easy and justifiable to keep blaming the federal Liberal government. They are obviously not Saskatchewan's friend or allies. But it is time to move on, and by move on I don't mean leave the nation. I mean moving forwards towards the pursuit of our own best interests, our own successes, and to be the master of our own destiny. Our Throne Speech is

the document that outlines that path, a path that doesn't exist and can't be followed without a strong economy.

Our provincial economy is arguably the strongest in the nation. That economic strength needs to and will be protected. Without a strong and growing economy, we have nothing. For decades under the NDP, we were a have-not, going-nowhere province. We've showed over the past 15 years that that does not have to be the case ever again. Today we are recognized as a world leader for our products, our people, and our technological advancements, and not your run-of-the-mill products that you can buy from Russia or Saudi Arabia, Mr. Speaker, but ethically and environmentally responsible produced products.

We need to tell our own story, and we will promote ourselves. When we have a prime minister turning away the German chancellor in a time of dire energy need, it is blatantly obvious that virtue prevails over common sense in Ottawa. Saskatchewan will be promoting ourselves, and we will be telling our own story, telling that story every day in our nine world trade offices which, according to the NDP, are a waste of time and money.

I believe the level of private investment coming into our province is once again proving that the NDP continues to have no vision for this province. Yes, our provincial economy is doing well. We are most certainly not insulated from inflation and high interest rates, yes, caused by pandemic pressures for sure, but also the needless and reckless money printing and uncontrolled spending by the Trudeau-Singh coalition. And this is causing extra financial hardship for our residents. So with our resource revenue influx this year, we found it appropriate to share that windfall with Saskatchewan residents.

We firmly believe that the folks that collectively own that resource should share in the benefits provided by the subsequent revenue, so our affordability plan truly shows our government's mission to achieve growth that works for everyone. \$500 tax credit cheques will be arriving soon to those 18 and older to help with rising costs. Extending the small-business tax rate is super important as well. And one item that gets overlooked a lot is the \$1 billion in the reduction of operating debt. That is everyone's debt. Retiring that debt will save us close to \$50 million per year in interest costs, and we have a lot of places to spend \$50 million, Mr. Speaker.

[22:15]

Of course health care has dozens and dozens of good budget initiatives every year, but we realize and saw a need to get a handle on some very glaring deficiencies and backlogs made worse by the pandemic. Surgical wait times and health human resources are a big focus for us. Our strategy is the most aggressive in the nation and is already showing signs of success. We're adding nurse training seats at our post-secondary institutions. We're converting many part-time positions to full-time. We've added 51 family physicians and 56 specialists this past year alone. Interestingly enough — and since it is Halloween — it is very eerie and perhaps spooky that those numbers line up with the number of rural hospitals the NDP closed in the 1990s.

So health care in rural Saskatchewan continues to be a challenge. We obviously need more doctors, nurse practitioners, care aides, pretty much every discipline. So it's great to see our recruitment

strategy has an integrated rural focus component. This is very good news for constituencies like mine.

And I really should publicly thank the Minister of Rural and Remote Health for coming to my constituency this summer to tour some of our facilities. Most recently we toured Kerrobert, Kindersley, and Eston health centres, as well as Eatonias Oasis Living personal care home, to get a first-hand look and engage with local staff and leadership so we could get their input.

And earlier this summer we visited Prairie Sky Recovery Centre in Leipzig, which just had their grand opening for their Starlight House women's addiction recovery residence. It's a simply wonderful facility in my constituency ran by wonderful people, a Catholic convent purchased by a family from Alberta several years ago and turned into a private addiction centre in the tiny little community of Leipzig, the place where my grandmother was raised, interesting enough. And there would be nothing left of this little hamlet if it wasn't for Prairie Sky. I was happy to attend their celebration a couple of weeks ago, along with the members from Cut Knife-Turtleford and Biggar-Sask Valley. Mr. Speaker, mental health and addictions supports continue to be an important area of focus for our government.

Inflation affects us all and school divisions are no exception. High fuel and insurance costs have continued to be problematic. So our government responded with an additional \$20 million to help ease that pressure. Our government continues to provide record spending in education. This year's operating funding has now topped the \$2 billion mark for the first time in history.

Although we receive nothing but continued criticism and negativity from members opposite — and their friends, the media — it's pretty evident that this government does indeed value education. And we also value the students, faculty, and staff working in those schools and institutions. Those are also our kids, our neighbours and their kids, and our friends in our communities. I wish the NDP would stop villainizing to score political points, but I'm sure that's not going to happen.

On top of this we continue to fund education infrastructure — 15 new schools announced and construction started on 3, with 12 in procurement and design stages. We're also on the cusp of a breakthrough on online learning. The pandemic forced the system, students and teachers, to learn and teach differently. While a big challenge, it's proving to be a great opportunity for students to take courses they actually want or need regardless of where they live, a continued effort from our government to assist in the system being a friendly and safe learning environment.

And while speaking of safety, the Throne Speech made specific mention of our government's commitment to ensure the safety of families and communities. Several initiatives under the protective services branch umbrella will make our community safer: traffic response team, the warrant enforcement suppression team, crime reductions teams, the Saskatchewan marshals service, all measures to aid and enhance our existing enforcement services. Measures that will help avoid future tragedies like at James Smith and Weldon.

Now under the guise of public safety, our federal government is punishing law-abiding gun owners instead of targeting the real problem — violent offenders that steal guns and commit crimes.

Again we will take lead action on reducing the real problem while also defending the rights of lawful and responsible firearms' owners.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again we find ourselves at the mercy of misguided and even malicious attacks on our provincial rights. Over the last seven years, over and over we are pushed and pulled and roadblocks put in front of us, our goalpost moved, forced to jump higher, keep jumping higher every time the bar raises at every level of commitment we meet. We're ready to say, enough is enough. Arbitrary targets under the cloak of failed climate policy do nothing to address their perceived goals. It's time to put Saskatchewan first, to put our economic future first, and to put Saskatchewan people first.

Mr. Speaker, I've spoken with a lot of people over the summer and they want and expect things from their governments. People want fairness from a federal government and in that absence they expect us at a provincial level to defend them and their rights as Saskatchewan residents, as Canadian residents under the Charter. And that is what we will do. We will defend our Charter rights over property. We'll defend our jurisdictional authority over our resource development. And if we don't, the growth for everyone is replaced by the collective misery we see and hear in past and current members of the NDP.

Before I close out my comments, I want to thank my family for their support. Every member in here depends on support at home in order to serve in this House. Thank you to my CAs, Rita, Maxine, and Cathy. You gals are at the heart of serving our constituency and are appreciated more than you know.

I would also like to thank a couple of members of our caucus staff who have recently moved on to bigger and better things. John Saltasuk and Karalee McLeod were the go-to people when I first got elected. They were so helpful to me and, I have to assume, every other member that worked with them over the past 10 years. So a big thanks and wishing them good luck to both John and Karalee.

And of course the new staff, Ang, Jana, LeeAnne, Shelby joined Kim, Chris, Nulee, and Troy to a new team. It's new people and new challenges as we kick off this new session. So good luck to everyone in the caucus office as we move forward in the next few weeks.

In closing I want to refer to a few of the comments from the Lieutenant Governor in his conclusion in the Throne Speech, and I quote:

Today, there are many reasons to be optimistic about Saskatchewan's future.

People are coming to our province from around the world, looking for opportunity and a better life.

He spoke about our world-class energy sectors, manufacturing sectors, and processing and technology sectors. And again I'll quote:

In a world plunged into uncertainty, Saskatchewan is a reliable, indispensable supplier of food, fuel and fertilizer . . .



Mr. Speaker, we live in a world desperate for all three of those things. And the last quote I'll give, and I think it's very key:

My government is charting a course that ensures our economy continues to grow and that everyone in Saskatchewan benefits from that growth.

Mr. Speaker, I support the motion put forward and seconded by my friends and esteemed colleagues from Regina Walsh Acres and Athabasca. I will not be supporting the amendment put forward by the member opposite. Thank you.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — I recognize the member from Melfort.

**Mr. Goudy:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I always seem to get the scissor point in the evening and it's nice. So you know, I just wanted to start off by also congratulating the new member from Saskatoon Meewasin. And as my softie-toftie friend from Kindersley also said, all the best to you as you represent your people.

I also had gone door to door in that constituency a number of evenings, and you know, heard people at the doors. And it was interesting as I was going door to door there. It was a little more split than my constituency. Most everybody's a Sask Party supporter. I actually never saw an orange sign the whole time I was knocking. But in Saskatoon it was interesting that, you know, there was both sides. And it'll be great to watch as you serve the people who support your ideology and the perspective of the government. And so welcome here, and all the best in moving forward.

And the Leader of the Opposition isn't here too but just wanted to congratulate her. And I've been at a number of events where she was at, and it's always enjoyable to be there and to serve the people that all of us want to see the best for, moving forward. So congratulations to her as well.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the beginning of the Throne Speech dealt with some focus on James Smith. And I had the opportunity to be the MLA that, you know, grew up with a lot of those people, and I had the opportunity to head out. And I don't know if everybody knows what it's like when you're driving out and, like, some of these are friends. Some of them I haven't known. And in all honesty, COVID had separated me from being at James Smith a lot for the two years prior to that, so I hadn't been out at James Smith, you know, as much as I would've wanted to be. And so now I'm on my way out, and you hear all that's gone on.

And I just want to say that the three chiefs of James Smith — we've got Wally Burns and Robert Head and Calvin Sanderson — those three men welcomed me in. And you know, I didn't deserve the grace and the kindness that these men showed to me. They welcomed me in and they . . .

You know, I'll never forget sitting down in Robert Head's office. And who am I? I'm just a guy from Melfort that went to school with some of the people from James Smith, but like, I'm a nobody from Melfort. And all of these things have gone on with their people and their community, and one in Weldon actually who went to the church that I had preached at a number of times.

But I was sitting there like a fly on the wall watching those chiefs, and specifically that day, Robert Head, care for the people. Two teenage girls came down the hallway, and everybody had that shocked look. And he got up from his desk, and I was just so glad that he just forgot I was there, and I was just able to watch as he went over to those girls, and he gave them both a big hug. And he remembered and he discussed, you know, how their family was and people who were out of the community and, "We're going to try and get them here." And he knew all their connections.

And when those two girls left, he shared with me other things from their family, other struggles. And then he answered the phone and, "Oh yeah, well, we've got to get you some money so you can get here. Yeah, we're going to look." Just listening to the conversation of this chief with some of the people who weren't on the James Smith site at the time. Just seeing how they looked after each other.

And then, you know, going out and sitting through the different meals. And you know, it was interesting. There were a couple of Bird brothers. They came and they put on a fish fry for the whole band.

And so again, I was just out there, and every day you just get to be privileged to watch how true leadership looks after their people. And so I just showed up, not really invited or announced at all, but just always get to see something new the next day. And there were those two Bird brothers and the chief actually was there too, who used to be the wife of one of the Bird brothers.

But anyways, they're all there serving together and one of the Bird brothers had a son. I'll never . . . The guy's wearing an orange toque, smiling from ear to ear. And so I ask the guys, you know, how did you catch enough fish to serve the entire band? And they said well, you know, we don't have much where I'm from, but what we do have we learn to share with others and to use our gifts and our strengths. So we said, hey, why don't we just go fishing? So they went fishing for three days, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and brought the fish from those days' fishing, brought a lot of people from their community, turned on the flames, boiled the oil, and just cooked fish, starting at about 10 and finishing at about 2 each day.

And, Mr. Speaker, I just learned a lot and I had the privilege as a bit of an outsider to step in and watch what it really is to step up when suffering and people need strong leadership. It doesn't have to have all of the answers right away but certainly are committed there to be the ones that are going to stand and walk with their people through their grief and through their sorrow. No pointing of fingers but just a real solid support from those leaders.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I heard our Lieutenant Governor start off the Throne Speech, I was impressed that we did give that honour to those people. The faith that I have teaches that we need to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. And as a province, I can certainly say that we have mourned with those people, and as an MLA I just have nothing but respect and awe of the leadership of the James Smith Cree Nation.

**The Deputy Chair of Committees:** — Now the time is being 10:30 today, and we stand adjourned until tomorrow 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 22:30.]



# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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