



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

<b>Beck, Carla</b> — Regina Lakeview (NDP)	<b>Love, Matt</b> — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
<b>Bonk, Steven</b> — Moosomin (SP)	<b>Makowsky, Hon. Gene</b> — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
<b>Bowes, Jennifer</b> — Saskatoon University (NDP)	<b>Marit, Hon. David</b> — Wood River (SP)
<b>Bradshaw, Fred</b> — Carrot River Valley (SP)	<b>McLeod, Hon. Tim</b> — Moose Jaw North (SP)
<b>Buckingham, David</b> — Saskatoon Westview (SP)	<b>McMorris, Hon. Don</b> — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
<b>Carr, Hon. Lori</b> — Estevan (SP)	<b>Merriman, Hon. Paul</b> — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
<b>Cheveldayoff, Ken</b> — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)	<b>Meyers, Derek</b> — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
<b>Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy</b> — The Battlefords (SP)	<b>Moe, Hon. Scott</b> — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
<b>Conway, Meara</b> — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)	<b>Morgan, Hon. Don</b> — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
<b>Dennis, Terry</b> — Canora-Pelly (SP)	<b>Mowat, Vicki</b> — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
<b>Docherty, Mark</b> — Regina Coronation Park (SP)	<b>Nerlien, Hugh</b> — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
<b>Domotor, Ryan</b> — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)	<b>Nippi-Albright, Betty</b> — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
<b>Duncan, Hon. Dustin</b> — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)	<b>Ottenbreit, Greg</b> — Yorkton (SP)
<b>Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn</b> — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)	<b>Reiter, Hon. Jim</b> — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
<b>Fiaz, Muhammad</b> — Regina Pasqua (SP)	<b>Ritchie, Erika</b> — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
<b>Francis, Ken</b> — Kindersley (SP)	<b>Ross, Alana</b> — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
<b>Friesen, Marv</b> — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)	<b>Ross, Hon. Laura</b> — Regina Rochdale (SP)
<b>Goudy, Todd</b> — Melfort (SP)	<b>Sarauer, Nicole</b> — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
<b>Grewal, Gary</b> — Regina Northeast (SP)	<b>Skoropad, Hon. Dana</b> — Arm River (SP)
<b>Hargrave, Joe</b> — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)	<b>Steele, Doug</b> — Cypress Hills (SP)
<b>Harpauer, Hon. Donna</b> — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)	<b>Stewart, Lyle</b> — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
<b>Harrison, Daryl</b> — Cannington (SP)	<b>Teed, Nathaniel</b> — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
<b>Harrison, Hon. Jeremy</b> — Meadow Lake (SP)	<b>Tell, Hon. Christine</b> — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
<b>Hindley, Hon. Everett</b> — Swift Current (SP)	<b>Vermette, Doyle</b> — Cumberland (NDP)
<b>Jenson, Terry</b> — Martensville-Warman (SP)	<b>Weekes, Hon. Randy</b> — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
<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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**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

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Sean Darling

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

**The Speaker:** — I want to clarify a ruling I made yesterday. This applies to the use of words in this Chamber. Both Speaker Kowalsky and Speaker Docherty ruled that context in the use of the word is key to determining whether or not it is acceptable. Both cited guidance from the *House of Commons Procedure and Practice* which states that “Remarks directed specifically at another Member which question that Member’s integrity, honesty or character are not in order.”

I caution members not to make their comments personal. When words such as “truth” or “hypocritical” are directed to an individual, they are not in order. If applied more broadly to government policy or the facts of the matter, then such words are not necessarily out of order. Words that insinuate dishonesty or lack of character are always out of order. If the two House leaders wish to discuss this further, I would be happy to meet with them.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, to all members of this Assembly, not for the first time even for myself, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce a previous member of this Assembly — previous deputy premier, long-time-serving minister, long-time individual in opposition, founder of the party, and more recently . . . founder of our party, I might add, and more recently named as the honorary consul of Ukraine in the province of Saskatchewan, just back from a tour with his lovely wife, Gail, on the Danube River. Mr. Speaker, to all members, I introduce Mr. Ken Krawetz.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to join with the Premier in inviting Mr. Krawetz to his Legislative Assembly. I believe it was the first time in the Assembly that I watched him deliver his last budget address and I do remember it being a rather fiery affair. On behalf of the official opposition would like to welcome him to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I’d like to introduce two people that are very special to me, my Aunt Jeanette and my cousin Sandra Cheveldayoff, visiting from Ottawa. Sandra’s been a medical lab tech and a pathologist for 27 years in Ottawa at Ottawa General and other hospitals and a graduate of the University of Regina. She’s visiting her mom.

Members will know my Aunt Jeanette. She has the opportunity to accompany me many times, most recently at the Throne Speech. My Aunt Jeanette is a long-time — I would say suffering, but maybe not — but long-time Roughrider fan. We

go to Roughrider games together. The season got cut short on us this year, but there’s always next year.

So Mr. Speaker, I’d like to welcome my Aunt Jeanette to her Legislative Assembly and my cousin Sandra back to Saskatchewan to visit her mom. Thanks very much.

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to introduce James Cherewyk from Norquay, Saskatchewan. He just came over from Rural and Remote Health and he’s been in quite a few ministries around. And he’s just informed me that his favourite minister is his current minister, that he works in my office as a ministerial assistant. James is a great young man. He’s an early riser. He’s in the office every day at 7:30 in the morning to be able to sit down, have a coffee with me, and give me the update.

But I’d also like to introduce Stephanie Mason who is James’s better half, or soon-to-be more officially better half. Well we’re going to keep working on him on that, Mr. Speaker. Stephanie is a fourth-year nursing student from Saskatoon, choosing to stay in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We’re hoping that she can certainly help us out during her fourth-year rotation, but also when she chooses to start and finish hopefully her career here in Saskatchewan. So I would like to welcome them both to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister opposite in welcoming James and Stephanie to their Assembly. Thank you, James, for the work you’re putting in in the Ministry of Health. In the opposition side of things, we certainly get a ton of requests in casework and concerned folks calling in. I can only imagine what the workload looks like at the Ministry of Health as well. So I want to thank you for the work that you’re putting in and for your contribution to your province. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Friesen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Apparently a lot of people don’t recognize me. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, and to all members of the Assembly, I’d like to recognize Lester Cey from Morris Interactive in your gallery. Lester is a big fan of mine and actually I’ve become a big fan of Lester’s, and we’ve become friends over the years. Lester’s group, Morris Interactive — he’s the principal development manager. His son is the lead there. An amazing group. Done a lot with Indigenous in our province and they are really moving forward with that angle.

I want to mention one fun fact: Lester has 17 siblings and in 1990 they were the winners of the World Family Hockey Championships, and it was in Quebec. So I’d like all the members to join with me and welcome Lester to his legislature.

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

**Mr. Francis:** — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to join in with my colleague from Saskatoon Riversdale in welcoming Lester Cey to his legislature. And we talk about growth plans a lot and I think the folks in Scott, Saskatchewan had it right. His family had 20 in it and my mom's family had 18. So I think they are very well aware of how growth works in rural Saskatchewan. So please join me in welcoming Lester to his legislature.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you, 20 grade K to 9 [kindergarten to grade 9] students seated in your west gallery. These students are from Sun West Distance Learning. Accompanying them is a whole group of parents. You can tell they're committed. We've got Vanessa Sebastian, Desirée Clouse, Danielle Dufour-Erriha, and also with them is their teacher, Nicole McLaughlin, and Todd McLaughlin.

So we will be meeting with these students after question period for an opportunity to have, well their own QP [question period]. So it's going to be a good opportunity for me to spend some time with these up-and-coming young learners in our province that make us all proud. So thank you for attending. And please, everyone join in welcoming these fine 20 students.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Francis:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that the Liberal-NDP [New Democratic Party] federal government continues to infringe on the constitutional rights of the province of Saskatchewan and implement policies that are detrimental to our province's economic well-being; that the commitments and the actions of the federal government have made the control of Saskatchewan's resource rights unclear; that an unsupportive federal government will continue to impede Saskatchewan's potential to play a global role in providing resources to the world market.

We in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to implement Saskatchewan-first policies and legislation that will support the development of Saskatchewan as a global supplier of food, fuel, and fertilizer without federal infringement on Saskatchewan's constitutional authority.

The signatories of this petition reside in Regina. Thank you.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

#### Dear Hollywood Campaign

**Ms. Lambert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week,

Robert Merasty, executive director of the Indigenous Resource Network and former chief of Flying Dust Cree Nation, launched the Dear Hollywood campaign online.

Dear Hollywood is an initiative for Indigenous communities to reclaim the conversation on Indigenous resource development that has become dominated by so-called climate activist Hollywood celebrities. If Hollywood celebrities and other activists cared about Indigenous self-determination, they would support Indigenous communities that decide for themselves if a project is in their best interests.

Indigenous-led resource companies employ thousands of people in the province, especially in our far North. Just this September, Enbridge signed a major ownership agreement with 23 First Nation and Métis communities. Resource projects provide communities with revenue, employment, and a future out of poverty. I'd like to read a quote from Robert's recent column in the *Financial Post*:

When Hollywood denounces natural resource development, it condemns many of our communities to remain in poverty and continue being dependent on the government. Our communities are trying to move away from that. Developing our natural resources has allowed many Indigenous communities to thrive in economic reconciliation and real self-determination.

I encourage all members of the legislature to support Robert's campaign and sign his online petition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Str8 Up: 10,000 Little Steps to Healing

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I rise to give thanks and recognize an organization that does amazing work, Str8 Up: 10,000 Little Steps to Healing, Inc.

Str8 Up is an organization that is very close to Shane and I. For the first few years, Str8 Up ran out of the back of Father André's truck at a Tim Hortons parking lot. Mr. Speaker, Str8 Up assists individuals in mastering their own destiny and liberating themselves from gangs, addictions, and criminal street lifestyles. This is achieved by members being allowed to heal and get back on track through the sharing of their truths in the community and owning their experiences.

In the past couple of years, this organization expanded its work and opened an office in Prince Albert. Mr. Speaker, Str8 Up just finished celebrating 20 years this past September. They also had a fundraiser to which they invited me to last week. Twenty years of successes. Three examples of that success are my CA [constituency assistant], Shane Partridge, and my nephews Rodney Nataucappo and Sherman Peequaquat. These young men are leading successful lives.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Str8 Up's 20 years of incredible service to the province of Saskatchewan. miigwech.

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

### Skilled Trade and Technology Week

**Mr. Jensen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's Skilled Trade and Technology Week in the province. Supported by Skills Canada Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan apprenticeship commission, this week is meant to raise awareness of careers in the skilled trades. In September of 2022, 51,000 workers were employed in the skilled trades. Over the next five years nearly 12,000 job openings are forecasted for skilled trades workers such as carpenters, automotive service technicians, welders, construction millwrights, and industrial mechanics and heavy-duty equipment mechanics. Demand for these workers is being driven by major economic projects coming on stream.

[13:45]

The CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan apprenticeship commission, Jeff Ritter, highlighted this when he said, "Industry representatives tell us they're busy; they're hiring; and they want hardworking people who are willing to learn." Our young people are ready and willing to get engaged in the skilled trades and tech sector. In 2022 there were just over 3,600 high school students interested in the skilled trades and technology. Just last week Saskatchewan's own Leah Lucyshyn won a Medallion of Excellence at the 2022 WorldSkills special edition competition in Switzerland, all on top of having a full-time graphic design job. Leah is just one example of what a rewarding career that the skilled trades and tech sector can offer to young people in our province. I ask that all members join me in congratulating Leah and all of our excellent skilled trade workers in the province. Thank you.

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

### St. Anne Parish Celebrates 60 Years

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 2nd I was proud to attend a special 60th anniversary mass at St. Anne Parish in my constituency. Presided over by Archbishop Don Bolen, the event included an anniversary prayer of thanksgiving and a celebratory banquet organized by Louise Tessier and Denise Nelson, co-conveners.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1960s, with a war and depression years behind them, the citizens of this city experienced a period of rapid growth, and with that prosperity came a building boom. An oil pipeline was constructed linking the city with the newly discovered fields in Alberta and the refineries of Eastern Canada. In 1954, CKCK became the first licensed television station in Western Canada. In '56 the Museum of Natural History opened, later to become the RSM [Royal Saskatchewan Museum]. This area was growing at a rate of 4,500 residents per year. — churches, schools, shopping centres popping up across the landscape to serve the needs of these new residents. And only later would we look back and describe that period for what it was: a post-war boom of prosperity.

And against this backdrop, a group of residents in Hillsdale took a leap of faith. St. Anne Parish was formed, originally serving 180 families. It is now home to over 300 some 60 years later. A huge congratulations to the community and thank you to all members for the service they do.

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

### Recognition of Royal Purple Members in Unity

**Mr. Domotor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After 54 years, the Royal Purple lodge in Unity has been dissolved. The Royal Purple lodge began on May 19th of 1968. Mr. Speaker, of the 43 original members, it is just so remarkable that seven of those remained with the organization as members until the January 2022 dissolution.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the seven ladies that are being titled as lifers to the service club: Irene Acton, Jeanne Cumming, Sophie Hayward, Doreen Leslie, Pat McCubbing, Sharon Olsen, and Elaine Sperle.

Mr. Speaker, in speaking with Elaine Sperle, a long-time member, she mentioned that the Royal Purple lodge was always a well-respected group within the community. The group always catered meals within the community and were known for their good food and generous portions. There was never a shortage of food when the Royal Purple was in charge.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of the years they donated more than \$88,000 back to the community through school contests, scholarships, as well as numerous other donations. As the chapter of this historical service club in Unity comes to a close, their friendships will last forever. The ladies should be extremely proud of all the accomplishments they achieved over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this Assembly join me in congratulating the Royal Purple lodge members on their years of service to the community of Unity. Thank you.

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

### Family Nine Restaurant Hosts STARS Fundraiser

**Mr. Keisig:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past summer, the Family Nine Restaurant at Katepwa Beach hosted its eighth annual STARS [Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service] ambulance wing-night fundraising event. The manager, Darlene Bohun, was inspired to host this annual event after the passing of her husband eight years ago. Prior to the end of his journey with cancer, Darlene's husband had expressed that he wanted donations to be made to the STARS air ambulance in remembrance of him. These conversations between them led to the hosting of an annual fundraiser.

Each year Darlene and her staff host a wing night where proceeds are donated to STARS. Darlene's staff were inspired to contribute 100 per cent of any tips they made for the day to STARS. Darlene in return matches all tips.

This wing night is no ordinary wing night, Mr. Speaker. It is an event that is very well received by community members, consisting of entertainment, dancing, and raffle prizes to be won.

Mr. Speaker, this year Darlene and the staff from Katepwa Beach Family Nine Restaurant raised \$7,514. Over the last eight years, they've raised over \$30,000 for STARS air ambulance. I ask all

members to join me in thanking Darlene, her staff, and many other individuals that continue to support STARS so that life-saving services can be provided to those in need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Support for *The Saskatchewan First Act*

**Ms. C. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday we saw very clearly whose side the NDP is on, and it's not Saskatchewan's. Yesterday our government introduced *The Saskatchewan First Act* to assert and defend Saskatchewan's constitutional authority over our natural resources and our economic future. You would think that would be something even the NDP could support, but it's not. The NDP House Leader refused to support *The Saskatchewan First Act*. She was also asked five times whether she supports pipelines, and she wouldn't answer. That's not putting Saskatchewan first. That's putting their bosses Jagmeet and Justin first.

During the Throne Speech debate, the NDP member for Saskatoon Nutana was speaking about the new legislation and she said, and I quote, "... there's nothing here to be proud of." Mr. Speaker, that sums up the NDP attitude toward our great province.

There's nothing here to be proud of? Mr. Speaker, our government believes there is a lot in Saskatchewan to be proud of. And we believe standing up for our constitutional authority over our natural resources is the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, will the NDP members vote for Saskatchewan first, or will they vote against Saskatchewan and vote for Jagmeet and Justin first? We're about to find out.

[Applause]

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Management of the Provincial Economy

**Ms. Beck:** — I guess you take the applause where you can get it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we have a premier who is simply failing to lead: out on a separation tour instead of helping people, ignoring chaos in our health care system, and his ridiculous white paper. And now taking five days — while the province, the nation, while the world watched, Mr. Speaker — five days before he could find his feet to apologize for inviting a convicted wife killer to his Throne Speech.

And yesterday he was cheering on his jobs minister as he defended the second-worst record in the nation on full-time job creation. Cheering a minister, cheering and patting himself on the back while women in his own constituency can't deliver babies because he hasn't created enough nursing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: does he actually think that second place is good enough for Saskatchewan people?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation of Canada. That is first place when it comes to the employment levels in this province, Mr. Speaker. Most certainly that has come about by a focus by this government and by the people of Saskatchewan and the industries that are investing here in developing the natural resources that we have, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday we saw the Minister of Justice go out, introduce *The Saskatchewan First Act* that most certainly is going to provide us with the opportunity to continue in developing those natural resources, in creating wealth in Saskatchewan communities and Saskatchewan families, Mr. Speaker. It's this government that time after time is focused on growth that works for everyone in this province. We will always put Saskatchewan first, Mr. Speaker, and the question in this province is whether the NDP are going to put Saskatchewan first or whether they're going to put Jagmeet and Justin first.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, growth that works for everyone is laughable. Now despite the spin and the self-congratulations on that side, this government's failures when it comes to good job creation are well known.

Wages in Saskatchewan are up a mere 2 per cent over last year, again second place in Canada. Meanwhile the cost of apples and ground beef up 6 per cent, bacon up 8 per cent, potatoes 20 per cent, and carrots are up 30 per cent.

Life is getting more and more expensive and the Sask Party government is actually making things worse. What's the plan, Mr. Premier, to make life more affordable, and not just with a one-time cheque but in the long term for Saskatchewan people?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — This is precisely why we in each and every budget year provide \$2 billion in affordability measures to the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that we do have, yes, a \$500 affordability cheque that will be going out today thanks to the strength of our resource-based economy here in the province. And in addition we're able to pay down about a billion dollars of our debt in Saskatchewan which will save us about \$50 million a year in the future, Mr. Speaker.

In order for us to continue to have the strength of that resource-based economy that we have — that's creating wealth for our communities, creating wealth for families across Saskatchewan, and yes, creating wealth for the Government of Saskatchewan so that we can share that back with the very people that are creating it across the province, Mr. Speaker — we are going to ensure that we always put Saskatchewan first.

The question is, Mr. Speaker, will the NDP put Saskatchewan people first or will they keep putting Jagmeet and Justin first?

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, maybe he thinks that if he yells loud



enough people will forget that they can't pay their bills. The rising costs, Mr. Speaker, at the grocery store are being made worse by this government's choices to make power and utility rates more expensive.

What Saskatchewan people need is a consumer advocate to go to bat for people when it comes to Crown rate hike increases, and to help when they face having their utilities cut off. Every other province in Canada, Mr. Speaker, has some form of independent consumer advocate that helps keep rate increases reasonable, and 8 per cent and 23 per cent are not reasonable. And neither is cutting off people's power right before winter.

Will the Sask Party commit today to a consumer advocate?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — This is precisely the work that the rate review panel does on behalf of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, prior to any increases happening. And this speaks to the challenge that we are going to see in Saskatchewan and across Canada. Europe has seen it over the course of the last decade.

As you implement policies that are solely focused on an environmental basis, Mr. Speaker, your power rates, your gas rates are going to increase. In the case of Europe, three, four times over the last number of years. Probably another four, five, six times this winter, Mr. Speaker.

Most certainly we are a government that is focused on growth that works for everyone: making life affordable in Saskatchewan with \$2 billion in each and every budget; \$500 tax affordability credits this year; paying down the deficit, Mr. Speaker. In contrast to the NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh who is looking to, asking the federal Prime Minister to reduce the GST [goods and services tax] that's charged on home heating bills, Mr. Speaker. This is the same individual that is advocating propping up this government so that they can charge a carbon tax on Saskatchewan people and Canadians, Mr. Speaker. Again we see the NDP in this nation saying one thing and doing something quite different.

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

### Utility Rates

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's utterly laughable bravado from a premier whose own math has been called insane and completely unbelievable by economists. People in this province do not want a premier only focused on Europe, only focused on picking fights. They want somebody focused on the challenges that Saskatchewan people are having here at home.

And this, this, Mr. Speaker, is a government that pushed through utility rate hikes during a generational cost-of-living crisis, knowing darn well that families were already having a hard time keeping food on the table and a roof over their heads. Many of these families, despite working 70 hours a week, still can't keep the lights on.

Mr. Speaker, people in this province are having their power shut

off with no opportunity for a repayment plan while fridges full of food rot. So to the minister: will he fix this?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I think we're well aware of the challenges that we've got, and we're dealing with increased commodity prices. I'd like to urge the members opposite to give us some support in our dealings with the federal government to try and deal with the carbon tax, the imposition of the carbon tax. But I would like to make a comment. The members opposite were making comments about the increases.

[14:00]

Mr. Speaker, based on the recommendations of the Saskatchewan rate review panel, SaskPower raised its rates 4 per cent in September and will raise them by another 4 per cent in April of 2023. The average customer will see their bills increase by \$5 a month.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to minimize for some people what the effect of \$5 per month is. It's something that's not taken lightly. It's based on a process done by the rate review panel. We want to respect that process. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to deal with it.

The members opposite also raise the issue about the process before power is shut off, and I'll answer that in the next question if the member has another.

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

**Ms. A. Young:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that answer. The rate review panel is appointed by cabinet and reports to that cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, back in May — speaking of the rent review panel — the renters of Saskatoon and area made a submission to that minister-appointed rate review panel, and they called for two things: low-income affordable rate program, and more protection against power and energy disconnections. Both we see in other jurisdictions under the independent bodies that assist consumers and households and oversee rate hikes.

To the minister: does he think that it's acceptable that Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada without a consumer advocate for utilities?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the province of Saskatchewan has the second-lowest utility rate bundle in Canada. Mr. Speaker, we represent all the citizens of this province. We listen to the recommendations made by the rate review panel. They're not binding, but generally speaking we accept those recommendations. We have in this case, and it will make a difference of \$5 per month.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite also raises the issue of

disconnections. Mr. Speaker, disconnections are always the last resort when payment arrangements cannot be committed to, or are defaulted on. Both SaskPower and Energy work diligently with all of the customers to establish a mutually agreed-upon payment arrangement that allow customers to catch up on bills without being disconnected. It is ultimately the customer's responsibility to ensure that the payments remain up to date and to contact the Crown if they need to change their payment arrangements.

After an account is three months outstanding and the arrangements are not met, the customer is then eligible for disconnection. Once a customer is disconnected or load-limited . . . And, Mr. Speaker, with SaskPower they're able to put a load limiter that limits the consumption in a given residence down to 40 amps per month, which keeps the heat on or keeps the refrigerator running or one element of their . . . not a good . . . [inaudible] . . . Mr. Speaker, does keep the property going.

Mr. Speaker, I have more . . .

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

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are some nice notes, but they don't address the concern that so many households in Saskatchewan have right now as to why their power has been cut off. They have been offered no opportunity for a repayment plan except for paying their bill in full. And, Mr. Speaker, the minister knows very well that the rate review panel has signalled that more rate increases are coming for SaskPower and that SaskEnergy has signalled another 6 per cent rate increases before 2024.

Mr. Speaker, no family should have to decide between heating their home, paying rent, or keeping food on the table, not in a province as rich as Saskatchewan. Does the minister really think, does he truly believe that Saskatchewan families are getting a fair utility deal if his government is going to continue pushing through rate hikes without adequate oversight during a generational cost-of-living crisis?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for SaskPower.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite simply have no credibility in this matter whatsoever. They have an obligation to go back to Justin and Jagmeet and to say, this is a problem for us; you cannot continue to layer on carbon tax on our province; you cannot continue to raise things 10, 20, and 30 per cent. That is what's not fair. And that's something, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite have some degree of control over. And I'd like to urge them to start making those calls either on an individual or a collective basis.

I understand why they uninvited Jagmeet Singh to their convention but, Mr. Speaker . . . but then reinvited. But, Mr. Speaker, it's a good opportunity for them to reach out and do the right thing right now. They have an opportunity. They ought to use that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we have utilities in this province that are caring and compassionate in how they work with their customers.

Disconnects are some of the last things that they would want to do. And, Mr. Speaker, when there's a default on that, it is paid for and borne by the other customers of that same utility, which are the taxpayers of this province. It is a fair and equitable thing to do that people work through and set up an arrangement schedule and meet and comply with that arrangement.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

### Oversight of Qualified Independent Schools

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, in light of very serious allegations of abuse at qualified independent schools including Legacy Christian Academy, it took that minister months to act — months — on allegations of sexual abuse, physical abuse including paddling of children, and exorcisms. Mr. Speaker, we have learned that there were reports of abuse of children reported to police as recently as 2018. And then in 2016 the ministry was notified by a former teacher about serious abuse taking place right in the classroom of a qualified independent school.

To the minister: what exact steps were taken in both 2016 and 2018 to address these concerns? And why are we only finding out about this now?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to ensuring that students are safe and protected in whatever school that they are in in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, just to be clear in terms of the allegations as they relate to the Legacy Christian school, the students, the former students took their allegations to the police, not to the Ministry of Education. Mr. Speaker, when we were made aware of those allegations on August 9th, I directed that the ministry send the names of those that the allegations were against to the Saskatchewan professional teachers regulatory body, who then took action to ensure that those teachers would not be in the classroom. And the following day, cabinet approved regulations that would allow me to take steps, Mr. Speaker.

With respect to the 2018 allegations, my understanding is that the ministry contacted the Saskatoon city police who investigated and decided not to lay charges.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll try a simple question to this minister. What exactly are qualified independent schools independent from?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, we've had independent schools in this province for a very long time. We've had historical high schools that have been funded by the province of Saskatchewan that provide education in a variety of communities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, and certainly I think the member opposite will know that *The Education Act* requires a student to attend a public or a separate school, Mr. Speaker, or they are exempt from attending a public or a separate school in the event that they are registered at an independent school in this province. That can be a historical high school, it can be an associate school, or it can be a qualified independent school or a registered school, Mr. Speaker. That has existed for a long time.

The change that has been made is, in 2012 for qualified independent schools, Mr. Speaker, we did add regulations to increase the amount of assurances that a proper curriculum and proper teaching staff would be in place. Mr. Speaker, I would say that the members opposite shouldn't get . . .

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

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, here's a few facts on what those schools are independent from. Despite receiving millions of taxpayer dollars, the fact is that qualified and certified independent schools are independent from elected accountability of local school boards. They're independent from that minister's oversight. They're independent from financial accountability. They're independent from being held to following the provincial curriculum. They're independent of being fully staffed with professionally certified teachers. And they're apparently, under his watch, independent of protecting human rights of their students. Why exactly should qualified independent schools be independent of the oversight and accountability that all other Saskatchewan schools are held to?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the comments by the member opposite in terms of what those schools are independent of, the members opposite should know and do know that those policies or lack of policies existed when an NDP government was in power. In fact, Mr. Speaker, a number of the allegations in the civil suit occurred under an NDP government, so I don't think they should get too puffed up about this issue.

We enhanced the regulations in 2012 when it came to qualified independent schools to increase the amount of assurances that they have professional staff, to ensure that they follow Saskatchewan curriculum, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly these incidences and these allegations have made me aware that there are gaps, Mr. Speaker. We have closed a number of those gaps. We're looking at other ways to increase accountability and transparency with respect to qualified independent schools. But, Mr. Speaker, it's the position of this government that . . .

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

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, we called for this government to guarantee the human rights of kids in Saskatchewan regardless of what category of school they attend. But this minister waffled, talking about the need to "balance off human rights." I'll go to his words, Mr. Speaker: "I think in all educational situations

there's, I think, that balance between, particularly in schools that may have a faith-based component to them, a kind of balancing off of those rights."

The Premier suggested something very different this week. So which is it, Mr. Speaker? Will the minister stand by his own indefensible statement, or will he guarantee the human rights of our kids are protected in schools? And will he tie provincial funding to that requirement today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly our government is committed to ensuring that schools are safe and a welcoming environment for all students. Mr. Speaker, if there are allegations of harassment or discrimination, they need to be investigated. And there's a variety of ways for that to happen, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will also say this: "Where belief claims seem to conflict, section 15 cannot be used to eliminate beliefs, whether popular or unpopular. An acceptable resolution is accommodating or balancing." Mr. Speaker, that's certainly a more articulate way of the way that I tried to say it, and that's from the Supreme Court of Canada.

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

### Interpersonal Violence Rates and Support for Second-Stage Shelters

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Public Safety apologized for defending what she had called Colin Thatcher's right to be in this Chamber. Though almost a week late, we very much welcome the apology, but her words following that apology revealed a lot more about the workings of this government. We learned that both the Premier and minister were briefed, and that their responses were official Sask Party lines. What does this say about the minister and her government's judgment?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier stated yesterday, on behalf of this government he offered an unequivocal apology. I share in offering my apology yesterday and again today.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan will continue to work to address the issues that matter to Saskatchewan: increasing public safety; reducing gang-related violence, including gun, drug, and human trafficking; and of course continuing to increase our efforts on domestic and interpersonal violence and harm. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday when asked why the minister did a 180 from her original position from last week, she responded, "I don't know. I don't know. I'm guessing the amount

of time.” Mr. Speaker, it shouldn’t have taken any time at all for that minister and that Premier to realize why inviting a convicted killer to a Throne Speech sent a terrible message.

What is this government doing to show survivors of intimate partner violence that Saskatchewan will not settle for being last in the nation when it comes to intimate partner violence rates?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of what we’re doing, Mr. Speaker, and what’s yet to be done, the members have referenced in recent days the Provincial Association of Transition Houses. The head of that organization did say that the provincial government has implemented positive programs, positive legislation.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to discredit what has been done around interpersonal violence and around prevention. And suddenly to talk about an entirely new area where really the pathways to that — to second-stage housing which members have referenced in the last few days — are already being established, Mr. Speaker. Important work is being done which involves valuable stakeholders.

And legislatively, we’ve passed the human trafficking Act. That’s work to build on there. Clare’s Law, we were leaders, Mr. Speaker. In terms of investments, \$25 million this year on interpersonal violence supports, shelter services, children exposed to violence, intervention and support . . .

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, an entirely new area? This opposition, stakeholders, PATHS [Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan], SOFIA House have been calling for operational funding for second-stage shelters for years. And if that minister doesn’t know that, that previous minister better clue her in real quickly.

Mr. Speaker, this government has been in power for 15 years. That is their record: worst rates of intimate partner violence in Canada. No time for applauding the work that they’ve done, Mr. Speaker. We are only a few provinces who do not give second-stage shelters operational funding. Those shelters don’t need more discussions, Mr. Speaker. They need a commitment.

Will this government commit to operational funding for second-stage shelters today, yes or no?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Mr. Speaker, that’s where the discussion is happening. The commitments around interpersonal violence, legislatively and in investments, have been on this side, Mr. Speaker. There were no commitments in 2011, no funding commitments in 2016, no funding commitments in 2020.

Mr. Speaker, talk is one thing. Discrediting the work that has

been done . . . The valuable work, specific work that has been done by stakeholders in this province, Mr. Speaker, upon which we can build, is absolutely necessary to acknowledge. And to discredit that and now go off into a different area without making sure that the placeholders are in place and that chains are in place to complement that which amazing stakeholders and CBOs [community-based organization] and organizations and partners are doing and we are doing, is irresponsible, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, second-stage shelters have been operating very well and very successfully, but they do it because . . . They have to fundraise for their operational funding because that government won’t provide them the funding they need. They’re sick of talking to this government about this. They’ve been talking to this government about it for years. Mr. Speaker. Actions speak louder than words. This government wants to be applauded for the work that they’ve done so far, but they still have the worst rates in Canada.

Again, simple question: will the Sask Party provide operational funding for second-stage shelters today, yes or no?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Mr. Speaker, as I referenced yesterday, the 2019 Women’s Shelters Canada report identified that across Canada, affordable housing was hard to find 85 per cent of the time, and in Saskatchewan it was only 8 per cent. Victims of domestic violence who apply for social housing in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, are prioritized. They are placed at the top of the approved applicant list for the first available housing unit.

Mr. Speaker, \$25 million has been invested by this government this year alone in interpersonal violence and prevention. We can all admit that there is work to be done, but funding has been committed. Funding commitments by the opposition were nowhere to be seen in 2011, 2016, and 2020. We have invested. We have legislated. We are working with stakeholders in shelters and partners all the time. Stay tuned, Mr. Speaker.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

### Enrolment in Kindergarten to Grade 12 Schools

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I’m pleased to rise today to inform the House that almost 190,000 students have registered in kindergarten to grade 12 this year, an increase of almost 4,000 students from last year. This is the largest enrolment growth in the province in over 20 years. Mr. Speaker, I certainly believe that this is something that we can be proud of.

To support this growth in enrolment, we’re providing an additional \$15.5 million to school divisions in the 2022-23 school year. And we’re able to provide this funding because of the strong economic position of our province. This is truly growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, we've come very far from the days of the NDP government who were preparing for a decline of 30,000 students in our education system, and an NDP Education minister at the time said he was "fine" with these declining numbers. We've taken a different approach. We want enrolment numbers to grow in this province. We want to meet the challenges of that growth, and that's why our government is making record investments into the provincial education sector.

For the 2022-23 school year, Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive over \$2 billion, the largest operating funding in the history of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, this additional funding will help school divisions navigate our province's record growth and record enrolment. We've also added more than 400 educational assistants in the classroom, delivering important in-class support for thousands of students. Approximately 200 of these positions came from our government's \$7 million targeted funding program for EAs [educational assistant] announced back in March.

And earlier this year we also announced an additional \$20 million to assist with rising fuel and insurance costs, ensuring vital resources are not redirected away from the classroom. Mr. Speaker, we're investing in our future because the most valuable investment our government can make is in our children's education. This record investment in education is growth that works for everyone. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to put a few comments on the record in response to the minister today and say that, as the official opposition, we absolutely share in the news that we're seeing increased enrolment in our schools. This is a good thing.

But I'd also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that any increase in operating funding is a step in the right direction. But it doesn't mean that we are where we need to be when it comes to supporting learning in our schools. I need to add that what I'm hearing from teachers and from families all around this province is that the supports needed in the classroom for our kids and youth to thrive simply are not there.

And again I'll reference the comments from a Regina teacher directed at this minister recently. The teacher said, "I love my job, but you guys sure are making it tough." The supports simply aren't there. What school divisions need is funding that is adequate, predictable, and sustainable. They're not getting it from the Sask Party government.

And I'd like to add a final note here, Mr. Speaker, that had any of these nearly 4,000 new students enrolled, had any of them chosen to attend a qualified independent or certified independent school, that the amount of dollars following there would have been significantly higher than the dollars announced today per student. Thank you very much.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 89 — *The Income Tax (Affordability) Amendment Act, 2022*

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 89, *The Income Tax (Affordability) Amendment Act, 2022* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 89, *The Income Tax (Affordability) Amendment Act, 2022* be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — First reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

### Bill No. 90 — *The Telecommunications Statutes (Borrowing Powers) Amendment Act, 2022*

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 90, *The Telecommunications Statutes (Borrowing Powers) Amendment Act, 2022*, be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 90 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — First reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Next sitting of the Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SPECIAL ORDER

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

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

**Ms. A. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government's four-point health human services resource action plan will support, recruit, train, retain, and provide incentives for health care workers and professionals in our city and our province. This is the most robust health care resource plan in this nation. New full-time positions have been posted, more nurse training seats added, and over 100 physicians and specialists are being recruited to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, capital projects are also extremely important when recruiting health care professionals, and in Prince Albert, the opening of the Malhotra NICU [neonatal intensive care unit] at the Victoria Hospital, a state-of-the-art facility, will provide specialized care to allow our vulnerable infants and families to stay closer to home. The procurement process for the Victoria Hospital redesign will continue with construction to start with this spring. This is exciting news for Prince Albert as it will bring much-needed space and technology to Prince Albert and create many more jobs during the construction phase and when it opens.

Our government established a new partnership with publicly funded surgical providers to reduce surgical wait times. The private sector has performed over 135,000 surgeries since 2010 and continue to support our public system. This is great news for people like my friends George and Marcie who are on the wait-list for joint replacement surgery.

Mr. Speaker, our government has announced 150 new addiction beds across this province, and work continues on a harm-reduction program for the city of Prince Albert. Prince Albert Collegiate Institute and St. John Community School were among five schools added to the mental health capacity-building initiative this fall. This program promotes positive mental health in children, youth, families, and people in the community by focusing on prevention, early identification, and intervention as well as mental health promotion.

Public safety is so important to this government. I know where I live in Prince Albert, crime has really escalated, especially in my constituency in Northcote. We see an increase in gang activity, and violent crimes are on the rise. I know I live in a condo, a beautiful condo, on the river. And in the spring I had a murder to the east and a murder to the west. And it's very frightening. I don't even go out and walk at night any more. And my colleague from Carlton expressed the same kind of concerns.

Our government has responded to crime in this province and created a provincial protective services branch to help law enforcement respond to public safety incidents. The warrant enforcement and suppression team, WEST, has been very effective in targeting high-risk offenders and gang members across the province. And our government announced that WEST will have eight new members in Prince Albert and a new crime reduction team in North Battleford. A marshal service will be established to work and provide emergency and special support to law enforcement agencies across the province.

Mr. Speaker, our government recognizes the challenges faced by our First Nations communities with the increase in crime and gang activities. I was very privileged to attend the official signing

of the letter of intent with the Government of Canada, Prince Albert Grand Council, and our Government of Saskatchewan at the Prince Albert Grand Council Annual Assembly. This letter of intent is an agreement to explore new, community-oriented ways to deliver police services and improve safety in the First Nations community.

Mr. Speaker, our government is responding to the nationwide cost-of-living increases that is affecting our province by increasing the seniors' income plan. Since coming to power in 2007, our government has tripled this benefit, and there will be yet another increase in 2023. Our government is introducing the Saskatchewan affordability tax credit to all adults 18 years and older. This payment will be appreciated by seniors, low-income families, and young families in my constituency. Many of them have expressed their gratitude for this.

And, Mr. Speaker, our government will also pay down the deficit by \$1 billion. This reduction benefits all Saskatchewan residents. This means \$50 million in savings that will be available to invest in areas of need in our province.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, our government also supports a thriving Indigenous business sector and has created the Sask Indigenous finance corp, with \$75 million in loan guarantees to support Indigenous equity ownership in our mining, oil and gas, forestry, and value-added agricultural sectors.

Mr. Speaker, this government has made record investments in health, education, mental health, and social services. Investments never seen before, and all possible to the economic growth and investment in this province — record investments.

The overreach of the federal government in our resource and agricultural sectors threatens this province's economic growth and will negatively impact Saskatchewan's ability to provide for our citizens. *The Saskatchewan First Act* will clarify and defend our constitutional right to develop our national resources, giving Saskatchewan exclusive jurisdiction over exploration, development, conservation, and management of resources and all matters of a local nature. This will strengthen Saskatchewan's position within Confederation and allow this province to continue to grow and thrive — growth that works for everyone for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, this Throne Speech is rich and assures investment, economic growth, and investment in the people of our province for generations to come — growth that works for everyone. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion moved by the member from Walsh Acres and seconded by the member from Athabasca, and I will not be supporting the amendment from the members opposite. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. First off I want . . . Before I get into the Throne Speech, I do want to say a couple of thank yous, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank my wife, you know, who's always very

supportive of helping me to be down here and, you know, gives up a lot of things so that I can serve in this honoured role. And so I just want to make sure that I always thank her, because we don't serve here without our family's support.

I also want to thank my CA, Lisa Hoskins, who does a tremendous amount of really good work in my office and, you know, responding to constituents' needs as they come along. And so I want to thank her for the good work that she does.

And also, you know, I want to thank our caucus staff. We have a very good caucus staff. They do a lot of research, a lot of good work for our government, and I really want to thank them for all of that great work. So I'll just list them off here: Ang Currie, Kim Rathwell, Chris Rasmussen, Marita Clark, Nulee Menegbo, Troy Buechler, Jana Lewis, LeeAnne Merrett, and Shelby Lockie. And again, Mr. Speaker, I just want to give a heartfelt thank you for the hard work that they do each and every day all year-round. And especially this time when we're in session, there's a lot of work to do.

I also want to take some time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to share my thoughts on the Throne Speech. There's a lot of really good things in this Throne Speech even though the members opposite don't seem to be able to find any. I think there's a really valuable amount of good information and forward-thinking things that we are going to be doing.

I think there's some really good things in here for the Saskatchewan people at a time when there is so much uncertainty around the world. And it's an exciting time in Saskatchewan for the near future but way out into the future as well. Saskatchewan has what the world needs.

And more people are calling Saskatchewan home, with our population growing by nearly 6,500 people in the last quarter, which is the largest quarterly increase in population on record. And we just heard recently also about the increase in enrolments in education and another sign that the growth of our province and more youth, you know, entering our schools.

Saskatchewan is on track to grow by 1.2 million people by the end of 2022, which is an increase of 200,000 people since 2007. And I think it's a clear indicator that Saskatchewan is a great place to invest and call home. Saskatchewan is poised to lead the country in growth in 2022, 2023, and 2024. And this strong growth has reduced the unemployment rate to 4.1 per cent and is the lowest unemployment rate in Canada.

I remember when I was finished with school — and yeah, I did say that the way I wanted — that there were very few opportunities for employment in Saskatchewan. Many people were leaving Saskatchewan for opportunities in other provinces like Alberta, which was growing rapidly. And it's great to see those opportunities are now here in Saskatchewan. And at a time when many others around the world are facing a lot of uncertainty, investments continue to come into Saskatchewan and we are very thankful for that. And one of the reasons I think that we are very successful is because when investors come, they are looking for a great place to invest. But it has also to do with having the right policies in place so that they can be treated fairly when they open their business and invest here.

And speaking of investments, the single largest project in Saskatchewan history, which is under construction right, now is the BHP Jansen potash mine, with a \$12 billion investment that they are fast-tracking just because of the demand in the world. Sask oil and gas sectors have also been improving back to pre-pandemic levels. Saskatchewan oil and gas production is recognized for the limited emissions that are created to produce a barrel of oil when compared to many other countries around the globe.

Uranium in northern Saskatchewan is also an important product that Saskatchewan has and that the world needs. The uranium industry employs somewhere in the neighbourhood of 650 workers, and they are returning back to work because of demand around the world for that product. Also in the North we have our rare-earth minerals, and they are very important to so many different industries around the world. Mr. Speaker, in Saskatoon we are seeing investments in a rare-earth-minerals processing facility which will be the first of its kind in Canada and possibly North America. And it's leading in technology that will aid in solving so many of the world's problems. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is growth, growth that will work for everyone. You know, developing the resources that we are so blessed to have in this province is going to create growth that will help everyone.

Affordability, as you know, is a problem with some of the things that the federal government is doing. Number one for Saskatchewan is having a very low unemployment rate is going to be very helpful. And we have also announced a four-point affordability plan. And we're going to deliver a \$500 Saskatchewan affordability tax credit cheque to everyone aged 18 and over. And we're going to continue to exempt fitness and gym memberships and other activities from the provincial sales tax. We're going to extend the reduction of the small-business tax rate. And we're going to pay down up to one billion in operating debt and that will save us \$50 million a year in interest costs. And you know, that again is going to be growth that will work for everyone.

In this session our government will introduce the income tax affordability Act and delivery of those \$500 cheques to Saskatchewan people and extend that small-business tax reduction. And this would not be possible without a strong economy.

Mr. Speaker, let's go back to the economy for a moment. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, I think we always need to talk about the economy as that is what drives everything in this province, and it allows us to make investments in all of those key sectors that are so important to everyone that lives here in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan is a leader in many of the economic indicators such as manufacturing, sales and exports, and the value of wholesale trade. And exports reaching a record high of 37.1 billion in 2021, which is an increase of 24 per cent compared to 2020.

Since 2007 when we formed government, our exports have grown by 88 per cent. And you know, that speaks to some of the policies that have encouraged investment. Mr. Speaker, we need to continue to create employment and opportunities for people. And it's important that we continue to create an economy that will support our children and our grandchildren now and into the

future.

In 2021, Saskatchewan agriculture exports were seventeen and a half billion, which is the largest on record. There are a lot of great economic indicators. In 2021, Saskatchewan's forestry sector just crushed the previous sales record with forestry product sales of more than 1.8 billion. And in July 2022 the Saskatchewan potash industry reached our 2030 growth plan goal of 9 billion in sales, which is way ahead of schedule. And how exciting is that for our province to be growing that quickly. These numbers kind of show you how much investment there has been in the potash industry and how great it's going to be.

Mr. Speaker, some of these other investments are Vital Metals announcing plans for 20 million for a rare-earth extrication facility, along with a Saskatchewan Research Council investment of 55 million to integrate a rare-earth processing facility, first of its kind in Canada.

Foran Mining opened their new office with investment of 200 million from the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. And it's also a great indicator as they see it as a very good investment, and that's to develop the McIlvenna Bay project in Saskatchewan.

And as we talked about earlier, Cameco announced the restart of the McArthur River and Key Lake mining operations, and they're partnering with Brookfield Renewable Partners to buy Westinghouse Electric Company.

And agriculture, you know, again on the investment side, we're going to see about 3 billion in private investment in 2022. And you know, we're almost through 2022 already, and what great news that is for our province. That's driving down the unemployment rate and creating a lot of new, great jobs in this province.

We have the Federated Co-op and AGT Foods have their canola crush facility with investment of 360 million, Cargill canola crush facility at the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] with another 350 million investment, and Viterra canola crush facility in Regina with investment of 800 million. Mr. Deputy Speaker, another investment is AGT Foods oat processing facility in Aberdeen.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Great Western Brewing plans to spend about 40 million on a multi-year effort to modernize and expand production at its brewery in Saskatoon. And so a lot of great investments in Saskatchewan which are going to drive, like I said before, employment and create a lot more opportunity for the good people of this province. And a good opportunity now but also well into the future.

And Mr. Speaker, I think that it's also important that we talk a little bit about infrastructure and how important that is. With all of these growth projects in our province as we continue to grow, how exciting is it? And you need to make investments in your infrastructure or you're not going to be able to continue to grow.

And so since 2008, our government has invested 40 billion on infrastructure, and that includes nearly 4.3 billion in the last three years alone. And in the next four years, another 12 billion will be invested in infrastructure. And our government is repairing and

upgrading and building a transportation network that will keep Saskatchewan people safe while travelling. And it connects their province and its products and its people to the world and everything that we need to grow. Mr. Speaker, that is growth that works for everyone.

[14:45]

Three years ago, our government set a growth plan goal to improve 10 000 kilometres of highways by 2030. And we're right on track with that objective with more than 3500 kilometres of highway that has been improved in the last three years

Other projects that are really an important investment across the province is the 60 sets of passing lanes that have been added, and other improvements that have made numerous highway intersections throughout the province safer. While there's always more work to do, but Saskatchewan highways are safer today because of these investments. And we're going to continue to make those investments, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Saskatchewan is the first province in Canada to officially mark treaty boundaries along a major highway, which is another thing that the Ministry of Highways has done in partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, and it will mark the boundaries of Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 territory.

With innovation accelerating and with more learning and work being done online, it is also important that Saskatchewan people have access to advanced internet service. Mr. Speaker, to meet this challenge, our government has directed SaskTel to double its investment in the rural fibre initiative and invest 200 million in the program, which will bring fibre optics internet service to more than 110,000 residents and businesses in 131 rural communities by March of 2025. And that's not very far off into the future, Mr. Speaker.

SaskTel is going to get a lot more people hooked up and to very good fibre which, you know, in the future we're going to need more. And that's going to help grow our economy. It's going to help to be more connected. And it's also going to help with our education and health care, and many other side benefits will undoubtedly come along with that. And once this is completed, SaskTel infiNet network will reach approximately 80 per cent of the homes in Saskatchewan. And so not very far off in March 2025, we'll have 80 per cent of the homes in Saskatchewan with very high-quality internet service.

And a growing province like ours requires a very reliable electrical service. Today many countries in Europe and elsewhere are facing energy shortages caused by failure to ensure reliable baseload power generation. And Saskatchewan and SaskPower are working hard to make sure that we have a good source of power and that it will be there when we need it most. We're not going to let happen what goes on in some of the other places in the world where they have brownouts or lose power all together.

And our government is taking in all of the above approach to power generation by expanding renewable energy at a rapid pace. SaskPower currently has 680 megawatts of wind and solar generation, with an additional 330 megawatts that is in development. And also two major wind power facilities came



online this year, the 200-megawatt Golden South wind project near Assiniboia and the 175-megawatt Blue Hill wind project near Herbert. And earlier this month, SaskPower announced plans for the further development of 400 megawatts of wind generation in south central Saskatchewan by 2026. This is an initiative, part of a SaskPower strategy of adding 3000 megawatts of wind and solar power to our supply mix, achieving 50 per cent renewable generation by 2035.

Saskatchewan has what the world needs: food, fuel, and fertilizer. And with the geopolitical tensions and the instability and shortages of these valuable commodities going on in the rest of the world, it gives Saskatchewan an opportunity to fill those markets. The potential for our province is greater than it's ever been, but at the same time, you know, we're seeing roadblocks imposed by our own federal government. There are also more roadblocks than ever before, and time and time again we see Ottawa do an end run around Saskatchewan's constitutional jurisdiction over natural resources under the guise of environmental regulation.

And earlier this year, Alberta Chief Justice Catherine Fraser put it well in a decision striking down the federal government's *Impact Assessment Act*. And Chief Justice Fraser said, and I quote, through the legislative scheme, "Parliament has taken a wrecking ball to the constitutional right of the citizens of Alberta and Saskatchewan and other provinces to have their . . . natural . . . [resource development] for their benefit."

And we just think that this cannot continue. It's time for Saskatchewan to draw a line in the sand and define that line as Saskatchewan's exclusive jurisdiction over natural resource. It was enshrined in the Canadian Constitution in 1930. And under the Constitution, Saskatchewan has exclusive jurisdiction over property and civil rights and it has the exclusive jurisdiction over the exploration, development, conservation, and management of all non-renewable resources and forest resources, and it also has the exclusive jurisdiction over all matters of a local nature. And I think it's incumbent on our government to now defend our jurisdiction, ensure that Saskatchewan continues to enjoy growth that works for everyone. And in this session, our government will take the following steps to protect and defend Saskatchewan's economy, jobs, and future from constitutional overreach by the federal government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our government introduced *The Saskatchewan First Act* to clearly define that Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan alone has the exclusive jurisdiction over its natural resources and economic future. And this legislation will draw the jurisdictional line and defend that line based on the existing constitutional division of powers. And just to be very clear, this is not about abrogating or ignoring the Constitution. In fact, quite the contrary. It is the federal government that has been intruding on Saskatchewan's jurisdiction under the Constitution, and *The Saskatchewan First Act* will clarify and defend Saskatchewan's constitutional right to control our natural resources and our economic future.

And secondly, our government will amend the province's constitution to state, in no uncertain terms, that Saskatchewan will continue to retain exclusive jurisdiction over its own natural resources. And this will be done by amending *The Saskatchewan Act*, similar to how Quebec recently unilaterally amended the

constitution to declare that Quebec is a nation and its official language, French.

And thirdly, our government will sign the Saskatchewan-Canada immigration accord and that accord will be sent to the federal government for ratification. And this accord will give Saskatchewan similar authority over immigration to that which has been long guaranteed to the province of Quebec.

You know, I'd like to go on and on, you know, because there are so many great things in this Throne Speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And you know, we could talk a lot about a safer Saskatchewan and the investments that are made there. But I know I only have so much time here.

But you know, I kind of wanted to focus on our economic development and how it has created opportunities and how it affords us the ability to pay down debt and send out those \$500 affordability cheques. I just think it's so important that we have a strong economy in order to make the investments in other places around our province. And so I think that's our most important task — to grow the economy, create jobs that people can have better opportunities here in the province, but also to make Saskatchewan a better place to live and more affordable place to live. And that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is growth that works for everything.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be supporting the Throne Speech, and I will not be supporting the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To join in . . . Before I start I guess the response, you know, I just want to thank my CA, Jude Ratt. He does a great job. He tries to do his work; he tries to help those that are struggling to get their power back on, those that are evicted, those that are homeless, those individuals that have no place to go because of different reasons that affect them.

And we hope sometimes that the government programs would be there to make sure the most vulnerable, their needs are met, that a province that is so wealthy . . . I'll give the credit to the government. Our province is very wealthy. We have much resources. Unfortunately sometimes those resources, there's certain individuals who have access to where those resources will go. And sometimes they will punish people. They will punish people with those resources, and they will say, because of these reasons we are going to punish the people. And that's just the way . . . [inaudible] . . . We're not going to tell you that, but over here in our little room we're going to make the decisions.

Now I want to thank Jude for everything he does, especially on the mental health file, especially on the petition. He came here with his wife. They lost their daughter, in December of 2021 to suicide, with four children. He continues to do the walks with community members. He continues to get a petition signed. He continues to raise awareness with his First Nations leaders, with the municipal leaders, families who have been impacted. He truly has a good support out there, and he's doing what he can. So I want to thank him for all the good work he does.

Now having said that, of course, we all have family. And for me I want to thank my wife, my kids, my grandkids. I've been blessed. You know, the Creator has blessed us with 17 grandkids. We have two great-grandkids, two great-grandkids on the way, and apparently I'm hearing more on the way. So I'm going to do my part.

The only thing I said this way is we want to hope . . . You know, I want to help the government with growth for everyone. And we're trying to help the population. As Indigenous First Nations, we want to help. As our Métis population, we want to help.

When I think about the challenges, you know . . . Government, I understand you would like to have opposite members say, you know, you're doing a great job. You'd like that. I hear you saying that. Doesn't the opposition, don't they ever have anything good to say?

You know, there is some good things to say, and I will say this to you. I genuinely — and I mean this sincerely — I thought we came together as an opposition and a government to truly deal with mental health, addictions, and suicides. I listened to members of that side of the House passionately speak about it. And then we passed a bill. That took a lot of work. I guess not everyone supported that. But unfortunately . . .

Then I thought, and families thought, this government may be showing the will. That maybe there are members opposite . . . remember the backbenchers, and I was thinking . . . and I was relying on the backbenchers. And I thought, I think some of them get it. I was listening to some of their 75-minute debate speeches, and truly I watched that. And I thought, you know, this Throne Speech would give an opportunity. A Throne Speech would give an opportunity, and then they want to talk about more beds for addictions services, mental health. There's so many supports that are needed.

You know, a person gets caught up in the emotions in this place, and I can tell you there's both sides of it. And you know, I'm sometimes — and I've said this — I get harsh, emotional. But it's because I'm seeing the damage back home. I'm spending time with the families. I'm seeing the challenges.

And I want to thank my colleague from Saskatoon Centre. We had in our province . . . No communities should have to go through — First Nations or Weldon as well with James Smith Cree Nation — should go through a suffering that they had to do. And I want to thank my colleague who is a proud First Nations woman, a residential school survivor from Saskatoon Centre. And I watched how she went out there and just wanted to help out, wanted to be with her people and help out, wanted to give support.

And I thank anyone else that went out and supported. I want to thank anyone who reached out and tried to do, whether it was a phone call, those are the things . . . I want to thank my colleagues as well who were there. And I watched some of them just doing the work. They didn't need to be there. They just wanted to show support. In a kitchen, it didn't matter what. They wanted to do it. We were there. And I watched, and we just did our part to help. Just to help. When people need help you lend a helping hand, and that's what Saskatchewan's about. And that's the true thing I will say with that.

[15:00]

But unfortunately, you know, we talk about other challenges that, you know, are going on in our province. And you know, a person gets caught up in the real situations that are facing our constituents. And I think about back home. There are so many challenges. And when we get phone calls . . . And I know probably government get them. I hope you're answering your phones, because I hear some complaints of that.

But having said that, you know, it's tough when you have somebody and their power's off, and it's a young family and they're saying, look, we have no power. And then you try to reach out to certain ministries or government or SaskPower, SaskEnergy, and you try to negotiate the situation. And sometimes, you know, that process isn't easy for some of them. There's many challenges.

You talk about affordability, and I think about the government talking about the growth for everyone. And I just want to tell you something. We hope that's what it is supposed to be about. Our great province has lots of resources. We have lots of wealth. And you know what, on that part of it, you're failing many people — seniors that are struggling, single parents that are struggling. There are truly people out there trying their best. They're working two jobs, three jobs, and they're trying their best.

And sometimes, you know, people's frustration, it looks like a government that just doesn't get it. And I remind people that sometimes when governments are old and tired and they just go through the old process . . . And that's what I see. I see a government that's old and tired and, you know, you're just recycling stuff.

And why I say that is, the one thing I'll say is we've worked hard. And I want to thank people back home. They worked hard to get a long-term care for La Ronge, for the whole region. And there was supposed to be the Croft report come out 2009; there was supposed to be an announcement. And they have announced it. And they've run ads against me that I voted against it, and they did everything — 2015. And it's amazing at the end of the day.

And you know, lo and behold, in the 2021 Throne Speech, it's in here. Man. It says, "Planning continues . . . on new long-term care facilities in Grenfell and La Ronge." And I thought, wow, that is . . . And that was good back then, because I gave you guys compliments back then. And then this year it's almost like you just took it and pasted it to the next one, 2022.

And you know what's interesting? And I highlighted it because, you know, I thought, well what did you guys do? Just take it and paste it on? Here it is. "Planning continues for new long-term care homes in La Ronge and Grenfell." You know, what was interesting about it, you just changed La Ronge from . . . you just changed the name. That's all that happened.

So you know, we're thinking about it. I think about the good work that many people did back home: leaders, community members, petitions. And I actually . . . We were waiting for this sod-turning for years, you know. The land's been donated by La Ronge Council, and I thank them for doing that. People are excited and families are saying, maybe we can have our loved ones stay close to home in the North.

Unfortunately, I don't know. I don't know if I'm going to invite the minister or not, but maybe we'll invite him. I think I'm going to have a sod-turning myself because I find the waiting, I'm tired of it. So maybe we'll have a sod-turning. I mean it won't be official because I don't have the authority to do that. But just as a resident, maybe I'll go over there and have a sod-turning myself. You know, I can't afford a ribbon to cut, but maybe we'll do a sod-turning. And that'll be good.

But I just want to put a shout-out to, I think about Gary Veteri and a number of community members working hard on that project. And they're waiting patiently and they're getting tired of waiting. So you know, I talk about that.

I want to talk a little bit about safety. We talk about highways. We have a new Highways minister and I was hoping, you know, maybe in this vision about growth for everyone . . . We have a highway and it's called Highway 106. It's the Hanson Lake Road. It's from Smeaton to Creighton.

And I hope the Highways minister, you know, knows about conditions of roads. He says he's travelling all them. Well if he travels on that Highway 106, there's some work, maintenance being done on it and they try to fix it up as best they can with what they have. And I hope when he comes and travels some of our roads he will truly see how it is . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well you know what? The thing with that is, did you have a flat tire or an incident where you've got in an accident or where you had a problem where your vehicle's broke down and you would have to make a phone call for emergency services? Like some families will have had car accidents and have sat in the ditch with kids in a car accident, and there's nobody. There's no phone. There's no way on that highway.

So maybe the SaskTel and the Highways minister can get together and say, you know, we talk about growth for everybody. Here's some situations where it's about emergencies. It's about safety. How do you not see that? Is it that you're punishing people? Is that what this government is doing? You have billions upon billions of dollars and you want to punish a group of people because maybe the way they vote. Like I don't know. I'm asking. Maybe I'm naive and wrong, and you know what? Maybe if you keep on, you know, the way it's going you'll have leaders that really truly are going to tell you a message as a government that it's time for some change. And maybe it is time for some change.

So when I look at some of the challenges, I think about the road. And I'll give you another example. It's sad that we have to talk about serious incidents. Here's a Throne Speech that talks about growth for everybody. And you guys want to talk about excitement. We talk about our Indigenous people, our Métis, our family members, our First Nations. You know, you have members opposite that are Métis, First Nation. And I watch and I hope someday they'll rally and they can push the government to do some things that need to be done for First Nations and Métis people. And my colleague from Saskatoon Centre has been doing a great job advocating, and we'll continue to do that.

You know, when you look at roads, you look at cell service, it's about affordability for the North, about the cost of living. It's so much higher. And you hear the leaders saying, Doyle, you know, what does it say to you when a community like Wollaston Lake, Hatched Lake First Nation, the power's out for hours, for days?

When you look at challenges like that, we took a province that has so much and says, why aren't you guys praising us, everything's so great out there? And their meat, their wild meat that they get in their deep freezes, it's unthawed, it's thrown away. Who compensates them? Who takes care of that? How are they supposed to be treated?

So when I think about that, you guys can think, you know, you can say, well we don't say any positive stuff. You've got a lot of challenges out there, a lot of people struggling. I think about Kinoosao. You know, the only way into the community of Kinoosao is into Manitoba on a road, you know, 394 is a gravel road in Manitoba. Then it hits 994, about probably 40 kilometres, you know, a road, and it's the Saskatchewan side, and that road's terrible.

There was an injury in the community. The ambulance took about four hours to get in there because the road was so bad that they couldn't take this young man that was in an emergency, they couldn't get out of that community. The ambulance would not take him. It took hours and hours. And I watched it on Messenger, talking with citizens that were over there. So you know, I know we're going to be calling. And they're calling, leaders and individuals are calling for more supports.

When you talk about, you know, growth for everyone and we're taking care of Saskatchewan people, you have issues. You talk about cell service, you know, the internet. You know, you talk about affordability of housing. You know, people trying to make ends meet, just to try to keep clothes on their kids, keep food in the fridge, pay their rent, balance everything out. It's pretty tough out there. You know, I think about some of the programs that were very good programs. And in the Throne Speech, you do give some allocations of dollars for some programs for Indigenous language and education.

But we had some programs that were really good — the NORTEP [northern teacher education program] program — and you got rid of that. And then you come back and you do other ways. And you know, I can go on about the different things, the challenges that have been faced by Saskatchewan people, especially in my riding and northern ridings. And you keep . . .

And you know, you have a member that was elected to Athabasca, and I was sincere when I say congratulations to him. He won 23 per cent, and I said that, came out to vote. I can tell you something, that there are people in the Athabasca riding will come out greatly. I will tell you that the people in the Athabasca riding will come out and vote. I'm hearing it from people. They're going to be coming out. Not 23 per cent; I'm sure we'll see a good turnout. So we'll see what happens with that.

And you know, I hope the member from Athabasca, you know, I welcome him to my riding. He comes into my riding lots and I welcome him. And we have a little bit of visits, and you know, been to a few events. And that's really good. You know, he's welcome to come, and you know, I'm going to be going into his riding to visit too. I want to be friendly to my colleagues. And we're northern reps and maybe we can fight on some of the issues and some of those issues that are out there.

And I think about the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations. I've got to talk about him. He held up and he did

his response, and he really talked how much First Nations and Métis was mentioned in the Throne Speech. Like, he just said it's in there all over the place. And you know what? Elders and people that I have a lot of respect for, leaders, they always tell you actions speak louder than words.

So you know what? You can pat yourselves on the back for all the great work that our province has done, for the corporations that are investing in Saskatchewan. You want to take credit for that. You pat yourselves on the back. I watch it. You're so proud that you've done that, all that work, yourself. And those corporations, I want to thank them for investing in Saskatchewan. Those are the true heroes I want to thank for investing in our beautiful province. And hopefully that . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, there you go. Yeah, yeah. And maybe when you're taking in those investments you could focus on highways. You could take some of that resource money and focus on highways. You know, you could. I know you don't really care for it, but honestly you could invest some of it on highways.

So having said that, there are a lot of challenges and this Throne Speech, you keep saying it's great and it's growth for everybody and there's money coming in. You know, actually I know I have to wind up, but you know what's interesting? You talk about, and I hear, this \$500 cheque and you're going to help with affordability.

And I think to myself, you know, I want you guys to know, but I was glad . . . I lost my wallet yesterday on the ground. I was walking in the park and my wallet fell out. And you know what? My wallet came back to me, and you know when I got my wallet back, I was so grateful that I had my ID [identification]. And I checked in the wallet and I had \$200 in there. And I thought, holy smokes, I only had \$100 in there. They gave me my wallet back but \$100 was missing. That's interesting how that happens, but you know, that happens sometimes in life, you know. They need it. Somebody must have needed it, I guess.

But anyway having said that, I think that's kind of how I would compare that cheque. The people have been asked to pay more with taxes and fees that this government has come up with, and then you announce a \$500 cheque for affordability, and guess what happens? You know what? They paid. Now they're just getting it back, and I am seeing that. So you know, the list goes on of challenges that many people see and issues, you know, that are going on.

The last thing I want to say, I think about FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], and you know, the Health Quality Council, the good work, the report they put out. And I want to say they're demanding some support, and that growth plan they're demanding. And I hope this government is hearing what's going on. I hope you're hearing what our leaders are saying, First Nations, Métis leaders. There are a lot of different challenges that are being faced, but that is one where it's a crisis going on.

And I give credit to our First Nations leaders, chiefs, our mayors, our leaders that have done the good work and doing the good work and advocating. And unfortunately, you know what? Again, don't take credit for stuff. Like even when I see about the signs, the treaty boundaries, and I watch how some will try to make it like it's the government's idea and then the government

did it. And really don't take credit for that. Like, honestly, don't. I think those that should get the credit, deserve the credit, but don't pat yourselves on the back just because you say, oh well we put up a sign now. We're really good. Like we're truly, we're listening to First Nations and Métis people because you're not.

And at the end of the day, we'll continue to do what we can to raise the issues here on affordability, housing. You know, this government could do so much more. You have so much. You have so much wealth. Our province has got so much. We should be proud. We're supposed to work together.

[15:15]

And you know, I see a government that sometimes even . . . We all go back and forth. And I was going to poke at the Minister for First Nations and Métis Relations. I wanted to poke more at him, how I've seen some of the dealings and the way he carries on sometimes. But you know what? I'll just leave it at that and wish, you know, that he could see a better way and that a true way to work with First Nations and Métis people, and even First Nations and Métis people on this side of the House, that he can have a true respect with them. And maybe someday we can, with the Creator's guidance we can work together and maybe see a vision that needs to be dealt with when it comes to First Nations and Métis issues. The challenge is on long, and I know many have to go on and say.

But I guess sometimes a person gets in this place, and it gets overwhelming because of the challenges back home. But I just want to say my colleagues have said some good words. And there's been some members opposite that, you know, have said some good statements and have given praise to some of the people that are doing the good work. And I understand that: your constituents, your CAs.

But just know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that at the end of the day we'll leave from here. We do our work. We go back home. I just want to finish with this. There are many people in our province who are not feeling this growth plan that you talk about. They're not feeling a part of this province. They are struggling with their mental health, the addictions, with affordability. And they're not just seniors. They're not just single parents. They're people trying, just trying to make a living, trying to make ends meet. The cost of living is unbelievable. There are many challenges.

So you know, for those that are out there, if you're struggling with mental health and addictions, I hope you'll reach out. I know there's many challenges facing just to try to find services. But just know, reach out to whoever. You know, if you know how to talk, if you're feeling like you need help, reach out to anyone, whether it's myself, whether it's a friend, a family member. Reach out to whoever you can to try to, you know, get help when you need it. Because we see too much of that.

I know the last thing I'll say is, you know, my colleague had made an amendment, and it's a good amendment. I think it was a good amendment. I'm sure government's not going to support it, but I know I won't be supporting their Throne Speech. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with that I'll conclude my remarks, and I'll be supporting the amendment. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member from

Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota.

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I'll get the formalities out of the way right out of the gate and unequivocally say that I will be supporting the motion put forward by the member for Regina Walsh Acres and seconded by our man in the North, the member for Athabasca, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I'm going to save some other formalities to the end because I do want to get to *The Saskatchewan First Act*, which featured of course in the Throne Speech, second reading coming up next week. And I would like to get out to the people of the province, if I can, what I shared with media yesterday and continue to today to explain this Act, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and lay it out. And I hope to hear from people that this is what they are expecting from us, what makes sense and is responsive to what we have been hearing from them, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Yesterday we formally introduced this Act, *The Saskatchewan First Act*, the product of many months of legal analysis, economic analysis, a lot of work. And at its roots, this bill asserts Saskatchewan's exclusive, exclusive jurisdiction over natural resources, which we must protect.

Our natural resources are one of the major reasons why Saskatchewan is weathering the economic recessionary storm that is being experienced elsewhere. But economic success and strength don't just happen by accident. They happen when regulatory and royalty structures, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are strong, competitive, and transparent. They happen when you pound the pavement in Canada and around the world, telling Saskatchewan's incredible investment story. Economic success happens when you don't turn your back on workers in traditional sectors, when you build on the strength of those traditional sectors and diversify and expand into new ones. It happens because you create a pro-business, pro-investment climate. This bill is about ensuring and protecting that.

The economic success that Saskatchewan has achieved has been despite federal policies that have done and could do real economic harm, and that risk doing much more. This bill will create the framework to define, address, and quantify economic harm because that harm is real and is being perpetrated on just one region of the country.

We're tired of the condescension, of the double standards, and frankly of the contempt for ordinary people and their livelihoods. You can mock and look down your nose when you only talk to energy workers when you need them for a photo op, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Then you don't know the economic harm that is being done.

When it comes to the quantification of economic harm, it is simply economically dishonest to suggest that carbon tax rebates will offset the totality of a \$111 billion harm. Businesses don't get rebates. Those who don't file taxes don't get rebates. The federal government is withholding hundreds of millions of dollars from SaskPower in carbon tax, which it could use to invest in renewables, power security right here in Saskatchewan.

And don't forget, this past January the federal parliamentary budget officer found that the carbon tax has left 60 per cent of

Canadian households financially burdened, as in worse off, including when the impact of the wider economy is added into the equation and indirect costs passed on by businesses. That's no surprise. The report also reminded us that Saskatchewan producers will be paying \$28 million a year in carbon tax for grain drying alone by 2030. Clearly this tax is one of many root causes affecting affordability.

Another example of economic harm, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the federal fuel standard — carbon tax number two — which came into force in June and will take effect next year. According to Saskatchewan, it will have an impact of \$700 million a year on both gas consumption and diesel consumption. Just one set of regulations, not offset by anything, and a huge impact on retail, rail, the ag sector, trucking, manufacturing, and of course heating your home and fuelling your car.

And it's not as if, Mr. Speaker, the infrastructure around ethanol isn't coming online and canola crushing isn't coming online. We're doing everything we can. We've made major announcements in this area. But in the meantime, that ethanol will largely be imported from the US [United States], and the infrastructure takes time to get itself into place. And we have told the federal government this repeatedly: you cannot impose the federal fuel standard until the infrastructure is up and running here in Canada. And even once the infrastructure is up and running, the damage that the federal fuel standard alone will do is significant. Direct economic harm.

Another one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the federal clean electricity regulations, which stipulate that there will be no fossil fuel-generated power by 2035. As SaskPower has said, that is literally impossible in the province of Saskatchewan. And just for context, Saskatoon is powered by the Queen Elizabeth natural gas power station. Direct economic harm.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in terms of the constitutionality and legality of this bill, we are amending Saskatchewan's constitution by virtue of section 45 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, which provides that a provincial legislature can unilaterally amend its own constitution. And by that means, we are asserting that exclusive constitutional jurisdiction, we are enumerating our core provincial powers, and we are referring questions for economic assessment to an independent economic tribunal.

This is not merely symbolic. Amending our constitution, as Quebec did, as the Prime Minister said it was within the powers of provinces to do, and enumerating our core provincial powers — in other words only those that relate specifically to Saskatchewan — we believe will have real practical and legal weight in the future. Both amendments we are making to *The Saskatchewan Act* and the *Constitution Act* are legally sound. They are proper, and they fall within the ambit of the province's power to amend.

In terms of our economic harm, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and assessing it and putting a dollar figure on it, this will help identify evidence for potential future cases, including a reference to the Court of Appeal as one example. And it will help overcome what can be challenging legal thresholds to obtain, for example, an interlocutory injunction, one test of which is establishing irreparable harm.

Far from this bill being unpatriotic, as members opposite have suggested, I would counter, is it not patriotic to ask for a fair deal, to rely on the strict interpretation of the division of powers under the Constitution, and to ask that the federal government be an honourable partner? That to me defines being Canadian. We don't relish being here, but this is where we are.

Quebecer Michel Kelly-Gagnon wrote recently about what Quebec has demanded constitutionally and what that signals to other provinces. He put it this way: "Sometimes a provincial government ends up having the powers it dares to take, not just the powers that are handed to it." We choose to dare to assert what is ours under the Constitution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in other words, I want to also talk a bit more about what JAG [Justice and Attorney General], as they call it, has been up to. And JAG has been busy. I was very proud to join with my colleagues, the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Lloydminster and for Cut Knife-Turtleford, last Friday to reopen the Lloydminster courthouse as a permanent Provincial Court location with a fully operational registry office. And that is key, Mr. Deputy Speaker — staff in person on the ground so that people can pay fines, file small claims, obtain peace bonds, and as families work through the sometimes painful process of mental health warrants, for example.

We listened to the concerns of people and law enforcement in Lloydminster and areas around Lloydminster about the loss of the registry office and the increase in case volumes that that community and surrounding community was seeing. And we believe that this will improve efficiency, access to justice, speed of justice, and significantly decrease travel to North Battleford, which was difficult for citizens, court staff, judges, lawyers, and RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] officers. As well a total of five Provincial Court staff, five deputy sheriffs will be hired on a full-time basis to operate the facility, and the job posting for that went up last week, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Similarly we are very excited to do a similar re-unveiling in Weyburn tomorrow on the King's Bench side with my colleague, the MLA for Weyburn-Big Muddy. Bring friends, I've told him. Three registry staff, three deputy sheriffs will be hired, and again the job post will go up as of tomorrow.

**An Hon. Member:** — I might apply.

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — He might apply. Mr. Speaker, we want to be a government that opens and doesn't close.

A few proverbial shout-outs, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to my former chief, Carter Zazula, who was so decent, so real, so Saskatchewan in the best sense — I want to thank him for everything and all his work — and to my new chief, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Michelle Lang, who is always in a good mood, is so supportive, so informed, has so much energy, with that crucial bit of edge, as I was telling her yesterday.

[15:30]

To my CA Betty Anne Stevenson, who is my partner in all things in the constituency, the beautiful constituency of Stonebridge-Dakota, I want to thank her so much.

Speaking of which, a pretty big chunk of beautiful Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota will move to my lovely new colleague from Arm River. Be very sad to lose the rural component of the constituency. It's certainly been my honour to represent it, but I do for a while yet. And after that, onward and upward with the MLA for Arm River. And it will be in very good, very honourable hands, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I do want to call out Krista Heisler, senior admin, who came with me from Energy and Resources. My gain, our gain. And I have to say that she has infused the new office with sunshine and organizational dynamism. She's amazing and she's tough and she's so very valued. Sydney, Paul, in my office. And our new admin, Mariia Mykolaichuk, who, Mr. Speaker, arrived here from Ukraine in August and we're honoured to have her in the office. And more about this to come because I think we should introduce her to this House.

I want to also acknowledge Linda Zarzeczny, deputy minister of Justice and Attorney General, for being such an honourable partner. And certainly I was proud to be at the recent federal-provincial-territorial meeting a few weeks ago with her, with Michelle Lang. It was woman power in a room of men, just saying.

I want to call out my darling parents, as I always do. And, Mommy, it's a date on Friday. And to Max — not the little boy anymore who first sat here, as I always say, in this chair the first time I was sworn in, in his fancy adidas jacket — I'm very, very proud of you and your bold nature. Watch out, world.

**An Hon. Member:** — Handsome young man.

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Lori. Thank you, the MLA for Estevan. And to the Premier — and I said this a few weeks ago at a dinner where he joined me — what a driver of where we are. What a genuine believer in this province, who personifies common sense and the best of us, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Colleagues and friends, we are on a roll in Saskatchewan. We are on a roll. Let no one tell you different. Not creating jobs? Have you talked to Paper Excellence or Royal Helium or BHP Jansen, Cameco, Seabee Gold, Foran Mining, Prairie Lithium?

Saskatoon is leading economic growth among cities in Canada. Our province is leading the country. Red hot is what we were called last week, Mr. Speaker. The world is taking notice. *The Economist* magazine is taking notice of the power and potential of this province. Some days it seems everyone else has, except everyone here. We cannot lose sight of where we are at, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Investors in Houston, in London, in New York, they're telling us that we are doing and achieving what is world leading. Someday perhaps, the opposition might too, and not keep referencing PEI [Prince Edward Island] and engage in a little positivity for a change, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

With that, here is to Saskatchewan. Let's celebrate it. And here is to Saskatchewan first.

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

**Mr. Keisig:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Before I get into

my speech, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to take a moment to express my sympathies to the friends and all the families of the 11 residents who tragically died at James Smith Cree Nation and the community of Weldon. I can't even begin to imagine the pain that those families endured upon hearing the news of the attacks and the days leading up to the arrest.

As a province, we grieve and support you through this process. If there's anything that we've been reminded of from this tragedy is how quickly Saskatchewan residents can come together in times of need. These communities do not have to go through this process of grieving alone.

Years ago, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was working at the Prince Albert pulp mill and there's a little-known ferry you can take on back roads and you cross the North Saskatchewan and South Saskatchewan and you come out by Kinistino, and it's called the Weldon ferry. And I took it quite often. It was actually a very nice drive on the way home from a week of work. So we definitely grieve with all the members of those communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, another challenging event unfolded. It was the passing of Her Majesty. I never really considered myself much of a monarchist, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I was honestly saddened at the passing. She's indeed an iconic person that many Saskatchewan people had an opportunity to meet. In 1978 the Queen came to Balcarres and all the community groups were there to meet her. My father, Frederick Keisig, he was a 4-H leader. And I mean I was too young; I wasn't old enough to be in 4-H at that time. But anyway my father and my siblings were there and they got to meet Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

And my dad always talked about the conversation he had with Prince Philip, talking about 4-H and rural youth. And Prince Philip was really eager to learn about my father's purebred Charolais herd. And my dad always talked about that story, you know.

And then there was a very, very young Karla Baber from Balcarres presented the Queen with a really nice bouquet of flowers at the ceremony in Balcarres. And you know, good old Saskatchewan being one big small town, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Karla Baber's daughter is working in the building and I'm hoping she's watching right now. Cherrise Esplin should be paying attention to this.

You know, the Queen is really the only monarch that any of us have ever known. Well of course expect for one, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I really hope to go for a coffee with the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation and gain some insight about, you know, King George and what it was really like and everything. But you know, I'm hoping we have time. But we definitely support King Charles. He will make his mother, country, and Commonwealth very proud. Long live the King.

My wife, Mr. Deputy Speaker, has been very busy helping all the ratepayers of Tullymet — it's a very busy time, tax collection season and everything else — and been selling a lot of maps to different hunters and everything else. So there's always a lot of activity in her office. And she's always also busy with the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association. They do some really good work in conjunction with SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities].

And my older daughter, Mr. Deputy Speaker, she's in her last year of nursing. She's doing her clinical right now at the General. She's in the cardiac unit and everything else. She's really excited about the new parking. You know, parking's always been a challenge for any of the employees at the General Hospital. So that's really good news, you know. And she's excited about the launch of the health human resources action plan. It's going to help students like my daughter, Mr. Deputy Speaker, with the student loan forgiveness program, the graduate retention program, the final clinical placement bursary. I mean the list goes on and on. There is a lot of good things that we're doing to help health care people in this province.

My younger daughter, Sharlize, is doing her last year of veterinary technician in Vermillion in Alberta. She's completing her course. She worked all summer in Melville, a great veterinary clinic there, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And the experience she received from her summer job, you know, it served her quite well at school, and she's really enjoying it and doing quite well. My wife and I are very proud of our daughters and all their accomplishments. They've really proven themselves to be very hard workers.

My constituency assistant, Tina Knowles, is always helping the great constituents of Last Mountain-Touchwood. Had a very busy summer together and we had lots of activities on the go.

There was so much at the provincial parks — Last Mountain Lake, Katepwa, Echo. You know, I'm in a very fortunate place, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The lakes are beautiful and all of the rural communities. There was parades. This summer almost seemed like it was a pent-up demand from nothing going on for two years and then it was just overflowing. It was so great to see people enjoying our summer and supporting all their communities.

I was sitting in my chair, Mr. Deputy Speaker, listening to the Speech from the Throne, and growth, growth that works for everyone. As most of you are aware, I'm a farmer, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So when I hear growth, I think of agriculture. I think of the seeds that we plant and the harvest in fall. How do we begin to grow? You see, Mr. Speaker, for growth to occur, it takes a lot of work, determination, and working with what we have or are given. When you plant a seed, it needs nurturing. It requires the sun. It needs rain. It takes a lot of faith that that tiny little seed will be prosperous, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for it to reach full maturity.

Saskatchewan is a province, beautiful, filled with many people from various cultures, religions, and varying opinions, Mr. Deputy Speaker. How do we grow together as a government and as a province? Two steps, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We need to have faith in the seeds that we're planting. Our harvest will not be bountiful if we don't have faith in these plants to grow a Saskatchewan that works for everyone. Secondly, we must work together to ensure that our seeds are continuously being nurtured. We need to work every day for all the people of Saskatchewan.

I have a lot of contacts, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the construction industry and everything else. And I remember very well that, like 2010-ish to 2014, '15, I mean those were literally the best years financially I've ever had. Like I mean, some of the old guys talked about the '70s and different things, and you could quit a job and walk across the street and get a better-paying job. And

that's how it was, like there was so much work. I was working at the refinery in town here and, I mean, my phone rang every day with different people wanting different projects all throughout Western Canada.

There's so many good . . . And that time's going to come again, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Like there's so much work coming up that we literally do not have enough skilled tradesmen to fill the roles, to get these plants built. BHP wants their plant built. They want to be pumping out potash. You know, Cargill, they want their canola crush plant just west of the city; they want it built. They want to be pumping out canola oil. You know, Richardson, it's halfway done in Yorkton, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and you know, that's just kind of the tip of the iceberg. And I've said this before. Like once these plants are built, the maintenance and the repairs and everything else, it just . . . These are generational projects, and everyone's going to reap the benefits, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

You know, I was talking with a representative from a potash mine the other day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and they are looking for a whole genre of employees that can operate underground mining equipment virtually. And the best people — I mean I don't know any of these people — but the best people to run these machinery are young people that like to play video games. Like I've never even heard of that, but that's what this potash, you know, leadership lady was really talking about. Anyway, my kids, they wouldn't get a job there.

You know, the other day, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a very nice meet-and-greet with a diplomatic mission. And the member from Kindersley did a really nice member's statement about that. You know, everyone was invited to that. Lieutenant Governor. And many of our colleagues, we made sure to attend. Export to this province, you cannot overstate it. I mean, everything, agriculture . . . We could never even come remotely close to eating what we produce, so we have to export. So it's critical that we, you know, focus on those markets.

So I was having a really good conversation with some eastern European nations, Croatia and everything else. And they were really happy with our agricultural products, really happy with our potash, but they were really frustrated with some of our delays in getting it to port. You know, and this really just drove home the point. I mean we talk about it all the time in this Chamber, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but we have to get more pipeline infrastructure built.

[15:45]

This potash and our agricultural production is going to do nothing but go up. Historically, I mean our crops . . . We're getting better at farming. We're learning more. The production is increasing. We're getting more advanced potash mining techniques. We're expanding our mines. We're going to need a rail infrastructure for products that have to go on the rail, and we need pipelines to move our other energy products.

I met an individual at this reception. And he's from the European Union, but he grew up in Dusseldorf. So it was interesting, you know. You hear so much on the media and you see so much, and I always like to talk to real people and get an accurate assessment of what's going on. So we're hearing lots about an energy shortage, a natural gas shortage in Germany, and everything else.

So I was asking this gentleman from Dusseldorf, and I said, like, how accurate is that?

And he said, well, it's not really. He said their caverns are 88 per cent full and Germany right now is at like plus 22 or something. I checked the other day. So they're not having any kind of a hard winter. So if it's a mild winter and their cavern's at capacity, they're going to be just fine. But there is absolutely no way that they can refill those caverns for next year.

This is going to be an ongoing thing. They are in serious trouble. There's not enough way to get enough LNG [liquefied natural gas] tankers unloaded. They can't buy enough LNG to refill their caverns for next year. So they really don't know what they're going to do.

You know, Canada's been blessed with such natural resources, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Each province has a right to grow them as they see fit. Quebec, Manitoba, and British Columbia have really expanded their hydroelectric generating capacity in the last decade. But Saskatchewan has increased its fleet. I mean we almost maxed out on our hydroelectric capacity. We're flat, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But we're expanding our fleet of natural gas generation with the Great Plains power station that's going to come online next year.

We're also expanding our renewable fleet, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, it's critical that we keep a sharp eye on our baseload electrical needs. So I really want to give a shout-out to the member from Cannington. He's been lobbying hard for this and he brought it forward. There's a new app out and the Minister of Crown Investments has been integral in getting this out. You can check and go and see what SaskPower is creating. How everything works. It's a little bit tricky to find, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but it's quite accurate.

So it's always a day behind because I mean SaskPower's buying and selling electricity so they don't want it minute by minute. And that's fine. The data that I'm interested in looking at, if it's a day old, is perfectly acceptable.

So we have 615 megawatt capacity of wind power. And today, or yesterday, we were getting 189 megawatts. So just because you have a rated of 600, you never get the full 600. And that's why we really stress baseload electricity, like, over and over and over again. It's absolutely critical. Our solar capacity is 20 and we were getting 2. You cannot run a province, you cannot run business, you cannot run industry, you cannot run people's homes on that unreliability, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

You know, and it's really important to note, like, natural gas prices have just . . . well, in Germany they're over quadrupled. They've really surged. And I mean, that affects our natural gas rates. That affects our natural gas prices for SaskPower to purchase and to use and everything else. And it really shows how economically conscious our coal-fired power plants are. We've got a 200 year supply of coal, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it's really becoming very economically driven to keep a hard look at that.

You know, the proposed small modular reactors — very exciting. And you know, we're always looking forward to learning more about them. No one knows the future, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I



do know this: Saskatchewan's electrical generation should be decided by Saskatchewan people, not the federal government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine is horrible. It has really affected the Ukraine people and everything else. We've welcomed over 2,000 people. Saskatchewan people have really stepped up to the plate.

And I really want to talk about a couple communities in my constituency: Lemberg and Neudorf. I mean, they've welcomed over seven families now. They've got them all houses. They've even bought them some cars to get to work. And everyone has a job, the kids are in school — it's absolutely just a tremendous success story, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Like, the community has just so come around and helped these people and they have really gone above and beyond for them. So kudos to all the good people in Lemberg and Neudorf.

I'm going to ask you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to please listen very carefully. I am about to make one of the most controversial statements ever in this Chamber. I absolutely hate paper straws. Like I literally cannot stand them. They are a horrible, horrible thing. And you know, this is . . . Yeah, the NDP and Liberal coalition banning single-use plastics is a really out-of-touch piece of legislation.

But hear me out, Mr. Deputy Speaker. When I was running my small business . . . I had a welding business, and so you were always manufacturing. And there's kind of two things when you're manufacturing. There's a gravy job and there's a hard-dollar job. So you know, a gravy job, it's very lucrative, it's . . . You're making money. A hard-dollar job is very tight margins and you have to be . . . Razor-thin margins. You have to really pay attention to your overhead and everything else.

Now I have absolutely no clue where single-use plastic straws and everything else fit into the mix, but I do know this: when you take any form of manufacturing away from any industry, you cut into their bottom line. And after having gone through two years of the pandemic, we need to have single-use plastics in our medical industry. It's absolutely critical. And we need those industries based in Canada, producing what we need for all Canadians.

All areas of our economy are struggling with supply chain issues, and we cannot have that happen again. You know, in this Chamber, in these elected roles, we have to have a vision for everything. We all want less litter and we all want a smaller environmental footprint. But in today's day of so much global tension — I mean the horrific war in Ukraine, the unrest in Iran, you know, the worrisome news coming out of China with, you know, the aggression toward democratic Taiwan — we need a strong, self-sufficient North American supply chain and governments should help that, not hinder it, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I want to thank all the good people in Hansard, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We all know that every word in this Chamber is recorded for posterity, so we all try to choose our words carefully. But of equal importance, what I'm really starting to learn, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's what is not said.

The members opposite criticize us about the government for not doing enough on affordability issues. I never hear any of them

criticize the carbon tax — it's going to triple — that is driving these inflationary pressures. It's fully supported by Jagmeet Singh and Justin Trudeau.

This government has a vision for the future, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We are planting the seed for the future with opportunities for us all. A future like my colleague, the member from Athabasca's mother said. I listened to his speech. I really like this part: we're planting seeds, not just for today but for tomorrow. That's what this Speech from the Throne brings forward.

I want to thank the Premier for all his hard work and all of my colleagues for all that they're doing.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be supporting the Throne Speech brought forward by the member from Walsh Acres, seconded by the member from Athabasca. I will not be supporting any amendments brought forward by the members of the opposition. Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land where I'm speaking to you from is Treaty 4 territory, the ancestral traditional territory of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the home of the Métis, and we acknowledge the land in an act of reconciliation to those whose territory we are on.

Before I begin to comment in regards to the Throne Speech, I do have some people I would like to recognize. I would like to recognize the colleagues in the House on both sides, the ones who sit here day in, day out, participating and ensuring that the people's business is being undertaken.

I'd like to thank my family, most of all my husband Terry. My husband Terry is my biggest champion. He is absolutely probably one of the most incredible spouses. He brings me my first cup of coffee every morning. I mean, okay, so he's been gone. I am lucky. I'm lucky because Terry's been in the hospital for the last week, and so I've been drinking tea in the morning because I can't remember how to make coffee in our house. So I'm so glad he came out yesterday, and I got my first cup of coffee back this morning. So thank God Terry's better.

But I also like to thank Kelly Zazula, my constituency assistant. Kelly's been with me just about from the beginning. She's been there since 2008, and I really appreciate her wisdom, her guidance, her calm, respectful demeanour when constituents bring issues to our office. And she's just been a rock, but she's also become a really close family friend.

I also have an absolutely incredible minister's office staff here in the building. I have Molly, Sherry, Christian, and Halle. And there's many a day I come in, and I'm just like stirring stuff up and saying, we got to get this done, we got to get that done. And they calmly just kind of say, Minister, yes, we've got lots of work to do in this office. And so I appreciate their support.

And the staff within the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, and the Status of Women for their hard work and their dedication for

the people of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to welcome the new member from Saskatoon Meewasin, and I want to congratulate him for a hard-won campaign. This is going to be the most rewarding job you will ever have. Sometimes we think, you know, what we've done in previous careers that they were the best. But I have to tell you, this is the best job you're ever going to have.

You have the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. But our main job when we walk into our constituency office, it doesn't matter how those people voted, whether they voted for you or against you, those are your constituents and you go to the wall for them. So congratulations on your win, and I look forward to working with you.

Now as the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and the Status of Women, the Premier, I have to thank him for allowing me to serve at the cabinet table in this position. Many times they, and in a lot of speeches both here and out in the public, our members and the Premier will say, Saskatchewan has what the world needs. We have food, fuel, fertilizer. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I need to add "fun" and "film" to that headline. Because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are so proud of our parks in this province, and our film industry is really taking off.

We had another wonderful, great summer in our provincial parks. As of September 11th, 2020 we had more than 940,000 entry-permit days in our parks. We had 350,000 camping-permit nights.

[16:00]

Well, Mr. Speaker, we've been doing a lot of work in our parks to ensure that people have an absolutely, the best experience ever so that when they plan their next summer, they say, I'm either going back to that provincial park or I'm going to explore another one. Because Saskatchewan really does have the slice of heaven. And we want them to tell all their families and their friends that maybe don't live here that they should come and visit our provincial parks.

Now this summer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I had the opportunity to do a summer tour, and I had the best time exploring Saskatchewan. We embarked on road trips that took us across the whole province. And I have to say, my husband, Terry, he's a great driver. And we'd get up at 5 o'clock in the morning and we head out and we set off to all sorts of parts of this province.

And now people say, well doesn't Laura drive? And then I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, yes I did, but for 23 years I drove non-stop as a real estate agent. And I think I drove from, if you added it all up, it would be back and forth from Regina to Texas and back again I don't know how many times. So I have an opportunity to have somebody else drive and chauffeur me to some of the best parts of this province. I'm more than happy to. It also is a good opportunity for us to spend some quality of time.

And I'm always amazed by the diversity within our province and what we have that other people want. This summer I had the opportunity of visiting the constituency of Cypress Hills where I started at Gull Lake with the MLA for Cypress Hills at their

constituency office. And we got in his truck and off we went for the tour. It was one of the best. From Gull Lake we went to Eastend, so we got to see some really just beautiful parts of this province.

And when we got to Eastend, we met a really interesting character. Now Gary is passionate about trains, and he has spent, I know, over I think it's close to \$3 million on trains that he will then put together a tourist industry for Eastend where they get to travel on the shortline rail tracks. And people will be able to experience that slice of heaven in our part of the province.

And while we were in Eastend, we ended up visiting this absolutely incredible place. And it was called the Blue Dog café. And this Blue Dog café is run by a mother and daughter, and I've got to tell you, they make some of the best scones I've ever tasted. And as we were there, we had an opportunity and the member from Cypress Hills had an opportunity to visit with a well-known author who spends her summer at Eastend because she, again, appreciates what rural Saskatchewan has to offer. And from Eastend we get in the truck and we head off through the valley and we end up at Spring Valley ranch. And again this is just this wonderful little entrepreneur who he has put together what can be a venue where people have the opportunity to host weddings, family get-togethers.

And from there we headed off to Cypress Hills Provincial Park. And I gotta tell ya, I love the Cypress Hills provincial parks. You know, if you didn't know any better, you would say, this is . . . Can this be Saskatchewan? Because, you know, everybody thinks down south there isn't any lodgepole pine or anything, but it is the most unique space in our province, and we are so lucky to have this park. And we have entrepreneurs wanting to develop further in the park to really create a world-renowned space.

And from Cypress Hills Provincial Park off we went to Maple Creek, where we had the opportunity to visit the Grotto Gardens. And then we popped into Rafter R Brewing Company. And I'll have to tell you, that was just a great example of kind of a fun, neat place. So when we pull up we can see along the deck there's a board and there's all these brands. And so what the owner does is he encourages the local ranchers to come and put their brand on the fence so that, in fact, it's really a sign of pride. And it's kind of a neat thing.

And one of the other tours that I had an opportunity was to tour Buffalo Pound Provincial Park with our two local MLAs, the one from Moose Jaw North and Arm River. And we visited the pavilion, brand new pavilion that is being built there. And it's state of the art, and people are going to have the opportunity to really utilize that park to the fullest extent. But you know what's really cool about that park? First off, it's pretty close to Regina and it's really close to Moose Jaw, so people really have the opportunity to have the day visits. But they've revamped their pool so that it's accessible because, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that's one of the things we want to make sure that everyone, and I mean everyone, has the opportunity to experience our parks to the fullest. So I have to congratulate the people that are working within our provincial parks to ensure that accessibility, when we go in to retrofit either pools or campgrounds or any of our facilities, that accessibility is number one.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to tell you we had another long

day where again, 5 o'clock, up and out the door we went. And we drove all the way up, and we toured Duck Mountain Provincial Park where we met the member from Canora-Pelly. And again he had the opportunity to tour us through the park.

That is absolutely . . . And I've got to tell you, you know, if you go to that golf course, you do not believe that you . . . You think you're in the mountains. It's that kind of a beautiful golf course. So I encourage all our golfers to experience Duck Mountain Provincial Park because again, it really just is an absolutely incredible place.

And the people that reside within the park are so proud. And you can tell they have a vested interest in ensuring that Duck Mountain Provincial Park is one of the best places in Saskatchewan.

And so then the member from Canora-Pelly and I headed off from Duck Mountain Provincial Park off to Veregin, and we toured the Doukhobor Heritage Village. And again, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there we have people who are dedicated to ensure that their culture and their religion is being honoured and celebrated here in Saskatchewan.

And from Veregin we headed off to Canora, and in Canora we toured the Ukrainian museum and we met the local Legion. We had an opportunity to provide them with one of our financial cheques that we had made a commitment to help out our Legions.

And then of course I cannot say enough good things about . . . Off we went to Wong's Cafe for probably one of the best bowls of won ton soup you could ever imagine, and that's right there in Canora.

And from there we headed off and toured Good Spirit Lake. And Good Spirit Lake is my old stomping grounds. Every Sunday afternoon as a kid, our family would pack up the picnic basket after church and head off to Good Spirit Lake. So to me that place has a pretty . . . It's a soft spot for me. But I have to tell you, I think it's one of the best little secrets of this province.

When you go to Gunn's beach — I think it's still called Gunn's beach — where you get to experience some of the sand dunes, like that, the beach is absolutely incredible. Again we are so proud of what we do.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also had an opportunity to tour one of our new parks, which is Great Blue Heron Provincial Park. And I toured that with the members from Lloydminster and the member from Athabasca. And you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, this park, again, it really is a wonderful opportunity for so many of us to be able to experience what our province has to offer.

And then to end off my summer tours, I took an afternoon and headed out to Gravelbourg. And Gravelbourg, again, you know, their town slogan is find A Touch of Europe right here in the Prairies. And I have to tell you, it was a lot of fun. We toured the museum. We met with the town administrator. We had a fabulous meal at the Cafe de Paris. I felt like I was back in France. It was absolutely wonderful.

And we also toured the convent and this was . . . You know, the convent was started in the First World War. And it was built with

bricks from the Claybank brick factory here in Saskatchewan. And you know what, Mr. Deputy Speaker? There isn't one crack in that building. It's absolutely incredible. If you look at that building, you think it's brand new. That's how well it was constructed. And it was constructed by the people within that community. So you know, it's always amazing what love, care, and attention can do.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know, I've had the opportunity to also spend some time with our Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. And we've done something really interesting there, and I'm going to read this portion because I don't want to miss anything because it is so important. And I was so pleased to join with the members of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and the Western Development Museum staff and my colleague, the MLA from Saskatoon Southeast, in celebrating the new exhibit — Living Our Culture, Sharing Our Community — earlier this month. This exhibit was made possible through the partnership and the co-operation with the Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's a one-of-a-kind opportunity to experience Saskatchewan history from a different perspective. Every summer from 1955 to 1969, members from the Whitecap Dakota First Nation travelled to Saskatoon to participate in an annual heritage exhibit. They showcased their culture, their dances, their practice, while sharing experiences in agriculture and livestock operations.

So in 2018 the staff at the Western Development Museum uncovered unnamed photos of Whitecap members. So after reaching out to that community, staff discovered the history of the long-ago relationship, and we created a new partnership to name these photos. And this photo-naming project has grown into a 2,000-square-foot exhibit featuring many aspects of the Dakota culture. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this exhibit is such an important opportunity to honour Whitecap Dakota members for their immense contribution and their perseverance.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am so honoured that the Premier asked me to be the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. In the past, I was the Chair of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians of Canada, and each and every woman that is elected to both provincial, territorial and federal, and the senators, are automatically become members of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians. And my job when I was Chair was to really put together a strategy and a tool box for encouraging more women to seek public office because, Mr. Speaker, we know when we have more women at the decision-making table that aspect is taken into account.

Now when I went out and talked to women and asked them if they would consider seeking public office, they said to me, you know, I know I have something to contribute, but I'm not sure I'm prepared to stand up and be bullied in public or in the House or to be ridiculed.

And I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, last evening I was so, so disappointed by one of our members opposite who stood in the House and bullied one of our members here. Our member stood up in the House and apologized, and they would not take the apology. They did not acknowledge it.

[16:15]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the actions that that member portrayed in the House would be considered bullying and personal harassment. And then you wonder why women don't want to put their name on a ballot. That is why women do not want to put their name on the ballot. They know they have something to add. They know they have something to contribute. But not to accept the apology that the member had placed in the House — she stood in the House and apologized — and for that member opposite to deny that is shameful.

**An Hon. Member:** — Which member?

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — The member . . . Do I have to call you out? Is that what you want? It was the member from Elphinstone-Centre. And I was really disappointed because, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we get elected to the House we're to represent everyone. And when we have . . . And you know, we're parliamentarians. We're not activists; we're parliamentarians. And sometimes the actions on the other side of the House are activists. They have to remember — what is your job here? Your job here is to be a parliamentarian.

And the work we're doing in the Status of Women is to advance women, to ensure that women have their voice heard. And I'm so pleased to work closely with the Status of Women. We also have the opportunity to ensure that we are paying attention to issues and concerns that are of top of mind for women in this province.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also have the opportunity to work closely with Creative Saskatchewan . . . And do you want me to stand up and apologize . . . [inaudible].

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Well I'll make my ruling on it, because the member has used a personal charge or accusation against the member without a substantive motion or with notice. So I would ask you to stand up and apologize.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, I will stand up and apologize. But I'm going to ask also too that we remember what our roles are here. And it's really important. And I'm not negating, but I just think it's really important that we be respectful in this House. You know . . . [inaudible interjection].

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Excuse me. The member has apologized. Please accept the apology. I've asked for it; she's apologized. Thank you very much. Continue.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I want to talk about something . . . You know, the member previously spoke about Saskatchewan, our economy, as being on fire. Well you know, our film industry is absolutely firing on all cylinders.

Now I had the opportunity to work closely with Creative Saskatchewan to ensure that we have adequate funding, more than adequate funding, to ensure that this industry thrives in the province. The viewing nature of people today is totally different than it was in previous years, and COVID really kind of brought that to our attention. We have over 200 streaming platforms that everyone has the opportunity . . . and how they view things. They view things differently. They view them from their home. And so what do those streaming platforms need? They need content.

And what do we have here? We have the capabilities and we have the creative talent that is prepared to put their shoulder to the wheel and make this happen now.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, so many people say, well how is this different than the other program that was before? This program is different because every dollar, every Saskatchewan taxpayer dollar invested stays in the province. It does not bleed off to other jurisdictions. That money stays in the province. And we are so pleased to see what is happening there at the sound stage. We have an exciting project that's coming forward and it is . . . There will be three in Canada. There's a sound stage in Vancouver that has an LED [light-emitting diode] wall. There's one in Toronto that has an LED wall. And now being built in Regina here is the state of the art, the newest technology being constructed right here, right here in Regina. And do you know what that means for the industry? — look out; here they come. It's pretty exciting stuff.

And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also had the wonderful opportunity of presenting the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals. And this was an event that we invited people from across the province. And I want to thank the Provincial Secretary for emceeing the event. On October the 14th we presented 57 medals to incredible, deserving people from across this province. And first off, I would like to thank Steve Bata and Jeff Tocher and Ralph Ward from building services here for their assistance in helping put together one of the most beautiful venues right here in the building. And after our presentation of the medals where individuals and their guests were invited to come, we treated them to what could be considered tea fit for the Queen. We had tea. We had juice. We had jubilee pudding.

Now in the UK [United Kingdom] they had a contest, and there was over 5,000 entries, to put together a dessert that could be served during that week of the celebration of the jubilee. So I went downstairs and asked our catering services if they would put together the Queen's jubilee pudding, and they did. Everybody loved the pudding. They liked the cucumber sandwiches too. But it was a wonderful opportunity for the recipients and their families to get together to celebrate and really just, you know, spend time together.

And we had, like I said, we had the honour of presenting to board members from across the province, all the boards that we're responsible for. And we also honoured a large number of Regina paramedics. Because, you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a lot of times we celebrate our doctors and our nurses and our firefighters and our police officers, but somehow our paramedics sometimes get overlooked. And I felt, you know, they're the individuals that a lot of times they're the first on the scene, and they get to roll up their sleeves and sometimes they get to do . . . They do yeoman's work. And I felt that they needed to be celebrated, and so we were so pleased to be able to do that.

Now in this Throne Speech we do talk about health care. We talk about the investment in health care. Now I know the members opposite love to kind of prop up Tommy Douglas as the founder of health care and everything. Well that's all fine and dandy, but you know, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . That was on CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation]. It doesn't count. Anyway, I have to say. . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Okay. Maybe that was disrespectful and flippant. I take that

back and I apologize.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to tell you. They need to listen to this because this is really important. The health care that Tommy Douglas envisioned was in the '60s. Do you know what people were driving in the '60s? They were driving Studebakers. Who's driving a Studebaker today? Nobody, unless you're in a show and shine . . . Okay. We've got someone here that maybe has a Studebaker. But where's he driving that Studebaker? In a show and shine. He's not driving it every day. And yet somehow the opposition thinks that we should . . . like this is some kind of sacred entity that it should never be touched and never be adjusted to meet today's needs. You know, I have to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it saddens me that they're still living in the Studebaker world. We've got a lot more things going on in this province than, you know, Kermit the Frog and, you know, the other, his sidekick driving down the road in a Studebaker.

So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the investments that we are making in this province is absolutely incredible and the excitement in this province has got people paying attention. People are paying attention saying, I need to move there; I need to live there. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be supporting the Throne Speech. I could never support the amendment put forward by the members from the opposition.

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

**Ms. Bowes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to weigh in with my response to the government's Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne was accompanied by the snappy tag line, "Growth That Works for Everyone." If only that were true. This description is simply so tone-deaf that it's difficult to know where to begin — growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if this government has bothered to take notice or to care, but we are in the middle of a homelessness crisis in this province. Seasoned veterans working on the front lines say that they have never seen levels of homelessness this high. Quint Development Corporation's executive director Len Usiskin had this to say about the homelessness crisis in Saskatoon, "I've been working in the core neighbourhood for 25 years and never seen it this bad." How is this growth working for people who are left with no option but to live on the streets, Mr. Speaker? We need a housing-first approach that will ensure stable, permanent housing is available to all Saskatchewan people.

Another thing this government likes to conveniently ignore is our shameful rates of poverty in Saskatchewan, some of the highest rates in the entire country. Nearly 20 per cent of our population is living in poverty. That's nearly 240,000 people, Mr. Speaker. The situation is even worse for Saskatchewan children, with a full 26 per cent of kids living in poverty. One in four Saskatchewan kids. How can this government continue to congratulate itself and yet have nothing to say about this tragedy? Many anti-poverty advocates point to this government's crushingly inadequate income support program, SIS [Saskatchewan income support], which the Sask Party has obstinately clung to despite unanimous expert critique.

It is also no wonder that our rates of poverty are so dire when this

government continues to legislate the lowest minimum wages in all of Canada, absolute bottom of the barrel, Mr. Speaker. There is simply no way people can get by on \$13 an hour. It is impossible to achieve a dignified standard of living, and the government knows this. They know this, and they do not care. How is this growth working for people who are forced to languish under the government's poverty minimum wages, Mr. Speaker? What we need are legislated living wages that reflect the actual cost of living.

And Saskatchewan people are not just being made to suffer economically. We also have the highest rates of domestic violence out of all the provinces. Our domestic violence rates are over double the national average. Yet despite this we remain one of only a few provinces that do not fund second-stage shelters. These shelters provide longer term, stable housing and wraparound services to women and children fleeing domestic violence, Mr. Speaker. Second-stage shelters are essential to the safety and security of women and children in our province.

This government must stop wringing its hands and finally put their money where their mouth is when it comes to showing leadership on domestic violence. We heard the Premier say that he needs to show more leadership. This is one way that you can do it. This is one tangible way you can do it instead of hollow apologies.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, we have a government that one week ago today saw no issue with rolling out the red carpet for convicted, unrepentant wife murderer Colin Thatcher, a notorious wife killer, inviting him as a special guest to their Speech from the Throne. The member for Lumsden-Morse, who invited Thatcher as his guest to this legislature, wholeheartedly defended his decision, referring to Thatcher as a fine individual. Only after public blowback began to explode was he made to release a mealy-mouthed, non-apology statement. As the blowback continued on for days unabated, that senior government member finally was stripped of his Legislative Secretary duties by the Premier. He should have been expelled from that caucus entirely. He is unfit for public office.

We also have a Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety who, when asked if it sent the wrong message to have Thatcher attend a Throne Speech that featured a tough-on-crime message, said, not at all. She maintained it doesn't matter. This minister finally ate crow and apologized yesterday, six full days later. Yet she still has not been stripped of her ministerial role, which she is clearly unfit for on multiple levels. She does not even understand her file, Mr. Speaker.

[16:30]

The Premier himself, when questioned by media on Thatcher's invitation and asked if he would apologize for the invitation, visibly recoiled. He visibly recoiled. Watch that video, Mr. Speaker. And he said, "Me? What would I apologize for?" Is this what Saskatchewan people should expect from the top leadership in our province, Mr. Speaker? It is obviously not what they expect.

Public blowback to this government debacle was swift and harsh. The blowback was so forceful that it commanded media coverage at national and even at international levels, showing no indication

of waning as the Premier and his government continued to pigheadedly double down. Five full days later, the Premier finally tucked his tail between his legs and unconvincingly told this Assembly he had had time to reflect and proceeded to offer his unequivocal apology for the invitation.

What a sad state of affairs the leadership of this province is in when the only way the people of Saskatchewan could expect to receive an apology from the Premier is after publicly shaming him into one. This is not leadership, Mr. Speaker.

And while we're on the subject of shameful behaviour, let's keep in mind that this Premier continues to humiliate and fail our province with his unparalleled climate denialism. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan continues to have the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in Canada. They are indeed among the highest in the entire world. And the Premier's response to this? Well his feelings on the matter couldn't be more clear. In his own words, "I don't care." I don't care. What kind of climate-denying dinosaur thinks this, never mind has the nerve to actually say something like this out loud, Mr. Speaker? Then more recently . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I'm going to ask the member to refrain from her personal comments directed at specific members in the House. You've done it three times. I'm going to ask you to stand up and apologize and withdraw.

**Ms. Bowes:** — I apologize and withdraw, Mr. Speaker.

Then more recently this Premier further humiliated our province with his sloppy and embarrassing failure of an attempt at a white paper. Here are a few examples of the scathing feedback the Premier received from people who reviewed his white paper, which purported to tackle federal climate change policies.

Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chief Bobby Cameron had this to say, and I quote:

First Nations do not know what the effects of this plan will be because we were not even provided with any information on this plan. Climate change is real and we all know that First Nations in the North will be impacted before everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, yet again we see the Sask Party government blatantly ignoring their duty to consult with Indigenous peoples. Joel Bruneau, head of the University of Saskatchewan's economics department, said, "Overall it looks like a transparent attempt to undermine support for climate change policies rather than a serious cost-benefit analysis."

Brett Dolter, assistant professor in economics at the University of Regina, was quoted as follows: "The white paper in climate policy analysis is likely influenced by both climate insincerity and good old-fashioned prairie populism. People deserve honest policy debates."

And the real icing on the cake, even dyed-in-the-wool conservatives aren't pulling their punches, Mr. Speaker. Howard Anglin, who is the former deputy chief of staff to the Premier's good pal Stephen Harper, and who was also the former principal secretary for the Premier's other bosom buddy, Jason Kenney,

openly mocked the Premier's white paper. He described the Premier's white paper as "The literary equivalent of a baby's high chair after a spaghetti dinner." Ouch, that's got to sting. Ouch.

This white paper is just more of the same blustering, backwards, grievance-based, poor-me politics that are the true hallmark of this Premier and his government. This is a government that is old, tired, and out of any solutions of their own. Like clockwork, they desperately seek to distract from their own political failures by blaming everything they possibly can on Justin Trudeau.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are embarrassed by this childish behaviour. The people of our province expect a government that will actually deliver for them, not more of the same rabid frothing at the mouth towards the federal government and squandering of taxpayer dollars on baseless court challenges. They expect and deserve a government that will stop with the finger pointing, take responsibility like real leaders, and get to work on behalf of the people of our province. Instead, behind the curtains of their crass political theatre, this government is busy hacking away at our public institutions and our social safety net.

The truth of the matter is this Speech from the Throne is fully in keeping with the Sask Party government's death-by-a-thousand-cuts privatization agenda. Hundreds of SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] workers will have their jobs axed by this government with the planned closure of all remaining public liquor stores. A profitable Crown, one that actually makes money for our province and pays for things like health care and education, is being shuttered by this government because, according to the minister, the SLGA stores could start losing money. What kind of absurd logic is that? This government is so arrogant that they don't even bother trying to make convincing arguments anymore, Mr. Speaker. This government hates unions. They will literally take any opportunity they can to kill off good-paying, stable union jobs. Precarious, low-wage jobs only for the Sask Party.

SLGA is just the most recent fatality of the growing list of publicly owned revenue-generating Crown corporations this Sask Party government has shut down, sold off, or underhandedly eroded through contracting out. The idea of public ownership is despised by this government. And make no mistake, they will not stop until there is nothing else, until every single public operation in this province is dismantled and handed over to their corporate crony donors. It's the Sask Party way, Mr. Speaker.

The Sask Party's ongoing obsession with privatization can be seen plain as day with the hollowing out and ruin of our health care system which is in a state of collapse. Health care workers are leaving their professions and leaving our province in droves, many out of sheer exhaustion and desperation. In my riding, Mr. Speaker, Saskatoon's largest hospital, Royal University Hospital, is regularly 200 to 300 per cent over capacity. Severe service disruptions are now the norm.

According to Saskatchewan Union of Nurses President Tracy Zambory, in rural Saskatchewan staffing shortages have led to up to 40 facilities being forced to offer limited services in one day alone. Zambory is calling on the government to immediately strike a nursing task force to address the urgency of the situation.

And where is the Health minister? There he is over there. Is he listening and will he act?

Making matters even worse, for going on nearly two months now, there have been zero doctors taking on new patients in Saskatoon, and we are seeing our already overflowing emergency rooms clogging up even further. Dr. Andries Muller, president of the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons, describes the situation as follows: "It's just a vicious circle, and to be honest, I think most of my colleagues would say that they don't see light at the end of the tunnel."

This government's obsession with privatization can be seen in our public education system as well. Private schools are being funded more and more by the Sask Party government while our public schools are being starved of the funding and resources they require. Qualified independent schools began receiving public funding by the Sask Party government in 2012. Now the Minister of Education has announced that there will be a new category recognized by the government, certified independent schools, which will receive even more public dollars than qualified independent schools.

Mr. Speaker, taxpayers are being forced to fund schools like Legacy Christian Academy, where allegations of rampant emotional, physical, and sexual abuse have been brought to light. Schools like Legacy Christian Academy, where the basic human rights of children are being routinely violated, abuses that this government knew about and did nothing to address. This is deplorable and it reeks of Sask Party scandal and corruption.

Mr. Speaker, this government's agenda is decidedly not growth that works for everyone. It is growth that fattens and lines the pockets of the few, while the rest of the people of Saskatchewan are left scrambling over the crumbs. This slogan of growth that works for everyone is particularly galling when we see this government greedily hoarding enormous windfall profits throughout a historic affordability crisis. All the while ordinary Saskatchewan people are being left to scrape and suffer through it on their own. This is record-breaking, 40-year-high inflation, Mr. Speaker, with the cost of living soaring and no meaningful help in sight from this government.

To add insult to injury, the Premier and his government are snatching thousands of dollars out of the pockets of everyday Saskatchewan people with their 32 aggressive tax and fee hikes, Mr. Speaker. And then they have the unbelievable nerve to turn around, looking for a pat on the back when they try to buy votes with promises of \$500 cheques that Saskatchewan people have still not seen even one red cent of. This Premier must think Saskatchewan people are stupid, Mr. Speaker, because that's how he and his ministers continue to treat the people they were elected to serve.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne is entirely inadequate in its commitments to the people of this province and blatantly fails to address the most pressing issues facing Saskatchewan people today. The people of Saskatchewan have been fed a hollow line from this patronizing and entitled Sask Party government, of growth that works for everyone. It is a slap in the face to the people of our province who in reality have been left struggling to keep their heads above the rising waters of this government's wilful neglect.

For all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I reject this government's Speech from the Throne. I will instead be supporting the amendment moved by the member for Saskatoon Fairview and seconded by the member for Regina Rosemont. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. C. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. You know, we all espouse the great support we receive from our constituency assistants, but let me tell you I'm even more grateful for my CA today than ever before. My CA, Tracy Patterson, had some major surgery to relieve some consistent and years of pain last week and will be off recovering for a while. I really, really miss her. Her efficiency, being on top of everything, paying the bills, arranging my calendar, constituency visits, meetings, and handling phone calls and office visits in a respectful and caring manner has always been so greatly appreciated. Tracy, I wish you a speedy recovery and a return to work when you are feeling better.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as my colleague from Riversdale said in his reply to the Speech from the Throne, I too am humbled by the opportunity that I have been given to be a part of this government and will never forget how I got here. I am so very grateful — humbled by the privilege my constituents have given me. Thank you for your trust and faith in me to represent you as your MLA.

I am so proud of my family. As many have mentioned here, all of my children and their spouses are doing very well in their professional careers and their families are healthy and growing. We had a very busy summer. We had one of my son's wedding in early summer in Toronto. We hosted a wedding at our acreage for long-time-friends-of-the-family's kid, followed by another one of our other son's weddings in Lethbridge. We had three new grandbabies this summer — one set is a pair of twins, a boy and a girl. So I am a proud grandma of nine healthy, beautiful grandchildren and looking forward to more in the future.

I also lost my mother this summer. She was 97. And I was fortunate that up until two days before her passing I was able to sit and share a conversation with her, telling stories about her early teaching days in a one-room schoolhouse on the Prairies; her dating days; her days of growing up in Denzil, Saskatchewan; and how she met my dad after the war; and her early life of establishing their life together on the farm and raising us 12 kids.

My dad passed away at 96 in 2016 and I also was able to sit with him and listen to the great stories he had growing up in Mildred, Saskatchewan, flying Sunderlands over France in World War II, and sharing stories about the challenges and success of years of farming. Both were always so grateful for their life they were given, and I am so grateful for their unconditional love and guidance throughout my life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, my husband served on the bench as a Provincial Court judge for 35 years and retired at the end of March this year, but continues to serve as a relief judge in court points wherever he is needed. I am so fortunate and grateful to have such a supportive, loving, and caring husband and family that encourages me and allows me to do my job.

The communities in my constituency have always been so welcoming to me and I appreciate all the invitations. I had many opportunities this summer to participate in parades in a number of communities, plant trees with the Ahmadiyya Muslim women's group, celebrate with the Filipino community, tour health and long-term care facilities, and listen to members of mental health and addictions services groups with our Rural and Remote Health minister, along with addressing and listening to residents on a number of issues and concerns.

I want to mention one invite in particular. The small town of Marshall, about 500 residents, was one of six communities throughout Saskatchewan to receive a \$25,000 grant from Richardson Pioneer and got to host the Roughriders' alumni. It was an amazing day with a pancake breakfast before the Roughrider bus, the Riders' cheerleaders cruised through the streets, followed a cheque presentation, then the Grey Cup appearance. Even Belton Johnson was there.

[16:45]

I think the highlight of the day, though, was my participation in their outhouse races. I was a little bit disappointed because my colleague from Cut Knife-Turtleford was supposed to participate too. But he kind of disappeared. I didn't win, but fun was had by all and the day continued into the evening with a barbecue and family dance at the community rink where the funds will be going. Keeping our small towns viable and growing with businesses and families is so important to our economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, despite the gloom and doom consistently spewed by members opposite about this Throne Speech, I know and believe this Speech from the Throne tells us Saskatchewan's best days still lie ahead. And this government will be the ones to make it happen. The potential prosperity for this province is being watched by our global neighbours and their interest has already shown up with \$15 billion worth of investment. This investment in our economy creates jobs, creates opportunity and growth that works for everyone. A strong economy allows us to continue paying down debt and the ability to invest in health, education, and social services.

The opening of our trade offices around the globe have given us the opportunity to tell the world what we have to offer and build partnerships that support growth that works for everyone in Saskatchewan and gives the food, fuel, and fertilizer they need to support and grow their economies as well. Our province's continued growth and prosperity depends on what we produce here at home and sell to the rest of the world.

Throughout our history, Saskatchewan has welcomed newcomers to our province time and time again. Our growing economy is creating jobs, jobs that we need people to fill. Our province's motto, "from many peoples, strength." People come to Saskatchewan and have been coming for over 117 years ago for opportunity, to start a new life full of optimism and hope for a better life and the chance to be prosperous and successful. We want to continue to grow our population in immigration and that is paramount to our growth.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am friends with many new immigrant families in my community from different parts of the world who come to me seeking help in getting their parents, children,

siblings, and other family members here. Many come from countries where they are persecuted for practising their faith and cultural traditions. They're so kind, caring, supportive, grateful, non-judgmental, and are all willing to work hard when they come to this province.

The Saskatchewan-Canada immigration accord will give Saskatchewan similar authority over immigration to that which has long been guaranteed to the province of Quebec. We want and need more skilled labour and we know there are people around the world who can and are willing to fill those jobs. We just need a federal government to get out of the way.

This fall, Lloydminster was host to a heavy oil show. Our Premier and all of cabinet attended and heard from the industry that the world wants our oil and that the need is only going to grow. *The Saskatchewan First Act* will clearly define that Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan alone has the exclusive jurisdiction over its natural resources and economic future. We need to draw the line and stop the constitutional overreach by the federal Liberal-NDP government. Once again, they need to get out of the way and give us our rightful control over Saskatchewan's economic future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the opposition is always saying we don't listen to the people. Well, they are dead wrong. I have held a number of town hall meetings over the past few years throughout my constituency to listen to the concerns of my constituents on many topics. One of those in particular — how crime has affected their property and families. Here's one very good example of how we have listened and continue to listen to the people of Saskatchewan.

We all know how crime, and particularly rural crime, has been on the rise with gangs, drugs, thefts, gun violence, and human trafficking. Heard that from many of my colleagues in the House. We listen to and work to address this by creating a provincial protective services branch to increase the ability of provincial law enforcement agencies to respond to public safety incidents. We formed the Saskatchewan trafficking response team to address the issues of illegal weapons, drugs, and human trafficking. We have added a warrant enforcement and suppression team to focus on high-risk offenders with outstanding warrants, and we have added more crime reduction teams in the North, bringing the total to nine in the province.

And now, in this Throne Speech, we have committed to establishing the Saskatchewan marshals service to work with the RCMP to enhance law enforcement across the province. All this is very welcome news for my constituents and, I know, many communities in the province who want to feel safe in their homes and communities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, another step in keeping all citizens safe is the commitment and MOU [memorandum of understanding] signed with the Prince Albert Grand Council and the federal government to discuss and look at the creation of a self-administered First Nations police service. Just as important as law enforcement in public safety is ensuring access to justice and timely prosecutions. That's why the residents of Lloydminster and the surrounding communities were happy to hear in the Throne Speech that the Lloydminster Court House would reopen and court services restored.



Mr. Deputy Speaker, it was a very busy construction season throughout the province, and that is good to hear. It created lots of opportunity for jobs, and mother nature helped out by allowing contractors to get more highway work done than expected. This matters to my constituents who need to travel for work and daily family activities. They are very grateful for the surface upgrades and repairs to Highway 3 and the Deer Creek bridge. More work to do, but this government's goals and commitment to improving 10 000 kilometres of highways by 2030 is well under way and will help to keep our economy moving forward. Good highways for transporting our goods is important to a growing population and strong economy.

I am very excited to see the completion of the major additions to both high schools in my community of Lloydminster. I know the students and staff are also looking forward to being able to spread out into more classrooms, being able to access some new practical and applied arts areas and enjoy new commons areas as a school community. A total investment of 35 million by our government has allowed both the public and Catholic high schools to support the educational needs of their growing student populations. The Minister of Education and I had the opportunity to tour both high school additions under construction this fall.

On Truth and Reconciliation Day, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was honoured to carry our Saskatchewan flag through an Indigenous ceremony at the Lloydminster Holy Rosary High School where the Onion Lake elder presented the eagle staff at the entire school assembly. This eagle staff will remain with the school and its new Indigenous culture centre. Our government will continue to build new schools where and when needed throughout our province to ensure all students have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, education doesn't stop at the grade 12 level. The Throne Speech also spoke to supporting the learning environment of our post-secondary students. This fiscal year we are providing 680 million in operating and capital grants to post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan. We are excited for the continued work and the future Saskatchewan Polytechnic Saskatoon Campus renewal project expected to be located in the vicinity of the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and Innovation Place.

We just had a presentation the other evening and I was so impressed with student Matthew Wilson who shared with us the precept of his new innovative technology that will help physicians and front-line health care workers get a better read on potential cardiac conditions in patients and possibly be able to take earlier steps to prevent them from happening.

Expanding and improving services in mental health and addictions. This year we will invest 470 million, 150 new addictions treatment spaces, eight new locations in the province with the rapid access counselling program, expanding the mental health capacity building in schools program, improving access to more addictions medicine clinics, and working with partner organizations to increase the number of detox spaces in the province.

This matters greatly to an organization in my community, Residents in Recovery, that have seen a significant increase in clients wanting to access their pre- and post-treatment services

but need more detox spaces available to help their clients.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have set an aggressive target of 97,000 surgeries, and the success of our four-point health human resources plan is paramount to achieving this target. We have added 150 nurse training seats and have created 125 new FT [full-time] permanent job opportunities for health care workers in a variety of designations in 49 communities throughout the province. The Lloydminster Hospital has six of these job opportunities available today. The building of two new urgent care centres, one in each of our major cities, will alleviate the pressures on our emergency rooms in our hospitals. An aggressive health care plan — we've done it before and I have faith we will do it again.

Agriculture is the backbone of our province, it truly is, and as I watched my parents farm till they were in their late 80s, I know this to be so very true. Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers are the very best in the world at what they do. They always succeed not only because of their skills and knowledge, their determination and resilience, but also because of their innovation and ability to adapt to whatever comes their way. And our government is committed to supporting our farmers, working with them year after year to adjust and provide with the best crop insurance rates, the best AgriStability compensation rates. And our Agriculture minister recently signed a new sustainable Canadian agricultural partnership with the federal government to provide even more support for our producers.

Mr. Speaker, there isn't enough time for me to touch on everything that is so positive and exciting to look forward to in this Throne Speech. There is so much hope, committed funding, opportunity, and promise of growth and prosperity for everyone in this Throne Speech.

I think if we just took the time to read through each of them, I think we could recognize and see that in every minister's office and in every area we are committed to ensuring that our province continues to grow and to be a leader. Our province is leading the way in economic expansion, private sector investment, wholesale trade, manufacturing sales, unemployment rates, Indigenous involvement in our economy, job growth, affordability, senior supports, small-business supports, investments in education at all levels, health care investment, and so, so much more. There are so, so many reasons for our children and my grandchildren to be optimistic about the future of this great province and the future of Saskatchewan.

There is a lot going to be happening here in the next few years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and it's growth that works for everyone. I cannot understand why anyone would vote against it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will be supporting the 2022 Speech from the Throne and the motion put forward by my colleague from Walsh Acres, seconded by my colleague from Athabasca, and I will not be supporting the amendment. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Well seeing it's close to the scheduled time of adjournment, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The House Leader has moved a motion

of adjournment. Is the House prepared to adjourn?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — This House now stands adjourned till 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:59.]



# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

**Hon. Jeremy Cockrill**  
Minister of Highways  
Minister Responsible for  
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Education

**Hon. Bronwyn Eyre**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

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

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

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

**Hon. Gene Makowsky**  
Minister of Social Services

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

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

**Hon. Paul Merriman**  
Minister of Health

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

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

**Hon. Dana Skoropad**  
Minister of Environment

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety  
Minister Responsible for the Firearms Secretariat

**Hon. Gordon Wyant**  
Minister of Advanced Education