



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
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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.

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Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
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Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)	Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
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Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)	

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

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This morning it's great to have, in the west gallery, a group of students from F.W. Johnson Collegiate, here in Regina of course. There's 14 grade 12's, 26 grade 10's. The teachers are Mr. McKillop — great to see him again; he's a frequent attendee of the Legislative Assembly and brings school groups all the time; we appreciate that — as well as Jeanne Scarfe. So I look forward to having a chance to meet with them after routine proceedings today. I ask all members to help me welcome them.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, up in the west gallery is a good friend and a constituent of mine, Kris Cherewyk. He's my constituency president, great football fan, big Rider fan, and he's here for the Grey Cup. And on a little more sour note, he's a Calgary Flames fan, and I'm still trying to work on that and get him to being a Bruins fan. I'd ask everybody here to welcome him to his Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it gives me great pleasure . . . Also in the west gallery we have 19 students from A.E. Peacock Collegiate in Moose Jaw, together with their teacher Carrie Kiefer. Welcome. I look forward to meeting with that group after routine proceedings today and chatting with them. And if they have any difficult questions, I'd be happy to bring my seatmate along to answer those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To all members, please join me in welcoming this group to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring 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 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 undersigned are residents of Regina. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to address the affordability crisis. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that inflation is the highest it's been in more than three decades; that half of Saskatchewan residents were living paycheque to paycheque before transportation and food costs skyrocketed this year; that the Sask Party government's 32 new tax and fee hikes make life more expensive, all while harming struggling industries like tourism, culture, and fitness; and that while other provinces acted, the Sask Party government ignored the opposition's calls for a gas price relief plan.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to meaningfully address the affordability crisis in Saskatchewan.

This is signed by concerned citizens in Regina, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition to prohibit conversion therapy. This petition is more important than ever as we continue to see allegations of abuse and discrimination against queer people come to light in Saskatchewan.

Ontario, Nova Scotia, PEI [Prince Edward Island], Yukon, and Quebec have enacted their own legislation addressing different aspects of conversion therapy in their jurisdictions. Municipalities like Regina and Saskatoon have also shown leadership on this file. We need legislation to ban conversion therapy in Saskatchewan and protect vulnerable children and adults from this heinous practice.

Thus the undersigned residents would like to bring to your attention the following: *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* names sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination. Conversion therapy used discredited and abusive practices which attempt to actively change the sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to ban the practice of conversion therapy and prohibit transporting of youth and adults outside of Saskatchewan for such purposes.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories today reside in Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise again today and present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan calling for the immediate funding of in vitro fertilization treatments here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, members in this House will be very familiar with the stats included in this petition that the undersigned residents want to draw to our attention, but, Mr. Speaker, one in six couples in Canada will experience or struggle with infertility.

And as we have a government, sitting on increased revenue for resource prices, going through their budget deliberations, and you know, looking at ways to continue to grow the province of Saskatchewan, helping families desperate, desperate to expand their families right here in Saskatchewan is a great common-sense and economically sound way to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I will read the prayer:

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatories on this petition today are from Tisdale, Archerwill, and Brooksby. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Respect Shown during Statements by Members

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and give thanks to the members in this Chamber. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge all those members who sat in silence and listened as I recognized Indigenous veterans on National Aboriginal Veterans Day. As we all know, it is an informal tradition that all members do not heckle or shout on statements like this. When the members opposite made their statements regarding veterans, we all sat in silence and were respectful. We even respected the member across who asked for an additional moment of silence at the end of her statement.

Sadly, that same respect was not granted to me by senior members of the government when they began shouting "time, time" when I was closing my member statement. While I felt those senior members' choices to holler "time, time" was utterly disrespectful and inappropriate, I would like to say gichi-miigwech to the other members in this Chamber who were respectful when I gave my member statement recognizing the

members of First Nation and Métis veterans who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. gichi-miigwech.

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

November Raising Consciousness about Men's Health

Mr. Friesen: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually in this House we talk about the growth that works everyone. This however, Mr. Speaker, is not the growth that works for everyone. In fact many have told me it's not even the growth that works for me. You see, Mr. Speaker, as you yourself sport a moustache and colleagues from Cannington and Cut Knife-Turtleford also sport great moustaches, I however, Mr. Speaker, do not normally have a moustache.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the middle of Movember — that's right, Movember. This is the month where globally, communities gather together raising money and awareness and making a difference in mental health and suicide prevention, prostate and testicular cancer awareness, as early detection is key. This has been a fun way to get involved, Mr. Speaker, with my second year having my Movember space.

Mr. Speaker, we need more often to speak publicly about mental health and suicide. Annually, Mr. Speaker, every minute of every day the world loses a man to suicide. Since 2003, Movember has funded more than 1,250 men's health projects around the world focused on mental health and suicide prevention, prostate and testicular cancer awareness. Mr. Speaker, today I wanted to raise my voice and sport my stache here in support of great projects like Movember. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Saskatchewan Health Authority Spending

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fiscal year 2021-22 was extremely difficult for Saskatchewan families. Not only were they subject to arbitrary measures which allowed some to work and shop while others lost their jobs and couldn't go out because they believe in bodily autonomy, they were told it was to protect our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, while Saskatchewan people were making sacrifices, the Saskatchewan Health Authority was spending their money. But, Mr. Speaker, not all of that money went to make our health care system better. According to its annual report, the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] managed to spend over \$627,000 on Starbucks. Mr. Speaker, \$627,000 on Starbucks is just the beginning.

Pacific Fresh Fish is a high-end fish retailer that prides itself on importing exotic fresh fish from around the world. Somehow SHA purchased over \$386,000 from Pacific Fresh Fish in one year. That is over a million dollars to two luxury retailers, Mr. Speaker. Imagine how many health care workers or how much equipment a million dollars could buy for our struggling health care system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Swift Current.

Swift Current Special Olympics Athlete Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour today to recognize a constituent of Swift Current who recently received a national award. Mr. Speaker, Malcolm Goebel of Swift Current has been a Special Olympics athlete for 39 years, and Malcolm is this year's recipient of the Dr. Frank Hayden Athlete Lifetime Achievement Award from Special Olympics Canada.

Named after Canada's Dr. Frank Hayden, whose research sparked the Special Olympics movement 50 years ago, this award is presented annually to an athlete who has best exemplified the spirit, philosophy and goals of the Special Olympics movement over the course of their career. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm so glad to see that Malcolm's being selected for this very prestigious award.

Malcolm has travelled across the country where he's competed in five-pin bowling at the national games as a part of Team Saskatchewan. He also competes in basketball, bocce, softball, speed skating, curling, and other athletics, and I know he's really passionate about floor hockey too. Forget about Bo Jackson: Malcolm is the ultimate multi-sport athlete, Mr. Speaker.

He's won countless medals, but over and above that, those around Malcolm say that he's the first to lend a helping hand and an encouraging word to other athletes, and he always does it with a smile on his face. Just about everyone in Swift Current knows Malcolm, either through his competition in sports or the fact that he's been an employee at the local McDonald's restaurant for over 30 years now.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in congratulating Malcolm Goebel on his Lifetime Achievement Award from Special Olympics Canada.

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

Moose Jaw Volunteers Hold Successful Food Drive

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, October 31st Moose Jaw & District Food Bank held their annual Better Together Food Drive. Approximately 400 volunteers from sports teams, schools, churches, local businesses, and good Samaritans donated their time to help make the food drive a success.

[10:15]

In just three short hours, from 6 to 9 p.m., these volunteers challenged themselves to visit every doorstep in Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker. Watching the pickup trucks drive slowly down the street while door-to-door canvassers picked up bags of donated food from the residents is a sight that truly warms the heart. They collected over 43,000 pounds of food, essential non-food items, as well as monetary donations, Mr. Speaker.

In 2020 and 2021 the food drive was held in an online format, collecting only monetary donations due to the pandemic. It was great to see the food drive back to an in-person format this year. And if you missed it, the Better Together Food Drive continues

... Pardon me. If you missed it this year, not to worry. There are many ways to donate or volunteer year-round, Mr. Speaker. This is just one more example of how the residents of Moose Jaw pull together to help their community in times of need. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Local Talent Featured at Bow Valley Jamboree

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell you of a volunteer committee in the Cannington constituency. They keep music and arts at the forefront within our local communities. The Oxbow Arts & Cultural Committee, among other things, host a music and arts festival. This festival is held annually in the beautiful Souris River Valley just south of the town of Oxbow.

The Bow Valley Jamboree is a popular summer festival that highlights Saskatchewan's talent across a variety of musical genres. Mr. Speaker, in addition to the music, the Bow Valley Jamboree hosts artisan tents, food vendors, children's activities, visual arts displays, and of course dancing.

There really is something for everyone, and I'm so thankful to have this festival in my constituency. A local favourite is the eclectic local band Downwind, which has been performing the classics since 1979. They have been the opening band for the festival for the last number of years. Mr. Speaker, another local artist from White Bear First Nations is Teagan Littlechief, who is a fantastic repeat performer. The Tilted Kilts, Blu Beach, Dusty Rain, Chris Henderson, The Bromantics are a few of the other bands and musicians that have participated in our local festival. I ask everyone in this Assembly please join me in thanking the Oxbow cultural committee for supporting our local artists and putting one heck of a jamboree. Thank you.

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

Increase in Child Care Spaces

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Taking care of our children is something that all levels of government in Canada can agree on. That's why I'm very excited to stand on behalf of young families in my constituency and announce that 2,197 new child care spaces will be available in Saskatchewan.

This is thanks to the joint investment of \$28.9 million from governments of Saskatchewan and Canada under the Canada-wide Early Learning and Childcare Agreement signed last year. This will bring \$1.1 billion over five years for children care in Saskatchewan. With so many young people and new families calling Saskatchewan home, these child care space will provide critical supports to the family while they're working.

Mr. Speaker, this will bring Saskatchewan's total child care spaces to 22,884 province-wide. New child care spaces will be available in Avonlea, Bruno, Carlyle, Cowessess First Nation, Davidson, La Ronge, Maple Creek, Midale, Melville, Nipawin, Melfort, Muenster, Oungre, Rockglen, Southey, and Yorkton, as well as here in Regina, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of residents of Regina Pasqua and all of our young families in Saskatchewan, thank you for this critical

investment in our future. This is growth that works for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Support for the Health Care System

Ms. Mowat: — Our emergency rooms are in crisis, and despite the minister's spin, what's going on is not business as usual. In no world is a four-year-old with cancer waiting 20 hours for a hospital bed okay, Mr. Speaker. With projected surges in respiratory illnesses this winter, it will only get worse. All we heard from the minister yesterday was excuses. What is the plan to get people emergency care when they need it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I think the member opposite's very familiar with our four-point plan. I did have the opportunity to speak to Ms. Pratt yesterday, spent over an hour with her and her son to be able to talk about their specific . . .

An Hon. Member: — Daughter.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — With her son because that's who was present. Her daughter was in the hospital, Mr. Speaker. And again, they ask a serious question. I'm trying to give a serious answer, and they're heckling me.

Mr. Speaker, I also followed up that with a communication this morning directly from myself to Ms. Pratt talking about how Jream was doing, Mr. Speaker. To be able to follow up, she said that Jream is receiving the care that she needs right now. And I asked her to keep me updated exactly to my own cell, Mr. Speaker, so I can exactly find out what's happening with Jream and Ms. Pratt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — This is not a one-off situation, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Brian Geller reported earlier this week that there were 21 people in Regina General emergency room waiting for a bed. In Saskatoon hospitals this morning there are 45 patients in the emergency room who need a bed in the hospital, just like Jream did, sitting in packed ERs [emergency room].

This government used to have an initiative to address these challenges. It was accompanied by targeted funding. Why has this government given up on getting ER waits under control?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, I thank our front-end workers that are working in our emergency rooms, not just in Saskatoon and Regina but across the whole province, Mr. Speaker. There are some seasonal influxes that we have seen. I've talked about that in this House and out in the media. Dr. Shahab has talked about this, Mr. Speaker. There's RSV

[respiratory syncytial virus]. There's the flu. There's still some COVID-19 in some of our hospital systems, Mr. Speaker, but the front-end workers are prepared to be able to meet this challenge, Mr. Speaker.

But what we're doing as government is supporting them with bringing in more resources, bringing in 130 more doctors in the last 13 months, working to be able to bring people from part-time up to full-time. We've created new positions across the system. And if I have time, Mr. Speaker, I read in this quote here from the Humboldt hospital manager:

I got a standing ovation from the staff and a round of applause from the nursing staff specifically. Two nurses that are near eligibility for retirement have indicated that they feel the new pledge for their work and don't feel that they need to retire anymore.

This is exactly what we're trying to do, Mr. Speaker, and I can't thank the front-end health care workers enough for doing what they do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, despite what the minister indicates with seasonal influences, this is not business as usual. This government has completely given up on addressing ER wait times and has again not provided an answer.

Brad Wall promised zero waits by 2017, which was then watered down to a 60 per cent reduction, which was then watered down to a 35 per cent reduction. Now they're just crossing their fingers and hoping something, anything will make things better, Mr. Speaker. If things aren't getting better, the solution isn't to give up.

Will the government bring back targeted funding to get ER waits under control?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did bring back targeted funding to recruit, retain, incentivize, and train individuals across the province, Mr. Speaker: \$60 million we've brought in with the budget in additional dollars, Mr. Speaker, to exactly do that, to incentivize individuals up to \$50,000 to be able to go out to some of our more challenging positions where we have had chronic vacancies. And we've had good uptake on that, Mr. Speaker. We're recruiting, not just in Saskatchewan, but across the country and around the world to be able to secure the people within our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, they keep saying there's no plan. We do have a plan, Mr. Speaker. I just wish they would actually read it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Well it wasn't a very dense plan. It took me about 10 minutes to get through it, Mr. Speaker.

Your plan isn't working. This government is sitting on record windfall revenues, billions of dollars, Mr. Speaker. There is no reason not to introduce targeted funding to address serious issues in our emergency rooms, and the minister knows that there's a difference between what he's talking about and the targeted funding that used to exist. Will the minister commit to that today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And there are some challenges. We admit that there are some challenges in our emergency room and the staff. That's why we're providing this plan, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that the member, after a couple of weeks of standing in here, she finally acknowledges that we actually do have a plan because she did read it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I've been able to tour with the Minister of Rural and Remote Health to be able to go out to the hospitals, Mr. Speaker, not just in our major centres but across our province to be able to hear what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, we've also had some great successes in Biggar and other communities, Mr. Speaker, to be able to secure the health care positions. Assiniboia, two new doctors, Mr. Speaker. Our plan is starting to work, Mr. Speaker, and I can't thank the health care workers enough. I just wish the opposition would get on board, stop running down our health care workers and our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Health Care Services for Children and Affordability Measures

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Another clear demonstration of this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government putting their own petty partisanship over the needs of people in this province. Babies waiting 20 hours in the ER for a bed is not acceptable, full stop.

Mr. Speaker, under this government people cannot get the health care they need when they need it. And under this government people cannot make ends meet. And what is this government's plan in regards to record-breaking generational inflation — higher taxes, more taxes, increases to power bills, higher energy bills.

So, Mr. Speaker, why is this tax-and-squander Sask Party government making life more expensive when costs of living are already through the roof?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to address the preamble, Mr. Speaker, I did acknowledge yesterday that 20 hours is too long for an individual. I sat down for an hour and a half, Mr. Speaker, with the mother and her son to be able to talk about their child that's in the hospital system. We shared stories on parenting in challenging situations, Mr. Speaker. And again, I followed that up this morning with a text.

We've had a great conversation back and forth. It's a personal

conversation so I won't disclose it to the House. But at the end of the conversation Ms. Pratt did thank me for her time and thanked me very much for being able to look into this specific situation and have that open communication, Mr. Speaker.

I spent an hour and a half with this individual. We followed it up this morning, Mr. Speaker. I feel that . . . Mr. Speaker, I work very hard in my position to make sure that all the people that come to me, that communicate to me by letter, phone, or any of the individuals on this side of the House, or any way that they come to our government, I make sure I give them the proper time and attention.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again the Health minister wants a gold star for doing his job. We saw the former minister for Social Services saying, give me a call. You don't have a place to sleep, give me a call. And now we have the Health minister handing out his cell phone to people who can't get health care. That is not a real plan.

Mr. Speaker, the members opposite need to remember who they serve and quit talking to each other and talk to the people of this province because, Mr. Speaker, people in Saskatchewan have nothing left to cover higher rents, to cover increased mortgage costs, to cover increased food bills and higher prices at the pumps. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Doug Ford, the Government of Ontario introduced just this week that again they're extending fuel relief for people in the province. And from this government, what have we seen? Not one thin dime.

So, Mr. Speaker, this government is making life more and more expensive for Saskatchewan people. Why? Why will this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government not do a single thing to help families afford gas?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, along with having the lowest utility bundle in our nation, we also, in each and every budget, invest . . . or forgo revenue of over \$2.2 billion, Mr. Speaker.

But it's kind of interesting that the member opposite says we're out of touch and nobody has received one dime when \$500 cheques are going out, and people are receiving them as we speak. I wonder how out of touch that member is if she's not aware that that is indeed happening. It is probably the second-largest payment that a province is making; there is Quebec that's making a second payment, Mr. Speaker.

People are appreciating that, but that is part of our affordability plan that we have. It's because the resource sector is so strong, and we feel that that is growth that works for everyone.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Mr. Speaker, as a small-business owner and a working mom, I'm certainly going to take no, no suggestions from that high-flying Finance minister on who is in or out of

touch with the people in this province.

[10:30]

Because if that minister was talking to working families, she would know that people aren't looking to afford a bigger house. They're looking to afford groceries. They're looking to afford formula. They're looking to be able to find Tylenol for their sick kids and pay their power bills. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a government who's making 15 cents a litre off people every time they fill up their tank. With a stroke of a pen tomorrow, they could make gas 15 cents cheaper.

Mr. Speaker, another way they're making life more expensive is SaskPower rate increases. Families, farms, small businesses, seniors cannot afford to pay, through their power bills, for this government's continued mismanagement of our Crowns when they're taking dividends hand over fist.

So, Mr. Speaker, why will the Sask Party not scrap their backdoor taxation plan to raise power bills by 8 per cent?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Well, Mr. Speaker, as a past business owner and definitely a mom raising small children — in fact, three of them — that's lived through some good times and some bad times during that time period, Mr. Speaker, I will just answer the portion of her question that was on the fuel tax. Indeed we do have a provincial excise tax, and on 500 litres of fuel that would be \$75.

But, Mr. Speaker, let's talk about the other taxes that is on that fuel, Mr. Speaker. Because the federal government also has an excise tax, and they collect \$50. And they have a carbon tax, and they charge 55.25 per litre. And then on top of those taxes, the federal government applies their GST [goods and services tax]. So on that same 500 litres of fuel, if the fuel is only a dollar and twenty per litre, the federal government's getting \$144.26 — double what the province is collecting. And what do those members say about the carbon tax? Nothing.

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

Duty-to-Consult Process

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. First Nation and Métis people aren't being shown respect by this government, especially when it comes to duty-to-consult. And now many are taking this government to court, and they are winning. Does the Minister of Government Relations realize that his government's failure on duty-to-consult are piling up, and so are the costs for Saskatchewan taxpayers?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government does take duty-to-consult seriously, and that's exactly what we're doing, Mr. Speaker. The province is directly engaging with groups who interact directly with policy framework.

These groups include the First Nation bands, the Métis locals, the Métis regions, the tribal councils, the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], and the Métis Nation Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker; members of industry and associations such as SMA [Saskatchewan Mining Association], CAPP [Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers], or Cameco; as well as our municipal associations, Mr. Speaker, SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association], SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities], and the New North.

Mr. Speaker, to date we've had nearly 100 meetings representing approximately 200 stakeholders, and there are more meetings to come, Mr. Speaker. If requested, our engagement will meet with stakeholders right in their communities. We've met on-reserve with Cowessess, Lac La Ronge, English River First Nation, and there's more to come, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, this government isn't going to fix the duty-to-consult. They're just putting a new coat of paint on a decade-old policy. Policy isn't enforceable; legislation is. We need to get this right, not just for the First Nations and Métis people but for all Saskatchewan people.

Why won't the government enshrine the duty-to-consult into provincial law?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've already stated, we are in the process of consulting with Saskatchewan people. In an earlier question, they were concerned that we're not meeting with people, we're not meeting with Saskatchewan people, we're not talking to them, we're not listening to them. That's exactly what consultation is all about, Mr. Speaker, so I'll go on.

Our teams have also travelled to Ile-a-la-Crosse, Cumberland House, Beauval, and Pinehouse, just to name a few. 340 invitations sent out to stakeholders and approximately 588 follow-up calls to stakeholders have been made.

The Ministry of Government Relations engagement session team is comprised of seven individuals, six of whom are Indigenous. Every engagement session has at least one Indigenous representative from government at those meetings, Mr. Speaker. And we also have virtual events for people that are not able to meet in person. Officials meet with people, and we've actually provided that to 191 stakeholders so far, Mr. Speaker, engaging with them. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, when I asked about the need to enshrine duty-to-consult into law, the Minister of Government Relations said:

... the duty-to-consult is enshrined in our Constitution, Mr. Speaker. Article no. 35 enshrines a duty-to-consult which ... That Constitution covers every province, Mr. Speaker,

so the duty-to-consult is already enshrined.

So on the one hand the minister is saying we don't need a bill on duty-to-consult because it's already enshrined. On the other hand we have the Justice minister bringing forward a bill to copy and paste what's already in the Constitution for natural resources. To the Minister for Government Relations: how does that make any sense?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe she should support the bill we're putting forward. And she said it herself: it's already enshrined in legislation in Bill No. 35, Mr. Speaker, and we're not making that information up.

Right now we're working with Saskatchewan people. We're listening to Saskatchewan people to see how we can work on that duty-to-consult within the province of Saskatchewan in a process that works for everyone involved.

Mr. Speaker, this is true reconciliation. And reconciliation is happening right across government agencies, Mr. Speaker. Right now in Social Services we've already signed the first agreement of its kind with Cowessess First Nation to assume jurisdiction over child welfare for its members. Mr. Speaker, in reconciliation my ministry, SaskBuilds and Procurement, signed a new online gaming agreement with FSIN. No other province has this type of gambling framework. In fact Chief Bobby Cameron said himself, this is a historical partnership, a first of its kind. True reconciliation, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — This government knows this bill does nothing new and it doesn't do anything to improve the lives of Saskatchewan people. It's symbolic. It's about sending a message and that's it.

So exactly what message does the minister think it sends to First Nation and Métis people to not have consulted with them on this bill whatsoever? What message does it send when he tells First Nations and Métis people their rights don't need to be enshrined into provincial law?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, this bill puts Saskatchewan first for everyone. And we don't agree, for example, that the fact that the province of Quebec can amend its constitution precludes the province of Saskatchewan from being able to amend its constitution. That is the last thing that is symbolic.

Mr. Speaker, nothing in the Saskatchewan first bill diminishes or detracts in any way from First Nations treaty rights which are enshrined in the Constitution, Mr. Speaker, as they are in every piece of provincial legislation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the president of the National Coalition of Chiefs appeared before the federal committee earlier this year, and that committee was actually considering the federal cap on oil and gas

emissions. That was one cap that was on our white-paper list of economically harmful policies, Mr. Speaker. And he said the biggest problem was the way that cap would impact First Nations economies and their ability to finally share in Canada's resource economy and get people out of poverty, Mr. Speaker. We all have a stake in that, and economic success.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Utility Rates and Personal Home Care Benefit

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week I was contacted by a senior who does not live in my constituency, but I get a lot of calls. So this person is facing a home-heating bill of \$10,000 this year, and that's double of what their bill was a year ago.

Mr. Speaker, this person lives in rural Saskatchewan, has eight neighbours within seven square miles who also heat their homes with heating fuel and face doubled heating bills. Most of these neighbours are seniors on fixed incomes with some ages ranging from 70 to 92 years of age. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, getting natural gas to these residents is out of the question because SaskEnergy wants over \$100,000 to install a line.

To the Premier: what will this government do to help rural seniors on fixed incomes who absolutely cannot afford to heat their homes this year? Is he willing to let them freeze this winter?

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, there's a process that takes place before an energy rate can change. There's a process where the utility makes an application at the utility rate review panel. That recommendation comes forward to cabinet. What I will say, Mr. Speaker, to the members opposite and to that member in particular, we have the lowest natural gas commodity rates in Canada. Not low, but the lowest.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Regina University pointed to Manitoba's recent reduction in their natural gas rates as something Saskatchewan should implement. Mr. Speaker, if we chose to implement the Manitoba rate, there would be a 24 per cent increase in our natural gas rates. We're not going to follow the Manitoba pattern. We're not going to take advice from the members opposite. We will continue to work, and we want to make sure that we maintain affordable power rates.

If the member opposite has specific questions about a specific customer as far as hook-up rates or whatever, we'd be glad to treat that as casework, and we'd be glad to look at that.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not only is it a terrible situation facing these and other rural seniors all around Saskatchewan, it's terrible that they feel they can't even reach out to their own MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] on the other side. So they call me instead because I have an independent voice and I happen to listen.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tragedy about to happen. When the fuel companies won't deliver fuel because their customer has no money left, what options do these seniors have? Will they phone you? Is the Minister Responsible for Seniors even aware of these dire circumstances that they're calling me from rural Saskatchewan?

Mr. Speaker, I'll ask the Premier again. What is the government's solution to help these seniors stay in their homes without worrying about freezing to death this winter? Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite can ask her constituent or whoever made the call to her to contact SaskEnergy directly. They reply to calls. If she wants to criticize the hard-working, competent professionals that work at SaskEnergy, she's welcome to do that but, Mr. Speaker, she should be prepared to stand up and identify who it is and who it isn't.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask her to do one thing. Get a consent from that person so that we can look at it on their behalf and determine what the issues are, rather than standing up here and casting aspersions on the honest, hard-working people that work in our Crown utilities to make sure that the power stays on, that the lights stay on, and their homes stay heated, Mr. Speaker. It's not acceptable to stand up simply in this House and say, it's not fair, it's not right.

If the members opposite want to do something productive, they should do something about the relationship they've got with regard to Jagmeet Singh and Justin Trudeau so that we can do something about the carbon tax because it spreads across every utility that we have in our province: the cost to deliver, the cost to distribute.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The seniors who are freezing do not care about your politics. The seniors are struggling with their bills this winter. And many seniors who require personal care home services rely on the personal home care benefit in order to afford these services in order to stay home. The benefit currently subsidizes their income to a maximum \$2,000, a rate set over 10 years ago.

To the Minister of Social Services: will the government revisit the current subsidy and bring a cap up to at least 3,000 per month? And in the spirit of creating more provincial autonomy, why is the provincial government offloading the care of our seniors to the federal government?

The Speaker: — I just want to remind the member to speak through the Speaker, please. I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the personal care home benefit, it's this government that

brought that in, Mr. Speaker, several years ago. We've raised the threshold, Mr. Speaker, in our time in government, \$31 million to seniors, Mr. Speaker, under this program.

And, Mr. Speaker, some fall off the program; some come on based on their income and their current situation, Mr. Speaker. We have several programs for seniors as well, Mr. Speaker. But I think it's fair to say, we're hearing about this and we'll look at this very closely. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 104 — *The Local Improvements Amendment Act, 2022*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 104, *The Local Improvements Amendment Act, 2022* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It is being moved that Bill No. 104 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.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Next sitting.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 105 — *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2022*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 105, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2022* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill No. 105 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.

Principal Clerk: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Next sitting.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order questions 44 through 64.

The Speaker: — Questions 44 through 64 has been ordered.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Global Food Security and Federal Energy Policies

Mr. Kaeding: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm once again honoured to provide a few words in support, I believe, of our very valuable agriculture industry, and really the value that it brings to this province, this country, and the world.

We need to continue to remind our non-agricultural sector, the opposition, and certainly our federal government that Saskatchewan produces the food, the fuel, and the fertilizer that the world needs. However it is also subject to the fool, folly, and fables of our federal government policies, attempting really to knee-cap an industry that is really one of the pillars of the West's economic success.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very fortunate for the opportunity that I was given to be the third-generation producer on land homesteaded by my grandparents. I was born, raised, and farmed in the heartland of the prairies, the Prairie Pothole Region, the sure crop area of east central Saskatchewan.

Our family produced Polled Herefords during the '60s to the '80s and then transitioned to a pedigreed seed farm from the '80s to the 2010s. My family was very innovative, being one of the first to adapt gas-powered farm equipment, but the real truth was, is that my grandpa and my dad really hated horses.

They were the first in the area to grow rapeseed or what is now known as canola, and they grew that in the war years to help support the war effort, providing lubricant or industrial-grade lubricant. Our family has always adapted to new technology, whether it was the first in the area to purchase an air seeder or to adapt to variable-rate seeding in spring.

However, I also remember the discussions around our dinner table about the terrible incursion into our business that we had by our federal government at the time. Whether it was the initiation of the Canadian Wheat Board under William Lyon Mackenzie King, I believe a Liberal prime minister; the national energy policy by, I believe, another Liberal prime minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau; or even the infamous Great Grain Robbery that our Pierre Elliott Trudeau also participated in.

You know really, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the old federal Liberal party could not leave Western Canadian, the ag sector, untouched. And sadly, old habits die hard. And I pray for our future generations that Trudeau, the younger son, does not want to enter politics.

It's no secret that agriculture is integral to the economic and financial success of the province. Last year's drought brought an unprecedented drop in our provincial GDP [gross domestic product] of 0.3 per cent, a production drop of over 47 per cent, and increased our deficit as we were there for our producers to the tune of \$700 million, provided crop insurance payouts that were in the billions, and other programming to avoid disaster within our livestock sector.

And once again we recovered and persevered to the point that this year where we saw gross income levels that have never been experienced by any ag producer in their history. We call this year a generational crop, one only experienced by most families once in a generation, a great mix of great yields and great values.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as in any business, when surplus income is generated, improvements are made. They're made in infrastructure. Maybe dividends are paid to the family members. Perhaps an expansion is undertaken. The more that is removed in unnecessary taxes and policies, the less money is invested back into our local economy.

But sadly once again our ag sector is definitely under attack by this coalition Liberal-NDP federal government that wants to inflict the carbon tax, the clean fuel standard, the clean electricity standard, and the 30 per cent fertilizer emissions reduction target, just to name a few of the direct policies that will set agriculture back a generation or, worse, create unintended consequences that will last a lifetime.

We're going to be witnessing a perfect example of terrible policy that's going to unfold in Europe this winter. They're experiencing issues with their energy market. Right now 28 UK [United Kingdom] energy suppliers have gone broke since 2021. This is largely due to many of them having a business model that couldn't cope with an increase in wholesale prices. And when suppliers go bust, consumers help to absorb that cost through higher bills.

Many parallels can and will be drawn to the number of Canadian federal policies that will lead, unfortunately, to very similar results here. If we do not have Bill C-69, the no-pipelines bill, stopping oil and gas development, maybe we could reduce the risk that we're going to have on supply of energy coming from outside sources, foreign markets maybe. And maybe we could even help Europe with their impending energy disaster.

You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Texas and California, who have a huge renewable energy production, have overly relied on wind and solar. Throughout the summer they were facing rolling blackouts because of the lack of dependable baseload power. Again we see disappointing decisions and directions by our federal government who make it very difficult for Saskatchewan to transition to lower emissions energy production. And this will make it difficult to consistently power those electric tractors and combines that are anticipated to be operating soon in our federal government's virtual electric vehicle world.

An April 20th, 2021 article in *Forbes* summarized some of the post-mortem from the most recent Texas ice storm. Over the last decade in Texas, investors had sunk over \$53 billion on weather-dependent energy sources, mostly wind turbines, which alongside frozen fossil fuel plants were largely unavailable

during the cold snap in February, I believe, of 2020. That was only partly because of the cold but mostly because of the extended low wind speeds. The cost of the blackout, which lasted for days, will end up costing Texans nearly \$200 billion.

California would have avoided its blackouts had it not shut down a large nuclear plant and several natural gas power plants over the last decade. Texas may have avoided the blackouts had state regulators simply required and compensated natural gas suppliers to winterize their equipment while verifying the work had been completed. Unfortunately, this should be sending warning signals to our federal government to put a little more thought into a transition plan to gradually get a target that we have all consulted on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is a key issue really that we have in front of us. This federal government continues to download their targets on this province with absolutely no input from us. In my time as Minister of Environment, I distinctly remember the consultation process implemented by the then federal Minister of Environment. Here's how the consultation process went down: Minister Kaeding? Yeah, Minister Wilkinson here. Just calling to let you know that we're implementing a policy where we need every jurisdiction to reduce their emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Oh, hope you didn't have any questions. Got to go now. Bye.

Queen's University had undertaken their own analysis of abatement costs for various jurisdictions to hit that arbitrary target of 30 per cent by 2030. "The price tag for clean growth in Canada," the paper by Queen's, estimated that \$30 billion is really all it's going to cost the Saskatchewan government and/or the private sector by 2030 to get to that level of reduction. That's the 30 per cent reduction.

This province has just welcomed over \$15 billion of investment capital flowing into this province over the next few years. We cannot afford to see this investment flee or get replaced by huge abatement costs. This government is finally getting over the disastrous policies of our previous NDP government where growth was not encouraged, and in some cases, not even welcomed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I then had a phone call three months later from the new federal Environment minister, Minister Guilbeault. Here's how that consultation went. Yeah, Minister Kaeding, just calling to let you know we're now increasing our emissions target to 40 to 45 per cent below 2005 levels. Oh, hope you didn't have any questions. Got to go now. Bye.

So 30 billion for 30 per cent reduction, utilizing technology that maybe exists, probably in the testing stage, but really it's just on the drawing board. So moving to the arbitrary 40 to 45 per cent now, it's going to be using technology that likely hasn't even been thought of yet. And this is going to happen by 2030. Interesting. And what's the cost? We don't know.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, that is why we've initiated the Sask first Act. This historic legislation is going to help protect our economic growth and prosperity from intrusive federal policies that encroach upon our legislative sovereignty. Our Justice minister and Attorney General has been quoted, "It's time to draw the line and assert our constitutional rights."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this province's ag industry has been built on innovation since the first land was broken for agriculture production by our Indigenous ancestors and by subsequent homesteaders. "There has to be a better way" is really the famous words every ag person in the province passes on to the next generation.

"Necessity breeds innovation" probably could be found on every road sign entering any rural community in this province. Saskatchewan is the home of the air seeder aligned for the adoption rate of over 95 per cent for zero or minimum till on every cropped acre in this province. There is no other jurisdiction in the world that has a similar adoption rate.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am proud of this province and the innovation that our residents have developed to revolutionize agriculture. Whether it was the Symons Oil Can in Rocanville, right? Or the Morris rod weeder in Yorkton, or the Bourgault air drill. Same brew. Maybe the Degelman rock picker, developed in Raymore, or maybe it was the Laird lentil developed by Al Slinkard in Saskatoon, or the world-leading infectious disease work at VIDO [Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization] in Saskatoon. Innovation rules in Saskatchewan. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is innovation that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's going to be innovation, not legislation, that provides solutions to reducing emissions in this province. The simple act of reducing or minimizing tillage has resulted in Saskatchewan being a world leader in sequestering carbon in ag soils more than any jurisdiction in the world. In 2020 it was estimated that Saskatchewan farmers stored 12.8 million tonnes of CO₂ in the soil, an equivalent of taking 2.78 million vehicles off the road. Fun fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan only has 1 million registered vehicles.

Saskatchewan plants over 6 million acres of pulses like peas, lentils, and chickpeas, which sequesters another 2.15 million tonnes. The 20 million acres of grass and forage land could be storing up to 1 billion tonnes of CO₂ yearly in this province. How about instead of legislating agriculture and reducing emissions at a rate and process that's really going to provide incredible hardships on our producers for likely the next generation, how about we recognize the contributions that Sask ag has made storing carbon on a yearly basis?

Our provincial government is really utilizing these facts and data to ensure that the value-added industry around the world knows that buying products from Saskatchewan helps them develop a more sustainable future. And that sustainable future is further supported by the innovation that's really developed and commercialized by our University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre with their world-leading work on pulse and cereal breeding that could revolutionize the cereal and pulse sector as they move to breed genetics that support more efficient fertilizer use, improved water-efficiency use, and all very important characteristics to help increase ag production in a changing climate. Innovation that works for everyone.

[11:00]

[Inaudible] . . . about innovation, the recent Stats Can census of agriculture has shown that Saskatchewan producers have incorporated and adapted technology at a far more significant

rate than any of their colleagues across the country or even the world. In Saskatchewan over 50 per cent of producers use auto steer versus 21 per cent across Canada; 17.7 per cent use GIS [geographic information system] versus 13 per cent across Canada; 22 per cent use variable-rate fertilizer versus 16 per cent across Canada.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are already serious about improving fertilizer efficiency and don't need our federal government to legislate fertilizer use. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we practise variable-rate fertilizing on our farm, adopting the technology in 2008. And we believed at that time that we weren't likely going to be reducing fertilizer use but rather placing it in the maximum beneficial part of the soil.

Our on-farm results really bore those results. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we saw 15 to 20 per cent improvement in our yields while using similar tonnage of fertilizer. We're putting it where it goes to be used and not run off into wetlands or marginal lands. We weren't legislated or coerced into this practice, but like all producers of the province, we found and supported new, innovative technology that was going to support better stewardship while increasing my profits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this country is a signatory to the G7 [Group of Seven] statement on global food security, and that statement reads:

We, the Leaders of the G7, will spare no effort to increase global food and nutrition security and to protect the most vulnerable, whom the food crisis threatens to hit the hardest.

This is not going to happen by taxing and limiting the potential of agriculture in this province or country. Which leads me to my last point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and that's the federal Liberal-NDP carbon tax. Every component going into the farm, leaving the farm, is subject to perpetually increasing carbon taxes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think for all the points that I've just discussed, I feel compelled to give notice that I'd like to move the following motion:

That this Assembly supports Saskatchewan's role as a global leader in sustainable agriculture and global food security by opposing federal policies that will inhibit the province's ability to produce food, fuel, and fertilizer such as, but not limited to, the carbon tax, the clean fuel standard, Bill C-69, the clean electricity standard, and the 30 per cent fertilizer emissions reduction target.

I so move, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Melville-Saltcoats:

That this Assembly supports Saskatchewan's role as a global leader in sustainable agriculture and global food security by opposing federal policies that will inhibit the province's ability to produce food, fuel, and fertilizer such as, but not limited to, the carbon tax, the clean fuel standard, Bill C-69, the clean electricity standard, and the 30 per cent fertilizer emission reduction target.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Well thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. My first 75-minute debate of this session and truly a pleasure to enter into this one. Because you know what, Mr. Speaker? I've done a few of these in the past couple years, but you know, I don't think there's ever been the opportunity for me to rise on my feet and say, you know, thanks to the member from Melville-Saltcoats for this motion. Because we in the opposition agree, Mr. Speaker, so what a wonderful opportunity for us to set the record straight on a few things, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Because you know, I know all members in this Assembly, especially members on the opposite side, hold near and dear to their heart the code of conduct to which we all have to adhere in this Assembly, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I know all members on that side would as soon as poke out their own eyes as issue misstatements or spread misinformation on the floor of this Assembly. You know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, members in this House can't wilfully circulate false information, information that they know to be true. And I know in my heart that members opposite would never, ever, ever do that.

So let the record show, Mr. Speaker, what a great opportunity this is for us to set that record straight so that all members in this Assembly know the facts, and nobody, no member falls into the trap of spreading misinformation or being inaccurate on . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — The member is leading to a specific point in the wrong direction, and I'd ask her to refrain from doing that. You can't do something accidentally that you won't do on purpose. So that one is, you're spreading . . . Using the fact that members will not spread misinformation, about five times, is unparliamentary, and I'll ask you to stop.

Ms. A. Young: — Perfect, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Noted. So I will be clear then on support for Saskatchewan's role as a global leader in sustainable agriculture, global food security, opposing federal policies that inhibit Saskatchewan's economy, not limited to but including the carbon tax, the clean fuel standard, Bill C-69, the clean electricity standard, and the 30 per cent fertilizer emissions reduction target. Let the record show that we in opposition, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan NDP stands in support of Saskatchewan against these damaging policies to Saskatchewan's economy.

So, Mr. Speaker, now that I've had that opportunity to set the record clear — it's in *Hansard*; all members have heard it — let's talk about the substance. Because you know, Mr. Speaker, while we agree on this, and now we know the position of both sides on these critical issues raised rightfully by the hon. member, let's talk about what real help this government has offered for Saskatchewan people facing economic insecurity and facing an economic downturn in this province.

Because what have they offered, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite? You know, the centrepiece of their legislative agenda at the moment seems to be the Allan Blakeney and Roy Romanow tribute bill, Mr. Speaker, also known as the Sask first Act. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I think I've canvassed that thoroughly in some other remarks so I will move on.

But you know, restating the rights of Saskatchewan as defended and fought for by former Premier Allan Blakeney and Roy Romanow with no support from former Premier Devine or former AG [Attorney General] Lane, is a proud, proud moment for Saskatchewan New Democrats as well as all people in the province, Mr. Speaker.

On the carbon tax listed here, like, you bet we've been clear on that in this Assembly in the past and clear again today, and what a privilege it is to restate that. And again, Mr. Speaker, we saw today, this is a government who could make gas 15 cents a litre cheaper with the stroke of a pen and still won't do it. And again let the record show, Mr. Speaker, the carbon tax — which is deeply damaging to people's affordability and is penalizing some of the most vulnerable people in our province trying to put 5, 10, 15 bucks of gas in their car just to get to work — Justin Trudeau's making 11 cents a litre off that, and this government is making 15. Wow.

Again the fuel standard. I'm surprised, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this government is willing to talk about anything with automobiles when they're responsible for the greatest tax hike in Saskatchewan history and make money hand over fist off people selling used vehicles in this province, Mr. Speaker. Because it's not just the one time, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's again. It's again. It's again. It's in perpetuity. You can sell a used car three times and again have to stroke a cheque to the Finance minister each and every time. Wow, Mr. Speaker, talk about tax-and-squander conservatives.

But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I'd really like to focus on here is the clean electricity standard because I think this is a really critical issue for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And it's great to have the former Environment minister raise this and you know, talk about his tenure as Environment minister, Mr. Speaker. But again it's a bit strange as he is no longer in cabinet, which personally I think is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker. I had great dealings with that member when I was not in this House and he was the minister with whom I had to meet. And it's odd to have him stand up and list off his record as Environment minister when, again, he is no longer in cabinet and we see no movement on any of these critical files. It's passing strange, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So let's talk about clean electricity generation. 2035 is an unattainable standard for Saskatchewan in terms of how we're going to keep the lights on, how we're going to keep power flowing, and how we're going to keep energy security in this province, Mr. Speaker. And what is lacking is anything resembling a credible or a transparent plan from that government because, Mr. Speaker, we have no opportunity with this standard to continue burning coal. This was introduced by former Prime Minister Harper and goes on.

And as the Justice minister has noted repeatedly in the media that this is:

... a federal policy ... we hope will never see the light of day, but which is moving along. We will freeze in the dark. And we know that. Saskatoon (is) powered by Queen Elizabeth, a natural gas ... power station. The entire City of Saskatoon (would be) in huge trouble.

That's from the Justice minister in *Pipeline Online*. And you know, Mr. Speaker, it's truly remarkable because if this is going to be true — natural gas is no longer an option — then surely, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Sask Party government wouldn't be spending three-quarters of a billion dollars of taxpayer money on new natural-gas-generating facilities.

So what can we deduce from this, Mr. Deputy Speaker? Either this is wild and ongoing mismanagement of public money from members opposite — the worst financial managers in this province since Grant Devine himself — or perhaps the minister is not being forthright with the people of Saskatchewan or poorly informed on her files or government decision making. Because if there is no natural gas permitted, why oh why would we be spending a quarter of a billion dollars? And, Mr. Speaker, again there is no plan and no transparency for what this means for coal in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

People in Estevan, people in the South want a clear and honest answer as to what the plan is. Because people aren't stupid, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They know if unit 4, 5, 6, Coronach, Shand is shut down, there is no way that the mines are going to be kept open. And as a consequence there is no way that unit 3 at Boundary dam, funded to the cost of nearly \$2 billion by the taxpayers of this province, will be operational. So again, Mr. Speaker, I ask the government when it comes to the standard, be straight with the people you represent and be clear about what this means for coal generation in the south of Saskatchewan and whether those jobs are still going to be there for people.

Because, Mr. Speaker, what people have told SaskPower is that their concerns are protecting the environment; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; making fair, honest, and smart financial decisions; finding collaborative and mutually beneficial solutions; understanding and considering the full impacts of planned systems; and reliable, accessible, equitable power for all; and recognizing that tensions exist around the use of nuclear power. This is a clear and thoughtful message on SaskPower's own website from the people of the province to this government. But instead what do we see? No solutions and nothing but petty partisan politics, putting themselves ahead of the people of the province and the people they serve.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the only person they've been able to find to stand beside them in their crusade is Premier Danielle Smith, again who has had to apologize for anti-Semitic remarks, who has had to walk back comments linking her to QAnon conspiracy theories, and who blames Ukraine for the invasion of Russia. What a strange partner, Mr. Speaker.

So again, you know, while we agree with everything in this bill, Mr. Speaker, we hope the government smartens up and does some real work for the people of this province.

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Point of order.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Regina University stated that the Minister of Justice is not being

forthright. We all know that those words obviously are unparliamentary, and she should stand in her place and apologize.

[11:15]

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I did indeed say perhaps the minister is not being forthright with the people of Saskatchewan, so I will . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — You can't say it again. You cannot say it again. When you're asked to apologize you stand up, you apologize and withdraw. You don't repeat the same bad phrase.

Ms. A. Young: — I will stand up and apologize and withdraw again, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Thank you. I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think now perhaps more than ever before I'm very pleased and excited to enter this debate topic, and once again eager for the opportunity to speak about, in support of, and to praise and be grateful for our province's agriculture sector at a point in time where global food security needs to be top of mind, at a point in time where Saskatchewan food, fuel, and fertilizer are not only wanted, they are desperately needed.

So at a time when the federal government should be pulling out all the stops, eliminating all roadblocks and red tape, instead we have a Trudeau-Singh-led coalition insistent on implementing policy and regulatory stacking that impedes rather than promotes, firstly on an energy sector, and now of course expanding the same punitive agenda onto our agriculture producers, all in the name of so-called climate action.

At a time where food and fuel prices are already inflated, they refuse to back off their virtue-signalling agenda. In a time of crippling inflation, not only will they not consider freezing the carbon tax levy, Mr. Speaker, they plan to triple it to \$170 a tonne from the 50 they said would be the highest amount they would implement. I'm starting to think we can't trust them very much, Mr. Speaker.

And it most certainly doesn't end there. It gets so much worse. The list grows and grows: the clean fuel standard, which is basically the second carbon tax; the clean electricity standard, which is the no fossil fuel electrical generation mandate; and another big one, the nitrogen fertilizer emissions reduction target, once again picking the oh-so-scientific arbitrary number of 30 per cent and throwing it on our producers without any consultation.

And to top it off, they lay out that expectation that our producers will have to grow less to feed a starving world with less inputs. It's like a chapter out of their magic NDP-Liberal playbook, Mr. Speaker. And this isn't a *Harry Potter* series chapter, Mr. Speaker; it's a real-life Liberal horror story of policy and regulation.

And we've seen this crappy movie before from the original Trudeau era with his national energy program to today's oil and gas production tax and emissions targets, Mr. Speaker. From "why should I sell your wheat" from Pierre Elliott Trudeau to "let's see you try to grow wheat without fertilizer" from junior, so the nightmare on Wellington Street continues, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm not trying to come off as an anti-environmental advocate. Quite to the contrary. Actually I, as every person I know in oil and gas — and there's several in this room — are all in favour of being responsible stewards of the land and the resources found above and below it. And these industries have always focused on sustainability, environmental, and ethical components of resource development. And I know this for a fact, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, myself along with many members have worked in one or both of those industries during their careers — actual experience, not fake experience like we see from that side.

Our producers do not need governments to dictate good practices. Our ag and energy industries have been doing that on their own for decades, doing that without direction from a federal government. And it hasn't always been easy to do it, Mr. Speaker, but it has been the most efficient and cost-effective thing to do and, more importantly, the right thing to do.

Margins have not always been good. You need to be efficient in order to not only be viable but to pass the land and the associated resources on to the next generation. The resource, whether it's land, minerals, forests, native prairie, lakes, rivers, or wildlife, they all need to be preserved. And here we most certainly do not need the federal government to tell us how to do it.

What we need is acknowledgement and recognition by a federal government for the good things we have done and continue to do. Promote us in a positive light for once on the world stage. And world-class is maybe a term that gets used a little bit too much, Mr. Speaker, maybe a bit too frivolously, but our ag and energy sectors truly are world-class.

Yet, much like the members opposite, our federal government continues to ignore the facts, and they continue to set arbitrary targets without discussion or consultation. Even when we achieve those targets, they raise them again and continually move the goal posts. And the part that burns us likely the most is the fact that our improved practices over the past several decades are given no consideration whatsoever. It's ridiculous, Mr. Speaker.

And speaking of ridiculous, let's go to COP27 [Conference of Parties 27], the summit in Egypt. Our federal ag delegation was apparently more concerned about placing a gender-equality lens on Canadian agriculture than ways to promote how we can help feed a hungry world, a world of 8 billion people, Mr. Speaker, with over 1 billion that don't have access to enough food, another billion finding themselves in energy poverty. Climate and gender took the centre stage. Where have we heard that before, Mr. Speaker?

Now not that these topics aren't important. They certainly are, but I'm completely sure that starving people are not worried about the carbon intensity or the inclusivity value of the food they're provided. They want to eat and be warm. More Liberal virtue-signalling, just like we hear from across the aisle.

Appalling and tone-deaf once again.

And unfortunately they're applying the same misguided policies to agriculture as they did to energy. They're hell-bent on eliminating fossil fuel generation by 2035 — that's 65 to 70 per cent of our current capacity — hell-bent to take away our internal combustion engines, our gas furnaces, our gas turbines in a place where we have winter six months out of the year. Legislated, or should I say dictated to us by a Trudeau-Singh coalition backed by those members.

Always quick to run down this province, Mr. Speaker, they hate coal. They hate carbon capture. They despise the oil sands. They hate natural gas. They hate nuclear. I'm starting to think they hate the province, Mr. Speaker.

They claim to love and respect agriculture, Mr. Speaker, yet you will not hear a peep from them when it comes to freezing or eliminating a carbon tax. Not a word on fertilizer reduction, Mr. Speaker. Friends of ag? Hardly. Friends of oil and gas? Definitely not. Real friends stand up for one another.

They claim they speak for the people, yet sadly at every opportunity they revert to standing behind Justin and Jagmeet and not for the people of this province. Not for the people of Kindersley, Mr. Speaker. Not for the energy workers of Estevan, Weyburn, Lloydminster. Most definitely not for the farmers and ranchers in the two dozen rural seats, which they represent zero, Mr. Speaker, zero rural seats, zero commitment to our energy sector, zero commitment to agriculture. Mr. Speaker, the NDP opposition is taking net zero to a whole new level.

And this lunacy needs to stop. The power grab from Ottawa must stop. These actions have the potential to kill our most important industries. They're making our current inflationary pressures worse. People want, need, and desire affordable and secure food and energy. We don't want to follow the European model, Mr. Speaker.

And we find it very ironic that the members opposite call for inquiries into high food and fuel prices. All they need to do is look to their leaders in Ottawa. They are a big part of that problem. Ottawa is hell-bent on stripping power from us in the Western provinces by stripping our ability to create wealth, by kneecapping our resource sector, by handcuffing our ag producers.

Under our Sask first Act, they will no longer be free to strangle our food and energy sectors. Their intrusion is nearing its end. We will not tolerate punitive food and energy security policies that attempt to diminish our role as global leaders on sustainable and ethically produced products. Our position is clear: the Trudeau and Singh coalition needs to stay in their lane. They have no right to abuse their federal power to inflict economic harm on us any longer.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to correct the record, and specifically the narrative of the NDP opposition that they are using. And I've heard the quote "separation tour" over and over and over from the members on that side. It's rhetoric. It's not factual. The members opposite keep repeating it in the hopes people will think it's true if they say it long enough and loud enough. They weren't there, Mr. Speaker. They don't know. And

when they don't know, they guess. And they guess incorrectly time and time again.

I hosted one of those meetings, and what we talked about is defending and asserting ourselves as a province so we can remain a valued and respect part of Canada, what we can do to remain Canadians. What steps can we take to protect ourselves? We asked our constituents their opinions and we found out their opinions. They want us to defend them. They want us to defend their ability to earn a living. They want us to defend their sectors, their way of life, and to defend our rights under the Charter. And that is exactly what we are going to do.

We've drawn the line; we will defend the line. Members on this side of the House will always put Saskatchewan first, Mr. Speaker, with or without the support of a grossly misinformed and monumentally ineffective opposition. Mr. Speaker, I will definitely be supporting the motion. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite got a little carried . . . Point of order.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — What is your point of order?

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The member opposite got a little carried away and used an adjective related to defecation. It's decidedly unparliamentary language. I would ask that he withdraw and apologize.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think if you review the record, you'll find her point of order not found in good order. Thank you.

The Deputy Chair of Committees: — I take this under advisement. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand and speak to this motion. I'm glad to have followed my colleague, who made it very crystal clear that I think that we're all on agreement on this motion. It's quite a word salad of a motion. I honestly feel bad sometimes for the poor soul who has to sit down and type this out or has to stand up and say it, Mr. Speaker. I've also heard the phrase "food, fuel and fertilizer" so many times now that I'm reciting it in my sleep.

But, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's roles in these areas is something to be proud of and that we can agree on. I think where we differ on this issue is about how we are going about ensuring that we're a true leader in this confederation, and how we are advancing Saskatchewan interests. So again I want to thank my colleague for putting it on the record that, you know, we are crystal clear in support of this motion.

I also want to talk about, just quickly chat about the references to Texas's energy grid. Mr. Speaker, Texas is the only state in the United States that's energy grid is not connected to the rest of the

nation. So that's another debate for another time. But when energy crises happen, the reason they had no power was because that grid isn't connected to anyone else.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to unpack this motion a tiny bit. The motion mentions Saskatchewan's role as a global leader. You know, I am so proud to live in this great province, which punches above its weight on so many ways. But the topic of leadership, Mr. Speaker, I really don't see any leaders on these government benches. I don't see them at the table going to bat on these very important issues that are absolutely limiting Saskatchewan's potential.

All I see here is a group of petulant children throwing tantrums and blaming absolutely everybody but themselves. And it's a great, great distraction from an abysmal record on almost everything — health care, jobs, affordability, you name it.

Leadership would be being at the table with the federal government, being an adult in the room, working to get the best deal for Saskatchewan producers.

And I need not remind . . . I loved my colleague's quote that *The Saskatchewan First Act* really should be entitled the Roy Romanow-Allan Blakeney tribute bill, because it was NDP premiers of the past that ensured that those rights are in our Constitution. And these are premiers in great contrast to our current Premier who was then minister of the Environment, storming out of talks with the federal government on these very issues.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, the government likes to point the finger of blame for almost everything they do at this opposition party, as if we've been in government for the last 14 years. But I would like to remind this House and this government that this Premier is the only one responsible for the carbon tax they are so often citing as the main detriment to Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan folks deserve a government who is working for them, who is at the table and getting the job done.

The motion also then goes on to discuss agriculture. Our record on agriculture has been absolutely clear. We will continue to advocate and champion ag producers in Saskatchewan. Just this week we called for an investigation into food and grocery prices that this government declined. Grocery companies based in Toronto are pulling huge profits, and that money is not being seen by producers in this province. Prices at the grocery are hitting the lowest income folks the hardest and stretching even the best-prepared middle-class family budget to its edge.

Mr. Speaker, the motion then goes on to discuss federal policies that are hindering Saskatchewan. Thank you again to my colleague, for the record, for clarifying our stance. For the record, Mr. Speaker, we have never supported the Premier's and Justin Trudeau's tax that has been instituted on our province. We have called so many times for a made-in-Sask alternative to the carbon tax like almost every other province in our country. Mr. Speaker, it was the Sask NDP who started the equalization lawsuit with Ottawa, which the Sask Party abandoned the minute their buddies came into power. If we wanted real action, we would reinstate that lawsuit.

You know, we hear so much from this government about federal intrusion and policies limiting Sask. Mr. Speaker, this is a government that, regardless of policies in place by the federal government, has seen huge windfalls in revenue because we really do have what the world needs. Regardless of carbon taxes or clean fuel standards, we are living through a generational affordability crisis. And we have been clear in our call for affordability measures that will affect regular Saskatchewan people, one such being the provincial fuel tax that we brought up in question period today.

Mr. Speaker, it's an interesting day when the Saskatchewan NDP seems to be saying the same things as the federal Conservative friends of the Sask Party. Mr. Speaker, since March 7, we've been calling for relief at the pump using windfall revenues, and this Premier balked. He called it a few cents at the pump. Fifteen cents on every litre goes to the province. That's more than what the Trudeau carbon tax is collecting. I think that many members of this government and this Premier have been getting great salaries and great travel allowances too long, that he doesn't understand what a few cents means and how it's hitting people.

But then we also see nearly half the Sask Party benches publicly endorse CPC [Conservative Party of Canada] leadership candidate and now leader of the federal Conservatives, Pierre Poilievre, who has called for — you guessed it — a gas relief plan. Twenty-one Sask Party MLAs have been supporters on record of Pierre and his gas relief plan.

I'm just going to read a few. We have Saskatoon Willowgrove, the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy, the member from Prince Albert Carlton, the member from Martensville-Warman, Moose Jaw Wakamow, Arm River, Regina Wascana Plains, Lloydminster. So even within the ranks there's some controversy on this topic. It's hard to be the only fiscally responsible ones in the room. I get it. I think it's time for these MLAs to show leadership, get off the fence, and let us all know if they support a gas relief plan for Saskatchewan people or not.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that this Sask government needs to show more leadership and needs to get back to the table to advance the interests of Saskatchewan people. We need to ensure that these harmful policies are dealt with, but obviously it's going to take a new approach.

Mr. Speaker, our Saskatchewan NDP promise to the people of Saskatchewan is to be leaders on these issues, get back to the table, and support Saskatchewan industry. That's exactly what we'll do when we form government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been brought to my attention that I inadvertently added some unparliamentary language into my speech that wasn't in my notes, but I got carried away. So I withdraw and apologize for those comments. Thank you.

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

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I know the NDP opposition say there is nothing to be proud of in

Saskatchewan. I respectfully disagree. I am very proud of Saskatchewan and all the hard work the people of the province put in to making this an outstanding province it is.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan has what the world needs. We are producers of the most sustainable crops you will find anywhere in the world. Saskatchewan ranchers raise livestock in the most sustainable way possible, grazing marginal lands and promoting grass growth that enables carbon to be sequestered in prairie soils, as was shown by the short film, *Guardians of the Grasslands*. Canadian beef is respected. It is also the highest quality and most desired by customers at home and in several foreign markets.

Our oil and gas explorers produce energy with the lowest emissions in the world. If the world made oil as we do here in Saskatchewan, worldwide emissions would fall by 30 per cent. Northern Saskatchewan is blessed with rich uranium deposits, uranium that will fuel reactors worldwide. Further south we have plentiful potash deposits and fertilizer that are critical for growing food to feed a growing population, the world population that has now reached 8 billion, further highlighting the need for Saskatchewan to produce more food, fuel, and fertilizer. That's growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan is home to some of the most fertile soil in the country. Farmers and researchers have worked on these lands for decades. They are developing seed varieties well suited to our growing season and soil types, resulting in higher yields and top quality. Many of these varieties resist diseases and insects that threaten yield and quality.

Along with seed development, we have farmer ingenuity. Farmers build and adapt equipment to suit their needs, finding ways to make their tasks more accessible and efficient. The numerous agriculture and manufacturing companies in Saskatchewan are evidence of that. Farmers continue to modify and adapt their seeding and harvesting practices to increase production while protecting soil health. Today's conventional farmers have well-thought-out crop rotations and continuous cropping while carefully monitoring plant health throughout the growing season, and to end with a bountiful harvest in the fall — Saskatchewan's annual megaproject. That's growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan are being disrespected and attacked by federal policies, policies supported by those NDP opposition members. They have sided with the Justin-and-Jagmeet carbon tax and have not supported the people of Saskatchewan. How can the members opposite face the public and tell them the Saskatchewan NDP supports a tax on everything? The double-J carbon tax went from the promised \$50 per tonne to the new cap of \$170 per tonne. If the NDP continue to support the federal Liberals, there is no telling how high the carbon tax will become.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the federal Liberal government, supported by the NDP, keeps whipping up strong headwinds for Saskatchewan's agriculture and resource development. It doesn't stop with carbon taxes. They are merely the beginning. Justin and Jagmeet are proceeding with the clean fuel standard, a policy that will further accelerate high fuel prices, effectively making fuel unaffordable for families and increasing freight rates for our

agriculture, mining, and oil commodities. High fuel prices will force people to drive less, and soon the only driving going on will be the driving up of inflation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, further to the carbon tax and the clean fuel standard, we must soon include the clean energy standard, a continuation of federal energy policies that aim to stop the use of fossil fuels from every aspect of the lives of Canadians. I challenge the members opposite to make it through one day without using oil and gas or products derived from oil and gas. The clean energy standard aims to eliminate coal and natural gas fuels from being used to generate electricity, placing Saskatchewan and Alberta at a considerable disadvantage to other Canadian provinces and increasing the cost of electricity for consumers and businesses alike.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, as mentioned, we have some of the lowest emissions from our oil and gas industry. Ethically produced energy landlocked in the middle of the Canadian prairies, our oil and gas production needs additional pipelines to expand our markets. Countries replacing their current energy needs with Canadian oil and gas would immediately lower their CO₂ emissions. However to stop new pipeline construction, the federal Liberal government, supported by those NDP members, is another counterproductive policy. Along comes Bill C-69, otherwise known as the no-more-pipeline bill. Without increased pipeline capacity, oil and gas will be transported by road or rail, increasing the cost of production and the price consumers pay at the pumps or to heat their homes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the federal Liberal government's most recent hare-brained scheme to complicate and stifle Saskatchewan's economy: the 30 per cent fertilizer emissions reduction target. When you ask farmers how they will meet this target, most will tell you it will mean using 30 per cent less fertilizer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our farmers are already the best at what they do. They already employ methods that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada suggest will reduce emissions. Simple, plain dirt farmers' arithmetic will show a 30 per cent reduction in fertilizer emissions equals 30 per cent less fertilizer. Less fertilizer will reduce yields, and reduced yields mean less food worldwide. Less food makes for food insecurity and starving people. Many of these people are in developing countries and already struggle with a lack of food.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Saskatchewan is a safe, secure, and reliable food, fuel, and fertilizer supplier, and this Saskatchewan Party government wants to increase production to meet world demands. That's growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted countries' need for energy and food security for their citizens. Saskatchewan will ensure Canada has energy security by supplying the entire country with Western Canadian oil and gas today, tomorrow, and for many years to come. Saskatchewan is a global leader in sustainable agriculture, and federal policies are interfering with the province's ability to supply food to the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the motion reads:

This Assembly supports Saskatchewan's role as a global leader in sustainable agriculture and global food security by opposing federal policies. Policies that inhibit the province's ability to produce food, fuel, and fertilizer include the carbon tax, the clean fuel standard, Bill C-69, the clean electricity standard, and the 30 per cent fertilizer emissions reduction target.

Mr. Speaker, this is no laughing matter. It's very, very sincere work the province, the people of this province, put into developing our resources and building a strong economy right here in Saskatchewan. I only wish the NDP opposition could support this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support this motion and I ask all members, including the ones on the opposition side, to join me in supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's incredibly frustrating to participate in 75-minute debates because I sometimes feel like I'm yelling into a void and nothing we say is acknowledged by the other side. They refuse to open their ears and listen to anything that we have to say, and it feels like the facts have no bearing on any of the notes that have been prepared here.

[11:45]

So we are all proud of Saskatchewan's role as a leader, as a global leader in agriculture, in sustainable agriculture and food security. And we've all been quite clear about that, so I'm not exactly sure what the prepared notes of the members opposite . . . why they feel so strongly in presenting them with such vigour, Mr. Speaker, as this is an easy debate to have.

We are proud of the role that Saskatchewan plays on the world stage. We are proud of sustainable agriculture. We know that with the growing global population, food security issues will become more pronounced. And the agriculture industry can have its own impact and is having its own impact, and we're proud of the initiatives that aim to integrate the social, environmental, and economic interest here.

There are so many different ways that we have distinguished ourselves in this province. We play an invaluable role as stewards of the land with zero-till practice, as stewards of wetlands and grasslands and sequestering carbon and supporting diversity. We also recognize the value-added projects including the canola crush, renewable, and biodiesel.

And I'm quite inspired by innovations that we've seen. We had an ag bioprocessing tour that many of us went on at the University of Saskatchewan, the College of Engineering, and had a chance to hear from professors and students who are working alongside industry to make some of these very innovations happen, Mr. Speaker. You know, things like utilizing agricultural waste that is previously just had to be tossed, coming up with, you know, creating biofuel. There are some really amazing initiatives. I was also very interested in the biodegradable glitter, Mr. Speaker, although that was maybe one of the showier

portions of the tour. There is some amazing work happening in this province, and we can all agree that we're very proud of it.

My colleague has already canvassed the list of federal policies that are identified here. We have a short amount of time, so I won't go through that, but I will encourage the members opposite to really listen . . . what we have to say about our stances on things, because it feels very much like they're not listening.

It's astonishing, the amount of blame. I know there's a time and a place that we need to stand up for Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, but it is astonishing the amount of blame that this government puts on the federal government. They pretend they have no power to take action on this front, but that's simply not the case. There are so many different ways that they could be making a difference.

We will continue advocating for and working with ag producers in this province. Just this week we called for an investigation into food and grocery pricing, Mr. Speaker. We know that ground beef is up 10 per cent, carrots are up almost 30 per cent, and hard-working Saskatchewan people are using the food bank. And we need to get to the bottom of why corporate grocery stores are making record profits while Saskatchewan families are struggling with surging food prices.

The government should be sticking up for Saskatchewan producers and cash-strapped families. Instead they're directly making life more expensive, and a family of four will pay almost \$1,000 more in groceries this year. And Saskatchewan's set to lead the nation in food price increases in 2022. That doesn't match the same rate that wages are going up, which is only 2 per cent, Mr. Speaker — second last in terms of wage growth in Canada.

So we're getting hit twice as hard because we're getting hit on the producer side and the consumer side. We called for an investigation, a special committee of the legislature, which we have seen before in this space, to investigate grocery and supply chain issues, meat processing and packaging, and food security in Saskatchewan's North. I was up in Black Lake and Fond-du-Lac communities this winter, Mr. Speaker, and I couldn't believe the prices then. They are even higher now.

This adds to the suite of affordability measures that we've already called for in recent months: not just a \$100 cheque, as the members opposite keep repeating, but expanding the \$500 affordability cheques for parents with children; creating a consumer advocate for fair and reliable utilities; rolling back the 8 per cent SaskPower and 23 per cent SaskEnergy increases; rolling back the PST [provincial sales tax] expansion which is still doing so much damage; removing the PST on restaurant meals and children's clothing; and suspending the provincial gas tax — all items that this government can directly control, Mr. Speaker.

Yet they throw their hands up in the air and say, oh, it's the federal government, that's the only people that can take action, Mr. Speaker. I feel like we need to go back to grade school or high school, wherever we learn about federal and provincial powers, for this government to take note of the responsibility that exists within their own sphere.

And it's frankly quite embarrassing to hear them laugh about when we refer to producers. We know we are standing up for producers. We are elevating the voices of folks like APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan] who have had a lot to say over this past year, Mr. Speaker, about ways this government could be doing so much better.

At the Ag in Motion farm expo, our critic for Agriculture called on the province to use the annual convention of the federal-provincial-territorial ministers of Agriculture to commit to an investigation in beef pricing. This was back in July, Mr. Speaker, July. On July 5th the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association called for a beef pricing investigation. We know that there is a serious imbalance between the price they receive for their cattle and the price consumers pay at the meat counter. We need to stand up for producers, Mr. Speaker; instead, silence from this government. They want a pat on the back for the work that they are doing.

Other issues that have called into question this government's commitment to producers, Mr. Speaker . . . it's kind of easy to understand why they might want to have this debate, sort of save some face based on some of the issues that have come up in the past year.

It comes to mind what happened in December 2021, and the title here from *The Western Producer* is "Government threatens ag organization in public spat." And essentially APAS . . . Here I'll read a quote from it: "APAS vice-president Ian Boxall said the problem was the messaging, not the numbers, because it sounded like farmers caused the deficit and that taxpayers were on the hook." And of course, Mr. Speaker, he's referring to the Finance minister and the Agriculture minister putting farmers under the bus when it comes to crop insurance claims.

Mr. Speaker, I've only had time to get through 2 of my 15 points on this issue, but we're coming to an end here. We've asked for AgriStability payment levels to be increased. We've condemned the spiteful correspondence. We've supported stock growers' and cattlemen's calls for more . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — The 65-minute period has expired. The 10-minute period, question and answer period, will begin. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the member from Cannington, and I wonder if he can please explain to the House why he supported Pierre Poilievre's federal gas relief plan and not ours. And when is he going to start pressuring the front benches of his government to provide real relief for Saskatchewan families?

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

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I thank the member opposite for the question. Our plan to reduce fuel taxes is to eliminate the carbon tax. Your NDP-supported federal Liberal government is increasing it year over year. Please call your leader and have it eliminated. He has the power. Our provincial tax dollars go directly . . . We spend almost double our fuel tax dollars back into our roads and we will continue to do that.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. A recent column in the *Toronto Star* cited Saskatchewan as the saviour of the world as our agriculture sector fills the gaps in the global supply created by the Russo-Ukrainian war. Ellen Goddard, an agricultural economist from the University of Alberta, was quoted within the article saying, "For the majority of Canadians, the actual contribution that the Canadian prairies make to global markets is not very well understood at the best of times."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I agree that we are completely misunderstood by an NDP-supported federal government of Justin Trudeau and Jagmeet Singh that refuses to understand Saskatchewan's position. To the member from Saskatoon University, will you agree that Saskatchewan is one of the most important global agricultural producers on the planet and that the federal NDP-Liberal government's plan to impose fertilizer emission reductions will drastically affect our ability . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon University is not in this debate as far as answering questions. Next question please. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We know that the Sask Party government have been hypocrites on gas relief. On March 7th, the Saskatchewan NDP . . .

[Interjections]

The Deputy Speaker: — "Hypocrites" is not a parliamentary word. Please withdraw and apologize.

Ms. Mowat: — I withdraw the comment, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize. The members opposite have been incredibly inconsistent with their stances on gas relief, Mr. Speaker. We have called on the Sask Party government for a gas relief plan to relieve folks where they're being hit at the pumps. Why has the member from Kindersley supported the Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's gas relief plan but won't support ours?

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

Mr. Francis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I do appreciate the member asking that question. It's very simple. Affordability measures have been taken in this province by this government for a long, long time, actual measures, Mr. Speaker. And something like a carbon tax that really serves no purpose other than sending a price signal, well that price signal is there loud and clear, something they support openly, Mr. Speaker. But this government continues to provide affordability measures in an actual way that helps its residents, and we are not ashamed of our record on affordability. Thank you.

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

Mr. Friesen: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In their 2022 NDP convention resolutions, the opposition didn't once mention agriculture producers, not even once. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is an NDP that didn't care about farmers when they were in

government, and they sure don't care now. If they did care about our Saskatchewan producers, the most climate-conscious and sustainable producers on the planet, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they would stand up to the policies of the federal government they continue to support.

To the member from Saskatoon Fairview: will you stand with us against the federal government's carbon tax that is putting tax after tax on producers and consumers and support our Saskatchewan-first legislation?

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll answer the question if they promise they're going to listen this time. We have simply always stood against the federal Justin Trudeau carbon tax. We have always stood against it.

And you know what? And you know what, Mr. Speaker? We have that tax because this government sat on their hands and did absolutely nothing. We called on them to protect producers. We called on them to protect those who are living in the margins of our societies, Mr. Speaker, and to come up with a plan that works uniquely for Saskatchewan. That is the answer. Listen next time.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Question to the member from Melville-Saltcoats, who gave such a genuinely great and glowing account of all of the efforts of our agricultural innovators here in the province. So, Mr. Speaker, to that member, does he agree with the Finance minister who told APAS last winter that farmers are basically too stupid to understand financial reports?

[12:00]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Kaeding: — I'm having a very difficult time even recognizing that question, Mr. Speaker, so I'm probably not going to respond directly to that question, Mr. Speaker. The concern that I have is we've talked about the carbon tax in this Assembly, but there are a number of other compliance issues that this federal government is starting to initiate on us that we estimate are going to cost us over \$111 billion in the next 10 years, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

You want to talk affordability? You want to ask about affordability? How are our residents going to cover an additional \$111 billion in the next 10 years that this province is going to incur with a number of federal Liberal- and Jagmeet Singh-associated compliance issues on us, Mr. Deputy Speaker?

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

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, that opposition continues to run down this province, our hard-working citizens, and all the progress that this government has made and continues

to make. We now have a federal government standing in the way of that progress, attacking our agricultural producers and our energy sector with their senseless mandates and policies.

To the member from Saskatoon Meewasin: will you stand today and denounce the federal government's proposed fertilizer emissions cap and the carbon tax, and acknowledge the drastic negative impact those have on our people and on our resource sectors?

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

Mr. Teed: — Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. Thank you.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this government is so supportive of farmers, then why did the member for Cannington support his government leaving farmers out to dry when they blocked progress on AgriStability during the drought of a generation?

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

Mr. D. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Thanks, Member opposite, for the question. Our government has continued to support our ag producers over and over and over again, through droughts, through floods, time and time again. And we will take lessons from nobody on that side about ag support.

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

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We are going to ask again until we get a straight answer out of this opposition. To the member from Saskatoon Meewasin: with the federal government set to continue raising the price on carbon and tripling it to \$150 a tonne, will you agree that this tax is bad for Saskatchewan people, businesses, and the progress?

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

Mr. Teed: — Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes again. Thank you.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, recently we introduced a call for an investigation into food pricing here in the province, Mr. Speaker, knowing that groceries and the inflation therein is the number one cause of concern for people in the province.

Now members opposite may consider Justin Trudeau responsible for inflation. So to the minister for Kindersley, if he believes that is true, why did he . . . Pardon me. Member for Kindersley. You're promoted, promoted in this economy. Why did you vote against that investigation, which could have proved that to be

true?

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

Mr. Francis: — As the new minister for Kindersley, I got a lot of stuff I'm going to implement. Oh, we're done?

The Deputy Speaker: — The 75-minute debate period has expired.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 610 — *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act*

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. It is with honour and gratitude I rise in this House to speak on my private member's bill. Mr. Speaker, after I conclude my remarks I will move second reading of Bill 610, *An Act respecting the Meaningful Implementation of the Crown's Duty to Consult in Saskatchewan*.

Mr. Speaker, the intent of this Act is to ensure duty-to-consult is carried out in a procedurally fair process undertaken in good faith with the intention of substantially addressing concerns of First Nations and Métis people's rights that may be impacted by Crown conduct. This Act will uphold the treaty rights of First Nation and Métis people. These Indigenous rights are recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and nothing in this Act shall abrogate or derogate from those rights.

Duty-to-consult, where applicable to accommodate Indigenous peoples, is a constitutional obligation which must be fulfilled by the Crown prior to decision making which may adversely impact established or asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights articulated in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Mr. Speaker, constitutionally protected treaty rights limits the province's legal authority over First Nation and Métis people's treaty rights in this province. Further, Mr. Speaker, this Act is in alignment with the Supreme Court of Canada statement that the federal duty-to-consult is to foster reconciliation. This duty-to-consult Act facilitates meaningful and active participation of Indigenous peoples in society with a view towards reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, this duty-to-consult bill wasn't entered into lightly. I spent the past two years consulting with many folks across this province to ask how they want to be consulted in a meaningful way when governments or industry wants to develop or make decisions that could potentially impact them. I asked citizens how they want to be consulted that was meaningful and respectful.

I asked them what concerns were regarding this government's duty-to-consult framework. I asked how effective it was. Were there areas where they felt they were not being consulted? I asked what is missing from this duty-to-consult framework besides the lack of respected process. I asked what this framework excludes.

I travelled across this province speaking with Indigenous communities, landowners, ranchers, keepers of the land, and grassroots community members. Not only did I travel to as many nations I could, I also had numerous Zoom meetings and telephone calls, Mr. Speaker. These were extensive consultations. I documented stakeholders' concerns about the duty-to-consult policy framework. I compiled the information. I began putting them into themes and then went back to ask if what I was presenting them was what they were saying.

I also asked what they thought was needed to ensure meaningful duty-to-consult was carried out in a meaningful way to them. I heard repeatedly from folks across this province that policy is not enforceable. It has no teeth. We need legislation because this government does not follow its own policies. Equally important, this government and its ministries themselves do not follow their own policies. These, Mr. Speaker, are only a few things I've heard from folks in this province.

History shows that our province has a very long history of not consulting with First Nations and Métis people. All one must do is think about residential schools, the past system, Indigenous people not being allowed to vote until 1960, the Sixties Scoops, the 1930 Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration program, the community pasture program, the agricultural Crown land sale program, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, the Crown conservation easements Act, and most recently *The Trespass to Property Act*. These policies and laws, Mr. Speaker, had been created with no consultation with First Nation and Métis peoples in this province. Even more disturbing is how this government has continued to infringe on treaty rights and breaching its own treaty land entitlement framework agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to be cc'd on letters sent to this government and its ministries from citizens, First Nations, and Métis Nations in this province. These folks, Mr. Speaker, have serious concerns with the lack of meaningful consultation from this government and its ministries. I have been cc'd on cease and desist letters sent to the province, court documents that were filed in the courts, and letters from nations and citizens outlining their concerns about the sell-off and leases of Crown land, the lack of consultation and accommodation, and the infringement on constitutionally protected treaties.

Mr. Speaker, the duty-to-consult policy framework is not enforceable. It is a document outlining what the government will do and what it will not do. The duty-to-consult process is disrespectful to people in this province. Online surveys, emails, one-off meetings, one-sided information sharing, registered letters, and an invite to go to a government website to provide feedback does not work.

And, Mr. Speaker, there are loopholes in this policy. Industry and proponents are not required to consult with impacted communities. First Nation and Métis people are often bypassed or given crumbs in the procurement contracts. The current policy does not address cumulative impacts. It does not take into account how any development will impact section 35 of the constitutional rights and our way of life as First Nation and Métis people.

How will the cumulative impacts of development impact our

ability as First Nation and Métis peoples to hunt, fish, trap, pick berries, and gather medicines on those traditional territories if our treaty rights are infringed upon? How will this impact our children and grandchildren's ability to exercise their treaty rights?

Also, Mr. Speaker, there are no parameters outlined in the policy on who is going to be consulted. And specifically level 4 and 5 of the consultation matrix have never been triggered even though level 5 states, "permanent uptake of land" will trigger duty-to-consult. This should be engaged when Crown lands are being sold.

The countless letters I've received and court challenges against this province clearly show that duty-to-consult in this province does not work, and no amount of tweaking and out-dated policy will ensure enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that since 2007, more than 1.5 million acres of Crown land have been sold without meaningful consultations. While the Minister for Government Relations keeps saying that we don't need legislation on duty-to-consult because treaty rights are already protected in the Canadian Constitution, then why, Mr. Speaker, are nations taking this government to court and winning?

Going to talk a little bit about those nations. Witchehan Lake First Nation filed a statement of claim in federal court in 2019, arguing that the province of Saskatchewan had breached the terms of the Saskatchewan TLE [treaty land entitlement] framework agreement by selling Crown lands without providing proper notice or first right of refusal. The federal court dismissed the province's request for summary judgment in the case of Witchehan Lake First Nation vs. Saskatchewan on October 15th, 2021 and ordered the province to pay Witchehan Lake First Nation's costs.

In 2018 Carry The Kettle filed a lawsuit arguing the federal and provincial governments owed the band something for allowing a century of agriculture to take over land that the First Nation was supposed to have access to.

In 2022 Carry The Kettle requested a judicial review over the provincial government's failure to meaningfully consult and accommodate in its recent decisions to sell and lease Crown lands.

People from Carry The Kettle now only have 13 per cent of their traditional territory to exercise treaty rights, practise their culture, and maintain their way of life. And much of the remaining land is not suitable for these purposes.

[12:15]

April 14th 2016, Pasqua First Nation filed a statement of claim with the federal court in Regina against the Water Security Agency, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the federal government. Two parcels of Crown land that are adjacent to Echo Lake were transferred to the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority without any notice to the First Nation. The Watershed Authority breached its obligations by agreeing to sell the lands to a North Dakota propane company without first notifying Pasqua First Nation of the availability of the lands.

In 2013 there was a \$20 million compensation deal with the federal and provincial governments to settle claims relating to flooding in the Qu'Appelle lakes chain. In 2014 the leadership of Pasqua First Nation filed a statement of claim in federal court against Saskatchewan for their failure to implement the TLE.

Kahkewistahaw has sent numerous letters warning this province. In 2020 the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan filed a statement of claim against the province. They say there are inconsistencies when providing notices to Métis leadership, resulting in a lack of consultation. Disposition of minerals and impact of commercial use on traditional Métis practices such as trapping and fishing, these are not considered for consultation.

The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan wants a declaration by the courts that would declare the 2010 First Nation-Métis consultation policy framework invalid and in breach of the honour of the Crown. The Métis Nation wants the court to declare the province has an obligation to consult with Métis peoples regarding land and resources. And they want the province to identify and disclose all matters over last decade where the province ought to have consulted with Métis people. Under the current duty-to-consult policy framework, the province doesn't have to consult with Métis people in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of Canada stated the purpose of the duty-to-consult is to foster reconciliation. Meaningful duty-to-consult is of great importance to Indigenous people and duty-to-consult requires meaningful dialogue with Indigenous people about contemplated government or industry actions. The above examples show how this government has failed in duty-to-consult.

Constitutional protection of Aboriginal and treaty rights require this provincial government to take these rights seriously. Mr. Speaker, if this government wants to sell or lease Crown land or have developers develop in a nation's traditional territory, then they will need to consult and accommodate those nations. And if the provincial government wants to change how Indigenous hunting, trapping, fishing is regulated, then they need to consult those citizens.

Mr. Speaker, because the duty-to-consult is so broken in this province and the duty-to-consult policy framework is not enforceable, we are going to see more and more nations and citizens in this province taking the litigation route, and it will result in the taxpayers of this province continuing to foot the bill for lost court cases and mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to think about their constituents and the citizens in this province. Supporting this bill is the right thing to do. This is an opportunity for all of us to come together and truly walk our talk about reconciliation and get this right. Remember that the Supreme Court stated that duty-to-consult was intended to foster reconciliation.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I now move that Bill 610, *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act* be now read a second time. miigwech.

The Deputy Speaker: — It has been moved that Bill 610, *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member

from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wow, what an honour it is to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill 610, *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act*. This is truly a historical bill introduced by my colleague, the member for Saskatoon Centre, here on Treaty 4. And I consider it my responsibility, Mr. Speaker, in entering in my remarks on this bill, not just to acknowledge the land we stand on, but to name the particular role of our national and provincial policies and legislation, the role they played in displacing Indigenous peoples from their traditional territories to make way for settlement of the Prairies, Mr. Speaker. These included, Mr. Speaker: policies of disenfranchisement controlling movements, policies that amounted to forced starvation, and a disturbing pattern of excluding First Nations and Métis people from the development of laws and legal frameworks that would impact them.

This is a historical but also an ongoing reality, Mr. Speaker. We as modern-day lawmakers cannot address present-day disparities — be they in health, be they in education, be they in justice — without first acknowledging the historical roots of those disparities. Policies that keep Indigenous communities down continue today and they continue under this Sask Party government. This government is auctioning off thousands of acres of Crown land to the highest bidder without meaningfully consulting with Indigenous communities. It is all about the money for them, Mr. Speaker. And that is not good enough. It breaches established laws and it is literally ripping the rug out from future generations and their ability to exercise their treaty rights, Mr. Speaker.

I want to echo the comments of my colleague, the member for Saskatoon Centre, and join her in calling on the members opposite to open their eyes and their hearts to this bill, Mr. Speaker, because in my experience, Indigenous communities are not seeking to blame or shame. They are simply seeking what we're all seeking, Mr. Speaker: healing, a good life, a future for their children, autonomy over their lives, a fair share of the bounty of our natural endowments, and a sense of community and well-being. Things we are all seeking, Mr. Speaker, and things that have for too long been denied to so many across our province. And that is really what this bill, *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act*, is all about, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 610.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House now stands adjourned till Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:24.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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