



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

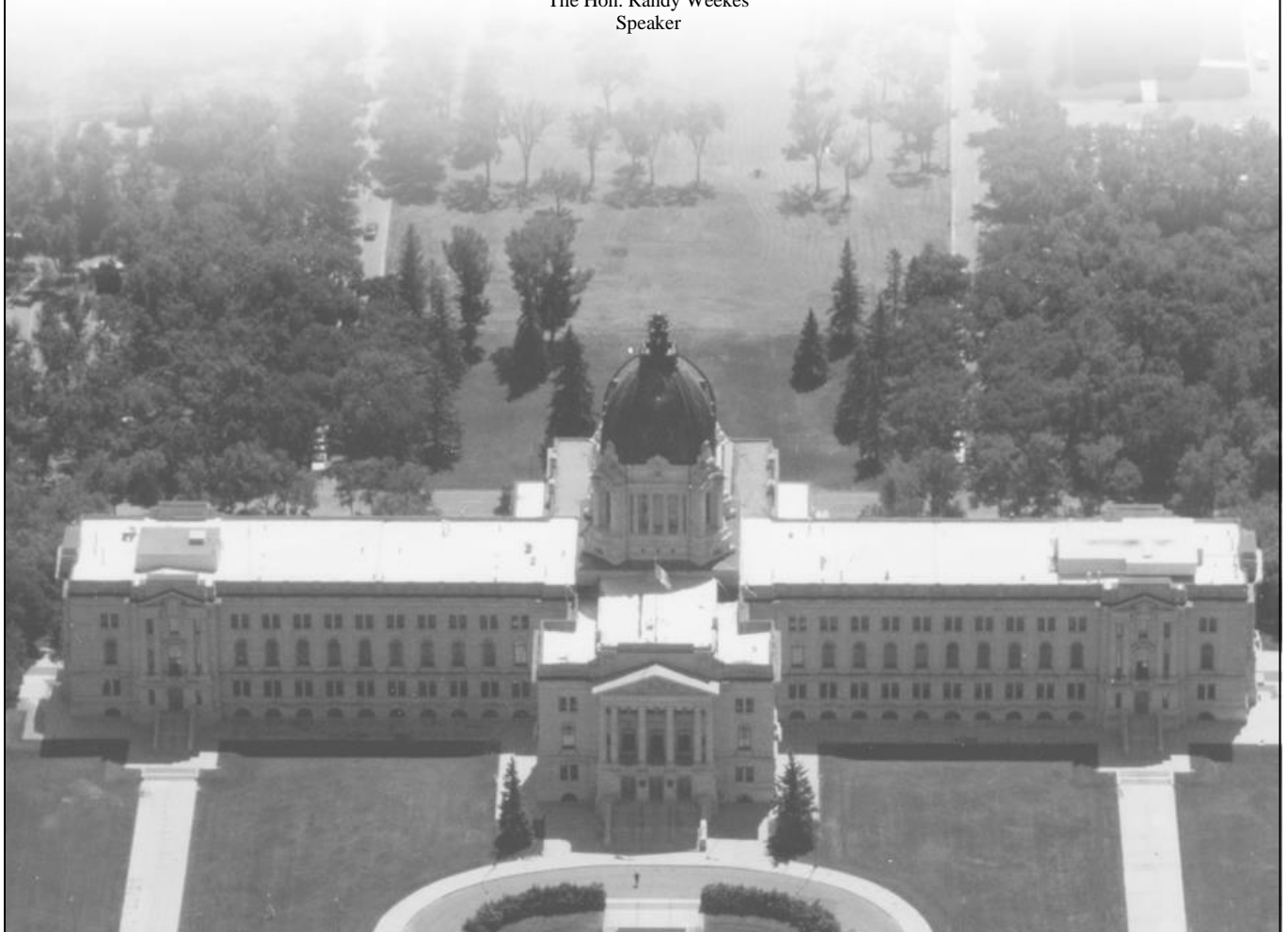
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

---

**DEBATES  
AND  
PROCEEDINGS**

---

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



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**3rd Session — 29th Legislature**

**Lieutenant Governor** — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

**Speaker** — Hon. Randy Weekes  
**Premier** — Hon. Scott Moe  
**Leader of the Opposition** — Carla Beck

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

---

**Standings**

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 46; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;  
Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 2

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Iris Lang  
**Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel** — Kenneth S. Ring, K.C.  
**Deputy Clerk** — Kathy Buriannyk  
**Principal Clerk** — Robert Park

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Lyall Frederiksen

**Hansard on the internet**  
*Hansard* and other documents of the  
Legislative Assembly are available  
within hours after each sitting.

<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/Calendar>

## CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Beck .....	3337
Moe .....	3337
Nippi-Albright .....	3337
Lemaigre .....	3337
Vermette .....	3338
Lambert .....	3338
McMorris .....	3338
Grewal .....	3338

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Ottenbreit .....	3338
Nippi-Albright .....	3338

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### Potash Industry Doubles Growth Plan Goals

Nerlien .....	3339
---------------	------

##### Cheshire Homes Provides Accessible Housing for Adults with Disabilities

Love .....	3339
------------	------

##### Award-Winning Park Cafe a Favourite in Saskatoon Riversdale

Friesen .....	3339
---------------	------

##### Respect for First Nations and Métis Citizens

Vermette .....	3339
----------------	------

##### Provincial Funding Announcements Made at Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Convention

Steele .....	3340
--------------	------

##### Remembering Gerry Pepler

Ottenbreit .....	3340
------------------	------

##### Recruitment and Retention of Physicians in Rural Saskatchewan

Domotor .....	3340
---------------	------

#### QUESTION PERIOD

##### Bill No. 88 and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Beck .....	3340
Moe .....	3341
Nippi-Albright .....	3341
Eyre .....	3341

##### Ownership of Crown Lands

Nippi-Albright .....	3342
McMorris .....	3342

##### Residential Schools Settlement

Nippi-Albright .....	3342
Eyre .....	3342

##### False Claims of Indigenous Ancestry

Nippi-Albright .....	3343
Carr .....	3343

##### Consideration of Bill No. 88 in Committee Meeting

Sarauer .....	3343
Eyre .....	3344

##### Land Use Bylaws in Rural Municipalities

Wilson .....	3344
McMorris .....	3344

##### Health Care Funding and Support for Saskatchewan People

Wilson .....	3345
Moe .....	3345

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

##### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Dennis .....	3345, 3346
--------------	------------

#### FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

##### Bill No. 88 — *The Saskatchewan First Act*

Eyre .....	3345
------------	------

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 88 — *The Saskatchewan First Act*

Eyre .....	3345
Recorded Division .....	3346

Bill No. 102 — <i>The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act, 2022</i> <i>Loi modificative de 2022 sur les questions constitutionnelles</i>	
Eyre .....	3346
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE</b>	
Saskatchewan's Economy and Federal Economic Policies	
Lemaigre.....	3346, 3355
Wotherspoon .....	3348, 3355
Domotor .....	3350, 3356
Mowat .....	3351, 3356
Kaeding .....	3352, 3357
Teed .....	3354, 3356
Bonk .....	3355
Young, C. ....	3356
Ross, A. ....	3356
<b>PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS</b>	
<b>ADJOURNED DEBATES</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
Bill No. 610 — <i>The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act</i>	
Ritchie .....	3357

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

**The Speaker:** — I would just like to welcome all our guests. I was glad to see a number of people here today, but I just want to caution you. You're not to engage in debate, speaking, or heckling, or anything like that, but also you're not allowed to take photos or videotape any of the proceedings. Thank you.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an incredible honour today to rise and to welcome, Mr. Speaker, leaders, Indigenous leaders seated in all three galleries today who have come to this Legislative Assembly today to watch the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, as I've said before and will say again, the decisions we make here in this Assembly, they matter to people right across this province. And it's crucial that we are reminded of that and it's crucial that all voices are heard.

Mr. Speaker, there are leaders that have joined us — Métis leaders, First Nations leaders — from right around this province. And I want to thank them for making the journey here. Many people have travelled a great distance to be here, and it is important that you're here. I want to also, Mr. Speaker, acknowledge and welcome student leaders from the University of Regina and First Nations University. There are too many, perhaps, to name by name.

But I do want to make one special shout-out to someone who is no stranger to Regina Lakeview, my constituency, the former member Louise Simard who has joined us here today — a lawyer, a leader, a minister, someone who spent her career serving at the national and provincial level working for better public policy, most recently at the Métis National Council.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say welcome and thank you to all of those leaders who have joined us here today, and I invite all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the Leader of the Opposition in welcoming everyone that has joined us here today. We have students, we have post-secondary students, and we have a number of folks here from the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. And I want to welcome each and every one of them to their Legislative Assembly. I want to thank them for their engagement here over the course of the last number of days, but more importantly their engagement over their time in this province, Mr. Speaker, and their engagement with whichever government is here.

I also want to just take a moment to single out some of the leadership within the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We have with us the president, Glen McCallum. I want to

welcome him to his Legislative Assembly, thank him for his engagement as well over the last number as well, and thank him in advance for some of the engagement that I know is coming over the next period of time.

We also have with us, Mr. Speaker, the vice-president, Michelle LeClair, as well as the secretary, Lisa McCallum, as well. And I want to take this opportunity to also welcome them, welcome the leadership of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, welcome all of those that are members of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and more broadly, welcome everyone that has joined us here today, including a couple of former members of this Assembly that I know will be introduced more formally already and in the next number of introductions.

So welcome, everyone, to your Legislative Assembly in this great province of Saskatchewan.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in the introductions today.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Saulteaux.]

I just want to acknowledge those that have joined us here today. And it is with great gratitude that I say that it's wonderful to see you all here. People in this gallery, the folks in this gallery are First Nations, First Nation leaders, Métis leaders, Métis Nations, Métis citizens, and also mainstream citizens that have joined here today. They come from all corners of this province to come to this legislature to make their voices heard. Your voice matters to the official opposition.

For those folks from the constituencies of Lloydminster and Athabasca pay, pay close attention to how your MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] vote on legislation that negatively impacts you as Nations and citizens. I welcome you to your legislature.

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

**Mr. Lemaigre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join the members that have welcomed the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan. I've been into your communities. We've had discussions. Some were tough, but when we think about our future and where we're headed, some of those conversations have to happen. And I welcome it.

And when I think about our future I think about my grandkids, two Métis grandchildren. And unfortunately the way things are unfolding, they cannot be treaty. But I see your leadership. I see the direction you're taking your Nation. I commend you. All of us step up to the plate for our people, and it is very evident when I'm in your communities, when I'm engaging and we're conversing, that all of you have the best interests for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. And I join everyone in welcoming you to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — I ask, request, and I'd like to take a minute to introduce guests in this gallery, Mr. Speaker, into the Legislative Assembly. My heart sometimes is heavy for the next generation, but I want to thank our Indigenous leaders — First Nations, Métis — how powerful you being here sends a message to government, and should send a strong message. But I thank you for the fight you're willing to fight and the stand you're willing to make. It is an honour to have you here in your Assembly.

We have some good leaders, great leaders, people who are willing to have voice and speak the truth. And I welcome you to your Assembly. And I hope you will hold government accountable to make sure our next generation is taken care of. I welcome you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Lambert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a member of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, I would like to join with colleagues and warmly welcome all of our guests here today to witness the workings that go on in this honourable House, and thank you for being here. Thank you for taking the time to join us.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join in welcoming all to their gallery, to their Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and seated in the gallery.

I would like to single out one that is not seated in the gallery, but on the floor. I know a former member was already introduced by the opposition. I'd like to introduce Dan D'Autremont, who doesn't really need much introduction into this Assembly, but just . . . I'm kind of pleased to introduce him, you know. We can call him Dan in here now, because for the longest time, 20-some years, he was the member from Cannington. So let's combine that, because he was always in the area known as Dan the Man from Cannington. That's how he certainly was known around the area.

You know, we all get in politics for different reasons and at different times. My introduction into politics, I hate to say it, was quite a long time ago. The first nomination meeting I ever went to was Dan's nomination in Oxbow in 1990. Dan was nominated and I certainly learned a little bit from that. Then I didn't really have much to do with Dan for quite a while.

But of course, Dan was a founding member of the Sask Party, one of the golden eight, or silver eight now maybe. Anyway he was one of the founding members and shortly after, he still had my name. I don't know how. But he came and asked me to see if I would be interested in running for politics. And ever since then, Dan and I have had a kind of a love-hate relationship. When it's going good, I kind of love the guy and when it's not going so good, which does happen in this business, I don't really care for Dan all that much.

Anyway I would like all members to recognize Dan D'Autremont for his many years of service not only to the constituents of Cannington, but to the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Dan.

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

**Mr. Grewal:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, it's my great pleasure to introduce to you 28 bright students of grade 5 from Henry Braun School accompanied by their teachers, Jennifer Leach and Cheryl Aarebrot, in the west gallery. I look forward to meeting them after the question period. Now I would like all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to read into record this petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. It reads: we, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to the 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 unproductive and 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 below undersigned are residents of Moose Jaw, Regina, and Crossmount. I do so submit.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise and present this petition calling on the government to enshrine duty-to-consult. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: the Government of Saskatchewan is currently selling off and offering long 33-year leases on Crown lands that have been used by Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities for ceremony, etc.; without clear duty-to-consult legislation in place, the Government of Saskatchewan alone is responsible for recognizing when duty-to-consult is triggered, contributing to a lack of engagement with First Nation and Métis communities and with little accountability for the government, which often ends in lost court battles; the lack of duty-to-consult legislation leaves the taxpayers of Saskatchewan footing the bill for the government's mistakes and losses in courts:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop the sell-off of Crown land and leases, and enshrine duty-to-consult

into law by enacting meaningful duty-to-consult legislation.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Marcelin, Regina, Rocanville. I do so present.

[10:15]

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

#### Potash Industry Doubles Growth Plan Goals

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize our province and our potash industry for another achievement. When our government announced the Saskatchewan growth plan a few years ago, there were numerous goals that we intended to achieve before the end of this decade. One of these goals, Mr. Speaker, was to hit \$9 billion in potash sales by the year 2030. Today I'm reporting to this House that in 2022 not only was this goal achieved but it was doubled, with \$18 billion in potash sales.

Mr. Speaker, potash is one of the many commodities that make Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan. It is crucial for food security both here and abroad, and our province represents about 30 per cent of the world's production, which means Saskatchewan is the number one producer on the planet. Even at low estimates, Saskatchewan has the product to solely supply world demand at current levels for hundreds of years.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan potash is mined with about 50 per cent less emissions than that of our competitors, which is something we can all be proud of. After all, Mr. Speaker, potash, along with other resource commodities in this province, are owned by the people of Saskatchewan; therefore we all benefit when prices, production, and demand are up. And that, Mr. Speaker, is growth that works for everyone. Thank you.

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

#### Cheshire Homes Provides Accessible Housing for Adults with Disabilities

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to rise today to highlight a wonderful organization in Saskatoon Eastview that provides accessible and comfortable housing and personal care for adults with physical disabilities. Cheshire Homes was founded in the early 1970s when Dr. John Owen and his wife were approached by Captain Leonard Cheshire to address the need in Western Canada for a home for adults with physical challenges. Following that original vision, Cheshire Homes began building group homes, and they now have four homes that share a beautiful grounds located on Louise Street.

On January 18th I was privileged to join with the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre to tour and meet with residents, staff, and board members from their board of directors. This was a heartwarming afternoon, getting to meet everyone and making meaningful connections.

Cheshire is a place of dignity, respect, and makes residents feel that they are truly at home. The staff do their very best, even with limited funding and aging facilities, and it was good to hear both their concerns and their hopes for Cheshire's role in our community.

Cheshire Homes are a wonderful and vital part of Eastview, and are thankful to the residents for all that they bring to our community. I ask all members to please join me in celebrating the residents, staff, and the board from Cheshire Homes.

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

#### Award-Winning Park Cafe a Favourite in Saskatoon Riversdale

**Mr. Friesen:** — It's another great day in Riversdale, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to highlight Park Cafe diner on 20th Street in the heart of Riversdale. Park Cafe has been serving some of the best locally sourced foods since 2005. When I have the chance I like to go for breakfast, and this is one of my favourite places in Saskatoon to go, Mr. Speaker, as the inside is an old-school diner, filled with old pictures of Riversdale and downtown Saskatoon. Dale Mackay from Top Chef Canada also has said that this is one of his favourite places to eat.

There's rarely a time where you won't see owners, Pat Hearn and Kent Rumpel, happy to come over and pour you a coffee or just see how your meal is going or how your day is. Park Cafe has won several awards locally: Best Eggs Benedict — and I can personally attest to that — Best Server, Best Riversdale Restaurant, and many more. If you're in Saskatoon and you want to experience great dining in a small-town family dining experience, make sure you check out Park Cafe.

I would ask all members to join me in thanking Kent and Pat for persevering in keeping this wonderful hometown establishment going even through tough times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Respect for First Nations and Métis Citizens

**Mr. Vermette:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take a minute to acknowledge our First Nation, our Métis citizens that are here today on behalf of so many, on behalf of our next generation.

You know, it's important. We talk about respect, and government is supposed to give respect. We have inherent rights, treaty rights. I myself am a proud Métis man. Most of my grandchildren — I have 17 grandchildren — most of them are First Nation and Métis. I have my câpâns are First Nation and Métis. I'm a very proud Métis person, and why I am is because my grandfather, a very proud Métis veteran. He fought hard, but he wanted respect and demanded respect.

And I think this government needs to start respecting Indigenous people once and for all. Not making policies and legislation and then talking. And I don't care who's in government. You need to make sure First Nations and Métis are consulted in a meaningful way. Not just a photo op later. It's important.

We have our rights and we need to protect them. I thank you all for being here and voicing. To all First Nations and Métis leaders, I thank you citizens for having a voice and being loud and clear. Not standing by and waiting to see what happens. You are saving for our next generation, so I want to say thank you so much, and continue the fight until we win. And if we have to go court and fight, then that's where it will be.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cypress Hills.

#### **Provincial Funding Announcements Made at Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Convention**

**Mr. Steele:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2023 SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention was a big success this year. It was great to see many new and old faces. Thank you to all the RMs [rural municipality] and partners who attended this year's SARM convention, and also thank you to Prairieland and their staff for hosting it.

Our Premier made a couple of big announcements for our new communities. Starting April 1st, RPIP [rural physician incentive program] will provide up to 200,000 over five years to family doctors who will establish and practice in a rural or northern community, one of the most competitive programs in Canada, a four times increase over the previous amount offered. Eligibility is also expanded. This will open up the program to including currently participating physicians and not just new graduates.

And a record 279 million is being invested in our municipal revenue-sharing program. That's 13 per cent increase over the current fiscal year, 134 per cent increase since 2007 and 2008. The previous record was 278 million.

Mr. Speaker, with this announcement nearly 4 billion in provincial funding will have been given to support municipalities. That's growth that works for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Remembering Gerry Peppler**

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and honour a very dedicated resident of Yorkton. Gerry Peppler passed away in February at the age of 89. Gerry worked for Shamrock Television for 32 years, and every weekday morning for 27 years she hosted the morning show. Her voice was a staple of the Yorkton community's workday morning.

Excellence in her professional career wasn't enough for Gerry. She had to give back to the community through her tireless and seemingly endless volunteerism. Gerry volunteered for a number of organizations, like Parkland Victim Services, Crimestoppers, the Yorkton housing committee, the Health Foundation board, the Yorkton credit union board, and was a lifetime member of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. Gerry even helped co-chair the 2004 Special Olympic Summer Games when they were in Yorkton.

The lifetime of service that Gerry gave to her community was not without its recognition. She was a recipient of the YWCA's Woman of Distinction Award for contributions to a rural

community, Leadership Award from Toastmasters International, and was the first Yorkton recipient of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. I was also incredibly proud to bestow her with a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal during a visit in hospital in Regina only weeks before she passed.

Mr. Speaker, she was an iconic personality in our community and will be greatly missed. Rest peacefully, Gerry. God bless all your family and all you knew with His comfort.

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

#### **Recruitment and Retention of Physicians in Rural Saskatchewan**

**Mr. Domotor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fifteen new doctors are now practising in rural Saskatchewan. This is thanks to the Saskatchewan international physician practice assessment program, otherwise known as SIPPA. These physicians are among 278 internationally trained family physicians currently working in the province as part of the SIPPA program and, Mr. Speaker, 77 per cent of these physicians are practising in rural communities. That's a new doctor in Biggar, Canora, Esterhazy, Fort Qu'Appelle, Humboldt, Kamsack, Kindersley, Lanigan, Melville, North Battleford, Outlook, Preeceville, Shellbrook, Turtleford, and Weyburn.

This is only one of our initiatives to recruit, retrain, and retain health care workers in our province. We are quadrupling the rural physician incentive program up to \$200,000 and expanding eligibility to include physicians practising through the SIPPA program.

Establishing a rural physician locum pool to provide relief to rural doctors. This pool will stabilize coverage in rural and remote communities that experience physician vacancies.

Training more doctors right here at home by expanding medical residency seats from 120 to 128 at the University of Saskatchewan. And we're expanding post-graduate medical residency training seats outside Regina and Saskatoon to Prince Albert, Swift Current, La Ronge, North Battleford, Moose Jaw, and other southeast areas of the province.

And that's growth that works for everyone.

**The Speaker:** — I'd like to remind our guests in the gallery that there's no sound. I want silence coming from the gallery. No clapping, no talking or heckling or taking any videos or pictures. Please respect the rules.

#### **QUESTION PERIOD**

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

#### **Bill No. 88 and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver and they're failing to listen. And we saw that on full display with the Sask first Act which goes to a final vote later today. Mr. Speaker, First Nations and Métis leaders were completely, completely shut out of consultations,



and that Justice minister herself admitted that last night. This government has shown that they have zero respect for treaty rights and zero interest in hearing concerns and the ideas of Indigenous communities. The question: will this Premier scrap this bill and get to work rebuilding trust with First Nations and Métis people in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, with respect to the preamble of that question, just much of that is just simply not the case. When it comes to *The Saskatchewan First Act*, Mr. Speaker, that most certainly, that most certainly is not a bill where . . . That is not a bill that does not in any way . . . disrespect in any way the treaty rights that we have in this province, nor does anyone in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

There is entirely respect for the treaty rights that we have in this province and across this nation. Those are respected in *The Saskatchewan First Act*, Mr. Speaker. They were further amplified with the amendment that was put forward by the member from Athabasca, Mr. Speaker.

What *The Saskatchewan First Act* is about, what *The Saskatchewan First Act* is about is ensuring that this province — whether you're First Nations, whether you're Métis, whether you're non-Indigenous, Mr. Speaker, a person living in Saskatchewan — that this province has the respect of infringement from the federal government so that we can all benefit, all benefit in every community from corner to corner in Saskatchewan from the strength of the natural-resource-based economy that we have, Mr. Speaker, now and most certainly for our children into the future.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a suggestion for the Premier. If he wants to ask First Nations and Métis leaders how respected they felt by this bill, he can go up into these galleries today and ask.

Now let's look at what happened in committee last night, Mr. Speaker. We learned that this government did zero consultations, and we also saw this government block First Nations and Métis leaders who were here in the Assembly from being heard. It was an arrogant, arrogant display of anti-reconciliation from that Justice minister in committee last night.

Mr. Speaker, leaders lead. We see that from these leaders here. They don't stoke division. Why won't that Premier scrap this damaging bill and get to work undoing the damage he's done in this province?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice, myself, other members, the member from Athabasca has had many — call them what you will — call them dialogue sessions, call them conversations, call them meetings, Mr. Speaker. But there was specific requests in many of those, in many of those meetings that the government not refer to them as consultations. And we most certainly respect those requests, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, *The Saskatchewan First Act* most certainly does respect the treaty rights that we have in this province. It respects the duty-to-consult process that we have in this province, Mr. Speaker. That most certainly is amplified and clarified, Mr. Speaker, with the amendment that was put forward by the member from Athabasca.

[10:30]

What this Act is about is protecting our opportunity, Mr. Speaker. As I say, in First Nation communities, in Métis communities, in non-Indigenous communities across this province, so that we can develop for instance a biomass project in Meadow Lake, Mr. Speaker, so that we can further develop our uranium industry that employs so many Métis individuals in this province as well as other folks from across Saskatchewan. So that we can further develop our potash industry in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and our forestry industry that not only has Indigenous ownership of 30 per cent, but over 30 per cent employment in that industry. That's what we're going to protect for all Saskatchewan people today and for that next generation, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. *The Saskatchewan First Act* is an insult to First Nation and Métis people in this province. It ignores treaty rights of First Nations and the inherent rights of Métis people, and there were zero consultations with rights holders before or after the bill was introduced.

This government has absolutely no respect for treaty rights. Will this tired and out-of-touch government listen for once and scrap the Sask first Act?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome our guests, and I would like to thank the opposition for their earlier support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, at committee last night, the member for Athabasca put forward an amendment that explicitly states that this Act in no way abrogates treaty rights, which are already enshrined in the provincial legislation Act, all provincial legislation, Mr. Speaker, as well as section 35 of the Constitution.

Of course we respect treaty rights, Mr. Speaker. From our perspective, treaty rights have always been protected, and they were a given. But when concerns were raised, we immediately engaged to clarify and reassure. And, Mr. Speaker, if in the case of the amendment put forward by the member for Athabasca, one community, one person is reassured or there is clarification for one person or one community, then it has served its purpose, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — Mr. Speaker, this government could

have avoided this mess with the Sask first Act if they had done their duty-to-consult. If they had reached out to First Nations and Métis rights holders, they would have heard that this bill infringes on treaty and inherent rights.

This government didn't do any consultations at all. The minister doesn't think she has any obligations to. I can't think of a better example of why we need to enshrine the duty-to-consult into law. Will the Sask Party finally support my private member's bill and enshrine the duty-to-consult into law?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Government Relations certainly can speak further on the duty-to-consult process which is ongoing and very active, Mr. Speaker. But when concerns were raised, we immediately engaged to clarify and to reassure. Mr. Speaker, I have met with members of the FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations]. I have met with members of Meadow Lake Tribal Council. I'm attending an elders' forum this afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

We arranged to meet with the P.A. [Prince Albert] Grand Council a few weeks ago. Unfortunately they were called away to Edmonton, I believe was the reason for the meeting being postponed. Métis Nation unfortunately cancelled our meeting. But we are open to meeting with them and with anyone else, anyone, any community, Mr. Speaker, that wants to talk about this Act. We are happy to do that. We have nothing to hide and everything — when it comes to the economic potential of this province — to gain, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Ownership of Crown Lands

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — This tired and out-of-touch government has no respect for treaty and inherent rights. We see that with Bill 88, and we see that with the sale of Crown land. Thousands of acres of Crown land have been sold off under this government. At the rate this government is going, soon there won't be any Crown lands left.

To the minister: what good is the treaty right to hunt if there's no Crown land left to hunt on?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start out by saying I want to thank the many Indigenous communities, both First Nations and Métis, that have been engaged with our government when it comes to duty-to-consult. We've been around the province through the ministry and engaging on the duty-to-consult.

It is a policy that has been in place for 10 years, Mr. Speaker. It needed to be reviewed. It needed to be reviewed with the people that it's impacting — not only Métis, not only First Nation, but industry, business, SARM, SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association]. All have been engaged.

That consultation and engagement has certainly told us a few things that we'll probably be making some changes in the framework policy, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to introducing some of those changes in the near future. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — Mr. Speaker, once Crown lands are gone, they're gone for good. First Nation and Métis land users can no longer use them to hunt, to gather, or for ceremonies. This government doesn't see Crown lands as something for future generations. No. They see Crown lands as something to be sold off to the highest bidder. So if the minister won't stop the sell-off of Crown lands and leases, will he at least ensure First Nation and Métis people with land claims have the first right of refusal?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll certainly stand on our government's record when it comes to TLE [treaty land entitlement] agreements that have been finalized, Mr. Speaker. In fact 885,000 acres have been transferred through TLE agreements. Thirty-six TLE agreements worth over \$687 million have been settled between the provincial government and the federal government, Mr. Speaker. And there is more work to be done. And that work will continue into the future to settle more TLE agreements, Mr. Speaker.

But when you look at Crown land sales, less than 1 per cent of all Crown land sales since 2007 have been sold. There is a process to go through, and the Minister of Agriculture knows it very well on the time frames that have to be introduced so that First Nations and Métis, if they so choose, can enter into the bidding process, Mr. Speaker. It is set through their organizations, Mr. Speaker, not to First Nations individually but through the associations that represent them.

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

### Residential Schools Settlement

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — This government is failing First Nation and Métis people on every front. They're failing survivors of residential schools, including the survivors of the Ile-a-la-Crosse boarding school. This school received provincial dollars, and the survivors were left out of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement. Will the Sask Party government work with the survivors who are still with us? And will they finally apologize for the province's role?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's true, the Government of Saskatchewan is facing litigation relating to the Holy Family students' residence at Ile-a-la-Crosse and the Timber Bay Children's Home. Mr. Speaker, neither of these was included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement concluded by the federal government.

The Government of Saskatchewan did not own or operate either of these residences. But because the litigation of course with respect to both of these remains before the courts, Mr. Speaker, the government, and certainly I, cannot comment any further.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — A court case is no excuse for not taking responsibility. The provincial government stood by while First Nation and Métis students at the Ile-a-la-Crosse school were abused and neglected. The province was responsible and the Sask Party needs to accept that responsibility today. Every year we lose more and more of these survivors, and they pass without having heard their provincial government apologize.

Why won't the government do the right thing and apologize to the survivors of the Ile-a-la-Crosse school?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Mr. Speaker, certainly the Government of Saskatchewan has been consistent in recognizing the tragic chapters that have occurred across the country in regard to facilities and residential schools, Mr. Speaker. But in this case, there were two residences — the Holy Family, a students' residence at Ile-a-la-Crosse; the Timber Bay Children's Home — as I said, neither of which was included in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement concluded by the federal government.

And again, I do have to say that because the litigation is before the courts, that we cannot comment further.

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

#### False Claims of Indigenous Ancestry

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — It is shameful that this government won't apologize for the province's role in the Ile-a-la-Crosse school.

A modern example of colonial violence against Indigenous people is the theft of Indigenous identity by pretendians — white people who claim First Nation or Métis ancestry in order to help themselves.

I've called on the Sask Party to make sure that people who work in health care, government, and Crown corporations are who they say they are. When will we see a plan to do that?

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

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we take the issue of falsifying one's heritage very seriously in the Government of Saskatchewan and through the Public Service Commission. There have been no cases of individuals in the public service falsifying their identity brought to our attention or to the attention of the Public Service Commission.

If the member opposite knows of individuals falsifying their heritage to the Government of Saskatchewan, I would urge her to bring it forward to my office or to the Public Service Commission so it can be dealt with appropriately, Mr. Speaker. As I stated last week, we are monitoring these types of incidents in other jurisdictions and institutions as we evaluate best practices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Nippi-Albright:** — I would invite you to go talk to these people out there, and you'll find out.

Mr. Speaker, this government is using human rights as an example, as an example to delay action that would protect First Nation and Métis people. They and this minister has never had any concern about human rights when this government was putting an R on our health cards or when they did the Sixties Scoop. They'll use anything as an excuse if it means they won't have to lift a finger to help First Nation and Métis people.

When will the Sask Party drop this bogus argument and ensure people who claim Indigenous identity are actually Indigenous? And will you go and meet with these folks out in these organizations?

**The Speaker:** — Please speak through the Chair. I recognize the Minister of the Public Service Commission.

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would reiterate, if the member opposite has any suspected cases of individuals falsifying their identity, please bring it forward to myself or the Public Service Commission. We have internal steps within the Public Service Commission to investigate and deal with these types of allegations of fraud, and we'll investigate these allegations appropriately.

We have always used the self-declaration model, as we trust individuals will be open and honest when identifying to the government. Any change to the current process would have been done in a way that respects anybody's individual privacies or human rights. And we will continue to monitor how it is dealt with, with other institutions. And I would again urge anyone who suspects an individual of falsifying their identity to please come forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Consideration of Bill No. 88 in Committee Meeting

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government has given up listening to Saskatchewan people. We saw that from day one with Bill 88, and we saw that last night at committee.

Last night the Sask Party voted against my motion to invite First Nations and Métis leaders to present to give testimony at committee. Every single Sask Party government member on that committee voted no. Why did they vote to block First Nations and Métis leaders from having their voices heard?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as stated, the member for Athabasca put forward an amendment yesterday evening that explicitly states that this Act in no way abrogates treaty rights. They are already enshrined in provincial legislation, and they are already enshrined in section 35 of the Constitution — the same Constitution that protects exclusive jurisdiction under 92A for provinces over natural resources in the generation of power, Mr. Speaker.

[10:45]

And it's interesting with that language, "exclusive jurisdiction"; that isn't our language. I think that's important to reiterate. It's the language of the Constitution, Mr. Speaker, and it's language that Allan Blakeney and Peter Lougheed fought for to be included in the Constitution in 1982. It was prescient, as I've said, because we are faced now with infringements in provincial regulation and provincial jurisdiction that are unprecedented. And so 92A enshrines that as it enshrines treaty rights under section 35, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, this government's MO [modus operandi] has been to shut out First Nations and Métis leaders at every step along the way. Last night I also put forward amendments to Bill 88 to add First Nations and Métis voices to the economic tribunal and to require the government to respect the duty to consult in that tribunal's work. All of those were also voted down by government members.

Why is this government shutting out First Nations and Métis voices on Bill 88?

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have never shut out voices, Mr. Speaker. We have had meetings, listening sessions, dialogue sessions with communities ongoingly, and that continues. I have listed the groups with whom we have met and with whom I hope to meet and with whom I'm meeting later today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is in a bit of a quandary here. On the one hand she called the bill last night a stunt, which is shocking considering the analysis and legal basis for the bill. But they voted for it, Mr. Speaker. And if they didn't mean to — the dog ate their homework; the devil made them do it — they should say so.

We are proud of this bill, Mr. Speaker. It protects and asserts our exclusive jurisdiction under the Constitution over the natural resources and power generation that literally drive this province, Mr. Speaker, that drive jobs and opportunity for everyone in Saskatchewan.

### Land Use Bylaws in Rural Municipalities

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan

Rivers.

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently a group was formed in my constituency to address alarming concerns about land use bylaws. Last Saturday, Garden River United held an informational session about a sustainable use movement to have RMs implement land use bylaws that would decimate our way of life. Close to 300 people attended, Mr. Speaker.

Imagine, a land use bylaw that would tell a rural resident that they must have a permit to put up a barbed-wire fence or to even repair the fence. Imagine being told that you can only raise five chickens on your personal property or you'll face fines. Mr. Speaker, is this the sort of thing that will happen under the government's new Sustainable Saskatchewan plan? Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, it's been a great two days, Mr. Speaker, the past two days at the SARM convention on Tuesday and Wednesday. Got to meet with thousands and thousands of delegates. Very, very positive feedback. I don't think I saw the member there at that SARM convention, which was unfortunate.

But I would be very interested to know the details of this. This is the first I've heard of it and will certainly look into it. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To push, implement draconian land use bylaws was just seen in Thorhild County, Alberta. Their council was about to implement extreme sustainable land use bylaws designed by an urban planning consultant out of India, Mr. Speaker. Fortunately one of the local ratepayers found out about it and rallied other ratepayers. It was only because they spoke out against these made-for-urban bylaws that the council held a special meeting to rescind their motion.

Mr. Speaker, is this government aware of this movement to micromanage rural properties in Canada? And if so, do they support it, or will they fight it like the people did of Garden River in my riding? Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I find it quite curious coming from that member. That member used to be a reeve of an RM. And she's now complaining about an RM passing a bylaw, Mr. Speaker — she knows how it works — in Alberta. It doesn't even apply here in Saskatchewan.

I find it very curious that she's standing in her place as a former reeve complaining about what an RM would do in her area. May have been in the same RM that she was a reeve at. She understands that municipalities are autonomous. They can make bylaws that they see fit. Mr. Speaker, they're elected officials that if the people in the area aren't satisfied with those council members or RM, they are soon voted out, Mr. Speaker.

So to be citing a bylaw that is happening in Alberta that might happen in Saskatchewan, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I think the question is completely out of order.

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

### Health Care Funding and Support for Saskatchewan People

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Leader of the Saskatchewan United Party, I was astonished to read that the Minister of Health was blindsided by the federal government's clawback of \$750,000. It is no secret that the federal government doesn't like Saskatchewan's MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] system. We have known this since the day it started.

Will this government negotiate a clause? Or when they signed the new health deal with the federal Trudeau government, why didn't they negotiate a clause that we could not be penalized for our made-in-Saskatchewan MRI program? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, we signed a health agreement with the federal government because it's in the best interest of Saskatchewan people. We signed, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue with the private MRIs and diagnostics that are offered in this province, expanded to private surgeries in this province, Mr. Speaker, because it's in the best interests of Saskatchewan people.

And in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker, I have a message for all of those that have graciously joined us here last evening and today, and that is that this government is going to work with you most certainly as we look ahead, whether it be on Bill 88, Mr. Speaker, we will work directly with Glen McCallum, the president of Métis Nation. We will work with your community membership, Mr. Speaker.

We'll continue and you will continue to be well represented by the member from Athabasca with his amendment that was provided last night, protecting treaty rights in Bill 88, Mr. Speaker, a bill that is here to benefit and to protect our right to expand our opportunities today and into the future, whether you be First Nations in Saskatchewan, whether you be Métis in Saskatchewan, or whether you be non-Indigenous in Saskatchewan.

And it's through the strength of expanding that resource-based economy that we're able to continue to create jobs in this province, many of them throughout northern Saskatchewan; to invest in schools in this province, many of them in northern Saskatchewan; to invest in housing in this province, much of that in northern Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker; or specific programs like the Dene teacher education program, Mr. Speaker, which was invested in by this government with a partnership with the First Nations University.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, you have a government that is going to work with you so that all of Saskatchewan people benefit in this province — First Nation, Métis, non-Indigenous, Mr. Speaker. That truly is growth that works for everyone.

## PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Dennis:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act* with amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in the Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill and its amendment be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act*, and that the bill and its amendments be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

## FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

### Bill No. 88 — *The Saskatchewan First Act*

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First and second reading of the amendments.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

## THIRD READINGS

### Bill No. 88 — *The Saskatchewan First Act*

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 88, *The Saskatchewan First Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 10:55 until 10:59.]

**The Speaker:** — Order. All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 40]

Moe	McMorris	Reiter
Merriman	Harpauer	Morgan
Duncan	Tell	Wyant
Makowsky	Marit	Bradshaw

[11:00]

Kaeding	Cockrill	L. Ross
Eyre	J. Harrison	Carr
Hindley	Skoropad	Buckingham
Lambert	Dennis	A. Ross
Ottenbreit	Francis	C. Young
Steele	Lawrence	Bonk
McLeod	Friesen	Grewal
Nerlien	Goudy	Keisig
Lemaigre	D. Harrison	Domotor
Wilson		

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed to the motion please stand.

[Nays — 11]

Beck	Nippi-Albright	Vermette
Mowat	Wotherspoon	Love
Teed	Sarauer	Conway
Bowes	Ritchie	

**Principal Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, the number for the motion is 40; those against the motion is 11.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Mr. Dennis:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing

Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 102, *The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole on Bills? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill now be read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 102, *The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act, 2022* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

#### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 102 — *The Constitutional Questions Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur les questions constitutionnelles*

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the minister that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Third reading of this bill.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

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

#### Saskatchewan's Economy and Federal Economic Policies

**Mr. Lemaigre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to move the 75-minute debate. Saskatchewan's market and everything we have to offer has afforded us a position to meet the needs around the world. Northern Saskatchewan is definitely a part of this world market. The federal government's damaging economic interference with this province is felt in northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud Denesuline of Clearwater River Dene

Nation. My family history takes me into Alberta, and based on family oral history that has been passed down, also into the territories. Northern Saskatchewan is home and will always be. So it excites me to see the people I represent making strategic partnerships with our province and other companies to develop the resources we all share to provide the world with what they need. In a time when the world has a growing appetite for food, fuel, and fertilizer, they will need what we have in abundance.

In a time when we have a provincial government promoting partnerships with Indigenous and Métis, and the potential growth that our federal government seems to want to take out of the working hands of the people I represent, Mr. Speaker, I find myself a bit confused by my federal government's words when they don't line up with their actions. They say that they want us to have an opportunity to live, work, and raise our families. They say we will be a part of a just transition and that none of our workers will be left behind. But northerners have heard promises from the federal government before.

We find ourselves as Indigenous and Métis in the position to benefit from fully participating in the responsible development of our land's resources, with a vision of our future and opportunity to share their knowledge — Indigenous and Métis welcoming opportunities and entering the economy in a meaningful way.

This is a time where we can invest in our future partnered together. A time when Indigenous leaders can roll up our sleeves and show the next generations how to use what we have built: an economy that will help us and provide our people with a sustainable future without a paternalistic federal government enforcing their policies on our industry. Indigenous businesses in the whole and in part have a great opportunity before us. We have the opportunity to bring our traditional knowledge of the land to the international stage by sustainably and ethically participating in industry.

Northern Indigenous and Métis are industrious and ambitious. We are entrepreneurs in every sense, and we have proven that we are capable partners in industry. I recently looked to British Columbia, where the 3.28 billion Indigenous-led Cedar LNG natural gas project got the green light. The Haisla First Nation will open a floating liquefied natural gas facility in partnership with Pembina Pipeline Corporation. This will employ 500 people during construction and 100 people while in operation. Many of those workers will be from Haisla First Nation who will continue to benefit from this project for years to come, unless the federal government decide that this isn't sustainable either.

I also see the Meadow Lake Tribal Council's ownership of NorSask saw mill, where it generates jobs and revenue for its communities. Indigenous innovation in eliminating the burning of wood residue was vital to reducing their carbon footprint. Their bioenergy facility is now up and running and provides electricity for roughly 5,000 homes. But it took a process of nearly 14 years, a process that would likely have been considered too lengthy for this federal government.

Mr. Speaker, many of my fellow northerners come from a place and time when employment was very difficult in the North, especially on some of our First Nations. But today there are more Indigenous businesses and people working in this province than

ever before. We are one of the fastest growing areas of society. This was more so evident at the recent Indigenous Business Gathering in Saskatoon where numerous, numerous First Nations and Indigenous and Métis highlighted their businesses, and an opportunity to build partnerships, to build opportunity, and to engage in a world market that Saskatchewan offers.

Canadians watch as Germany, the largest economy in Europe and an important democratic ally, come to us for natural gas as a substitute to Russian gas. Our federal leader turned them away, claiming it would be impossible to fulfill their needs due to our emissions target and lack of pipeline access to the Atlantic, targets that outweigh the values of our relationship to our allies.

So instead Germany went to Qatari emirates, a kingdom responsible for the use of slave labour and numerous human rights abuses. I don't imagine that we have ambitious climate targets that prevented them from making a deal that benefited both Germany and Qatar. But, Mr. Speaker, that is as far away from the people I represent, though it still has an impact.

Mr. Speaker, many of the people that I represent live in parts of the province that, due to the vast distances, sometimes feel isolated. With growing costs of the necessities of life, our federal government is putting an inordinate amount of burden on us with their oppressive economic policies.

Mr. Speaker, food and fuel was already sold at a premium due to the simple fact of higher transportation costs and storage. Now with the federally imposed tax on carbon, our people are having price hikes that we cannot afford. The businesses are forced to raise prices further to stay afloat in the North. Northern residents feel the impact of these economic policies to a far more severe degree than that of our southern neighbours who benefit from larger scale infrastructure.

Mr. Deputy, I have an opportunity to meet with people across our province who work in the agriculture industry, the mining industry, the manufacturing industry, and the energy industry. All of these people are at a level of efficiency and environmental responsibility that is far beyond most of the large-scale carbon-producing nations of the world.

I have had the privilege to join our Premier after the reopening of the Cameco McArthur mine and Key Lake facility. I met with many northern residents that were happy to have their jobs coming back to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, one of the policies that is of particular concern to northern residents is the *Clean Fuel Regulations*. In Saskatchewan the federal government forecast that by 2030 the *Clean Fuel Regulations* will decrease the gross domestic product of the province by 987 million, while it will increase diesel consumption costs by over 565 million annually and an increased gasoline consumption cost by 350 million annually.

And the *Clean Fuel Regulations* will require more biofuels blending into existing gasoline and diesel, which will increase . . . all consumers in a negative way, particularly in agriculture, mining, forestry, oil and gas, and transportation — industries that my constituents rely on to feed their families, pay their bills, and heat their homes.

In many ways the *Clean Fuel Regulations* are a second carbon tax. It is another measure stacked up on top of another existing federal climate change policies that regulate emission from the same sources. It imposes excessive financial and administrative burden on northern residents during a time of economic hardship and rising energy rates.

[11:15]

The Ministry of Energy and Resources estimates that the *Clean Fuel Regulations* schedule will result in millions, if not billions, of capital leaving the province and flowing to other countries, as less than a year is provided for industry to stand up new infrastructure, even when ignoring the supply-and-demand issues for building materials worldwide that have exacerbated by inflation, the Ukraine crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the biggest barriers northerners face is their inability to access capital to make any transition effort away from non-renewables, which is why I am also very proud that this government founded the Indigenous financing corporation to help Indigenous communities access capital and develop their communities, businesses, and livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, as Indigenous people and northern residents are beginning to develop their communities and become equitable partners in the resource industry, they are doing so at one of the worst times for investment in Canada due to the policies of this federal government. The federal government is stacking multiple and constantly changing policies, pricing, and emissions control requirements onto the oil and gas sector.

Let me read a list of the federal policies that disproportionately affect northern residents and businesses: the output-based pricing system, the methane strategy, the electric vehicle mandate, the federal impact assessment, the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*. The lack of access to tidewater has cost our producers roughly 2.5 billion in lost revenue and has cost our government 100 million in lost royalties revenue.

There is no consideration from the federal government on how this pattern unilaterally . . . Policy making that stacks multiple harmful regulations and policies on our industries and citizens will impact northern Saskatchewan's competitiveness, energy security, and affordability.

It seems I am beginning to run out of time here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, so I will move my motion or I'll be speaking for 52 minutes. In closing of my comments, I move and fully support the following motion, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that reads as follows:

That the Assembly support Saskatchewan's role as a national leader in export, trade, and manufacturing growth and condemns the unsupportive federal economic policies, such as the *Impact Assessment Act*, the carbon tax, and the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act* that continue to impede Saskatchewan's economic growth now and into the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member moved:

That the Assembly support Saskatchewan's role as a national leader in export, trade, and manufacturing growth

and condemns the unsupportive federal economic policies, such as the *Impact Assessment Act*, the carbon tax, and the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*, that continue to impede Saskatchewan's economic growth now and into the future.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll weigh in to the debate before us here today, but I find it strange and stunning that the member from Athabasca would bring and rehash a matter that's been settled in this Assembly. I mean this is — you know what? — repeat Thursday here? You know, we've had this debate. I've stood in it before.

You know, the official opposition, the Saskatchewan NDP have been clear with our opposition and concern to the two policies that are brought forward in this motion. This is a matter that's been settled and resolved with a public voice from this Assembly. So I don't know what sort of short straw or dirty games his caucus is playing with him over there, Mr. Speaker, but to put up the member from Athabasca on a day where that government sold out Saskatchewan people and Métis and Indigenous peoples in this province with respect to the duty-to-consult on the Saskatchewan Act is awfully strange. Mr. Speaker, you know, and I find it strange.

Sometimes my advice to the member from Athabasca — and I like this guy personally; I like him personally, Mr. Speaker — but my advice is, sometimes you've got to say no. Sometimes you have to exercise your own judgment and take a stand for the people you represent, Mr. Speaker.

And you know what would have been a good motion to come to this Assembly here today, by that member or any member in this Assembly, would have been an apology with respect to the Ile-a-la-Crosse residential school and Timber Bay residential school, Mr. Speaker. That would have been something we could have acted upon and stood united on and resolved and ensured some recognition for those that have endured such cruel indignity, Mr. Speaker, that have suffered such horrible trauma, Mr. Speaker. That's something we could do in this Assembly right here, Mr. Speaker.

You know, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, we've raised our concerns with the policies of the federal government and overreach on these fronts, Mr. Speaker. And you know, we hear members opposite talk about economic impacts, Mr. Speaker. But you know, what I think they'd be well served to do, Mr. Speaker, is to maybe look in a mirror. Look in a mirror and then look at the budgets and the choices that they've brought upon and imposed on businesses and people in Saskatchewan that have so damaged our economy in the last number of years, Mr. Speaker.

This is a government that is making Saskatchewan people and businesses and our economy pay the price for their years of fiscal mismanagement, Mr. Speaker. We see it on front after front. You know, we don't need to look much further than just a few short years ago, Mr. Speaker, when this government imposed the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history, a massive imposition and burden and hardship that's been placed upon families and households and people, those working so damn hard just to make ends meet, Mr. Speaker.



But no relief from a government raking in money hand-over-fist with windfall revenues, Mr. Speaker. But no relief for the people of Saskatchewan, just another hike to their bill, Mr. Speaker, a hike to a power bill, a hike to an energy bill, a hike to their PST [provincial sales tax], a shift and a greater burden onto the people of this province and onto local businesses, Mr. Speaker. And you know, we called this out for what it was at the time — the epitome of a job-killing tax, a gut punch to growth, Mr. Speaker.

And sadly that's been exactly what it is. The stats play out, Mr. Speaker, that this has hurt our economy. It's stuck our economy, Mr. Speaker, that has so much opportunity. It's stuck it in the ditch, Mr. Speaker.

Sadly, as a result of choices like this, this government has our economy here in Saskatchewan in last place on all the important economic measures, Mr. Speaker: last place on jobs right across Canada over the last five years under that Premier, Mr. Speaker, under that tired and entitled Sask Party government; last place when it comes to building permits, Mr. Speaker, projects moving forward.

Should be no surprise — you stick a massive tax on top of construction projects — what do you think is going to happen, Mr. Speaker? It's pretty common sense and it's pretty straightforward. It should have been a no-brainer from the get-go that this was a bad place to go and that it was going to cause serious hardship for Saskatchewan people and workers and local businesses, Mr. Speaker. Which is why we continue to renew calls for this government to scrap the PST on construction labour, Mr. Speaker, and to provide relief for Saskatchewan people to cancel the power and energy bill hikes they're imposing upon Saskatchewan people this time.

Now that would have been a debate we could have had in this Assembly as well, and we could have had full resolution and got stuff done for the people of the province. But instead, they stuck the member from Athabasca up, Mr. Speaker, to bring a debate that's already been resolved in this Assembly.

Yes, we all have concern and have expressed our opposition to these federal policies, Mr. Speaker. But where are we in taking responsibility to turn the dial, Mr. Speaker, for people today, and to undo damage that's been caused? And to do right by those, Mr. Speaker, whether that's on the economic front, as I speak to here right now, Mr. Speaker, as this bill speaks to. Or whether as I started, whether we do something meaningful and finally have that apology and resolution and respect offered to those survivors, those that suffered so much loss and that suffered such cruel indignity and abuse, Mr. Speaker.

You know, I've watched that Sask Party government for a while, Mr. Speaker, over a few years, Mr. Speaker, you know, and I watch this government. At one point, they were a little more in tune with the people of Saskatchewan, a little more sensitive to some of the realities, a little more able to pivot, Mr. Speaker, and a little bit more able to recognize when they had erred. But not anymore, Mr. Speaker. And it's very representative of an old and tired and arrogant and entitled government, Mr. Speaker.

And unfortunately, you know, who does that fail? It's not just a fun thing for political rhetoric, Mr. Speaker. It's quite the opposite. It creates serious hardship for the people of

Saskatchewan, who deserve so much more, Mr. Speaker.

You know, and I guess I'll just touch on as well, we've shared our concerns with respect to the federally imposed carbon tax, for example, Mr. Speaker, and its impact on trade-exposed industries, Mr. Speaker. If you think of agriculture, Mr. Speaker, we have a government, a provincial government now that's taking control of that carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, but it's doing diddly-squat with providing the kind of compensation and recognition that producers, environmental stewards from across Saskatchewan, what they provide the world, what they provide Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. I know producers, Mr. Speaker, they're paying the price from that federally imposed carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. And this opposition fought hard, fought hard to exempt grain drying, fought hard, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that there's relief and compensation for producers.

Now these folks, they sit on the revenues now, Mr. Speaker, administering the carbon tax program, the Sask Party carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, but offering nothing by way of the kind of offset structures, value, and recognitions that Saskatchewan producers should be receiving by way of the sequestration that they're involved in and the environmental stewardship that they're involved with, Mr. Speaker, from zero-till through to their role in being stewards of wetlands and grasslands.

Mr. Speaker, I think of that livestock sector in Saskatchewan. So proud, Mr. Speaker, there is such a role to support livestock producers who are managing grass and biodiversity and sequestering carbon while feeding the world with the best beef and the best livestock in the world, Mr. Speaker.

This is a government failing those producers and all of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. They're not providing any relief from that carbon price. They leave the livestock producers to pay the price, the farmers across this province, Mr. Speaker, but none of the recognition. Nor do they act, Mr. Speaker, on things that they could be doing to ensure fair value for livestock and beef and cattle across Saskatchewan, leaving a raw deal and a bad deal, Mr. Speaker, for those selling live cattle, Mr. Speaker, but leaving an anti-competitive meat-packing industry, Mr. Speaker, that's making out just fine. An out-of-province, anti-competitive meat-packing industry, Mr. Speaker.

We have a provincial beef herd that's in serious decline. We have ranchers and operations that are having to shut down, Mr. Speaker, and sell off that herd and the genetics and the resource that's been built over generations. And we have a government sitting on their hands on front after front.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many good debates that could have been advanced by the member from Athabasca or any one of those members here today, but instead they brought a rehash of a debate that's been resolved by way of the position of this Assembly on it, Mr. Speaker, all while failing Saskatchewan people, from our agricultural producers, from those that have suffered indignity and injustice and abuse as we've described, Mr. Speaker, to the businesses and hard-working people across Saskatchewan who need and deserve some relief. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people deserve so much better than what they're getting. There's so much opportunity we should be seizing upon. What a disappointment here today.

[11:30]

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

**Mr. Domotor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured today to provide a few words in support of our international trade, which has resulted in the success of Saskatchewan-produced exports, largely in part due to our existing and additional trade offices open to assist us in the world markets.

We are a global leader in producing and supplying high quality agricultural products required by the world and its fastest growing countries. That is why this government has made decisions earlier on to add to our network of existing international trade offices. Mr. Speaker, this move will enable us to have a stronger presence in these regions by expanding our international trade network.

I believe in 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 and certainly our federal government that Saskatchewan produces the food, the fuel, and the fertilizer that the world needs.

Exports are a big part of our economy that I believe that the average citizen may not understand, along with our current federal government, who does not even realize the impact that it has. I make this comment because if the federal government was doing their job, as they do have trade offices throughout the world, we would have more than just a few limited success stories to share.

However the reality is that the federal government has no idea what we export, nor do they have any idea what the challenges are that we face when we are trying to negotiate with other countries. Establishing markets in a foreign country is a complex issue, and there's a variety of products that we produce here, which is not limited to just our grain commodities but also several natural resources, manufacturing, and mining products as well, which can be valuable products to other countries if it's approached in the right manner.

When you take into consideration the amount of products that we export just to the top 10 countries alone that we presently service, the numbers are phenomenal. For example, did you know in 2021 we exported 19.9 billion worth of products to our greatest trading partner, the United States? Other noteworthy countries that we have high exports to are China, Japan, and Brazil, just to name a few, with exports totalling, just for these four countries alone, to be slightly under \$26 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the jobs of Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership bring Saskatchewan products to the world. International offices serve to advance our growth mandate and support provincial interests by strengthening and leveraging strategic partnerships internationally and coordinate on behalf of government partners to achieve Saskatchewan's Growth Plan targets.

We export nearly 70 per cent of what we produce and we're committed to doubling the value of provincial exports by 2030 as part of our growth plan. We are the world's leading exporter

of lentils, peas, canola, flax, and oats, and durum wheat. This province is the world's top producer of potash and a major supplier of uranium with unrealized potential in diamonds, base metals, and precious metals. In October of last year, Minister Marit travelled to Mexico to advance our interests at trade and investment meetings in Guadalajara, Saltillo, and Mexico City. Mexico is an important partner for us, especially in the agriculture sector.

Mr. Speaker, this trade mission also included investment priorities not only in agriculture but also critical minerals, oil and gas, and mining sectors. Mr. Speaker, the value of our exports to our fifth-largest export market, which is Mexico, has recently reached \$1 billion in sales, most of which are agri-food products. Top exports include canola, wheat, and pulses, and the Saskatchewan international office opened in Mexico just last year.

In October our province had the opportunity to host a diplomatic economic mission with delegates and representatives from 30 different countries. Thank you to the representatives from Argentina, Brunei, the European Union, Kuwait, Lithuania, as well as many more nations, Mr. Speaker. I quite enjoyed meeting with several dignitaries at the Lieutenant Governor's reception on October 16th and especially meeting with Mária Vass-Salazar, the ambassador of Hungary to Canada, which happens to represent my heritage, as my grandfather immigrated here back in 1925.

Our province is internationally recognized for the three Fs — the food, the fertilizer, and the fuel that the world needs. Trade missions such as this strengthen our place on the world stage and affirm our status as a national leader in economic growth. Our government looks forward to continuing to work with these key trade partners in the future and providing them with the necessary resources to tackle the needs of an ever-growing modern world.

Saskatchewan is currently on pace for a record year of exports. In the first eight months of 2022, merchandise exports in Saskatchewan increased by 44.3 per cent compared to 2021, which also surpassed pre-COVID total exports in 2019.

The international presence of this province also continues to attract significant interest from global partners. We will continue to advance our international engagement strategy as part of our growth plan targets and objectives to increase the value of exports by 50 per cent and grow the number of international trade markets which we export to, to more than 1 billion. Saskatchewan has a total of eight international trade offices, with the ninth announced in the Throne Speech to be set up in Germany.

Between 2020 and 2021, our manufacturing shipments grew by 33.2 per cent, the second highest among the provinces. Saskatchewan's Growth Plan includes a goal to increase the value of manufacturing exports by 50 per cent by 2030. That goal will be achieved by ensuring we have a competitive tax and regulatory environment for investment-expanding access to Canadian and international markets for Saskatchewan manufacturers and creating incentives that improve efficiency and accelerate investments.

As stated in the *Industry West* magazine, there has never been a

better time for Saskatchewan business, industry, and institutions to engage with international buyers, investors, and research collaborators interested that we have to offer. David Anderson, managing director of the Japan office had this to say:

The first impression (people have) after seeing our materials and listening to our presentations is that of awe with the space and the size of our agriculture capabilities. Japan has a population of 126 million people, and the geographic size of Saskatchewan can almost fit two Japans within our boundaries. Our space and agriculture capacity attracts a lot of attention.

Ranissah Samah, Agent-General, United Kingdom office leads the office in London. Samah refers to our province as being a powerhouse that until now has kept a low profile. Saskatchewan has been immediately recognized in the United Kingdom and Europe for our mining excellence.

In mining circles, we are the best place in Canada and the second best globally for mining investment attractiveness, according to the 2021 Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies and Samah sees it every day. "There's . . . [been] a keen interest in our mining industry — now particularly when it comes to critical minerals, and our emergence as one of a select few rare earths processors in the world. It seems everyone wants to ensure they have access to the minerals that drive technology and are vital to climate ambitions and national security."

Other advantages that we can boast are we are located in the central time zone and centrally located in North America which makes it easy to do business throughout the continent. Another is we are only a day away by land and from a market of 60 million people, and only two days away from 270 million people in Canada and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak a little bit about an enterprise located in my constituency that contributes to our export trade success stories. The North West Terminal located in Unity has a subsidiary company operating as North West Pure Alcohol and Spirits. This company uses their inland terminal to help facilitate supplying the grains required to produce premium neutral grain spirits from a variety of combination of several ingredients.

They presently are expanding their barrel warehouse capacity to meet the demands of this side of their business which has recently signed an agreement with Ultra Pure, LLC. This is one of the largest alcohol suppliers in the United States for the supply of Canadian whisky. What a great story, Mr. Speaker. The fact that they have both CN and CP Rail [Canadian Pacific Railway] in their community as well as a first class integrated provincial highway network assists them in being able to be competitive and expand their distilling business.

When it comes to labour, we have three out of five employed people that have at least completed post-secondary education or training. Mr. Speaker, we boast two universities, two technical schools, and seven regional colleges. The Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program helps industry keep up with demand for skilled workers with over 20,000 nominees arriving here over the last five years, not including spouses. These are just some of the reasons that Saskatchewan checks all of the boxes.

Since 2010, Saskatchewan has reached an estimated 173 billion in new investments. And as stated by our Trade and Export Development minister, Jeremy Harrison, taking Saskatchewan to the world and bringing the world to Saskatchewan helps to increase exports and attract investment. And it further positions our province as a leader in international education and research opportunities, creating jobs and driving economic growth in communities right across the province. Mr. Speaker, that's growth that works for everyone.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I will second the following motion:

That the Assembly supports Saskatchewan's role as a national leader in export, trade, and manufacturing growth and condemns the unsupportive federal economic policies, such as the *Impact Assessment Act*, the carbon tax Act, and the *Oil Tanker Moratorium Act*, that continue to impede Saskatchewan's economic growth now and into the future.

Thank you.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate today on this motion. And as my colleague from Regina Rosemont had indicated, I think that there could have been a little bit more brainstorming with the topic rather than recycling old notes. I actually wonder if, you know, we haven't went back to it. But I wonder if this is a carbon copy of a previous debate, Mr. Speaker, because I certainly feel like I've been up in very similar debates as well.

But let's talk about some of these issues that are being put forward here today with the time we have. Of course we've been quite clear that we in the official opposition do not support these federal policies. We know that they hinder economic growth. And I hope that members opposite are listening, because I feel like a broken record or like Groundhog Day every time I have to clarify our position on this. I'm not sure how it's supposed to be controversial, but we do not support these federal policies that are hindering our economic growth, and we've been on record several times about that.

But I do want to talk about, you know, something else that's hurting our economy, and that's the government of this province, Mr. Speaker. And I think my colleague said, you know, they should try looking in a mirror once in a while, which is a nice way of putting it. But it's quite rich that this government walks around pretending, parading their announcements, indicating all of the ways that they are patting themselves on the back for their cherry-picked economic statistics when we know that their actual record on the economy is something that they should be ashamed of parading around. And maybe that's why they're not bringing it forward, Mr. Speaker.

We know that the economic stagnation in Saskatchewan has predated these federal policies, that there is a role and a responsibility that this government has to take when it comes to our economy. And we want the provincial government to take responsibility for the role that they have in this as well, and the role that they have is they have the worst-in-Canada economic record. And no matter how many times they try to spin it, Mr.

Speaker, and sell a good news story to the people of this province, the people of this province feel it. They know because that's what's hitting their paycheques. That's what's hitting their pocketbook. That's the lives that they're living today.

And what does this record look like? On jobs we're ranked dead last with a 3 per cent job growth rate. And they will pat themselves on the back all day about that 3 per cent, Mr. Speaker, and announce it in a different figure to talk about how great everything is, how much things are growing. But we know that we are the last-place province when you look at Stats Canada. And this is not a cherry-picked, oh a certain month, a certain day. This is the Premier's record. This is the legacy he's leaving right now.

And we recently came upon the five-year anniversary of the Premier holding his position. And this is where things have gone in the last five years, Mr. Speaker: our economic record, our GDP [gross domestic product] again shrinking. And do you understand that since the Premier took office, the economy is ranked last, Mr. Speaker? They would have you think otherwise, but they are ranked last with the GDP shrinking. They call it growth, but when it's shrinking, it's like negative growth. So you can't even represent it in that way when you talk about this, Mr. Speaker. Six per cent shrinkage under that Premier. It's not something to be proud of. It's not something to be patting yourself on the back for.

[11:45]

Provincial migration: here a slightly better story. We're second last, Mr. Speaker, second only to Ontario. This is the number of people that are leaving our province. And it's not like we cherry-picked a certain quarter. Every single quarter since this Premier took office, we've had interprovincial loss. Every single quarter, Mr. Speaker. These are trends. These are economic trends, not what they purport across the way.

We are interested, Mr. Speaker, in more jobs, not these petty slap fights between the province and the federal government. Of course we need to stand up for our province. Of course we need to stand up for our resource sector. But picking fights instead of taking responsibility for what's right in front of you, Mr. Speaker, is irresponsible.

We've called on the government to scrap the PST on construction labour. And we've been out doing a lot of outreach, and this is something I have very consistently heard. And I came in around the time that PST was added on construction labour. I haven't stopped hearing about it, Mr. Speaker. I haven't stopped hearing about how it keeps us from building. It keeps us from keeping up with demand. It holds us back, Mr. Speaker.

We know that wages have been stagnating over the last decade, Mr. Speaker. Our wage growth is second lowest among provinces. Average weekly earnings in the last five years: we've ranked second last for wage growth, Mr. Speaker. The only province that's doing worse than us is Alberta. And our average weekly earnings have been stagnant.

We haven't been able to retain folks in the province. Our immigration retention rates continue to decline. This is not as sunny of a picture as they make it out to be. And they have a role

to play here as well, Mr. Speaker.

We called for better retention so that we don't lose new workers within five years. This is particularly true within the health sector, Mr. Speaker, where we need more than ever to make sure that we have health care workers that are staying in our province, that have a good job. We know that this is a very large sector of our economy. There are so many folks that are employed through the Saskatchewan Health Authority, through affiliates, through private arms as well. There are so many folks that rely on these good Saskatchewan jobs that need to work under a thriving economy and need to know that things are going well in those places.

We are concerned, Mr. Speaker, with the economic pressures that are felt by real people, that real people are dealing with, including cost-of-living issues. This is one of the single most steady issues that I've heard from my constituents year after year when I talk to them on their doorsteps, that despite having record revenues, this government has raided money from SaskPower and raised rates four times since 2018, Mr. Speaker. Shame. Hiking power bills during a cost-of-living crisis, Mr. Speaker, is shameful.

People cannot keep up with this. Small businesses cannot keep up. It's impacting small businesses that are facing hardship. And instead of providing relief, the Sask Party government is making a bad situation worse. We've called on them to stop these short-sighted cuts, to stop these rate hikes for SaskPower and SaskEnergy, to make sure that people can have more money in their pocket.

We know very sadly that 20 per cent of Saskatchewan kids are living in poverty. We've called for the scrapping of these new taxes and fees, and instead they're creating a new tax-collecting Crown corporation, Mr. Speaker. We've called for a triggering of an investigation into food pricing because of how hard it is for everyday folks to put food on the table, Mr. Speaker. I know. We've all been to a grocery store lately and seen just how expensive it is to put food on the table for our families.

Mr. Speaker, we're focused on issues that matter to the people of Saskatchewan — health care, outrageous costs of foods, outrageous cost of fuel, and making sure that there are good-paying jobs. This government has been in power for 15 years. It's time that they own that record instead of pointing fingers. And we're going to bring back local voices to the decision-making table.

Five years since that Premier took office, Saskatchewan has ranked dead last in job creation and last among provinces in economic . . .

**The Speaker:** — Your time has expired. I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

**Mr. Kaeding:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to contribute, I believe, to a very important discussion on the quite unsupportive federal economic policies that we're dealing with daily. In fact an observation I have that honestly if this motion was spoken to by every member of this caucus, we still would not have enough time to talk about some of those intrusive policies, Mr. Speaker. And I believe I also need to probably correct some of the revisionist history that's been put forward by

some of our opposition members here today.

Mr. Speaker, this province continues to lead in many economic factors. And earlier this week, I was proud to rise in this House and talk about the over \$17.32 billion in capital investments that is in the process of being spent in this province right now. We've experienced year-over-year increases of capital investment that is over 20 per cent per year in the last two years. We are first in the nation, private sector capital investment, more than double than any other province in Canada.

And I've talked about the over \$1.6 billion in ag capital investment. Manufacturing's seen over a billion dollars. Mining and oil and gas has seen 5.5 billion, and construction and other services, 2.5 billion. These billions in investments mean more jobs and more opportunities in every sector of our economy in every corner of our province.

Mr. Speaker, as much as the members across the way continue down their Eeyore path of doom and gloom, my constituents in Melville-Saltcoats really are not buying it. We have definitely been blessed in our part by the massive amounts of capital infusion that's occurred in the last few years in our great province, and I want to put on the record some of them. They're great examples actually.

Just looked up here a few minutes ago: 1,154 jobs are listed at SaskJobs for the Yorkton area — 1,154. Fact, in the province I believe SaskJobs has over 17,000 jobs listed on the SaskJobs website for the province, and that's those that are listing it. I know a number of constituents' businesses in my constituency don't list jobs there, so we could probably add another 50 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, in 2009 Mosaic invested over \$3 billion dropped into the new K3 shaft in Esterhazy; \$3 billion is invested by Nutrien in the Rocanville mine; \$45 million G3 grain terminal was built in Melville, 2018; \$18 million by the Borderland Co-op food and ag supply outlets completed in Melville in 2020; Grain Millers in Yorkton just finishing a \$100 million expansion. Richardson Pioneer is doubling production at their canola crush plant, hopefully complete in 2024.

In addition, we experienced a number of municipal projects really involving water treatment, wastewater treatment, well improvements totalling over \$50 million in just the past five years in the constituency of Melville-Saltcoats. These significant investments in my area have definitely provided huge financial support and long-term, good-paying jobs for our local area.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the sign of a province that has suffered under a tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government and their economic policy, Mr. Speaker. It has benefited all areas of the province. In fact I don't believe that there was much of any investment by the potash industry after this opposition, when they were in government, nationalized the potash industry. No. Unfortunately international companies rarely forget about the business-unfriendly environments that they've been chased out of before they make any significant capital investment decisions in the future. And that honestly is what, Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid of that we're going to be facing under the current Liberal federal government when they're finished with our resource sector.

As many of us remember, it took decades to crawl out of that incredibly damaging national energy program of Trudeau the elder in the 1980s. And now we have Trudeau the younger to deal with, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what's also been contributing to the growing economy of our province is that yearly multi-billion-dollar investment by our ag producers, whether they're planting a crop, raising livestock, or growing food or fibre. There is a huge yearly investment in our inputs to support agriculture in our multi-billion-dollar ag industry.

Mr. Speaker, despite the success of this province in attracting incredible levels of private sector investment yearly, we are constantly facing serious headwinds. Those headwinds are generated by our federal government. Between their job-killing taxes, their capital-repelling legislation, or their mind-numbing policies, this government is creating multigenerational threats to this province's financial success.

On October 11th, 2022, our government released a paper titled *Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan's Economic Autonomy*. In that paper, we determined that nine different federal climate change policies are estimated to cost the Saskatchewan economy \$111 billion between 2023 and 2035. Just don't take our word on it. A 2020 study developed by Queen's University estimated it would require a \$12.4 billion investment by our private sector by 2030, which is seven years from now, just to hit federal government's arbitrarily decided emissions targets. And that's a huge ask for a business sector that had little to no input into federally determined emissions reduction targets.

Mr. Speaker, this federal government supported by the NDP opposition, both in this province and federally, continues to show a complete disregard for all business trying to survive in a highly competitive business world out there. There's a small business right now in northern Saskatchewan attempting to survive under the punishing rules of the PMRA, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. The PMRA abruptly deregistered the use of a product referred to as penta, which is used as a preservative for wood poles. The only other approved wood power pole treatment is chromated copper arsenic, which unfortunately intensifies the pole's hardness and increases flammability of the poles. Those characteristics, not really a good situation for a power pole or the people that install them or even the people that rely on them. There are no other alternatives that are currently available to SaskPower, which jeopardizes over a \$200-million-a-year infrastructure program and creates a significant barrier to our progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. How about the PMRA maybe work with SaskPower, other users in the country? Maybe work on some alternatives that are compatible to everyone. And if this can't be rectified, it has potentially serious effects on the viability of a local, Indigenous-owned business that employs over 30 people, the majority being Indigenous.

Unfortunately I won't have time to go down the path of other harmful decisions of PMRA that's made in regarding decisions around strychnine and gopher control with no viable replacement, or the near-miss with lambda seed treatments.

Mr. Speaker, we're constantly challenged by members opposite on the increasing cost of food. And as they are maybe on their

rural consultation tours, maybe they can inquire with any ag producer on the damaging effects of carbon tax and what has contributed to food inflation.

So just a refresher for the viewers at home. Farmers anticipate that the price of inputs needed to operate their business, from seed and crop-protection products to parts to machinery to shipping, they're all going to increase due to the carbon tax that their suppliers pay, that they in turn pass on to our ag producers. The cost of electricity required for heat, irrigation, operating their livestock operations, seed cleaning, also expected to increase.

Fertilizer: an area of concern. Both urea and anhydrous ammonia produced using natural gas, making production subject to the carbon tax. Fertilizer requires transportation of the retail and other producers, you know, subject to the federally imposed carbon tax.

Carbon tax applies to Canadian farmers and not to their global competitors. Some larger global competitors have no plans to implement carbon pricing. Anything that requires commercial transportation to leave or come on to a farm, distribution centre is going to be taxed, placing Canadian farmers at a huge disadvantage against their global competitors.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let's start stacking harmful federal policies, and let's look at the damaging effects and how they multiply as they're added together. I don't believe many consumers really realize that this federal government has implemented the *Clean Fuel Regulations*, which came into force in July 2022. Really, what they do is they require biofuels to be part of our fuel regime. Unfortunately they have not given any of our producers locally the time to be able to develop and stand up projects that are going to be supplying biofuels for that market. That is now going to be coming offshore, out of the country, and has chased significant capital investment away from this province, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, you know, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding the dangerous impact that this federal government has on the province and its residents. But despite the incursion into provincial jurisdiction, this province is going to continue to grow and expand our economy.

[12:00]

We have an incredible story that the world wants to hear regarding our resource sector, whether it's investment into our forest industry, our fuel industry, our fertilizer industry, or our food industry, we are perennially breaking new investment records and are going to grow the economy so we continue to have growth that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, as time draws near, I'd like to acknowledge the support for the motion brought forward by the member from Athabasca.

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

**Mr. Teed:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's all politics and no governing from this Saskatchewan Party government here today. You know, as I looked at this question I said, am I having a déjà vu or are we rehashing the same question that we debated

in the last legislature session — Mr. Speaker, I think we should be amending the question here today and, say, let's cherry-pick data to make the economy look great, and we hate the feds. Period. That's what we really should be debating here, from what I'm hearing from my members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to enter into this debate. I thank the member opposite for giving us a chance to once again have this conversation in the House. You know, there could be other fantastic conversations we could be having, but let's go back and rehash the same old, same old. Make sure that we're all on the same page again, you know.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I got into this job because I love this province. It's why I ran for office. I want to represent the amazing, hard-working people of Saskatoon and advocate for my province. I want to see it thrive. As a small-business owner, I want to continue to advocate for small business. I want folks to strike out onto entrepreneurial efforts and thrive as well.

We affirm Saskatchewan's role as both a leader in Canada and the world. We have so much potential in this province. It's a fantastic story to tell. And of course there have been decisions made in Ottawa that have not always been in the best interests of our Western provinces, specifically ours here in Saskatchewan. This is where we can agree. The Sask NDP does not support federal policies that hinder our economic growth. Need we say it again? How many times should I repeat this for this Sask Party government to hear so we can move on from this discussion?

But, Mr. Speaker, where I really do disagree with this government's approach to this debate is just how little responsibility it takes to the very real difficulties our economy is seeing that are very much under their control. Because we know that the economic stagnation in Saskatchewan predates these policies.

Even in the question laid out, this government continues to blame the federal government for their economic failures. The people of Saskatchewan are more interested in jobs and bigger paycheques, not provincial-federal slap fights. Instead of looking inward, this is a government that seems to want to blame everybody but themselves for their abysmal five-year record on every economic front.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's time for this government to take responsibility for their failings because the numbers are very telling. Over the past five years, the years under this current Premier, we have seen the worst economic shrinkage in the country. Between January 2018 and December 2021, Saskatchewan ranked last with a GDP shrinkage of minus 6 per cent. Six per cent shrinkage, Mr. Speaker, minus 6 per cent. We are dead last. Provinces like Ontario, New Brunswick, Quebec, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, even little Prince Edward Island — smaller than Regina — had even more growth than Saskatchewan did.

Let's be clear. Nobody likes shrinkage, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately as my colleague so wittingly pointed out, there is no blue pill for this that will solve this shrinkage. A 6 per cent shrinkage of our GDP is being felt all over the province. And while we keep fighting the feds at every opportunity, what this government hasn't done is proposed a better way forward. I was

surprised, in the face of these numbers, just how quickly the government's talking points turned to blame the agriculture sector, Mr. Speaker. Droughts in our province have caused the minus 6 per cent shrinkage. Point the finger.

Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. The only folks who are responsible for this abysmal record are sitting to your right. Seeing 6 per cent shrinkage of our economy, it's no wonder that under the same period Saskatchewan had the worst job creation record in the country. Over five years, again under this current Premier's leadership, Stats Canada ranks Saskatchewan last among provinces for job creation at 3 per cent.

And if it wasn't bad enough that our provinces haven't been creating jobs, we had the second-worst interprovincial out-migration, second only to Ontario. Between fiscal year 2018 and 2019 and fiscal year 2021-2022, Saskatchewan lost a net 35,856 people to other parts of the country, and we have more young people leaving the province than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, these stats, numbers are damning for this government. They show a government that before, during, and after a pandemic, regardless of federal policies, has done a terrible job managing the economy, overseeing the worst economy in Canada, and this government has simply pointed the finger to the feds.

Mr. Speaker, we've been very vocal about our concerns about the economic pressures facing regular people, and instead of providing any relief, they continue to raise taxes and fees and power bills that pay for their mismanagement, to pay for a 32 billion debt that's growing and growing and growing. Folks in Saskatchewan are simply outraged by this government's 23 per cent energy rate hikes given with three weeks' notice.

Small-business owners have expressed huge dismay about these rising costs as well. Their financial situation is in peril, Mr. Speaker, because of these huge rate hikes. We have called for the government to freeze these hikes, to no avail. We have called for an independent utility advocate, Mr. Speaker. And we have called for an end to the April 1st — what I'm going to be calling the April Fool's — rate hike going forward. The April 1st rate hike that's coming forward, we have called for that to be cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, on other fronts we are hindering economic growth. We are calling for them to scrap its disastrous PST on construction labour. Mr. Speaker, we've called for better wages. This government has overseen some of the most stagnant wages in the country. We have called for policies to ensure better immigrant retention. Mr. Speaker, we have some of the worst retention of immigrants in the country as well.

We've called for an all-party committee to investigate food pricing, which my colleague from Regina Rosemont put forward to this Assembly in a productive debate, and it was voted down. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture said let's just send it to the Competition Bureau; we don't need to be investigating this at a provincial level. The Competition Bureau will take care of it, don't worry. Mr. Speaker, we have been very, very clear about our stances. We believe any government needs to take responsibility for the economy they oversee.

Mr. Speaker, I'll bring it up. I like to bring it up; it's still fresh. I knocked a lot of doors in my riding over the past by-election and, Mr. Speaker, people expressed their concerns about the economy that this government is managing. Because like I said before, the economy touches everybody in our province, from families to small-business owners.

Mr. Speaker, they told me that jobs and economy are an important, important piece of how they'll be voting in the next election. They also told me, Mr. Speaker, that other important issues that we could be looking at, instead of pointing fingers at federal policies that of course are damaging, but we need to move on. We need to work and make our province better. They said, hey, deal with our health care system in crisis. We need to make sure that folks in Saskatchewan have health care where and when they need it. And, Mr. Speaker, they told me that they want a life that they can afford, and this is a government that has continued to pile on taxes and fees onto families and small businesses.

I spoke earlier this week about the Saskatchewan revenue agency throwing more fees, more costs of doing business on small-business owners. Mr. Speaker, this frankly is unacceptable to the people of Saskatchewan and that is why I have risen today to speak to this motion. Thank you so much.

**The Speaker:** — The 65-minute period is expired. The 10-minute question-and-answer period will begin. I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course this official opposition's been crystal clear that we oppose these federal policies, Mr. Speaker. We've done so time and time again.

We also oppose the economic damage of the PST hikes of this government and the damage caused to our economy and to households by those hikes, but also the power and energy bills. I think of in Athabasca the families that have suffered through a winter here paying more and more for heat, Mr. Speaker.

How does the member for Athabasca justify to his constituents, at a time that his government has windfall record revenues, that it's appropriate to stick the people he represents with more PST and bigger heat bills and bigger power bills?

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

**Mr. Lemaigre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, when I'm going into some communities that — maybe it's my fourth or fifth visit — that have never seen their representative before I showed up, and I am sitting there listening to them, and we have this conversation.

Our conversation has also shifted to the opportunities that is presented to the communities and how this side of the government is supporting them. Our affordability cheques that were given were well received in the constituency, and I look forward to my sixth, seventh, eighth visit, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Bonk:** — Mr. Speaker, the lack of access to tidewater is causing Saskatchewan about \$2.5 billion a year in lost revenue,

as well as about 190 million to 200 million in tax revenue and resource revenue. This is unacceptable and we know that there's at least two members on that side of the House that have stated publicly and on social media that they are completely against our resource industry, and they'll do everything they can to keep everything in the ground and keep our products from being developed.

My question is to the member from Saskatoon Fairview. As Deputy Leader, will you condemn those members who have said those statements, as well as your federal leader who is anti-business, anti-Saskatchewan with his policies and propping up the Trudeau Liberals, who are doing everything they can to shut down business in this province?

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear about our position on these issues. We've restated them over and over again. And my fear came true. We state it and they don't listen, Mr. Speaker. We've been crystal clear about condemning these federal policies. We've been crystal clear, Mr. Speaker. Just because they don't listen, doesn't make that my problem, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Teed:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week I stood in this Chamber and I talked about the Saskatchewan revenue Act and how much that will cost small-business owners in our province. Mr. Speaker, we see rate hike after rate hike, PST rate hike after PST rate hike.

To the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford: why is the member not standing up for regular people and small-business owners who are struggling with rate hike after rate hike, and why is he supporting a Saskatchewan revenue agency that will cause small businesses more to file their taxes at the end of the year?

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

**Mr. Domotor:** — I'd like to thank the member opposite for the question. I think what we need to remember is that this government actually held the PST, the business tax, to ensure that our businesses were stable and supported during these times.

And I think you want to also realize that, while you've given us the question, Saskatchewan exports nearly 70 per cent of their products, which is globally . . . and really important for this province for the jobs that it creates and sustains. Thank you.

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

**Ms. C. Young:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has released a proposed regulatory framework to further reduce oil and gas methane emissions by at least 75 per cent by 2030. While they may say 75 per cent, on paper the framework presents a near-zero emissions approach with few exceptions. That framework does not consider the logistical, economic, or even technical feasibility. This will result in

production in areas such as Kindersley and Lloydminster to be shut in where compliance is not reasonable or feasible.

[12:15]

To the member from Saskatoon Meewasin: what would you say to the oil and gas workers of Kindersley and Lloydminster when they're being told by a federal government, a government that your federal leader continues to prop up, that they may lose their livelihoods from this regulatory framework?

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

**Mr. Teed:** — Mr. Speaker, I have family members who live in Lloydminster. This party has been clear from day one that we do not support this kind of federal intrusion. But what I challenge this government . . . I challenge this government to get to the table, get to the table and negotiate a better deal with the feds. Stop fighting and get doing your job of governing.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, we know that our average weekly earnings have stagnated. We have the second-lowest wage growth among provinces. Does the member for Athabasca think that our weekly earnings having the country's second-lowest increase since 2018 has anything to do with our impeded economic growth in Saskatchewan?

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

**Mr. Lemaigre:** — It's on this side of the government that we had an increased minimum wage, and you know, we invest in the people of this amazing province. Our economic growth, the opportunities that are facing northern Saskatchewan, the partnerships that are being built — Cameco, we've just had NexGen in here — that partnership is going to benefit the three First Nations in my constituency and the growth that is going to give opportunities to the people that I represent is phenomenal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. A. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the opposition refuses to take action on their federal colleagues' support for shutting down production in the oil and gas industry, this government has been actively working against it. Our producers work hard to manage their emissions.

Under *The Oil and Gas Emissions Management Regulations* of 2019, Saskatchewan achieved a 60 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 2015 levels. To the member from Saskatoon Meewasin: will you continue to support your federal leaders, or will you stand with our producers while they reduce emissions without losing their jobs?

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

**Mr. Teed:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said in my last answer, and I'll say again, we have been very clear on this.



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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, of course we are in opposition to the policies that we're talking about here today, and we've shared our concerns with the federal carbon tax, Mr. Speaker. This government, you know, they've really failed the people of Saskatchewan and producers, Mr. Speaker.

To the member from Melville-Saltcoats, who knows agricultural producers well, knows this industry well: why is he failing to work to ensure that producers in this province have an offset and a recognition or a compensation for their role as environmental stewards — things like zero-till — and their role as stewards of grass and wetlands, Mr. Speaker? They're paying the price but they're not getting any compensation, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaeding:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, again if we talk about federal incursion in space, this is one of those issues that we need to deal with. We certainly have serious concerns and we'd certainly like to see here the support of the opposition on the fertilizer emission strategy that our federal government is trying to impose on our ag industry here.

If we want to see credit for the incredible work that our ag producers have done in this province, in sequestering carbon, in the use of new crop technology, as well as new crops, the use of pulses in their rotations, Mr. Speaker, this is an ag industry here that has been second to none and is ultimately leading the world in this space, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly we would like to have a lot more support from our federal government in recognizing the aspect and the contributions that our agriculturalists, our producers in Saskatchewan have had to reducing carbon, reducing emissions in this country, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Sorry, time has expired.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 610

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Ms. Nippi-Albright that **Bill No. 610 — *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a distinct honour to be on my feet here today and speak to Bill No. 610, *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act*. I want to first of all start by commending my colleague, the member for Saskatoon Nutana, for the work that she has done in preparing this bill and . . . If I said Saskatoon Nutana, I meant Saskatoon Centre. My apologies,

Mr. Speaker. I certainly don't want to be self . . .

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

**Ms. Ritchie:** — Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if I'm having a little bit of an identity crisis here, but certainly I've confused the folks that may be behind the camera. But perhaps let me start over.

I want to say, with great sincerity, that I want to commend the efforts of my colleague from Saskatoon Centre on the work that she has done to bring forward a bill of great import to this Assembly, a bill that is addressing the shortcomings and the failures by this government and its inability to provide a framework to ensure that there is a meaningful process for consultation, that upholds the inherent and treaty rights of the First Nation and Métis people here in Saskatchewan.

It's rather interesting timing, of course, that this should fall on the heels of Bill 88, the Sask first Act. I listened with great interest last evening to the committee debate around that bill and the responses by the minister in terms of . . . that the lack of consultation on that critical bill that ostensibly is intended to assert rights by the province in its relationship with the federal government.

And I find it highly ironic and rich that when you compare the alleged intent of that bill with what is before us today with this private members' bill, *The Meaningful Duty to Consult Act*, presented by the member for Saskatoon Nutana, I would submit that these bills are attempting to achieve very similar ends.

It is about asserting rights. It's about enshrining in legislation and codifying rights that belong to First Nation and Métis people. And in fact I would also go further and say that this bill is economic reconciliation. And I will go through in detail why that is, but I want to start by saying that every single member in this Assembly should support this bill if they truly believe in reconciliation and understand how it will uphold inherent and treaty rights that will ensure economic prosperity.

I also find it highly concerning and ironic that when we talked about the Sask first Act and bill last evening, that the minister had great difficulty identifying any type of consultation that had happened around that bill. And it goes further to why this bill that we're debating here today is so crucial.

The minister refused to even use terminology of consultation, preferring to talk about dialogue and disregard the essential, crucial need that duty and honour of the Crown to meaningfully consult that had been completely overlooked and disregarded in that white paper and bill that was presented in the House. And I think we don't have to look any further to find the impetus, the reason, and the evidence for why this bill is so vitally necessary.

I took great interest in the Minister for Government Relations who talked about how we don't need to enshrine or codify duty-to-consult within legislation, and that it hamstrings and limits our decision-making ability. And I adamantly disagree with those assertions. Nothing could be further from the truth when it comes to ensuring rights. And if that government wants to talk about asserting rights, then they absolutely should get behind this bill

100 per cent, not just because of how it ensures, codifies, and upholds inherent and treaty rights to duty-to-consult by First Nation and Métis people here in Saskatchewan.

I think that there's a lot to be said for the problems with the current policy framework that was brought forward without adequate consultation and leaves much to be desired in that process. And in fact I will make reference to the words of Devin Bernatchez, a councillor with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band who said that the provincial duty-to-consult is actually a duty-to-insult. He and other leaders have talked about the current process not being a process that is respecting their rights.

I think much has been put on the record already about its deficiencies, about how it is basically a check-the-box exercise that narrowly scopes out where and how that duty is undertaken. And I think fundamentally what it is creating is a framework that puts all of the power in the decision making in the hands of a government that needs to be engaged in a nation-to-nation relationship. That is what fundamentally needs to be corrected. That is exactly what this bill addresses and will ensure by codifying in legislation the duty-to-consult responsibility. And I want to go through that in some detail now.

[12:30]

Within the interpretation, consultation will mean a procedurally fair process is undertaken in good faith with the intention of substantially addressing the concerns of Indigenous peoples whose rights may be impacted by Crown conduct. Crown conduct will mean action taken by the Crown which is contemplated by the Crown and may adversely impact treaty and inherent rights and speaks to vital matters, vital matters such as the disposition of Crown lands, minerals, and leases.

We know today that conduct is not properly considering Indigenous and treaty rights. We have tenders that have been released by this government to lease Crown land that is not undertaking consultations before they engage in that process. Those are violations that exist today and need to be corrected. That is what this legislation is focused on.

It lays out the full scope of what that conduct includes, including disposition of Crown lands, minerals, and leases, but also any acquisition, diversion, easement, or any other change that would have an environmental impact to water vested in the Crown, pursuant to section 6 of *The Water Rights Act* and pursuant to section 38 of *The Water Security Agency Act*.

These are not small matters. These are important, crucial matters that have an impact on Indigenous and treaty rights to hunt, trap, and fish and need to be part of the framework. And without that being codified in legislation, this government is ramming through decisions, ignoring their obligations, and treaty rights are being violated.

I will go on. It also needs to include changes to regulations, policy, or strategies and changes to the allocation or quotas of licences of fish and wildlife in Saskatchewan for recreational or commercial use. I mean, when I look at the range of things that are identified in here, this is about economic reconciliation. When these decisions are going forward without adequate consultation with Indigenous, First Nations, and Métis people,

they are the ones who are experiencing economic harm.

You talked about a tribunal yesterday, about how it's going to look at the economic harms by the actions of another level of government. But guess what? That's exactly what you have done, Madam Deputy Speaker, by having a framework that has not fully codified and enshrined all of these provisions within legislation. This is a legislation that will ensure that those rights are upheld. It will assert . . . Another favourite word of the Minister of Justice last evening: "assert." Well I assert that this legislation will assert Indigenous, First Nation, and Métis rights are upheld.

And when you, you know, delegate it to a lower level of government, i.e. a policy framework or, good Lord, maybe even a regulation, God forbid, then those rights are not ensured. And it's important that Indigenous, First Nation, and Métis people assert their rights.

And if you believe that we need legislation that effectively does nothing other than draw a line, well then by God, you should be behind this bill, because if you believe in justice for Indigenous and First Nations people, then you will get behind this bill. And I challenge all of you to do that very thing, particularly those members who have the majority of their voters who are going to be directly affected by this legislation, Deputy Speaker.

This legislation goes on to talk about what duty-to-consult means by the provincial government and its legal obligation to consult. It itemizes the treaty and inherent rights. In definition that includes but is not limited to — and I'll paraphrase — the rights recognized in numbered treaties between the federal Crown and First Nations; the rights recognized pursuant to the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement of 1930; the treaty and Aboriginal rights recognized pursuant to section 35, which was talked about at length last evening, Madam Deputy Speaker; the rights recognized by the Crown pursuant to a treaty land entitlement agreement; as well as the rights recognized pursuant to sections 10, 11, and 19 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples concerning free, prior, and informed consent, otherwise known as UNDRIP [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples], Madam Deputy Speaker.

I think that that's a take-off point I will exercise at this time. In terms of when we talk about free, prior, and informed consent, well what exactly does that mean? And I would say that we had a classic example with this Sask first Act that came before the Assembly in this session, where the minister point-blank admitted that there was no prior consultation or consent that was received before the tabling of that bill. And it is for that very reason why relying on lower levels of government policy is inadequate in ensuring that inherent and treaty rights are indeed upheld. Without it, we are going to continue to see these flybys and oversights and fast track of process.

There are so, you know, so many challenges that our Indigenous, First Nations, Métis communities face in terms of being able to exercise their rights, ensure that the meaningful duty-to-consult is undertaken, that there is indeed sufficient funding that is provided to ensure that they can engage in a meaningful manner, that there's time to undertake the studies and the dialogues, the consultations that need to happen around issues that are of vital

importance.

And that is why this bill is so important. It provides the starting point. It codifies it in legislation that is then voted on and committed to by all members of this Assembly. It will ensure that those rights are indeed upheld. And without it, we will continue to see the ongoing disregard, disrespect, check-the-box process that Indigenous and First Nations and Métis communities have had to endure since this government has been in power.

I think I've made my main points on this bill, and so I'm going to end where I started, Deputy Madam Speaker. It's a travesty of justice by this government to, on the one hand, come forward with a bill intended to assert rights while leaving behind, you know, a significant portion of our province's population, i.e. those with specific Indigenous and First Nation rights.

And so I challenge the members opposite to support this bill. If indeed they believe in asserting rights like they showed us here earlier today, well then make sure that you also uphold the rights of Indigenous and First Nation and Métis people by supporting this bill that has been brought forward by the member for Saskatoon Nutana. And with that, I will adjourn debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Lambert):** — The member has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Lambert):** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Lambert):** — The Government House Leader has moved that the House adjourn, the Assembly. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Ms. Lambert):** — Carried. This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:41.]

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

---

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

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

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

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Hon. Paul Merriman**  
Minister of Health

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

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of Energy and Resources

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

**Hon. Dana Skoropad**  
Minister of Environment

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

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