



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

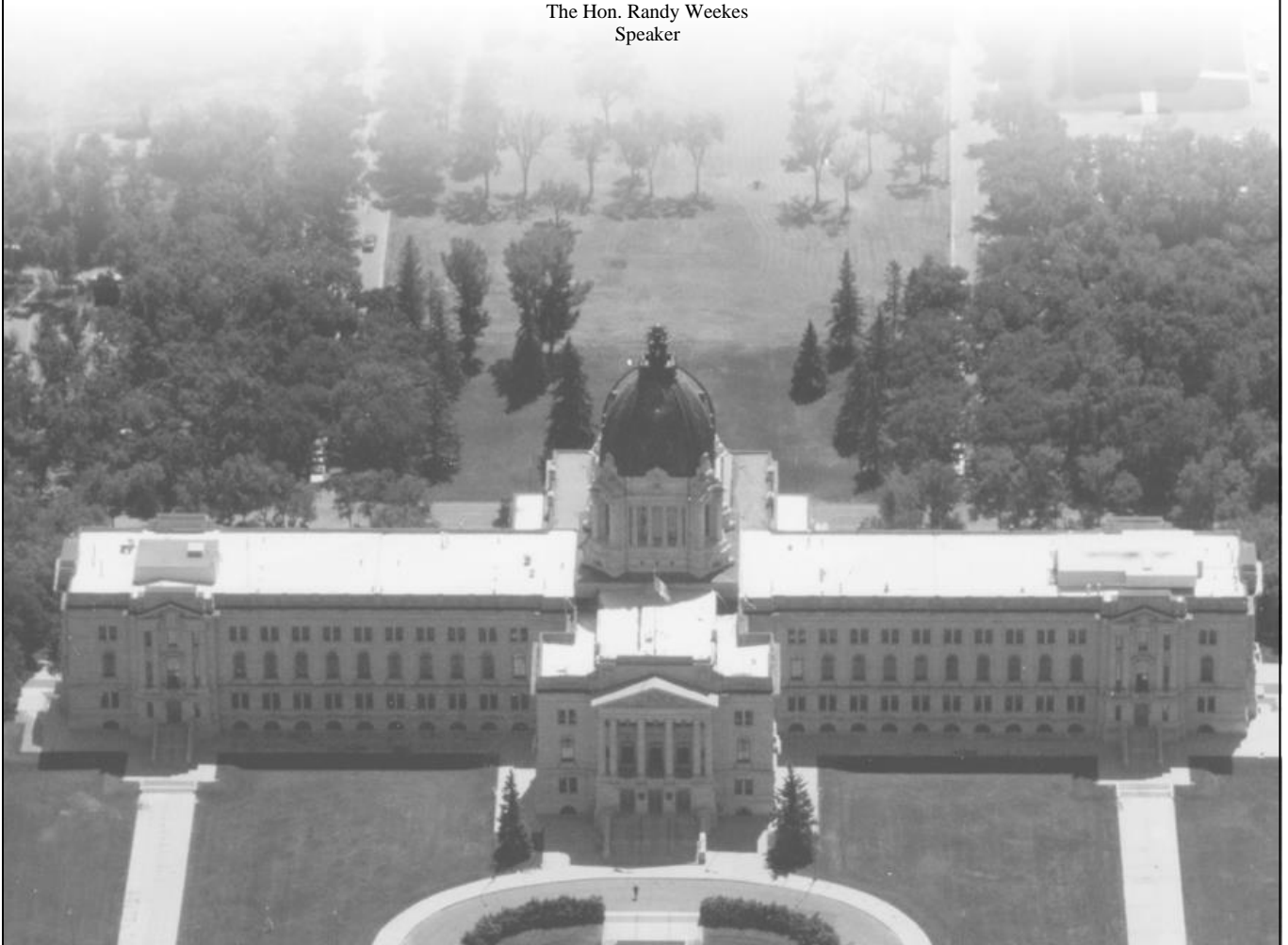
of the

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.

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Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Carla Beck

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Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)	Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)	Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)	Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)	
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	Vacant — Lumsden-Morse
Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)	Vacant — Regina Coronation Park
Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)	Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 45; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;
Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 3

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago I said in here that this is a better place when there's more people from The Battlefords, and I stand by that statement today. And so it's my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you a good friend of mine, Deb McNabb who's here today to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education and myself and our friend from Cut Knife-Turtleford as well about some of the work that she's done, which I'll talk about more in a member's statement shortly, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, Deb is one of these folks in our community who has had a significant impact on so many people's lives. And I see it on a regular basis, and people often refer to how Deb and her husband, Aaron, have changed the course of their lives. And you know, we do things in this Assembly which alter people's lives, Mr. Speaker, but I know Deb does the same kind of work on the ground with families in our community. So I would ask all members to welcome Deb to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will join in with the member opposite in welcoming Deb to her Legislative Assembly today. Having been aware of the Better Together campaign and owning one of the shirts myself and knowing about some of the important work that's going on there, you know, I want to thank you for your advocacy.

It is not an easy thing to go through as a community when you have kids in your community that are turning to suicide and don't have answers. And I know that, you know, that sparked where the campaign came from. So I want to thank you for, you know, looking for a better way forward and providing those supports to kids who are in such need of those supports right now. So thank you. And I would ask all members to join me in welcoming you to your Assembly today.

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

Mr. Domotor: — Thank you. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce, in your gallery, one of my constituents, Terra Schaefer. I've known Terra for several years now and during that time she has been a strong advocate for individuals who have various challenges. And that is why she volunteers her time serving people at a local soup kitchen, as well as her strong support for the Better Together program which encourages people to come together and be supportive and respectful of each other's mental health.

Mr. Speaker, Terra lost her husband, Darin, to cancer in December of 2019. Although his battle with cancer was fairly short, he and his family were very grateful for the support they received from their extended family and communities. As a result and in memory of Darin, Terra was instrumental in establishing the Darin Schaefer Warrior Fund, which was created to help ease financial burden of medical expenses for those that are undergoing treatment for a critical or life-threatening disease.

These are just a couple of examples that speak to her generous personality and distinct character. And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all my colleagues to join me in welcoming her to her Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to welcome some brilliant and inspiring young people to their Assembly here today. It's an honour to have students from Walker that are with us here today. They look like they're, I don't know, grade 9s and 10s at Martin or something, Mr. Speaker, but they're grade 6s and 7s from Walker School. Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud to be their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and to have them here today, Mr. Speaker.

They're joined by their amazing teacher, Mr. Stevenson, who's active in the community as well, Mr. Speaker. I know he was over at the Brandt Centre where I was last night as well, Mr. Speaker, cheering for the Pats. And he was active as well, along with Chrystal Kish, who's with us here today, a parent and the secretary of the Walker School Community Council, Mr. Speaker, who are so active in many ways, but were out serving chili recently, Mr. Speaker, at our Rosemont outdoor hockey rink, Mr. Speaker, alongside our practice for the Rosemont Outdoor Hockey League.

And I want to give a special shout-out to all these students and to Mr. Stevenson and Principal King, but to Chrystal Kish and that amazing school community council, Mr. Speaker. They give back in ways like this in so many ways. They organize food within the school, Mr. Speaker. And they worked so hard, Mr. Speaker, to build out that outdoor learning space that I've celebrated on the floor of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker. And as things warm up and that snow melts, Mr. Speaker, I just think of that legacy that they've created and that opportunity that they have, very soon to get out there and enjoy that outdoor learning space that sits in beautiful A.E. Wilson Park, looks upon Wascana Creek. Mr. Speaker, it's a legacy for learning for that school and for the whole community. I look forward to meeting with them after question period, Mr. Speaker. I want to welcome them all here today.

And they asked me, Mr. Speaker, to give one message to all the Saskatoon MLAs on both sides of the Assembly: Go Pats Go!

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

Mr. Keisig: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, situated in the west gallery, I would like to introduce Lipton School, grades 3, 4, and 5. Give a wave everyone. You bet. They are joined today

by their teacher, Ms. Jordan Nixon; and parent chaperones, Jennifer Sample and Chelsea Kuntz. So really glad that you guys could join us today. I am looking forward to some really challenging questions.

And I'm also happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that my constituency assistant was able to join us today, Tina Knowles. And Lipton is her hometown and her home school. So she really wanted to get back and see all the kids from her alma mater. So to you and through you . . . Yes, there is ice cream. Thank you, Premier. To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming Lipton School to this, their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be presenting this petition for duty-to-consult legislation. The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention the following: without clear duty-to-consult legislation in place, the Government of Saskatchewan alone is responsible for recognizing when the duty-to-consult is triggered, contributing to a lack of engagement with First Nation and Métis communities with little accountability for the provincial government, often ending in lost court battles; the Government of Saskatchewan is currently selling off and offering long 33-year leases on Crown lands that have been used by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities; the lack of duty-to-consult legislation leaves the taxpayers of Saskatchewan footing the bill for the Government of Saskatchewan's mistakes and losses in courts.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately stop the sell-off of Crown land, and enshrine duty-to-consult into law by enacting meaningful duty-to-consult legislation.

The folks who signed this petition reside in Regina. I do so present. miigwech.

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

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

We, in the prayer that read 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 Warman. I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present our petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to address the cost-of-living crisis. Sadly, there was no relief for families or small businesses in their most recent budget. Thus the undersigned residents of the province wish to bring to your attention the following: that inflation is the highest it's been in more than three decades; that half of Saskatchewan residents were living paycheque to paycheque before transportation and food costs skyrocketed in 2022; and that the Sask Party government's 32 new tax and fee hikes make life more expensive, all while harming struggling industries like tourism, culture, and fitness.

I'll read the prayer:

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

The undersigned residents belong in Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be on my feet again to present a petition calling for equitable and adequate SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability] rates.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan assured income disability program is a program for individuals with significant and enduring disabilities who have barriers to employment. This program didn't see an increase in eight years under this government. That represents a 20 per cent reduction overall in benefits, and frankly the extra dollar a day that was announced in this past budget was an insult to the individuals who rely on this program to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to increase SAID rates to account for inflation; to respect the constitutional rights of persons with disability in Saskatchewan by halting discriminatory practices and aligning policies with the Charter; index the SAID rates to inflation going forward; and provide targeted relief to those in deepest poverty, such as single individuals paying market rent.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition reside in Regina. I do so present.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present our petition calling on the government to implement pay equity legislation for Saskatchewan women.

The undersigned residents of the province would like to bring to our attention the following: that Saskatchewan is one of only four provinces that does not have pay equity legislation; that Saskatchewan has one of the highest gender wage gaps in Canada, which is the result of systemic gender discrimination in compensation for work that must be corrected with pay equity legislation; Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission has recommended proactive and comprehensive pay equity legislation over 25 years ago, which has not been pursued by the Government of Saskatchewan; that while pay equity advocacy primarily seeks to address gender-based wage discrimination, it must also be mindful of ability-, age-, identity-, and race-based wage discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, we've been presenting this petition for over two years now in this House.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to introduce pay equity legislation for Saskatchewan women.

The signatories today, Mr. Speaker, reside in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and Buffalo Narrows. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Real Economic Growth Per Capita in Saskatchewan

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This past week marked the tabling of the 2023-2024 provincial budget, a budget that included no relief for families or small businesses from the crushing cost-of-living crisis. And on the economy the budget provided a new estimate for 2022 GDP [gross domestic product] growth. They estimated that GDP grew by 4.8 per cent, which we are pleased to hear.

[13:45]

But I have to set the record straight. This government's record regarding economic growth continues to be abysmal. The size of Saskatchewan's economy at the end of 2022 as measured by real gross domestic product is less than the size of our economy in 2017, 2018, or 2019.

In addition if you look at real economic growth per capita in Saskatchewan, at the end of 2022 it was 66,800 per capita. This is the third-lowest level of GDP per capita in the last decade, and is 6 per cent lower than when the Premier came to power in 2018. It's actually shrunk under this Premier.

The Sask Party government's record on economic growth is so bad that real GDP was actually higher in 2018 than it is today, and the level of real GDP per capita has actually fallen since 2018. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Dental Program Serves New Ukrainian Arrivals

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year the Regina Sask Polytech Campus chooses a different group in need for its health and well-being day. And this year they put their dental skills to work on our new Ukrainian population. On Saturday approximately 70 Ukrainians had their teeth cleaned for free, with the help of over 160 students and volunteers. Nursing students gave a presentation on different health topics and oral health strategies.

Mr. Speaker, for many of these people it was the first time they had their teeth cleaned since they arrived. A healthy smile is not just a sign of good physical health. A good cleaning can also mean a big boost to someone's mental health. It was an excellent opportunity for Sask Polytech dental students to put their new skills to use and give some people in need a new smile.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to be impressed by the generosity shown by Saskatchewan residents to our Ukrainian friends. Through you, I ask all the members of the Assembly to join me in thanking Sask Polytech Regina, their students, and all the volunteers who contributed to help our Ukrainian friends smile a bit brighter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatoon Artist and Teacher Recognized for Student Art Show

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to rise today and recognize Jessica Wall-Morgun, a constituent of Saskatoon Eastview, an outstanding teacher at Aden Bowman Collegiate Institute, and also an accomplished artist and advocate for arts education.

In January Jessica single-handedly organized a city-wide senior art show for grade 12 students in Saskatoon at Snelgrove Gallery. Jessica had a vision to take these talented young artists to the next level by allowing them to have their own show. She believed in these young adults and believe me, Mr. Speaker, the talent was amazing. I was honoured to attend and I can't say enough about the creativity and the execution on display in this student work. It was a packed house with families, friends, teachers, and supporters. And they were all full of pride and gratitude for Jessica's efforts.

When Jessica isn't in the classroom, you can find her camping with her family or contributing at Lakeview Church where her husband, Paul, is the lead pastor. Her work has been showcased at the Art Gallery of Regina, Chapel Gallery in North Battleford, PAVED Arts, AKA, and BAM [Bridges Art Movement] in Saskatoon.

I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating Jessica for the success of the city-wide senior art show, and for all that she contributes to her community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Better Together Project in The Battlefords

Hon. Mr. Cockrill: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Five years ago The Battlefords had a challenging spring when several people, including a number of young people, took their own lives over a short, seven-week span. These losses deeply affected our community and I know that these individuals are still grieved today.

But out of that challenging time, Mr. Speaker, two individuals, Deb McNabb and Allysa Woodrow, got together to form the Better Together project. The project aimed originally to connect young people in our community with elderly people to build new relationships and show that regardless of age, many of us face the same challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the iconic part of Better Together are the shirts, which come in many different designs and which are common to be seen being worn on a Tuesday in The Battlefords. Today, Mr. Speaker, Deb travels around Saskatchewan and elsewhere in Canada to share our community's story and to dress people in Better Together shirts.

Mr. Speaker, now most recently North West Regional College dressed their whole staff and have challenged other regional colleges around the province to do the same. Living Sky School Division also upped the ante this year, Mr. Speaker, and is dressing the entire graduating class of 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members in this legislature to thank Deb McNabb for the work that she continues to do in bringing hope and promoting strong families and strong communities in our great province. We are better together. Thank you.

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

Prince Albert Resident Climbs Mount Kilimanjaro and Raises Funds for Hope's Home

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Prince Albert and surrounding area, people are willing to go that extra kilometre to help our community. This past January, for Bernadette Lavoie this was 74 kilometres and a six-day climb of Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's highest free-standing mountain above sea level.

Bernadette reached out to Hope's Home in Prince Albert to be her designated charity. Hope's Home provides care for children with complex medical needs, and fundraises to help with nursing and therapy support. Bernadette set a goal of raising \$19,371, a dollar for every foot of the mountain, and in less than three months she raised over \$22,000.

She said reaching the top of that mountain was sheer relief for her, as it was the hardest thing she's ever done. Her group was

exposed to many different climates, ranging from hot rainforests to the desert to the Arctic, and at night they wore every piece of clothing they had to stay warm.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating and thanking Bernadette for her achievement of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and raising funds for Hope's Home. Together we make Saskatchewan stronger. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Retired Fire Chief Recognized for Years of Service

Mr. Kaeding: — Mr. Speaker, Stockholm fire department recently honoured retired fire chief Arley Duchek for his 40 years of service in the fire services. Firefighters from Stockholm, Churchbridge, Esterhazy, Langenburg, and Whitewood, along with community members and representatives of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association and the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs attended.

Arley joined the Stockholm fire department in 1981, and in 1998 he took over the role of fire chief, a position he held till his retirement. 1995, Arley became a certified level 1 fire service instructor and taught many courses for the firefighters in the area. He also moved into the role of emergency response team instructor for IMC Mosaic and deputy chief of the Mosaic fire department.

Throughout his career, Arley was recognized both provincially and nationally for his dedication to the fire services. In 2012 he was presented with the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, which recognizes people who have served 25 or more years in some form of protective services in Saskatchewan. On September of 2012, Arley received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal as national recognition for his 32 years of service as firefighter, fire chief, and fire services instructor. 2013, he was awarded the Fire Chief Award of Merit from the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs.

Through you, I ask that all members of the Assembly join me in recognizing the dedication of fire chief Arley Duchek and thanking him for his decades of service to his province. Thank you.

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

More Growth in Saskatchewan Economy

Mr. Nerlien: — Mr. Speaker, this morning we received more great news about our economy. Today's Statistics Canada report shows growth of 43.7 per cent in merchandise trade from February last year to February this year. Urban housing starts saw a 76.4 per cent increase year over year, well above the national average of three and a half per cent. As reported earlier, investment in building construction saw year-over-year growth of over 21 per cent.

It's safe to say that there is a lot to be positive about here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, as we've said before, these indicators are further proof that we have the food, fuel, and

fertilizer that the world needs and wants. The members opposite continue to run down our economy but, Mr. Speaker, these indicators show the real story.

U of S [University of Saskatchewan] Professor Westlake had this to say in an interview regarding our Premier's recent 60 per cent approval rating with CTV [Canadian Television Network Ltd]:

I think we can look to an economy in Saskatchewan that certainly performed better than what we've seen in a lot of the rest of the country . . . they can take a lot of credit for that.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of the limitless potential in the form of jobs, economic growth, and opportunities which make Saskatchewan the best place to live, work, and raise a family. And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to tell that story at home and around the world. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Ambulance Services and Support for the Health Care System

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver on health care. Each day this week, we've asked this government to take responsibility for the fact that in the first six weeks of this year 216 calls for an ambulance went unanswered because no ambulance was available. To the Premier: how is this acceptable and when will he take any responsibility for the mess they've made after 16 years?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. As I've identified in this House, we have had over a 40 per cent reduction in our ambulance offload delays, Mr. Speaker, which is significant. We've worked with Medavie. We've worked with our rural ambulance providers, Mr. Speaker, to reduce the amount of time that they are in hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, there are some peaks and valleys as we've . . . Mr. Speaker, as I've identified before, we do have some challenges within our emergency room. But, Mr. Speaker, the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] is working very diligently with the Ministry of Health, with the providers in the ambulance not just in the emergency room, Mr. Speaker, but improved flow overall throughout the health care system. That's why we've reduced the overall stay by one day per person in our health care system. Mr. Speaker, we've also had a reduction of 20 per cent of our alternate level of care within our hospital systems, which also opens up space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — These aren't some challenges, Mr. Speaker. The system is broken. Mr. Speaker, the documents we received through FOI [freedom of information] show that the Regina area

had 53 times when someone called for an ambulance but no ambulance was available.

We also received copies of the Regina ambulance shift supervisor logs for the first six weeks of the year. These are notes written by EMS [emergency medical services] staff that tell the story that the system is broken. From January 28: "An almost unbearable night." From February 12: "Delayed responses to patients. Call volume stupid high."

Does the minister think it's acceptable to have call volumes that are stupid high?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Mr. Speaker, the premise of the question is absolutely ridiculous, Mr. Speaker. I can't control how many calls come in to the ambulance service, Mr. Speaker. That's not something that I can control. The question is absolutely ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker, we've made investments into our EMS, not just in rural but in our cities as well, Mr. Speaker. And I do have a quote that was brought up by Steven Skoworodko, from the president of the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker:

Where they've allocated the money to go into this budget, it really helps support retention. Some of the money that is targeted towards an increase in funding so rural services can pay more and fund those positions so that paramedics can do what they want to do and stay in rural Saskatchewan.

This shows the significant investment that this government and myself and the Minister of Rural and Remote Health, with the support of our caucus, have been able to invest in EMS. Mr. Speaker, we've got some more work to do, but we are making some progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, these are the EMS staff's own words, their own call logs. And they tell a story of a system that is broken. And let's be clear, that system is broken because of this tired and out-of-touch government's choices.

When ERs [emergency room] are backed up and ambulances can't transfer a patient to a bed, that's called an offload delay. And the FOI shows that these offload delays are the norm. Mr. Speaker, from January 4th: "Longest continuous offload, 10.5 hours." From January 23rd: "Longest continuous offload: 9.5 hours." From January 30th: "Both ERs handing out offload delays like cheap suits."

Does the minister think it's acceptable for our ERs to be handing out offload delays like cheap suits?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off, I want to reassure the people of Saskatchewan that if they do need to call 911 and they do need an ambulance, Mr. Speaker, we will be able to get there as soon as possible, get them into emergency,

have them triaged, and get them through our health care system as fast as possible, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

But what the members opposite are cherry-picking certain days, Mr. Speaker, and saying . . . Yes, and we've recognized that with the EMS, with the emergency room doctors, Mr. Speaker, that there are some challenging times. But we've worked on reducing that amount of time.

So I want to thank . . . Well to the member opposite, this is what the paramedics chiefs are telling us, Mr. Speaker. So they might be talking to individual paramedics, and I do as well. So does the Minister of Rural and Remote Health. We'll continue to work with the paramedics chiefs, with Medavie, with our rural suppliers to make sure that we have the proper ambulance supports in place for the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government thinks that we're cherry-picking? They should read those logs and see for themselves what the paramedics are saying. Here's what EMS workers in Regina put in their own logs: "Such a mess all day." "Pasqua offload delay in afternoon. Medic 38 there for five hours and counting at 5:30 shift change." "Non-stop all night. Multiple extended offload delays at Regina General, 10 hours."

Does the Minister of Health think it's acceptable for ambulances to be waiting for hours and hours when they should be on the road helping people?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I think I've acknowledged with the previous member, and I'll acknowledge again because obviously he wasn't listening, Mr. Speaker, is we do recognize there are challenges. We're working on those challenges.

We set this up back last summer, Mr. Speaker, when we were coming out of a challenging two years, working with the EMS providers and the emergency room and the doctors in the ward. We've changed up procedures, Mr. Speaker. We have triages that are done out on site, Mr. Speaker, where they don't have to come into the emergency room. We're making sure that our ambulance providers are freed up as much as we possibly can.

But for the members opposite to ensue that we don't even care about this, that's wrong. We meet with these people every two weeks with my ministry. The Minister of Rural and Remote Health and I meet with them on a monthly basis. We attend their functions, Mr. Speaker, and what they're continuously saying is, this government is supportive of what measures that they are asking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — This might be a hard truth for that minister to stomach, but here's the fact. These delays and the backlogs are created by his government's failures. That's it. And they don't just impact Regina, Mr. Speaker. The ripple effects go out into other communities, too. From January 30th: "Imperial, Cupar, Milestone doing city calls trying to help." And February 1st: "Crazy busy at start of shift. Moosomin, Indian Head, and Yorkton doing calls in the city for us."

Does the Minister of Health accept that the problems with EMS in Regina are hurting response times and they're hurting people, people in other communities too?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And our ambulance system is designed that if one area is busy, that there is backup, Mr. Speaker. This . . . The member wants to ask a question, she's more than welcome to pop up and ask one, Mr. Speaker. But she seems to heckle quite a bit from her seat.

Mr. Speaker, we will make sure that we have the proper ambulances support. That's why, in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, we had \$8.8 million to increase EMS services around the province, three and a half million dollars to support an additional 33 FTEs [full-time equivalent] in 27 communities across the province. Mr. Speaker, this builds on an \$11 million investment of 70 FTEs from last year's budget. And I'll remind the House that these are the investments that this government is making that those members voted against. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage that minister to read the logs. He should read them because those logs show a clear connection between the problems in our ERs and the long waits for ambulances.

January 4th: "Busy all shift. ERs are [in full caps] F-U-L-L." February 5th: "Pasqua ER backed up. They did what they could to get us back out the door. Down a bunch of nurses." February 13th: "Heavy offloads at Regina General. They were down six nurses tonight." February 9th: "Pasqua ER had way too many patients in the back hall. We had eight and there were rural units backed up there too. Bad deal over there."

Why? Why should Saskatchewan people accept this minister's bad deal when it comes to ERs and when it comes to ambulance care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thanks again, Mr. Speaker, this is exactly why we were on top of this back in September, creating our four-point plan to recruit, retain, incentivize, and train individuals in this province. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Advanced Education announced 550 positions, new training seats in advanced education, over 18 designations which paramedics were one of those, Mr. Speaker.

So we're not just building capacity within our system; we're

bringing in new people, Mr. Speaker. And I was at that event and so was the Minister of Rural and Remote Health. We had a great excitement for the opportunities that are being provided by this government not just for now, Mr. Speaker, but also into the future. We're growing our own in our province to be able to develop individuals that will take up these professions.

What would help out is if they would stop running down the health care system, running down everybody in our public service continuously, Mr. Speaker, and make it more inviting for people to start working in our health care system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, I don't understand. It must be really hard for this Health minister to face the truth of his failures, but it's clear from these logs that this government is failing to deliver when it comes to health care.

January 3rd: "Ran out of hospital beds in Pasqua back hallway." February 8th: "Long offloads at both places with stacking six deep at Pasqua." February 5th: "Brutally busy night. Just relentless for the crews."

The nurses are calling for a task force, a task force to find solutions to the problems that caused these brutal and relentless conditions for health care staff. How much more does the minister need to hear before he'll pick up the phone and say yes to that request from nurses?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I could tell you that everybody on this side of the House certainly consults with all of the health care workers in their communities, Mr. Speaker, whether it's EMS or whether it's nurses.

Mr. Speaker, on the EMS, we have been working at the table with the providers, with Medavie, with the Saskatchewan paramedics association. We've been sitting down at the table with them for months to be able to address this. The members opposite say we've got to go and consult and work with everybody. We're doing that. They're at the table with us being able to come up with these solutions. Half of the solutions that we implemented, Mr. Speaker, came from them. These were ideas that they brought forward. But not just them, also the nurses and the doctors in the emergency rooms on how to streamline the system to make sure that there aren't any backups with this.

I wish they would pick a lane, Mr. Speaker. Either they want us to consult or they just want us to ram forward without talking to anybody. They need to pick a lane. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Management of the Provincial Economy

Mr. Wotherspoon: — The people of Regina deserve so much better when it comes to the health care in the province and what they're getting from that Premier and government, Mr. Speaker.

But it's not just health care where that Premier is failing, it's on jobs and investment too. The latest building permit numbers show that Saskatchewan sadly is once again, and again, dead last. Month over month the value of building permits dropped by more than 40 per cent. The worst drop in Canada, from the Premier with the worst record in Canada on this front.

When will the Premier finally face the music, accept responsibility and the fact that the choices that they've made are driving jobs and investment out of Saskatchewan?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The NDP demonstrate day after day after day why they have zero credibility on the economy. They come in here, cherry-pick data, and literally cherry-pick data to try and come up with one thing that they can use to talk down and attack the economy. The public in this province know the truth, Mr. Speaker, which is that our economy is one of the strongest in the country, if not the strongest in the country.

And today we got more great news, Mr. Speaker, export numbers that are leading the country. In the last two months, Mr. Speaker, it increased just in this calendar year, up 44 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And it's not like last year was a bad year either. It was a record year as well.

We have what the world needs, Mr. Speaker: food, fuel, and fertilizer. As government we have put in place policies for those resources to be developed, for those resources to be exported around the world. We're doing all we can to support that export, Mr. Speaker, and it is showing real results.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, nothing but straight from Stats Canada, Mr. Speaker, no cherry-picking. It's the reality of the record of this government.

Building permits across Canada actually went up by 9 per cent, but they dropped by 40 per cent here in Saskatchewan. Now year over year, the building permits were one point better. They were only down by 39 per cent. And we're seeing some of the lowest housing starts in a generation. Who says that? The CEO [chief executive officer] of the Regina Home Builders' Association.

Now despite that government's awful record with respect to the economy, they continue to impose that job-killing PST [provincial sales tax] on construction. Why won't the Premier scrap that PST on construction labour to fire up this economy, get people to work in the jobs they deserve, and the opportunity they deserve?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — I was perhaps overly excited to answer this question, Mr. Speaker.

The reality on urban housing starts. The member referenced housing starts. Housing starts are up, Mr. Speaker, not 10 per cent, not 20 per cent, not 30, not 40, not 50, not even 60 — 76 per cent, Mr. Speaker. And the NDP stand up day after day and run down the economy. The member opposite stands up and says there's no housing starts. They're up 76 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Then we have, Mr. Speaker, the true colours of the NDP continuing to shine through. The member for Nutana stands up the other day and accuses the government of — get this — toxic positivity, Mr. Speaker. Apparently this is a thing. I didn't know that. But absolutely, Mr. Speaker, we are positive. Guilty as charged. We are positive about the future of this province and this economy.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, of course a spin from that government, but it's Stu Niebergall, the CEO of the Home Builders that said it's the worst in 30 years, Mr. Speaker. Dead last on building permits. Those are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, with a record like that, it's no wonder on that side that no one wants to be called the jobs minister anymore, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people need more jobs and bigger paycheques, but under this tired and out-of-touch government, Saskatchewan people are getting the opposite. Dead last on job creation, dead last on economic growth — the numbers don't lie.

How is it that with all the amazing people and opportunity in our province this Premier has managed to have the worst economic record in Canada when Saskatchewan people in this province deserve so much better?

The Speaker: — I just want to remind the member from Regina Rosemont to refer to the ministers by their proper title. I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'm happy to continue along with the great economic news here in this province. Merchandise exports, like I said, up 44 per cent, Mr. Speaker, just some new stats today. The member might want to deny the reality of housing starts, but they are up 76 per cent, Mr. Speaker, year over year. That is the latest data from Statistics Canada.

And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, investment and building construction, which is another topic I think the member was trying to get at, what is that up, Mr. Speaker, year over year? Twenty-two per cent, Mr. Speaker, that's what the investment in building construction is up. We're seeing nation-leading GDP growth, Mr. Speaker, projected to lead the country in GDP growth going forward as well.

Everybody in the province knows that things are moving in the right direction except those members opposite. Those members opposite come in here day after day after day. They attack the economy. They talk down the economy. They cherry-pick stats to create a narrative that the economy isn't doing well.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that this economy is performing incredibly strongly. We had a great event today with hundreds of

newcomers at a job fair. We're looking forward to more.

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

Status of Child Care Centre

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night in committee I asked the Minister of Education about his government's funding of the Grace Capstone Ministries child care centre. This child care centre has the same leadership as the Grace Capstone Christian school which was shut down when the director refused to co-operate with that government after serious allegations came to light, allegations like those directors performed exorcism on students to rid them of gay demons, committed verbal and emotional and physical abuse, and used corporal punishment with an instrument.

[14:15]

Simple question for the minister: why is the government continuing to give public dollars to this child care centre when he already shut down a school with the exact same leadership?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the school, the school was shut down when the leadership of the school chose not to comply with the direction of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Speaker. And so that's why their certificate was pulled.

In the case of the child care centre, Mr. Speaker, we had indicated to them by letter that anybody that was named in the lawsuit that the member is referencing could no longer be involved in the operations of the centre, Mr. Speaker. That was the condition that was placed on them, Mr. Speaker.

The ministry does do unannounced inspections on a monthly basis to ensure that they are providing appropriate care and that they are in keeping with the conditions, Mr. Speaker, and that is why the difference between the two, Mr. Speaker. In the case of the school, they chose not to co-operate and so their certificate was pulled. In the case of the centre, Mr. Speaker, they have chosen to co-operate and so funding does remain.

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

Ms. Conway: — So let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. The former directors of Grace Capstone Ministries are the current directors of Grace Capstone Ministries. All legal documents indicate that is the case. The same folks who failed to co-operate with being put under administration, leading to them shut down the school, are under a condition and get a monthly check-in. And that's good enough for the minister, I guess.

Why is the minister assuming that the same folks will listen when it comes to a daycare when they didn't listen when it came to a school?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly the allegations that have been made against a number of individuals related to a school, Mr. Speaker, are currently before the courts, Mr. Speaker. And so in the meantime what we'd indicated to the child care centre is that individuals named in the lawsuit could not be involved with the operations of the child care centre, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my information that has been provided to me by officials is that they are abiding by that condition, Mr. Speaker. If the member opposite has information to indicate that they are not abiding by the condition, I would certainly welcome that information, Mr. Speaker. The ministry does take this very seriously. They do supervise this particular child care centre, Mr. Speaker. And up until such time, Mr. Speaker, that we are provided with information that they are not abiding by the conditions, Mr. Speaker, the funding will remain.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, except those individuals are, as of today, currently the directors of Grace Capstone Ministries. The minister pulled the plan to expand their child care centre spaces but kept 20 spaces open at a price tag of \$220,000 for the Saskatchewan public. Besides sending a letter with a condition and a monthly check-in, what else was done before continuing with the status quo? This certainly wasn't enough for the ministry to keep a school open, so why is it good enough when it comes to children under the age of six?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, in the case of the school, those in charge of the school, the leadership of the school did not abide by the conditions that the ministry had imposed on them, Mr. Speaker, and so we did pull the certificate.

In the case of the child care centre, they agreed to remove themselves from the operations of the child care centre, Mr. Speaker. That was a condition. A part of that, Mr. Speaker, as the Ministry of Education we sent a letter to every single parent that had a child in that centre informing them of the allegations as well as offering our assistance as the ministry, our consultants in Saskatoon, to provide them with assistance in finding alternative child care, Mr. Speaker, in the event that they were no longer comfortable having their child in that centre, Mr. Speaker.

To date, according to the ministry, Mr. Speaker, they are abiding by the conditions, Mr. Speaker. Again if the member opposite has information to the contrary, I'd be happy to see that information.

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

Harm Reduction Initiatives

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the overdose crisis in this province continues to take lives. New numbers from the coroner's office show that the total number of overdose deaths is at 152 already this year. That's more than the total number of overdose deaths

in 2016 and the total number of overdose deaths in 2017 in just three months — 152 individuals, Mr. Speaker.

When will this government listen to those on the front lines of this crisis who have the evidence-based solutions we need to stop the harm and save lives?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as I've stated previously, we're working very hard on this issue to make sure that we're doing everything we can to provide supports for people in the area of addictions challenges, Mr. Speaker. We're working very closely and collaboratively with the members of the Saskatchewan drug task force, which involves a number of representatives from across our communities on the front lines and those that have lived and living experience, to make sure that we're making investments in the right areas to be able to address some of these challenges through initiatives such as the expansion of the naloxone program and the launch of overdose outreach teams to try to get to areas, Mr. Speaker, where we have some of our greatest pressures.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that we are committed to continuing this work to do everything that we can to support people that are struggling with addictions in our province, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Changes to Credential Recognition to Support Recruitment of Skilled Newcomers

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to inform the House that the Government of Saskatchewan is continuing to lead the way on credential recognition for newcomers in Canada. Today we are announcing regulation changes that will provide financial support to individuals who have been unable to obtain licensure, including those who have not yet arrived in Saskatchewan.

These changes to *The Employment Program Regulations* will bolster Saskatchewan's recruitment of internationally educated workers, and this is another step in the government's plan to reduce the red tape and regulatory burdens that are associated with the assessment of credentials in regulated occupations.

The international credential recognition grant assists newcomers with foreign qualification recognition costs required to obtain a licence by providing up to \$6,000 per application. The regulatory changes we have announced today will allow the government to work with newcomers to have their credentials assessed and recognized before they land in the province, which will allow them to enter the workforce immediately upon arrival.

The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Regulations, which are unique in Canada in legally having timelines for both assessment and registration decisions to ensure newcomers can begin working sooner in their professions. When

combined, these regulations ensure Saskatchewan has the shortest legislated timelines, and some of the only legislated timelines, for labour mobility and foreign credential assessments in the entire country.

Professionals in all regulated sectors will see reduced credential barriers, reduced costs, and the time associated with entering professional fields. Regulatory bodies are mandated by law to assess an internationally trained applicant's experience and qualifications and give a yes-or-no answer within 50 days. This is the fastest decision time for internationally trained individuals in Canada. Domestically there is a 20-day time frame to provide applicants with a decision on their application. These steps significantly improve qualification recognition times.

And in the case of a negative answer from a regulator, there is a legal requirement that the regulator provide the very detailed reason the application was not successful, and a remediation path to how that credential can be recognized.

Our government believes that this funding, combined with our aggressive timelines for recognition, will assist Saskatchewan in becoming the destination of choice for skilled newcomers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the minister as well for providing the statement in advance. Mr. Speaker, this is an area that certainly we've given voice to for a long period of time. It's about fairness for those that are immigrating and choosing to build their lives in Saskatchewan. It's about those newcomers being able to live up to their fullest potential. It's about shaping and contributing in that very full way in Saskatchewan, economically and shaping a bright future in Saskatchewan as well. And it's also about us doing a better job when it comes to retaining those newcomers to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So these are important. This is an important area. We'll review the full detail of what the minister is announcing here today. We'll be consulting with those that know this best — newcomers to Saskatchewan. It's about fairness, Mr. Speaker. It's about opportunity in our province. It's about ensuring newcomers can live up to their full potential, and in so doing, allowing this province to live up to its, Mr. Speaker. At this time that's all I have to say.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 133 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 133, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 133 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

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

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Next sitting of the Assembly.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 128

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Reiter that **Bill No. 128 — *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I knew you'd get it eventually. Appreciate that. Yeah, happy to be on my feet, put a few comments on the record about Bill 128, *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act* of 2023.

Really straightforward changes here. A lot of noise coming from the other side. We're not sure what it's about. I've hardly said anything yet, but maybe they're just excited to get more from me. Yeah, so pretty simple changes amending the Act from 1985, striking out 10 and substituting with 30.

And so you know, on our side, like of course we support, you know, the development of our resources in Saskatchewan that's done in a responsible way and when it helps folks to have those good-paying jobs in communities around the province. We know that this requires support of industry, that we need to maintain our competitiveness in Saskatchewan. And again, you know, I hope that we are doing this in a way that's conscious of both good mortgage-paying jobs in our province, being responsible with our current needs and our future needs economically, in a climate-minded way, in this province is really the way forward.

And so with that in mind, you'll see a lot of support on this side as long as they're doing it in a good way.

But I do want to mention, you know, we heard some debate in the Assembly today about housing starts. And you know, there can be no debate that this Sask Party government has imposed industry-crushing taxes and PST increases on other industries, construction being one of them, Mr. Speaker.

We know that the impact of this Sask Party government tax

increase has been tough on jobs. It's been tough on construction. It's been tough on those who are wanting to earn a good living in this province working construction. And yet they don't seem to be listening to those folks. So I want to voice that as we are looking at, you know, supporting one industry while they increase taxes on others, and you know, I don't think that that's the right way forward.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I'll want to see other comments from my colleagues in opposition as we continue through debating Bill 128, but at this time I will move that we adjourn debate on *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*. Thank you.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 129

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 129 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be on my feet today to put some comments on the record for Bill 129, the medical professional Act. Mr. Speaker, this was mentioned in the budget and is legislation tied to the budget, so it's no surprise to see this coming forward.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, this bill essentially will regulate physician assistants under the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, laying out the scope of their roles. Physician assistants will have the same rights and obligations as physicians or podiatric surgeons. "Physician assistant" will become a legally protected title. We also see the legislation lay out the scope that physician assistants will not have sign-off authority on legal certificates, such as death certificates and the like.

Mr. Speaker, we welcome this bill, but I think I have to put a few comments on the record here. And mainly, Mr. Speaker, that I think we need to make note that our health care system is currently in a crisis situation. This additional support will be helpful but, Mr. Speaker, it's really not the solution that physicians have been asking for overall. This really isn't what physicians mean when they said they wanted care teams. Saskatchewan family doctors say that our physician system needs reforms. Their association has called for urgent change and reform to primary care, and this legislation and this budget just simply has no funding for this change.

This bill does not address family physicians' calls for reforms and also this legislation doesn't provide any solutions for our nursing shortage and crises at the moment as well. It's very disappointing to see that this legislation doesn't address the

nursing shortage. It's very disappointing to see that this government continues the lack of focus and attention to the nursing catastrophe in our province. I need not remind the government about the comments made by Tracy Zambory, but I will read them again. And it says:

I write to you all today to express my profound disappointment with the provincial budget. This budget contains nothing new that recognizes the dedication of registered nurses nor the state of our overwhelmed, overburdened, and collapsed health care system. Nothing.

This bill does nothing to alleviate the stress placed on our nurses. So, Mr. Speaker, I have to ask, who should we be trusting in this case? Health care workers, or this Premier and this health care minister? We see a government that continues to ignore experts on every front, and in this case they're ignoring nurses and they're ignoring family physicians.

Now this bill will provide the opportunity for medical grads without residencies. There are approximately 300 medical grads without residencies in the province at this time. This would provide some meaningful employment opportunity for those folks while they look for residencies. But again, what we're told is that this bill really only represents 12 positions in the province.

And I again don't need to remind the government of the Provincial Auditor's report that says the government's plan for 1,000 health care workers is 1,000 health care workers short. The auditor said we need 2,000 health care workers. Twelve isn't going to do a lot on that front.

So, Mr. Speaker, overall warm to this change. We're excited to see how this might fit into our current health care system. I know that we need to continue to urge this government to listen to local voices in health care, to find the solutions that are desperately needed. And I know as well that my colleagues will have a lot more to say on this bill, so to facilitate that I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 129, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 130

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 130 — *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to enter my remarks on Bill 130, *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*. My understanding of this bill is that it is, the aim of this bill is to create a new Crown corporation, the Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation so it runs

the gaming and the lotteries, SaskGaming now a subsidiary of it.

One of the things that . . . It's good that we are modernizing, and that's always good so that we are relevant. But it's also important to ensure that we have, that we're protecting the consumers and creating a culture of safe play online.

I know that FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations] was very pleased with this online gaming agreement that was signed. And it certainly would help their Nations in whatever community development activities, etc., whatever those dollars are used for to help their Nations and building capacity to meet the needs of the Nations.

You know, when I think about what my colleagues before have entered their remarks on, one that kind of stuck out with me was when one of my colleagues talked about the concern about the conflict of operating and managing sectors or activities and then create . . . when you're also regulating them. So that is a concern that we should all have, is what kind of conflicts of interest would we be entering into?

When we're looking at agreements in particular with Indigenous communities, one of the things that I think about, and this one is like the First Nation, Métis, the gaming agreements — I also would be interested in how this government is also updating and the agreements like the TLE [treaty land entitlement] framework agreement that we all know that has expired. And it would be good to have that mutual discussion with the TLE bands of how that should look. So that's something that needs to be revised and looked at when we're looking at doing agreements with the government.

So the other piece that I just wanted to enter my remarks on is just around this government's attacks on the liquor side of the SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority]. So we're just going to be watching more about how this actually rolls out, you know. And, as the critic for First Nation, Métis relations, I'd be watching and putting my ear to the ground in the grassroots Indigenous community to see how this actually rolls out and how it helps or impedes what Indigenous people are doing out there. So I'd be very curious about that.

So one of the things also with this is another concern that has been raised, is the concern about privatizing, you know, and that's something that I think, in the best interest of the people that we serve, that we are cognizant of that when we are making decisions.

So when this goes on to the next stage of the, I guess, the committee, the critic for this area will certainly be in a position to scrutinize this even more and ask more questions as they roll in from our stakeholders.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I adjourn debate on Bill 130. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 131

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 131 — *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Consequential Amendments Act, 2023/Loi de 2023 portant modification corrélative de la loi intitulée The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm back on my feet again and I won't bore you all with my same comments. I probably won't remember what I just said. But I do know that when this goes into committee there will be, I guess, more talk on this and more discussion on this. So this is the consequential amendments Act.

I apologize. It's been a long day already, so I won't say any more on this. Those that still need to speak to this will probably add more if they so choose. So with that, I adjourn debate on Bill 131. miigwech.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 132

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. McMorris that **Bill No. 132 — *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to enter into debate on Bill No. 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023*.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know a lot about boilers. I know when the topic comes up in my household, I get nervous because all I really know is that they're expensive to fix. But I have had a look at this Act, and I understand that the purpose of this Act is to allow the chief boiler to exempt boiler owners from needing a licensed power engineer on site at all times when a boiler or pressure vessel is being operated, as has been the case up until now.

While we support the elimination of red tape where it makes sense, Mr. Speaker, we also have some concerns that this may not balance worker safety and site safety. We know that Saskatchewan has the highest number of workplace fatalities in Canada, Mr. Speaker, and we're concerned that loosening restrictions around the operation of vessels, pressure vessels and boilers, may lead to worsening conditions.

The other thing, Mr. Speaker, is that this is just another good job being cut. And we've seen a pattern, a concerning pattern from this government of cutting good, mortgage-paying jobs, as was the case just recently when they chose to close and privatize the Saskatchewan Liquor Board.

So, Mr. Speaker, I understand that my colleagues will be reaching out to stakeholders. I'm not the lead critic on this bill, fortunately, but that is a concern of mine and I know it's a concern that is shared by members on this side. So with that, Mr. Speaker, we'll be doing more work to have a look into this bill and ensure that that's not the case, and be determining our support one way or the other based on the information that we gather. So with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2023*.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House now stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:44.]

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