



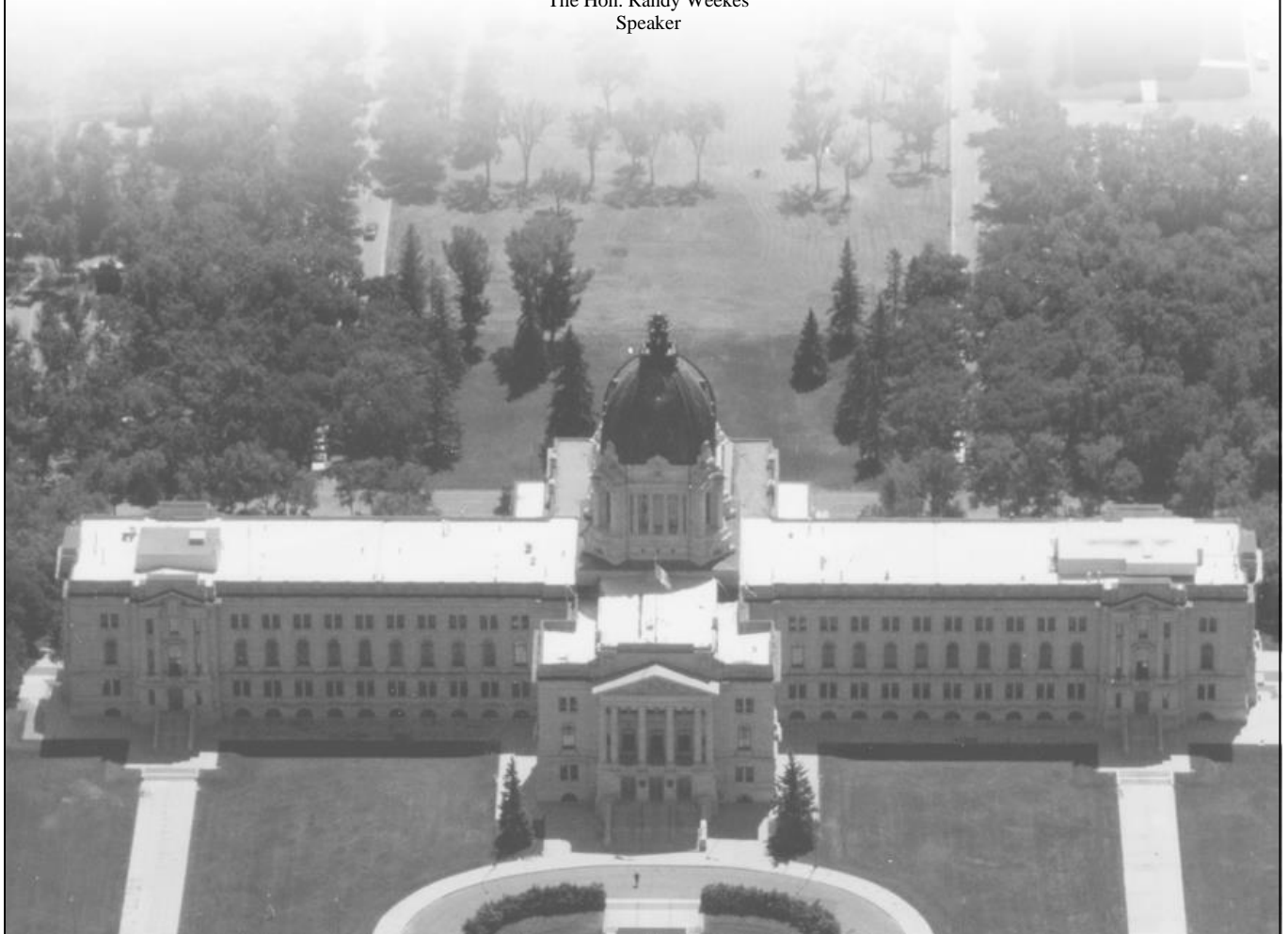
THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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

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

Standings

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Iris Lang

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

Deputy Clerk — Kathy Burianyak

Principal Clerk — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

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Legislative Assembly are available
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CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker.....	3691
Merriman	3691
Mowat	3691
Lawrence	3691, 3694
Keisig	3692
Beck.....	3692
McMorris.....	3692
Nippi-Albright.....	3692
Ross, L.	3692
Bowes	3693
Bradshaw.....	3693
Conway	3693
Cheveldayoff.....	3693
Wotherspoon	3694

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Fiaz.....	3694
Nippi-Albright.....	3694
Mowat	3694
Teed.....	3694
Conway	3695

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Royal Canadian Naval Reserve Celebrates 100 Years

Carr.....	3695
-----------	------

Outdoor Recreation in Regina Lakeview

Beck.....	3695
-----------	------

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Goudy.....	3696
------------	------

Recognition of Treaty Rights Holders

Nippi-Albright.....	3696
---------------------	------

Sarcan Saskatoon Depot Grand Opening

Lambert.....	3696
--------------	------

Red Hat Society Celebrates 25 Years

McLeod.....	3696
-------------	------

Saskatchewan's Growing International Engagement

Francis.....	3697
--------------	------

QUESTION PERIOD

Management of Health Care System

Beck.....	3697
-----------	------

Merriman	3697
----------------	------

Funding for Education

Beck.....	3697
-----------	------

Wyant.....	3698
------------	------

Love.....	3698
-----------	------

Funding for Post-Secondary Institutions and Student Supports

Bowes	3699
-------------	------

Wyant.....	3699
------------	------

Affordability and Cost of Living

Wotherspoon	3700
-------------------	------

Harpauer	3700
----------------	------

Provincial Taxes and Jurisdiction over Natural Resources

Wotherspoon	3701
-------------------	------

Harrison, J.....	3701
------------------	------

Eyre.....	3701
-----------	------

Harm Reduction Initiatives

Mowat	3701
-------------	------

Merriman	3701
----------------	------

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Bradshaw.....	3702
---------------	------

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 124 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022*

Loi modificative de 2022 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard

Carr3702

ROYAL ASSENT3702

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 130 — *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*

Teed3702

Harrison, J. (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee)3704

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

Teed3704

Harrison, J. (referral to Crown and Central Agencies Committee)3704

Bill No. 128 — *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*

Conway3704

Bill No. 129 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*

Vermette3705

Bill No. 132 — *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel (Automation and Remote Supervision Pilot) Amendment Act, 2023*

Wotherspoon3706

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

Nippi-Albright3706

Bill No. 134 — *The Education Amendment Act, 2023/Loi modificative de 2023 sur l'éducation*

Bowes3707

Bill No. 135 — *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*

Bowes3708

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — Before we get started, I'd just like to welcome all our guests here today. It's great to see you here in your legislature. I'd just like to caution you that you do not take part in any of the proceedings — no clapping or talking, obviously, or using your iPhones, and no video recording or taking pictures. Thank you.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I am pleased to rise today to introduce Cheri Cowan, Worthy Grand Matron of the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan Order of the Eastern Star. The 106th session of the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan Order of the Eastern Star will be held in Regina from April 27th to 29th, 2023, with attendees from Saskatchewan as well as many visitors from across Canada and the United States. Cheri Cowan is a retired educator from Assiniboia. Joining her is Merle Sawatsky. Please join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

Also I would like to introduce two guests in the Speaker's gallery, Nicole and Ryan Bender. They have taken time out of their busy schedules to stop by to watch the proceedings to see Nicole's mom, the Clerk, Iris Lang, at work. Nicole is a senior leader in the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement. Ryan is the owner of Bendz Real Estate Group and is also a real estate investor. I ask that you join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, in your gallery I would like to introduce Steve Skoworodko, the president of the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan. Steve joins us here today as part of the Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] reception that will be happening later on this afternoon in room 218, to which all members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Steve drove up today in one of his off-duty ambulances and has invited all members to take a quick tour of that if possible, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank all of our first responders for their dedication and their service to our province. Individuals like Steve make our community safer to work, live, and play every day. Our government will continue to support our front-line health care providers for the incredible work that they do every day. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members join me in welcoming Steve to his Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the minister opposite in welcoming Steve to his Legislative

Assembly today, and also to say that we are looking forward to the reception this afternoon with the Paramedic Services Chiefs. And I want to welcome them and invite all members on behalf of the opposition, invite all members to welcome him to his Assembly today.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, seated in our west gallery, I'm pleased to introduce former and current members of the Royal Canadian reserves of two of our naval reserve units: the HMCS [His Majesty's Canadian Ship] *Unicorn* and *Queen*. They're celebrating a centennial with other naval reserve units across Canada. They have served us at home and abroad, doing everything from flood and avalanche control to making drug busts in the Caribbean to protecting our exports around the world.

We have retired Sub-Lieutenant Ruth Bond-Martinson from World War II; Commander Matthew Dalzell and Commander Ken McCaw; *Unicorn* reservists Lieutenant-Commander Michael Su, Chief Petty Officer 2nd class Warren Noble, retired Petty Officer 2nd class Lynn Breker; from the *Queen* we have Lieutenant-Commander Aaron Kaytor, Petty Officer 1st class Katherine Wadsworth, Lieutenant Alexander Goodman, and last but certainly not least Sailor 1st class Devon Pearce.

Collectively they have served over 80 years of the 100 years of the history of the navy from World War II to our present. I would like all here to welcome them to their legislature.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the member opposite in welcoming these guests from HMCS *Unicorn* and HMCS *Queen* here today, congratulate them on their centennial as well. I'm sorry to have to miss the celebrations as I have other duties in Regina here, but we really appreciated the invitation.

I do want to thank them and everyone who's in the naval reserve for their service. As a former member of the reserves working with cadets, I had some dealings with naval reserve, and we have one of our staff members as well is in the naval reserve.

As well, Mr. Speaker, in particular I want to welcome Ruth Bond-Martinson who I've gotten to know over the years for quite some time, and thank her for her service and welcome these guests to their Assembly today.

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

Mr. Keisig: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the member opposite and my colleague on welcoming Ruth Bond-Martinson to this, her Legislative Assembly. I had lunch with Ruth. We had an absolutely spectacular conversation. We have so few World War II veterans left, Mr. Speaker, and they deserve all the recognition for all that they have done to give us this beautiful province that we have today.

She's joined today by her daughter Kathy, Kathy and her friend. We toured the building. We had a great conversation and it is so happy to have them in the Chamber here today. So please join me in welcoming Ruth to this, her Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to rise today and introduce a guest. Seated in your gallery we have Georgina Jolibois here with us today, the mayor of La Loche, a former MP [Member of Parliament], and certainly no stranger to debates in assemblies such as this. I invite all members to join me in welcoming Georgina to her Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, just quickly as the MLA representing the HMCS *Queen* here in Regina, I would like to also join with the members in welcoming the delegation from the naval reserves to their Legislative Assembly. And would also like to express what a great honour it is to be able to welcome Ms. Ruth Bond-Martinson to her Legislative Assembly. I thank her and all those here today for their service to this province and this country. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to join with the Leader of the Opposition and welcome Georgina Jolibois here to her Legislative Assembly. I had the opportunity, maybe not the fortunate opportunity because of timing, but spent some time with her on Friday up in La Loche. We've also spent a few other meetings together, and glad that you were able to be down here today at a couple of different meetings that you were able to join us with.

So I want to thank Georgina for all the work and service she's done, not only to La Loche, but the greater community of the Northwest, Mr. Speaker. So all members to welcome Georgina to her Legislative Assembly. And I do have one other quick one, I will. So all members to welcome Georgina.

And just really quickly, I know, Mr. Speaker, you introduced them, but Nicole and Ryan Bender, I just want to quickly say hi to them. Ryan had quite a distinguished hockey career. He played in the WHL [Western Hockey League] for many years on different teams, and I — or maybe only one team; I should actually know, but two, two teams — but when he really became well known in southern Saskatchewan, he started playing with the Milestone Flyers. Now that's when you really make a name for yourself, at least in the Milestone area anyway. So welcome

them to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to join the others in welcoming Georgina Jolibois into her legislature. It's always wonderful to see other First Nation female elected leaders come out and be sitting in their gallery to watch the proceedings. So with that, welcome, Georgina.

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

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I request an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to welcome some very special guests to the Legislative Assembly today. Seated in the Speaker's gallery and on the floor of the Assembly are representatives from Saskatchewan's Red Hat Society chapters.

It's my pleasure to introduce such an uplifting group of women from Moose Jaw and Regina. These women represent some of the best of fellowship, community, and most importantly having fun at all stages of life. Well I had the pleasure of having lunch with them, and it was fantastic to be around this group of women.

The Red Hat Society was founded 25 years ago to redefine the way our society views women's roles. Women often wear many hats, devoting all of their time to juggling family, career, their community, without taking time for themselves. And the Red Hat Society formed to create a space for women to support each other, care for oneself by getting together, and simply just having fun. With their unique attire of purple dresses, red hats, they ensure that they are pleasingly not invisible, and to remember that your voice matters.

I encourage all members of the House to stop by, say hello. It'll make your day to spend some time with this group. So please join me in welcoming this very special group to the Legislative Assembly, celebrating Red Hat Day in Saskatchewan.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Carol Moen, Jess Thomson, and Graham Stewart, seated in your gallery. Graham is a partner with Canadian Strategy Group, Canada's western public affairs firm.

Carol is the CEO [chief executive officer] of Women Building Futures, and Jess is the director of stakeholders and government relations. Women Building Futures is a non-profit organization which offers support and services to women facing barriers across Western Canada. The mission of Women Building Futures is to foster economic security for women in the workplace who are traditionally under-represented. I had the opportunity to meet

with Carol, Jess, and Graham earlier this morning. We thank Women Building Futures and their team for their work they do in helping women find meaningful careers and break traditional barriers. Please join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

And while I'm still on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome 28 grade 5 students and their teacher, Chantel Sebastian. These students are from MacNeill School. I had an opportunity to meet with a group of schoolchildren yesterday. We had some great questions. The big question was, what's your favourite hockey team? I'm ready for you. So anyways I'm looking forward to spending time with this wonderful group of students today. Thank you very much.

[13:45]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to echo the minister's welcome to the two groups that she has first introduced here in your gallery and seated on the floor, the Saskatchewan chapter of the Red Hat Society.

It's a pleasure to see you all here, looking so cheery and looking like you're having a great, fun time today on Red Hat Day. I just want to say thank you for your role as matriarchs in our province. It is a pleasure to learn from women who have come before us, and we learn so much every day.

I want to thank you for your mission to have fun. I think, you know, on this side of the House certainly, having the first female majority caucus in our province's history, it's extremely important for us as the opposition to be fighting to advance women's rights across Saskatchewan and to make sure that women are set and are being poised to achieve economic and social equality in our province so that women have more time for fun and to enjoy themselves as you surely are doing here today. So thank you again for being here in your legislature, and a pleasure to have you joining us here.

I also want to echo the minister's welcome to Carol and Jess from Women Building Futures. Again, talking about economic prosperity for women in our province, such an important area that we need to keep fighting for. Unfortunately still in 2023, there's a lot of work to do — one of the highest gender pay gaps in all of Canada here in Saskatchewan, and one of the few provinces without legislation like pay equity legislation.

These are the things that we're fighting for on behalf of Saskatchewan women. And we want to thank you very much for the work that you are doing on the ground on behalf of women here in our province. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce nine grade 8 students from the Pasquia Hills Christian School — give us a wave up there — accompanied by their teacher, Robert Wiens. The Pasquia Hills Christian School is run by the Holdeman Mennonites, Mr.

Speaker, just to the east of Carrot River. They're a great group of people, and I've been in their school a couple of different times. And actually they asked me to go in there and help to bake one time. So it's great to have them come all the way down from Carrot River to their Assembly. So I want to ask everybody to welcome them to their Assembly.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take a moment just to single out one individual seated in your gallery, a 2021 Sask Order of Merit recipient, a Saskatchewan Senior Volunteer Award recipient, and sporting a particularly beautiful red hat today. I want to give a shout-out to Mavis Ashbourne-Palmer.

Mavis is a constituent of mine. She founded the Saskatchewan Caribbean association many years ago. She was a founding member of the Regina Open Door Society. She's been a health care worker, active in immigration issues, housing issues, human rights issues. She's really a pillar of our community and someone who is highly respected and regarded in the great state of Regina Elphinstone-Centre, Mr. Speaker, and indeed across the province.

So I just want to take this moment to acknowledge her and thank her dearly for her contribution to the province. So if everyone could join me in welcoming Mavis to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I ask for leave for an extended introduction.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with you in welcoming Cheri Cowan and Merle Sawatsky to their Legislative Assembly. They have dedicated countless hours to the Eastern Star organization. The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world in which both women and men can belong.

Eastern Star is an order which is truly dedicated to charity, truth, and loving-kindness. The Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan is comprised of 11 local chapters, including Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Melfort, Govan, Lloydminster, Assiniboia, and Biggar. Cheri and the worthy grand patron, Rick Galloway, who couldn't join us today, have chosen the Ronald McDonald House as their charity of choice in 2022-2023.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say a few special things about Merle Sawatsky. We all have angels in our lives, and I consider Merle and her husband, Ken, my angels — 25 years of political volunteerism, instrumental in the creation of the Saskatchewan Party, and especially in Saskatoon, the creator behind one of the

largest golf tournaments in the country, my campaign manager for three of my six elections, and a very, very dear friend.

Colleagues, I'd ask you to welcome Cheri and Merle to their Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join in your introduction and that of the minister to welcome the Benders to their Assembly, Mr. Speaker. It's wonderful that they're here to see Nicole's mother, Iris, in action here today. She keeps us in line every day and guides us and leads this Assembly in a phenomenal way.

It's a pleasure to welcome Ryan here, an accomplished leader in business in this community, great hockey player as was identified. And it's really nice to have Nicole here. She's an exceptional civil servant, a brilliant person, Mr. Speaker, a proud graduate of Martin Collegiate, and an exceptional curler, world class curler, Mr. Speaker. Just wonderful leaders in our community and a wonderful family, so it's my pleasure to welcome Nicole and Ryan to their Assembly.

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

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just standing up because I missed one of our uniformed sailors up there. And to you and through and to the rest of us, I would like to introduce Lieutenant Claire Hopkin. And sorry about missing you the first time. Thank you for coming.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: that the NDP [New Democratic Party]-Liberal federation tax on carbon continues to make life more expensive for Saskatchewan residents; that the federal Liberal-NDP coalition government continues to be disingenuous with their rhetoric surrounding the carbon tax; and that according to the parliamentary budget officer's analysis, most households will pay more in the fuel charges and GST [goods and services tax] as well as receiving slightly lower income than they will receive in climate action incentive payment.

Despite promises from the federal government that the tax would remain revenue neutral and that the families would benefit, the reality is that families are paying more than they receive.

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 Canada to immediately end the federal carbon tax and support Saskatchewan's development as a global supplier of food, fuel, and fertilizer.

Mr. Speaker, this petition has been signed by people from Regina. I so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to present the following petition calling for real action to fight climate change. The folks who signed this petition wish to bring to your attention that the province has failed to produce a credible plan to reduce emissions. The failure of government will have devastating impacts on the province's economic productivity, human and environmental health.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the provincial government to enact a credible climate action plan and allocate appropriate funding to ensure real reductions in Saskatchewan greenhouse gas emissions that are consistent with the scientific consensus to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

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

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan calling for universal access to birth control. These citizens wish to bring to our attention that Saskatchewan has some of the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy in the country; that the cost is one of the biggest barriers to accessing contraceptive birth control in Saskatchewan, especially among adolescents; that having consistent and affordable access to contraceptive options is essential for promoting bodily autonomy, preventing unwanted pregnancy, and saving money on sexual and reproductive health care; and that sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights.

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 adopt a policy making no-cost prescription contraceptives available to all Saskatchewan people.

This has been signed today by Edenwold and Regina residents, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to fix the crisis in our classrooms. While the government touts record funding, boards of education, teachers, parents, and students are sounding the alarm about chronic underfunding of our education system. Chronic underfunding means cuts — cuts to teachers and

cuts to programs. And who should we be trusting here, Mr. Speaker? A government focused on funding spin, or the teachers and parents seeing the cuts affect their kids?

I stand with teachers, parents, and students, Mr. Speaker, and so do the undersigned. They assert that after years of underfunding, school divisions have nowhere left to cut that will not impact student learning. And we saw Saskatoon Public Schools say just that yesterday in a media release. This funding allotment will mean cuts.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party government to immediately fix the crisis in our classrooms by providing stable and adequate funding for public education in Saskatchewan.

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

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on my feet to again present a petition calling on the government to enact adequate and equitable SAID rates. SAID is the Saskatchewan assured income for disability program. It's available to folks with significant and enduring disabilities with barriers to work. Mr. Speaker, this program didn't see an increase for nearly a decade, which represented an overall 20 per cent reduction in benefits.

Folks were expecting something that they could live off with this last budgetary announcement and they got instead a dollar a day, which is described by many folks on the program as a slap in the face. Mr. Speaker, folks on the SAID program often have no other options. Many of them actually can't go to work, can't add to this income with salaries of any kind. We need equitable and adequate SAID rates now, Mr. Speaker.

With that, 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 (1) increase SAID rates to account for inflation; (2) respect the constitutional rights of folks with disability and halt the discriminatory clawback policies; (3) index SAID rates to basic inflation going forward; and (4) provide targeted relief to those in deepest poverty, that is, single individuals paying market rent.

The signatories of this petition reside in Saskatoon. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Royal Canadian Naval Reserve Celebrates 100 Years

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For 100 years now, the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve has proudly supported

Canada's safety, security, and naval recruitment efforts. Earlier today the members from Moose Jaw North and Wakamow, along with Commander Matthew Dalzell, gave greetings before retired and present members of HMCS *Unicorn*, based in Saskatoon, and HMCS *Queen*, based in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Naval Reserve was established in 1923 under the command of Rear-Admiral Walter Hose, who authorized the creation of naval reserve detachments in every major Canadian city. By the end of the Second World War, Canada possessed the third-largest navy in the world with a complement of nearly 100,000 personnel.

Mr. Speaker, while the role of naval reserves has changed drastically since then, they continue to fill an important role. The current tasks of the reserve are to respond to domestic safety operations with trained sailors and small-boat expertise, provide specific unique skill sets for security missions for the Royal Canadian Navy, augment the fleet on any platform or shore capacity for defence missions both at home and abroad, and provide the linkage for the RCN [Royal Canadian Navy] to local communities.

Mr. Speaker, these vital tasks are carried out every day by dedicated men and women, and on behalf of the Legislative Assembly I thank them for their dedication and years of service to our nation. Thank you.

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

[14:00]

Outdoor Recreation in Regina Lakeview

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, as MLA for Regina Lakeview, I'm thrilled to stand and celebrate the joy and excitement that the Lakeview pump track continues to bring to people of all ages and abilities. For those like me who had to have it explained, a pump track is a path with jumps and turns for skateboards, bikers, wheelchairs, and anyone who's looking to have fun on wheels.

And it doesn't end there, Mr. Speaker. They've just finished work on the outdoor rink and have plans for fruit trees and playground improvements and more. From young families to seasoned cyclists, everyone can find something to love, whether it's the thrill of the jumps or the sense of camaraderie and community or simply the chance to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Lakeview Community Association and their volunteers who have worked to fundraise, maintain, and improve the pump track and area over the years. Their passion and commitment are an inspiration to all of us, and I feel deeply privileged to represent an area that values outdoor recreation, physical activity, and community connection. With the weather finally starting to warm up, I look forward to seeing it used even more this summer, and I feel grateful for the happiness that it brings our community. Thank you to all of those involved in making this incredible space a reality. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Spring's here again, and with it come many springtime traditions. And one of those traditions was started in my community nine years ago when three people I appreciate very much started a Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event to stand up and raise awareness of violence against women: our member from Saskatoon Northwest, when he was the Justice minister; Louise Schweitzer, the champion and executive director of NEOSS [North East Outreach and Support Services]; and Kevin Phillips, my friend and predecessor here in this Chamber, a man who we all loved and miss very much.

You see, Mr. Speaker, we all walk through this world with our own set of eyes, watching others navigate the same streets and schools and workplaces and communities that we do. But to take time to have a good visit, to learn about the challenges others face, doesn't happen as often as we would like. So in such a fast-paced world with so many demands on our time, some of us are going to be taking a break to have those discussions and walk a mile in someone else's shoes.

I'm not sure if me putting on a pair of red, high-heeled shoes will change the world, Mr. Speaker. But I can say that since I put those painful shoes on for the first time, it has changed something inside of me. And you know, at the end of the day, that's the person that I need to work on the most.

So, Mr. Speaker, next Thursday our spring tradition will have an awkward parade of high-heeled, red shoes humbly marching down the main street of Melfort. And as we do, we'll be thinking of those young girls and women who are all too often forgotten among us, those who need someone to stop, have a conversation, have a care, and stand up to make a difference for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognition of Treaty Rights Holders

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — I'm pleased to recognize the treaty rights holders from all corners of this province who graciously offered their extensive input and guidance into my private member's bill that was not supported by this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government.

Over the course of two years, it was the treaty rights holders that formed how the meaningful duty-to-consult legislation was to be created. Last week the Sask Party government told the treaty rights holders and the environmental groups, or stewards of the land, that the Sask Party does not value the protection of mother earth, let alone the 10 per cent Crown land left in this province.

This tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government made no bones in demonstrating in this House how they feel about honouring treaty rights in this province. They do not care. The Minister for Government Relations had to travel to Europe to learn about treaty boundaries, and the Minister for Justice and Attorney General did not see the value of children learning about treaties in schools when she was the minister for Education.

Mr. Speaker, it is the grassroots citizens in this province that will

have to keep reminding this tired and out-of-touch government to respect and honour the treaties.

To the treaty rights holders: keep up the good work and gichi-miigwech.

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

Sarcan Saskatoon Depot Grand Opening

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I joined the Minister of Environment in Saskatoon to celebrate the grand opening of the new Sarcan depot. During the event I couldn't help but reflect on how far Sarcan has come since it opened the first depot in 1988.

Over the past 35 years they have made recycling in our province easy and convenient. In fact it's so easy that earlier this year they reached the goal of recycling 10 billion containers. Through innovative partnerships with other waste stewardship organizations, every depot across the province now accepts paint, batteries, and electronics for disposal. How convenient is that, Mr. Speaker?

And Sarcan is continuing to evolve. Their new Saskatoon depot is twice as big as the facility it replaced, but thanks to progressive design it uses a fraction of the energy. The new depot also includes LED [light-emitting diode] lighting and is brighter, quicker, and more efficient. There was some recycled material used in the construction of the building.

Mr. Speaker, Sarcan also received the Workplace Diversity, Inclusion and Leadership Award at the Saskatoon Open Door Society awards gala held last month. Sarcan continues to be an important partner in waste management in Saskatchewan and plays a significant role in reducing the amount of waste we send to landfills each day.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask all members to join me in congratulating Sarcan on the grand opening of their new depot in Saskatoon and reaching many milestones. Thank you.

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

Red Hat Society Celebrates 25 Years

Hon. Mr. McLeod: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed today as Red Hat Day in Saskatchewan in honour of the 25th anniversary of the Red Hat Society.

Since its formation in 1998, the Red Hat Society has been recognized as a worldwide membership group encouraging the importance of sisterhood and unity amongst women. The Red Hat Society places a strong emphasis on the positive aspects of life and never being too old to dress up and have a little fun.

Members can easily be identified by their colourful attire, consisting of a purple dress and a red or a pink hat. Members over the age of 50 are referred to as red hatters, while members under 50 are referred to as pink hatters.

There are many local chapters throughout our province and today we are joined by members from here in Regina as well as my home community of Moose Jaw. Every chapter participates in and organizes their own events, ranging from public outings to volunteering.

The most important aspect of these activities is that they allow each member to contribute and get involved in the social networking of the group.

We thank the Red Hat Society for their work in welcoming women of all different backgrounds, and for their many contributions to communities across our province. I would ask all members to join me in congratulating the Red Hat Society on their 25th anniversary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kindersley.

Saskatchewan's Growing International Engagement

Mr. Francis: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure of being the MC [master of ceremonies] for the signing of a memorandum of co-operation between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Japanese Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation or known as JOIN [Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development].

This is one example of the great news that our international engagement strategy brings. Mr. Speaker, the provincial growth plan calls for increasing the number of markets where exports are over \$1 billion. Japan has been a key partner in achieving this goal, and this is one of the province's largest export markets. Last year over \$1.2 billion in goods were exported to Japan.

Now we are often accused of toxic positivity, Mr. Speaker, but here's more great news coming from this government. Under this government we now have nine trade and investment offices operating around the world. For the first time in provincial history, exports to Mexico exceed \$1 billion. We have been able to strengthen our relationships with partners, and that is achieving results, results like exports to the United States reaching an all-time high of \$29.3 billion in 2022.

These initiatives are also supporting more than \$1 billion in potential new investment projects. That means more jobs here at home. What we are seeing under this government is a growing economy, a growing population, and that is growth that works for everyone.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Management of Health Care System

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver on health care, and nowhere is that more clear than in our hospitals: ambulances with sick patients backed up for hours because no beds are available, ERs [emergency room] put on bypass because there are no staff available, and blanket forts for sick patients because there aren't enough beds.

To the Premier: do you think it's acceptable that patients need to be put behind propped-up blankets in a hospital hallway?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the short answer to the question is no, that isn't acceptable, Mr. Speaker.

I was made aware of this through media, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask that those individuals, whoever this impacted, that they should work through the quality of care coordinator which this government set up to be able to address . . . Absolutely, Mr. Speaker, people should go through the process to be able to file if they do have a concern about the health care system that they are receiving. That is exactly why we set this up, Mr. Speaker, so there is a formal process in place. So if there is a concern that's brought forward, the quality of care coordinator can investigate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — A memo to the minister: this is widespread in this province and it has been for a long time. And, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan people deserve so much more than that tired and out-of-touch government that have absolutely stopped listening to Saskatchewan people. They've silenced health care workers, shutting down local voices, and refusing to work with nurses to find solutions to the crisis in our ERs. Mr. Speaker, they are failing to deliver in so many ways.

Does the Premier expect Saskatchewan people to settle for his latest version of hallway medicine?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I can tell you what the people of Saskatchewan can expect — 550 additional seats that we've brought in through 18 designations through the Minister of Advanced Education, building on top of the 150 nursing seats that were brought in last year's budget; 420 conditional offers to Filipino workers that have already started landing and working within our system; 171 more physicians that we've brought into our communities across Saskatchewan in the last 19 months; 168 clinical bursaries.

This is part of our human resource plan, Mr. Speaker, to be able to bring people into Saskatchewan, not just on a temporary basis but on a permanent basis to be able to shore up our health care system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Education

Ms. Beck: — Hallway medicine is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, but under that Premier and that minister, it's become the norm in this province. And hospitals, hospital hallways aren't the only ones that are being repurposed to make up for that Premier's failures.

We're seeing hallway education too. I've seen it with my own eyes here in Regina. Chairs lined up in hallways and in boot rooms because there aren't enough classrooms for kids. Mr.

Speaker, hallway health care, hallway education. How is that growth that works for everyone?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, you know, since we've had the privilege of forming government, 90 new construction projects, major capital projects in this province to support the education system, Mr. Speaker. It's a far cry from when they were on this side, closing 176 schools, chasing people out of the province, firing 400 teachers.

Mr. Speaker, the commitment of this government to education in the K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] system, over \$2 billion, the largest education budget in the history of this province, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding all the capital that we've put into making sure our classrooms are safe and great learning environments for our children. This government's not going to take any lessons from those guys when it comes to education funding.

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

Ms. Beck: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I wish they would take a lesson from someone because they are absolutely failing kids in this province. Mr. Speaker, this Premier is failing to deliver when it comes to supporting education on so many fronts.

Look at what Saskatoon Public had to say yesterday. Mr. Speaker, I quote: "Total per-student funding has been cut." Another quote: "We'll have to make cuts to balance the budget." More cuts, Mr. Speaker. The school division couldn't be more clear.

Why is this tired and out-of-touch Premier forcing even more cuts while they sit on windfall revenues?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, here's the reality: over \$2.1 billion in funding for operational funding for our school divisions; almost \$50 million more than last year; a 2.5 per cent increase; the largest increase to operating funding in the last eight years.

Now the Minister of Education has indicated that he is going to be going out and speaking to school divisions, talking about some of the issues that they have. He's going to continue those conversations, making sure that we are providing the right support to our school divisions, ensuring that our children get the best possible education in our K to 12 system, Mr. Speaker. It is vital for the ongoing economy and making sure that our children are prepared for the future, Mr. Speaker.

Again, Mr. Speaker, record investments in education. This government is going to continue to work with our school divisions to make sure that we are providing the right support.

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

[14:15]

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch Sask Party government is absolutely failing to deliver for parents and students in Saskatoon. That minister knows it. There's no denying it.

Let's look at what the Saskatoon Public School Board Chair, Colleen MacPherson, had to say in her letter to families just yesterday. Not 15 years ago — yesterday. "Our per-student funding dropped from 10,036 per student in 2022-23 to 9,869 in 2023-24."

A simple question to this government: why are they cutting per-student funding for students in Saskatoon this year?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education has spoken to this point a number of times. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan leads the country in per capita funding across our education portfolios. And that's something we're very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister has said, we'll continue to work with school divisions, continue to work with school divisions to ensure that we're providing the right support to make sure that our children are getting a proper education in our K to 12 system.

People of this province and parents of our children should have every confidence, Mr. Speaker. And I think the confidence that their parents have in this government is reflected by the number of people on this side of the House as opposed to that side of the House.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, I challenge that minister, that Premier, and that Education minister to bring those tired and out-of-touch talking points to the steps of the legislature this Saturday. See how that goes. It won't go well. It won't go well because it shows how out of touch they truly are.

Mr. Speaker, next year students will receive less funding per student than they got this year. This tired and out-of-touch minister can deny all he wants, but the numbers are there. They're black and white. I wonder if he's even read the letter. A cut is a cut. Again why is the minister cutting per-student funding for students in Saskatoon this year?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Record investments in the K to 12 system, Mr. Speaker. That member knows how it works. The budget numbers, Mr. Speaker, the budget that reflects funding for K to 12 education is based on projections that are provided by the school division at the beginning of the year. That's how the budget works, Mr. Speaker.

If there's an increase in enrolment above the numbers that are provided by the school divisions, the Minister of Education will

have conversations with the school divisions in terms of how to deal with that, Mr. Speaker. But those numbers that are provided in terms of education funding are based on the numbers that the school division gives at the beginning of the year. Again we make no apologies for the support that we give to public education in this province, Mr. Speaker. We're very proud of it, and the parents are very proud of it.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, if this minister is going to stand in his place and say that we should listen to school divisions, then let's listen to school divisions. Here's another quote from Saskatoon Public Schools from yesterday: "We will have to make cuts to balance the budget." We will have to make cuts to balance the budget.

So if this minister and this government won't take any responsibility for their cut to per-student funding, will he answer this question: what does that member who represents folks in Saskatoon think that our public school board should cut? Should they cut EAL [English as an additional language]? Should they cut teachers? Should they cut gym? Should they cut extracurricular? Should they cut more supports for students? What does he want Saskatoon Public Schools to cut?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I'm not sure how many times I have to repeat this to the member in terms of record investment in education from this government, Mr. Speaker: more money for EAs [educational assistant]; more teachers in this province; more capital investment in the classrooms that need to be filled by the ever increasing number of people that are coming to this province.

Certainly not a problem that they experienced when they were on this side of the House. Mr. Speaker, only those members on this side of the House can complain about increasing population and increasing enrolment numbers in our system.

We're working to ensure that we provide adequate funding to our school divisions that meet the needs of our students, Mr. Speaker. We know how important it is, Mr. Speaker, and our record in investment in education in this province over the years that we've had the privilege of forming government is self-explanatory, and it's clear to the people of this province. And that's why we're represented on this side of the House.

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

Funding for Post-Secondary Institutions and Student Supports

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, record investments? More like record underfunding by this government. Mr. Speaker, once those students graduate from grade 12, many of them will be headed off to university. And when they get there, they'll be paying some of the highest tuition rates in the country due to this government's chronic underfunding as well of our post-

secondary education institutions. Just last week the University of Saskatchewan announced it's increasing tuition again this year now by 4 per cent.

Does the minister realize that his refusal to support our universities is forcing tuition hikes that will only make the cost-of-living crisis even worse?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, here's the commitment that this government has made to post-secondary education: a historic four-year funding agreement that gives stability and predictability to our post-secondary sector with respect to government funding. A conversation which we've already started, Mr. Speaker, in terms of what that new agreement will look like. One of the key factors in that funding agreement is tuition rate hike limitations. The tuitions are limited . . . Hikes are limited in that agreement. It's a key feature of the agreement and will be a key feature in the new agreement which we hope to negotiate with our post-secondary sector, Mr. Speaker.

We know how important post-secondary education is to this province, to this economy, an economy which is growing, an economy which is supporting record numbers of immigrants, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue to provide the support to our post-secondary sector, Mr. Speaker, in terms of conversations. \$1.1 million a day goes to our post-secondary sector, our universities, and our Sask Poly. That's something to be proud of.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Historic zero per cent increases, Mr. Speaker, this year and next. That's what that agreement represents. And you know what that leads to, Mr. Speaker? It leads to university students in Saskatchewan who are paying the second-highest tuition in the country, a full 30 per cent above the national average — 30 per cent, Minister.

And with the latest tuition increase at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], students will be paying hundreds of dollars more. It's not fair, and it puts a university education even further out of reach for far too many young people in our province.

Does the minister accept any responsibility for the fact that we have the second-highest tuition in the entire country as a result of his government's chronic record of cuts?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — I'd invite that member to review the facts, Mr. Speaker. That's just not correct, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, here's what some of our post-secondary leaders had to say about our budget:

Thanks for your strong support. Your confidence enables us to continue to deliver programs and courses that help grow Saskatchewan's economy and provide job-ready graduates.

That comes from Dr. Larry Rosia, the president and CEO of Sask Polytechnic.

Peter Stoicheff, the president of the university, said:

The multi-year funding agreement is positive for USask because it offers us predictability in our funding and enables us to plan for a sustainable, successful future. We appreciate the government's continued investment in teaching, learning, and our research mission.

Mr. Speaker, similar comments from Dr. Keshen, the president here of the University of Regina.

We know how important this sector is to our economy, Mr. Speaker. We know how important it is. That's why we're going to continue to have conversations with our post-secondary sector in developing a new four-year funding agreement which is going to continue to provide stability and predictability for this sector.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, I've said it before and I'll say it again: predictable underfunding is still underfunding. Nothing to be proud of, Mr. Speaker. There have been times when students could get a summer job, where they could find a cheap place to rent, where they could manage to get through university without a struggle. But those days are long gone, Mr. Speaker.

We have the lowest poverty minimum wage in the entire country. The cost of rent is through the roof. And Saskatchewan students are left paying the second-highest tuition rates in the entire country by this government, Mr. Speaker. Those are the facts.

Will the minister finally acknowledge that this tired and out-of-touch government's choices are making it harder for the youth of our province to get the education that they need?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad I got that question and we can talk about what supports this government provides for our students.

Since we had the privilege of forming government, over \$13.4 billion in post-secondary institutions and student supports, Mr. Speaker. \$1.5 billion of that total goes to student supports: student loan programs, other programs to make education affordable to those who can't afford education, Mr. Speaker.

And the graduate retention program, Mr. Speaker, the only program of its kind in the country, benefited over 81,000 graduates from the universities in this province. Since its inception, \$739 million in tax credits to graduates who stay and live and work in Saskatchewan. We want our graduates to stay and work in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. That's why we have that program. That's why we extend our student loan program, make further investments in supports for students to make sure they can get the education that they deserve.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina

Rosemont.

Affordability and Cost of Living

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, students and families are facing a generational cost-of-living challenge, but that government's offering no help at all. In fact that tired and out-of-touch lot are just adding to the costs — tuition hikes, tax hikes, fee hikes, power and energy bill hikes. They keep cranking up the costs, Mr. Speaker, but wages certainly aren't keeping pace. The hardship for many is real.

Why on earth is this government piling on with new costs for families that are struggling with crushing cost-of-living increases?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, a number of times in this House I have stood on my feet and explained that for a family of four, this is the most affordable province in which to live in all of Canada. I've referenced everyone to check out page 70 and 71 in our budget document.

However to put some reality on it or some context on it of what that actually means: so a family of four in Saskatchewan if they earn \$100,000, after paying their federal and provincial income tax and their sales tax and their utility bills and their housing costs, you know what, they will still have \$58,815 of their income in which to live on.

What happens when you go to NDP BC [British Columbia], Mr. Speaker? What happens then? That very same family of four making \$100,000, after paying their taxes, their utilities, their housing, do you know what they have in order to live on? \$11,968. Mr. Speaker, this budget and each and every budget has kept taxes low and has tax credits to help the low income.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the minister should look at that same graph that shows that that family of four is paying more than \$1,000 more per year than they were before the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history by that government. You know, the fact of the matter is Saskatchewan people are struggling more than anywhere else in Canada. More Saskatchewan people are drawing down their meagre savings for essentials, cutting back on necessities, and struggling to afford groceries — those are the facts — than anywhere else in Canada. But the Finance minister failed to deliver a dime of cost-of-living relief.

Again why is that out-of-touch and tired government doing nothing to support families and instead adding new taxes and costs while so many people are struggling?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, our provincial income tax is indexed, so therefore it went down in this budget. And there was no tax increases other than one. There was one tax increase, Mr. Speaker, and what was that one tax? It was the carbon tax — the carbon tax that's imposed by the federal government, that

causes the cost of everything, everything to go up because so much is brought in by truck to this province, Mr. Speaker. Our food products, many of them are brought in. It brings up the price of everything.

And you know who supports the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker? The NDP. Jagmeet Singh supports the carbon tax. He's propping up the Trudeau government that's bringing in the carbon tax. It's going to go up. It's going up this year. It's going up next year. It's going to go up the year after. And those members opposite support that.

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

Provincial Taxes and Jurisdiction over Natural Resources

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Well, Mr. Speaker, don't let the facts get in the way, eh. You know, to be crystal clear, we're opposed to the federal carbon tax, Mr. Speaker, and we're opposed to the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history by the lot opposite.

Fifty-two per cent of Saskatchewan people say they're in bad or terrible financial shape, barely getting by. But that Finance minister and Sask Party government, you know, they think they know best. They think they know more than people struggling every day to pay their bills while this government just piles on new costs and taxes. Talk about tired and out of touch.

[14:30]

Why is this government more interested in trying to convince the hard-working people of Saskatchewan that the reality they know isn't real instead of offering the cost-of-living relief that they so desperately deserve?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This member talks about crystal clear. Yesterday he said that the NDP's position on the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement — remember, Mr. Speaker, this is the agreement that gives the province control of natural resources — is crystal clear. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? I actually agree with him. And the reason I agree with that member on their position being crystal clear is because their critic, and their spokesperson for this issue, put their position on the record.

In December the member from Saskatoon Centre tweeted out that the NRTA, the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, should be illegal. Mr. Speaker, this is the position that the NDP have taken. If the NRTA is illegal, which they have supported a lawsuit against the government asserting as well, that would be mean that natural resources in this province belong to Justin Trudeau and the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, we will fight every single day and every step of the way to keep natural resources in our hands, on this side of the House.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, of course that minister with a failing record tries to deflect. So I'll take bait, Mr. Speaker. Our leader has been crystal clear: the NRTA stands. It's in our Constitution and our province has jurisdiction of our resources, and in fact that's what we've always fought for in this province.

But, Mr. Speaker, what we're calling for here is action that would make life more affordable for families, action like reversing the PST [provincial sales tax] on construction labour. It doesn't just make big industrial projects more expensive and hurts our economy and competitiveness, but it makes building a home more expensive and maintaining a home more expensive. Whether you're building a potash mine or building a home or fixing your plumbing, you're paying 6 per cent more on the cost of labour because of that government's choices.

Beyond hurting our economy, does the minister realize that the PST on construction labour makes home ownership more expensive? It's the epitome of a job-killing tax. Will he scrap it today?

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Mr. Speaker, do my ears deceive me? Yesterday the member for Rosemont said — I assume speaking for his leader — that the NDP supported exclusive jurisdiction under the Constitution over natural resources. Sounds a lot like the Sask first Act, Mr. Speaker. Which is consistent with their first vote in favour of the Act, not consistent with their subsequent vote against the Act. And it's certainly not consistent with the position led by the member for Saskatoon Centre in favour of stripping Saskatchewan of its natural resources.

She said natural resource transfer agreements should be illegal. Which one is it, Mr. Speaker? It's a wild bouquet of positions on that side of the House. But Saskatchewan people, they deserve to know.

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

Harm Reduction Initiatives

Ms. Mowat: — A wild bouquet of something going on here, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there are very serious matters that are facing us today. The overdose crisis continues to take lives all across our province. In just the first three months of this year, 152 people have lost their lives to overdose. That's more than the number of deaths in all 12 months of 2016 and all 12 months of 2017. If we keep going at this pace, 2023 will be the worst year for overdose deaths ever.

When will we see a real plan from this government to save lives and stop the harm?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the Minister for Mental Health and Addictions has answered this question extremely eloquently in the past. Mr. Speaker, we have

naloxone kits across our province. We have the Pillars for Life strategy, which this government introduced, which we continue to build on on a daily basis. We have 93 communities that now have naloxone kits, Mr. Speaker, 117 pharmacies. We're test piloting it, the nasal naloxone.

This is something that this government is . . . We take this extremely serious. That's why the Premier has appointed for the first time a Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to exactly address these issues. He is working on it, but this is an ongoing project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill No. 124, *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022*, a bilingual bill without amendment.

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that this bill now be read a third time.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill 124 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. 124 — *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*

Hon. Ms. Carr: — I move that this bill now be read the third time and passed under its title.

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.

The Speaker: — Third reading. I am advised that His Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

[At 14:38 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Honour then gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

ROYAL ASSENT

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed several bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour and to which bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

Bill No. 106 - *The Police Amendment Act, 2022*

Bill No. 116 - *The Plant Health Act*

Bill No. 101 - *The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2022*

Bill No. 121 - *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2022*

Bill No. 124 - *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2022/Loi modificative de 2022 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard*

His Honour: — In His Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

The Speaker: — Please rise for the departure of His Honour.

[At 14:40 His Honour retired from the Chamber.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Meewasin.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour today to be on my feet speaking to Bill 130, *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act* as the official opposition critic for SaskGaming. I want to just quickly say a thanks to all my colleagues for putting thoughtful comments on the record here before me and thank you to the minister for his wholesome comments on the record about this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the bill essentially is a modernization of our lotteries and gaming's management in our province, and this is an important step. We know that the government might have likely been working on this for a while, and with liquor retailing no longer included in SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority], a restructure was likely evident.

Mr. Speaker, Bills 130 and 131 lay out the creation of a new Crown corporation that will run gaming and lotteries in the province. The legislation makes SaskGaming a subsidiary of this new Crown. And it is important to note with this legislation that it will not affect but it will continue agreements with First Nations and Métis gaming agreements. Those agreements will stay in place.

Mr. Speaker, we support the modernization, we support modernization in our legal online gaming. Of course we would have liked to see that be a Sask-made or Sask-ready company to deliver this service. But all that being said, Mr. Speaker, I want to lay a few concerns out on the record today before we move this bill on to the next phase. And being that it's under my critic area, I've been speaking with stakeholders and hearing a few concerns about this legislation, of course. I'll put those on the record today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, our concerns firstly lay around the Sask Party government's management of our Crown corporations. Every time this Saskatchewan Party government sets its eye on our Crowns, we as a party, the workers in these organizations, and people across Saskatchewan are greatly concerned because they really do have a terrible record managing our public Crowns. You know, Mr. Speaker, you see them shut down. You see others eyed to shut down. They open new ones at whim with very little consultation. I'm speaking about an upcoming Sask revenue agency Crown corporation. Mr. Speaker, they certainly have a terrible record of support of our Crowns.

And it's hard not to assume that a lot of this back and forth comes directly from the wealthy out-of-province donors this party keeps; private companies, donors, rich friends of the Saskatchewan Party government eyeing up, looking at sweeping in to take the profits away from public services that we hold dear, much like we saw with liquor and gaming, Mr. Speaker. And that's where a lot of our concern rises from when this government starts talking Crown corporations.

We continue to hear reports from unions across our Crown corporations of the increasing use of contract workers around every corner. There seems to be a privatization-by-stealth campaign being waged. A death by a thousand cuts, so to speak, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to labour within our Crowns. We are hearing this from SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance]. We're hearing this from SaskTel, the Power Crowns. Across the board this government's record is not being unnoticed, is not going unnoticed.

[14:45]

And I want to next speak about our concern for jobs. And one can say there is no wonder that our jobs, the jobs in this province are so low that we are last in the country for job growth at 3.9 per cent. Good jobs in our Crowns are being hollowed out. We are last in the country for job growth — like I said, 3.9 per cent —

because we keep losing good jobs in our Crown corporations.

And in another move to stifle jobs, we just saw — with the sweep of a pen, an announcement through a Throne Speech — we saw 350 good, mortgage-paying jobs with the sudden closure of our provincially run liquor stores. Not only are these jobs lost, but the crucial revenue this Crown brought into our budgets is lost, leaving this government to make up the difference in their budgets by continuing to raise taxes. In what world does a Finance minister say, well we need to find revenue to stabilize the budget cycle, so let's close hugely profitable, revenue-making liquor stores, and instead choose to raise revenue through aggressive taxes like the PST on everything? So, Mr. Speaker, after the closure of those liquor stores, of course we'll be keeping a close eye on the proceedings as these Crown corporations change.

Lastly I want to make a mention that on the topic of jobs, as critic for SaskGaming, I'm also hearing about bad-faith bargaining being raised by the unions representing employees in our casinos as they enter into negotiations for a new contract. This is the culture of labour within the Saskatchewan Party, so it's not surprising to me when workers in our casinos and in gaming, that when changes come about, they express deep suspicion with this government's intentions.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan NDP will always stand with workers demanding fair wages, fair deals for their families as we continue to navigate uncertain times and continue to navigate a generational cost-of-living crisis.

Mr. Speaker, other concerns I've been hearing on this bill that are not limited to concerns over lottery funding being directed towards Parks, Culture and Sport. A unique gem in Saskatchewan is that we see our Parks, Culture and Sport funded through a lottery agreement. Where our concerns over this . . . and I'll continue to be raising those concerns going forward. There's also concerns being raised about the sale of our two casinos, concerns by the workers in these organizations. There's also concerns about the amount of dollars raised in online gambling. And now it is so accessible, what is the government doing to help folks with addictions? Young people have more access to gambling now than ever before.

So all this to say we will be watching the treatment of the gaming industry in Saskatchewan very closely. While modernization of this industry is very important, we do not want to see further privatization of our Crowns, and we will keep a close eye on developments as they stand.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues again for putting their comments on the record. And as official opposition critic for SaskGaming, I am honoured to put these comments on the record today and comfortable seeing Bill 130, *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act* move on to its next stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the minister that Bill No. 130 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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 from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again on my feet to speak to Bill 131 now, *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Consequential Amendments Act*. It's my understanding that this Act is of a technical nature alongside 130, and so I will ask folks to refer to comments about 130 in relation to 131. And as critic, official opposition critic for Sask Gaming, I'm happy to see this bill move on to its next phase as well.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 131 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed?

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — To the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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 Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet to provide comments on Bill 128, *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*. My understanding is that this particular bill makes a very straightforward, simple change to the Act and that is by striking out 10 per cent and substituting it with 30 per cent. Here I'm referring to the Saskatchewan mineral exploration tax credit, Mr. Speaker.

I think it is the hope of the Sask Party government and the minister that by increasing the incentive for mining explorations, the province's economy will benefit from that. Mr. Speaker, we on this side, we support the exploration of Saskatchewan's resources. We'd like to see it done in a sustainable way obviously, in a way that maximizes good mortgage-paying jobs for the people of Saskatchewan. We'd like to see it done in a way that protects the environment maximally, balances the environment in that way, Mr. Speaker, so that we can profit from our natural resources for generations to come, again in a sustainable way, Mr. Speaker.

Because right now, Saskatchewan has the highest greenhouse gas emissions per capita in the country, Mr. Speaker. This Sask Party government has been absolute laggards in terms of bringing renewable energy to this province. We are now years behind where we should be, Mr. Speaker, and that is a shame for the environment, for the protection of the environment. That's a shame for industry. That's no good for industry. That's a shame for our jobs numbers. Certainly by being a leader in this area, that would increase the likelihood that we wouldn't be last in the country when it comes to jobs growth, Mr. Speaker.

And the other thing that, you know, strikes me in reading this bill is we see a tax credit for mining, but we saw no relief for regular people with this budget, Mr. Speaker. We saw no relief on this government's relentless tax hikes, their relentless utility rate increases, their relentless neglect of Saskatchewan people and the day-to-day challenges that they're experiencing.

Their consistent neglect of our health care and education system, Mr. Speaker, which we are now seeing the impact of with hallway medicine and hallway education becoming the norm in this province, which used to lead the country in terms of health care, in terms of per-student funding. Now we fall into the back of the pack in that, as well as so many other things.

So Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to hearing from my colleagues on this bill. I know the critic is doing good work reaching out to stakeholders, and I look forward to hearing more from them on this bill.

And with that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 128, the mineral resources assessment 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. 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 Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to join in on Bill 129, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2023*. From what I'm getting, and I know the critic will have an opportunity to ask some questions and exactly why this is coming forward, and you know, to what I can see, it gives physician assistants the same rights as physicians and surgeons.

So it gives them some rights and obligations that they have to comply with is my understanding, what I'm getting from it. It gives also some legal protection, and there's different things that are in here. And I know the critic will have that opportunity to consult and you know, find out from those that will be impacted by the changes and legislation amendments that are being made, to make sure that the government has it right or not.

But you know, while I talk about . . . It's so important to talk about health care in our province. And you know, people get sick and things happen to families, unfortunate you know. Our hearts go out to many people who suffer when it's . . . There's many reasons why they have to seek medical attention. And we see families, and we see a lot of people, we see professionals that are out there serving our province in health care. And we have nothing on this.

As, you know, as the official opposition, we watch our critics, our leader, our community members who are reaching out to us, not only ours but members throughout the whole province. Whether you go to the North, you go to the South, you go to the urban centres, we're hearing concerns, alarm bells that health care is in a crisis. It's not just us as an opposition saying it.

And I know the government will say, oh, you guys are just trying to play politics. It's time that the government takes it serious. Listen to what our nurses are saying, you know, SUN, [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] you know, alarm bells, physicians. Those people who are coming forward that know and watch what's going on. When we hear today in question period about the ambulances sitting there with patients, you know, row after row, you see that when I go to City Hospital or you go to University Hospital, as you're going back.

And we all go through troubled times, and you know, I don't like to talk about all of our personal stuff, but I just want to, for the record, say something to those nurses and doctors at the children's hospital. I, you know, had a terrible accident with my great-grandson, 21-month-old on life support. We didn't think he was going to survive. But you know, today I'm so grateful that the Creator decided to keep him with us, and he is with us, and he's doing lots of . . .

But there's such a team, you know. There's such a team that's working at the children's hospital with him. Very emotional time. We've been through so much in the last 50-some days. But I thank those that have reached out and those that have said prayers and reached out to me as an MLA and from my home community, from throughout the province. It's been just overwhelming.

But I want to thank the nurses and doctors for what they've done. It's amazing to actually see what they have to go through when you're watching day after day to see what they're going through. And they're just so dedicated, you know. I might have my complaints on certain things in life, but I watch, I watch how dedicated they are, how passionate they are, and they care for those patients that they're taking care of. They know that families are struggling and they accommodate and they're so passionate.

And I just want to say to those staff members, whether you're a nurse, doctors, whoever, you know, there are specialists, just amazing team. I give credit. Because sometimes I didn't understand it. You know, when you think about the children's hospital, yeah, they work there. But when you see what's going on and you see the work they're doing and what they're asked to do, just watch. You watch sometimes how they're just running off their feet to try to get everywhere. And you know, I just want to put for the record that I want to thank them.

But this government can do so much more to help out, to help those doctors, those nurses, the staff. I just thank them all, you know, for what they do for our province. Sometimes until members and people that have the power to make decisions and do the right thing for our citizens of our province . . . It's sad. And I don't wish this on anyone — anyone, any government, any member, MLA, any elected provincial politician — to have to go through what we've gone through as a family. I know we all go through hard times and we have losses and we go through. But it shouldn't take that to wake us up as legislators, that we have to do better.

People are asking, our seniors, our families, our most vulnerable are asking our government to make sure that you're hearing what the front-line workers are saying, that you're truly hearing what they're saying. And I understand. Sometimes, you know, in this Chamber, we have to play the politics. I get it. And some play it really well, and some, they don't do it so well. I understand that. I'm probably one of them that doesn't very well. I give credit to some of my colleagues, how they handle what they want to do in the questions.

But when it comes to health care, when you're faced to see the challenges that are going on and you get to see it with your own eyes . . . And you know, I hear the minister say, and you know, the government officials say, you know, that they go to . . . I hope they're checking out what's going on, you know, come and spend a few hours looking around there. And maybe they do. I've got to take the minister for his word, that they visit the hospitals and they're checking out and they're hearing all the stuff that we're seeing and hearing. You know, I hope that's happening. And I'm hoping in this budget . . . I was hoping, you know, that this budget would bring some relief and help.

[15:00]

And yes there are some things the government is doing to try to assist, but it isn't enough. We are in a crisis, and I hope the government understands that they need to respond quicker than they are. And you know, it isn't the politics, I just again for the record want to say, because this Bill 129 talks about a certain thing with *The Medical Profession Amendment Act*.

But I wanted to put a little bit on the record for health care and

what I see and what we've been ringing alarm bells that this tired, old government . . . And you know, when I listen to that, I'm not sure I wanted to say that, but I'm now saying it. This tired, old government, 16 years, I get it. People do sometimes want either a government to wake up and start caring and showing compassion. And maybe they just don't get . . . maybe they're just tired and they're hearing it but it just, they're not responding to it as a crisis. And it's too bad.

But maybe the good people of our province will finally say, okay, we're going to show you tired, old government it's time for you to go. And that's going to be up to the good people of this province. It's not up to Doyle, not up to the member of Cumberland. That's going to be up to the good people of our province throughout the rural, the North. So when I say that, I hope health care gets more attention, what is needed.

But I wanted for the record just to put that on there, Mr. Speaker. I went a little off, and I apologize. But I wanted to show . . . When we're looking at amendments to health care and the medical profession, I just wanted to let those people that are on the front lines know that some of us are seeing and appreciate everything they're doing.

And I know, you know, they're being called to do so much more, with pressure . . . When you're short-staffed, they have to fill in. We need to do more when it comes to staffing; we know that. But I'm hoping the government will finally . . . I know they're tired, but I'm hoping they will hear that and try to respond as quickly as they can to make sure people are safe.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to adjourn debate on Bill No. 129. 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. 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 Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to Bill No. 132, *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act*, I'll be brief here today, Mr. Speaker. Our critic will certainly follow up through committee processes and with stakeholders on this front, has been doing so.

You know, we're certainly supportive of eliminating red tape where we can — where it's safe to do so, where it makes sense to do so. We're opposed to the introduction of new red tape like we see with the revenue agency of this government that'll add costs for government, costs for the taxpayer, and costs and complexity for local businesses, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that this measure will be run as a pilot, and I know our critic will be engaged, chatting with those that know the integrity of these systems, Mr. Speaker. They're very important to facilities and buildings and industrial projects across the province, Mr. Speaker. We need to ensure safety on these fronts. I understand this would open up a pilot to test automation and remote monitoring, Mr. Speaker.

I know our critic will have questions about where else this is occurring, what best practice we're modelling here, Mr. Speaker, and making sure that we're understanding all the consequences, intended and unintended. And ensure safety for workers in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

With that being said, I move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 132.

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. 133

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Harpauer that **Bill No. 133 — *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to offer my very brief remarks on Bill 133, *The Income Tax Amendment Act*.

My understanding of this bill is to amend *The Income Tax Act* of 2000, and this also extends the deadline for manufacturing and processing exporter hiring incentive, and of course the manufacturing and processing export head office incentive.

So these are non-refundable tax credits that are eligible for corporations that expand their numbers. Also there's hiring incentives in here and of course head office incentive, so this is good that incentives are being offered to employ folks in this province and keep folks here in this province.

One thing that I'm very curious about is, often programs or incentives are offered, but what we often miss out and don't do is to evaluate their effectiveness. We don't evaluate them enough to see if they are actually working and how effective they are. And this would be very interesting to see some evidence that this will actually work down the road, given that we were the only province with a negative full-time job growth last year.

So with that, I'll just keep my remarks to that, Mr. Speaker. And with that, I move to adjourn debate on Bill 133.

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. 134

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 134** — *The Education Amendment Act, 2023/Loi modificative de 2023 sur l'éducation* be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good to enter into adjourned debate with respect to Bill 134, *The Education Amendment Act, 2023*.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes amendments to include the Sask Party government's new Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation — another new Crown from this government; never thought I would see the day — to add this new learning corporation to *The Education Act*, which will as a corporation deliver centralized online education in our province. With this bill, Mr. Speaker, separate schools, independent schools, and French schools will all be able to apply for online learning.

As the opposition, we certainly do not support the further centralization of power and resources in the ministry under this government, a pattern that we continue to see from this government, Mr. Speaker. It's an intrusion into board autonomy, their autonomy to make decisions for the students in their communities, Mr. Speaker.

We've heard from teachers. They've been very clear with us that this is not something they are looking for right now. It is in no way a priority. Mr. Speaker, this government didn't even bother consulting with teachers. They didn't bother consulting with school divisions before making their announcement about this new online learning centre.

So who exactly are they consulting with, then? We really have no idea. Are they just cooking up these out-of-touch initiatives in their backrooms? I mean it would appear to be the case, because everyone we talked to, they were not consulted. They were not asked by this government what they thought about this new initiative, this new corporation, whether this was something that should be a priority at a time where we're hearing over and over from school division after school division about the cuts that they're going to have to be making due to this government's continued chronic underfunding of basic public K to 12 education.

Mr. Speaker, teachers and school divisions, what they are looking for is real help, not another Sask Party pet project. They're looking for real help to address classroom complexity, one of the number one issues we hear about from educators. That's what they've been calling for, Mr. Speaker. Yet we saw not one red cent in the Sask Party government's budget to address this. No real help in addressing increasing enrolment, Mr. Speaker. No real help to address the serious mental health needs in our schools, Mr. Speaker.

We had here with us in the legislature today, as a guest, La Loche mayor Georgina Jolibois. And I heard from my friend Georgina

just recently, Mr. Speaker, about the extremely tragic stabbing that took place in the high school in La Loche, another instance of terrible and tragic violence for that community in their school system. And we have these mental health needs for students that are going unaddressed. We have tragedies like what's happened in La Loche that are stemming from the unaddressed mental health needs of our students, Mr. Speaker. That's where we need to see investments being made.

Mr. Speaker, additionally there's really been no help from this government in their budget with the very basics that our students are going without in our public schools. We heard just today from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, who were amplifying the reality and the words of a teacher in our province who has this to say about the state of the public K to 12 education system, Mr. Speaker:

I would love to have more tables and chairs for my 41 students. When I ask, I'm told there are simply no more, so students stand. I carry furniture that I scrounge up from other places into my classroom to make it work the best I can.

Mr. Speaker, that's the reality on the ground in our classrooms in Saskatchewan, yet we've got a government here that is sinking \$23 million into starting up this new operation — all in a rushed process that is creating chaos in the sector — that no one asked for, Mr. Speaker, all while teachers literally don't have enough chairs and tables for their students to simply be able to do their school work. All while schools are having to start up bottle drives so they can pay for the very basics in their classrooms. What a shameful state of affairs under this Sask Party government.

Our public education funding in this province, Mr. Speaker, has already been decimated by this government, so why on earth are they diverting more of our taxpayer money to something like this, something no one has asked for?

We'll hear more about this, Mr. Speaker, on Saturday. As everyone in this Chamber well knows, there is a rally being held and being hosted by the STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] outside the legislature on Saturday. Let's see who shows up from that side, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to bet you that not one of those members will have the spine to show up at that rally and to face teachers in this province who are fed up with the chronic underfunding. And they're fed up with this government not providing a proper education and proper supports and conditions for students in our K to 12 public education system. So let's see who shows up, Mr. Speaker.

And with that I will now move that we adjourn debate on Bill 134, *The Education 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. 135

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 135 — *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*** be now read a second time.]

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will enter very briefly into adjourned debate with respect to Bill 135, *The Education Consequential Amendments Act, 2023*. This follows from the bill I just spoke to before this one, Mr. Speaker, and so I am prepared to let my remarks stand from Bill 134. And I am going to, with that, move that we adjourn debate with respect to Bill 135, *The Education Consequential Amendments 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 House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — In order to facilitate the work of committee this afternoon and this evening, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The 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 tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:13.]

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
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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

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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

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Minister of Advanced Education