



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

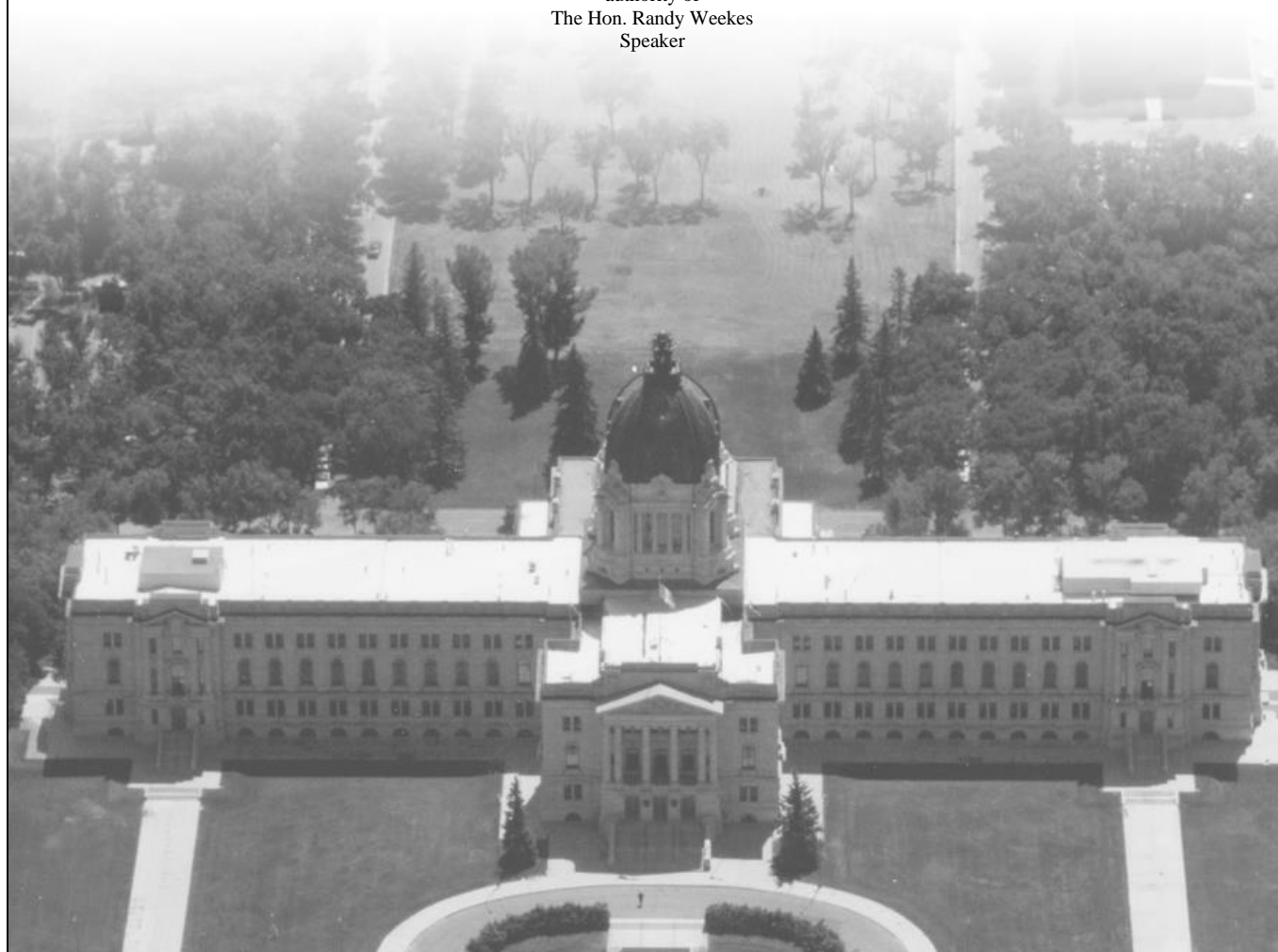
of the

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)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)

Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)

Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)

Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)

Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)

Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)

Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)

Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)

Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)

Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)

Hargrave, Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

Harpauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)

Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)

Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)

Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)

Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)

Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)

Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McLeod, Hon. Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)

McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)

Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)

Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)

Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)

Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)

Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

Skoropad, Hon. Dana — Arm River (SP)

Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)

Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)

Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)

Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Lumsden-Morse

Vacant — Regina Coronation Park

Vacant — Regina Walsh Acres

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 45; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;

Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 3

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Iris Lang

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

Deputy Clerk — Kathy Burianyk

Principal Clerk — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

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Legislative Assembly are available
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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I would like to do an introduction. Joining us today in my gallery is Sharon Pratchler, Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner. Seated with her today is 14 members of her team. They are here today hosting a celebration of 50 years of service by the Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosure Commissioner office. Members are invited to attend the celebration in the Saskatchewan Gallery this afternoon. Please join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of introductions so I would ask leave for those, for an extended.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I see a number of folks here with us today, some students. I see a number from the USW [United Steelworkers]. I see some Legion members. A number of folks that have joined us here today, and I know they'll be properly welcomed or officially welcomed in due course here, Mr. Speaker.

But I'd take a moment to introduce through you and to you, to all members of this Assembly, a couple of gentlemen. First, a founder of this party, long-time MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] representing the constituency of Canora-Pelly is Mr. Ken Krawetz, behind the bar.

Mr. Speaker, since serving in this Assembly — and it would be no surprise to anyone in this Assembly — Ken has always very much been an advocate for Canada-Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations and those Ukrainian people living in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. He's just most recently been appointed as the Honorary Consul of Ukraine, Mr. Speaker. So we would congratulate Ken on that appointment.

Mr. Speaker, while on my feet, I would take this opportunity to welcome to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly a man in your gallery, Mr. Kasi Rao. Kasi is the managing director with Fairfax Financial Holdings, significant investments not only in this province, this nation, but around the world, Mr. Speaker. Joining Kasi is Chantelle Patrick. She's the executive director with international relations in the Ministry of Trade, Export and Development.

In addition to his career, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rao has been a long-time champion of Canada-India relations and has been great counsel on Saskatchewan-India relations and is a great friend of the province of Saskatchewan. He's served previously as the

president and chief executive officer of the Canada India Business Council.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, we shipped to India about \$1.4 billion worth of goods. There was agri-food products, there was potash, there was uranium, Mr. Speaker. Most notably on my most recent opportunity to visit India, Mr. Speaker, there was 1,000 air drills, Saskatchewan-built air drills that were bringing that innovation and technology to the agricultural community in India, Mr. Speaker. And so we are very much climbing the value chain with our relationship with all of the people of India.

Mr. Speaker, our relationship is much deeper than just a relationship in commerce with this nation. There are many educational and research partnerships that are there. There are thousands of newcomers who have come to Saskatchewan from the country of India and through their many contributions, I would say, have made our province much, much stronger.

Mr. Speaker, in the years ahead, our partnership with India is only going to get stronger, and I am very grateful for the advice and the guidance that has been provided by Mr. Rao and many others that he has introduced myself and members of the government to over the course of the last few years. And those relationships continue.

So I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming two fine gentlemen, Mr. Ken Krawetz and Mr. Kasi Rao to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, request 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.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to join with the Premier in welcoming all of the delegations here today who are joining us in their Legislative Assembly.

I would also like to take a moment to introduce a very large delegation, Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery. We have members of the United Steelworkers here with us, representing almost 6,000 workers in this province in 52 workplaces right across the province in industries such as mining and forestry. We have cab drivers, those who work with wood products, manufacturing, Mr. Speaker, and also those who roll pipe and steel right here in Regina; communities such as Rocanville, Hudson Bay, Pike Lake, Vanscoy, Saskatoon, just to name a few, Mr. Speaker.

We had a really good series of meetings with this delegation here. I want to thank each of them for taking the time to have their voice and the voices of their members heard. We talked about paid sick days, about mental health and addictions, support for public services across the province, Mr. Speaker. Certainly found

a whole lot of common ground and really have a lot of respect for this delegation and the work that they do in our province.

I'd like to name by name. We have with us today District 3 director, Scott Lunny. District 3 staff, we have Mike Duhra and Jessie Uppal with us here today. From the big 5890 Local at Evraz we've got President Mike Day here, Brad Gibbons, Kimberly Roberts, Scott Trenaman, Ryan McKenzie, and Brandon Shea-Mutala. We also have staff members Darrin Kruger and Patrick Veinot here with us, my sometimes hunting partner up there. We have Tyler Hodgson from Vanscoy. From 5819 we have Paul Chevrier. We have Todd Hewlin from 7689.

With us today, in addition, from Saskatoon, from the 2014 Local we have our friend Malik Draz. We have Azhar Randhawa. We have Raja Ali. And, Mr. Speaker, we also have from 7689, Michael Cull; Kyle Fisher from 5890; Daryl Partridge, 7916; Brandon Nicholson from 1184; Chuck Deg and Jesse Seckinger from 5917.

Mr. Speaker, these workers here representing steel do essential work contributing not only in their workplaces to our economy, but their communities. Their voices have been valuable. And I would invite all members to join me in welcoming this delegation to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I'd just like to welcome all our guests here tonight. It's great to see as many people come out, but I just wanted to caution you not to take part in the debate and that includes no clapping or obviously heckling or taking any photos. So thank you for coming out.

I recognize the Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join and welcome the members from United Steelworkers to the Assembly today. These are people that make an ongoing, amazing contribution to our province. As the member opposite said, these are people that are good community members, work hard. They also pay taxes. They work in sometimes very adverse conditions, and they are the ones that often keep our province going and functioning when it must during some of the worst and difficult times of our weather. And these are people that are a significant part of the economy of the province. These are people that pay taxes each and every month, and I'm glad to see that these people have come to the legislature today.

I understand they're going to be meeting with a number of different MLAs on both sides of the House. We welcome those kind of discussions and that kind of input. It's often seen as, oh well, we've done our perfunctory role. Well the MLAs want to hear those things. They want to understand what issues are being raised. They may not agree with everything, may not agree with them all at the same time, but, Mr. Speaker, those are something that are important and they often form the basis of policy going forward.

So I want to welcome them here today and make sure that as we go forward that they should know that they are welcome in their Assembly any time, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join in with the Leader of the Opposition and the minister opposite in welcoming this group of steelworkers here today. In particular, I want to welcome a good friend, Malik Umar Draz, who has been organizing cab drivers in this province for a decade now, maybe even longer than that, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank him for his dedicated community leadership, all of the work that he has put in over the years, his resilience to resistance, and just a determination that I think we can all learn something from. In addition to that, he's quite involved with his local community, is a strong volunteer, and organizes like no one else. So I do want to thank him for his attendance today as well as Mr. Azhar Randhawa who has been a constituent of mine, gave me advice as of, I think back in 2017, on the things that we needed to improve in the community. I want to thank him for his continued commitment, as well as welcoming all the steelworkers who are here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, 45 awesome grade 12 students from Humboldt Collegiate in Humboldt. They are accompanied by their teachers, Mr. Millette, who is a frequent visitor here, as well as Mr. Rowe and Ms. Lang-Scott. It's truly an honour to have them here and I'm looking forward to visiting them later. I have to say Humboldt puts out some of the best students ever. So welcome to your Assembly, and I'm looking forward to our meeting.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the members who have extended greetings to our sisters and brothers from United Steelworkers union here today. I, myself, am a proud steelworker, Mr. Speaker. I am a member of Local 5917. I want to extend especially a welcome to the local president, Paul Chevrier, who's here with us today. Thank you for your leadership, Paul. And another special invitation to my union representative, Darrin Kruger, who has been such a support to me in my workplace prior to my election, and certainly on the campaign trail. We so appreciate all of the efforts and the support that we receive from the steelworkers and we're so, so delighted to welcome you here to your legislature. Thank you.

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

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

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and

through you, I'd like to introduce members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Saskatchewan Command, and the Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans or known as ANAVETS [Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada] units. I was so pleased to meet with them today and celebrate the Saskatchewan veteran service club support program. Introduced in 2019-2020, the program provides grants for the improvement, projects, facility repairs and upgrades, operations, special events, programs, activities at the veteran service clubs throughout our province.

Mr. Speaker, what an absolute privilege it is to welcome these individuals to their legislature and thank them for their tireless work on behalf of our communities and our veteran service clubs. We have representatives here in the gallery today and I ask the members to withhold their applause until I go through the list.

Representing the Royal Canadian Legion, Carol Pederson, president, Royal Canadian Legion, Saskatchewan Command; as well as Carol's husband Roger who is also in attendance today; Chad Wagner, provincial executive director, Royal Canadian Legion Saskatchewan Command; and Bob Travele, president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 59 in Moose Jaw.

Representing ANAVETS, I'd like to welcome ANAVETS Moose Jaw Branch 252 president, Don Purington; and Ronald Roy who serves as sergeant-at-arms for ANAVETS Moose Jaw Branch 252; and Rick Taylor, president of ANAVETS, who plays an instrumental role in the veteran support program's success.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members please join me in thanking these individuals for their commitment, their sacrifice to making Saskatchewan a better place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

[13:45]

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to join in with the minister opposite in welcoming these leaders from the Royal Canadian Legion, Saskatchewan Command and ANAVETS to their Assembly today. I certainly have a strong tie to these organizations as an ANAVETS No. 38 member in Saskatoon myself for over a decade now and see some familiar faces up there.

I want to thank you for the work that you do in really holding the fabric of your communities together, maintaining service clubs that in many situations have dwindled in numbers. And I find that there is such a strong spirit of community in your clubs, a strong welcome, and I want to thank you for the work that you're doing. And of course any support that can be provided to the service clubs is more than welcome. I want to join with the minister in welcoming you to your Assembly here today.

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

Ms. A. Ross: — Request 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.

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you and all members of this House, it is an honour for me today to introduce to you, seated on the floor, Kirby and Candace Constant and their children, Laryn, Keaton, and Kyler. And they are joined today by Candace's sister Kim Jonathan who is a former chief and the first female chief of FSIN [Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations], and her husband, Devin Jonathan, who is an RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] member in "F" Division and is from Six Nations. And for those sad Bruins fans here, he is a member of Stan Jonathan's family.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Candace and Keaton at a Make-a-Wish event in Prince Albert last year where Keaton was the recipient of a new camper so the family could use it to go to their powwows. Keaton was featured in a CTV [Canadian Television Network] article on the national news earlier this year on his powwow dancing.

Keaton was born with a hole in his heart and the lower half of his body hasn't developed. But this hasn't stopped him, and I can attest to that. He can whip around faster in that chair than most of us can walk. Keaton started powwow dancing when he was still in Jolly Jumper. His sister, Laryn, has been powwow dancing since she was a baby, and she loves sports, arts, bands, and volunteering. She attends school and teaches the students about her culture and reconciliation.

Kirby and Laryn and Keaton just returned from a Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico where Keaton was called out and gifted with an eagle feather.

Kyler is just starting powwow dancing. He was 11 months old when he was diagnosed with aplastic anemia and needed a stem cell transplant. Laryn became a donor for her brother, and during the many stays at the Ronald McDonald House, Laryn had the wonderful idea to give back, and her family signed up to cook meals for other families in need. Despite challenges of their own, the entire Constant family gives back in any way they can.

I was so honoured to be able to present Laryn and Keaton with Queen's Jubilee medals for the work that they do and the teaching and wonderful role models they are for reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in welcoming Kirby, Candace, Laryn, Keaton, Kyler, Kim, and Devin to their Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to join in with the member opposite on behalf of the official opposition and welcome this family to their Legislative Assembly today. In particular I want to congratulate Laryn and Keaton on their Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medals, thank them for their work toward reconciliation, as well as acknowledge, you know, the family presence and leadership that is involved here, and thank Kim Jonathan for her leadership as well. And just welcome on behalf of the official opposition to your Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, everyone in the Assembly knows that to be an effective MLA, you need a good constituency assistant, Mr. Speaker. And I happen to believe I have one of the best constituency assistants in the province, Mr. Speaker. In the west gallery Sara Briggs is with us today, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, she does a lot for me to make sure that my office runs well and is a great support. So I want to thank her for all that hard work but, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank her more for being a very, very good friend, Mr. Speaker, and for everything that she does for me, Mr. Speaker. So I would ask all member of the Legislative Assembly to welcome Sara to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Friesen: — Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to join in with the Minister of Advanced Education. A brief thing that happened in my office, my assistant passed away, as a lot of you know. Sara grabbed the reins, took the keys to the office, just looked after everything so well for me. So I want to thank you very much for that. And I found out that anything I can do in the office, you can do better. Thank you so much. And please join me in welcoming Sara to her legislature.

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

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to, in the west gallery, introduce eight grade 9 students from the Endeavour Christian School. Give a wave. Accompanied with them is Richard Barkman — I'm not sure if he's a teacher or the lead guide of parent chaperones — and also their parent chaperones. I look forward to meeting them after QP [question period] and I have some ice cream for you guys. Welcome. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce two guests seated in your gallery, the top row, if they wouldn't mind giving a wave when I introduce them: Stephanie Fuchs and Michael Gaetz.

Mr. Speaker, Stephanie is a new administrative assistant in our office serving myself and the Minister of Health and has been just an absolutely fantastic addition to our team, full of energy and extremely eager. Mr. Speaker, she comes to us from a dentist office and I understand has become the resident expert for any sort of in-house dental inquiries that we have in amongst our staff, who shall go unnamed, Mr. Speaker. And we're grateful to have Stephanie here. Joining her is her significant other, Michael, who I understand is the brewmaster at Bushwakker Brewpub here in Regina. And I understand this is Michael's first time in the legislature.

They've had an opportunity to tour the building a little bit, and we're going to have a bit of a chat after the proceedings are done

here today. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Stephanie and Michael to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to again present a petition to this Assembly calling for adequate funding for education. Those who signed the petition today would like us to be aware that education funding included in this year's provincial budget is wholly inadequate and will lead to cuts in the classroom again.

Today I'd like to highlight that Saskatchewan teachers say that they're baffled by this government's disregard for students. STF [Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation] President Samantha Becotte says, "Government either doesn't understand the issues or doesn't think that they are important."

Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that this year's failures come after nearly a decade of declining per-student funding and our school division describes a system that's already been cut down to the bone.

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 provide adequate, sustainable, and predictable operating funds for our 27 public and separate school divisions to ensure that schools, teachers, and other caring professionals are able to meet the needs of every student in Saskatchewan.

Today's petition is signed by residents of Foam Lake, Outlook, and Saskatoon. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cannington.

Mr. D. Harrison: — 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 federal 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 fuel charges and GST [goods and services tax] as well as receiving slightly lower incomes than they will receive in climate action incentive payments.

Despite promises from the federal government that the tax would remain revenue neutral and that 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.

The below undersigned are residents of Carrot River, Nipawin, Cherry Ridge. I do so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to enshrine duty-to-consult into provincial law.

We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring to your attention the following: the Government of Saskatchewan is currently selling off and offering long 33-year-long leases of Crown lands that have been used by Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities for ceremony, agriculture, hunting, fishing, trapping, medicines, and recreation; without clear duty-to-consult legislation in place the Government of Saskatchewan alone is responsible for recognizing when the duty-to-consult is triggered, contributing to a lack of engagement with First Nations and Métis communities with little accountability for the provincial government, often ending in lost court battles.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has only 10 per cent of all of our Crown lands left and is a growing province. And the unoccupied Crown lands we do have left need to be protected for First Nations and Métis people to exercise hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering 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 immediately stop the sell-off of Crown lands, and enshrine duty-to-consult into law by enacting meaningful duty-to-consult legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents reside in Ituna, Melville, and Whitewood. I do so present.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, I rise once again to present a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to act on a suicide prevention strategy.

These citizens wish to bring to our attention that it's been two years since *The Saskatchewan Strategy for Suicide Prevention Act* received Royal Assent on April 30th, 2021, and that the ministry is required under the Act to consult with community organizations to develop a suicide prevention strategy.

We know that suicide remains the second-leading cause of death for young people aged 15 to 34 in Canada, and that suicide rates for Indigenous people in Saskatchewan are four times higher than non-Indigenous people, with northern Saskatchewan continuing to experience a higher level of suicide and overdose deaths.

I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the

Government of Saskatchewan to immediately work with community organizations and leaders in the North to develop Saskatchewan's suicide prevention strategy.

This is signed today by individuals from Regina, Mr. Speaker. I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Queer-Friendly Marriage Commissioner Recognized with Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, it was my pleasure to bestow the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal to Sally Mitchell.

Sally Mitchell is the first openly gay marriage commissioner registered with the province of Saskatchewan. In 2011 several marriage commissioners in Saskatchewan surrendered their licences to perform marriages when the legal system required them to perform same-sex marriages. Experiencing significant prejudice while planning her own same-sex marriage, Sally realized there was a great need for queer-friendly marriage commissioner services. She penned an impassioned letter directed to the provincial marriage unit explaining the importance of representation and inclusion amongst service providers for marginalized communities.

The province acknowledged her plea and she was granted the privilege of becoming a marriage commissioner in Saskatchewan. Sally established Your Ever After, a business that celebrates the love of all people with joy, free from discrimination. She has since married over 1,000 couples in Saskatchewan.

Sally used her personal experience of being discriminated against so others could avoid mistreatment during a time when they deserve to be upheld. I am proud to call her a friend, a constituent, and a worthy recipient of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for education, social services, and diversity.

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

[14:00]

Jewish Heritage Month

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every May we celebrate Jewish Heritage Month in Canada, and this year we're proud to proclaim Jewish Heritage Month here in Saskatchewan. Jewish Heritage Month recognizes the contribution, the history, and legacy Jewish Canadians have made to our province and to our country. Jewish people have called Saskatchewan home for more than a century, predating the province joining Confederation in 1905. Early Jewish immigrants helped build our province by establishing farming communities and helping create a life for those who live here today.

Jewish Heritage Month is a month of celebrating, but it's also a month of remembering. In Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, there is no room for any form of discrimination and abuse. That's why in December 2022, the Government of Saskatchewan adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism. This is one step in ensuring that our Jewish community feels safe and feels heard.

Saskatchewan's provincial motto reads, "from many peoples, strength," and our government will continue to celebrate our rich cultural diversity and support all those who call our great province home.

Please join me in thanking the Saskatchewan Jewish community for the contributions they've made in our province and wishing them a happy heritage month.

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

Saskatoon and District Labour Council Awards

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to recognize the Saskatoon and District Labour Council and their most recent banquet, celebrating the successes of labour in our province. This past February, the Saskatoon district of labour, through their Labour Community Service Awards, had the opportunity to recognize SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] employee Krystle Wallman.

The 2023 labour community award, through their partners, recognize the importance of celebrating labour's contributions to the health and well-being of the community. Through this award, an individual's outstanding service and dedication to their communities through volunteer work can be celebrated. By honouring their leaders, the goal is to inspire others and nurture leadership to those who are willing to follow and become future leaders in our communities and the labour movement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members in joining me to recognize the SDLC [Saskatoon and District Labour Council] and the important work that the labour movement continues to do in our communities. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Construction to Begin on Grenfell's New Long-Term Care Facility

Mr. Bonk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's another great day in Saskatchewan and in particular in the Moosomin constituency. Spring is here, the sun is shining, and the town of Grenfell is officially getting a new nursing home.

The 33-bed home will include two spa tub rooms, a commercial kitchen, common living and dining spaces, administrative areas, a maintenance garage, and parking stalls. With construction scheduled to begin in the summer of this year with substantial completion by late next year, residents can start to get excited about this project that's been in the works for a while now. A key priority will be encouraging the use of best value local suppliers, subcontractors, and labour.

Residents of the Grenfell Pioneer Home, which closed in 2018, were relocated to nearby facilities. These residents will be offered the first opportunity to move into the new home once it's complete.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the ministries of SaskBuilds and Rural and Remote Health for getting this project rolling. I'd also like to thank the good people of Grenfell for their patience. I know you're going to get a lot of great use out of this facility for decades to come.

Keeping our seniors close to home, in their home communities, and providing a safe and supportive environment is yet another example of growth that works for everyone.

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

Province Provides Grants through Saskatchewan Veteran Service Club Support Program

Mr. Lawrence: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year the province will provide another \$1.5 million for the Saskatchewan veteran service club support program. Introduced in 2019, the program provides grants up to \$30,000 to veterans clubs for improvement projects, repairs or upgrades, operations, special events, programs, and activities — funding that strengthens the long-term sustainability of these important institutions and an election commitment that we are proud to continue.

Mr. Speaker, since the program's inception, over \$3 million has been provided, funding 235 successful projects throughout our province. This program is delivered collaboratively by the Government of Saskatchewan and our partners, the Royal Canadian Legion, Saskatchewan Command and the Saskatchewan ANAVETS. Individuals from those organizations were introduced in our House today.

My home town, Moose Jaw, is lucky to have Legion Branch No. 59 and ANAVETS Unit No. 252 serving our communities, our veterans, and our families. With the help of this program, these clubs were able to make improvements including kitchen renovations, electrical and technology upgrades. And two application intakes will occur in 2023 with deadlines on May 15th and August 31st.

Mr. Speaker, we thank our veterans for all their service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Humboldt-Watrous.

Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers Recognizes Outstanding Achievement

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers, SACO, held its 40th annual convention through the April 28th to 30th weekend at the Wa Wa Shriners Hall in Regina. The Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety attended the Saturday evening banquet to deliver greetings on behalf of government. Approximately 160 people attended the dinner, which included a number of recognition honours including the annual

Saskatchewan conservation officer of the year award.

This year, SACO Award went to Conservation Officer Brendon Smith of Humboldt, who demonstrated outstanding leadership, public education, and performance of duty in 2022. Officer Smith laid a number of charges last year for unlawful hunting, night hunting, and traffic safety violations. He played a key role in monitoring illegal angling on St. Brieux and Lake Lenore lakes, removing several individuals from Saskatchewan's lakes. He supported the ministry's unlawful outfitting task force, and he responded on September 4th to the James Smith Cree Nation event.

Officer Smith also took time last year to conduct numerous educational presentations for local schools and senior care homes, where he gave fish filleting demonstrations and talked about the role of conservation officers in Saskatchewan.

We would like to recognize Officer Brendon Smith for his outstanding achievements in 2022 and for the important work that all conservation officers do to protect Saskatchewan's precious natural resources.

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

Opposition Statements on Firearms Regulation

Mr. Jensen: — Mr. Speaker, it feels like *Groundhog Day*, when things appear to be recurring in the exact same way day after day after day. Yesterday we learned the NDP opposition can't seem to keep a consistent position on important issues like liquor laws. The NDP SLGA [Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority] critic said he supports this change, while the member from Nutana opposes it.

Now we learn that they can't keep a consistent message when it comes to the firearms Act. Bill 117 passed in this Assembly unanimously, with all members present voting in favour. The member from Rosemont said in the media regarding Bill 117, and I quote, "We stood in support of the Act." Crystal clear, wouldn't you agree, Mr. Speaker?

Apparently not. The member from Nutana recently posted on Instagram about Bill 117, and I quote, "This bill continues to seed strife and division. Promotes fear." She opposes municipalities being able to allow alcohol consumption in parks. She opposes her own colleagues how they voted on the firearms Act, and she opposes the federal rights of lawful firearms owners by siding with the Liberal-NDP coalition who want to take away those rights from Saskatchewan people.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said, "If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. It will change." I think you can say the same thing about the NDP's position on just about anything.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Health Care Staffing

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch

government is failing to deliver when it comes to health care, and nowhere is that more apparent than when it comes to our intensive care units: hallway medicine with blanket forts instead of real rooms and four walls, chronic short-staffing that nurses say leaves us in "total system collapse."

Does the Premier accept any responsibility for the state of our health care system and for how much worse things are under his watch?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for what is a very important question, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the health care delivery that we have in community after community across this province. It is no secret, Mr. Speaker, that across the nation of Canada we are collectively having challenges in a post-pandemic world with human resource numbers to deliver those health care services to collectively Canadians across the nation, Mr. Speaker.

That is why you've seen these Health ministers come forward with a surgical wait time initiative to ensure that we're lowering the time that Saskatchewan residents are waiting for their surgeries here, Mr. Speaker, alongside those residents in all other provinces across the nation.

That's why you've seen these two Health ministers come forward, Mr. Speaker, with what is the most ambitious health human resource plan in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. International job offers, Mr. Speaker. Job offers to graduates, not only here in Saskatchewan but across the nation of Canada. Incentives in hard-to-recruit places, Mr. Speaker. Most certainly, this is a health human resource plan that is going to bring people to the front lines to support those that are already there offering that so very valuable service.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, listening to this tired and out-of-touch Premier, you'd think that everything is just fine in our emergency rooms. Mr. Speaker, we know that that is not true. We've received a leaked copy of the critical care dashboard dated April 25th of this year. It lays out the status of ICUs [intensive care unit] around lunchtime that day.

Mr. Speaker, how were things on that particular day? Well at RUH [Royal University Hospital], St. Paul's, Yorkton, and Swift Current, all of those hospitals were on bypass, sending patients for critical care elsewhere because they were overwhelmed.

To the Premier: do you think that it's acceptable to have four of our largest ICUs turning patients away?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, this most certainly is why we brought forward such an ambitious human resource plan in the health care sector. This is why the Minister of Health was travelling internationally, Mr. Speaker, alongside the Saskatchewan Health Authority, alongside the Ministry of Health as well as our immigration department to offer positions, front-line health care positions, Mr. Speaker, to those in the

Philippines, those in other areas across Canada, to those that are graduating from Canadian universities, Mr. Speaker.

We are starting to show results, Mr. Speaker. Over 400 offers have been made. Those folks are landing in our province, offering those services, bringing that assistance to our front lines here today. Over 100 jobs have been offered, Mr. Speaker, front-line health care jobs to Canadian graduates that are coming to our province to ensure that, as I said, the collective Canadian challenge that we are seeing — a lack of human resources, a lack of people offering and supporting those in our front lines — across the nation of Canada. Saskatchewan is not exclusive in this challenge, Mr. Speaker.

But what is different is Saskatchewan has what is the most ambitious plan, the most ambitious health human resource plan funded in the most recent budget that was introduced on this floor, which will likely be voted off in the next week or so, Mr. Speaker. I like our chances in passing that funding to ensure that that human resource plan is going to come to fruition on behalf of the folks across this province.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, memo to the Premier: it's not working. And some advice: it's past time he listened to health care workers who are begging to be part of those solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you a story that one of the steelworkers here today told me yesterday about where he lives in a rural community near a potash mine. When there's a medical emergency, people don't dial 911. They go to social media to see which local ER [emergency room] is actually open that day.

Mr. Speaker, it's absolutely unacceptable. The ER closures are impacting communities, large and small, right across this province. Mr. Speaker, why does the Premier think that it's okay to keep that critical information hidden? And what is he going to do to fix our health care system or at the very least make public which hospitals are closed today?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government is working very hard with our front-line health care workers and with community leaders to make sure that we are doing everything we can to stabilize and enhance health care service to rural communities right across this province, Mr. Speaker.

And that includes the four-point HHR [health human resources] action plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain health care workers; more investments in this year's budget, Mr. Speaker, to the rural physician incentive program; more hiring of nurses, of continuing care aides, combined lab and X-ray techs; investments into communities such as the community of Esterhazy where we'll be building a new integrated facility, Mr. Speaker, as announced in this year's budget. Those are the types of investments, Mr. Speaker, that this government is making into rural health care and will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, the leaked dashboard tells a story of a health care system in crisis. Every ICU in the province, except for Swift Current, relying on contract nurses to remain open and operational. Hospitals with no beds or ventilators for very sick patients. Hospitals with more critically ill patients than beds, and not enough staff. And ICUs in Saskatoon, Yorkton, and Swift Current on bypass, unable to accept new patients. And sadly, none of this is an abnormal experience.

When will the Minister of Health get to work on fixing the crisis in our hospitals, and when will he stop hiding the truth about the crisis in our hospitals?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite referenced contract nurses. These are 200 individuals that we do have contracted, that have been used under previous governments, that are used across Canada. Is it the member's position that we should fire those contract nurses and have more service disruptions, Mr. Speaker, because I would really like for them to stand up and put that on the record what we should do with those contract nurses.

Mr. Speaker, as the Premier outlined, we have a very robust human resource plan. I'll give it to you by the numbers, Mr. Speaker. 550 new seats across 18 positions, 150 more nursing seats. 420 jobs by Filipinos who will be in the gallery tomorrow joining us, who have just arrived here from the Philippines, Mr. Speaker. 171 physicians in 19 months, 69 family doctors. 168 nursing grads from right here in Saskatchewan that have been hired since December, Mr. Speaker. 111 health care workers have been hired since October, Mr. Speaker, and 105 people have maximized their incentive of up to \$50,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Mowat: — Absolute nonsense from that minister, Mr. Speaker. He knows we need full-time people working in those jobs, but we'd have to have a real retention plan to make that happen.

Mr. Speaker, there's no reason for this tired and out-of-touch government to keep information hidden from Saskatchewan people, but this is their MO [modus operandi]. Hide as much information as possible. Take down the family doctor directory in Saskatoon. Send out hush memos to doctors and nurses, and hope that no one talks to the opposition or the media about how bad things really are in our hospitals.

Why won't this tired and out-of-touch government tell Saskatchewan people the truth about the state of our hospitals and make this dashboard public?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — I'm not sure what they're talking about the ICU hush memo, Mr. Speaker. It's hidden right out there on the internet, Mr. Speaker. We update it every five minutes of what our hospital capacity is, Mr. Speaker. They can find that information.

As I've identified, Mr. Speaker, there are pressures within our hospital system. Nobody is denying that. That's why we came up with a plan back in September. That's why we actioned that plan. We have more doctors on the ground than we had back then, Mr. Speaker. We have more nurses on the ground. We have the dollars in this budget, which I'm sure they're going to vote against, Mr. Speaker, because they just don't like growth.

Mr. Speaker, it is very, very depressing to be able for them to run down . . . Our health care workers are continuing to work all the time, Mr. Speaker, to be able to make sure that our health care system is running at its best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver on health care, and they're absolutely failing to deliver when it comes to publicly funded education too. And after being completely ignored by this Premier and the entire government on Saturday, leaders in education are still warning that cuts are on the way.

The president of the School Boards Association, Jaimie Smith-Windsor, had this to say: "Boards only received 0.7 per cent increased operational funding. That's not enough to cover inflationary costs or enrolment. And so what that means for boards is cuts."

Simple question: what does that minister think schools should cut?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to working with our school divisions and the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] over the coming months, Mr. Speaker. I'm looking forward to them bringing forward their budget submissions for the end of June.

As the Premier has indicated, on top of the overall 6.7 per cent increase in the education budget, Mr. Speaker, the overall two and a half per cent increase on school divisions, Mr. Speaker, obviously that's driven largely by inflation . . . or sorry, by enrolment, Mr. Speaker. So we are seeing school divisions that have 3, 4, and up to a 5 per cent increase in the case of Lloydminster, Mr. Speaker.

What the Premier had indicated that in terms of enrolment that we will be sitting down with our partners and looking to see how that we can best support them, as we are seeing, much against of the narrative of what you would hear from the members opposite, the fastest growing schools in over 20 years.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, every time this minister stands in his place and he speaks he shows us how completely out of touch he is with the reality when I bring these words and these quotes here from school board officials who know, you know, they know what's going on. And he offered a 0.7 per cent increase to their budgets. After inflation, that's a cut. And as Saskatoon Public Schools said last week, cuts will be required to balance the budget.

School divisions don't want to make these cuts. They're being forced to by that minister. Again, where does the minister think school boards should be making these cuts?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I find it interesting when we do make announcements in terms of what at the time is one-time money, Mr. Speaker, in the case of the \$7 million EA [educational assistant] fund, or in the case of enrolment that we provided in November, Mr. Speaker, what school divisions say is, well they can't count on one-time funding because they have ongoing costs. So then when we put it in the base of the budget, Mr. Speaker, apparently it doesn't count.

Mr. Speaker, a 2.5 per cent overall increase from budget to budget, Mr. Speaker, \$2.04 billion. On top of that, \$50 million in preventative maintenance and renewal which school boards used to have to find on their own through the taxpayers, Mr. Speaker, before this government decided to fund PMR [preventative maintenance and renewal], which never existed under the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. \$150 million in capital, \$7 million in an EA fund, Mr. Speaker.

We look forward to working with the school divisions, based on the announcement that the Premier indicated earlier this week, Mr. Speaker, that there will be more additional funding coming.

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

Mr. Love: — Now we've got an Education minister taking to his feet, proving our point: divisions are asking for adequate and predictable funding. Unbelievable.

Now he should have shown up at the rally on Saturday, but he didn't have the courage to be there. This is what the STF President Samantha Becotte had to say about that:

Since the minister declined to attend the rally and hear from students, parents, and teachers, and also has not spent time in a classroom to understand his portfolio and his challenges, the STF would be pleased to offer him an opportunity to hear directly from Saskatchewan's teachers about the realities in schools.

Will the minister take teachers up on their offer?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Mr. Speaker, I thank you. Mr. Speaker, if the offer is to meet with teachers, I do that. If the offer, Mr.

Speaker, if the offer is to go in and sit in a classroom, I frankly, with all due respect, I don't think that's the place of the STF to present to me that offer. I would think that I'd have to talk to a school division, Mr. Speaker, to do that. And so if that opportunity presents itself through a school division, I'd certainly like to avail myself to that, Mr. Speaker.

I would also note that the STF president called for \$400 million. Is that the position of the members opposite? If the members opposite were to form the government next year, Mr. Speaker, would they provide a \$400 million lift to the school divisions, Mr. Speaker? Is that the position of that member opposite and the Leader of the Opposition, yes or no?

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

Pipeline Manufacturing and Markets for Steel

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There's a delegation of steelworkers here today meeting with members from both sides of the House to talk about the issues that matter to them. And here in Regina, when you're talking about steel, you're talking about Local 5890 out at Evraz.

And as we all know, Mr. Speaker, the plant isn't as busy as it should be because there aren't enough orders and there aren't enough pipelines getting built. So what is the plan from this Saskatchewan Party government to make sure that steel from that plant gets used in Saskatchewan projects to create Saskatchewan jobs?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — I hardly know where to start, Mr. Speaker. This is an opposition that has stood up at every opportunity to vote against pipelines, Mr. Speaker. This is an opposition that has stood up at every opportunity to oppose the energy sector, Mr. Speaker. This is an opposition whose national leader has made it a condition of his support for Justin Trudeau to make sure that no further energy projects happen in this country, Mr. Speaker.

The hypocrisy of these members is stunning, and I think, Mr. Speaker, that everybody in this province knows it very, very well. They have zero credibility on the economy. They have zero credibility on energy. And they have even less credibility when it comes to pipelines.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite doesn't know where to start? How about getting a pipeline built to tidewater after 16 years in government? Because, Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that everything he just said is dead wrong. We oppose the carbon tax. We oppose Bill C-69, the clean electricity standards, and this is serious, Mr. Speaker.

The world is changing and there's a realization that we need to refocus on manufacturing and build more here in North America. And these women and men make some of the cleanest steel, not

just in Canada but in the world. There is tremendous opportunity to tell this story and create good jobs here using Saskatchewan steel manufactured across Canada and the continent.

So what role, Mr. Speaker, does the minister see for steelworkers here in Regina being part of this resurgence of North American manufacturing?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — You know what, Mr. Speaker? This is why they are laughed at when it comes to the economy. Everybody knows what their position is because they continuously vote to oppose pipelines, Mr. Speaker. They have had the opportunity in this House over and over and over again, and they stand up and they vote against the construction of pipelines.

In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, what do they do? They invite Jagmeet Singh to speak at their fundraisers, Mr. Speaker, the individual whose entire reason for supporting Justin Trudeau is to make sure another pipeline in this country never gets built. This is why they have absolutely zero credibility on every economic file, and none more so than when it comes to pipelines in the energy sector.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, you know, I think the minister likes to think him rather clever within the walls of this Assembly. Everything that that minister just said is a dead lie. Does he have the courage to say it out . . .

The Speaker: — I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw and apologize for that comment.

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, I stand by what I said. Everything that he just said is a dead lie.

The Speaker: — I ask again. Withdraw and apologize. One more time I will ask the member of the opposition to withdraw and apologize.

Ms. Beck: — I'm afraid, Mr. Speaker, I have to draw a line. I will not withdraw.

The Speaker: — Ms. Carla Beck, I hereby name you for disregarding the authority of the Chair. Pursuant to rule 57(2) the member is suspended from the service of the Assembly for the remainder of the sitting day. I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove the member.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon University.

Funding for Post-Secondary Education

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, the cost-of-living crisis is hurting everyone in our province, and this tired and washed-up government is failing to deliver any cost-of-living relief whatsoever. Just last week we spoke to tuition increases in Saskatoon at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], and here we are again, Mr. Speaker. The latest tuition increase at the

U of R [University of Regina] was announced last week, and students here in Regina will be paying another 4 per cent for tuition this fall.

Will the Minister of Advanced Education admit that his choices are forcing universities to make an education more and more expensive for Saskatchewan students and their families?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago, and I've mentioned this in the House on a number of occasions, this government entered into an historical four-year funding agreement with our institutions, our post-secondary institutions, an agreement which was enthusiastically supported by those institutions, Mr. Speaker. One of the key factors in that agreement, Mr. Speaker, is capping tuition rates throughout the agreement, and throughout the term of the agreement.

[14:30]

So the tuition rates that are capped within the agreement are the rate increases that have come, Mr. Speaker, are consistent with the agreement that's been signed with the Government of Saskatchewan. As I'd mentioned before, we're currently in conversations, Mr. Speaker, internally and now with the institutions with respect to what a new four-year funding agreement will look like, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you that tuition caps within that new agreement will be a key factor in that agreement as well.

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

Ms. Bowes: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition has been calling on the Sask Party government to open up that historical multi-year funding agreement with post-secondary institutions across our province and to adjust the zero per cent increases that institutions are saddled with, both this year and the next.

We've also called on this government to provide emergency funding to the U of R to address the especially concerning financial situation the U of R is facing. They're staring down 5 per cent cuts across the board at the U of R. And now this week, we've seen the start of layoffs beginning. They're taking place as well this week, Mr. Speaker, about 20 positions so far to date.

To the minister: will he open up the MOU [memorandum of understanding] and will he provide the necessary increases to our institutions to avoid these unsustainable tuition hikes? And will he finally commit to provide emergency funding to the U of R to stave off deep cuts and job losses?

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

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Mr. Speaker, that's the first time I've heard that member stand up and ask that we open up the agreements, Mr. Speaker. And she knows, and I've said this on the floor of the Assembly a number of times, we're currently in conversations as to what a new four-year funding agreement will look like with our institutions, Mr. Speaker.

We understand, we understand how important this sector is to the economy, to the future of the province, to make sure that the children and the kids that are attending those institutions are getting the best quality education that they can, Mr. Speaker. We're going to continue having conversations with our post-secondary partners to make sure we're providing the right level of support to them to continue, Mr. Speaker.

And I can tell you this, Mr. Speaker: the conversations that we're having now in terms of the leadership of those institutions, they've been very happy with the four-year funding agreement, Mr. Speaker. Certainly it's time to start talking about what a new agreement looks like, Mr. Speaker, and we're having those conversations.

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

Overdose Deaths and Provision of Care for Mental Health and Addictions

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, more than 150 people have lost their lives to the overdose crisis in our province this year — people in Regina, people in Saskatoon, in the North, people in rural communities. This touches families all over Saskatchewan. At the rate things are going, if we continue on the path we are on so far, in just the first three months of this year, 2023 will be the worst year ever for overdose deaths.

When will the Minister for Mental Health and Addictions finally act and bring in evidence-based measures that we need to address this crisis and to save lives?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning we announced the latest investment in addictions treatment and recovery in this province with the addition of 12 more post-treatment beds at the treatment facility in Estevan. Mr. Speaker, this is in addition to the 14 post-treatment beds that were announced earlier this year in Estevan, bringing the total there now to 32 post-treatment beds, 32 in-patient beds, as well as four pre-treatment beds.

This is in addition, Mr. Speaker, as well to the 36 virtual treatment spaces for mild to moderate addictions treatment that is available for people right across this province, as are the treatment beds in Estevan, Mr. Speaker. That is the work that will continue to be done. This is part of phase 2 of the treatment bed expansion. And there'll be more to talk about that in the months ahead, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: — Early in the question period, the member from Saskatoon Fairview said "tell the truth" to the government. I would like the member to stand and withdraw and apologize.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: — And in question period, the Minister of Trade and Export Development used the word "hypocrisy." That's another form of unparliamentary language. I would ask the

Minister of Trade and Export Development to withdraw and apologize.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Withdraw and apologize.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Ms. C. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 128, *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee the Whole on Bill No. 128, *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act* 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. 128 — *The Mineral Resources Amendment Act, 2023*

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — I move that the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Ms. C. Young: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its fifth report, which includes the 2023-24 estimates. I move:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — The member moved:

That the fifth report of the Standing Committee on the Economy be now concurred in.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 110, *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 110, *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 110 — *The Wills Amendment Act, 2022*
*Loi modificative de 2022 sur les testaments***

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 111, *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 111, *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 111 — *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 2022*
*Loi modificative de 2022 sur les prestations alimentaires
familiales***

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report on Bill No. 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 108, *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 108 — *The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2022*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 109, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2)* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 109, *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2)* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 109 — *The Trespass to Property Amendment Act, 2022 (No. 2)*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee

on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report on Bill No. 112, *The King's Printer Act* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 112, *The King's Printer Act*, 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. 112 — *The King's Printer Act*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 113, *The King's Printer Consequential*

Amendments Act, 2022 without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 113, *The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act, 2022* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 113 — *The King's Printer Consequential Amendments Act, 2022/Loi de 2022 corrélative de la loi intitulée The King's Printer Act*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 114, *The King's Bench Act* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 114, *The King's Bench Act* 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. 114 — *The King's Bench Act Loi sur la Cour du Banc du Roi*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister the bill be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 115, *The King's Counsel Act* without amendment.

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

[14:45]

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 115, *The King's Counsel Act* 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. 115 — *The King's Counsel Act*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 126, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2022* without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 126, *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2022* and that the bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 126 — *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2022*

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister 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.

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

The Speaker: — Third reading.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 Eastview.

Mr. Love: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll put a few comments on the record here for Bill 133, *The Income Tax Amendment Act*.

I understand that what we're trying to accomplish here is extending some incentives that have existed previously and extending those from December 31st, '22 to December 31st of 2023, specifically providing some hiring incentives and head office incentives in the areas of manufacturing and processing.

And I guess that all I really want to say in respect to this legislation is that we are 100 per cent in favour of increasing the number of good-paying jobs, solid union jobs — good-paying jobs that can pay the mortgage and folks have enough left over to feed their families and take care of the people that they love. That's something that we've specifically seen some evidence during this Premier's time in office where we're at the bottom of the pile in Canada, some of the worst job creation records in the

country from the day he took office until today.

And so we're absolutely in favour of seeing incentives like these that can attract workers, try and slow down that flow of out-migration which again is some of the leading rates in the country are folks leaving our province, looking for work elsewhere, and as well to retain the folks that move here from other parts of the world. We know that we've got some of the worst rates of retaining newcomers that moved here from other parts of the world and so we need to look at creative ways to change that momentum towards keeping people here.

Now as far as whether or not these incentives work, I think that we need to see evidence of that. Certainly in favour of evidence-based practices that are leading to better jobs and more jobs for people here and people who might be considering moving here. So that's the part that's missing as far as clear evidence that these incentives are accomplishing that goal. But I think that we've seen enough that . . . Certainly support these incentives and just want to see the evidence that backs them up.

I know that our critic, my seatmate, will get into some of these questions in committee, but at this time I'm prepared to see this Bill No. 133 proceed to the next stage through the typical process. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 133 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — 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: — The bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

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 Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today and enter some comments into the record on Bill No. 134, *The Education Amendment Act*. You know, Mr. Speaker, it's an unusual piece of legislation when we look at the priorities, priorities out there in not just the province but specifically within the education sector, Mr. Speaker. We're seeing a constant and chronic underfunding of education under

this government.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, if you go back and you look at the 16 years these folks have been in government, there is a sad record. And it's particularly sad, you know, for the Minister of Advanced Education, former Education minister; Finance minister, former Education minister; for the Justice minister, very briefly former Education minister; and for the Minister for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan], also former Education minister.

But under them, per-student funding declined every single time. In fact, the last time per-student funding in Saskatchewan even kept up with inflation and growth — I'm not talking about investing above and beyond that, but I mean keeping up with growth and inflation — the former member, former minister Krawetz, was Education minister. And that was — gosh, I don't even know, Mr. Speaker — 16, 14 years ago? Who knows? Time has no meaning in this place, Mr. Speaker.

But that's a pretty sad record when you look at some of the profits that this government is seeing and their refusal to invest when times are good. We're seeing that again, Mr. Speaker, while they're sitting on a billion dollars, refusing to invest when times are good. When time and time again, any time there's a bump in the economy, things are down, it's the first place that they go to cut. It's the last place they invest and the first place they go to cuts.

You know, Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was at the Williston Basin petroleum show and had a gentleman come up to me. We were chit-chatting about some of the procurement issues that his business is facing, some challenges under this government. And this man, you know, works in the industry and is telling me he's moving his family to British Columbia because his kids who he says, you know, are a bit of a handful but by no means need any kind of intensive support or intervention, just his energetic, normal children can't get any help or support in their classroom because their teacher is so overwhelmed with the size and complexity of their class.

And he doesn't hold the teacher responsible, Mr. Speaker. No, he holds this government responsible and so do thousands of people in this province. We saw this last weekend, Mr. Speaker. I believe it was the biggest rally that this building has seen since the late years of the Devine government, Mr. Speaker. An interesting historical parallel and really just drives home how completely out of touch these folks are.

You know, people respect — even if you disagree with them, even if they're mad at you — people respect you if you show up and you hear from them, you engage with them. We're all elected officials, Mr. Speaker, and sometimes we have to hear from people who aren't too pleased with us. And did a single member of this government show up? No.

Are there thousands of citizens in the constituencies represented by every single member of this Assembly who are concerned about their public education, Mr. Speaker? Yes, they are. Yes, there are. And it was not particularly brave. In fact it was the opposite of brave, Mr. Speaker, the fact that nobody would show up to hear from these people. Because these are regular people, Mr. Speaker.

The members opposite, you know, I've heard some of the spin. I've heard them take every opportunity they can to refer to the teachers as, you know, union members and somehow that denigrates the work that they do or the care that they bring to their profession. I've heard, you know, members, members and their allies speculate about how, oh, every single school board trustee is a partisan.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I was a school board trustee myself. I was vice-president of the SSBA. And let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, of the few hundred trustees in the province, I was one of two out New Democrats, Mr. Speaker. And the only other person who I could look around those hundred and be like oh, there's another New Democrat, was former cabinet minister Judy Bradley.

So you look at the hundreds of people who serve as school board trustees in the province and yeah, some of them do have political leanings, Mr. Speaker. And I would suggest humbly that the, not the majority but a significant portion if not the majority, support or at least supported the members opposite and their party. And that is changing, Mr. Speaker. And every single time these members stand up they denigrate the education sector as simply being something that, you know, the NDP cares about, they lose more and more people in their own communities who see them for who they truly are.

Now, Mr. Speaker, getting to the substance of this bill, it's again just an exercise in misplaced priorities and centralization of control. We've seen this under this government with their attempt to take over school boards. We've seen every effort made to push out local voices and to take over things that school boards are doing efficiently and effectively themselves.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, it's particularly interesting. I know my colleague, the critic is going to do great work with stakeholders in continuing to address this bill. But it's going to have a particularly detrimental effect on rural schools, Mr. Speaker, where more and more students are going to have to opt for online learning because they can't get those services in their own classrooms. And, Mr. Speaker, not only are rural schools critically important to this province, they're also major employers in rural Saskatchewan. And as more and more of these classes go online, are centralized under this government's ongoing need for control, you're going to see fewer and fewer jobs in those communities.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, with that I think I have another bill to speak to so I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 134.

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 Regina University.

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I've waxed poetically about some of the misplaced priorities that we're seeing with this bill, and you know, we've spoken to teachers, we've spoken to parents, and they want what's best, best for their children, and that is a strong, locally accessible, locally supported, funded public education system, Mr. Speaker, publicly funded education system.

And you know, even the minister has acknowledged that this isn't necessarily priority number one, yet this is where we see them spending, not just their political capital, but also taxpayer dollars. And there are actual issues that we should be prioritizing in education, Mr. Speaker. You can go into a classroom across this province, and I'd encourage the members opposite to do so, because every time they stand up and speak about education, it's increasingly clear how little they understand it and how out of touch and far removed they are from those things.

Last year we had the Minister of Education waxing on about how increasing gas prices don't impact school divisions. Go out and tell that to Chinook, Mr. Speaker. Of members opposite who are, you know, proud of their record on education when this is the first government who hasn't funded the teachers' contract in history and continues to cut education and continues to show the people of Saskatchewan how little they prioritize children, the most valuable resource that we have.

You know, Mr. Speaker, our education funding is already at rock bottom. These guys want to talk about it being second in the country. It's only if you factor in a bunch of things which don't actually impact classroom learning and, you know, Mr. Speaker, it's eighth in the country, if we want to speak in plain facts. It's eighth in the country. And you know, even using the numbers that they grapple to cobble together, I don't know how it's saleable out there, to go out and tell somebody from, you know, Carrot River that to actually, their child's funding, the support that they're getting in that classroom is actually, you know, really high because we've included the capital funding for a school in Regina. And that's really boosting the numbers in Carrot River, but oops that school was over budget and already over-capacity when we opened it. Whoops, well you know, maybe we're not going to talk about our capital record either.

So you know, Mr. Speaker, across the board whether it's on capital, whether it's on planning, whether it's on support for ensuring that all schools have what they need, local voice in education and empowered local communities supported to keep their families and their children there, educated, competing against the rest of the world and set up for success as future citizens of this province, it's clear that this government just doesn't care.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I'll move to adjourn debate on Bill 135.

The Speaker: — 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: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move to adjourn the House.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:00.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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

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

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

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

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

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

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services

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

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

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Health

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

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Energy and Resources

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

Hon. Dana Skoropad
Minister of Environment

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

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Advanced Education