



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

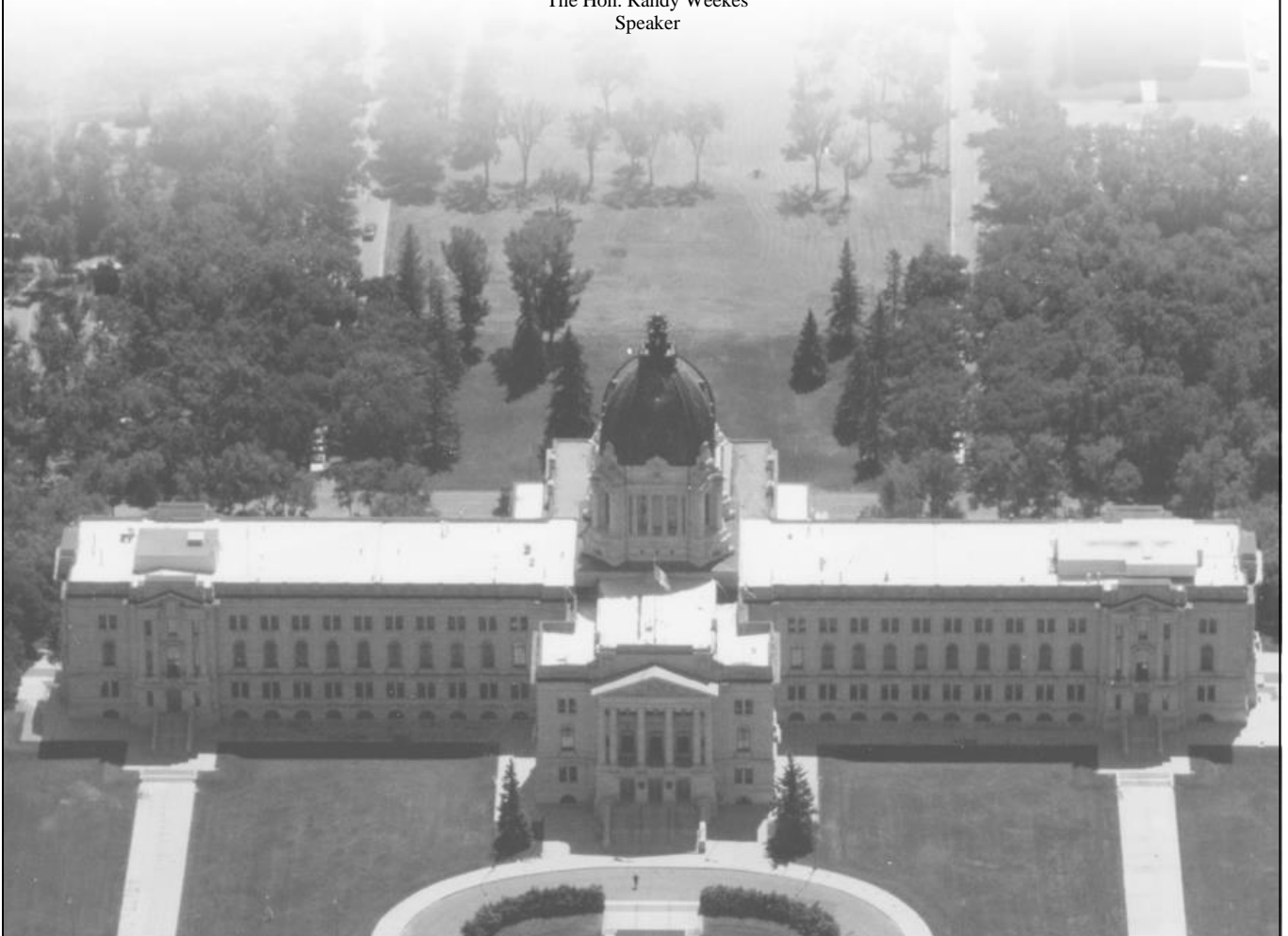
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
AND  
PROCEEDINGS**

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



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

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

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

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

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**Standings**

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

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

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

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

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within hours after each sitting.

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed an honour to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, someone that I haven't actually seen for a number of years now. And that is Carla Kwiatkowski, who is the daughter of Carl Kwiatkowski, who was the representative for Carrot River Valley from 1999 to 2003. Carla used to come down with her dad when he would be serving. And I would have my daughters with me and the children spent a lot of time swimming together. Now they're all adults.

With Carla is her partner, Ryan Sawatsky, and her son Ryder. Carla has been fostering for the last four years. Her love and passion for kids is what she strives for. She moved to Prince Albert in September of 2022 to be more of an asset to the ministry when it comes to emergency care. Her partner is the manager of Lammle's and has two children, and the five of them keep busy and enjoy family times together such as camping and enjoying sports.

Ryder is 13 and he's attending St. Francis School at Prince Albert. He loves the Oilers and is more so happy to be here to see where his grandfather used to work and meet a few of the people that his grandfather worked with. Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members to welcome Carla, Ryder, and Ryan to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Well thank you, 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. Carr:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the next generation of politics. Today, seated in the gallery, are 13 summer students who were hired into some of our offices to gain some incredible experience. So as I call your names, if you just want to give a quick wave so we can see who you are, that would be great.

We have Alex Finovskyi in Environment; Alexis Bradish in Government Relations; Brendan Woloshin in Agriculture; Jenna Renwick in trade, export and development — and I'm really sad she's not in my office this year again, yeah; Jesse Knisley in Crown Investments; Kaeden Brennan in Corrections; Megan Betteridge in Health; Mathew Fox in SaskBuilds and Procurement. But I do enjoy having you, Mathew. Don't take

anything, you know. Taya Wolfe in Social Services; Krishno Das in Highways; Tess Jendrasheske in Executive Council; Yuval Glzman in Advanced Education; and Zana Osman in Finance.

Mr. Speaker, summer internships are a fantastic way to gain practical experience, develop new skills, and build professional networks. At the same time we know that summer internships can be challenging. You may be asked to work on unfamiliar tasks in unfamiliar settings.

Finally I want to encourage all of you to make the most of this opportunity, take the initiative to ask questions, seek feedback, and contribute to your team's success. Be open with your new ideas and embrace the challenges and strive for excellence in everything you do. Your hard work and dedication will not go unnoticed, and it may open up new doors for you in the future. I would just like to welcome you all to our team and we are all looking forward to working with you and making this a great summer for all. So please join me in welcoming all of our summer students to their Legislative Assembly.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health . . . Education.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Been there, done that, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave for an extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank my colleagues for granting leave. I have a couple of introductions that I'd like to make to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to all members of the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, starting with, seated in the east gallery, we have 23 students, grade 3 students from Harvest City Christian Academy. They're here with Mrs. Werstiuk, their teacher, and a couple of parent chaperones. They have been spending the afternoon here in the park. They're going to go on a scavenger hunt after proceedings, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, over the last three or four years I've gotten to know many of these fine students, Mr. Speaker, whether that be at birthday parties or whether that be at field trips, Mr. Speaker. I can say they love to have fun. They're always smiling. They're hard workers and they're very smart. In fact a couple of them over the last two years since I've had this position, a couple of them have been lobbying me to do what I can in my authority to extend their recess. And, Mr. Speaker, I see they have their in-house lobbyist with them today. That would be my son Jack. Jack turns nine next month. He loves playing soccer and baseball. He knows more about animals and dinosaurs than I thought was possible. He is adored by his brother and his sister. And I would ask that all members join with me in welcoming Jack and his class to their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, we seem to do all things as a family. And so, seated in the west gallery right at the top, is my

son Ephram in the blue. There he is. Effy is six years old. He's in kindergarten. He, like his brother, plays baseball and soccer. He's an incredible artist. Like his brother, he knows so much about animals and dinosaurs. I'll share with colleagues — I shared with some of them last week — we got one of his assignments that his teacher sent to us. And on the assignment was a picture of this building and him going into it, and on it, it said, "When I grow up, I want to be the minister of Education." And I have to say I have never been more proud and concerned all in the same moment.

Seated next to Ephram is my daughter Penelope. Pippy is four years old. She is in ballet. She loves dogs and cats, big and small. I learned this week that lions are better than tigers.

And, Mr. Speaker, they are joined by their mother — my wife, Amanda. I hardly know where to begin. She is an incredible mother, an incredible wife, an incredible singer and songwriter, and she's always giving us at home words of wisdom, whether she thinks I'm listening, whether she thinks I want to listen.

And so one thing that she reminds us of in our house is that the harder the frost, the sweeter the fruit. And, Mr. Speaker, over the last 17 years of her supporting me being here and the nearly 24 years that we have been married, Mr. Speaker, we have had some times where there has been frost. But I think, Mr. Speaker, as you can see from the last three introductions that I've made, the season that Amanda and I are in, the fruit is sweeter beyond anything that we could imagine, Mr. Speaker, and more immeasurable, more than I deserve.

And so I would ask all my colleagues to help me in welcoming my family to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Fiaz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce 11 students of grade 7 and 8 from Montessori School of Regina, and with their teachers, Stephanie Poier and Miranda Lisoway. Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members to welcome all those intelligent students sitting in the west gallery. Mr. Speaker, after question period, we're going to have a little bit of time with them for a group photo and I will answer their questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kaeding:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce to the Assembly, seated in the west gallery, 33 grade 7 students from Esterhazy High School. I met with them a couple of weeks ago, and my highlight was discussing their dream jobs that they're going to take on in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

They also met with their federal MP [Member of Parliament] after and they, I believe, hosted a municipal council meeting not long after that. So certainly getting their introduction to politics, Mr. Speaker. They're led today by their teacher, Ms. Christy Harrick, and parent chaperones, Kelly Walker and Jodi denBrok.

Esterhazy notable notes, Mr. Speaker: last week Esterhazy High

School won the 2023 provincial drama award for best overall drama production with the show, *Scapino!* Ms. Harrick also just received a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for her contribution to education in the area of geography. She is a Saskatchewan executive representative to the Canadian geography education system based in Ottawa.

I'd like all members to welcome Esterhazy High School grade 7 class and the students and parents to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce an individual, no stranger to many of us, seated in your gallery. Chief of Police Evan Bray has joined us today. He has been a member of the Regina Police Service for 28 years and served as Chief of Police for the city of Regina since 2016. As we all know, he recently and sadly announced his retirement — sadly to us; I'm not sure if it's sadly to him. I know he's very much enjoying a summer with a little bit more free time than he's used to. But June 30th, I believe, will be his last day.

He leaves a legacy, Mr. Speaker, of many things positive in the community. First of all, one of true care in his relationships that he's built throughout this community. No matter who you are, no matter what your walk is in life, Chief Bray will take the time to speak with you, listen to you, and very much values those relationships that he's built.

I actually found today — I'm not sure if he remembers this — a business card of his that he gave to me at one of the many, many, many events we have had the pleasure of attending together. On it was his speaking notes from that event, and I enjoyed his speech so much I asked if he could give me his speaking notes and sign them for me for my personal bulletin board. It was somewhat of a joke.

But in his speaking notes, his very brief notes, he put on there the qualities of leadership. And I thought that they were so inspiring I kept them for my bulletin board. And just for the Chamber's knowledge, for those who weren't at that event, the six qualities that he mentioned were care, communication, relationships, opportunity, perspective, and fun. And I think Chief Bray very much exemplified all of those qualities throughout his service at Regina Police.

To him and his wife, Jodie, on behalf of all of us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him and his family for many, many years of service to both Regina but the province as a whole. I ask all members to join me in welcoming Chief Bray to his Legislative Assembly.

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

[13:45]

**Mr. Steele:** — Through you and to you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome in your gallery a friend and owner of the Cypress Hills Golf Course and seasonal camping area, Willie Desjardins. Willie, when he's not in the Cypress Hills golfing and managing his golf course, has a long hockey career behind him. Willie is the coach and general manager of the Medicine Hat Tigers in the

Western Hockey League and has represented the country coaching many men's teams: men's 2018 Canadian Olympic team, the Canadian world juniors team in 2009 and 2010 with winning world juniors in 2009, and also a coach of the Vancouver Canucks and Los Angeles Kings.

Willie is a proud native of Climax, Saskatchewan in the great Southwest, and we thank him for his investment back in Saskatchewan in our provincial parks and system. Please, members, join me today and welcome Willie to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I wasn't supposed . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I was halfway.

I forgot my CA [constituency assistant], Sean Checkley. He asked me not to introduce him, which everybody knows, and I thought I wouldn't but I better. So I'd like to welcome Sean to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave for extended introduction.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off, I just want to join with the member from Cypress Hills to welcome a hockey icon, a hockey leader, and a leader in this province to his Assembly.

Willie Desjarlais, it's an honour to have you here today. Thank you so very much for being here today and for all your leadership in the sport of hockey and pointing that path forward for so many young people across this province and across this country, and for all the mentorship and support that you've provided so many in this province. I ask all members to join with me in giving a very warm welcome to Willie.

Now while on my feet it's a real honour to introduce, seated in your gallery, a young person that's shadowing me here today, Preston Sawa that's here, grade 9 over at O'Neill high school. He's a remarkable young guy — super-bright, super-caring, super-solid. His parents, Rod and Sandra, are amazing people in our community as well, folks that I've known for many years.

I'm proud to count him as a constituent, Mr. Speaker. He gives back in so many ways in the community, to his church and through the community. He's a hard-working young guy. I know he takes lots of care around his own home, shovelling and mowing, but then he also sells those services throughout the community. He's hustling and hard-working, Mr. Speaker.

He also cares a lot about history and politics in his province, and that's why it's such a pleasure to have him here today. He's been able to meet lots of leaders here today and sit in on meetings.

He's met with members on the other side as well, and I thank them for the time they've taken with him as well. So I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming Preston to his Assembly.

And, Mr. Speaker, speaking of hockey, we've got a pretty skilled young guy that's in the Assembly here today. I spotted him up there in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker, a young guy by the name of Jasper, who has beautiful hands on the ice. I've had the privilege of coaching this young guy for the last two years, first on the Bulls and then on the Capitals, Mr. Speaker. We were on the same squad here this year. Great hands, great finisher around the net, but an even better kid in the locker room and with his teammates, Mr. Speaker, a good friend of William's as well.

Certainly his parents, Dave and Beth Ann, are wonderful people, Mr. Speaker. He's a big fan though of Sidney Crosby. I know he'll be disappointed with the outcome this year, but he plays a little bit like Crosby on the ice as well. So I ask all members to join with me in welcoming Jasper Ruecker to his Assembly.

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

**Mr. Grewal:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it is my pleasure to rise and join the member opposite in welcoming Police Chief Evan Bray. Since 1995 Bray has been living out his childhood dream as he has stated that he wanted to be a cop when he was five years old. He will be retiring this June after serving superbly almost 30 years with the Regina Police Service.

Mr. Speaker, I know a lot of people in our city, including myself, are proud to call him a friend. It's always been my pleasure to attend so many community events together with you, sir. I wish him well in his future endeavours and know that he will always be passionate about Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan people. Now I will ask all members to join me in welcoming Police Chief Evan Bray.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is, as is always, an honour to rise and to recognize and thank guests seated in all of the galleries for joining us here. I do want to join with the member from Rosemont in welcoming Preston to his Legislative Assembly, as well as all of the young people who are and were here today with us.

But I'd also like to join in members on both sides in welcoming and thanking Chief Bray for his service to this community, Mr. Speaker, a farm kid from near Abernethy, comes from good people. I think, you know, many of us will have first heard his voice as the voice of the Riders going back a few years, Mr. Speaker.

But that word "leadership" I had circled on my notes as well, that the member from Douglas Park noted — someone who's really come into his own as a leader in our community, someone who has led with compassion, someone who is definitely a bridge-builder, and someone who knows the significance of relationships not just for the short term, Mr. Speaker, but for the long-term well-being and safety of this community. And that's an extraordinary type of leadership, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to miss.

I know that there's at least one other role that's going to be coming up here as, you know, a little more time to be grandparent, Mr. Speaker, and that is well deserved. We thank you for your service. We wish you a restful summer with, you know, a lot of grandparenting duties along the way. And I invite all members to join me in thanking Chief Evan Bray for his service to this community. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must join with my colleagues on both sides of the House in welcoming Chief Evan Bray to this Assembly here this afternoon.

I don't know where to start, Evan. Our history is long — Canadian Police Association, Regina Police Association, and of course the Regina Police Service. And now with me being in government, you have been there, steady and willing to share your experience, your opinion, your advice on how to handle certain situations or what to look out for. I always count on that counsel, that's for sure.

It has been an amazing experience working with you throughout our time together, and I do cherish it very much. So on behalf of a very grateful province, grateful city of Regina, and your involvement federally, also a very grateful country, thank you and all the best in your retirement.

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

**Hon. Ms. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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. Eyre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week is Victims and Survivors of Crime Week in Saskatchewan. And right now there are some 150 volunteer victim support workers in the province who help support victims of crime. They operate out of police-based victim services programs or other community board programs, and they do incredible work, Mr. Speaker. Last year, these volunteers dedicated over 8,000 hours to help some 15,000 victims and survivors of crime. They help them navigate the justice system. They help them heal, Mr. Speaker. And their dedication, compassion, and support make a real difference.

Earlier today I had the lovely opportunity to recognize some of these outstanding volunteers who are celebrating 10, 15, or 25 years of service in communities across the province. And I asked them how they became involved, and it ranges. Some have family who are police officers; they got involved that way. One, who's a nurse, saw a poster about this in the hospital where she worked and ripped off the contact information. Another is a retired teacher who was approached by the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] in the area.

And I also asked them what their typical interactions are. There

are no typical interactions. Mr. Speaker, one of our guests told me he was called out after two new RCMP members had come upon a tragic suicide — it was a farmer — and he listened to them, was there for them as they needed to deal with their shock for several hours.

Another described her work following the James Smith tragedy and the range of things she did. She listened. She distributed food that had been brought by people for affected families. She was also involved with supporting families after the Humboldt Broncos tragedy. And those bonds that were created in the immediate aftermath, they still hold, and she's in touch with the families.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce these lovely best-of-Saskatchewan people in your gallery. If you could give a wave: 10-year recipient Janice Messner from Porcupine Plain with Northeast Regional Victim Services; 15-year recipients Carla Cronan from Swift Current with South West Victim Services, Noreen Kolback from Saskatoon with Saskatoon Victim Services, and Monica Pieczonka from Regina with Regina Victim Services; 25-year recipients Doug Haroldson from Maple Creek with South West Victim Services, and Anita Klochko from Kamsack with Parkland Victim Services, as well, Andrea Staples from Tisdale with Northeast Regional Victim Services.

Mr. Speaker, our province's justice system is stronger and better able to support victims and survivors of crime, thanks to your tireless efforts this week and through the year. Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking these volunteers for their outstanding service and in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister in welcoming these amazing volunteers today and thank them for their many, many years of service in supporting victims of crime in Saskatchewan.

As had been mentioned by the minister, you are often that crucial person who victims can lean on in what is the worst moment of their lives for many, in a space where no one else can really help them in that way. So thank you so much for doing that incredible and crucial service to your community for the people of Saskatchewan.

I'd join with the minister in inviting everyone to welcome all of you and to thank you by welcoming you to your Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege and a pleasure to introduce my bride of . . . this November will be 48 years. So, Mr. Speaker, she's the cornerstone. She's enabled me to be here almost 20 years. So I'd ask all people to join me in welcoming her to our Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I think I was so excited that



a hockey legend was being introduced here today that I misspoke when I was introducing him, but Willie Desjardins, it's a real honour to have you here in this Assembly, and you deserve better than having your name mispronounced. Honour to have you here in this Assembly, somebody that's led in so many ways in this community and in hockey in Saskatchewan and across our country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. Mr. Marit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and introduce Willie as well. Willie and I go way back. In fact we were teammates in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League with the Moose Jaw Canucks. And not only teammates, we were linemates as well, Mr. Speaker, so I had to protect the little guy once in a while. So I was the one that went in the corners to get the pucks so Willie could score the goals, and he was damn good at it, Mr. Speaker. So I just want to take the opportunity to recognize Willie and introduce him here to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Justice introduced the volunteers here and one among them is, I think, a friend of mine who is an incredible contributor to the community of Porcupine Plain.

[14:00]

Janice Messner has served the health care facility in Porcupine Plain with dignity, 40 years. Janice is the true representation of what a nurse should be. She is an incredible person. She's a lifesaver. I can speak from personal experience, and from many other angles. Janice is truly representative of nursing in Saskatchewan. Please join me in welcoming Janice to her Legislative Assembly.

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present a petition calling for recruitment and retention of pediatric specialists. These citizens have been working very hard to bring to the attention of this government that our sole practising pediatric GI [gastroenterologist] has left practice in the province; that parents of pediatric GI [gastroenterology] patients are leaving the province to get medical care for their children; that Saskatchewan has an insufficient number of pediatric specialists providing care to Saskatchewan children; and that Saskatchewan children requiring specialized care are not receiving the medical treatment that they need.

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 recruit an appropriate complement of pediatric GI specialists and adjunct services, and develop a plan to address the service

gaps in pediatric specialty fields.

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

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan, wish to bring 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 the 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 the families would benefit, the reality is that the 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.

Below undersigned are residents of Carrot River. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again to present a petition calling for adequate funding for education. Those who signed the petition would like us to know that the funding included in this year's budget is wholly inadequate and will again lead to cuts impacting classrooms across this province.

Today I want to highlight what the Saskatchewan School Boards Association has had to say in response to this budget. The SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] represents 27 public and Catholic divisions in a non-partisan way. These are trustees and elected school board officials who know their divisions well, and they've been working for nearly a decade finding every drop of efficiencies that could possibly be found and watching the impact of cuts in the classroom.

They've criticized this budget knowing exactly what the impact will be. They've said that this budget will further erode public education in our province, Mr. Speaker. They've had other things to say that are so harsh and critical of this budget that I'm not even allowed to say them here in this Assembly.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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 Lumsden and Regina. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Teed:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling on the Government of Saskatchewan to address the cost-of-living crisis. The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan would like to bring to our attention the following: that inflation is the highest it's been in more than three decades; that half of Saskatchewan residents were living paycheque to paycheque before transportation and food costs skyrocketed in 2022; that the Sask Party government's 32 new tax and fee hikes makes life more expensive, all while harming struggling industries like tourism, culture, and fitness.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

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

The undersigned residents are from Regina. I do so present.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Saskatchewan Represented at United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

**Ms. Mowat:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Sexual Violence Awareness Week to congratulate Amber Stewart, executive director of the Battlefords & Area Sexual Assault Centre on attending the UN [United Nations] 67th Commission on the Status of Women in New York City as a delegate with the Canadian Women's Foundation, Status of Women Canada, and WAGE [Women and Gender Equality Canada].

While there, Amber participated in events covering a range of topics including violence against journalists; increasing the representation of women and girls in STEAM [science, technology, engineering, arts, and math] and tech; the weaponization of technology against women in politics; and the need to address missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada; and the children found at Indian residential schools and day schools.

Amber presented at a panel discussion on public legal education to address gender-based violence where she emphasized the need for increased education for RCMP to help victims being harassed online. She said, "It was a surreal experience to be there from small-city Saskatchewan and to be one of the only two from Saskatchewan in attendance."

When she's not representing Saskatchewan in New York City, Amber is actively involved in her community in The Battlefords. She's the board Chair of The Battlefords Housing Authority and

she's organized her seventh annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event this Thursday. And she has also organized the first Hey Girl: Women & Wellness Conference this past March.

I want to congratulate Amber on attending the UN 67th Commission on the Status of Women and thank her for the work every day that she does in our community.

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

#### Fallen Police Officers Recognized during National Police Week

**Mr. Lemaigre:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week, May 14th to the 20th, is National Police Week and is reserved for highlighting the incredible work that police officers do to protect our country.

Instead this week we recognize the heroes who have bravely put their lives ahead of ours. This past week we are reminded of the sacrifices police officers make. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Ontario Provincial Police. Sergeant Eric Mueller passed away early on May 11th while attending a call with two officers that sustained injuries.

Sadly news like this have been far too familiar as nine other officers have been laid to rest across Canada. These officers were mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, friends, and community members. They all have made the ultimate sacrifice, as we will never forget their impact on our communities.

After I read the names of our fallen officers, I ask that we take a moment of silence: Sergeant Eric Mueller, Sergeant Maureen Breau, Constable Travis Jordan, Constable Brett Ryan, Constable Greg Pierzchala, Constable Shaelyn Yang, Constable Devon Northrup, Constable Morgan Russell, Constable Travis Gillespie, Constable Andrew Hong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### National Mining Week

**Ms. A. Young:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Next week we celebrate National Mining Week. And as all members of this House will know, mining has made significant historical and economic contributions to the development of Canada and continues to be a driving force for opportunity and prosperity in Saskatchewan.

Along with the members from Lakeview and Rosemont, and I believe very briefly, the member from Martensville-Warman, we had the opportunity to attend the Sask Chamber's forum in February. And again and again we heard from attendees, why don't we know this about Saskatchewan?

Well, Mr. Speaker, this beautiful province leads as an ethical and sustainable producer with a proud history and future in traditional resources like potash and uranium. And we also have an innovative future with critical minerals, rare earth elements, with Saskatchewan's miners and champions leading the way. Innovative, knowledge-based jobs, well-paying jobs in mining, sustainable development, and green opportunities like those

presented by Saskatchewan's mining industry are part of the great story that the world should know about this province.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in this early celebration of National Mining Week and the sustainability and potential of the sector, and to take a moment to be thankful for the resource-rich land we share and to whom we owe that thanks.

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

#### **New Jumpstart Inclusive Playground**

**Mr. Grewal:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regina families will have a new playground and spray pad to visit in 2023 thanks to a donation from Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say the charity is providing a Jumpstart inclusive playground as a 1.2 million gift in kind to the city of Regina.

The accessible playground and spray pad will be installed next to the centrally located Sportplex. Scott Fraser, president of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, said that they are on track to creating large-scale inclusive playgrounds in every province and territory across Canada. The goal is to ensure that they become standard for inclusivity, Mr. Speaker.

The city of Regina is also exploring the feasibility of a new indoor aquatic facility at the same site. The inclusive playground and spray pad will become an integral part of the recreation facilities in the area. Clustering several amenities at one site creates opportunities for residents to meet and socialize, as well as future opportunities for playground and spray pad users to take advantage of the aquatic facility's features such as accessible washrooms and change rooms.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to thank local Canadian Tire dealers and Jumpstart Charities for this substantial donation to our city. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Moosomin Resident Recognized as Junior Citizen of the Year**

**Mr. Bonk:** — On May 25th, four outstanding young individuals will be honoured as Saskatchewan's Junior Citizens of the Year. One of those who will receive this honour has an incredible story of overcoming adversity and becoming a community leader.

Victor Santos Cardoza came to Moosomin with his family about 10 years ago. The family had left Honduras for Canada, arriving as refugees fleeing violence back home. They quickly became part of the community, but in 2017 their refugee claim was rejected and the family was slated for deportation. But the community rallied around them, and in the end they were allowed to stay.

Once he arrived in Moosomin, Victor started taking a leadership role in school and before his family were Canadian citizens or permanent residents, Victor joined the Pipestone Air Cadets and became a vital member of that organization. When he was in grade 10 he became Moosomin's first youth councillor. He attended every town council meeting and always had input. Kevin Weedmark nominated Victor, and Moosomin town

councillor Murray Gray and former principal Devona Putland wrote letters of support for Victor's nomination.

As a youth councillor, "Victor's values and character helped him become a very important part of our council," Murray Gray wrote. "Due to the circumstances evolving from his family's citizenship . . . Victor had declared that being a youth councillor was the perfect way to repay the community for their efforts in keeping them . . . [there]."

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute the four young people who have been chosen as Saskatchewan Junior Citizens of the Year. And I especially want to highlight Victor Santos Cardoza, who found a warm welcome in Moosomin and is already contributing to his community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Saskatchewan Journalist Wins Pulitzer Prize and Peabody Award**

**Ms. Lambert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan has a new award-winning journalist. Connie Walker, originally from the Balcarres area of Okanese First Nation, was recently announced as the recipient of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for best audio journalism for her podcast *Stolen: Surviving St. Michael's*.

The podcast takes listeners through the journey of residential school survivors and her father, Howard Cameron's, connection to St. Michael's school in Duck Lake. Alongside the prestigious Pulitzer Prize, Connie also received the Peabody Award last week for this podcast.

Mr. Speaker, Connie was inspired to learn more about her father's journey and the journeys of other residential school survivors after hearing a family story. Her father was an RCMP member at the time and had pulled over a former residential school priest during a routine checkstop. That story fuelled in Connie the desire to learn more about her family's history.

[14:15]

Research led her back to her home community where she visited family, researched schools, and spoke to many who were close to her late father. The podcast has provided the opportunity for stories of this country's past to be told and it's given voice to residential school survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to congratulate Connie and her team at Spotify's Gimlet Media on receiving such prestigious awards. I encourage all members to take a moment to listen to the podcast. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Wholesale Trade Growth**

**Ms. C. Young:** — Mr. Speaker, it's another great day for Saskatchewan's strong economy. The latest numbers from Stats Canada show the value of wholesale trade has increased 59.6 per cent in March 2023 compared to a year ago. This is the second-highest percentage change among the provinces. The total value

of wholesale trade was \$5.4 billion in March of this year. These numbers are reflecting growth in the province.

Mr. Speaker, under this government we are ensuring growth that works for everyone. We have an ambitious plan, a plan to maintain a strong economy, to reinforce strength in our communities, and to build up our families right here at home. This plan is the Saskatchewan growth plan.

And, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite seem to struggle with this plan. As the member for Regina University tweeted, calling the growth plan an economic manifesto that is insane and completely un-credible, Mr. Speaker, after checking both Oxford and Webster's dictionary, it seems that needs to be corrected. Not only is "un-credible" not a word, but it is those members opposite that have zero, and I mean zero, credibility when it comes to the economy. The members opposite seem to forget the only party in this Assembly that has a manifesto is that party opposite and their Leap Manifesto.

### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Access to Pediatric Specialists and Health Care Staffing

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver when it comes to health care. Let's take the case of Blake Turnbull. This vibrant four-year-old lives here in Regina and she has serious medical issues that affect her liver. Blake requires the care of a pediatric gastroenterologist, also known as a GI.

Last Monday her mom, Sarah, came to the legislature advocating for better GI care, but she didn't get any answers. On Tuesday little Blake had an emergency and the family had to drive through the night to Edmonton because the surgery that she needed, there are no specialists equipped in Saskatchewan to perform.

To the Premier: when will Blake and Sarah be able to get the care that they need here in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think we discussed this last week as well and the answer, unfortunately, is the same this week. But we're working towards hiring a team of pediatric GIs here in the province, Mr. Speaker, some to work out of the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, that new piece of infrastructure in Saskatoon.

As I said last week, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of Health has said, that we have a team that is relying on some team support from other provinces in the interim. This is part of our very ambitious, I would say, health human resource recruitment plan that we have across the province, which includes recruiting not only all health care workers of every designation, includes not only recruiting nurse practitioners and family physicians into our communities but also is very focused on recruiting specialists like pediatric GIs.

So we have a team of support that is supporting not only Blake but other Saskatchewan residents, Mr. Speaker, as we use the

health agency, the recruitment agency that just hired their CEO [chief executive officer], as we use the recruitment incentives that we have, as we use the recruitment team at the Saskatchewan Health Authority to fill these positions as quickly as possible.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. Through all of those self-congratulations, the fact is that the plan for this family is to drive through the night to Edmonton for them to get emergency care that this child needs. It's simply not acceptable.

Now Blake used to be on the wait-list for the sole pediatric GI in the province, but since that doctor has left, there are now no options available to the family. The Turnbells and many other Saskatchewan families now have to travel to Alberta or Ontario or Manitoba just to get the critical care that they need.

Does the Premier think that it's acceptable that so many families are forced to go out of province with their children to get the care that they need?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — No, Mr. Speaker, not acceptable, and most certainly is going to be temporary. It's why the Minister of Health in this year's very budget, which we're going to vote on in the next day or two here, Mr. Speaker, provides two and a half million dollars to develop a comprehensive GI program at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital for families like Blake's family as well as many other families.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts and the initiatives of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the Ministry of Health, these two Health ministers, the health recruitment team that we have that now has a CEO, alongside the incentives, all of the other pillars of the human resource effort that we have in the health environment is showing results. As a matter of fact, when you go back over the last number of years, we are up about 47 per cent of the number of general practitioners in the province, a 77 per cent increase in the specialists that are operating in our province, Mr. Speaker, and 100 per cent up on pediatricians here in the province relative to 2007.

And so we do have some work to do, most notably in the area of pediatric GIs, Mr. Speaker. Two and half million dollars have been put aside to ensure that that work will be accomplished, accomplished sooner rather than later, Mr. Speaker. It will bring us some pediatric GI capacity here in the province, as well as a surrounding team around them.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. Nothing about this is temporary. And neither is this the end of the story. Because, Mr. Speaker, when Blake and her family got back from their emergency trip to Edmonton, there was a letter waiting for them from the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority].

It said that since there wasn't a pediatric GI in the province anymore, Blake was being kicked off the wait-list. And it said that Blake would have to get a new referral from her doctor if and when pediatric GI services are restored in this province. Mr.

Speaker, it was an absolute slap in the face.

And to the Premier, my question is simple: is this growth that works for everyone?

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I can't speak to a specific letter that was received. But it would be interesting to know, you know, where that letter came from if that's in fact what it . . . The SHA doesn't write letters. Individuals within the SHA do write letters, Mr. Speaker.

I can say that what this government is doing, which is very different than previous administrations in this province, Mr. Speaker, is we are doubling down our investment. We are investing to ensure that we don't have these types of gaps, Mr. Speaker, within our Saskatchewan Health Authority.

And to answer the Leader of the Opposition's question: no, it's not acceptable. But in our province from time to time, it does occur that we do have gaps in service and we need to . . . We need to work doubly hard, Mr. Speaker, employ all of the tools that we have, whether that be incentives, whether that be the recruitment agency. As I said, we just announced a CEO for that agency a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, to do what they can to attract people to come to work in a new facility like the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital with a team around those pediatric GIs.

It's worked in the case of family physicians. It's working in the case of specialists across the province, Mr. Speaker. And I have no doubt, and I have faith in the Saskatchewan Health Authority, that it'll work in the case in recruiting pediatric GIs for our Saskatchewan families.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Except, Mr. Speaker, clearly those gaps do exist and clearly their plan is not working.

Mr. Speaker, families should not have to drive through the night to get their kids access to the health care they need. Blake used to be on a wait-list to see a pediatric GI here in Saskatchewan, but the last doctor has closed their practice and Blake has never seen a pediatric GI and has never had any access to pediatric GI care in Saskatchewan.

The letter from the SHA kicks Blake off the wait-list and says that another referral will be required. How is any of this acceptable to the Minister of Health?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I can assure the House and the family of Blake that nobody's being kicked off any wait-list. I will investigate this with the SHA, find out who wrote this letter. But I can guarantee this House that nobody has been kicked off the wait-list. I'll make sure that Blake is on that wait-list. I will review the wait-list personally, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that it has not been changed.

We are working on locums to be able to make sure that we have some coverage for that. We also have a pediatric team that's going to wrap around these patients to make sure that they're getting the services they need in the interim. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Thanks, Mr. Speaker. We'd be happy to share the letter, SaskGastro. And this is over 1,000 patients that were lost off Dr. Nicol's rolls but also doesn't include all of the patients like Blake who were still on the wait-list. This is not a one-off situation. Mr. Speaker, what this tired and out-of-touch government has allowed to happen to specialist care is simply unacceptable.

Kids like Blake used to be able to see a pediatric GI here in Saskatchewan, but now there's no timeline and no plan for how they'll be able to get the care they need. The team that the minister has been talking about adding in this budget can't get under way without a pediatric GI specialist. When will the ministers provide families with a real timeline for when they're going to be able to get this care in the province?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as the Premier outlined, we've invested two and a half million dollars in this year's budget to be able to have that support team in and around our GI specialists when we are able to recruit. Ms. Brady was just in and announced as CEO just last week, and I told her that this is one of her top priorities, is to make sure we get this and two other — three total — pediatric GI specialists into our province immediately, Mr. Speaker. I've asked her to report back to me right after she takes officially the position which is as of next week.

We do have ministry officials working on this, Mr. Speaker, but for them to categorize in a generalization that we're not doing anything for specialists is just absolutely wrong. We've been able to bring in 102 specialists in the last 18 months. We've increased our specialists, as the Premier said, 77 per cent. With a 20 per cent increase in our population, we've increased the specialists by 77 per cent, our general practitioners by 47 per cent. We've got some work to do on this file, and I'm confident that the officials will do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — And what they don't talk about, Mr. Speaker, is how many people are leaving, how many doctors are burning out, how many specialists have left this province because of the working conditions in health care.

Mr. Speaker, no one wants to be on a wait-list when they need to see a doctor. After all, access to wait-lists isn't access to health care. But the solution to the GI specialist shortage isn't to scrap the wait-list altogether. That's not what patients and advocates mean when they call for wait-lists to be eliminated, Mr. Speaker.

Why is the minister scrapping the wait-list entirely while this new

GI team is being formed? And why is he forcing families to jump through another hoop of getting another referral from their family doctor?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, as I outlined in my first response in this House, nobody is getting kicked off a wait-list. And I want to reassure the people of Saskatchewan that is not the case. Mr. Speaker, if there was a letter sent out by the SHA in error, I will rectify that and I will contact the Turnbells to make sure that they are aware that they are still on the wait-list.

Nothing has changed, Mr. Speaker, other than we have some locum coverage. We want to make sure that we have that coverage in place with a pediatric team in and around that. We're going to continue to work with all of the GI patients, pediatric and adult, to make sure that they have the care that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Mowat:** — Correction, Mr. Speaker. The wait-list has been eliminated. And these families . . . Who are we supposed to believe — this minister or these families that are reaching out with concerns?

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party is failing across the board when it comes to pediatric specialists for kids like Blake. This tired and out-of-touch government, they knew for nearly a year that this doctor was leaving and they did nothing. Only after multiple families went to the media did the minister put forward a plan to make a plan.

There are no timelines, there are no doctors, and now there's not even a wait-list. What responsibility does the Minister of Health take for this total failure to deliver?

[14:30]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Mr. Speaker, we've had officials working on this. And for them to throw those officials in the Ministry of Health and the SHA under the bus continuously, saying that they're not doing anything, is categorically wrong. And it's categorically unnecessary, for the people in the Ministry of Health who have been working on this, who have been out meeting with GI specialists to be able to do that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have told this House once, twice — I can say it again — that nobody will be kicked off this list. If there was a letter that was sent out in error from somebody within the SHA, I will deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Funding for Education

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, it's absolutely shameful how this government is failing our children in health care, but they're

failing them in education too. School divisions are being forced yet again to do more with less as a result of this minister's failure to deliver adequate funding that our kids need. Urban and rural divisions have been clear: cuts will be needed to balance their budgets.

Again to that minister: what does he think those divisions should cut to make up for his failures?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've had an opportunity to meet with several boards since certainly the last couple of weeks. Not one of them has asked me to write their budget for them, so I don't know if that member has information that would suggest otherwise, that a board out there would like me to write their budget, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'll be meeting with both Regina Catholic and Saskatoon Catholic later this week. I met with the board Chair from Saskatoon Public last week as well as her senior administration, and I'll be meeting with Regina Public as well this week. I know that there is other meetings as well.

Mr. Speaker, as I've said before, we're looking at ways that we can ensure that school divisions have the resources, particularly as we see record enrolment in this province. And there'll be more discussions to come.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, it's a fact that this minister might not want to accept, but this out-of-touch government is choosing deep cuts, deep cuts in classrooms that are already described as cut down to the bone. While the cost of everything is sky-high right now, that minister offered publicly funded education a 0.7 per cent increase to their budgets. And it shows just what his government thinks about public education.

On Saturday the Regina Public School Teachers' Association said that 40 positions are being cut through attrition in Regina Public. Let's be clear. There will be 40 fewer people doing the work while that division adds hundreds of new students next year. How does that make any sense to that minister?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member will know that school divisions have until the end of June to present their budgets for approval. What we have indicated to school divisions is that we are looking at ways that we can provide additional support in light of the record enrolment that we are seeing, the fastest growing school enrolment in at least 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, we did provide fifteen and a half million dollars last November to address that. We know that the projections that were delivered to the ministry in January that we built the budget upon in March, that we'll be voting on in the next couple of days, Mr. Speaker, that likely those projections will be off again at the end of September . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Yeah, that's the real problem here, the projections.

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Well certainly it is a problem, Mr. Speaker, when school divisions . . . When school divisions project 2,500 kids and 5,000 show up, Mr. Speaker, it can make it a little bit challenging. I know a challenge that our previous NDP government would never have, Mr. Speaker, because it was a challenge they never had because people were fleeing this province.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Again shameful, Mr. Speaker, that that minister will stand in his place and blame divisions — divisions — for not knowing the realities in their schools. Publicly funded schools have made years of cuts under this government, and they've done so when times are tough. But now this government has a billion-dollar surplus of windfall revenue, and again they're forcing cuts on school divisions.

It makes no sense, Mr. Speaker. There are 40 positions being cut this spring in Regina Public at a time when hundreds of new students will be added to the roll. Our schools and our students need more supports, and this minister is giving them less. Who does the minister think will do the work of those 40 positions once they're gone?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we did last summer in July was provide \$20 million, inflationary pressures. Mr. Speaker, we then added an additional \$15.5 million in November. So we did add additional supports to school divisions when they were facing those pressures. We've annualized that in the budget. It's a 2.5 per cent increase from last budget to this budget, Mr. Speaker.

And what we've indicated to schools divisions . . . And it's not blaming the school divisions, Mr. Speaker. It is a reality which the school divisions acknowledge. The projections that they give the province in January that the budget is built on in March, last year those projections were off to the tune of about 2,500 students.

In September we are expecting — and school divisions acknowledge this — we're expecting a similar situation, Mr. Speaker. And that's why we are having discussions right now with school divisions on their enrolment growth issues that they are having.

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

**Mr. Love:** — Mr. Speaker, day after day in this Assembly and year after year, this minister spins himself in circles trying to make sense of the cuts that he's choosing for classrooms. He's choosing that. And who pays the price, Mr. Speaker? Our students pay the price. Students will be forced to pay the price because this minister gave public education 0.7 per cent this year, all while sitting on windfall revenue.

Cuts to teachers, cuts to supports, and cuts to classrooms. How on earth is this growth that works for everyone?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll, I guess, repeat what I've said three times already. We are meeting, I am meeting with school divisions, with board members, with senior administration . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes, Mr. Speaker, he just made my point. The member just made my point. He said, you said that last year. And what did we do? In July we gave millions for inflation. In November we gave millions for enrolment, Mr. Speaker.

We will be having the very same discussions with school divisions so that we can provide the support, so that this province can continue to provide support to students, unlike when the NDP were the government and schools across this province were closed to the tune of one a month for 16 years, Mr. Speaker. We're not going back to those days.

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

#### **Fiscal Management and Opposition's Position on Carbon Tax**

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is shortchanging classrooms at a time they should be bolstering supports. It's clear, it's clear they've lost track of the things that actually matter to Saskatchewan families. Things like public education and the cost of living, both of which are completely ignored in that government's budget. There's not a dime of cost-of-living relief at a time that half of Saskatchewan families are saying that they can barely pay the bills.

Why is it that that Finance minister and that government are delivering zero cost-of-living relief for families and instead continuing to stick them with the biggest tax hike in Saskatchewan's history and higher bills?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I welcome that question. Mr. Speaker, we've had this debate, and we have this debate on an ongoing basis in this Assembly. One of the best things that the members opposite can do was to go back to their federal leaders and say, we're not going to have a carbon tax.

But, Mr. Speaker, they have a problem with carbon tax over there because some of their members support the carbon tax. I accept that their leader doesn't. But if you genuinely don't support a carbon tax, what do you need to do to do it? Well you could have some of those members that don't support it stand up and do a member's statement why they don't do it. They could put it forward as a topic for a 75-minute debate. They could do a news release from some of those members. They could go out and do a scrum on it. They could do a party resolution. They could put it on Twitter. They could put it on Facebook.

Mr. Speaker, another thing they could do is stop inviting Jagmeet Singh to their fundraisers. They could separate their party from

the federal party because it's the same one right now, Mr. Speaker. I've got a . . .

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — You know, memo to the long-serving minister over there: everything we say in here is recorded, Mr. Speaker. We don't support the federal carbon tax. We had a 75-minute debate just a couple weeks ago, and I stood up and was clear on that as well. As has our leader, Mr. Speaker.

But of course, it's all a deflection for a government that's sticking Saskatchewan people with higher taxes and higher bills, while they also ram forward with a plan that's going to cost taxpayers more and businesses more for years forward, and that's the Saskatchewan revenue agency, Mr. Speaker. It'll cost taxpayers millions more, \$10 million a year; businesses, \$16 million more each and every year. Over 10 years, more than \$260 million, Mr. Speaker. Even the member from Kelvington-Wadena shared his own personal view on this plan last year, and he wouldn't even support the plan, Mr. Speaker.

To the Finance minister: why won't she scrap this wasteful proposal before she wastes . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, if we've said it once, we've said it a thousandth time, which by the way, for the benefit of the members over there, this is my 1,000th question that I have answered in this Assembly in the last however many years I've been doing this. And I know the tired and ageism jokes will continue from the members over there, and I will continue to take them for the next thousand times.

Mr. Speaker, we've talked to the members over there. We've given them advice on how to deal with the problems that they've got. I have more suggestions for them. Mr. Speaker, the Liberals recently changed the name of their party because they didn't want to be associated with the federal arm of it anymore. Those people over there, they could do exactly the same thing. Mr. Speaker, they could put it in their ads. The individuals that put it in their ads. They've got lots of opportunity.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member on her feet? Time's lapsed.

Why is the Government Deputy House Leader on her feet?

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Mr. Speaker, point of order.

**The Speaker:** — State your point of order.

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — Well if I've said it once, Mr. Speaker, I may have to say it a thousand times, just like the member from Saskatoon Southeast. But during question period, the member from Saskatoon Fairview said, and I quote, who are we supposed to believe — the minister or families?

The member opposite is questioning the truthfulness of the

Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, the words used by this member from Saskatoon Fairview are clearly unparliamentary. I ask that the member opposite withdraw and apologize please.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — Mr. Speaker, we've used this phrase several times. It's not an unparliamentary language. I'd ask that you find that point of order not well taken.

**The Speaker:** — I do find the point of order well taken. You are putting into disrepute of the member's honesty. I ask the member from Saskatoon Fairview to withdraw and apologize.

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

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates to present its seventh report, which includes the 2023-24 estimates and 2022-23 supplementary estimates no. 2.

I move:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

[14:45]

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

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.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Committee of Finance.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair for the Committee of Finance.



## COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

## Motions for Supply

**The Chair:** — The items before the committee are the appropriation resolutions. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move the following resolution no. 1:

Resolved that toward making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2023, the sum of \$178,000,400 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Chair:** — The Minister of Finance has moved resolution no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2023, the sum of \$178,498,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Yeah. Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Chair:** — Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. There being no further business . . . Oh no, pardon me. I recognize the Minister of Finance again.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move the following resolution no. 2:

Resolved that toward making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2024, the sum of \$16,086,000,237 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Chair:** — Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Chair:** — Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried. There being no further business before the committee, I would invite a member to move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the Deputy Government House Leader that the committee rise, report progress, and ask

for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Committees.

**Mr. Hargrave:** — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions, has instructed me to report the same and to ask for leave to sit again.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the resolutions be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

## FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF RESOLUTIONS

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that the resolutions be read a first and second time.

**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:** — First and second reading of the resolutions.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting. Pursuant to rule 32(1), the Minister of Finance shall move the first reading of the appropriation bill. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

## APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 136 — *The Appropriation Act, 2023 (No. 1)*

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I move that Bill 136, *The Appropriation Act, 2023 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 132, *The Appropriation Act, 2023 (No. 1)* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the bill be read a second time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — I request leave to move second reading and third reading of Bill 136, *The Appropriation Act, 2023 (No. 1)* immediately.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to move second and third reading of Bill No. 132, *The Appropriation Act, 2023 (No. 1)* immediately . . . What did I say? Move second and third reading of Bill No. 136, *The Appropriation Act, 2023 (No. 1)* immediately. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. The minister may proceed.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Pursuant to rule . . . under 32(1)(e), I move that Bill No. 136, *The Appropriation Act, 2023 (No. 1)* be now read a second and third time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved second and third reading of Bill No. 136, *The Appropriation Act, 2023 (No. 1)*. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour of the motion say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

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

[The division bells rang from 14:54 until 14:59.]

**The Speaker:** — All those in favour please stand.

[15:00]

[Yeas — 43]

Moe	McMorris	Reiter
Merriman	Harpauer	Morgan
Duncan	Tell	Wyant
Makowsky	Marit	Cheveldayoff
Bradshaw	Kaeding	Cockrill
L. Ross	Eyre	Carr
Hindley	Skoropad	Buckingham
Hargrave	Fiaz	Lambert
Dennis	Kirsch	Ottobreit
Francis	C. Young	Steele
Lawrence	Bonk	McLeod
Friesen	Grewal	Nerlien
Goudy	Keisig	Lemaigre
Jenson	D. Harrison	Domotor
Wilson		

**The Speaker:** — All those opposed please stand.

[Nays — 9]

Beck	Nippi-Albright	Vermette
Mowat	Wotherspoon	Love
Teed	A. Young	Sarauer

**Principal Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 43; those against the motion, 9.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel:** — Second and third reading of this bill.

**The Speaker:** — Just before I entertain a motion to adjourn, I'd just like to remind everyone we're having the CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] AGM [annual general meeting] immediately following adjournment. I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader.

**Hon. Ms. Carr:** — I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:03.]



# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

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**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