



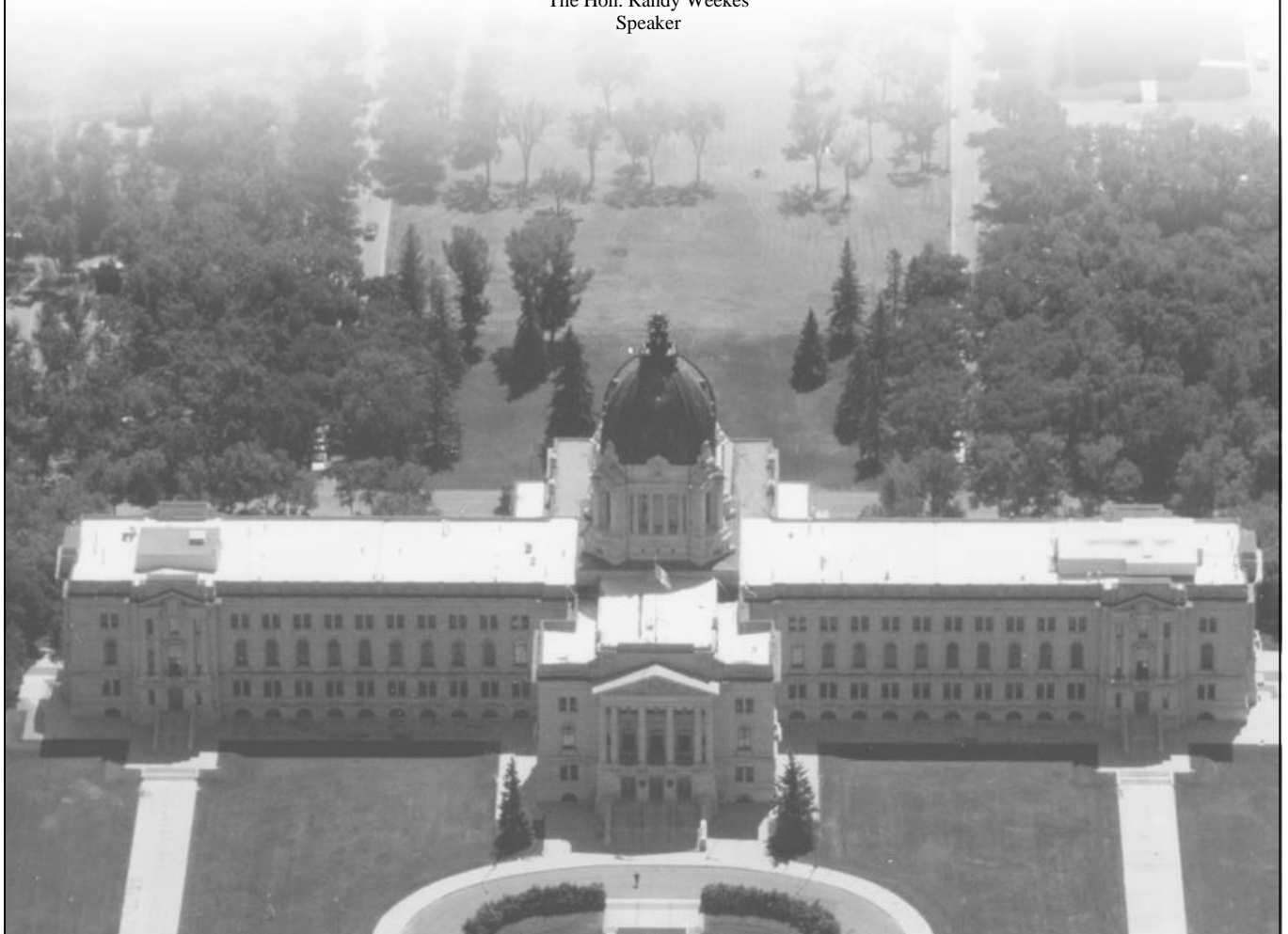
THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 29th Legislature

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

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

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

Standings

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

Clerks-at-the-Table

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

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

The Speaker: — I would just like to welcome all of our guests. It's good to see you here in your Legislative Assembly. I would just like to caution you, you're not to take part in any of the proceedings. That includes talking, heckling, clapping, or taking any photos. So welcome, and thank you very much for coming.

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Question of Privilege

The Speaker: — Yesterday, May 17th, 2023, I received a letter from the Deputy House Leader outlining an alleged contempt of the Assembly. There are however some issues relating to the timing of raising this matter of privilege. As recently as December 5th, 2022, the Assembly agreed to revisions to the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan* regarding the notice of provisions for questions of privilege.

As of that date, rule 12(1) states that a member may raise a matter of privilege by providing notice to the Speaker by at least 10:30 a.m. on sitting days that commence at 1:30 p.m. I received the letter from the Deputy Government House Leader yesterday at 1:57 p.m., well after the deadline specified by this rule. Today the matter cannot be considered either as our regular time of sitting on Thursdays is 10 a.m. and our parliamentary calendar has specified today as completion day. Therefore our rules do not allow the Speaker to consider this matter.

Before I conclude, I would also like to remind members that the threshold of proof required for a Speaker to determine a prima facie case of privilege is extremely high. Contempt of parliament is the strongest possible indictment of a member's conduct. There must be clear and convincing evidence to establish a case of contempt.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I will lead off introductions. I would like to introduce the new parliamentary education and heritage staff. The summer tour schedule for the Saskatchewan Legislative Building will start on Saturday, May 20th, 2023. Tours are available in French and English and will be offered every half an hour from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. seven days a week.

Seated in the Speaker's gallery are Mark Walker, Geneviève Blais, Claire Stephenson, Destiny Brown, Hailey Pangracs, and Nolan Schauerte. They're accompanied by Kaitlyn Guillaume, parliamentary education assistant; Brady Dean, parliamentary education consultant; and Antoine Guenette, parliamentary education supervisor. Part of the summer team but not present are Mason Dieno, Baptiste Labrie-Boulay, Matthew Merrifield, Grace Podebleski.

Tourists and visitors from all over the world will be exploring provincial history and visiting our Legislative Assembly. Please

join me in welcoming the parliamentary and education heritage team to their Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, 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.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce to their Legislative Assembly and in the Speaker's gallery three individuals, Mr. Speaker, recent arrivals to Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Kennedy Pobre, Ephraim Aquino, and Razelle Joy Juare. These three individuals, Mr. Speaker, have recently arrived in Saskatchewan from the Philippines, the first of over 420 health care workers who have been recruited through our four-point health human resources action plan.

Mr. Speaker, Kennedy is a continuing care aide who settled and started working in Moose Jaw in December of 2022. He is originally from Aurora, Philippines. Ephraim is a medical laboratory assistant, originally from Rizal in the Philippines. He is now working in the provincial laboratory. I understand he has relatives in both Ontario and also British Columbia, but chose Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, Razelle is also a medical laboratory assistant coming to Saskatchewan from Laguna, Philippines. Razelle is now working in both the Pasqua Hospital and the Regina General Hospital on rotation, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that both Ephraim and Razelle arrived in Saskatchewan in February of this year, meaning that their first taste of Canadian weather was one of extreme cold. But they thankfully have stuck around and persevered through that, Mr. Speaker.

I would also like to thank the managers of our new health care workers, Lynn McKenzie and Angela McTaggart, who I believe are also seated in the gallery, Mr. Speaker, for being here today and for their ongoing support. And I believe we have a representative from the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] who has helped organize today's welcome event. Thank you, David Freeman, for being here as well.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that all members join me in saying welcome and in thanking these three individuals for choosing Saskatchewan to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you, 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 minister opposite in welcoming this group on behalf of the official opposition. Kennedy, Ephraim, and Razelle, I want to sincerely welcome you to our province and our country. Many

from the Philippines have come to call this place home.

I hope that you find a strong community and a welcoming community here, and particularly want to thank you for your service to our province. We know that we need all hands on deck in health care, and that includes CCAs [continuing care aide] and lab assistants. So I want to thank you for, you know, taking the leap coming to this province, and welcome you to your new home. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you it gives me great pleasure and is quite an honour to introduce and welcome two people seated in your gallery this morning. Mr. Speaker, the first one I'd like to introduce is Anshumaan Tiwari. He's a caseworker in my ministerial office, and he does such great work day in and day out in the office. He is such a diligent worker, puts his heart and soul into the work that he does, Mr. Speaker. And he serves the people of Saskatchewan with a smile every day. And you see it on his face right now.

But, Mr. Speaker, that smile has never been bigger than it was 13 days ago, as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, because 13 days ago . . . Well I'll give you another number. Three hundred thirty days ago he was married to that lovely person seated to his right, but only 13 days ago they were finally reunited here in Saskatchewan as they both have now received their permanent residency.

His wife Shailja is excited to be here, and when asked what she most is excited about as relates to Saskatchewan, she said we have amazing weather and, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more. And you know, I guess what I would say to that is wait until the wintertime. You are really going to love it.

Also she commented on the friendliness of the people, and once again I couldn't agree more. And I couldn't be happier to welcome her into this province, and I know she will certainly fit in well. So with that I'd welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Mr. Goudy: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce someone who is sitting in your west gallery, and she is very familiar to the members on this side of the House. Kim Rathwell has served in this building since Sask Party formed government in 2007. And for the last 10 years she has served in the caucus office, and affectionately I would call Kim the devil's advocate. I had a few ideas that I thought were pretty good and Kim straightened me out on that and helped refine those thoughts. And I really appreciated her service to all of us.

So I would ask that everyone in the Assembly here join with me in welcoming her to her Assembly and thanking her for her years of service to the province and to the people in this government, and wish her all the best to her and her family and those she loves as she moves on and serves and lives in the province that she loves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections,

Policing and Public Safety.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — 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. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to introduce someone very special to me who has been in my office working with me for a number of years, has been a great friend and confidante, Shelley Reinhardt. Give us a wave, Shelley. And her husband, Tim, is with her — give us a wave — and Debbie and Michelle from my office are accompanying her today.

Shelley has been with me since 2016, has been a faithful member of the government and the public service for 38 years. Shelley started her career in 1985, Ministry of Justice, followed by 23 years at the Ministry of Health, and has spent her last 11 years within the Corrections, Policing and Public Safety file.

While today is a great day to recognize Shelley's achievements, it's also a sad occasion as today is Shelley's last formal day with us. Shelley will be retiring at the end of June after an illustrious — I say that with quotation marks — and successful 38-year career. We will miss her, her forthrightness, her energy, enthusiasm that she brings to our office and hence by extension to our lives.

Shelley, we will miss you. I will miss you. Don't be a stranger. Hope you have a wonderful retirement filled with the adventures of travelling to British Columbia and London and back. Thank you so much, Shelley.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to this Assembly, I am delighted to introduce in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, 43 grade 7 students from Vanscoy. Give us a wave. They're accompanied by their teachers Kevin Derald, Kerie Jackson, Tayler Halyk, and Julie Verge, and parent chaperone Matt Dunlop.

Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to chatting with them after question period. I hope they enjoy the proceedings in the House today. And I would ask all my colleagues to please give these students and their teachers and chaperone a warm welcome to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, I'm also delighted to introduce a school group, this time from St. Catherine elementary school of course here in Regina. There's 47 grade 8 students in the east gallery. You can give them a wave. Their teacher is Regan Stromich, and also the . . . A few parents are with this group: Daniel Brown and Kyle Pellin. And as always, look forward to having a chat with them after routine proceedings. I

ask all members to help me welcome them.

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

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Seated in your west gallery is someone who is near and dear to I think just about everyone in the building's heart, Molly Waldman.

Molly started out as a summer student in 2015 and moved into full-time work here in 2017. And at present Molly is my chief of staff in Parks, Culture, Sports; Status of Women; and the Francophonie file.

Now Molly brings an enthusiasm to this building that I think is going to be sorely missed. Molly has made the big decision to enter law school this fall. Now not that we think we need more lawyers but we sure need more Molly. So I just think that we are all going to be blessed when Molly obtains her degree in law and has the opportunity to again share her enthusiasm and her knowledge with the province of Saskatchewan.

[10:15]

So I'd like everyone here to welcome and thank Molly for her work, her dedication, and making Saskatchewan a better province. So thank you so much Molly Waldman.

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

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery, I am proud to introduce my son, Morgan Bradshaw, who has been around the building for a long time. Morgan was born and raised in Carrot River and graduated on the honour roll and started university in Regina. He worked for the apiaries up there — for those people who don't know what apiaries are, those are beekeepers — in the summertime for his spending money. And so he knows what hard work is on moving bees around, and he got stung quite a bit, in more ways than one, Mr. Speaker.

Through high school, he played hockey, basketball, did cross country. The fact is, he still runs marathons and takes great pleasure in every year beating the member from Rosemont in the marathon here in Regina. Fact is he brings that up every year when he beats him. He also played for the provincially famous Wildcat football team. And he was there when they won their first provincial championship, one of many I will say.

He attended the University of Regina and, after coming out of University of Regina in 2008, he started working in the legislature under Bill Hutchinson in Municipal Affairs as an MA

[ministerial assistant]. He's worked his way all the way through up to being the chief of staff. He's worked for 15 ministers which . . . I don't know if that's good or bad, Mr. Speaker. There's got to be a reason why he's been through there. But he's worked his way up to chief of staff. He's well respected within the building. At the present time he's with Crown Investments, but he is going to be leaving the building to pursue another career.

Mr. Speaker, he still runs marathons. He's still looking forward to beating the member from Rosemont every year. And we want to wish him well in all his endeavours as he continues on in his lifetime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Grewal: — 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.

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, seated in your gallery, it is my pleasure to welcome Mike and Indu Sharma, the proud parents of popular music artist, Teshar. I will speak more about their son later in my member's statement today. Mike Sharma is my good friend since 1980s. Mr. Speaker, I consider him one of the best cricket players I have coached and certainly one of the best leg spinners of his time.

Back in the day, Saskatchewan had a shortage of cricket players, so I was always scouting for new talent. When I first met Mike at a party, I was quite impressed with his level of fitness and his dance moves. I knew right away that this could translate into a great cricket player with little training. I used to drag him out of his basement and bring him to cricket ground, and it was worth it, Mr. Speaker. Later on he represented Saskatchewan in interprovincial cricket tournaments.

He eventually became the president of Saskatchewan Cricket Association, now known as Cricket Canada. He then served as a director of Cricket Canada and became the national team manager, taking our Canadian national team to eight different countries worldwide.

Sitting beside him is his wife, Indu Sharma. She is involved with the community throughout the years, doing volunteer work at Hindu Temple, the Diabetes Association, and at the India pavilion during Mosaic every year. She works as an operation coordinator in the health information services department for Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Now I will ask all members to join me to please welcome Mike and Indu Sharma to their legislature.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join with the member opposite to welcome Mike and Indu Sharma to their legislature to thank them for the many ways that

they build a better Saskatchewan.

As the member identified, Mike is a remarkable performer, a remarkable athlete. I've watched him hold a captive audience, dancing at many events, Mr. Speaker. He's incredible, and he's an incredible cricket player as well. In everything that he's involved in, sport or whether it's the India Canada Association of Saskatchewan, he's a builder and a leader and someone that people look up to. So it's wonderful to have my friend Mike join us here in the Assembly.

It's also wonderful to have Indu here as well and to recognize her service and leadership to her province, and again as well, not just through her service as a civil servant but also through the cultural community and to Mosaic and to the Indo-Canadian community and the India Canada Association.

Thank you so very much to the Sharmas for their incredible leadership in this province. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears to be a day that we're thanking our staff, and we have some absolutely marvellous staff that work in this building. The citizens of our province are incredibly well served by those people.

I would like to recognize and thank Anshumaan Tiwari. He worked in my office for an extended period of time, told us that he had a romance going overseas and was going back and forth and intended to bring his new wife out here. We didn't believe him at the time, but we're pleased that he's actually arrived, and that there is a reality to that. So to him, congratulations. We wish him every success.

And to Shelley, somebody that I've played many pranks on over the years, and she's been a reliable and good victim. So to her, thanks very much. We wish her well.

And then in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, are two people that I need to specifically recognize. My chief of staff Morgan Bradshaw has worked for me sort of as a bit of a recurring pain. He worked for me when I had the Education portfolio, was a quiet but very expressive individual with very strong opinions but incredibly hard-working, very bright, very competent.

We stole his U of R [University of Regina] diploma from the wall and changed it from Morgan Bradshaw to Bradley Morganshaw. Put it back up. Nobody checks the spelling on their own diplomas and it was there literally for months. There's pictures of him proudly sitting under his Bradley Morganshaw diploma. I want to wish him the very best in his future endeavours. He's one of the best and the brightest.

Molly Waldman has been a good friend and worked for me, and is also a constituent as well. She came out and ran my 2020 election and got my sorry backside re-elected for the however many-th time. Brought along her parents, her siblings, grandparents — all of which were necessary to get me across the line. So for her family, I thank them for that.

But she's been a really good friend and a good colleague, and I

want to wish her the very best as she goes into law school. Having gone into law school, I know they'll work the living daylights out of you there. Anyway all the best to her in the future endeavours, and stay in touch.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

World Vyshyvanka Day

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is World Vyshyvanka Day, which takes place on the third Thursday of May every year. The day is named after the traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirt, vyshyvanka. The vyshyvanka has long been a symbol of the Ukrainian heritage, dignity, and Slavic unity. This year it has taken even a greater significance in the face of Russian aggression. Through Vyshyvanka Day we pay tribute to the brave men and women of Ukraine who have been wounded or killed in the Russia-Ukrainian war which started 449 days ago.

Mr. Speaker, this year's celebration also coincides with the Crimean Tatar genocide commemoration. In 1944 nearly 200,000 Tatar people were forcefully removed by the NKVD [People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs] police under orders of Joseph Stalin. Nearly 8,000 Tatars died during the deportation, and tens of thousands died in more harsher conditions after. It would be 45 years later that Mikhail Gorbachev began the perestroika era, that their exile would be lifted and the Tatars were allowed to return to their homeland.

Mr. Speaker, on this Vyshyvanka Day we pay respects to our Ukrainian people who have been killed, wounded by this illegal war, and we remember the tens, the thousands of Crimean Tatars who never saw their homeland again. Slava Ukraine. Vichnaya pamyat.

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

Community Support for Outdoor Hockey League

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, on March 8th our community came together for chili, a bun, and hockey at the Rosemont outdoor rink. For our Rosemont Outdoor Hockey League players, it was a chilly final practice warmed up by chili and community.

I've often spoken about the OHL [Outdoor Hockey League] and its positive impacts. The players always bring their all to the ice, and on chili night they got to share a warm meal with adoring fans and community. Five hundred bowls of chili were prepared by volunteers. This is what community is all about.

I want to give a big shout-out to the inspiring and big-hearted volunteer squad that is the Walker School Community Council for making it happen, along with the support of the Rosemont Mount Royal Community Association, Crawford's No Frills, Sherwood Co-op, and Evans Delivery. Thanks also to the members of the Regina police for joining us.

Importantly, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to my fellow coaches for our Rosemont OHL teams for their inspiring service

and dedication and for making another season such a success: Curtis Dorosh, Warren McCall, Hunter Litzenberger, Derek Bouvier, Brandon Boyko, and league ambassadors Ella Farthing and Wyatt Wiebe.

Events like these and this league can't happen without the dedication of volunteers and the support of community partners. It's inspiring to see it all come together. I ask all members to join with me in extending our gratitude.

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

Global Success of Indo-Canadian Musician

Mr. Grewal: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hitesh Sharma, who goes by the stage name Teshar, is an Indo-Canadian rapper, producer, and musician from Regina. He was nominated for Breakthrough Artist of the Year at the 2022 Juno Awards. His musical journey started in Regina when he was 12 years old as a DJ [disc jockey] for events in the local East Indian community. He then began producing music and putting it online.

In 2020 his songs started going viral. His first song, "Young Shahrukh," amassed over 60 million combined views and became a chart topper in India and Eastern Europe. The entire song was written, produced, and recorded by Teshar himself in his basement. In 2021 his second song, "Jalebi Baby," became one of the biggest international hits of the year with over 500 million combined streams.

American singer Jason Derulo approached Teshar to be on the remix version, which helped the song become a top 40 hit in North America. On July 7th, 2022 they performed the track live on NBC the *Today* show, marking Sharma's first-ever televised live performance. He also returned home last summer and performed at the Regina QCX [Queen City Ex].

Teshar has announced a new single which will be released later this month on May 26th. As he draws on both his South Asian heritage and Western culture he grew up in, he aims to create music that resonates with a global audience. I believe this is just the beginning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Principals from Regina Symphony Orchestra Play at Coronation

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of two of Saskatchewan's amazing musicians. The Regina Symphony Orchestra's very own principal clarinetist, Hyon Suk, and principal second violinist, Heng-Han Hou, had the honour of performing at the coronation of King Charles III earlier this month. What a wonderful surprise it was for all of us. They were chosen months ago but sworn to absolute secrecy, and they had only two weeks to learn the music. And on top of that they had to play with a new and unfamiliar orchestra in Westminster Abbey. No pressure. But those two were not fazed.

Hou said, "Music is a universal language, you know. We communicate through our playing." And, Mr. Speaker, what these two communicated was the beauty of their performance and

the raw talent of Saskatchewan musicians. They made the RSO [Regina Symphony Orchestra] proud, they made Saskatchewan proud, and they made Canada proud. Right now, Mr. Speaker, the RSO is having a tough time finding its feet again post-COVID. So let's take this extraordinary event as a reminder of all about that wonderful organization and all that it has to offer our province.

[10:30]

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Hyon Suk, Heng-Han Hou, and the Regina Symphony Orchestra for a once-in-a-lifetime show. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Women Entrepreneurs Week

Ms. C. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week is Women Entrepreneurs Week in Saskatchewan. Our government is proud to proclaim this week once again in recognition of the many innovative female leaders throughout our province and celebrate the successes of women-owned businesses and their contribution to our growing economy. In 2022 the province recorded all-time highs in women's employment, full-time employment, and labour force.

In addition to hosting incredible female entrepreneurs, Saskatchewan also has many organizations dedicated to helping women succeed in business. One such example is Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan. WESK [Women Entrepreneurs Saskatchewan] is a non-profit dedicated to helping women start, grow, and scale their businesses. They offer a wide range of services and ultimately look to connect like-minded professionals and empower women of every age, stage, and culture.

This past Wednesday the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan Gala was held here in Regina. This was an exciting opportunity for networking and recognition of many distinguished leaders in their respective industries. We thank these remarkable women for contributing their entrepreneurial vision to our province and to WESK for ensuring female-owned business in Saskatchewan will continue to grow and prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing the many outstanding female business leaders in our communities. Thank you.

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

2023 Highway Construction Season

Mr. Buckingham: — It's a great day on Saskatchewan highways, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday our government kicked off the 2023 summer construction season. We've got a lot of construction and a lot of work zones across the province. This includes passing lanes and widening on Highway 5 from Saskatoon to Highway 2, the start of twinning projects on Highway 6 and 39 between Regina and Weyburn, and the start of upgrades on Highway 5 east of Kenaston between Highways 11 and 2.

Mr. Speaker, there are plans to improve another 1000 kilometres of highways. That brings us to more than 4600 kilometres improved over the last four years. That puts us on track to meet our growth plan goal of 10 000 kilometres by 2030. Mr. Speaker, in addition to repaving and various other treatments, we're repairing or rebuilding 14 bridges and replacing more than 100 culverts.

But don't worry, Mr. Speaker, the slowdowns in construction zones are only temporary. If you're planning to travel, check the Highway Hotline. And remember, as crews carry out their work across the province, we all need to slow down and do our part to keep them safe, ensuring everyone can travel safely and get home from work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Springtime on the Prairies

Mr. Keisig: — Springtime on the prairies is a time of renewal. Winter lets go; warmer temperatures bring budding trees, green grass, smiles on faces and in general, a more positive attitude for everyone. Well almost everyone, Mr. Speaker. We heard the member from Nutana say there's nothing here to be proud of. And the member for Regina University called our economy a dumpster fire.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to spend our final moments of this session with a bit of toxic positivity. Today in Saskatchewan there are more jobs and opportunities than ever before. We are leading the nation in economic growth, merchandise exports, and urban housing starts. If you are graduating this spring, our grad retention program offers up to \$20,000 in tax credits to those who stay in Saskatchewan, a program, by the way, the member for Saskatoon University wants to cancel.

And if you are in the fields right now, we wish you plenty of sun and rain and no carbon tax. Our government will continue standing up for Saskatchewan while the members opposite continue to support the Singh-Trudeau coalition.

To those who are fighting fires and protecting communities, we thank you for all you are doing.

To those we have lost this session, we miss you and think of you often.

So on behalf of our government, we hope everyone has a safe and positive Saskatchewan summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Forest Fires in Northwest Saskatchewan

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, of course forest fires continue to impact people in our province, especially in the province's Northwest. Hundreds are now evacuated to places like Lloydminster and Regina, Meadow Lake, and other locales while they wait for the threat in their home communities to subside.

One of the concerns we've heard is that, after day after day of on-and-off-again power access, many are concerned about losing food in their freezers back home. And I received a call about this just this morning. Especially with the high cost of food in the North, a freezer of food, Mr. Speaker, for many people is very difficult to replace.

To the Premier: can he update the Assembly on his government's plan to keep people safe, address their concerns? And specifically will he commit to support families who stand to lose fridges and freezers full of food? Will he commit some support to them?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Myself, the Minister of Government Relations, and the member representing the northwestern part of this province, the member from Athabasca, had the opportunity yesterday afternoon to contact 8 or 10 of the leaders in affected communities, First Nations leaders as well as mayors from a number of different communities, Mr. Speaker, and to ensure that we're opening up those direct lines of communication through their MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to the Government of Saskatchewan.

We did hear there are some concerns in some communities where they lost their power supply, Mr. Speaker. The important reliability of the power system was interrupted by the forest fire line being south of where those communities are, Mr. Speaker.

And so I would say this government is in active discussions — very rapid, active discussions — in how we can support our Saskatchewan residents in the North that have been impacted by this fire, Mr. Speaker. And I think we'll see more to come on that in the next day or two.

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

Affordability and Utility Rates

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for the update, and we look forward to that support that's very much needed right now.

Turning back to the budget, Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government has failed to deliver when it comes to the cost of living. We see no relief for families and we still see all of the fee and tax hikes from the past budget and the one from 2017. There's nothing to relieve SaskPower rates, and this while 52 per cent of families in this province report being in bad shape or terrible shape financially.

Mr. Speaker, how is that growth that works for everyone?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, as we've said throughout this session, there's \$2 billion, over \$2 billion included each and every budget annually addressing affordability measures for Saskatchewan families, Mr. Speaker. And that continues in this year's budget that was introduced and passed by this Assembly just over the course of the last number of weeks with a vote just this week, Mr. Speaker.

I would say the largest opportunity for affordability measures into the future, Mr. Speaker, was also discussed in this Assembly yesterday, and that is putting forward a plan, a Saskatchewan plan, that is going to keep our electricity rates affordable and keep our power grid reliable for years into the future, Mr. Speaker.

And we're very pleased with the opposition's support, the NDP's [New Democratic Party] support in that Saskatchewan plan, Mr. Speaker, that is going to ensure that we are going to utilize the assets that we have — the coal assets, the natural gas assets, Mr. Speaker — to the end of their useful life.

And we're going to ambitiously embark on adding nuclear power to that grid here in Saskatchewan so that we can provide that reliability for Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan families; that affordability for Saskatchewan people, Saskatchewan families; and that competitiveness, Mr. Speaker, for the industries that ultimately are employing people across this province, that are operating today and are on their way here to employ people tomorrow.

So appreciate the opposition's support, Mr. Speaker, and a Saskatchewan plan that is going to work for the residents of this province for a decade.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the question was about affordability, and unfortunately the people of this province can't pay their bills with the Premier's spin.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many places this government could have found a way to afford people in this province some measure of relief as they struggle to pay their bills. One common-sense way we put forward was to scrap their tax on the food that people buy at the grocery store — basics like granola bars for their kids' lunches, rotisserie chickens, Mr. Speaker, ready-to-eat salads that people use when they are between shifts or between kids' activities. These are currently hit with the PST [provincial sales tax] because of choices by that government.

Mr. Speaker, how is taxing food that families need growth that works for everyone?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, again \$2 billion in each and every budget year addressing affordability on behalf of the people that we ultimately represent from corner to corner to corner in this province, Mr. Speaker. This last fall we saw the \$500 affordability tax credit cheques that arrived in Saskatchewan residents' mailboxes, Mr. Speaker.

That didn't happen across Canada. Only possible by the strength of our resource-based economy that we have here in Saskatchewan, an economy and families that are supported by the lowest utility bundle in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. And we have full intentions on ensuring that it continues that way, despite what Jagmeet and Justin at the federal level might say, Mr. Speaker.

Again discussed here yesterday, one of the largest opportunities

we have in this province is to keep our utility bundle affordable and competitive here in this province. That was discussed yesterday, agreed on by all members of this Assembly, to ensure that we're running out the asset life that we have in our coal-fired power plants, in our natural gas-fired power plants. Some just came on; some are coming online next year; one was just announced here just recently, Mr. Speaker. We're going to keep those power rates, that, yes, utility bundle, affordable for Saskatchewan people, competitive for Saskatchewan industries that are then employing Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker.

And we appreciate, we appreciate the unanimity on the floor of this legislature in the support of that Saskatchewan plan, and not supporting Justin and Jagmeet with their plan that would drive energy rates up, drive electricity rates up, by doubling them, Mr. Speaker, and quite likely tripling or quadrupling them in the future.

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

Steel Industry in Saskatchewan

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, the people of this province deserve a better answer than that from the Premier.

Not only is this tired and out-of-touch government missing in action when it comes to affordability, they're failing when it comes to job creation as well. We canvassed this in estimates last week. Since that Premier came to office, he has the worst record of job creation in the entire country, Mr. Speaker. That's dead last.

Now last week, local steelworkers sent a letter to the Premier and to myself, and they had some ideas about how he can turn his terrible job record around. They want to see more steel made right here in Regina, used in Crown and government projects. Mr. Speaker, what is the Premier's response to that suggestion?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, very happy to work alongside our steelworkers, Mr. Speaker, and all of the folks that are involved in industries across this province. The fact of the matter is, is there's 20,000 more jobs last year; 5,600 more jobs so far this year, Mr. Speaker. That's part of the 220,000 people that have moved to this province since we had the honour of forming government, Mr. Speaker.

And more specific to the steel plant, Mr. Speaker, that is predominantly making pipe, pipe for the energy industry, Mr. Speaker, an industry that most certainly has the support of folks on this side of the House.

But more specific, Mr. Speaker, more specific, that steel fabricator in the city of Regina is one of the largest, if not the largest, electrical user in the province, Mr. Speaker, one that is very concerned about the rate of power increases.

So again I would say, thank you to the opposition for supporting a Saskatchewan plan to run our coal-fired assets out to the end of their life. Thank you to the opposition for supporting a Saskatchewan plan to run our natural gas assets out to the end of their life, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the opposition for

supporting the Saskatchewan plan that will incorporate nuclear energy into the mix, Mr. Speaker, keeping power rates affordable, going against Jagmeet and Justin. They've proved . . . They've done it once. They might even do it again over the summer, Mr. Speaker, on request.

Mr. Speaker, we are always going to stand up for the people of this province. Affordable power rates, and that includes the power rates that are keeping people employed at the Evraz steel plant here in Regina.

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

Ms. Beck: — I think what the Premier means is that he is always going to stand up for his sound bite, Mr. Speaker. But there are 600 workers at the steel plant at the north of this city who want to know what that Premier is going to do about their jobs and if they're going to meet with him, Mr. Speaker, because I don't think he's found his way to actually sit down and talk to them.

[10:45]

Mr. Speaker, but we hear this all the time. It's a government that has stopped listening to Saskatchewan people, who'd rather clap for themselves than actually sit down and work some of this out. And Mr. Speaker, the people in this province deserve so much more from their government and from their Premier. They want to see real action on jobs, action to promote the fact that they're one of the only facilities in North America, yes, that builds pipe but also has been approved to build pipe for hydrogen and that they can do it cleaner — whether it's for oil or it's for hydrogen — than anywhere else, Mr. Speaker.

The Premier should want to tell that story. He shouldn't be so caught up in his own ideology that he can't stand up for the workers at Evraz. Why won't he do it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, most certainly was standing up yesterday, all of us collectively, for the workers at our power generation facilities across the province, Mr. Speaker. We consistently and time after time will have and will continue to stand up for the folks in the pipeline industry that largely service, Mr. Speaker, the energy industry, the oil industry in Saskatchewan, across Canada, and across North America.

And so yesterday, yesterday was a monumental moment, Mr. Speaker, a monumental moment. We saw the opposition stand up, Mr. Speaker. They did an about face, Mr. Speaker, and stood up to support this government with our Saskatchewan plan running our coal-fired assets out to their end of life; natural gas assets, running them out to their end of life, Mr. Speaker; and incorporating nuclear power in the province of Saskatchewan.

It's just a little further step to quit voting against pipelines when they come to the floor of this legislature. It's just a little step forward, Mr. Speaker, to support not only the pipeline construction but support our energy industry, our oilfield workers, Mr. Speaker, by advocating with Jagmeet to talk to Justin and get rid of the carbon tax. Get rid of the emissions cap that is proposed. Talk to Jagmeet and Justin about the electricity standards that will have potentially a tremendous impact on a site

like Evraz steel, Mr. Speaker.

Not in this province though. Thankfully we have a Saskatchewan plan, thankfully supported by the opposition, Mr. Speaker. A couple more steps and we'll really get this province flying.

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

Jobs and Provincial Economy

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's great to see the Premier having so much fun getting his sound bite, but this is about the 52 per cent of people in Saskatchewan who can't pay their bills, and this is about jobs. And this is about that Premier's record which he is so loathe to address because, Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government under that Premier has the worst record of job creation in Canada.

And it's not even close — just 4 per cent since 2018 when he came into office. The worst record in Canada, Mr. Speaker. So how can that Premier talk about growth that works for everyone when he has the worst jobs growth rate in Canada?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Wow. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And on this side of the House, we are very proud of the jobs record in this province: 20,000 created over the course of the last year; 5,600 jobs created so far this year; over 17,000 jobs listed just today, Mr. Speaker, on saskjobs.ca; full-time jobs up by 8,800. We are very optimistic about the present, the future of this province going forward — billions, tens of billions of dollars of investment coming into Saskatchewan.

The only people negative on this economy, Mr. Speaker, are the members opposite who come in here day after day after day after day and cherry-pick stats to try and talk down the economy, attack job creators, attack those entrepreneurs that are making those opportunities for people. They can do that all they want, Mr. Speaker. We know how bright this future is.

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

Ms. A. Young: — I mean what a sad response, Mr. Speaker. He's picking numbers which prove the point that his government has the worst job creation record in Canada by the numbers.

And, Mr. Speaker, this isn't growth that works for everyone. In fact it's economic shrinkage. From 2018 to 2022 under this Premier's watch, the economy of Saskatchewan has shrunk by half a billion dollars. More than half a billion dollars, Mr. Speaker. And yesterday we heard the Minister of Justice stand up and say, the emperor has no clothes. Well who knew she was talking about this Premier's record, Mr. Speaker?

So when will this tired and out-of-touch government do something about their economic numbers, their economic record which, by the minister's own numbers, are the worst in Canada?

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

Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Mr. Speaker, last year this province had the highest economic growth of any jurisdiction in the entire country. You would have to be a New Democrat, Mr. Speaker, to call that a dumpster fire.

But they would know a lot about dumpster fires, Mr. Speaker, because they presided over the worst economic performance in the entire country over their 16 years. They had the worst job creation record of any province in Canada. In fact, Mr. Speaker, not only did they not add people, did Saskatchewan not grow, Saskatchewan actually went backwards in population over their 16 years.

Over 200,000 newcomers have made this province their home over the 16 years that we have been in government, Mr. Speaker, a remarkable record, something that everybody in this province can be very proud of. We know how bright the future is. We're going to continue to grow this province. The population, the economy, the opportunity, the investment — all of those are going to continue to be the top priority for this government.

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

Wait Times in Health Care System

Ms. Mowat: — Mr. Speaker, this tired and out-of-touch government is failing to deliver on health care. Yesterday we heard from Jill Kakoske, who spent 16 hours in a waiting room, but we know that long waits in ERs [emergency room] are now the norm. And that impacts every part of our health system. It drives up waits for ambulances and is a direct cause of there being 587 times when someone called for an ambulance but no ambulance was available.

Long waits in ERs, long waits for ambulances — how is this growth that works for everyone?

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

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I was honoured to have the opportunity yesterday to speak on behalf of the government at the Paramedics Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan conference in Saskatoon yesterday, Mr. Speaker, where we talked about some of the major investments that we have made with the ambulance, the ground ambulance, providers across this province and the continued collaboration and great working relationship that we have with those providers.

Mr. Speaker, in this year's budget providing more funding for rural EMS [emergency medical services] stabilization projects, for more projects for additional staff to help fund some of the operational pressures that ambulance providers are faced with in this province, and to support our ground ambulance providers both in Saskatoon and in Regina as well, Mr. Speaker. Very important investments, attracting more health care workers and helping to stabilize and enhance that ambulance service right across this province, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Five hundred and eighty-seven times. You're absolutely right that more work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when the Regina General Hospital went on bypass this spring, front-line nurses called for this tired and out-of-touch government to create a task force, one that would find solutions and get to the bottom of the problems in our emergency rooms. But this minister has refused, time and time again, to listen to their voices. We should have all hands on deck to address this crisis. The minister is dragging his feet. Why won't he just say yes to the nurses and get this task force stood up?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we meet with health care workers all over the province. We meet with them on a daily basis when this side of the House goes back to their home communities and sits down and talks to individuals about what's going on. Feeds that information to the Minister of Rural and Remote Health and myself, and we act on those. That's why we have our HHR [health human resources] plan right here, Mr. Speaker. We have an update for the House. We have over 550 seats, Mr. Speaker, in advanced education.

Mr. Speaker, maybe the opposition should look up at the people that just joined us here today, Mr. Speaker. Those are the ones that are working in the General Hospital, working in the Pasqua Hospital that we're bringing over from the Philippines because they've chosen Saskatchewan. They know this is a great place for an opportunity for them to be able to live, work, and raise their families when they come, Mr. Speaker, be able to add a complement to our health care, bring their skills from the Philippines, and add them into the complement that we have within our great health care providers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Funding for Education

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, a couple weeks ago we saw thousands of teachers, education workers, parents, grandparents, students, and concerned citizens come to their legislature. And despite what this minister says, he hasn't learned a thing, hasn't learned a thing. Because their message was crystal clear: 0.7 per cent isn't enough for our kids' classrooms.

While this tired and out-of-touch government is doing nothing, school divisions are making cuts: cuts in Saskatoon Public, cuts in Saskatoon Catholic, cuts in Prairie Valley, cuts in Regina Public. I've asked this minister this question before. He never seems to answer the question. I'll give him one more try. What does he think schools should cut to make up for his failures as a minister?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just say that when you look at this budget compared to last budget, for example, Lloydminster Catholic School Division receives a 4 per cent increase; Lloydminster Public, 5.3 per cent

increase; Prairie Spirit, 3.8 per cent increase; Regina Catholic, 4.4 per cent increase; Saskatoon Catholic, 4.6 per cent increase; 3.9 per cent increase for Saskatoon Public. Those are just a few, Mr. Speaker.

What we've indicated to school divisions is that we will be looking at enrolment growth this year to provide some additional support like we did . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Excuse me. Would you like to . . . Okay. Mr. Speaker, so we will be looking at providing additional support.

But what I will say that school divisions will like to hear, Mr. Speaker, is the opposition's support for this government and this Premier's plan for electricity that will see electricity rates stay as low as possible, Mr. Speaker, that will see us be able to burn coal and natural gas into the future so that all of us, including our schools, can have reasonable power rates in this province.

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

Tire Recycling and Provincial Economy

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The complete mismanagement of the Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan and its created disaster with Shercom by this government has been going on for at least two years now. Mr. Speaker, the TSS [Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan] is under the direct supervision of this government and the Ministry of Environment.

Given that this debacle has been playing out for the better part of two years, was the government and the ministry complicit in this mismanagement, knowing about it all along? Or is this government so incompetent they failed to oversee and manage their own governmental organization, allowing this situation to get this far out of control?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Environment.

Hon. Mr. Skoropad: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that member opposite would know all about debacles. And I would just say that the Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan and Shercom Industries, they had an agreement in place, Mr. Speaker, for processing scrap tires which expired on April the 30th as the two parties were unable to come to an agreement on the existing contract. Mr. Speaker, the ministry closely monitored discussions but had no role in TSS's contractor selection.

TSS has put forward an RFP [request for proposal] for a northern processor, Mr. Speaker, in the Saskatoon area. Mr. Speaker, given this fundamental shift in tire recycling in the province, the ministry has requested TSS to pause this RFP to have a closer look at the program. We want to ensure that we do a fulsome review of the procurement practices and needs of the tire recycling industry in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, and this review is expected to be completed later this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's

response is evident that the government is as incompetent as they appear. He would have us believe that they know nothing about the catastrophic mismanagement of the TSS in its dealings with Shercom, as now they have to investigate themselves as to exactly where this government dropped the ball.

Isn't it convenient that this investigation is happening after the damage that has already been done and the contract has already been awarded to a foreign corporation? Mr. Speaker, why did this government allow this debacle to escalate to the point that over 70 jobs, 70 jobs are lost in Saskatoon in order to prioritize a foreign corporation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Mr. Speaker, my mind runs wild with the incompetence, Mr. Speaker, the incompetence . . . speaking of incompetent, I think, Mr. Speaker.

With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, there has been an appointment made that's going to look into this program on behalf of all of the people in Saskatchewan to ensure that we have a strong tire recycling program here in Saskatchewan that respects the cost of people buying those tires, respects the retailers that are represented on the board, and also has good relationships within the recycling industry, Mr. Speaker.

[11:00]

Because we have a growing and vibrant economy in this province, we're selling more products to more people. Mr. Speaker, we have nation-leading GDP [gross domestic product] in the province, and we lead Canada by a large margin. All the other provinces, Mr. Speaker. We have record-setting exports in the province of Saskatchewan. Manufacturing is up, Mr. Speaker. Retail sales are up. And most certainly this is allowing us to ensure that that growth is being shared by everyone.

Increases in health care investment, Mr. Speaker, health care investment that includes investment in the most ambitious health human resource plan in the nation of Canada, Mr. Speaker. Bringing people from around the world to work on the front lines, Mr. Speaker, in community after community in our province.

Mr. Speaker, this is in stark contrast to the members opposite that closed hospitals, fired doctors, fired nurses, Mr. Speaker. This growth has allowed us to invest in schools and teachers, Mr. Speaker, in educational assistants. Contrary to closing a school a month the whole time they were in government. Firing 400 teachers, sending them to Alberta and Ontario, Mr. Speaker.

It's truly growth that works for everyone, Mr. Speaker, and we have population growth like we have not seen in over a century in this province. I keep my live population tracker on right here because it's growing that quickly, Mr. Speaker: 1,221,670 people in this province. More than have ever lived here any day previous in this great province that we represent.

The Speaker: — Before orders of the day, I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask for leave to make a statement on the conclusion of

the sitting.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked leave to make a statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

End-of-Session Acknowledgements

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Great. Well thanks very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to colleagues for granting leave. It is a tradition in this Assembly that at the conclusion of the sitting, House leaders on both sides of the Chamber have an opportunity to say some thank yous, Mr. Speaker. And this session being no different I appreciate, despite being heckled from members opposite, the opportunity to do the same.

My thank yous. We'll start with you, Mr. Speaker, in your role as Chair, a challenging and difficult one. As I think any normal watchers of question period know, things can, passions can be inflamed, and Mr. Speaker has the duty and the obligation as Chair to manage some of those circumstances. So I want to say thank you to you, Sir, for your leadership.

I want to thank as well our Clerk and our Table Officers for the great work that they do day in and day out in making sure that this Chamber and the committees that are parts of this Chamber function effectively, efficiently, making rulings, making recommendations to the Chair. All of those are an intense and challenging job, so I want to say thank you to our Clerk and the Table Officers for that.

Also those that serve the Clerk as the head of the Legislative Assembly Service, all of those who work in LAS [Legislative Assembly Service], our legislative security, our Sergeant-at-Arms, our Hansard, our broadcast services, our custodians, and everyone else who keeps this building working day to day.

I want to thank the media as well in the gallery here today as on many days for their reporting of the events on a day-to-day basis. Both sides, we may on occasion question some of the angle, but we want to thank them though very much for their work in that regard.

You know, one of the great privileges that I and the House leadership team, our Deputy House Leader, Whip, Deputy Whip have, and caucus Chair, is working with just a great group of government members who are hard-working, who are diligent, who are disciplined, who go above and beyond and make themselves available on very short notice for long periods of time. So I want to just say thanks so much to colleagues on this side of the Chamber for their work.

As well opposition members, who have many of those same demands on their time, I want to say thank you to them for their work as well. I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for her work, a long-serving member who also . . . very diligent. An incredibly difficult job being a party leader, but I think only party leaders fully understand how difficult that it can be some days.

But I want to thank her for her work as well.

And in breaking with long-standing parliamentary tradition, I'm saying something nice about members of the opposition. I want to thank my colleague across the way, the Opposition House Leader — she's laughing — but someone who's become a friend and who really is just a very professional, very capable person of integrity and honesty.

And you know, what people see in the Chamber here that goes on day to day, a lot only pay attention to question period, so view it as being a very confrontational sort of setting. And it can be on occasion. But in order to make this place work, the 95 per cent of the work that goes on, which isn't above the surface, really only works when you have daily communication between government and opposition to make that work. And that really is a testament to my friend and colleague opposite.

In fact actually, Mr. Speaker, this was, as you know, the first session where we ever actually were able to come up with a schedule of estimates, for example, before sitting even started, which to most folks probably isn't that significant but it really is. I mean for members who are — especially those with young families — having to plan out, you know, when they're going to be here and have to be here and could be till 10:30 at different periods of the sitting, it's actually a pretty significant thing. So thank her for that.

I want to thank of course our families. It's said regularly in this place that none of us serves alone. And none of us do. We serve with the support of our families, who also know the challenges that go along with the job, whether it be as a member or a minister or Speaker or all of the additional duties that members have on both sides of the House. Just a very sincere thank you to our families.

I want to thank of course the captain of our team, the Premier and the leader of the province. And I think folks can sense watching the esteem that we all have for our Premier, and who just does a remarkable, remarkable job — strong, steady, reliable, just incredibly hard-working, always available. And I want to just say thank you to the Premier for that.

I want to thank all of our caucus staff, our constituency assistants, our ministers' office staff. And I want to specifically thank our House leader staff, Jared and Ashley, for the work that they do as well.

So wishing members though a very productive, safe summer. I'm looking forward to coming back in October, and I'll be moving a motion to that effect, Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion I believe of the Opposition House Leader's remarks. But I want to say thank you to all who make this place work. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to make a statement.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested to make a statement. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As is custom, I'd like to join with the Government House Leader in making a series of thank yous and remarks now that we're at the conclusion of spring session, finally. I think we're all quite happy to be at the end of what is always a fairly long, long, and productive but very long 10 weeks, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I want to thank you for all the work you've done in managing a Chair that is often difficult and often a spot that does not come with a lot of praise. So thank you so much for navigating that role in such an effective and efficient way this session. And also that thank you goes and is extended to all that work for you in your office, at the Speaker's office but as well as the Clerk, Iris, and everyone at the Clerks' Table. Thank you so much for your wisdom, your advice, and all of your help for us this session. I'd also like to thank the Pages for all of their work and their help this session. It was very much appreciated.

I'd also like to join with the Government House Leader in thanking everyone at legislative services, the Sergeant-at-Arms, Hansard, broadcast services, custodians, staff in the café, the folks in the media gallery. Thank you so much for all of your hard work all of the time, not just this session.

I'd also like to thank our staff. We talk about this often as a team, our caucus staff, our staff from the party office as well but in particular our caucus staff. Mentioned just today, there's often a misunderstanding in the public as to how many people work for the opposition. They assume that there is a horde of staff working to support us, when in reality there's about eight or nine folks in our caucus staff office — incredibly loyal, incredibly hard-working, so wonderful of a group of people to work with. And we're so very, very thankful for the countless hours that they put in day and night, 365 days of the year, to help us with our work.

In particular I want to thank our chief of staff, Warren McCall, who I've mentioned before has been a mentor for me in this role as House Leader. Had the absolute privilege of learning this role through him. Feel bad for my Deputy House Leader who has to now learn the role through me, but very much grateful for his wisdom now back in our office and back at the caucus table, Mr. Speaker.

And I also want to give a special thank you to the staff member I work the closest with, Mitchell Bonokoski, who works closely with the staff members on the Government House Leader's side, Ashley and Jared, in keeping all of the trains running on track and helping me with all of our various parliamentary scheduling and legislative questions that we have and finagling that seem to go on on every single day.

He, like many of us, is navigating the role with a very busy personal schedule. He's got a very busy spouse who's a director of Legal Aid in Moose Jaw, and a little girl, Gwen, who's two so there's oftentimes that little Gwen is in our office, watching some Netflix while he's trying to get us ready for question period the next day. It's really a feat to see the amount of work that he puts in and we're very much appreciative of it.

And that thanks extends to all my colleagues on this side. I'd like to thank you for the work that you did this session. The support

we all gave each other is incredibly important in what is always a roller-coaster ride that is spring session. The way we were able to support each other through our various things going on in our personal lives, navigating young children, sick children, family members going through crises, all of that sort of thing. Just thank you so much to everybody on this side and everybody on both sides of the House.

It's been a tough session for everybody. There's been a lot that's happened, a lot of tragedy, some that we know about and I know some that we don't. So just thank you. The thank you extends to everybody for putting in that work which is during what is always a difficult time. We speak about how this role is important, this job is important, but what's going on at home is what's most important, and that extends to you folks as well.

I also want to thank our leader for also being a calm, steady force in our world. You know, as had been mentioned already, being leader of a party is not easy. I did it for nine months. It was not fun. I'll tell you that right now. Not super-interested in doing it again. Very grateful that we've got the leader that we have who's willing to do that work, and it's a lot of work.

That same thanks extends to the Premier as well who I know puts in more work than we ever get the opportunity to see.

I also want to thank, as has been mentioned, all of our families who help support us through this work. We always say this: we can't do this job alone. We all know this. Those who are our support networks — whether it's spouses, whether it's parents, whether it's siblings, whether it's children — we know that they're integral to us being able to be here on any given day.

As well, those who keep the home fires burning in our constituency offices, our constituency assistants, I extend a thank you to all of them.

And again as has been mentioned, I want to extend a thanks to the Government House Leader and the House leadership team on that side. I think our relationship has been very, very constructive over this past session, as has been mentioned by him. Our ability to work together in an atmosphere of trust and collegiality has allowed us to be able to do things this session that we haven't been able to do in the past, and I think that's been productive and welcomed from both members of the House. So thank you to you, and thank you to your staff, Jared and Ashley. It's very much appreciated.

And to all staff, actually, on government side, I want to extend a thank you on our behalf. We often end up working with MAs in various offices and different staff that we work with on various casework matters. We don't get the opportunity often to extend our thanks to them, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work.

[11:15]

In particular I want to mention two staff that had been mentioned that are leaving: Morgan Bradshaw, who I've had the opportunity to get to know over the past several years. Not only has he beaten the member from Regina Rosemont at the QCM [Queen City Marathon], he also beats me and the member from Regina University, which he was very apt to make sure to tell us as me

and the member from Regina University were laying dying on the ground after the QCM last year. He's a wonderful guy and I'm very sad to see that he's leaving.

And then also to Molly Waldman, who I've also got the opportunity to get to know over the past several years. The first time I met her, she was tasked with having to follow me around after a budget, I believe, as MA for Justice. And I was critic for Justice, and as members know, Justice isn't usually a hot topic for budget day. So I got the opportunity to get to chat with her, and she told me then that she was interested in going to law school. And I was very excited for her and was telling her that she should absolutely do it. I'm so glad to hear that she's going to law school in the fall. I think that's fantastic, and looking forward to seeing where she goes next. I'm sure it'll be great things.

As had been mentioned by the Government House Leader, we wish nothing but health and safety for everybody. I hope everybody has a productive summer, and looking forward to next session. Thank you.

The Speaker: — As we close this spring session, there are many people that I would like to acknowledge: the Clerk's office — Iris Lang, Ken Ring, Kathy Burianyak, Rob Park, Anne Drake, Danielle Humble-Selinger; the Pages and the staff of the Legislative Assembly Service. Thanks to all and your teams for extraordinary work that you do to serve the members.

Thanks to Monique Lovatt for dedication to supporting members' participation in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Special thank you to Lyall Frederiksen, Sergeant-at-Arms, and his staff, to Steve Bata and his team. We very much appreciate what you do, always on call to respond and accommodate the building needs of the members and staff at any time. To the Hansard team, broadcast services, and the committees branch, we appreciate many hours of recording, documenting, and facilitating the legislative process — not always an easy job during this heated debate.

Thank you to my staff, Sheila Sterling and Twyla Wilson and the summer student Savanna Smuk, for their support especially during session. And thanks for keeping things running smoothly. And thank you to Janet, my constituency assistant, for your diligence and hard work in my constituency office in the constituency of Biggar-Sask Valley.

I'd like to thank my wife and my family for their ongoing support in my role as MLA and Speaker. Our family grew this past year with the addition of two granddaughters. Our daughter Lacey and her husband, Nick, celebrated the safe arrival of Hazel Cindy Jan-King. And our daughter Alex and husband, Andrew, also had an addition to their family with the safe arrival of Penelope Mary Weekes-Kovach. We are blessed to have five granddaughters.

Our families make great sacrifices so that we may serve the citizens of the province. Thank you. Members, please travel safe and enjoy your summer.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Session Adjournment

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would move:

That when the Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 25th, 2023, unless earlier recalled by the Speaker upon the request of the government, and if recalled, the Speaker shall give each member seven clear days' notice, if possible, of such date and time.

I so move.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day, in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 25th, 2023, unless earlier recalled by the Speaker upon the request of the government, and if recalled, the Speaker shall give each member seven clear days' notice, if possible, of such date and time.

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. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:20.]

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

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Minister of Agriculture
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Minister Responsible for the
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Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for
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Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for the
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Hon. Jim Reiter
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