



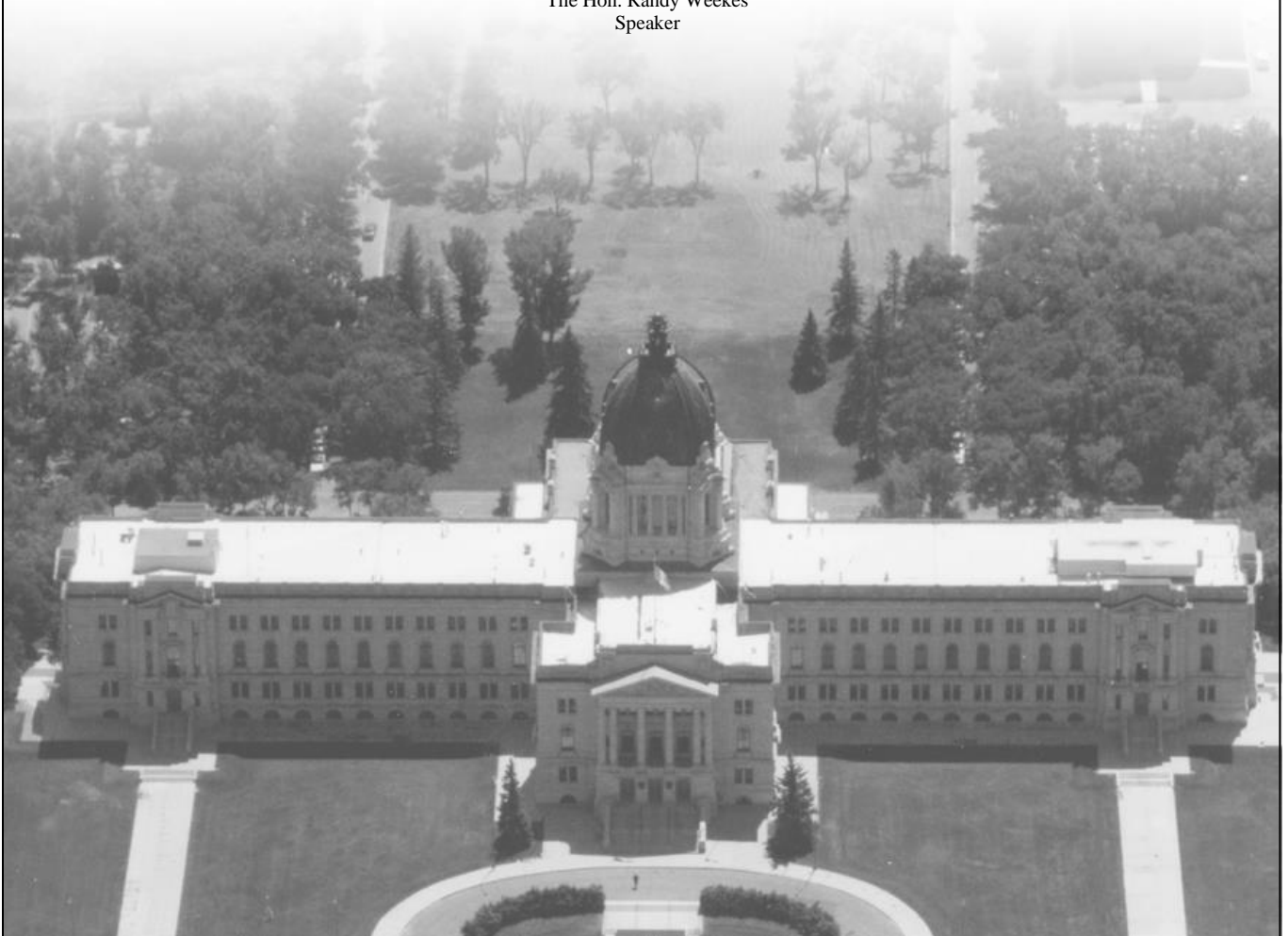
FOURTH SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
AND
PROCEEDINGS**

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
4th Session — 29th Legislature

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

Speaker — Hon. Randy Weekes

Premier — Hon. Scott Moe

Leader of the Opposition — Carla Beck

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)

Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)

Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)

Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)

Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)

Burki, Noor — Regina Coronation Park (NDP)

Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)

Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)

Clarke, Jared — Regina Walsh Acres (NDP)

Cockrill, Hon. Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)

Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)

Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)

Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (Ind.)

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

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

Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)

Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)

Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)

Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)

Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)

Hargrave, Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)

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

Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)

Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)

Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)

Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)

Kaeding, Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)

Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)

Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)

Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)

Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Lemaigre, Jim — Athabasca (SP)

Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)

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

Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)

McLeod, Blaine — Lumsden-Morse (SP)

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

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

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

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

Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)

Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)

Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)

Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)

Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)

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

Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)

Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)

Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)

Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)

Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)

Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)

Teed, Nathaniel — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)

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

Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)

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

Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (Ind.)

Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)

Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)

Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)

Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Standings

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 45; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 14;
Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Independent — 1

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Iris Lang

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

Deputy Clerk — Kathy Burianyak

Principal Clerk — Robert Park

Sergeant-at-Arms — Lyall Frederiksen

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Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — I would like to table a report from the Legislative Librarian. Pursuant to section 80(3) of *The Legislative Assembly Act, 2007*, in accordance with the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, the Legislative Librarian has submitted the Legislative Library annual report for the period April 1st, 2022 to March 31st, 2023.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Jensen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Request for an extended introduction, please.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Jensen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you this morning, I'm pleased to be on my feet to introduce a couple of guests in the west gallery. Richard Williams is in the gallery today and viewing proceedings for the very first time. In fact the last time he was in this building was on his wedding day a number of years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Richard is a pillar in the basketball community here in Saskatchewan. If you know basketball, you know Richard. From refereeing to coaching, he's done it all. He hails from Bronx, New York and made his home here in Regina in 1986 and now resides in Regina University. Richard is the proud father of two young men, Jamal and Kai Williams, the proud grandfather of Ayla-Sophia and Harlem Blu. Richard is also the proud husband of Karen Williams, who made Saskatchewan her home over 40 years ago, coming from Barnsley, England.

Mr. Speaker, Richard has a special connection to this building, as he's like a second father to one of our ministerial assistants in this building, Emma Long, who is sitting with him. So if you want to, just give us a quick wave.

Richard is a strong supporter of the Regina Cougars men's basketball team and the Saskatchewan Rattlers, who both of his sons played for ahead of their professional careers in the British Basketball League. Most of all, Richard is a man who loves his home here in Saskatchewan. And it brings me great joy to ask all members to welcome Richard to his Legislative Assembly today.

The Speaker: — It is my pleasure to introduce two newcomers to our Legislative Chamber today. Swaraj Jaiswal, who moved here as an international student from India in 2019, recently

graduated in visual arts and apprenticing in the world of tattoos. He is painting a chapter into the canvas of his life, the journey of matrimony with our legislative Page, Caitlin, in just over two weeks.

Beside Swaraj is Elma Fitzpatrick, Caitlin's mom. In 1995 she chased the whispers of her heart across oceans, leaving the Philippines to marry her pen pal Ron in the embrace of Canada. Elma is described by Caitlin as a powerhouse of strength and as the . . . [inaudible] . . . of resilience and dedication. I was also informed that she makes the world's greatest longanisa, which is Filipino sausage. Please join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly.

I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well certainly it's a pleasure to welcome these two guests to their Assembly here today, Mr. Speaker. As a big fan of fine sausage, Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to welcome them to their Assembly.

I do want to join though with the member from Martensville to welcome the Rich Williams to his Assembly. Rich is a pillar in this community and the basketball community, an amazing ref and coach. Jamal and Kai are amazing basketball players. This is somebody who's given back so, so much to his community through basketball. I understand he's also reffed the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre, Mr. Speaker, so I suspect he's dealt with her in similar ways in her fouls, both in this Assembly and on the court, Mr. Speaker.

But to Rich Williams, I want to welcome him to his Assembly and thank him for his life of service to our community through basketball.

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

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request leave for extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Hon. Ms. L. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, seated in your gallery, it's my absolute pleasure to introduce Josh Stewart-Van Dusen and Tyson Liske from Tandem X Visuals.

Recently Saskatchewan film company Tandem X celebrated their fourth anniversary with a special event called Tandemonium at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. And, Mr. Speaker, what a fun night. I have to congratulate you guys. I mean I was blown away by the passion that was shown in the room for not only creativity but also for their genuine appreciation for our province.

Now Tandem X is dedicated to using film technology, creative

storytelling to showcase the culture and diverse landscapes that we host here in Saskatchewan. And if you're not familiar with their names, you have surely seen their work, as they provide services for local industries such as sports, tourism, and entertainment.

And recently Tandem X has expanded into two new markets, Calgary and Las Vegas — so those places better look out; here they come — while maintaining their head office here in Regina. You know, they know that the success of their company is contributing to our province's economic growth which enriches all of our lives. And they have done great things for our film industry and our community as a whole.

Tandem X Visuals is an exciting example of young entrepreneurs exploring their passion and finding success together. Now celebrating four years is a huge milestone, and I know this is just the beginning for this Saskatchewan company. And I'd like to invite all members to join me in congratulating Josh and Tyson and Tandem X team and welcome them here today. Thank you very much.

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, it's an honour to join with the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and welcome Josh and Tyson from Tandem X to their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say a huge congratulations on four years in business. I hear that you have both made fantastic contributions to your local community, which was acknowledged recently through an award, through the Silver Spades Awards recognizing young professionals. Huge congratulations on that award, and I also want to say a congratulations on your recent expansion to new markets. As the minister said, they better look out. Don't ever underestimate a business from Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery as well as on the floor there's a group of 35 grade 12 students from F. W. Johnson Collegiate. Great to see them here this morning. And their teachers accompanying them are Scott McKillop, Kyle Matsyk, Zoe Benesh. Look forward if they have time after routine proceedings to have a chat, look forward to that. I ask all members to help me welcome this fine group here this morning.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members, it's my pleasure to be on my feet today this last day of session to welcome two very important people, seated in your gallery, to their Assembly. Three actually, come to think of it.

A frequent flyer to this legislature, I have my dear old dad up in the gallery again: Don Young, certainly one of the most interesting people I know. And as members opposite, and on this side I suppose, will know, I try and share a strange fact about my

father every time he comes to this legislature. And today I think I will talk about his past as a war zone correspondent for the CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] where he spent probably too much time away from his beloved children in their young lives. But the places that stick with me as a child that I remember my dad being were in Nicaragua and in Sarajevo where he worked as a war zone correspondent. And he has some remarkable stories.

And seated next to him, Mr. Speaker, is an accomplished constituent of mine, Sean Prpick. Sean is a son of Davidson, a proud CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] family, as his daughter Zoé, who is seated next to him and works in our caucus office, shared. They were at the founding convention of the CCF and, according to her, were mostly cranky old socialist farmers. Her words, Mr. Speaker, not mine.

He was a long-time producer at the CBC and sat in that very press gallery across from your gallery, Mr. Speaker, for quite some time and is currently Western Canada's most prolific producer of audiobooks, Mr. Speaker, for a number of local houses as well as Penguin. He's also, I think most importantly, the proud father of Zoé and Léa, and devoted and beloved husband of Maud as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to welcome these fine folks to this, their legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, a couple of introductions to make here this morning.

First of all, seated in the west gallery — I believe in the front row there; give us a wave — is a group of grade 12 students, seven grade 12 students from Maverick School in Swift Current, accompanied by their teacher, Scott Hunter, and parent chaperone, Krista Erickson.

It's not often, Mr. Speaker, that I get school groups while we're in session here, visiting us here in the Chamber, and not the first time that Mr. Hunter's class has been here. So I thank him again for bringing the group of students here to see the proceedings today, and I'd ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

And secondly, Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery, the Speaker's gallery, is someone very special and important to me, is my wife. Anita has joined us here today and, Mr. Speaker, I think this is the first time that she's joined us here since my swearing-in back in March of 2018. So every six, five or six years or so she checks in to make sure that I'm attending, and you know, doing things here, Mr. Speaker.

Unlike my colleague from Saskatoon Southeast, I've done the math on how long we've been together and married. We've been together since 2002, married for 16 years, not 10-ish or 20-ish, as the member for Saskatoon Southeast might say.

And she arrived yesterday in Regina and we went for a nice supper last night at a restaurant. And I decided to do that by booking a table next to the opposition caucus, who was having a Christmas supper themselves. So it was quite a date night.

Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, if I could ask all members to welcome Anita to her Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lumsden-Morse.

Mr. B. McLeod: — Through you and to you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a great group of students on the other side in the west gallery, elementary students from South Shore Regina Beach. Give us a wave. There we are. Awesome.

Some of Saskatchewan's finest and brightest, 21 of them, and their teachers with them — Janelle Law the principal, and Jaclyn Kearley — a wave there from you folks. There you are. Really good. I look forward to gathering with you after question period. And thank you for being in this, your Legislative Assembly, today. Thank you.

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

Ms. Conway: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm first going to start by joining the member from Regina Rosemont just to give a shout-out to Rich Williams and welcome him to his Legislative Assembly. I went to school with his son Jamal, and indeed the family has loomed large in the ball community in Saskatchewan and Regina. And of course Rich is a proud fixture in our community, so I just wanted to give him a quick shout-out.

While I'm on my feet, I just want to say welcome again to Carlie Mohrbutter-Schick. This is one of her last days of her practicum in my office. She is a proud member of Peepeekisis Nation. She is a social work student. She's off to Australia on an exchange next semester. She works as a counsellor with the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] at their women's shelter, and she's been absolutely fabulous in our office. Her compassion, her work ethic, it's just been truly a delight to have her.

I also, while I'm on my feet, want to give a shout-out to my other practicum student, Aishat Sofola, who is not here. She's at the constituency office holding down the fort. This is the last day of her practicum as well. So I just wanted to offer my sincerest gratitude to both Carlie and Aishat and welcome Carlie one last time, at least for this sitting. I hope she'll be back to her Legislative Assembly.

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

Mr. Fiaz: — Mr. Speaker, I ask for an extended introduction, please.

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

[10:15]

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you, through you, to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce, sitting in your gallery, Rana Imran. Please raise your hand. He is

the president of Regina Cricket Association, and he is also president of Saskatchewan Cricket Association, which makes him by default executive member of Canadian Cricket Association. He has a lot of efforts, Mr. Speaker, to make a Canadian cricket team qualify for the upcoming T20 World Cup in the United States coming up June 2024, Mr. Speaker.

In Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, there are about approximately 69 teams for a different format of cricket, and the total registered players are a little less than 2,000, Mr. Speaker. In fact cricket is not new in Saskatchewan or in Canada, Mr. Speaker. I believe that in 1867 it was declared by the prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, and his cabinet, that cricket to be Canada's first official sport. I guess that was before lacrosse, Mr. Speaker. In Saskatchewan in 1927 the famous team was Wheat Pool cricket club. And cricket was very popular in the Qu'Appelle area in 1903, and there are a lot of pictures available in Saskatchewan sports fame of hall.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members to help me thanks to Imran for his dedication and leadership in cricket Saskatchewan, and welcome to his Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Burki: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will join the member opposite from Regina Pasqua, will welcome Imran, Rana Imran. He's not only a sports person that he has been. I know he does a lot of contribution in cricket for promoting and getting youth and all those communities together.

He has a contribution in that but on top of that, Mr. Imran is also an entrepreneur. He started a small business. A lot of university students get jobs part-time to work with him. He is a very good community leader. Anything that we have in the community, whether we have sad moments or happy moments, we find this gentleman always on the front line. I will request all members of this Legislative Assembly to give a warm welcome to Rana Imran to this legislature.

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I want to introduce someone that's seated in the west gallery. We've heard that there are a number of school groups, a lot of grade 12 students in the west gallery. There's one that could fit in as a grade 12 student, I think quite easily, but she was married — just for my seatmate, just to make sure that he's clear — she was married on July 21st, 1995, Mr. Speaker. Although she could fit in with the grade 12s quite easily, Mr. Speaker, she's been married for 28 years to the person that I've only had to sit beside for a few months. I don't know how she's done it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, to all members of this Assembly, I'd like to introduce Sandy Morgan to this Legislative Assembly.

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

Ms. Sarauer: — I can't really top that one, Mr. Speaker, but I

will try. To you and through you to all members, I'd like to introduce two individuals seated in your gallery. They're not strangers here but I'd like to introduce them one more time. My parents, Donna and Owen Sarauer are joining us today. Now they originally hail from Lake Lenore and Muenster but now they split their time between Kipabiskau Lake and Regina.

And while they may not have been war correspondents, Mr. Speaker, they have been putting up with me and my sister for over 30 years, and they did live in my house for a week during session while my husband was away. And I'll tell you, and they'll tell you, that mornings at my house with my kids can be quite a tumultuous experience. I feel like they should be recognized for that work if anything. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly.

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

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Following my seatmate's introduction, everything I have to say is rather redundant. My note says, remember July 21st, 1995. He stole it, used it. But anyway I've been married to Sandy since 1995 so this introduction is really seeking redemption rather than an introduction.

And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank . . . There's been a number of people that have mentioned family members that are here today. I think we should welcome and thank all of the family members that give us support all year-round, not just that are here for this season. So I'm going to ask all members to do that.

But I see we've got a lot of school groups here today. I want to wish all those students well as they go through exams and everything else. To the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] that have brought those people here, of course they're all obliged to buy ice cream afterwards. I want to make sure that those students are aware that that's the practice.

During my time as an MLA I only had one school group here. Unfortunately they were storm-stayed in Kenaston. Any time I've gone to a school afterwards they've said, no, we heard what happened to the school that stayed in Kenaston, had to sleep on a gym floor.

So anyway to all of the spouses, all of the family members who are here I'd like to, through you and to all members, wish them all the best for a safe and happy holiday season, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say sincerely welcome to all of the guests who have joined us here today. I'd like to point out a couple of special observers who are sitting in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker, two staff members, Emily Reaume and Janielle Ogilvie, who have recently joined our staff, Mr. Speaker, and have really hit the ground running and serve us so well.

Echoing some of the statements that the minister just mentioned, Mr. Speaker, I think it is often said and rightfully so that none of us serve here alone. We serve because of the families that support us and the staff that support us so well.

I want to say thank you to the parents who have joined us here, parents of MLAs, parents of staff members. Owen and Donna and Don and Sean, you have raised people, brilliant people, who care deeply about their communities, who care about politics. And none of us could do this work without you and the support of the families who, you know, do things like come in for a week and take care of the kids and support us in so many ways, Mr. Speaker.

To all the guests here today, to the long-suffering spouses of members opposite, I want to say, welcome. And I invite all members to join with me to welcome all of these guests to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of SaskBuilds.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a young gentleman sitting up in the west gallery, Kamel Shazad. Kamel works in my office. He's my communications specialist and he joined our office in July. And so this is his first session with us today, and this is the first time he'll have been in here to observe proceedings. So he's pretty happy to be doing that.

Kamel is originally from Pakistan. He's studied all over the world, an amazing, amazing young man, receiving a Bachelor of Laws from University of London in England, Master of Liberal Arts from Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Master of International Law from Loyola University at the Chicago School of Law, and an M.B.A. [Master of Business Administration] from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Just an amazing . . . right there.

In 2020 Kamel came to Canada with his family and set down roots in Saskatoon. After discovering his passion for politics — and I'm told a particular admiration for former prime minister Stephen Harper — he moved to Ontario to work for Minister Parm Gill, the Minister of Red Tape Reduction.

We are happy to say Kamel has moved back to Saskatchewan with his family because of the incredible quality of life provided in our wonderful province and now handles communications in my office. He's a living example of why people from all around the world are choosing to call Saskatchewan home and a story of the Saskatchewan advantage in action. Please join me in welcoming Kamel to his legislature and back to Saskatchewan.

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

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Request for an extended introduction.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleague from Regina Douglas Park to welcome her parents, Donna and Owen, to their legislature. You know, as an MLA, as an Indigenous MLA, First Nation MLA, it's always interesting

to have people show up and come to see you in action, working.

I guess for me what's really heartwarming is to have neighbours Donna and Owen at Kipabiskau that is just right next door to my Nation, you know. And having visited my own Nation I often was curious about who lived in those cabins just a few, just a little ways. I have often wondered that.

And I had the honour of meeting Donna and Owen a few years back when my colleagues joined me at our Sun Dance Ceremony, which is a very sacred ceremony. And to have them welcome me in their home was very touching for me, and also I felt a lot of gratitude and welcomed that. As Indigenous people when we face what we face, a reality in this province of racism, it's always wonderful to know that there are mainstream folks that will open up their heart, open up their home for a visible Indigenous person.

And I just want to say thank you for hosting us that one evening. It was beautiful out there. And to know that there are people that are rooting for us that are neighbours to First Nation communities. gichi-miigwech.

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Saulteaux].

miigwech.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Teed: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to be on my feet to present our petition calling on the government to fix the rural health care staffing crisis. We the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to attention the following: recruitment and retention of health care professionals is a particular issue in Saskatchewan's rural health care facilities, leading to many emergency room, acute, lab, and X-ray service disruptions; the ongoing pandemic has created burnout and led to early retirements and resignations, which has rippling effects for small cities and towns; health care workers and their families are valuable assets in Saskatchewan communities and local economies, and at SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] over 94 per cent of rural leaders voted to support a resolution acknowledging the nursing and health care worker shortage across Saskatchewan.

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 fix the rural health care staffing crisis.

Mr. Speaker, the undersigned residents live in Wilkie and Landis. I do so submit.

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

Ms. A. Ross: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring your

attention to the following: whereas the Trudeau Liberal-NDP [New Democratic Party] coalition carbon tax is one of the main causes of affordability issues and inflation in the nation of Canada and that the federal government has signalled that the carbon tax does affect Canadians differently by issuing an exemption on home heating oil for Atlantic Canadian provinces; further that the people of Saskatchewan, 85 per cent of whom rely on natural gas to heat their homes, are unfairly left out without support by the Liberal-NDP coalition, who continue to drive up the cost of living with their price on carbon.

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 remove the carbon tax from all home heating costs across Canada to reduce inflation and drive down the rising costs of living faced by all Canadians from coast to coast.

The below undersigned are residents of Regina. I do so swear. Thank you.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to be on my feet again presenting a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan calling for the funding of in vitro fertilization treatments for folks here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. As all members will know, these treatments, fertility treatments, can be prohibitively expensive, one cycle of IVF [in vitro fertilization] typically costing upwards of \$10,000 before travel, before drugs, before any additional costs are factored in, Mr. Speaker.

It's the holiday season and this time of year it can be particularly heart-wrenching for those struggling with fertility, wondering if they're ever going to have a family to share it with.

[10:30]

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I will read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan immediately move to cover the financial burden of two rounds of IVF treatment for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition today are from Humboldt. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Mr. Clarke: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present our petition calling on the government to adequately fund education. The undersigned residents would like to bring to our attention the following: the education funding included in the 2023-24 provincial budget is wholly inadequate and will lead to cuts in the classroom again.

Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber I have talked at length about my eight years as an elementary school teacher. And it was a

tradition, unfortunately, at the beginning of every year to hear what programs and supports for students were being cut that year. It is shocking to look back in time and see what supports and programs are no longer there for students, and they are not better off because of this. So we call on the government to fund education because it is our children who are bearing the brunt of these cuts.

I'll read the prayer:

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

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

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

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to present a petition calling for the improvement of labour laws in Saskatchewan. Those who've signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: that even after the October 1st increase, Saskatchewan's minimum wage remains the lowest in Canada at \$14 an hour. In addition, the official opposition has twice introduced paid sick leave legislation since the onset of the pandemic, calling for a minimum of 10 paid sick days each year and 14 days during a public health crisis.

Mr. Speaker, paid sick leave has been proven to save employers money while making workplaces healthier and safer for all workers. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately 71 per cent of workers in Canada have experienced workplace violence and/or harassment, and we know much more needs to be done to ensure that workplaces in Saskatchewan are harassment free.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Government of Saskatchewan to improve conditions for Saskatchewan workers by passing legislation to increase the minimum wage, guarantee paid sick leave, limit nondisclosure agreements which could silence survivors of workplace harassment, and require employers to track and report incidents of violence and harassment in the workplace.

Those signing this petition today come from St. Walburg and Lloydminster. I do so present.

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

Ms. Ritchie: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to address the affordability crisis. The undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan wish to bring to your attention that inflation is the highest it has been in more than three decades,

that half of Saskatchewan residents were living paycheque to paycheque before transportation and food costs skyrocketed in 2022. But the Sask Party government's 32 new tax and fee hikes make life more expensive, all while harming struggling industries like tourism, culture, and fitness. While other provinces acted, the Sask Party government ignored the opposition call for a gas price relief plan. And certainly right now as we head into the holiday season, more families are going to be struggling to put food on the table and presents under the tree.

In recognition of that, I will read the prayer:

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

Signed by the residents of Regina, I do so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Best Wishes for the Holidays

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, as we wrap up the fall session and cozy up to the holiday season, one can't help but feel grateful for the shared desire we all have, for Saskatchewan to be the best that it can be. And despite our political differences, that common goal unites each of us.

To my fellow members of the legislature, regardless of the party you represent, I want to extend heartfelt thanks. Each one here brings a unique perspective and dedication to your constituents which adds to our discussions and debates and represents the rich variety of Saskatchewan viewpoints.

As we step into the holiday season, let's take a collective breath and embrace special moments with our loved ones. This is a time to set aside division and instead focus on the shared values that make Saskatchewan such a special place. As we gather with family and friends, let's carry the spirit of unity and warmth into the new year. May the holiday season be filled with joy, laughter, and a deep appreciation for the beautiful province we all call home.

And so, Mr. Speaker, to all who celebrate, Merry Christmas. Best wishes to all of those marking the first night of Hanukkah tonight, and happy holidays, Saskatchewan.

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

Santa Truck Goes on Tour

Mr. Friesen: — Last Saturday was another great day in Riversdale, and in fact it's been a great week in Saskatchewan and all of Canada, Mr. Speaker. You see, last week, the start of November is when it all starts. What starts, you ask? Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm happy you asked. Santa starts his journey across the country in a brightly lit-up Coca-Cola truck.

In the late 1990s, Mr. Speaker, my friend John Thompson and

some co-workers lit up a Coke truck for the kids. They would take the truck to friends' houses. The kids loved it, so why not go see grandmas at the seniors' home? And they did that. They went to more seniors' homes.

Mr. Speaker, over 20 years ago is when this started. Fast-forward 20 years, and those kids had kids and begged him to do it once again. Four years ago John Thompson dressed up as Santa and started touring the province. He has 19 events planned in Saskatchewan alone, and for the last three years in a row he has stopped in Saskatoon Riversdale. The excitement on the kids' faces is nothing short of amazing, Mr. Speaker.

The Coca-Cola Santa tour is now Canada-wide, stopping at hospitals when the shift changes and putting smiles on the faces of health care workers, going to seniors' homes, and many more, Mr. Speaker. This year they have added an online tracker to follow the Santa truck. I would ask all members to join me in thanking John Thompson, his daughters, and the staff at Coca-Cola for making people's days just that much brighter. Thank you.

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

Members of the Assembly Should Connect with Their Constituents

Ms. Nippi-Albright: — miigwech, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some folks today, the constituents of Saskatoon Centre. Thank you, Saskatoon Centre, for believing in me, the work I am doing here, and trusting me to ask questions and raise your concerns here in the House. My constituency office is not inconvenienced by phone calls or being included in letters and emails from business owners and residents. Quite the opposite, Mr. Speaker; I welcome their correspondence. I welcome their concerns, and I welcome the tough questions they bring from the community.

These are the folks who elected and hold confidence in me to represent them. That is my job. That is all our jobs, Mr. Speaker, and I would encourage members opposite to answer their phones, their letters, and their emails. Connect with the residents of their communities and learn what they want — your communities, what they want, the needs, their priorities — before coercing them to accept “pilot projects” that cause irreparable damage to the community at large, and then abandon them, leaving a mess for others to clean up.

Keep calling my office, cc'ing me, and sending me letters and emails, Saskatoon Centre. Yes, keep the letters coming. Keep the phone calls coming. I will answer. miigwech.

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

Celebration of Hanukkah

Hon. Mr. Wyant: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honour of the Festival of Lights, the celebration of Hanukkah. Let us remind ourselves about Judah Maccabee and his courageous army that persevered and won an outstanding victory over Antiochus, only to return to the destruction of their

temple.

Judah Maccabee didn't give up until he led his army to victory. And his community didn't give up when there was only enough oil to burn the light for one night. They needed to start the rededication of the temple, but they didn't know if that would be enough oil to complete it. Mr. Speaker, miraculously the oil lasted for eight days.

Rabbi Laura Geller wrote that:

This is the miracle of human courage that empowers us to take risks for the future, even in our imperfect and uncertain world. It is the courage even in the darkest of times to create your own light.

Mr. Speaker, let the light show us the path forward so that we can continue working to build a better future for generations to come. I ask all members to join me in wishing the Jewish community a very happy Hanukkah. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Community Initiatives Fund Helps Northern Communities

Mr. Lemaigre: — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to talk about the unique program that has benefited communities across Saskatchewan. This year our government has allocated \$6.4 million to the Community Initiatives Fund, which uses casino revenue to provide grants to community-based programs across the province. Since 1995, the Community Initiatives Fund, or CIF, has distributed over \$175 million to 510 communities.

The CIF is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Saskatchewan people by investing in initiatives for all ages that support healthy lifestyles, cultural learning, and inclusive communities.

Mr. Speaker, these programs have had significant impact on northern communities, including my home constituency of Athabasca. Recently the elementary school in Pinehouse was approved for \$30,000 to support an after-school cooking program. Past investments include family camp programming, nutrition programming, parental support groups, youth fishing, land-based cultural programming, and outdoor summer programming, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to first thank these community groups and volunteers for the work they do to better our community. And thank you to CIF. This is just a small portion of the work that CIF does year-round to support our communities. To learn more about the grant funding and programs available, I encourage everyone to visit their website at cifsask.org. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Saskatchewan's Economy Continues to Grow

Mr. Jenson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's another great day in Saskatchewan, and it's been another great year for our province. And I'm excited to rise one more time this session with

some great news about our economy.

Just this morning we received data from Statistics Canada that shows even more growth in our province. Mr. Speaker, building permits increased by 45.6 per cent compared to this time last year — second in the nation, and it's almost three times the national average. Just yesterday we received great news about our merchandise exports, a 26.3 per cent increase in October compared to the month previous. That's first in the nation, Mr. Speaker, and well above the national average of 0.8 per cent.

I know the NDP loves to run down our economy and the business community that contributes to it, but we're so, so proud of the work that Saskatchewan businesses do and all that they've accomplished. Another example, Mr. Speaker, of our strong economy is the 24,300 new jobs that were created that we were informed of last week.

Mr. Speaker, our government is proud of the growth that we continuously see in our economy, and we're proud of the growth that we're seeing in this province, with the biggest population jump that we've seen in 108 years in 2022. That's growth that simply wouldn't have happened under the NDP and will never happen under those members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to tell Saskatchewan's story on the world stage and bring home jobs and opportunities for families across Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

Christmas Message

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Mr. Speaker, many Christians believe the most important duty carried out by Christ was the selfless act of taking all of our sins to the cross. I believe that is indisputable; however, the beginning of the story, his story, is so important and amazing.

Isaiah foretold of Jesus's arrival:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulder; and his name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

And Luke tells of the Christ child's birth:

Mary gave birth to her first-born son. There were shepherds out in the fields nearby keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

In more modern days even Einstein observed, "No one can read the Gospels without feeling the presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life."

In a world filled with noise, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, I pray all find peace in his presence and embrace the good news of

the Gospel message.

To those in this Assembly and those we serve: Merry Christmas, and may you all enjoy a safe, prosperous, and blessed New Year.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Cost of Living and Affordability

[10:45]

Ms. Beck: — This tired and out-of-touch government is failing Saskatchewan families struggling with the cost of living, and new numbers from Angus Reid show what we already knew from talking to people in hockey rinks and on the doorstep. Mr. Speaker, the cost of living is the number one issue facing families across this province. And with the holidays around the corner, budgets are stretched and families are stressed.

Why won't the Sask Party scrap the fuel tax and give Saskatchewan families a break?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, we have never denied that there is pressures on individuals and families within our province when there is inflationary pressures. And let's be real: what's creating a lot of the inflation and the cost-of-living increase is the carbon tax, Mr. Speaker.

And I, you know, hope the members opposite will recognize that, which is out of our control and driven by our federal Liberal-NDP government. But, Mr. Speaker, what we are proposing as a government is we are going to not charge the carbon tax on home heating fuel, which is actually worth more to the individuals than what they are proposing.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan families are struggling, but that minister, who has no regrets about an \$8,000 trip to fly to North Battleford for lunch, is clearly out of touch with that reality.

Here's the reality: we lead the country in mortgage arrears, and this tired and out-of-touch government has made things even worse, raising fees and taxes, raising power bills three times in one year. Mr. Speaker, families need a break and they're struggling to put gifts under the tree.

Will that minister finally deliver some cost-of-living relief for these families?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I'd like to caution the Leader of the Opposition because I do believe that my travel is less than hers, and I am a cabinet minister. So I would just caution her. And I definitely have lower travel than any Finance minister under the NDP.

So, Mr. Speaker, as the member opposite knows that when compared to other provinces across the country . . . Excuse me, if you would like to hear the answer. Across the country when you compare taxes, housing, utility costs, we are the most affordable province in the country, Mr. Speaker. That's due to measures that's in this budget.

The Leader of the Opposition has said a number of times that there's tax increases in this budget. In fact there were no tax increases in this budget that we introduced in the spring.

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

Contract with Calgary Clinic for Breast Cancer Diagnostic Services

Ms. Beck: — For the record, Mr. Speaker, I drive to North Battleford like most people in this province. But this tired and out-of-touch government is failing on the cost of living, and they're failing when it comes to women's health care.

Let's look at their record on mammograms. Gail Greenberg was interviewed in the *Regina Leader-Post* about her eight-month wait for a regular mammogram. Mr. Speaker, I quote:

At age 71 years, it's not something to delay. You can imagine my shock. You hear far too many stories of testing delayed and then by the time you have the test done, something that should have been discovered earlier is discovered too late.

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Health apologize to Gail and to the women of this province who are paying the price for this government's total mismanagement of our public health care system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have discussed a number of times in this Chamber, that there is a waiting list in health care for biopsies and diagnostic mammograms as a result of a shortage of specialized breast radiologists here in the city of Regina. And we are taking steps both medium and long term but also, as I have discussed previously, in the short term to address people's concerns when they are waiting for these tests and procedures, Mr. Speaker.

We will continue to do this work to make sure that we are working on that wait-list to cut it down. As a result of that, that is the reason why as a temporary measure we have signed a contract with Clearpoint out of Calgary to provide an additional thousand biopsies and diagnostic mammograms and ultrasound procedures to make sure that we are cutting down that waiting list, getting those women the procedures they need on an urgent basis, in addition to the work that's being done here in Saskatchewan to make sure that Saskatchewan women in this province are also getting those procedures done here within our borders, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Beck: — Mr. Speaker, let's talk about the band-aid solution from that Minister of Health. This government sole-sourced

mammograms to a private Calgary clinic, paying almost 10 times more than what we pay in the public system. At least, Mr. Speaker, that's what the minister said in the media. But the actual contract with the company providing these scans under this deal, well that has been redacted.

The costs that we're all being forced to pay to a Saskatchewan Party donor is being kept secret. Why the secrecy, Mr. Speaker? Why won't the minister tell the people of Saskatchewan how much we're paying for these scans?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Mr. Speaker, we've been very clear on what the contract is with Clearpoint in Calgary and what that cost is. Now the members opposite, their numbers aren't exactly accurate. They were saying earlier this week that it was 10 times more. That is not an apples-to-apples comparison, Mr. Speaker.

There are additional costs and there are management costs, facility overhead costs. Some of the other procedures that are included as part of this — ultrasound-guided biopsy, diagnostic mammography and tomography — these are all additional services that are provided in Calgary over and above what would be done here, Mr. Speaker.

But it's interesting once again, that once again, that the members opposite, they want to talk about the cost to the health care system. They don't want to talk about actually getting these patients and getting these women the procedures and the biopsies that they need on an urgent basis, Mr. Speaker. They're more concerned about the process.

Mr. Speaker, if we were to start from scratch this would take months. But I guess that's what they would prefer is to spend months and months and months as opposed to getting these people . . . And I can report to the Chamber that as of today 41 women are now being referred to Calgary, Mr. Speaker.

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

Surgical Capacity and Management of Health Care System

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, the reason that women are waiting months and months and months are because of that government's failure to deliver on health care. Mr. Speaker, the auditor's report was released yesterday and this was what the auditor found: 59 per cent of urgent neurosurgeries are not being completed within the targeted timelines; 86 per cent of priority neurosurgeries are not being completed within the targeted timelines; and 78 per cent of elective neurosurgeries not being completed within the targeted timelines.

This tired and out-of-touch government has plenty of time and money for its million-dollar pavilion in Dubai. Why didn't they put that same time and money into fixing our health care system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and we thank the auditor for her work and the recommendations that are coming forward with respect to the neurosurgery program. There

are a number of initiatives already under way, broadly speaking, across the surgical system that we have here in Saskatchewan, which will also help address some of the challenges we face in neurosurgery, including centralized scheduling, pooled referrals, updating patient pathways as an alternative to surgical interventions, as well as modernizing our surgical prioritization process.

Now in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, and specific to neurosurgery, I've had the opportunity to speak as I regularly do with the provincial head of surgery and I have been assured that our teams are working very closely on addressing all the issues that have been identified by the Provincial Auditor. And I'm confident in the work of our surgery teams that this work will be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Love: — Mr. Speaker, broadly speaking this government and this minister are absolutely failing the people of Saskatchewan when it comes to surgical wait times. The auditor also found that here in Regina the number of people on the wait-list for spine surgery has doubled over the last four years. There are 90 patients who had to wait more than two years to receive their surgery. What does the minister say to those people who have had to live with pain for over two years because this minister has made a total mess of our health care system?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I would say and I would point out is that we are working very hard to make sure that we are getting people the surgeries that they need in this province, Mr. Speaker, and whether that is through our publicly delivered systems but also through our privately delivered surgical centres that are publicly funded, which the members opposite are opposed to. Nineteen per cent of all the surgeries done in Saskatchewan are provided through those publicly funded, privately delivered providers, Mr. Speaker.

But I would say this: forty-two-and-a-half-million-dollar increase in funding this year to tackle the surgical backlog; 13,000 more surgeries in '23-24; 18,000 more surgeries in 2024-2025. And, Mr. Speaker, hitting a target and hitting the highest number of surgeries ever done in this province's history — 90,000 surgeries last fiscal year. Announcing earlier this week that we've already hit in the first six months of this fiscal year over 47,000 surgeries.

A thank you to our surgical teams, the surgeons, and everyone that supports those teams to get those people the surgeries that they need on a timely basis, Mr. Speaker.

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

Implementation of Administrative Information Management System

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, the auditor didn't just find long wait times for surgeries in her report. She also found that this tired and out-of-touch government is now set to spend a

whopping 240 million on its botched AIMS [administrative information management system] rollout. That's the IT [information technology] system for health care that was supposed to cost 86 million and has now ballooned to a quarter of a billion dollars. When you add in the failed Linkin and MiCase systems in Social Services, it all starts to add up.

When is AIMS actually going to be up and running in this province, Mr. Speaker, and how does the Sask Party justify wasting so much public money?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Hindley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, the SHA [Saskatchewan Health Authority] agrees with the recommendations made by the Provincial Auditor with respect to AIMS. A number of actions are under way already to strengthen IT services following the transitions and to also protect payroll services.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's important that we get this project right. This is a very complex, complicated program that is replacing an over-50-year-old system, multiple systems across the province responsible for the payroll and the scheduling and the administration of over 51,000 health care staff in this province, Mr. Speaker.

We want to ensure that as the back-end testing is being done by the tech teams that are working on the IT that is necessary to replace this antiquated system, we want to ensure that that system is working so that those valuable health care staff can get paid, get scheduled for their work and for their vacations. And we'll ensure that gets done when the system is rolled out so that it works properly for the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

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

Release of Information Concerning Emergency Hotel Stays

Ms. Conway: — \$240 million, Mr. Speaker. Where is the accountability from this government? Saskatchewan people work hard for their money. They want to see those dollars going to health care, to housing, to highways, to sustainable solutions for our growing homelessness crisis, not mismanaged IT costs or inflated hotel rooms.

That's what we've seen at the Sunrise Motel, the one owned by the Sask Party MLA, where the rate jumped 50 per cent once Social Services started picking up the tab. Two hundred dollars a night at the Sunrise Motel, Mr. Speaker.

We've asked the Minister of Social Services many questions, but this one is the key: if Saskatchewan people paid \$172,000 to this hotel last year, how much of that money was wasted on inflated costs charged by the hotel?

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

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Social Services, along with our CBO [community-based organization] partners, works very hard to ensure vulnerable people are looked after as best as we can, particularly as the winter months

approach. There's been several announcements on that front. Most recently the minister from Meadow Lake talked about it in this very House. Announcements in Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon — on and on it goes, Mr. Speaker.

In certain instances when there's overflow or an emergency situation, hotels are used. This is the same process that has been used for decades under the previous government as well, Mr. Speaker. In terms of what the member is talking about, we are looking at policies and processes as to how we can best use provincial tax dollars but also at the same time keeping vulnerable people safe in emergency situations, Mr. Speaker.

We've seen here today and across this session, Mr. Speaker, the NDP care more about politics than vulnerable people. I'm going to look after vulnerable people.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, we care about getting important answers on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. Not one more shred of information. Not even the policy, Mr. Speaker. It's beyond disappointing because Saskatchewan people deserve answers, and they're not getting any from this minister.

It's the last day of the sitting, and the minister is running out the clock instead of passing this off to the auditor for a special investigation. The Sask Party could do that today if they had the courage. Will they finally call for a special investigation by the Provincial Auditor, or will they keep leaving Saskatchewan people in the dark on the Sunrise Motel?

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

[11:00]

Hon. Mr. Makowsky: — Mr. Speaker, in terms of information, that information — I have said many times before in this House — is being compiled as we speak. The officials are working very hard on that. It takes some time. There's a large volume of information that is coming forward, Mr. Speaker. And like I said, that will be released upon receiving it.

The Provincial Auditor of course has mentioned that she will be looking at this as well, and she has her own process and timelines and we leave that to her, Mr. Speaker.

But the member talked about waste, Mr. Speaker. There's no waste here. We don't believe that it is a waste to ensure that there is a roof over someone's head when it's minus 30. Mr. Speaker, that's not a waste.

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

Records of Job Growth in Saskatchewan

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We know this is a government that's become all too comfortable playing fast and loose with public money, but we've also noticed they've got some real questionable numeracy skills of late, Mr. Speaker.

So on December 5th during question period, the Minister for Trade and Export Development said, and I will quote directly from *Hansard*, "We have added nearly 200,000 jobs over the course of the last 16 years."

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister for Trade and Export Development, did he misspeak, like the Minister for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] admitted that he did just yesterday?

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

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well I love, Mr. Speaker, when the NDP ask about job growth because we are growing jobs in this province, nearly 19 . . . over 19,000 over the course of the last year alone. We have the second-lowest unemployment rate in the entire country. We added 1.5 thousand jobs last month. Over the course of the last year, we've added 25,000 new full-time jobs, Mr. Speaker, meaning full-time jobs have replaced part-time jobs.

This is what we are doing in this economy, Mr. Speaker. We're doing it by working with our job creators, working with our entrepreneurs, those that are creating wealth. Meanwhile the NDP stand over there day after day attacking those same job creators, attacking those same people that are creating wealth, and talking down our economy. Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we're proud of what we're doing; we're not ashamed of it.

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

Ms. A. Young: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A 1 per cent job creation growth rate in the last nine years. I don't know if anybody would be proud of that record, except for the member opposite.

But, Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. The minister's claim of 200,000 jobs being created by the Sask Party in the last 16 years is overstated by more than 100 per cent. And he also said in the same statement, and I will quote again, "Their record was negative job growth over 16 years." That's just not true, Mr. Speaker.

In November 1991 there were 453,500 jobs. In November 2007 there were 512,800 jobs. I know math is hard, Mr. Speaker, but why does that minister, whose Premier has the second-worst job creation record in the country, think that it's acceptable to come into this Assembly and present figures and numbers that have no basis in fact?

The Speaker: — I'd just like to caution both sides. When the opposition is referring to the government, it's the Sask Party government; and when the Sask Party ministers are responding or asking questions or responding to the New Democratic Party, it's the NDP opposition.

I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's remarkable how upset they get when we talk about their record in

government. Let's talk about their record in government. Their record in . . . They bring it up. They brought it up, Mr. Speaker.

Their record in government was abysmal. Their record in government was embarrassing. Their record in government meant not only did the population not grow over 16 years, Mr. Speaker, the population actually shrunk. When they were in government, the traditional gift for those who were graduating high school was luggage. And why was that, Mr. Speaker? Because there was no opportunity here. People had to leave Saskatchewan when they were in government.

That has all changed, Mr. Speaker. Our population has grown by 200,000 people over the course of the last 16 years. That is an apples-to-apples comparison. Their record was horrific.

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

Government Approach to Energy Production

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've continued to ask the government, why can't they cut their provincial carbon tax on fuel? Their latest excuse has been they can't afford to cut it; where are they going to find the money to fix roads? Mr. Speaker, they can't find the money to fix the roads because they're spending it all on the Premier's net zero by 2050 agenda.

This government has already spent 1.5 billion and counting on the Premier's net zero agenda, and yet they tell me they can't afford to fix roads or reduce the fuel tax. They can't afford to give residents the cost-of-living relief at the pumps, but they can afford billions and billions to achieve their net zero agenda.

Mr. Speaker, can the government explain to residents why are they more committed to spending billions on their net zero by 2050 agenda than giving cost-of-living relief and axing their tax on fuel?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What this government is doing is ensuring that we have the ability to produce power in this province so that people can keep their lights on and their heat on, particularly in the winter. And that's why we're providing carbon tax relief for those that are heating their homes with natural gas as well as electricity, Mr. Speaker.

And that's why this government is looking at making investments to not only create cleaner generation, such as by nuclear as well as natural gas, Mr. Speaker, although we are constrained. We are constrained by the fact that the Liberal-NDP coalition government in Ottawa is limiting our ability to create power in a way that is sustainable and affordable and predictable for the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

That's also why, Mr. Speaker, we invested in carbon capture and sequestration in this province — something that the world is looking at doing even more, and now we're going to be forced to do so on natural gas — and which we did when that member sat on this side of the House and had nothing to say about it. Had no problems to say, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to continue to

fight for the people . . .

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

Ms. Wilson: — Mr. Speaker, this government's agenda is obvious. They have repeatedly promised to make Saskatchewan net zero by 2050, in lockstep with Justin Trudeau's long-stated goal of net zero emissions by 2050. If it wasn't proof enough, Mr. Speaker, right now the Premier is in Dubai for a UN [United Nations] climate change convention.

Where is his government? And they have spent \$1 million of taxpayers' money to further their agenda. Mr. Speaker, why won't this government do the right thing, what is best for the Saskatchewan people, and denounce their net zero agenda?

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

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That member opposite should know that Saskatchewan's the second-largest producer of uranium in the world, Mr. Speaker. The eyes of the nuclear industry is on Saskatchewan, in terms of both their production of uranium so that people around the world can have the ability to heat their homes and to keep their lights on with a source of energy that is frankly in a renaissance period. That's what the Premier is hearing about as he is at the COP [Conference of Parties] conference, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, we've set a goal of 2050. We are rejecting the goal that is set by the federal Liberal-NDP coalition of 2035. We completely reject that. Mr. Speaker, and what the members opposite, what the NDP members can do is that they can phone their federal leader Jagmeet Singh . . . Well they said they've done it, and what we found out actually, the Leader of the Opposition didn't get Jagmeet Singh on the phone. They got an assistant and left a message. Even I could do that, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Canada's top-ranked think tank, the Fraser Institute has not minced words about the danger the net zero agenda poses to Canada and our province. They call net zero the pathway to Canadian decline. The institute outlines that net zero by 2050 means drastically cutting our energy use and production, significantly driving up the cost of living and driving down our standard of living. They conclude by stating Canadians must understand that net zero policies mean decay and decline, not deliverance.

Mr. Speaker, this government has sold out our Saskatchewan way of life to a foreign agenda. Leading experts are telling us it'll be catastrophic to our economy and our way of life. Mr. Speaker, I ask the government, why have they sold out the Saskatchewan people for their net zero agenda?

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the net zero, the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation very clearly

answered that question, Mr. Speaker. But previously the member opposite, in fact many members opposite have questioned the Premier being at COP where he is this week. He is there promoting, I believe, over 50 companies from Saskatchewan, helping their industries sell their wares around the world, Mr. Speaker.

You know, yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with Saskatchewan Mining Association board of directors who expressed their appreciation for the Premier being there, talked about how important it was. Some of the members opposite were at the SMA [Saskatchewan Mining Association] reception. Instead of huddling around the appetizer bar, Mr. Speaker, probably they should have been talking to some of the delegates there. They'd have heard how important that they thought it was the Premier be there.

Mr. Speaker, what happened this week while we're promoting industries including oil and gas? What's happening? The federal NDP-Liberal . . .

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on Privileges

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Privileges to present the committee's first report. I move:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Privileges be now concurred in.

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

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Privileges be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Minister of Trade and Export Development.

Hon. Mr. J. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to put just some brief comments on the record with regard to the concurrence report. Yesterday in committee we witnessed an appalling and frankly embarrassing display by the NDP member for Elphinstone-Centre vigorously defending anti-Semitism and an anti-Semitic phrase that was chanted in this legislature.

And it's not me saying that, Mr. Speaker, that those words are hateful and anti-Semitic. It's B'nai Brith Canada. Yesterday I read a letter from B'nai Brith Canada explaining what those words mean to Jewish people. They said:

The phrase "from the river to the sea" is hateful and calls for Israel to disappear. The slogan epitomizes the Hamas manifesto which denies Jewish history, incites vicious anti-Semitism worldwide, and promotes violence to destroy the Jewish state.

The member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre completely

dismissed and demeaned B'nai Brith Canada and their letter, saying they and it come from away, from another province, and that the phrase "doesn't mean the same thing to everyone" — literally saying that Jewish people and B'nai Brith just experienced it differently, Mr. Speaker.

Well B'nai Brith Canada says they experienced those words as hateful and anti-Semitic. The White House has denounced those words as anti-Semitic. The city of Berlin has outlawed that phrase as hate speech. Even the Leader of the Opposition said, and I quote, "Let me be very clear. The phrase that was used is not acceptable." But the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre disregarded all of that and her own leader, saying that this anti-Semitic phrase is legitimate political speech.

Mr. Speaker, this tells you all you need to know about the kind of party the NDP has become. The NDP and the Canadian left in general has a serious and obvious anti-Semitism problem. They've gone from Tommy Douglas, who called Israel "the light of democracy in a night of darkness," to the member for Elphinstone-Centre, who defends an anti-Semitic chant calling for the destruction of Israel. It also tells you all you need to know about who is really running things over there when the NDP leader calls these words unacceptable but is then overruled by the member for Elphinstone-Centre.

[11:15]

They couldn't even bring themselves to commend our security personnel for the work that was done on November 20th. And I wonder why not, considering the rioters were introduced by the NDP, given passes to the building by the NDP, and watched routine proceedings while sitting in the NDP caucus office.

Mr. Speaker, in a few moments we're going to vote. Our government will be supporting the motion commending our security personnel and condemning those who organized and perpetrated this protest. And I guess we're going to find out who's running things over there, whether it's the NDP leader who called these words unacceptable or the member for Elphinstone-Centre who defended this anti-Semitic chant. We're about to find out.

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

Ms. Conway: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to go into too much detail addressing the offensive slander we've just heard from the Government House Leader. My words are recorded on *Hansard*, and I invite any member of the public to go back and review them.

Mr. Speaker, what we're seeing now from this Government House Leader is sour grapes. What we're seeing from this Government House Leader is an attempt to distract the public from his government's failures, Mr. Speaker. They would much rather be talking about this.

They don't want to talk about women having to go out of this province to get basic health care. They don't want to talk about a \$1 million junket to Dubai, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to talk about a 260 million botched AIMS program, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to talk about their inability to balance a budget, Mr.

Speaker. And they certainly don't want to talk about the fact that they lost a member this session to a human trafficking sting. That's what this is about, and it is so disgusting to see this government try to weaponize a bloody conflict halfway across the world to score political points.

Mr. Speaker, as usual the words of the Government House Leader have no basis in fact, and I want to bring attention to statements that he made to this Legislative Assembly on November 22nd. I want to address the legislative security in this building, which he has tried to wedge once again. On November 22nd, this House Leader said to the House that during the disruption that happened here:

. . . members were locked in a secure location. Protocols were followed by security, by members. And we didn't know what was going to happen next.

MLAs and cabinet ministers were limited in their movement of the Assembly because we were locked in a secure location during the occupation.

When members of this side heard those comments, we became very concerned. We became very concerned that the security in this building was giving one treatment to government members and another treatment to the NDP opposition. So I undertook to write to the director of security, bringing these comments to her attention, asking her to account for this House Leader's depiction of events which suggested a different treatment was given to them than us.

And I will read the response of the director into the record because it goes to how much value we can put on the words of this Government House Leader:

Thank you for your letter dated November 29th regarding the disruption that occurred during the Legislative Assembly on November 20th, '23.

On November 20th, '23, members of the legislative district security unit did not provide direction to government officials to lock themselves in a secure location, nor did members of the LDSU lock any individual or government official in a secure location. If individuals chose to lock themselves in a secure location, it was a determination made by those individuals. Accordingly Saskatchewan NDP caucus members received the same treatment as government members by the LDSU.

What we're seeing here, Mr. Speaker, and has happened since this disruption happened, this Government Leader accused us of being behind it, accused us of holding secret meetings. This was all about distraction. These were accusations made without basis in fact. Totally unfounded.

And yesterday we saw a pretty quick end to this big investigation that was going to be going on into the Saskatchewan NDP, because this Government House Leader knows that that was never based in fact, and that investigation would show we had nothing to do with that disruption.

This is sour grapes. And shame on the Government House Leader for trying to weaponize this conflict that is so steeped in pain,

that is so steeped in hurt, entrenched views. Instead of trying to bring the diverse communities of this province together at a difficult time, he is trying to weaponize it. Shame on him.

And let's look at what happened in the days after that disruption, what this Sask Party government tried to do with that event.

The group that came here consisted of a broad section of society: campus groups, social work students, mosque communities, a respected imam attended, peace activists, many individuals. And when you look at the videos of that protest, which are posted online, you can see that the entire first and second row of the east gallery does not stand and join in the ceasefire chant. They sat and observed the proceedings. So to paint them all with one brush is frankly one of the reasons that we are not in support of this motion, in addition to the fact that we will not get into condemning speech said by one side and not another, Mr. Speaker.

It was absolutely disgusting and dangerous to see this Government House Leader and even the Premier attempt to label us on this side as extremists — including the member for Coronation Park, the only Muslim member on this side and one of the few in this legislature, who has never received so much as a parking ticket. Now he is facing questions from his community because he was labelled an extremist by that Government House Leader and even the Premier.

It's disgusting to see them ramp up this rhetoric. That man, my colleague, that gentle man, that thoughtful, hard-working man who has contributed so much to his community, he has raised seven beautiful, strong daughters. He welcomed and introduced members of his community. And he was labelled an extremist by that government for doing it. Shame on them.

But these are the kinds of loaded antics that Saskatchewan people have come to expect from this government, desperate to distract from their record of failure. They are more and more taking pages out of the Trump-style political handbook, and it does not play in Saskatchewan.

Now I want to say, Mr. Speaker, on the topic of this conflict, our entire caucus has been reaching out to members of the Jewish community of this province, to members of the Muslim community — who, I might add, do hold a range of views on this conflict, and understandably strong views about this conflict.

I want to note and emphasize that members on this side have actually met and broken bread with the Saskatoon chapter of the organization mentioned by the Government of Saskatchewan. They valued those conversations, and those conversations will continue.

What you've seen from this side, Mr. Speaker . . . And let's just situate ourselves in this moment for a second. 1,200 innocent Israeli citizens and civilians are dead. Over 16,000 innocent civilians are dead, Palestinians. Nearly 7,000 children. Nearly 7,000 children, Mr. Speaker.

And on this side, we have spoken with compassion about the loss of life on both sides. On both sides, Mr. Speaker, every time. We have talked about the importance of the release of all hostages. And yes, we've called for ceasefire, for peace. And we are proud

of that call, Mr. Speaker.

Our leader, every time she is asked about this conflict, she calls on the people of Saskatchewan to lean into their empathy, to their understanding, to reject division, to bring the diverse communities that we serve together, not further and further apart — which is what this is about, Mr. Speaker. That’s what real leaders do, and that’s what our leader has done.

True leaders bring people together, look for better paths, for peace. They don’t try to wedge communities, sow division, even if there is an opportunity for a quick headline, for a political point, or for a distraction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has made a number of provocative and personal attacks on the Government House Leader. I ask the member to stand and withdraw and apologize.

Ms. Conway: — I will not apologize, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — You will not?

I ask again. Will you withdraw and apologize?

Ms. Conway: — I will not withdraw and apologize.

The Speaker: — I ask a third time. Will you withdraw and apologize?

Ms. Conway: — I will not withdraw and apologize to the Government House Leader.

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

The Government House Leader . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I’m sorry, I’m on my feet. I would like the Government House Leader to withdraw and apologize for making a number of personal accusations against the members across the aisle.

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

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

Hon. Ms. Eyre: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it’s extremely important to underline what has just occurred here and to realize that the phrase “from the river to the sea” has been iterated and reiterated as justified by that member. This is a very grave statement and a very grave and serious stance, Mr. Speaker, which around the world has been recognized as deeply offensive.

There is no splitting hairs on this statement. There are no subtle nuances and connotations. The statement is the thing, Mr. Speaker, “from the river to the sea.” It is hateful. B’nai Brith has said it is hateful. We stand with that and there is no debate on the meaning of that statement, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Okay. It has been . . . Well I’ll just repeat. It

has been moved by the Deputy Chair:

The first report of the Standing Committee on Privileges 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.

An Hon. Member: — On division.

The Speaker: — Recorded division? Let’s call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 11:29 until 11:59.]

The Speaker: — All those in favour of the motion please stand.

[Yeas — 36]

Morgan	McMorris	Hindley
Reiter	Harpauer	Duncan
Merriman	Tell	Wyant
Makowsky	Marit	Skoropad
Kaeding	Cockrill	L. Ross
Eyre	J. Harrison	Carr
Hargrave	T. McLeod	Buckingham
A. Ross	Dennis	Lambert
Ottenbreit	Francis	C. Young
Steele	Nerlien	B. McLeod
Friesen	Grewal	Keisig
Lemaigre	Jenson	D. Harrison

The Speaker: — All those opposed please stand.

[Nays — 10]

Beck	Nippi-Albright	Wotherspoon
Love	Teed	A. Young
Burki	Clarke	Sarauer
Ritchie		

The Speaker: — Order. Order.

Clerk: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 36; those opposed, 10.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to make a farewell statement for Christmas.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

Acknowledgements and Christmas Greetings

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to start off by thanking you for your leadership in the Chair and keeping decorum in the Assembly.

I want to thank our Premier for the leadership that he provides our province. Right now our Premier is working to promote Saskatchewan to the world, to promote the most sustainable potash, oil, and uranium products that are being produced anywhere on the globe. And it's working. We have over 53 billion in exports leading to more jobs here at home.

Mr. Speaker, thank you to the Clerk's office, especially Iris Lang, who I believe has now completed her first fall sitting as Clerk. I'd like to thank our House business team, Jared and Ashley, who always do a great job staying on top of what's going on in this Chamber. As well to Ang Currie and a fantastic team that she has working in the caucus office — they do a great job helping our members out.

Thank you to the Opposition House Leader for her role in working with us to allow, help the Chamber function.

Mr. Speaker, there are several other people who help keep this building running smoothly. So thank you to the Sergeant-at-Arms, the broadcast services, Hansard, cafeteria staff, cleaning staff, library staff, and everyone else, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the building manager, Steve Bata, and his team of Jeff Tochor and Ralph Ward. They're the first people we see when we come in in the morning and usually the last people I see when I leave at the end of the day.

We also had some unprecedented events occur this fall sitting, so I want to especially thank the legislative district security unit who have done a tremendous job keeping the building safe.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all MLAs for their service to our province and to all people of this province who make Saskatchewan the greatest province to live in.

Mr. Speaker, Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and God bless.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As is custom I am happy to join in with the Government Deputy House Leader in some holiday remarks. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you and all of those who work in your office, including the Pages and the Clerks, for steady hands and wisdom and guidance and assistance to all of us during this fall session.

I also want to thank those who work at Hansard and those behind the cameras who have to put up with listening and looking at us for their jobs all the time. Apologies and thanks.

To cafeteria staff, cleaning staff, all of those at Legislative Assembly Service for all that you do every single day, not just during sittings, to keep this building running in such a smooth and efficient way.

I also want to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms, the commissionaires, those of the legislative district security unit including the director, Dani, for everything that they do every single day in terms of assisting the process of this legislature.

I also want to thank those who work in House business both on my side of the fence here, Mitchell Bonokoski in particular, as well as Ashley and Jared on government's side, thank them for all the work that they do, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to very much thank those who work for us behind the scenes while we're here, helping to keep the home fires burning, so to speak, the constituency assistants as well as our families. We know that we could not serve in this House without you. I also want to thank this team of MLAs that I serve with. They're very hard-working and they're very supportive of one another. And I'm incredibly grateful for all of their dedication and their servant-like attitude toward their job, Mr. Speaker.

I also want to thank our leader, the member for Lakeview. She's dedicated. She has a strong vision and a drive, and she firmly believes in the importance of building relationships throughout the province. She's one that thrives on that and believes firmly that our province does better when we are working to unite, that we have more in common than we do different, Mr. Speaker. And I think a lot of people see that and are inspired by that. I know I am and the members on this side very much are, and we thank her for that each and every day.

I hope that everybody enjoys this holiday season and is able to spend some time resting and relaxing with loved ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I want to thank everyone for all their hard work this fall session — to the House leaders for everything they do, to the members for their many hours of service and commitment to their positions as elected officials of the province of Saskatchewan.

I want to thank the Clerks-at-the-Table, Iris Lang, Ken Ring, Kathy Burianyak, Rob Park, Danielle Humble-Selinger, Anne Drake; and the rest of the Legislative Service staff, Hansard, ITS [information and technology services], procedural services, and the Sergeant-at-Arms, Lyall Frederiksen and his team.

Thank you for the extraordinary work that you do to serve the members. We appreciate all your efforts in keeping us on task, and by doing so, enabling the democratic process to run smoothly.

Also want to acknowledge Monique Lovatt for her dedication and hard work supporting the members' participation in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Thank you to the Pages for the excellent job that they do daily. We appreciate your efficiency and your professionalism. A special thank you to Steve Bata and his team for their expertise in keeping things running smoothly in this building.

I want to also extend my appreciation to the cafeteria staff, Central Services, building staff, and security. Often their hours are very long, working behind the scenes to accommodate the various functions in the building not only during session but throughout the year.

Thank you to all the caucus staff, Janet, my constituency assistant, and all the other constituency assistants for their diligence and hard work especially while the members are in the Assembly.

I would also like to thank my staff in the building here, Sheila Sterling, Twyla Wilson, and Nulee Menegbo for keeping the office running smoothly.

Last but certainly not least, thanks to my wife Cindy and my family for their support.

In closing, I want to thank the citizens of Saskatchewan. It is a privilege to represent you as elected officials and my honour to serve you as both MLA and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

May the Christmas season bring warmth and good opportunities for you and your family. May your home be filled with love, laughter, and may the year ahead bring forth contentment and joy. Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah. Drive safely and I wish you all a Happy New Year.

I recognize the Government Deputy House Leader.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This House now stands adjourned until Monday, March 4th at 1:30 p.m., 2024.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:10.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Highways

Hon. Jeremy Cockrill
Minister of Education

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
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
Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Hon. Joe Hargrave
Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement
Minister Responsible for the
Global Transportation Hub Authority

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 Health

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Social Services

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

Hon. Tim McLeod
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Government Relations
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the
Provincial Capital Commission
Minister Responsible for the
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety
Minister Responsible for the Firearms Secretariat

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Energy and Resources

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

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Environment

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Advanced Education