



Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly

Erika Ritchie – MLA Saskatoon Nutana
104B 733 Broadway Ave
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1B3

December 5, 2022

Nancy Allen
President, Steep Hill Food Co-op
730 Broadway Ave,
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1B4

Dear Nancy,

It was with great pleasure that I presented a member statement to the Legislative Assembly, November 1, 2022, recognizing Steep Hill Food Co-op.

Steep Hill has been an important part of our Saskatoon Nutana community for many years, and I look forward to having it be a part of our community for many years to come.

I've attached the transcript from the Saskatchewan Hansard for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erika".

Erika Ritchie, MLA for Saskatoon Nutana

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition believe that Saskatchewan people's ability to grow their families should not depend on their socio-economic status and that investing in people trying to build families here in this province makes economic sense. Other provinces in Canada have created programs that financially assist in providing IVF treatments to those struggling to conceive, because as we all know, each cycle can cost upwards of \$10,000, which does not include the cost of drugs.

I'll 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 treatments for Saskatchewan people experiencing infertility.

Mr. Speaker, the signatories of this petition today reside in Birch Hills and Prince Albert. I do so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Forty Years Of Steep Hill Food Co-op

Ms. Ritchie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. More than 40 years ago a group of people worked together to kickstart the Steep Hill Food Co-op, a not-for-profit alternative to chain grocery stores located in my riding of Saskatoon Nutana. The goal 40 years ago was to provide the community with accessible, locally sourced, and nutritious food at a reasonable price. Today their goal remains the same: to provide high-quality organic and local food at fair prices.

[13:45]

While the opportunities for people to find organic and local food in their communities has increased, Steep Hill remains a vibrant part of the Broadway area and a staple in our community. Steep Hill Co-op has made changes over the years, making it easier for people to shop with extended hours and increasing the variety of products they carry, all while preserving their core values and remaining a co-operative.

They have become increasingly important in the community with the closure of our neighbourhood chain grocery store. And while big chain grocery stores continue to move out of local neighbourhoods, it is even more important to support local, community-based food stores in our communities, who in turn support our local growers and producers.

Thank you to Steep Hill Food Co-op for being a huge part of our community for the past 40 years.

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

Saskatchewan Polytechnic is Producing Saskatchewan's Future

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have good

news about the future of our province's young people. Last night the legislature had the privilege of hosting senior leaders, students, and alumni from Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Sask Polytech plays a critical role in preparing students for rewarding careers in our province. With 15,000 students served per year, Sask Polytech is producing our future.

Sask Polytech's reputation as a first-class technical school continues to grow around the world. An increase of 25.6 per cent in international recruitment, Mr. Speaker, highlights this reputation.

Mr. Speaker, student and employer surveys from Sask Polytech show that 94 per cent of Indigenous graduates have a job within six months to a year, and 92 per cent of employers would hire a Sask Polytech grad again.

When our post-secondary institutions are on track, we are too, Mr. Speaker. Our government understands the value of high-quality post-secondary education. It is the foundation for a skilled, responsive labour force and a healthy, growing economy. As you heard in last week's Throne Speech, this government is committed to advancing work on Sask Polytech's Saskatoon Campus renewal project. We are excited about this necessary project, located in the vicinity of the University of Saskatchewan and Innovation Place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Service

Ms. Sarauer: — Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Service for fallen members which took place this September, which I attended along with the minister. The commemorative event allowed the public a formal opportunity to express their appreciation for the service of police and peace officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

This year's event featured members of various police services in Saskatchewan taking part in the Ride to Remember, an annual bike ride in memory of those officers lost in the line of duty. The Ride to Remember started at the Saskatoon Police Service on September 22nd with participants on their motorcycles stopping in Humboldt, Manitou Lake, Moose Jaw, and finally making their way here to Regina on September 25th. The participants rode a total of 447 kilometres of highway before reaching Regina for the parade of officers marching down Albert Street bridge to the Legislative Building for speeches and a wreath-laying ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in recognizing the Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Service and in remembering all of our fallen officers. The event was an important tribute and show of remembrance for those lost either in the line of duty or to struggles with mental health.

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

Saskatchewan-Raised Geriatricians Return to Practice in the Province

Mr. Fiaz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two new geriatricians