

FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
of the
DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS - HANSARD

*What was said about Station 20 West
in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*

Mr. Calvert (NDP – Riversdale): They say everything you ever needed to know about a budget can be found in one decision. The irony this year... is the one decision they've made, that I believe in some ways colours this entire budget, ... they are going to take from the community of Saskatoon \$8 million that was in their bank account to build Station 20 West,

Let me say this, Mr. Speaker. When the Station 20 people came together last week and held a press conference, there was a pastor there... He asked this following question. He says, is this a government that cares about people and need, or is it a government that cares about profit and greed? Mr. Speaker, ...

You know, we could take a little advice still from Franklin Delano Roosevelt who said, way those many years ago, that the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, but whether we meet the needs of those who have little.

Hon. Mr. Wall (Sask Party - Premier): Mr. Speaker... The decision that the Government of Saskatchewan has made with respect to Station 20... We will focus on providing those school lunch programs... We will focus on providing investment to food banks... These will be the priorities of this new government...

Ms. Atkinson (NDP – Nutana): Mr. Speaker, it's official. Either the Saskatchewan Party is incompetent or mean-spirited. Let's review. Today we hear from a Health minister who axed a popular and innovative program in Saskatoon targeted to Saskatoon's most vulnerable citizens. Is he incompetent or is he just plain mean?

We even heard about a Premier who proudly boasts on the Sask Party website support from a radical conservative blogger. Does he have any idea how hurtful this blogger's statements were, or does he just not care? To the Premier: is the government he leads mean-spirited or incompetent? Which one is it, or is it both?

Hon. Mr. McMorris (Sask Party – Health Minister): —Let's try and put money towards — oh I don't know — 100 million in Prince Albert to shore up that seat or whether it was 8 million towards Riversdale to try and shore up that seat. They never dealt with the key infrastructure issues and problems that were facing the province.

Mr. Quennell (NDP – Meewasin): There, however, was no such consistency among politicians when it came to the slashing of the grant to Station 20, which was made a year ago by the former NDP government... Separately, they made little sense. Taken together they look more like a raft of juvenile excuses rather than part of a coherent plan to run the province. . . Wall's clear lack of understanding about the dire needs of core neighbourhoods and the history of Saskatoon demonstrates just how out of touch he remains with urban Saskatchewan.

Mr. Broten (NDP- Massey Place): On the Station 20 West front, they ripped away the funding, and then they couldn't even get their story straight... I would have thought that when the war on the poor was approved around the cabinet table ... the Sask Party seems to view far too many issues with an us-versus-them lens. Sadly, my constituency seems to fall into the them category...

Mr. LeClerc (Sask Party - Northwest):...you know I'm very familiar with Station 20. But you know what they wanted to do was to . . . I don't know what . . . I'm not quite sure what they wanted to do. They wanted a grocery store, a co-op, so they could all hug trees, so that they could have this wonderful time.

Well listen, I grew up in the inner city. I can tell you that Giant Tiger almost across the street is where every one of those people in the inner city are going to shop...

Mr. Taylor (NDP - Battlefords): — I just want to mention that indeed I was listening carefully to the speech from the member from Saskatoon Northwest...First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, his criticism of Station 20 West in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker, indicates a complete lack of understanding about that project ...his comments are also at complete odds with the Minister of Health ...if the member from Saskatoon Northwest wants to lobby anybody about funding for children, he now has to talk to the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker, because that's where the diversion of funds is going Saskatoon Northwest had better start understanding,

Ms. Schriemer (Sask Party – Sutherland): — So let's talk about Station 20... What's wrong with Station 20? What's wrong with the situation is that health care should be the centre focus....They want to open up a grocery store instead . . .

Ms. Junor (NDP – Eastview): — The Station West funding reversal that I just mentioned in Saskatoon is a clear indication of the real Sask Party. The Premier's snappy one-liners fell flat as a pancake with the people of Saskatoon after the ill-advised, insensitive, and dismissive remarks about priorities in Saskatoon.

I do think the project should mean something to the members from the Saskatoon ridings of Silver Springs, Greystone, Northwest, Southeast, and Sutherland. I don't hear their voices in support of the health and well-being of the inner city and core neighbourhood residents of Saskatoon. So much for the softer side of the Sask Party.

Mr. Iwanchuk (NDP – Fairhaven): Mr. Speaker, I must comment on Station 20. Particularly on this issue, the Sask Party are starting to show their true colours. They are taking away from the community a project born in community and they are taking away from the most vulnerable in our society. And they are doing it and saying this government does not subsidize grocery stores or malls. Mr. Speaker, if this wasn't so serious, it would be pathetic. Mr. Speaker, their comments and actions speak volumes to the people of Saskatoon.

Mr. Forbes (NDP – Centre): especially about the *Health Disparity by Neighbourhood Income* report that the Minister of Health assured me that he was going to read but seems to be more interested in the infrastructure report. Should have read this report because I tell you the whole issue around Station 20 would be clear as day why they should be putting money into Station 20.

The following Cabinet Ministers from Saskatoon made no references and answered no questions in the Legislative chamber regarding Station 20 West this week:

Hon. Mr. Norris (Sask Party – Greystone)

Hon. Mr. Morgan (Sask Party – South East)

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff (Sask Party – Silverspring)