

again, the Leader of the Opposition hasn't indicated, either through his petitions or today in the House, what that standard would be across the province, Mr. Speaker, because we know that whether we're dealing with level 3 patients or level 4, Mr. Speaker, that each individual resident had specific needs.

And I don't think, Mr. Speaker, to this point, it would be appropriate to treat every single facility across the board the same because we know, Mr. Speaker, some facilities were built in the 1950s, Mr. Speaker. And thankfully under this government there's 13 facilities being built, Mr. Speaker, to replace the long-neglected infrastructure deficit, Mr. Speaker. We know that more of that work needs to be done, Mr. Speaker, but we're making a start of that, whereas the members opposite left that to us.

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

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, the minister's suggestion that you can't have safe staffing levels because the level of care for seniors differs makes absolutely no sense. We look in the child care setting, Mr. Speaker: there's different ratios, there's different levels required for children because obviously the needs for a baby are different than the needs for a school-aged child.

Saskatchewan people can't understand, Mr. Speaker, why you cannot have safe staffing levels for level 3 care in the province, why you can't have safe staffing levels for level 4 care here in the province. When we hear stories of call buttons being unanswered, when we hear stories of seniors being left unattended on toilets, when we hear stories of seniors missing their baths, when we hear stories of seniors falling through the cracks and family members having to pick up the slack, we know that there is a problem. And the minister's answers — so-called answers, Mr. Speaker — are providing no recognition that there is a problem and that there is a cause for alarm when it comes to seniors' care here in the province.

My question to the Deputy Premier: why is the Sask Party government stubbornly refusing to fix what is the actual problem with seniors' care here in Saskatchewan?

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I need to correct the premise of the Leader of the Opposition's question that this government is not concerned about some of the cases that we're hearing that have been raised in this legislature and in the media or, Mr. Speaker, to my office. Mr. Speaker, we're concerned, and I'm concerned, about each and every case that comes into this office or into this building, Mr. Speaker. That's why we've followed up on those cases either personally, Mr. Speaker, through myself or my office or through the ministry or, Mr. Speaker, with the health region.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say this, Mr. Speaker: that when we have individuals that have either been assessed, perhaps a level 3 or a level 4 which we typically think of, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't mean that every level 3 or level 4 person is the exact

same across the province, Mr. Speaker. They may have individual health needs based on the assessments, Mr. Speaker.

I also find it interesting, Mr. Speaker, when the opposition, when they were in government in the mid-1990s and put into place some of the assessment tools that we use today, they didn't put in place a standard level of care, Mr. Speaker, a standard staffing level, Mr. Speaker. That's some of the work that we'll be looking at over the next number of months.

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

Contracts with Government

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This session we've asked the government about untendered contracts, especially as it relates to the IPAC [International Performance Assessment Centre for geologic storage of CO₂] affair and the players involved in that scheme.

When I asked about untendered contracts within Central Services, the minister produced three. They're all with ClimBIT, Mr. Speaker, and one is signed by Henry Jaffe. The contracts are for setting up a SharePoint website for HR [human resources] forms and services. ClimBIT was first a subcontractor and was paid \$71,000 for this one project. But the minister revealed there were several more contracts, each costing additional taxpayer dollars, for the same project, Mr. Speaker. Furthermore the minister admitted in committee that the website, after two years, still isn't done.

Mr. Speaker, why would the Sask Party government sign new untendered contracts with ClimBIT even though the original work wasn't complete?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member opposite for the question. As I've stated before in this House, there was a mistake that was made within the ministry in the signing of contracts. It was a subcontract through our agency of record to begin with, and the folks in the ministry thought that they could continue on with that contract for the continuation of the work.

The contracts went year over year, Mr. Speaker, because the work was continuing. So if the member's question is why new contracts, it was for the continuation of the work already in place.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In March 2012, a month-long contract worth \$47,000 required ClimBIT to convert the government's HR website to a SharePoint site, migrate the content, and train the staff. But on April 2nd of last year, the government signed up ClimBIT for another untendered contract, this time for three months of work worth \$37,000 to test the system and work with the government to launch it and provide post-launch support.

Mr. Speaker, a third contract worth up to \$30,000 ended this spring. It was supposed to be for more testing, launch, and post-launch support of the new site. But in estimates the minister said, "There is still some work to be done before it's fully operational."

Mr. Speaker, three untendered contracts and thousands of taxpayer dollars later, the website still isn't working, even though ClimbiT was paid to provide post-launch transition support. Why would the Sask Party government pay ClimbiT over \$150,000 for a project that remains incomplete?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had stated in committee, the work that was done by ClimbiT was asked for by the Public Service Commission for the SharePoint services. And there's no question, from my understanding from the folks in Public Service Commission, that it was not delivered on, that what we asked them to do they actually did. And if the member would go back to *Hansard* from committee, we said very specifically that the remaining things that need to be done with the SharePoint service will be completed by ITO [Information Technology Office].

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

Ms. Chartier: — Perhaps it would help if the minister read the last two contracts herself and looked at the deliverables. The concern of the IPAC affair is that the Sask Party government has not properly overseen public dollars going to untendered IT [information technology] contracts. And up until the end of March of this year, Central Services still had an untendered contract in place with ClimbiT, a company central to the IPAC affair.

The record shows the government kept paying for more tech contracts, even though the government's own tendering processes and requirements of the contracts weren't being met. It would appear there was little oversight by the minister or her officials on a project that cost taxpayers more than \$150,000, even though very little was delivered. The minister's own officials admitted that the ministry staff will now have to take over where ClimbiT left off. So taxpayers will be shelling out even more money.

To the minister: how is it acceptable that taxpayers are on the hook, not once but twice, for a project that still is not complete?

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll let the members opposite know the system that's in place. ITO set up a master resource arrangement list in 2009. IT companies were invited to bid to have their names placed on that list. There is 50 vendors that have been qualified to be on that list within ITO. And when there is a tech project to be done, there's a call-out to those 50 vendors, Mr. Speaker.

ClimbiT is one of those who won the right to be on our master list. I know that the members opposite are trying to disparage that company, which I think is unfortunate in this context, and I

would encourage the member to go outside and be quite as disparaging to this company as she is in the confines of this place.

As I said in my answer earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, there were procedures that were not met. The transparency and rules that were in place in the ministry were not met. We have addressed those. The deputy minister has made that very clear to all of the deputy ministers within government that the rules need to be followed, Mr. Speaker, and we are expecting that to be done in the future.

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

Flood Claims

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, the spring melt and resulting flooding has impacted many communities. Many have declared a state of emergency and many others have asked for help, over 50 to date. Thank goodness the flooding hasn't been as bad as it could have been. And the response from communities has been outstanding, with neighbours helping neighbours, pitching in to fill and throw sandbags, to run pumps, and to get people to safety. Despite this, as the flooding recedes, many families have taken on real damage.

Two years ago, thousands of people were devastated by flooding and looked to government for assistance through PDAP [provincial disaster assistance program]. Too many of those people are still waiting. Now as new claims arise from this year's flooding damage, families deserve that government's full commitment. Can the minister assure the families impacted this year that they'll be dealt with in a timely manner, and not slow-walked and delayed as we've seen with the 2011 claims?

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

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, that just simply isn't the case, and him referring to it as slow-walk and delaying claims does a disservice to the ministry officials and PDAP who've worked very hard, Mr. Speaker. In the 2010 claims, 98 per cent of them are already complete and from 2011, 85 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

You know, we've been fortunate this year that the potential for flooding, it hasn't materialized, and it hasn't been as bad as had been anticipated. But, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of families who have had damage to their homes, to their businesses. Our heart goes out to them. Our rapid response people have done a very, very good job of responding, of assisting with sandbagging equipment and pumps and HESCO [Hercules Engineering Solution Consortium] barriers to keep the damage to a minimum.

Mr. Speaker, to the member's point without his sarcasm is, will PDAP respond promptly? Yes, we will, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, when families are impacted by flooding, they deserve a steadfast commitment from their government, not prolonged delays. And I think if the