

The Assembly met at 10 a.m.

Prayers

PROROGATION

At 10:01 a.m. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne.

His Honour was then pleased to deliver the following speech:

Mr. Speaker,

Members of the Legislature:

It is my duty to release you from further attendance at the second session of the Twenty-Third Legislature.

In thus relieving you, I would like to thank you for the work you have done.

This Session's work is a positive step in building hope and optimism for the people of Saskatchewan.

You have successfully introduced legislation that invests in people and focuses on six key areas: jobs and the economy, education and training, our children - reducing child poverty, ensuring a secure, stable health system, highways and transportation, and fiscal responsibility.

The people of Saskatchewan, through co-operation, community, and shared effort, are building Saskatchewan together.

You have recognized Saskatchewan's remarkable financial turnaround by rewarding the business sector and the people of our province with targeted tax reductions.

By passing *The Education and Health Tax Amendment Act, 1997*, you lowered the provincial sales tax from nine to seven per cent.

This action puts 180 million dollars back in the pocketbooks of the people of Saskatchewan.

You also passed *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 1997*.

This legislation benefits certain business sectors by extending the manufacturing and processing investment tax credit to used machinery and equipment and lowers the investment tax credit rate from nine to seven per cent.

In keeping with your strong commitment to Saskatchewan children and low income families, you passed *The Saskatchewan Assistance Amendment Act, 1997*.

This action enhances and expands benefits and services under the Family Income Plan as a transition toward the National Child Benefit.

You also passed *The Family Maintenance Amendment Act, 1997*, which will strengthen provisions for child support.

This legislation helps courts determine the cost of raising a child by implementing the use of standardized child support guidelines that are more adequate, consistent, predictable and equitable.

You recognized that a sound public education system is one of Saskatchewan's most important investments in our future.

During this Session, you passed amendments to *The Education Act, 1995* and *The Teachers Federation Act*, which will further strengthen Saskatchewan's public education system.

Also, you maintained your commitment to post-secondary education by passing *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Amendment Act, 1997*.

This legislation responds to the needs of our economy by making administrative changes that will allow for the development of better regulations to address the specific needs of trades.

As part of investing in our future, you recognized the importance of transportation to economic growth and social well-being.

You passed *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997*, to reflect the rapid changes in transportation over the last few years, and to meet the future needs.

This action enables the government to improve the existing transportation system and strategically invest in infrastructure that will support the continued growth of our diversified economy.

You also recognized the importance of consumer protection by passing *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 1997* and *The Trust and Loans Corporations Act, 1997*.

While enhancing consumer protection, *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 1997* gives developers more flexibility when developing and selling condominium units and allows for the establishment of a condominium register.

The Trust and Loan Corporations Act, 1997 provides better consumer protection by regulating how financial services are sold to Saskatchewan residents.

Also, this legislation represents the first step in modernizing financial services legislation in Saskatchewan and, is in keeping with your commitment to eliminate costly and unnecessary duplication of regulation.

Saskatchewan is proud of its arts sector which is second to none in Canada.

It is noteworthy that with a population of one million and since 1975, no less than seven Saskatchewan writers have been awarded this country's highest honour in literature: the Governor General Award.

You remain committed to the development of Saskatchewan's arts and artists.

You passed *The Arts Board Act, 1997*, which will enable and facilitate public access to and participation in the arts.

To facilitate a provincial commitment to designate, protect and recover wildlife species at risk, you passed *The Wildlife Act, 1997*.

You passed *The Small Claims Act, 1997*, which simplifies the court process and makes it more accessible to the public.

You also passed *The Court Jurisdiction and Proceedings Transfer Act*, which provides consistent, reasonable and uniform rules and procedures that simplify and streamline the litigation process.

This Act is based on model legislation approved by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada for introduction in each province and territory.

Saskatchewan is made up of people from many unique ethnic backgrounds.

You reinforced Saskatchewan's commitment to our unique multicultural identity, expressed in our provincial motto: "From many peoples strength", through a new *Multiculturalism Act*.

This legislation recognizes that cultural, racial, religious, and ethnic diversity is a fundamental characteristic that enriches the lives of all Saskatchewan people, and promotes a climate of harmonious relations among people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds without sacrificing their distinctive cultural and ethnic identities.

Finally, in taking leave of you, I wish to thank you for the diligent manner in which you have devoted your energies to the activities of the session and wish you the full blessing of Providence.

Hon. Mr. Shillington: — Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until later today, the 9th day of March, 1998, at 2:30 p.m., and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

His Honour then retired from the Chamber at 10:09 a.m.