

The Assembly met at 10:00.

Prayers

The Speaker: — Well good morning everybody. It's my pleasure to welcome all the members back to the Chamber for the first time this year. I look forward to presiding over the upcoming session as the members conduct the business of the legislature on behalf of the constituents they represent and I hope this session finds all members in good health with good wisdom and good humour. Welcome back.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Speaker: — I hereby inform the Assembly that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has received from the Chief Electoral Officer a certificate of the election and return of David Forbes, as member for the constituency of Saskatoon Idylwyld. I hereby table the return to the writ.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you, Mr. David Forbes, member for the constituency of Saskatoon Idylwyld, who has taken the oath, and signed the roll, and now claims his right to take a seat.

The Speaker: — Mr. Forbes, as you take your rightful place in this Legislative Assembly, I'm sure that your time here will be one that serves as a record of honour to yourself and to your constituents. Welcome to the Assembly.

Let the hon. member take his seat.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Hon. members, I am advised that Her Honour is here for prorogation.

PROROGATION

At 10:04 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took her seat upon the Throne.

Her 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-Fourth 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 towards connecting to the future and in partnering with the people of Saskatchewan in creating a prosperity that provides opportunities for all.

You recognized the importance of health care to the people of Saskatchewan by establishing a Standing Committee on Health Care.

You instructed this Committee to receive and report on the representations from interested parties and individuals with respect to the Final Report of the Commission on Medicare, dated April 11, 2001.

Further, you passed a motion which invited Mr. Ken Fyke, Commissioner of the Commission on Medicare, to appear before the Committee of the Whole, allowing the Members of this Assembly to question Mr. Fyke with respect to the final report of the Commission on Medicare.

You maintained your commitment to provide quality health care to the people of Saskatchewan by passing several Bills, which will strengthen our health system.

The Registered Nurses Amendment Act recognizes the role of advanced practice nurses and ensures that they have the legal authority to perform advanced services.

These changes will benefit the province by ensuring that nurses with the appropriate skills can provide primary health care services as part of an interdisciplinary team.

You also passed **The Dietitians Act** and **The Hearing Aid Sales and Services Act**.

These Bills allow the public to have confidence in the services provided by these valuable health care providers, and are in keeping with your strong commitment to quality, accessible, and responsible health services for our seniors and for all the people of Saskatchewan.

You passed several Bills to assist in your work to help families and children, to support young people, and to keep our communities safe.

You passed **The Tobacco Control Act**, which reflects your determination to reduce youth smoking while at the same time offering a practical, workable plan for our province.

You also passed **The Highway Traffic Amendment Act**, which allows for the impoundment and forfeiture of motor vehicles used in the commission of prostitution-related offences.

These amendments came from the hard work of this Assembly's *Special Committee to Prevent the Abuse and Exploitation of Children Through the Sex Trade*, and will reduce some of the major problems that result from this activity and will contribute to safer neighbourhoods for everyone, and a safer environment for children in Saskatchewan.

In keeping with your commitment to build and maintain safe communities, you passed **The Police Amendment Act**, which ensures continued professionalism in the delivery of policing services in our province.

You continued to support families by passing **The Labour Standards Amendment Act**.

This Bill increases parental leaves and provides job protection for parents.

It provides benefits to parents, to children, and to families.

As part of a broader truck route management strategy, you passed **The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act**, which allows for a system of truck route management and seeks partnerships with rural municipalities to re-route heavy trucks off of thin-membraned highways onto gravel roads that can better accommodate that type of traffic.

To continue the process of tax reform in our province, you passed **The Income Tax Amendment Act**, which implements the income tax initiatives that were announced in the Budget.

Some of the initiatives contained in this Bill are increases to the amounts used to determine the education and disability-related personal tax credits, provisions to index the personal income tax system to inflation, a reduction in the corporate income tax rate on small businesses, and an increase in the amount of income to which the small business tax rate can be applied.

To support your dedication to providing a responsible and effective administration, you passed **The Provincial Auditor Amendment Act**.

This Bill maintains the government's accountability to the Legislative Assembly and improves the Provincial Auditor's independence.

You passed **The Partnership Amendment Act** and **The Professional Corporations Act** to continue your commitment to improving the competitiveness of Saskatchewan small business and improving the vitality of rural Saskatchewan and smaller centres.

The Partnership Amendment Act provides for limited liability partnerships, a benefit that exists for professional partners in Alberta and Ontario.

The Professional Corporations Act will allow professionals who choose to incorporate to run their businesses in a way that is similar to other small businesses and professionals in other provinces.

To recognize the contributions Métis people have made to the development and prosperity of Canada and Saskatchewan, you passed **The Métis Act**.

This Bill also recognizes the existing bilateral process to address issues that are important to the Métis people including non-rights based initiatives related to capacity building, land, harvesting and governance, and establishes the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc., as a body corporate, and outlines its powers and objectives.

To support your commitment to responsible protection of the environment, you passed **The Oil and Gas Conservation Amendment Act**.

This legislation provides the framework for a comprehensive program that will ensure Saskatchewan's oil and gas wells, facilities and related sites are properly abandoned and reclaimed once they are no longer needed.

To allow the Government to add to the rich history of emblems and honours that help to define the essence of our great and wonderful province, you passed **The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act**.

This Bill also allows the province to honour distinguished non-residents of Saskatchewan through honorary membership in the Order of Merit.

In this regard, in late April, you welcomed the visit of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, to the Province of Saskatchewan.

I was honoured to award Prince Charles the first honorary membership of our Provincial Order.

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 blessings of Providence.

Hon. Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly: it is the will and pleasure of Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until later today, the 14th day of March, 2002 at 2:30 p.m. This Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

Her Honour then retired from the Chamber at 10:14.