



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

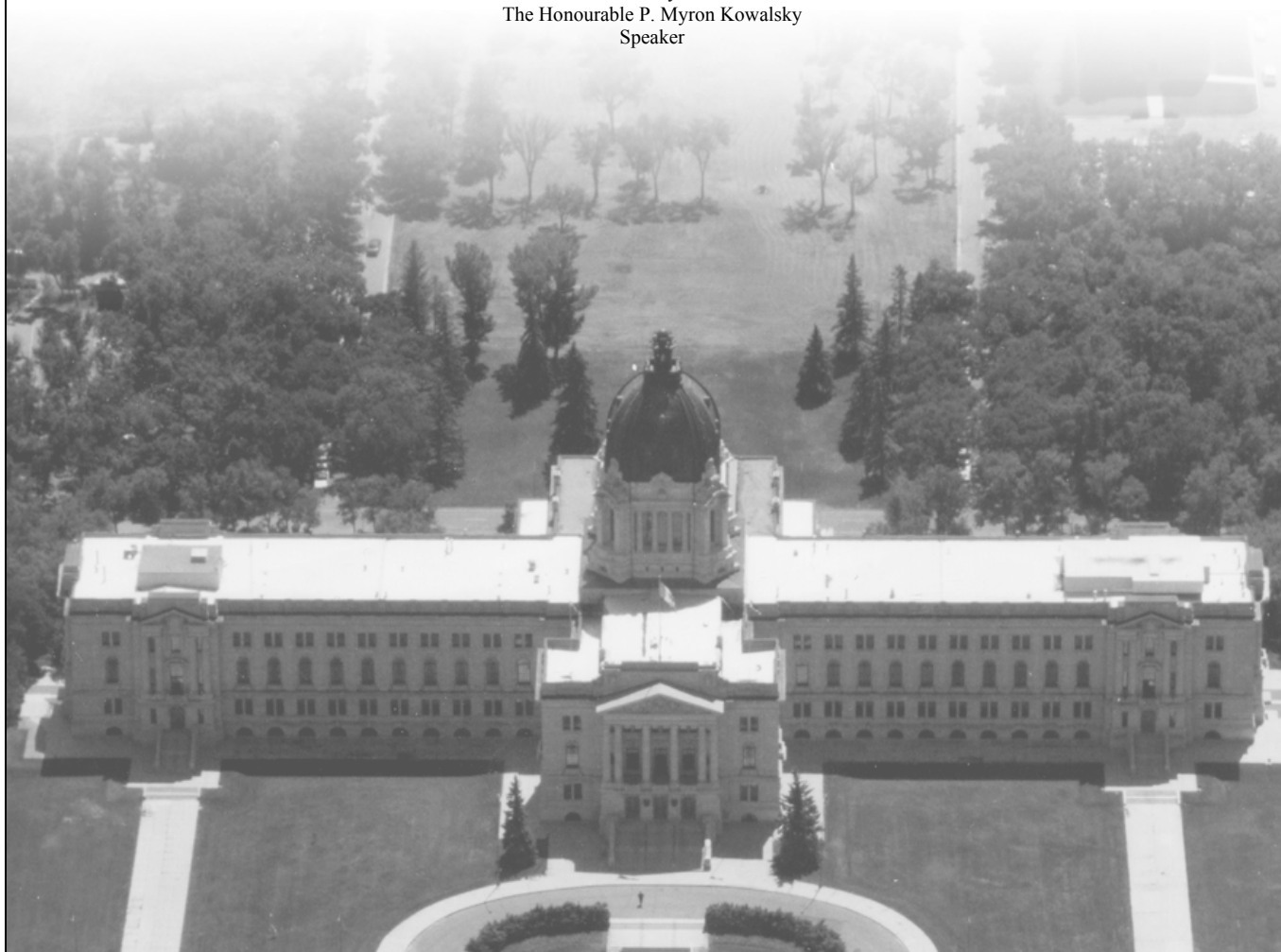
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky
 Premier — Hon. Lorne Calvert
 Leader of the Opposition — Brad Wall

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Bakken, Brenda	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Hon. Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantefoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Ben	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Kowalsky, Hon. P. Myron	NDP	Prince Albert Carlton
Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lautermilch, Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Ted	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Morgan, Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Prebble, Hon. Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Gull Lake are exercised about the forced amalgamation of school divisions. And the petition that I present today on their behalf reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to present today. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Gainsborough, Carievale, Carnduff, Arcola, Stoughton, Heward, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of constituents concerned about a deficiency in residential support offered to people with long-term disabilities in my hometown. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to provide the funding required for additional residential spaces for Swift Current residents with lifelong disabilities.

And, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are all from the city of Swift Current. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have three pages of petitions to halt the forced amalgamation of school divisions and they are concerned about the size of proposed school divisions, saying that they are far too large to retain any local input into the education system. The prayer of the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

All of the signatures on this petition are from the community of Wiseton, save one from Dinsmore, and I am pleased to present it on their behalf.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as well to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the forced amalgamation of school divisions. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly volunteer basis.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from the communities of Chamberlain, Craik, Aylesbury, and Davidson. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province very concerned about the forced amalgamation of school divisions. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Midale, Lampman, and Arcola. I so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens who want to halt the forced amalgamation of school divisions. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good folks of Eaton, Kerrobert, Kindersley, Vanguard, Wymark, Pambrun, and Waldeck. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition dealing with the forced amalgamation of school divisions.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from the town of Govan. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read a petition from citizens concerned about the inadequate CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] and BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] programs. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the CAIS program receives adequate provincial funding, the funding formula is changed to ensure equal access to compensation, and that the provincial government contribute funds to the latest BSE package released by the federal government.

And as is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Perdue, Harris, Asquith, and Biggar. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Kerpan: — Mr. Speaker, I too rise today to present petitions on behalf of residents in the province of Saskatchewan

who are concerned with the effect that the TransGas Asquith natural gas storage project will have on the quantity and the quality of their water supply affecting the Tyner Valley aquifer. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately address the concerns of all individuals affected by this project, pay 100 per cent of the costs involved to rectify disruptions to water supplies, produce an environment assessment study encompassing a larger area outside the scope of the project, disclose the project's long-term effects on these areas, and consider alternative sources of water for the project.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, signed by the good citizens of Grandora and Vanscoy. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of west central Saskatchewan concerned with the forced school division amalgamations. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by citizens of the town of Eaton. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are gravely concerned about the forced amalgamation of school divisions. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on strictly a voluntary basis.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to present this petition on behalf of citizens of Meadow Lake. Thank you.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read

and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 637, 640, and 715.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I give notice I shall on day no. 80 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for highways and immigration: will the section of Highway 15 between the junction with Highway 20 and the village of Semans be resurfaced during the course of 2005? And if so, will this section of Highway 15 be resurfaced to the same standard as the section of Highway 15 east of Semans up to the junction with Highway 6?

I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kindersley.

Mr. Dearborn: — I give notice that I shall on day no. 80 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how many entry-level marketing positions . . . For entry-level marketing positions, why are drivers' licences required? Does this requirement discriminate against applicants with visual impairments? And finally, how many applicants for these positions in the past have been visually impaired and how many of these applicants have been hired?

Mr. Speaker, I have similar questions for SaskEnergy and SaskPower. I so present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the members of this House, I'd like to introduce some very special guests from the Saskatchewan Outfitters Association. They're sitting up in your gallery up here, and I'd ask them to stand and be recognized as I introduce them: Brian Hoffart, the president; Harvey Kroll, the vice-president; Hal Stupnikoff, the executive director; and Kevin Omoth from the department.

Earlier today we signed a memorandum of understanding of how we would work together on pressing issues and we're really happy to be doing this. This is an important milestone as we celebrate our centennial, and working towards a green and prosperous economy here in Saskatchewan.

So please welcome our guests. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last

Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Minister of Environment in welcoming the guests to our gallery. I hope they enjoy the proceedings, and I hope that they learn a lot from what we are about to do here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Athabasca.

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also join my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, in welcoming the representatives from the outfitting association, in particular to point out that I'm very proud of the fact that one of my constituents from the community of Green Lake, Mr. Hoffart, is the president. And it's always very . . . something that we need to take pride in northern Saskatchewan when we have a representative of any organization that sits in the executive level.

But for the record, I want to welcome him particularly to this building, to point out that when I was a young lad going to school and go to tournaments in Green Lake, his dad used to kick me out of his store. And I don't know why; I wasn't a shoplifter or anything. But I used to get all . . . shuffled out of the store. And I think the current president of the outfitting association helped his dad on a few occasions.

But I just wanted to welcome him and hope his visit to Regina is excellent. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon . . .

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the House, I'd like to introduce a good friend of mine in the west gallery, Mr. Bill Rafoss, who is here. And Mr. Rafoss works for the Human Rights Commission, and was a good friend and was very instrumental in my original nomination here. So good to see you, Bill. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Young Professionals Conference Held in Saskatoon

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, who do 2,000 young professionals and entrepreneurs call on when they want to hear a message of energy, vision, and inspiration? Do they call on the Premier? No. Do they call on the Minister of Industry and Resources?

In fact they don't call on anyone from the NDP [New Democratic Party]. They call on people like Luan

Mitchell-Halter, Gerald Grandey, Russel Marcoux, Robyn Regehr, and Kelly Hrudey. They call on Bill Rancic, Donald Trump's apprentice. And you know who else, Mr. Speaker? Well none other than the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Last night I had the pleasure of attending the Saskatchewan young professional and entrepreneurs conference at Saskatoon's Centennial Auditorium. Apprentice Bill Rancic, an entrepreneur since the age of 10 years old, talked about his experiences growing up that led him to pursue life as his own boss. Rancic said, and I quote: "I don't think Saskatchewan is any different than anywhere else; it's just a different set of challenges."

Well, Mr. Speaker, we know what those challenges are. And they're sitting on the other side of the Assembly.

While Bill Rancic had to look across the table every week at Donald Trump and his team, we have to look across at captains of industry who gave us SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company], mega bingo, and the imaginary ethanol plant.

I am sure that each young professional and entrepreneur who attended last night came away with their own message from the event. However, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that each one of them realized one important point: the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party's apprenticeship is coming to an end and very soon the people of the province will tell him, you're hired.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Wascana Plains.

St. Patrick's Day Greetings

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a member of this Chamber with Irish roots, I'm proud to stand up and on this first green day before spring named in honour of the great St. Patrick, to extend a warm and prosperous St. Patrick's Day greeting to all.

Mr. Speaker, Irish settlers to Saskatchewan made significant contributions in the building of this province. One hundred years ago when Saskatchewan was founded, one in ten of our population were Irish born or of Irish origin. Community names such as Limerick and Shamrock bear witness to this past.

Over the years Irish people and culture have contributed much to Canada. With their laughter, music, dance, rich storytelling traditions, leprechauns, and the gift of the gab, the Irish have been a vital force in the evolution of our prairie province and our prairie culture. This is a day for the celebration of all of those accomplishments.

So on this St. Patrick's Day, I wish you all the luck of the Irish and I will close, Mr. Speaker, with a traditional Irish blessing:

May the Irish hills caress you.
May her lakes and rivers bless you.
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.
May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

Erin Go Bragh.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today also to join the colleague and talk about St. Patrick's Day. I want to wish all my Irish constituents and all the residents of Saskatchewan a very happy and safe St. Paddy's day.

St. Paddy's day has always been a special meaning for our family for it is the day that my dad becomes an Irish Croatian. My dad was born on March 17 and our house was always decorated the colour of green, and family and friends would always come over and celebrate his birthday. And I'm looking forward to going home today to celebrate his birthday with him today.

But talking about my Irish connection, I always had a soft spot for Ireland, and Ireland was like Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. It used to export its youth, it had no investment, there was no jobs, it had a bleak future — something like what's facing Saskatchewan now. Ireland today is one of the richest countries. And why is that, Mr. Speaker?

I would like to do a quote from an Irish paper that:

The lessons of Ireland's success are obvious enough to border on common sense . . . Support free trade
Create an environment that's amenable to investment
Educate your population
Align the interests of industry and workers
And most of all have patience and . . . [proceed, Mr. Speaker].

So I hope with that, that this government will look towards Ireland. And I expect Saskatchewan, when we form government, we'll be like Ireland one day. It will be one of the righteous provinces in this Canada. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Z99 Radiothon

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, CC, Lorie, and Buzz are at it again. Our Z99 morning crew are earning our admiration and respect by sharing their talents to make southern Saskatchewan healthier and a better place to live.

Z99's radiothon does not have a century of experience, but it has a millennium worth of results, Mr. Speaker. With CC, Lorie, and Buzz, and Z99's listeners, they've helped Regina's neonatal intensive care unit by the neonatal ophthalmology

laser, saving babies' sight; TCP blood gas monitors, giving an early and painless monitoring system; a neonatal X-ray machine designed and built for babies; infant breathing machines; critical care stations; an oscillatory ventilator; a three-probe ultrasound. Mr. Speaker, these are all about giving all babies the very best chance of survival and the best opportunity to thrive.

This year's donations will go to Giraffe OmniBeds. These are high-tech microenvironments designed to help babies develop and grow without unnecessary interruptions. Experts call these stations revolutionary in the field of neonatology, and will help the most at-risk babies.

We can all help CC, Lorie, and Buzz and the Z99 support team. We can donate money by calling or by dropping off at the Cornwall Centre our donations in person. It will all help.

Mr. Speaker, make a call, make that pledge. To do so, you call 522-KIDS — that's 522-5437. It's worth it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Stars of Life Award Recipient

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to Maxine Barth of Wilkie who received the Stars of Life award. Lieutenant Governor Lynda Haverstock presented the award during the Emergency Medical Services Week ceremony in Saskatoon. The Stars of Life award is presented each year to two EMS [emergency medical services] professionals within each region of Saskatchewan by recognizing their outstanding pre-hospital dedication in their respective services. Maxine has proven over and over again that she is a skilled emergency medical responder, first responder who genuinely cared for the people who were in her care.

Initially the service was basically a volunteer service for the community. Her professional sacrifice has been second to none as she has been available for call whenever needed, thereby enabling the service to provide a fully staffed EMS crew to the community and surrounding area. There were many times when Maxine would be on call two or three weeks in a row without a break. Maxine was one of those people who was not at the forefront but quietly in the back helping make things run smoothly by doing all the small stuff that needed to be done. She was not afraid to tackle any job she was asked to do. Maxine was always a pleasant, caring, and enthusiastic co-worker and employee.

Please join me in congratulating Maxine Barth for all her years of service to her community and being part of the EMS team.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Athabasca.

Saskatchewan Athletes of the Year Awards

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This year marks the 21st anniversary of the Saskatchewan

Athletes of the Year Awards held last night in Saskatoon. Over 400 people attended the banquet to salute the province's best amateur athletes and the volunteers who work behind the scenes to help them achieve their success.

Mr. Speaker, 38 athletes were nominated in six different categories for their outstanding performance. As well, Volunteer Recognition Awards were presented to Ann Cote, Ron Walsh, and Stu Cram for the dedication and service to amateur sport in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] women's track and field team was named Saskatchewan's Team of the Year. The Female Athlete of the Year was Lisa Franks of Moose Jaw. Saskatoon's Cameron Baerg received the Male Athlete of the Year Award. The Master Athlete of the Year Award went to Carol Lafayette-Boyd of Regina.

This year's Youth Female Athlete was Macklin's Danette Doetzel. And, Mr. Speaker, last but certainly not least, Saskatchewan's Youth Male Athlete of the Year is 17-year-old Alwyn Piche of La Loche in my constituency of Athabasca. Alwyn Piche won a gold medal with the provincial team at the Volleyball Canada National Team Challenge where he was also named most valuable player.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating all the recipients of this year's Saskatchewan Sports Awards. And on behalf of myself and all of my constituents, I want to say how proud we are of La Loche, of the Piche family, and especially of Alwyn Piche for all that he has accomplished. We are very, very proud of him. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Business Growth in Indian Head

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week the headline of the *Indian Head Wolseley News* stated, "Indian Head basks in success". On Saturday, February 26, the town of Indian Head celebrated a boom in its business district with the grand opening of four new businesses and the reopening of a fifth.

TJ's Gas Bar and Confectionery invites people off the No. 1 Highway for all their confectionery needs and gas top-ups. Indian Head Technology Services, who provides computer sales and service as well as cellphone distribution for the area, also opened its doors. Indian Head Floral and Gift Boutique is another new Indian Head business providing beautiful home decorations for the community of Indian Head and surrounding district.

LITV is a new business developed by Chester McBain, and a very interesting one. Chester provides web streaming of live events around the Indian Head area and other communities. And it's really quite interesting business start-up by Chester McBain.

The fifth reopening, the fifth business that was a reopening was the sports hall of fame, the Rural Sports Hall of Fame, in Indian Head. And I would invite anyone who has been through, past the Indian Head area to stop in and have a look at the sports hall of fame and all the memorabilia it has. It really is a unique collection of sports memorabilia from the Indian Head area, as well as the province of Saskatchewan.

Congratulations to these five new businesses and the reopening of one. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Incentives for the Livestock Industry

Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, later today this House will be holding an emergency debate on the BSE crisis, unfortunately the ongoing border closure and BSE crisis in our country. Now is the time for new ideas, both in Canada and here in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, idea no. 8 of the Saskatchewan Party's *100 Ideas for Saskatchewan's Next 100 Years* has to do with helping to develop a sustainable and expand a sustainable livestock industry and processing industry as well in the province of Saskatchewan. We are proposing things like new-growth tax incentives, with respect to the PST [provincial sales tax] costs of plant construction. We're proposing things like new-growth tax incentives on corporate income and capital tax to the extent that that would be applicable.

We're also proposing, Mr. Speaker, that the government consider working with local governments, municipalities, to ensure that we can provide the infrastructure required in a cost-effective manner to these kinds of expansions and to these new plants, as well as an incentive for local people to invest, not unlike the labour-sponsored venture capital program. It's a comprehensive list of ideas.

Will the Premier consider those as policy of this government as we seek to deal with the ongoing BSE crisis in Saskatchewan and Canada?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I'm happy to take the question today on behalf of the government. I want to say first to the House and the member opposite from Swift Current that there are a number of initiatives already that are in place to help Saskatchewan producers and those who want to invest in our province, through the tax exemption, manufacturing, and processing is in place, Mr. Speaker, today.

We have as well an opportunity where we rebate the PST when we have new projects in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, we have already initiated a number of pieces.

Now as well, Mr. Speaker, in the report from ACRE [Action Committee on the Rural Economy], of which the Leader of the Opposition and the Saskatchewan Party have taken a page out of, which says that we should be reducing the PST upfront, rebating it later, looking for other capital opportunities, Mr. Speaker, that would be helpful in developing processing in the province — we're reviewing those, Mr. Speaker, in some detail. I'm appreciative today that the Leader of the Opposition has finally accepted the work of ACRE, Mr. Speaker, and are looking and taking some of those recommendations that are before us.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — You know, Mr. Speaker, we don't really care whose ideas they are. We released the concept, well we released the concept of new-growth tax incentives at a paper at the University of Saskatchewan last fall, in September. We've been talking about it for some time, but you know what, at the end of the day, who cares? Who cares?

If it's a good idea, let's act on it. What I hear from the Deputy Premier is that well, they're going to look at this and they're going to study that. We need some action. I was in a room last evening with 2,000 young people from this province, young professionals and entrepreneurs. They're not interested in studies and reviews. They're interested in some action.

So we're asking the government to immediately consider these initiatives with respect to new-growth tax incentives, and also an incentive for local people to invest, for Saskatchewan people to invest in these businesses. Will the Deputy Premier undertake to look at this, and can he give us a timeline? If the government's considering a package like this, when might we expect it?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier, the minister for rural redevelopment.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I'm appreciative of the Leader of the Opposition, the new Conservative leader today, Mr. Speaker, saying that he in fact, he in fact, Mr. Speaker, doesn't mind, doesn't mind taking other people's ideas. Well I want to read, Mr. Speaker, out of the ACRE recommendation, which says this. The ACRE recommendation is that we redevelop, we:

Replace the current tax credit program on capital purchases used [on] . . . manufacturing and processing with . . . PST exemption programs.

That was their recommendation. That's exactly one of the recommendations or ideas that they say are brand new, Mr. Speaker.

And what happened, Mr. Speaker, was when ACRE put this recommendation forward, we heard from two opposition members who don't respect the work of ACRE. Two members who don't respect it, Mr. Speaker — our good friend, the member from Saltcoats, and our good friend, the member from Kindersley — chastised the work, Mr. Speaker, of ACRE,

condemned individual members. And a personal letter went, Mr. Speaker, to the Leader of the Opposition for a response for reprimand. And, Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of that letter, and it's an embarrassment to the ACRE folks. Mr. Speaker, it's an embarrassment.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we're talking about the BSE crisis here. We're talking about ideas to resolve the BSE crisis here. But the Deputy Premier, true to form, just wants to play politics, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Premier, true to form, wants to refer to reports from some number of months ago. I mean, it's ridiculous. If we're talking about new-growth tax incentives, they were invented decades ago by municipalities who use them every day. That's the point. There are some ideas out there that opposition parties, that government, should have a look at. That's what we're talking about today.

[14:00]

Is the Deputy Premier of this province, the new minister for rural development, is he interested in the BSE crisis? Is he interested in what's going on in rural Saskatchewan? If he is, will he take to his feet today and say they're going to look at this; they're going to come down with an incentive package for this industry and give us a timeline when we can expect that to happen?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, not only are we interested in growing a strong rural Saskatchewan economy, Mr. Speaker; we're investing in a strong and growing rural economy, Mr. Speaker, on many fronts, Mr. Speaker. And we're going to do more, Mr. Speaker, in investing and building a rural Saskatchewan economy.

But I can tell you what the Leader of the New Democratic Party doesn't do, which the conservative Leader of the Saskatchewan Party does do. On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, when we have somebody else's ideas and somebody else's recommendations, you know what? We give them credit for it, Mr. Speaker. We give them credit for it, and we recognize from where they come.

But not the new Conservative leader, Mr. Speaker, because you know what? What I've said on many other occasions . . . They politic, Mr. Speaker, like Liberals, and they politic like New Democrats. But at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, if they ever had an opportunity to govern, they'd govern like Conservatives. And the Leader of the Opposition knows exactly what a Conservative Party looks like because that's where he's cut all of his teeth, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from

Melville-Saltcoats.

Testing for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question again is for the Minister of Agriculture. Later today we're holding an emergency debate on the BSE crisis. Can the minister tell us what his government is doing to promote testing of beef, destined for foreign markets — and I repeat that — promote testing of beef destined for foreign markets, so our customers can have a confidence that they are receiving safe products?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we have been doing is working with the federal government with the CFIA [Canadian Food Inspection Agency] to make sure that the standards are followed, that the testing is done, and the beef that we provide from Canada is the safest beef that is possible in this world. I tell you, the levels of testing that we are doing are second to none, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue to push for the best testing methodologies that we can possibly have.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason why our beef is not being bought and used in any market around the world because it is safe beef. We know that. It's tested. We're using the Harvard standard which tells us clearly that our beef is safe, and we will continue to use the testing methods and the numbers that we have in order to provide that safe beef for market around the world. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: does the minister think it's maybe time that we looked at 100 per cent testing for our foreign markets, the people that import from us from places like Japan? Would he consider that at this point, seeing nothing seems to be happening with the border opening?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do appreciate the question because it is a question that has been raised by a number of people around the province.

There are a number of factors involved in 100 per cent testing. And at least one of those factors is that there is no evidence that there is need for 100 per cent testing. There is no sign of BSE in animals under 30 months. Japan is moving away from 100 per cent testing, towards 21 months.

Mr. Speaker, one of the very, very important things that we have to keep in mind is that we want our producers to get a

return for their product. It costs money for every test that is done. That test goes back to the primary producers who unfortunately are price takers.

And so what we want to make sure is that the beef is safe. And we are taking the very best of our scientific advice to make sure that it is safe. One hundred per cent testing is considered as a potential marketing tool, but it is very expensive. And we would be, I think, from all that the CFIA has told us, we would be causing a great deal of trouble for the industry if we were to move in that direction when Japan is moving the other direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, to the minister. The need happens to be that Japan and other countries are insisting on 100 per cent testing before they'll open the borders to Canadian beef.

So let's look at the expense that we're being told that it costs to test for BSE. The CFIA has said it costs anywhere from 100 to \$300 per test. It takes anywhere from a week to 10 days to get those results back. But that's not quite right. Over in Europe a number of the European countries have that cost down to \$20 per test, and in some countries even have that test down to as quick as 100 minutes they can have the results back.

So what we're being told is not exactly up front, and the cost especially is not near as great as we're being led to believe. And I don't know if the minister had heard these results. The Netherlands has got as many as 3,000 tests per day and the results back. So it shows, Mr. Speaker, that that can be done. It's affordable. And if importing countries expect that and are asking that, maybe it's time we looked at that.

The Americans have got the border closed. We haven't got a clue when it's going to open up. Will the minister consider this today?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Mr. Speaker, there are a number of types of testing that can be done. There are rapid tests which we are aware of. The last number I heard in terms of the costs on the rapid tests is \$35 per head, which is information that the CFIA provided. The gold standard does take longer, and what you'll know is that there are a higher number of false positives when you're using the rapid testing. And in every case where BSE has shown up through a rapid test, they then have to go to the gold standard which is a much more time-consuming test and more costly.

So in fact the rapid tests are available, but the point is it is not necessary in terms of food safety or animal safety to do 100 per cent testing. And we don't need the disruption in the industry to be moving in that direction when in fact Japan is moving in the

other direction. There is no evidence that 100 per cent testing would open up any of the markets that we do not currently have.

Now the CCA [Canadian Cattlemen's Association] has received new money to help open up new markets. The federal government provided more money for them to check and see what we can do in terms of opening new markets and they will in fact be . . .

The Speaker: — The minister's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, false positive testing is not one of the things that we found when we looked in to the Netherlands and Switzerland and a number of countries — Germany and those countries over there — who have gone to 100 per cent testing. And I think Japan would open their markets very quickly to Canadian beef if we did that.

But there's another side to this, Mr. Speaker. R-CALF [Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund] and other groups in the States have said that they want the borders closed because of safety and scientific reasons. That's absurd, Mr. Speaker, our Canadian beef is as safe as any in the world. But let's think about that for a minute. Should we go to 100 per cent testing for importing beef to Japan and other countries? What will that do to the Americans? I think it will put them in quite a spot because then they will have to look at what they're doing. Maybe it's that old adage, Mr. Speaker, be careful what you ask for; you may get it.

So maybe, Mr. Speaker, the minister should look at this. The border is not opening; there's no sign in the new future of this happening. So maybe we have to do something to create an advantage in Canada, in Saskatchewan — get more slaughter plants quickly, and maybe we should look at 100 per cent testing for our Canadian farmers and for our Saskatchewan farmers.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to know that we have been looking at 100 per cent testing, and we have been evaluating what the impacts of that might be.

The word back from the federal government and from the CFIA is that there is no need to go to 100 per cent testing. And again there is no evidence that 100 per cent testing would open any of the markets. There is only speculation, as the member indicated. I think it would open up, might open up the markets in Japan. That kind of a speculation really does not provide the kind of base and evidence that we would need to move to 100 per cent testing with all the costs incumbent there. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister said there's no need for it. The CFIA says there's no need for it. But that was with the assumption that, on March 7, the border would open to the American market. That hasn't happened. We're not sure that's going to happen.

Maybe we get to the point now, Mr. Speaker, to the minister: let's forget about the border opening to the US [United States]. Let's forget about relying on that US market. If it opens, great. But if it doesn't, let's do something in Canada for ourselves, but do it quickly.

We talked to Mr. Brad Wildeman today who represents cattle producers on the national beef committee. He's also a member of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. And here's what he had to say. He has a lot of credibility on these subjects. Mr. Wildeman says universal testing specific to the sensitiveness of individual export markets is something we should consider seriously and quickly, Mr. Speaker.

Will the minister look at the advice coming from someone like Brad Wildeman, look at the necessity that's being caused by that border not opening? And let's think about our Saskatchewan farmers this time, and let's do right for Saskatchewan farmers. Will the minister consider that?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very important to note that not only will we consider it, but we have been working closely with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, with Mr. Brad Wildeman, with our BSE advisory committee which has a number of people from across the range of the industry, and we have been seeking the very best of advice.

And Mr. Wildeman is right. If there is evidence that the testing will open up a market, then that is where we should go, and we should do it in a timely way. But there must be evidence that it would open up a market before we move in that direction.

I think in all fronts, we work together to try and make sure that we have a strong industry. We are still pushing to get that American border open. We will continue to do that because we know that there is an integrated North American industry.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, we are working to build capacity here. We have had a significant increase in capacity to this date and will continue to press for more capacity in Saskatchewan and to work with producers to get there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Privacy Guidelines and the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission's Website

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, on January 27, 2005, the Information and Privacy Commissioner released the results of an investigation into the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission. He found that the commission's practice of posting its decisions to its website violated The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, failed to meet Saskatchewan government privacy guidelines, and failed to meet and comply with The Health Information Protection Act.

Can the minister responsible tell this court what action has been taken as a result of that report?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I'm advised that the Chair of the automobile accident . . . Well we're not a court. I'm advised that the Chair of the commission responsible has received a copy of the Privacy and Information Commissioner and will be responding in due course, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the response from the minister is totally unsatisfactory. The recommendations set out by the Privacy Commissioner were very clear. At the time of the investigation, the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission was posting its decisions directly on its website. Those decisions contain the appellants' names and a wealth of other personal information, Mr. Speaker.

The commissioner recommended that the commissioner should, within 30 days, ensure that the decisions already posted on its website are revised so that the identity of the applicants are masked. That deadline has passed, Mr. Speaker. And right now, I can sit here and access those decisions via the Internet, right here in this decision, and identify those applicants. They have not been masked in any way, shape, or form. Why has the Calvert NDP government ignored the recommendations of the Privacy Commissioner, and what . . .

The Speaker: — I would just remind the member, remind the member that the use of names of individuals, members sitting in the legislature, is not to be used. And I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — It's somewhat ironic, Mr. Speaker, that the member opposite wants to complain about using people's names. Mr. Speaker, the answer is within the question. The recommendation of the commissioner was, as the member said, to the commission not to the government, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's clear that this information

should never have been posted in the first place. In this report, the Privacy Commissioner outlines his concerns about the kind of information available in this website.

Each decision identifies the applicant by name. It includes information about the diagnosis, the treatment, and care of the individual. It can also include — and often does include — gross income, income tax, CPP [Canada Pension Plan], EI [employment insurance], and total deductions. It often includes the name of the employer and other information. It may discuss living arrangements, children, and relationships with other family members, information about physical and mental health of the applicant. It is detailed and it is extensive. Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 50 such decisions on the website right now. Mr. Speaker, what is the minister going to do about the decisions remaining on this website?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, the information that the member describes sounds like the information contained in any report of any court decision in any law report contained in the libraries of courthouses and law libraries across the province.

As I have said, the recommendation — and the member opposite says this — the recommendation went from the Privacy and Information Commissioner to the appeal commission. Mr. Speaker, it's their recommendation to respond to. I understand they will be responding to it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, at a bare minimum those decisions should be taken down or masked until that commission decides how they're wanting to deal with it. It is totally inappropriate to leave those up in the interim while that government waits for a response.

It is clear that this government does not respect the privacy of Saskatchewan citizens. This information should not have been posted in the first place. The Privacy Commissioner has now been ignored. The NDP government is setting up the people of Saskatchewan for identity theft and compromising their safety. Why would anyone want to come forward to make an appeal now that they know that their personal health and other information is being mistreated by this NDP government?

Mr. Speaker, what actions will this minister take to contact all of these individuals and to rectify this situation?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Again, Mr. Speaker, this is a recommendation that has gone appropriately from the Privacy

Commissioner to the Chair of the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission, and it is their response to be made, Mr. Speaker.

It is refreshing, Mr. Speaker — usually the member opposite is calling for political direction and political interference with the Legal Aid Commission — it's refreshing that he's picked a different commission to demand that the minister interfere with.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, once again this comes down to a matter of this government ignoring and totally having utter disrespect for the laws that this government passes. Mr. Speaker, my next question is specifically for the Minister of Justice. It is clear that the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission has violated The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Section 68 of that Act is a charging section.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister look at that section of that Act and determine whether the Act is broken, and will he refer the matter out to determine whether charges should be laid and whether a prosecution should follow? That, Mr. Speaker, is clearly within the purview of this minister, and that minister should be dealing with that situation and should be dealing with it now, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Not only does the member think he's in court, Mr. Speaker; he seems to think he's the judge. I don't think any laws have clearly been broken here at all, Mr. Speaker. However I always welcome legal advice from my learned friend opposite, and I will review the section.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, while the minister is doing this review, I would invite the minister to take down the offending decisions off of the website to ensure that this government is not placed in a position where it's exposing itself to further civil liability and that we don't have legal actions launched against this government so that the taxpayers of this province can be once again foisted with large damages awarded against them. Mr. Speaker, will the minister make a commitment today to take down the offending decisions off the website?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — The other day it occurred to me that sometimes debates in our country really sound like they come off American television, and some people are watching too much American television. I'm a great fan of *Law & Order*, myself, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate that on that program an elected Attorney General meets weekly with prosecutors and talks about whether this should be prosecuted or that should be prosecuted. Well I don't know if that's the case in New York, Mr. Speaker, but that's not the case here in Saskatchewan.

The office of the Attorney General does not micromanage, politically direct the commissions. It does not direct the prosecutors in that way, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't direct the Human Rights Commission. It doesn't direct the Legal Aid Commission. It doesn't direct the appeals commission for automobile injuries, Mr. Speaker. And as long as this government is in charge, it will not be providing that political direction and interference, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — Order, please. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Kickoff of Green Team Program

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the pleasure of joining my colleague, the Minister of the Environment this morning, to kick off the Green Team program for this year.

Mr. Speaker, Green Team is a summer student employment program that engages young people in Saskatchewan's green economy. It's a joint initiative of Saskatchewan Environment and Saskatchewan Culture, Youth and Recreation and is administered by our industry partner, the Saskatchewan Environmental Industry and Managers Association. Last year grants of \$1,000 were available to organizations hiring high school students and grants of \$2,500 for those hiring post-secondary students in environmental jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the Green Team program was a great success last year, employing more than 100 young people from across the province. Employers and students alike reported that they benefited from the program. The students said the opportunity was meaningful, giving them insight and knowledge of Saskatchewan's environmental sector. They returned to school with new found interest and optimism about their future in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

The participating employers were unanimous in their opinion that Green Team benefited their organization. It's clear, Mr. Speaker, that the Green Team initiative is helping Saskatchewan youth build environmental knowledge, skills, and abilities. This goes a long ways towards building our green and prosperous economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's likely no coincidence that the Green Team program for this year was announced on St. Patrick's Day. The Saskatchewan Party supports initiatives that help develop young people's skills and this program is a good opportunity for young people to get work experience in Saskatchewan and perhaps make this province their permanent home. Interest in environmental knowledge and how we manage our resources are important as we move into the next century. And while we do applaud the government's

efforts in developing this program and its possibilities for the future, we all hope that all Saskatchewan youth will have an equal opportunity in applying for these positions and that all applicants will be awarded in a fair and impartial manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 90 — The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2005

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 90, The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 90, The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 91 — The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2005

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 91, The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill No. 91, The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 92 — The International Protection of Adults
(Hague Convention Implementation) Act/Loi de mise en
oeuvre de la Convention de la Haye sur la protection
internationale des adultes**

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 92, The International Protection of Adults (Hague Convention Implementation) Act be now introduced and read the second . . . the first time, excuse me, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 92, The International Protection of Adults (Hague Convention Implementation) Act be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 93 — The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B.
Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2005**

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 93, The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 93, The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2005 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

TABLING OF REPORTS

The Speaker: — At this time, I wish to advise the Assembly

that, prior to routine proceedings, I did table the 2004 Annual Report for the Children's Advocate.

Why is the member . . . I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity under rule 49. I ask leave for this.

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to move a motion of urgent pressing necessity under rule 49. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

MOTION UNDER RULE 49

United States Border Closing to Canadian Cattle

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to just say why we believe that this is an important and necessary motion and debate.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that there's been a significant change with the judge's order in the United States that closed the border, put an injunction in place and closed the border on March 7, when we believed that the border was actually going to be opened.

Mr. Speaker, this has created significantly greater problems for the people in Saskatchewan, the people in Canada, who are producing livestock, producing beef, and we are very, very concerned about these impacts. And we believe that by working together in this House and with the federal government, with the producers across this nation, we will be able to find solutions that will help us to deal with the fact that this border is remaining closed, Mr. Speaker.

I want to acknowledge the very, very difficult time that producers across this province have been facing. They have been severely impacted. It has hit their pocketbooks very, very hard having this border closed. And, Mr. Speaker, the provincial government and the federal government have been working very hard to try and meet the needs of producers.

We have put together, with the other provinces and the federal government, a program that is to try and bring some normalcy back into the market. First of all, it was to press for a border opening which we have been doing diligently. Secondly, it was to bring order into the market to try and shore up the prices. And so we had the fed cattle program and the feeder cattle set aside programs, which were designed to help keep prices up at a high enough level that producers could at least make some money.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, these efforts that we have made, though they have been effective, have also been impacted by a change in the value of the Canadian dollar in relationship to the US dollar. And in many ways, though prices have kind of kept up, our producers have been impacted. Not only our producers,

Mr. Speaker. The truckers in Saskatchewan have been impacted heavily as have many others who are involved in various aspects of this industry.

Mr. Speaker, when we look around the world, we know that there is still need for good animal protein in many markets around the world. One of the other aspects of the program that we know is absolutely essential is to build new markets. We believe that if the border opened on March 7 there would not be as much urgency to press for those new markets but we were still working on that front. We were working with our embassies. Canadian Cattlemen's Association was working to try and develop new markets through their various vehicles. And we were very pleased that with the decision to keep the border closed that the federal government put more money into the hands of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association to help further develop markets around the world.

[14:30]

Now we talked earlier in question period about some of the aspects of developing those markets. And I know in discussion with Brad Wildeman of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, that investigating how we can reach into those markets is very, very important. And I know that if it was a matter of going to 100 per cent testing to be able to enable us to move into those markets, that in fact we would certainly explore that as one of the possibilities that might be desirable. But we would have to look at the impact on the larger industry and look at the impact on the other markets because one of the things that we have said from the very beginning, with testing protocols that we have in place, that the beef in Canada is safe. There is no question about that.

And I think one of the greatest frustrations many of us felt with the ruling on March 7 was to be watching television and seeing those producers, the R-CALF producers, standing up and saying oh sure, we'd eat Canadian beef, we know it's safe; it's not about that, it's about the markets, it's about getting a better price for our beef. Well I can understand producers anywhere wanting to get the best price they can for their beef. But, Mr. Speaker, by their actions, by their decisions, those people have been causing billions of dollars of hurt to the industry here in Canada and we need to do everything that we can do to try and rebuild and normalize and build new markets in this industry so that we can have a successful livestock industry in this province.

Mr. Speaker, over the years we have been working to try and build the beef industry in Saskatchewan. We have been working at building the feedlot industry. We wanted to move away from that model where we had a very successful cow-calf operations in the province, but what we were doing, we were shipping 700,000 cattle or more across the border to be fed and finished in Alberta. We were sending the feed across behind that and we had determined, producers, government, and others working together, that we wanted to build a domestic feeding and we also wanted to move towards more slaughter and processing here in Saskatchewan.

So that's where we were moving. There were a number of feedlot plans that were being developed, that were moving forward, when all of a sudden that border closed. And, Mr.

Speaker, it has impacted so many people, so hard, and we at this point recognize that it could even be a significantly a long period of time before the border with the United States opens and we get to normal trade.

So what we have done to this point, we have put into place with the other provinces and the federal government, the set-aside programs. To this point we have made available about \$85 million for our livestock producers to help deal with the effects of the trade embargoes. We continue to work with industry and other governments to develop long-term strategic plans.

Mr. Speaker, we have also, as I indicated, we have also worked with our embassies around the world trying to open up the doors to create more markets out in Europe, in China, in Korea, in Japan. We have continued to work with our embassies to try and make sure that they are doing everything that they can on behalf of our Saskatchewan and our Canadian producers.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has worked with us in a very co-operative manner on this front. In my opinion, in the work that we have done with them, they have tried in every way that they possibly can to co-operate with us. They have built flexibility into the BSE program when it first came in, recognizing that there were a variety of different needs within different provinces. They allowed for provincial flexibility and they also recognized there was different levels of ability for response within the provinces.

And so I want to thank Minister Andy Mitchell for his continued hard work on this front in trying to make sure that we had good program in place. And I recognize that he continues to work on that front, and he is trying to make sure if there is need for more funding that that can be brought forward as well. And I think we saw indication of that with the significant dollars that they put into place for the marketing of more beef.

Also before I close . . . Oh, okay. It'll be a while before I close. And I would really like to thank the owners of XL Beef who really, I think, have . . . You know, the processors and packers got a lot of heat from many people because people were believing that they were skimming a lot of money out of this tragic time. And there's recognition that there was some funding increases that they did get.

But what I want to do is thank those people who took that money and have now invested it. The principals of XL have now reinvested, and they have been expanding capacity of the XL plant in Moose Jaw and moving towards double shifting to help move through more animals. And I think that this has been very responsible, very helpful for the industry. And I think they deserve our thanks as they continue to work with us and with the industry to try and build more capacity in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot more that has been going on in this whole area. We have been working at our testing protocols, not only for the animals, but for animal feed. We have taken out ruminant feed, ruminant-to-ruminant feed, and that has been an important step in this whole process to make sure that the feed supplies are safe so that there will be no more reinfection through feed sources . . . has been a very important step.

I would be remiss also, Mr. Speaker, if I did not mention the

other ruminant producers who have been facing a very, very difficult time. The sheep producers, the elk producers, bison producers, goat producers all have faced a very difficult time along with some others.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have put our funding in place to try and help them and we are continuing to press the federal government to get their funding in place. Now I understand that they are working through their legislative processes. They have assured us that they are working to try and get that money out.

But it is important that these people get the money so they can continue — while the border remains closed — so that they can continue to the best of their ability to keep their particular industry and their portion of the industry healthy. We will continue to work with all of those producers to try and make sure that they are able to survive through this time and survive through until we see a new and expanded industry.

I want to say a little bit more before I close, Mr. Speaker, about the slaughter and processing industry. Recognizing that we wanted to increase capacity, recognizing that there is a great need for producers in this province to be able to participate and be able to gain some of the wealth from that side of the industry, we have been working with producers and producer groups to try and help put together plans that will be sustainable for new slaughter and processing capacity.

There are many, many community groups and producer groups that were coming together and thinking about how important it would be to build a slaughter and processing facility. But there were a whole lot of things that were not immediately apparent to those groups that were coming forward, in terms of what it takes to actually build a sustainable meat slaughter and processing operation.

And so we felt that it was our responsibility to put together a plan that would provide that base information for any group, large or small, that was looking at getting into the industry in Saskatchewan. So we put together a pre-feasibility study. We had professionals come in, do the study, and provide that information for any of these groups that were thinking of moving forward. And there were some fundamental points that they made. And I think any group that is looking at building slaughter and processing needs to keep in mind — and I know there's a pun in this but it's a reality of this industry — that it is a cutthroat industry, very narrow margins if you're just into slaughter and cut, and it is not easy. There has to be a lot of knowledge about the industry within any operation like that.

But even more importantly, we are told, are the two ends of any slaughter and processing facility. The one end, you must have guaranteed supply of animals. And even with the surplus that we have today, that will not last forever. And there needs to be a supply if the border opens, if some other big operation comes in. Any operation that is developed needs to know that it will have its ongoing supply of animals.

And the other end of that, Mr. Speaker, is that there has to be market. And that market out there is incredibly competitive. To get shelf space in a major store is not easy. In fact you're bidding against some of the largest corporations in the world to try and get that shelf space. It is not easy. It takes a great deal of

time and money to market effectively.

So you have to have a market. Now we know that there are niche markets that come under the radar of the larger operations. There are niche markets in organic or natural beef and in bison that probably could be tapped into and be successful. But even with those you have to have a unique selling point — something that will get your product out there, that will market your product.

So, Mr. Speaker, when we're working with these industries, and we do have our officials and the folks that did the feasibility study going out and doing workshops around the province, so that producer groups and others who are interested in setting up here will have the opportunity to do that.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that we have continued to meet with any group that is interested in slaughter and processing in this province to try and help them understand what it is that we have here, what we are building towards. Because we do believe that we have a future. We do believe that we have a future that will be successful. And that's what we're building towards and we will build that even through this BSE crisis, Mr. Speaker.

But the people of this province who are doing the production of the animals need to know that there is a vision of an expanded industry, an expanded industry that has successful cow-calf, that has successful feeder operations, that has successful slaughter and processing. And, Mr. Speaker, that is second to none in branding and marketing the great Saskatchewan beef that we have.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with our producers and the organizations that represent them. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to bring forward new program, new ways of enabling these programs to work so that we can make it through this time of crisis, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, with that I would like to move this motion and I appreciate that the motion will be seconded by the member from Saltcoats-Melville. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Would the member read the motion into the record, please.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas the United States border remains closed to the movement of live Canadian cattle; and whereas Canada has implemented a strategy designed to help transition our industry to one that has increased domestic processing capacity and an increased and more diversified international market base, therefore it is moved:

That (1) Canada, as supported by provinces and industry, continue to take all available actions to get the US to open their border to all Canadian ruminants and ruminant products; (2) Canada enhance efforts to develop made-in-Canada solutions, including increased domestic

meat processing and international market development; and (3) Saskatchewan continue to monitor the situation and as additional action is needed, work with industry and federal, provincial governments to implement these strategies.

That is moved.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture, the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, and seconded by the member for Melville-Saltcoats:

That (1) Canada, as supported by provinces and industry, continue to take all available actions to get the US to open their border to all Canadian ruminants and ruminant products; (2) Canada enhance efforts to develop made-in-Canada solutions, including increased domestic meat processing and international market development; (3) Saskatchewan continue to monitor the situation and as additional action is needed, work with industry and federal, provincial governments to implement these strategies.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to have the opportunity to rise today to support the motion. And many of the things that the Ag minister said I agree with today, which is somewhat unusual, I guess, right off the bat. But a number of the things I think we both agree on that the hurt out there in rural Saskatchewan from the BSE crisis and the border closing right now are hurting all of our producers out there, all of our cattle producers at a time when they can least afford to have that kind of hurt.

[14:45]

The mixed farmers out there that have cattle and grain are getting it from both ends this year, Mr. Speaker. We have low grain prices; we have poor quality grain in many areas. And then we have large herds of cattle on many farms out there where cull cows, cull bulls, things like that are not being able to be moved, or if they are, they are pretty well giving these cattle away, Mr. Speaker. I think the optimistic view out there was that the border was going to open on the 7th, and that hasn't come into being and may not be opening any time in the near future. Hoping I'm wrong on that one and that possibility is there, but the way things have gone so far, we sure can't count on anything.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I get from my urban consumers and actually for that matter even rural consumers that go into the stores right now — and actually through all of the BSE problems that we've had — is, how come beef prices have never really dropped in the stores? And, you know, most farmers that I talk to, if they're taking a terrible beating on the prices that they're getting for cull cows and even feeder calves and that at one point and finished steers, at least if the price had of gone down in the store for the consumer, they could see some consolation in that and at least see some benefit to someone.

But what we've seen out there is the farmers and the producers out there have been receiving low prices. And at the same time, the prices in the stores have held fairly constant through all of this. There's been the odd time things like hamburger maybe have gone down, but if you look on a long-term period over probably the last two years, those prices have dropped very little. And I guess one of the questions that comes to mind very quickly is, who's been making this profit in the middle when the farmers in some cases are losing their shirt, and the consumer is asked that full price for this commodity? It begs the question: where is the money going in the middle?

Mr. Speaker, we've talked today about expanding. And the minister talked about expanding slaughter facilities, and we couldn't agree more with him. We know some work has been done on that. There's some plants in the process of being built; there's others in the process of being put together, feasibility studies, and things like that happening. And this is great.

The one thing that I would hope would happen . . . and I know before the March 7 proposed opening of the US border, I had in my mind and the one thing that I'd hoped for that we wouldn't forget these ideas, that the nudge that we've had from this border closure and the BSE situation, that politics aside, that we would not forget about getting these slaughter plants in place in Saskatchewan and actually be more independent — less dependent on the US and other markets; more independent so that we can slaughter these cattle in Canada, create jobs for our young people right here at home, especially here in Saskatchewan where we have a large number of cattle and young people.

Jobs — I think we've talked on both sides of the House about that — would be nice to create those jobs here in Saskatchewan. So one thing we've got to do is no matter when that border opens, is if it's two weeks from now which would be great, let's continue with exhausting every idea we have about building more slaughter plants in Saskatchewan. And I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the minister and the provincial government would keep lobbying the federal government to assist us in this case.

We've talked about cull cows and cull bulls and things like that today, Mr. Speaker. And the prices that many farmers have received for these animals is . . . It's embarrassing to even say in this day and age we would have prices as low as back to the 1930s, 1940s, and how farmers out there are asked to survive on prices like this. And I know in many cases, especially the first year, year and a half, many of the farmers held onto these animals, fed them through at their own cost, and now those numbers are really building here. So the need for the slaughter facilities is growing; the need for the border to reopen, it's a constant need out there.

But I think there's things we can do, and we talked today to the minister about testing, about 100 per cent testing in some cases, for animals over 30 months. There's even some of the European countries that are going down to 24 months. And I found it interesting, Mr. Speaker, in our research that we've done in the last few days on this issue — and I might say by the way, up till this point I really wasn't one in favour of 100 per cent testing — but I think we've come to the point where we have to do something here in Saskatchewan, here in Canada, because we can't keep relying on markets elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, we talked about testing in European countries right now when we've been told it costs as high as \$300 per test here in Canada. The CFIA has been telling us that. I think the big packers have been saying things like this, that it could be anywhere from 100 to \$300 a test. And now we find out that many countries over in the European market are actually doing these tests for as little as \$20 per test. The other thing we've been told, Mr. Speaker, on a pretty well constant basis, that these tests are very cumbersome, will take a long time, maybe anywhere from seven to ten days to get the test results back.

Well now in our research we also find out that the Europeans are doing this far quicker. In fact some of the new prionic testing that they're doing right now, they've got the test results coming back as quick as in a 100 minutes, a little over an hour and a half. Other countries are down . . . have got them as low as down to about six hours, returning with the test results. So really it's nothing that is hampering the production line of when that animal goes through slaughter and goes through the whole processing procedure. It wouldn't hold anything up, because many animals, I know, younger animals are hung for as long as 28 days. And I know cull cows, cull bulls, or maybe not cull cows especially aren't hung near that long, but a six-hour span would certainly not hold up that procedure.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think there's a number of things we would like to see done in the province; whether the border opens or the border doesn't open, we certainly have to back our farmers as the minister talked about this morning. I think the federal government has put out little hints. Mr. Goodale has talked about it a little bit, that they're going to try and find more money for producers now with the US border staying closed.

But we've come up with a few ideas too. And I know the government, the member for Yorkton talked about them earlier today, some of the initiatives that they want to take and that they're taking. And some of the initiatives, I think, of ours actually coincide with some of theirs. Maybe some of ours go a little further, but we talked, and the Deputy Premier talked about it today.

Our leader from Swift Current talked about it a couple of weeks ago, about a PST rebate on all capital costs associated with establishment or expansion of processing facilities, including head office construction and equipment costs. This would be an actual rebate as opposed to the current reduction of tax payable. Just a different way of putting it, maybe something that would help initiate these slaughter plants and would certainly assist in the cause.

Working to reduce the interprovincial barriers to trade that force Canada to import about \$826 million worth of beef each year.

Providing an incentive equivalent to the existing labour-sponsored venture tax credit of 20 per cent for every dollar invested in new or expanded beef processing capacity.

Investments with RRSP [Registered Retirement Savings Plan] funds combined with the new beef processing investment tax credit could have an after-tax benefit of 36 cents on every dollar invested. And I think another thing, that it would really help promote the construction of slaughter equipment.

And as I said before, let's not forget about these things the minute the border opens. Let's continue to make an independent industry here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know there's others that want to speak on this today. And I think we're in agreement that we have to get out there and be in the front with things like new ideas like testing. I know at one point myself, I would be in agreement with the government that we shouldn't even be thinking of going in that direction. But I think at this point, Mr. Speaker, with the border not opening and no sign of that happening, and a tremendous lobby group like R-CALF in the States trying to do everything in their power to keep that border closed because number one their prices have gone up, so why wouldn't they do things like this?

I think we have to do everything in our power to create a market for ourselves here that we can rely on and not be at the whim of the US market or some other market. And if the Japanese, Mr. Speaker, are insisting on 100 per cent testing — and we're not talking about the domestic market here in Canada, they're doing a fine job and I think the consumer is quite satisfied with what they're producing — we're talking the import-export market out there, Mr. Speaker.

And I think if we maybe got to the point where we have to go to 100 per cent testing, we don't know for sure just what kind of markets it may open up there. We know how society is right now and they want safe food, safe meat. Now having said that, Mr. Speaker, I feel that our beef is as safe as any in the world and probably safer than lots. It's the best beef in the world. We know that, and better than lots. But if the consumer is asking for something, I think at this point in time we have to take a serious look at what they're asking for and find out what it really would cost here in Canada to do. And I think it might open up markets like that.

As I said before in question period, Mr. Speaker, I think it's time we took a great disadvantage, because of the border closing, and maybe at this time turn it into a Saskatchewan advantage where maybe we can open up markets down the road that we can rely on, bring our kids back from Alberta in jobs here in slaughter plants and the spinoff jobs that would be created with that.

And I think that it might, in the end, be a win for Saskatchewan. And it might have been the little thing that we needed to nudge us and to finally . . . We've talked about it for years, but we haven't really done much in that direction of getting an industry here where we take the beef, for example, and work it all the way through into the package where we're told that that's were the greatest profit is.

Maybe it's time to do these things in Saskatchewan and build for the future. I therefore would like to second the motion put forward by the Agriculture minister and support him on that motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier, the minister of rural development.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased today to join in the debate with the member from . . . our Minister of Agriculture and with the member from Saltcoats, Melville-Saltcoats, in the debate.

Mr. Speaker, in May 2003, I was working on the field, getting our crop in, when on my radio . . . And they're not many tractors that have radios, Mr. Speaker, for those urban MLAs who think that farmers drive around in their tractors listening to the radio. Our radios don't often work very well. But on this date, Mr. Speaker . . . As I said we only have one station, as the member from Canora-Pelly says, because in our part of the world we only do get one station; that's right Mr. Member.

And, on this particular day, Mr. Speaker, the announcement was that we had BSE in Canada, Mr. Speaker. And I couldn't for a minute, Mr. Speaker, feel more ill about the announcement. Because, Mr. Speaker, the kind of impact that BSE has on our farm families, the kind of impact that it's had on our Saskatchewan economy, and the kind of impact that it's had on the future of . . . on our country, Mr. Speaker, has really been a tragedy.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, in a Saskatchewan way, what we saw very quickly was the engagement of a number of people. The engagement of political parties in Saskatchewan, irrespective of who they represented, Mr. Speaker. Coming together were communities across the province.

I recall being in Moose Jaw, Mr. Speaker, at a major rally, a huge rally, where in fact there were several thousand people talking about the importance of working collectively and collaboratively together. And what a moving moment that was, Mr. Speaker, because there were members from the government, there were members from the official opposition, and a group of young people from Mortlach, Mr. Speaker, who took this effort — the Kids for Canadian Beef, Mr. Speaker, led by Miss Duffy.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — What an emotional time this was for me to see young people making a statement about how important it was for us to work together as a collective community in Saskatchewan. And today I want to recognize, I know they have been on many occasions . . . I don't know, members of this Assembly would want to recognize as often as we could the important work that young people have done in helping us work through this very difficult time supporting the needs and the hardship that farm families are experiencing.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the tremendous work that the Kids for Canadian Beef did in making a difference for us in moving this file forward across not only Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, but for Canada.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to also say this afternoon that one of the issues that we first raised with the federal government — and at that time the Saskatchewan Party critic from Humboldt joined in this debate, Mr. Speaker — and that was that we felt that this was an issue about science. And that in fact, Mr. Speaker, that this was an issue about trade.

And what we wanted to see most, Mr. Speaker, is that those who were harmed by this serious issue in our country would not end up having to pay, or compensate in fact, for the hardship for which they were experiencing. And so we tried to make the case, Mr. Speaker, that this was a trade issue, and that in fact, it should be carried 60/40 by our federal government.

And collectively we were unsuccessful in getting there, Mr. Speaker. And so today we continue to share collectively in programs of which we support the beef industry in Canada, which is being led today by our Minister of Agriculture and those of other provinces across the country, to continue to find support programs, Mr. Speaker, for farm families across the country.

And we tried on many occasions, Mr. Speaker, to make the case. And our federal government, I would suggest, did a very good job in indicating that this was about science. This should be about best practice. And the reality is to date, Mr. Speaker, is that across the country, we have seen an increase in consumption of beef — an increase of consumption.

And there have been many treks to the US by many of our members from this side of the House and from the opposition side of the House. We've gone collectively as members of each team, and we've gone together on treks to the US, trying to convince our American friends that what's important here is for them to open the border for us fully.

Mr. Speaker, to date we have had some success on that front. We're finally . . . finally we see the opening of a border. We see movement of some of our beef to the US, and in fact we see some significant progress being made.

[15:00]

What troubles us most today, Mr. Speaker, is that we've now moved from the issue of science to the issue of economics and politics. And when economics and politics begins to take its root, as the member from Saltcoats I think very, very accurately identified, what happens is that beef producers today in the US are more than happy with the situation as the way it is today. And here in Canada, we're finding ourselves, Mr. Speaker, again under a tremendous amount of pressure and stress.

If someone would have told me two years ago, Mr. Speaker, that we would be standing in this Assembly today and debating this very issue, and that the borders would not have been fully opened when we have such an integrated livestock industry — and for that matter an agricultural industry, and for that matter a North American community — I would have said to them in a very skeptical fashion that they would be dreaming in Technicolor. I can't believe, Mr. Speaker, today that we're standing collectively in this Chamber debating yet the significance and importance of opening borders, Mr. Speaker. Because I would have thought by now that in a relationship with folks who say to us that we are some of the best friends in the world, that we would be debating this very issue today in ensuring that we open a border, when in fact on every front we've demonstrated as Canadians, that our beef is safe, that we have some of the best, best tracing and tracking systems anywhere in North America. And we have some of the best scientific research of which we conduct in ensuring that the

food that we eat is safe for human consumption. And here we are today, Mr. Speaker, still debating this very issue about opening a border.

Mr. Speaker, we'll continue on this side of the House, and I know members on the opposite will continue to work with us, to work with the industry to continue to receive the support of our consumers across the country, and will continue to be leaders in this province as we have been collectively in getting the border opened.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that on many fronts today, in spite of the fact that we feel that there's been a great deal of hardship and a great deal of challenge, the fact is that there is also been a great deal of opportunity.

I had the opportunity on two occasions in the last three months to be in two communities in this province where significant groups of people had gathered. In the community of Saltcoats, where the member from Saltcoats was there as well, and there were some 200 producers in the room looking for ways in which we can build another Saskatchewan packing plant in our province.

And when I went to the community of Preeceville and there were another couple of hundred people, as was the member from Canora-Pelly there — people who have optimism today and hope that collectively we're going to be able to build our own industry here in Saskatchewan. Why? Because we've learned a very, very important lesson over the last couple of years and that our dependency cannot be fully entrusted to those with whom we do trade with to the South, that we have to find brand new mechanisms today, Mr. Speaker, to be able to find value-add for what we produce here in Saskatchewan and in Canada, and find brand new markets of which we might be able to distribute our product.

And we have an aggressive process today, Mr. Speaker, much of it is led by our federal government, but collectively through the investments that we make through our provincial administrations across Canada. We see today new niches of market that are starting to open for us. And we're also seeing in our communities of Saskatchewan a greater investment by men and women in the packing industry.

We have a wonderful example not far down the road from here in Wolseley, where a group of farmers and entrepreneurs have put together an extensive package, Mr. Speaker, to build a packing plant and a processing plant, of which they are now a federally inspected plant, where they're going to be able to sell their product internationally across the world. That kind of initiative, Mr. Speaker, grew out of this challenge of which we had and this hardship of which we had, around BSE.

I was talking just a couple of days ago to the deputy minister of Agriculture and he said to me that there are 31 groups today in Saskatchewan — 31 groups, communities, regions of the province — who are working today to see if they can find an opportunity to build a packing plant, a processing plant, a kill plant that might be integrated into the Saskatchewan community of opportunity and be able to make its way into the international markets of selling our product of beef. A lot more needs to be done, Mr. Speaker, in this area and we need to

continue to work in a unified approach, in which we have on this issue collectively across Canada.

There are few issues, Mr. Speaker, that bring us together irrespective of our political and partisan positions. This one is one that has brought us together in a very unified way. There has not been an occasion of which I've been present at . . . And I'm sure that member, the Minister of Agriculture, will be able to say that we've occupied podiums with members from across all political stripes where we don't support and believe in some of our own . . . in each other's ideologies. But on this particular issue, Mr. Speaker, we have come together in a very harmonized fashion. And it's to the credit of the men and women in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and those of other Houses, and our federal legislators who have helped us I think make a difference in Saskatchewan and in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Saltcoats talked about doing more testing and I think the Minister of Agriculture has indicated that we may get there, in time. But we've always taken our lead, Mr. Speaker, from the industry. Our industry has in fact provided us with much of the leadership and people like Mr. Brad Wildeman, of whom mention was made earlier today. This individual has done a tremendous, tremendous amount of work on this particular file, has provided Canadian leadership around the kinds of compensation programs that are required and the kinds of initiatives that we need to work towards finding into the future.

And we need to build out those processing plants that others have talked about here today, and collectively I know that this administration and this government, the Minister of Agriculture and the work that we can do through rural revitalization, and the Minister of Industry and Resources, are all working collectively, Mr. Speaker, to find new and different approaches about ensuring that we can take our Canadian — Saskatchewan beef in particular — and transpose it into something that will provide value and add, for us in Saskatchewan, will provide those additional jobs, will strengthen those rural communities of which we talk about on many occasions.

And that's why this motion, Mr. Speaker, is so appropriate for us today because, as the first bullet reads, that in Canada, as supported by provinces and industry, we continue to take all available actions to get the US border opened to all Canadian ruminants and ruminant products.

That exercise continues, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Agriculture just returns from a meeting just a few weeks ago — or a few days ago I mean — of which this is on their agenda. Our Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture will be going back to additional meetings, Mr. Speaker, and will be talking about the kinds of impacts of which BSE has had on our Saskatchewan industry and on farm families. And we'll continue to provide the kind of leadership that's necessary on behalf of producers to ensure that we get the best opportunities for our Saskatchewan folks.

The second bullet, Mr. Speaker, talks about Canada and enhanced efforts to develop made-in-Canada solutions, including increased domestic meat processing, international market development. Well as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, there are 31 groups in Saskatchewan today who are engaged in

looking at building new additional processing or kill plants.

I can tell you that the Department of Agriculture and the minister, of which I have had some success in helping, we now have a process in which we have an individual going about the province sharing with communities the kinds of template that they will need to build processing or kill plants in Saskatchewan so that they have the best head start that they can get in building new processing in our province. And we need to look at the tools of which others and we are talking about, as it relates to making incentives and initiatives more attractive to building a processing and kill . . . and building the beef industry in Saskatchewan. And all of those ideas, Mr. Speaker, from all sources will be examined in making a difference to grow that side of the meat processing in our province.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, the other section of the motion reads that Saskatchewan continue to monitor the situation and as additional action is needed, work with the industry, the federal-provincial governments, to implement those strategies.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be fair to say that the Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan on a daily basis has a discussion or a conversation with somebody from the industry, with somebody from the federal government, with his colleagues from other provincial governments across the country in order to try and ensure that we can provide the best options that we can to our producers in our province, and that we can have a leg-up where we can in building brand new processing plants in this province, Mr. Speaker.

So I am very pleased this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, to take a few minutes to join the Minister of Agriculture and the member from Saltcoats in supporting the motion, and to again express my gratitude to the people of Saskatchewan for their efforts in making a difference on this very difficult file. And so collectively as we move forward, I know, Mr. Speaker, the border eventually will open and we will have more packing industry in this province, that we'll have a stronger beef industry because of this, and we'll have more people employed — young people employed — in the beef industry as we move forward today, both as producers and as entrepreneurs.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members for bringing this motion forward and I'm very pleased to be part of supporting its direction. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And before I begin I would like as well to acknowledge the Kids for Canadian Beef, a group of young people from Mortlach in my constituency who fought long and hard to draw attention to this issue of the closed border and the injustice of it and the negative way that it's affected our beef producing families in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to enter into this debate on the BSE crisis that has brought the cattle industry to its knees in Canada, and particularly in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta where the vast majority of this country's beef cattle are

produced.

On May 20, 2003 a single case of BSE was discovered in an older cow that was part of a northern Alberta herd. The US border was immediately slammed shut to trade and live cattle, beef, and beef products. In the few days that followed, trade in cattle and beef was stopped to every other nation that we traded with in cattle and/or beef. The BSE crisis has so far cost the industry and the Canadian economy in the neighbourhood of \$7 billion.

Mr. Speaker, of the 10 provinces in Confederation, only Alberta has been more seriously hurt by BSE than has Saskatchewan. This crisis has ended the businesslike, steady growth of our cowherd and absolutely put a stop to expansion of our fledgling feedlot industry. An industry, Mr. Speaker, that was just beginning to feel the wind under its wings when the crisis hit. Many communities had plans in the works to build feedlots. Those plans were immediately put on hold for an indefinite period of time, and many may be abandoned because of this new market uncertainty arising from the BSE crisis.

Mr. Speaker, we must expand our cattle feeding industry before we are likely to attract a well-funded, professionally operated, major packing plant to this province; the kind of packing plant that can survive the rigours of the brutal competition that the industry experiences in more normal times.

Mr. Speaker, the cattle industry is far from dead in this province, but it has had a life altering experience. The industry will never again be the way it was before May 20, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, calf and feeder cattle prices are off about 30 per cent from where they should be, and older cows and bulls are virtually worthless. This dramatically affects producer's ability to cover their costs, and the lower value of their cattle inventory makes it difficult or impossible to service their debt and very difficult to borrow more money should the need arise. Couple that with the fact that lending institutions are now very reluctant to lend to the cattle industry. Our industry is in crisis, Mr. Speaker; the very industry that was the bright spot in Saskatchewan agriculture less than two years ago in crisis, Mr. Speaker, through no fault of its own.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the discovery of BSE, Canada was the third largest exporter of beef and cattle in the world. And as I have said, most of that from Alberta and Saskatchewan. In 2002, the last full year before the outbreak of BSE, Canada's export market was worth about \$4.1 billion.

[15:15]

And, Mr. Speaker, in the months leading up to this crisis, Saskatchewan was exporting about \$23 million worth of beef and cattle a month. Mr. Speaker, in those heady days before the discovery of BSE about 40 per cent of Canada's beef exports were live animals, almost all of which went to the United States. Prior to May 20, 2003, about 80 per cent of our beef exports found their home in the United States, Mr. Speaker, and our next most important markets in order of size were Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, the border was due to open on March 7 — 10 days

ago now — to live cattle under 30 months of age. That was the intention of the US government, Mr. Speaker. But that intention was thwarted by the protectionist organization of cattle producers from the northern tier states, R-CALF. R-CALF won a court injunction that stopped the border from opening to live cattle for what amounts to an indefinite period of time.

Since the BSE crisis hit our industry, the US border has been reopened to boxed boneless cuts of beef from animals under 30 months of age but it appears, Mr. Speaker, that even this trade may soon be challenged by yet another R-CALF lawsuit.

Mr. Speaker, the science is in and Canada has been found to have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect the food supply, and everybody agrees, Mr. Speaker — the USDA [United States Department of Agriculture], the US Secretary of Agriculture, and food inspection agencies around the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is known or believed with a high degree of certainty that BSE is not spread from animal to animal. In fact the only known way that it can be spread is by feeding infected ruminant tissue to another ruminant. Since 1997 it has been illegal in this country to feed ruminant tissue to ruminants. Mr. Speaker, only certain parts of an animal can transmit BSE if they are fed to ruminants or humans. Those parts are called specific risk material and in this country they are removed from all slaughtered cattle so there is no possibility of spreading the disease to humans in the form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. And we test a higher percentage of our slaughter cattle for BSE than is the practice in the US. And we are escalating that percentage year by year. Mr. Speaker, our trace-back system has been proven to be second to none in the world.

And the sudden closure of the US border to exports of live cattle very quickly and dramatically highlighted the vulnerability of our beef industry to the whims of our largest customer. About 40 per cent of our beef exports to the US were live animals. Of course that is not by choice but out of necessity, since we don't have the packing capacity to slaughter them in this country. We have been lulled into a false sense of security by well over 100 years of virtually unfettered trade in cattle and beef with the United States. But now we have to change to survive.

Mr. Speaker, the packing industry has begun to expand in reaction to the closed border. Prior to BSE, Canada was slaughtering about 70,000 head of cattle per week. Today we slaughter about 90,000. And by the end of this year, it is projected that we will have the capacity to slaughter about 100,000 head per week. Mr. Speaker, a large packing plant in this province would be a major creator of jobs, economic spinoff, and value-added product. Considerable additional packing capacity will likely be built in Western Canada in the not-too-distant future.

Forty years ago, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Alberta invested substantial sums of money into irrigation infrastructure because they understood that to have a cattle processing industry, you first must provide a guaranteed supply of finished cattle through a feedlot industry. And to have a feedlot industry, you must have a guaranteed supply of feed close at hand and that is provided through irrigation development.

Mr. Speaker, this government has made no such plan and taken no such steps. In fact, Mr. Speaker, while Alberta uses close to 100 per cent of the water allotted to them from the water that flows through their province, Saskatchewan uses only about 3 per cent of the water that is allotted to us from our rivers.

Meanwhile our minister responsible for SERM [Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management] announces a water conservation study. Don't they understand, Mr. Speaker, that what is needed is a water utilization strategy not a water conservation study? Such a strategy, if properly done, would attract the feedlot industry, and the additional hundreds of thousands of finished cattle flowing from the feedlots would attract the packing industry.

But this government, Mr. Speaker, seems incapable of generating any such long-term economic plan. Mr. Speaker, I wish them luck over there in their attempts to attract a major packing plant to the province because we need it. But it is a lot easier to attract business of any kind if you have the fundamentals in place first. You don't have to offer such deep incentives if you are trying to attract business to a jurisdiction where the fundamentals are in place. Trying to attract major business to Saskatchewan under the policies of this NDP government is like trying to force water to flow uphill. It takes a considerable amount of pressure to make it happen.

Mr. Speaker, Alberta is currently in the process of fast-tracking their regulatory approval process in order to get new packing plants online in that province. They will be formidable competition, Mr. Speaker, because regardless of what the members opposite may say, Alberta does have the fundamentals right. And jurisdictions that have the fundamentals right, get the jobs and the spinoff and the value added to their products.

Mr. Speaker, there are other NDP made impediments to business investment in this province that will mitigate against this government being able to attract a major packing plant that we need so badly. Saskatchewan has a corporate capital tax that Alberta doesn't have at all, and Manitoba has, but at a much lower rate.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has PST on many legitimate inputs that would be required to build and operate a packing plant. This is not the case in Alberta and it is one more NDP affliction that will mitigate against any major investment like a packing plant being made in this province.

Also, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan is the proud owner of the highest property taxes in Canada. And this is another huge disincentive to any company considering investing in bricks and mortar in this province.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP government says that it can't afford to reduce or eliminate the taxes that make us uncompetitive with our neighbours in order to attract investment and jobs to this province. But apparently, they can afford to invest hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars in crazy, money-losing dot-coms, insurance companies, pipelines, telecommunications companies outside of the borders of this province that create no job or benefit of any kind for Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the packing industry is one that operates with

razor-thin margins during normal competitive times, even when operated by large corporations with long histories of specializing in the industry and very deep pockets. And rest assured, the industry will return to more normal times, and maybe sooner than we can imagine.

This is no business for the government of a relatively small province to be fooling around in with taxpayers' money. I'm deeply concerned, Mr. Speaker, that this is exactly what they will attempt to do when they find out that they can't attract a major packing plant to the province for the reasons that I have outlined. The taxpayers of this province will be very wary of any such wild gamble with their hard-earned money.

Mr. Speaker, one more point before I wrap up, and mainly by way of free advice to the government. Because I know, as you do, that no member on the government side of this Assembly has even the vaguest idea of how the cattle industry operates. The US has proven itself to be an . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. I'll just ask the hon. member to not engage the Speaker into the debate.

Mr. Stewart: — I apologize, Mr. Speaker. It's me that understands that the government doesn't have the vaguest idea of how the cattle industry operates. The US has proven itself to be an unreliable market. So we quite simply have to find other markets. To do this, we will have to do certain things. One of them in to increase packing capacity and another is to be prepared to test every animal possibly destined for export for BSE. We have been told by the packing industry and others, including the CFIA, that testing every animal is too expensive and time consuming to be practicable.

Mr. Speaker, we are told that BSE testing takes a week to ten days, and costs 100 to \$300 per test. That probably would be the case if the CFIA were to do the testing. But in Europe and Japan, tests are done by private sector labs, right on the production line, for as little as \$20 per test. And a recently approved test provides results in 100 minutes.

If we are to get more packing capacity in Western Canada, we must be prepared to do the things that we have to do to break into new markets as well. If we can beat the Americans at getting as efficient at testing for BSE as the Europeans and Japanese, we will surely be able to increase our markets, at least as fast as we can build new packing capacity.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I support the motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the one moved by the Minister of Agriculture, the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, seconded by the member for Saltcoats, which reads . . . it is moved:

That (1) Canada, as supported by provinces and industry, continue to take all available actions to get the US to open their border to all Canadian ruminants and ruminant products; (2) Canada enhance efforts to develop made-in-Canada solutions, including increased domestic meat processing and international market development; (3)

Saskatchewan continue to monitor the situation and as additional action is needed, work with industry and federal, provincial governments to implement these strategies.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Those who favour the question say, aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those who are opposed to the question say, no. There being none, I declare the motion carried unanimously.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have leave of members of the Assembly to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, all of us as politicians spend a lot of our days knocking on doors whenever we can and one of the great pleasures is to meet from time to time individuals who stand out because of their interest and knowledge of the political process, and we're always happy to meet those people. And one of those people is with us in the opposition gallery and I should like to introduce her to the members of the Assembly. I would ask the members to join with me in wishing her a warm welcome and her name is Shelly Magnusson. Welcome Shelly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

MOTIONS

Saskatchewan Centennial

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just got a word in edgewise yesterday; I had a few things I wanted to say. But I do appreciate being able to stand in support of a subamendment, and I'd just like to quote that again:

100. Recognize the contributions of the voluntary sector.

So my remarks will focus on that, but I do want to put it in the

context of the centennial because what a special year, what a special time we're coming up to. And I'm kind of shocked, disappointed, but actually not surprised at the opposition's oversight in recognizing the voluntary sector and the role they've played in shaping our province and what we are all about here in Saskatchewan.

The theme of 100 years of heart speaks to the voluntary sector here in Saskatchewan and we are striving, at this time when we're looking into the past, and what we're trying to do into the future, it's the time to really think about those people who make Saskatchewan such a special, special place. And it truly is the volunteers in each of our communities from the north to the south. These people are the people who make Saskatchewan the best place to live in Canada, if not the world.

[15:30]

I want to take a moment to recognize the member from Wascana Plains and her work as the Legislative Secretary responsible for the Voluntary Sector Initiative. The Premier has placed her in charge of this initiative, and this speaks well to her credibility and her ability to oversee this project.

This is one where we're trying to give profile to the people in the voluntary sector, provide them with the tools necessary to do the jobs that they see fit that need to be done in our communities. And so yesterday when the member from Wascana Plains noticed this omission by the opposition, it's only natural that she would have been the one to bring this to our attention.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is an exciting time here in our centennial. And many of us are out meeting with provincial groups. I want to highlight some of the exciting things that will be happening with the voluntary sector over the course of this year. And of course I want to take a minute to also recognize Mr. Centennial, our Legislative Secretary for the centennial.

He talked yesterday as well about Canada Summer Games and what that will mean for the people here in Saskatchewan as we showcase our province, our people to the rest of the people here in Canada. My daughter had the privilege of being part of Canada Games, and I imagine a few parents here are proud of their children and their role in the Canada Games.

But I think of the member's statement earlier today about Sask Sport and the role that they play in Saskatchewan's young people . . . actually all people because there was a woman last night who was recognized as a master athlete. And wow, I would not want to race her. She was incredible shape. As a 62-year-old, just watching the videos of what she can do is phenomenal.

Saskatchewan really talks about how we have limitless opportunities here to be who we want to be. And Sask Sport is just a wonderful example of what we can do. We heard over and over again that there is no other province that has anything close to what we have here in Saskatchewan in terms of how we develop and support our athletes, our communities. And Sask Sport is just a wonderful example of that.

One of the things as well I would want to highlight and I think

when we think about the centennial here in Saskatchewan, we would want to think about our own experiences back in Canada's centennial in 1967. Many people took challenges upon themselves to what they would do to learn more about Canada.

Well this past Sunday a group of seniors, volunteers — and these are seniors — started a project that's called Sask fit walk. And they're walking from the northern border up by the territories and they started on skis, cross-country skis, and their goal is to walk right across the province from north to south, and they hope to hit the American border in a few short weeks or months.

Now they're not just doing this for the heck of it, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Speaker. They're doing it because they have a message. They have a message for the people of Saskatchewan about staying healthy. And they think this is an important goal for us as we head into our centennial year. Health is so critical.

And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I applaud those folks. They are led by a capable person out by Vanscoy way, Mr. Cliff Shockey, and he's done an awful lot of work in preparing for this for over a year and we're happy to be supporting him.

They started off their walk with an official launch and they're going to be hiking and skiing across Saskatchewan with the Saskatchewan flag. And they're going to be wearing it proudly as they go through the bush, down the highways, across the prairies, through the forests of Saskatchewan. I think this is truly, truly exciting.

Not only that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have a group who are going to be canoeing from the western borders of Saskatchewan to the eastern borders, taking a historic route across northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, as well, I've come to appreciate the, the good work that volunteers do in many ways in Saskatchewan. And one of the ways we're doing that is many of us have been asked to present leadership awards to provincial organizations. And I have found this very fascinating.

I was fortunate to give out a leadership medal to the egg producers board; one Alf Litzenburger who had passed away in 1976 received that award, that medal. His family was there. I presented it to his wife.

But you know we often don't think of these volunteers in our communities who do what might seem to be little things but actually are very large, very important things. And Alf Litzenburger, when I was there to present the medal and to talk about him, it really struck a chord with the people in the hall. There must have been a couple of hundred, a hundred people in the hall.

And clearly, Mr. Deputy Speaker, he played a major role in people's lives who work in that industry, when he went around and signed people up in the '60s to get the egg producers board started. It was only by that determination that our volunteers have to make a difference in our province and our economy that you see that kind of results that he did. And so while I have never met the gentleman, Alf Litzenburger, it was phenomenal

the impact that he's had on those people and it was a very moving night.

As well, I presented awards or medals to two people at the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation provincial banquet a few weeks ago. And a gentlemen from Estevan who won the medal — and it was interesting when we were looking through his biography, here's a gentlemen who's been on the executive for some 50 years and I believe actually it's closer to 60 years — he came back from the war and got right on the executive, and he's been on the executive ever since that time. And I think, what dedication; what dedication.

And as well, we gave a medal to a young gentlemen who is in his third year at University of Saskatchewan studying biology. And this is the face of our young people who are going to be taking over leadership roles in our voluntary sector. And he was proud as punch to receive that medal. His family was there. These are exciting times, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as we recognize those in our voluntary sector.

The thing that I found interesting in my role as Minister of Environment is how the voluntary sector interacts . . . how we can support the voluntary sector in that way. And I think the key area that we help the volunteers in our communities right across this province is through our parks system.

Now it's interesting. This summer — and you'll hear more of the plans, and I can't actually wait until the budget comes out next week because we'll just be talking about so many exciting things — but the end of January we announced a program for how the parks are going to be working with communities as they celebrate Saskatchewan's centennial. We are going to be offering free three-day passes to communities throughout Saskatchewan if they are registered as a centennial event. All they have to do is register with the centennial people, and I understand that recent numbers have us well over 2,000 events. And we're very happy to support them.

Now we have printed 40,000 free passes, so we're expecting big numbers here, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To date we've got over 5,000. On Monday afternoon we have, actually, we had five communities phone us up and want to participate in this.

So you can see that we are directly supporting communities here in Saskatchewan. And so I think this is a good way of how we support the voluntary sector right throughout the province. Now we've taken some time to think this through and we think this is a reasonable thing. And this is one thing that we can do in the communities throughout our province to support the centennial.

I would say, Mr. Speaker, though, that I was a little disappointed a couple of weeks ago when the opposition over there highlighted this interesting idea on one level, but I'm not sure how much thought they put into it. They talked about free park admission for the whole summer and this was highlighted by the member from Carrot River yesterday. And I'm just wondering how much thought they've actually put into this. And I'm just wondering if the member from Carrot River has actually contacted the Nipawin Regional Park board. I'd be curious to know if he has actually talked to those people or has he talked to the Pasquia Regional Park board. These are

volunteers in communities who've worked really hard at their regional parks to make them real gems.

Now there are over about 100 parks in this province, regional parks, and I'd be really curious for them to stand up and say, gee, we've done some consultation, the regional parks are on board because, you know, I don't think they have.

I think this again was just something that was put together. We've talked about a three-month vision. Every three months, they get a vision, they get a bright idea. Have they done their homework? I don't think they have, Mr. Speaker. I really don't think they have.

And in fact, Mr. Speaker, you know, I'm glad they're listening to this, because I've got . . . This is really quite important because here we have volunteers working in the province on something they take a lot of pride on, the regional parks. And I would like to know, have they talked to the regional parks. Because I've been talking to those folks, and this is something that Darlene Friesen, the executive director, wrote to me. And she said this . . . She said this, Mr. Speaker:

Dear Mr. Forbes: I wish to extend thanks on behalf of all regional parks in the province of Saskatchewan as regards to your position on the elimination of entry fees into the provincial parks this summer. We are in total agreement that it would put undue stress on our individual parks if that were to happen. It could begin a large shift in patron base which would, in turn, cause an extreme drop in revenues in the regional parks this summer. Even with the expected influx of visitors for the centennial, I doubt that the parks would recoup that loss.

Now, Mr. Speaker, have they consulted with the parks? I would like to know that. They come up with these great ideas, they number them, and this is no. 4. I'd like to know, has the member from Carrot River consulted with the regional park, the Nipawin and District Regional Park? Because they are actually, some of their ideas are quite dangerous to the volunteers here in Saskatchewan who've worked very hard to establish a good regional park system here. So, Mr. Speaker, we've got great plans here in the parks. We're working with communities. They're engaging with us, but you know, these ideas that are not quite well thought out or consulted I think may come back to haunt these folks.

Mr. Speaker, other volunteers throughout our province that we're recognizing are those who are 100 years old, and those who are future volunteers. Now this Saturday, Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to be hosting a birthday party for three 100-year-olds and I'm sure these are volunteers that have worked hard to make this province great. And I just want to take a minute to read their names into the record. Marion Dalglish, 100 years young on February 1; Reginald Plumb, 100 years young on October 30; and Velma Humphries, 101 years young on June 1. I think this is truly exciting. Saskatchewan was built with dreams and visions of what might be here, and we're going to be getting together on Saturday afternoon celebrating their birthdays.

But what I'm really excited about is we're going to have a baby born on January 1 there. Her name is Zeanna Jean Laura

Montgrand. I think this is an exciting time, Mr. Speaker, as we get both the young and the old together and be thinking about what this province can be as we look forward into the future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as well I want to take a moment to talk about Saskatoon Centre because really in many ways, if Saskatchewan is the capital of volunteerism in Canada, I would like to put forward Saskatoon — Saskatoon Centre — as the real capital, the real epicentre of volunteerism. You know, we have some exciting things happening. Riversdale as a village celebrated its 100 years birthday this January. It's a wonderful community. Wonderful things are happening there. We see volunteerism alive with the Victoria Park celebrations, the Dragon Boat races that are held down there — wonderful things are happening. The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, another example of arts that are coming alive as the First Nations and Aboriginal people find their reconnection with the arts through the theatre, and this is just an exciting place. Wonderful things are happening there. And of course the city, Saskatoon, is looking forward to its centennial next year. So big things in Saskatoon Centre and in Saskatoon.

[15:45]

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing I am delighted to support this subamendment because it really does show what Saskatchewan is all about. I am truly excited about this year, this centennial year. I think we are very fortunate, as the Legislative Secretary for the centennial has said, we are a bit humbled that we can be here in this House as part of the celebrations. It's a real honour to be doing that.

And of course the motto, 100 years of heart, really does speak to volunteers and what that means to all of us here in Saskatchewan. And I know that all of us have family and friends who volunteer to make Saskatchewan so, so special. But the image that really sticks in my mind I think really speaks to the voluntary sector, to all of us here in Saskatchewan, is the image of the young people with their arms open wide. I think this is very important as we get ready to celebrate in September our centennial.

This symbolizes so much. It symbolizes the hoop dancers that we saw the other day as he moves around with the circular symbol — that's a wonderful thing; the bell ringers that welcomed in the centennial on January 1 throughout Saskatchewan; and of course our own provincial motto that talks about from many hands, strength.

But what this symbol, what this image really means to me, Mr. Speaker, is that we have a real rich heritage of embracing the future, that we reach out to the future because that's what our province is all about.

And the voluntary sector, if there's a group that does that, that looks for challenges, that's not afraid of challenges, it's there. And so, Mr. Speaker, with that I would say I'm delighted to say a few words about the centennial, about the voluntary sector. It's our future. Let's embrace it. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Carrot

River Valley.

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm actually quite pleased to stand in my place today and talk about the subamendment to the amendment to the motion that we have before us in this House today.

Mr. Speaker, I sat in my chair and listened to the Minister for Environment as he seconded the motion from the member from Regina Wascana Plains and, quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I was shocked. I was shocked to hear the minister accuse us in the Saskatchewan Party of lack of consultation about the parks fee that we had proposed in one of our other ideas, Mr. Speaker; and shocked to hear that from the same minister, from the same department, from the very same member who less than a year ago was the minister responsible for deciding to cancel summer, bringing in the wiener roast tax, the firewood tax. That's the same minister, Mr. Speaker, the very same minister who said, well don't worry about it because we don't have to consult with people because they'll just talk about other things as they sit around the campfire.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Nutana on her feet?

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that we're on the subamendment, and the subamendment to the motion recognizes the contributions of the voluntary sector in the province. And my understanding is that we, as members, have to limit our remarks to the subamendment.

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Saskatoon Southeast on his feet? I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what this member was doing, was talking about the subamendment. The subamendment dealt with volunteerism and dealt with the remarks that the Minister of Environment was making. The Environment minister was making remarks about volunteerism, about parks and things that happen in parks, and that's exactly what this member was referring to, was responding to the very remarks that the member opposite was making. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that's an appropriate use of the member's time to do exactly that.

The Speaker: — Order, please. I thank both members for their intervention. I believe that the point is being well made that debate on the ... should be restricted to the subamendment itself. I would add to that that I would think it quite proper that a member could debate issues that have been raised by a member who had spoken to this particular subamendment previously.

I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that favourable ruling and I won't stay on that subject very long because there are other far more important things to discuss than the lack of consultation on the wiener roast tax and cancelling summer.

However — and I want to get back to those, Mr. Speaker — I want to talk about this subamendment. And I want to congratulate the member for Regina Wascana Plains for

bringing this amendment to this House — this subamendment, I should say — because it is an important amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to draw a little bit of, a couple of comparisons as we talk about the subamendment to some of the things that were said in the House in the past day or so that I think are really relevant when we talk about either the support or lack of support for this amendment.

Again, it's ironic, I think, that we were accused certainly just here today in question period by the Deputy Premier about our lack of support for ideas that come from somebody else. And here I am today, Mr. Speaker, I am standing in support of this subamendment that I think is a very good, solid idea, that I'm hopeful that all my colleagues on this side of the House will support very shortly if it does come to a vote before this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, contrary to what people have said on other parts of this debate, this is not gimmickry. This is a good, solid idea. The Minister of Finance yesterday talked about some of our ideas as being political gimmickry. Mr. Speaker, that's not the case here with us today. And I think that the people of the province, the media, the people who watch politics in Saskatchewan will look and judge and see that the proof is in the pudding, that the Saskatchewan Party is prepared to support ideas that are good, solid . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Now the member is getting a little off the topic here. And I would ask the member to come back to the debate on the subamendment which deals with the point 100, recognize the contributions of the voluntary sector.

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I do stand corrected on that ruling as well.

I'd like to just quote a number of facts that I have in front of me that do deal with volunteerism at its finest. And this is according to a national survey of giving, volunteering, and participating. It was done in the year 2000 and it says that 323,000 Saskatchewan residents volunteer annually an average of 154 hours each — unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, actually the highest in Canada. And that's something that . . . Of course, these numbers are five years old. I doubt very much that they've changed very much; in fact, they may have gotten stronger.

Saskatchewan had the highest volunteer participation rate of 42 per cent right across the country. Mr. Speaker, that's probably because there are less of us in Saskatchewan than there ought to be, so that means that there is more volunteer work to do for fewer people.

And lastly, the average number of hours that was contributed by Saskatchewan volunteers, again, was 154 hours each. And it was done by people aged mostly . . . the mean age was 35 to 54 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, those are pretty good numbers and numbers that we all ought to be very proud of here in this province.

I just want to talk about a couple of volunteer organizations, Mr. Speaker, that are really . . . I think tell a lot about who we

are and what we are in Saskatchewan. Of course one of the most high-profile volunteer organizations is the Kinsmen Telemiracle, something that we've all been very proud of here in Saskatchewan. One looks at the long history of what that particular group has done and it certainly is something that, as I said, we can all be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I've been a member of this Assembly for almost two years now, and almost every day some member or other from either side of the House will stand up and talk about a volunteer person or a volunteer group from their own constituency that has excelled at what they have done or has achieved an award for volunteerism. And just today in fact the member from Biggar talked about Maxine Barth from Wilkie who won an award for her service to her community. He talked, yesterday I believe it was, about the Handel CWL [Catholic Women's League] group who had celebrated 60 years of service to their church and to their community, to their country.

The member for Saskatoon Silver Springs also this week talked about awards that he attended while he was at Blaine Lake just mere days ago in celebration of people who had done a high level of volunteerism.

Mr. Speaker, if you look back at the last 100 years of this province you could say — I think you could safely say — that volunteerism has been the essence, part of the essence of what has made this province what it is today. Every one of those people, every one of those pioneers that came to Saskatchewan — it didn't really matter whether they lived in rural Saskatchewan or urban — were part of the building of their churches or their schools or their community organizations, their sports organizations, their cultural organizations.

Mr. Speaker, that's something that's gone on now for 100 years, and I'm sure started prior to Saskatchewan becoming a province. But we've really become I believe leaders in the country and leaders in the world when it comes to that true spirit of volunteerism. And that comes from the strength and the courage and the compassion that Saskatchewan people have for their own province, for the weaker or the poorer and the sicker in their own province, and also for the young in our province, the children. And I look at all the groups that do such great volunteer work for the youth groups — whether it be sports or any other endeavour that they choose to work in.

And we all know, again whether we are from rural or urban Saskatchewan, we all know of course and are very familiar with and perhaps even part of every kind of volunteer group that is imaginable. And we all should be, ought to be proud of that. Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Finance today just a couple of minutes ago introduced a volunteer, a political volunteer, that's in the gallery today.

And certainly every one of us in this Assembly today would not be here save for the great volunteer work that many people do in the area of politics. In fact we were discussing that just a little while ago. We were talking about the huge number of people who volunteered to door knock for the Saskatchewan Party in the last election, Mr. Speaker. It's amazing how many people are prepared to get involved for ideas that they believe are right and that are going to be . . . the people who are going to be the government of this province very, very shortly. Mr.

Speaker, I expect to see two, three, four times many more volunteers for the Saskatchewan Party in this very next election.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say here today that I'm happy, I'm really quite pleased that I'm able to stand here and give my support to the member for Regina Wascana Plains on her subamendment. I'm going to, as I said at the outset, if this comes to a vote soon and I hope it does, I'll be happy to stand in my place and vote for this amendment. I'm hoping that my colleagues will see fit to support that as well. And, Mr. Speaker, we are a party believing that we can support and show support for ideas that come from other groups.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety, the member for Saskatoon Greystone.

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Prebble: — Thank you. I'm very pleased to be taking part in this debate, Mr. Speaker. And I'm particularly pleased to have the opportunity to speak to the topic of the subamendment which is the contribution that volunteers have made in building our province over the last 100 years, Mr. Speaker.

Our provincial motto is "from many peoples, strength," Mr. Speaker. And I think that is a very suitable motto for the province of Saskatchewan to have adopted. And we've had people come from all over the world to this province, Mr. Speaker, over the last 100 years. And as they have come, Mr. Speaker, they have enriched the foundation of this province, which was our First Nations and Métis people. And, Mr. Speaker, this mix of peoples in our province today has created a great province and a great land of which we can all be proud.

[16:00]

And one of the proudest dimensions of that, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we have the highest participation by volunteers in this province in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker — the highest level of participation — some 330,000 volunteers out of a province of 1 million people, Mr. Speaker. That means that every year in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, one out of three people is contributing their time and their energy and their passion to volunteer and make our province a better place. And it's one of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, why our province has become a great place to live in this dominion and in the world, Mr. Speaker.

Now I want to go back to the early development of this province, Mr. Speaker, and reflect on some of the contributions that were made by volunteers in my home city of Saskatoon. And when I think about important initiatives, Mr. Speaker, that helped shaped this province, one of them of course was the establishment of the University of Saskatchewan in 1909, Mr. Speaker. And while of course that was a decision that was made

by this legislature, it was a decision that . . . whose roots were born, Mr. Speaker, in the efforts of the city of Saskatoon and of the volunteers, Mr. Speaker, in that city who wanted to see the University of Saskatchewan located in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. And I think we can all be proud of that contribution, the contribution that they made which has really helped shaped our province and helped shape our city, Mr. Speaker — the city of Saskatoon that I'm very proud to represent.

And, Mr. Speaker, when I think about the work of volunteers in the early years of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, I'm reminded, Mr. Speaker, of the efforts in the First World War. We're all familiar with the Battle of Vimy Ridge, Mr. Speaker, but one of the things that may not be well known is that one of the endeavours during the war was an endeavour to establish the University of Vimy Ridge, where people volunteered to go to the front and work with our soldiers and with our troops in terms of voluntary adult education so that when they returned home, Mr. Speaker, they would be equipped to take up their responsibilities as citizens in a peacetime economy, Mr. Speaker.

And when I think about people who were willing to give up their time to contribute to that effort, Mr. Speaker, I think that that's one of the little pieces of history in our province that bears mentioning again. I think it's not something that we've discussed in this legislature for many years. We recognize the enormous contribution of our veterans, Mr. Speaker. And the commitment of those who volunteered to support the war effort took on so many dimensions, Mr. Speaker. And I think of this as just one of those small but important dimensions . . . those who were willing to volunteer to go to the front to work with our soldiers in an adult education capacity, and in effect, establish a unique institution, Mr. Speaker, the University of Vimy Ridge.

Mr. Speaker, when I think about the work of our early pioneers, one of their important volunteer contributions was building the political movements that we know well in the province today, Mr. Speaker. And I think of John Evans, Mr. Speaker, who came to Saskatchewan in 1892 from Wales, Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Evans is well known to have left Wales and come to Saskatchewan because he wanted to get away from the land tenure system of Wales, Mr. Speaker. And he wanted to move to a part of the world where a family could own their own land, Mr. Speaker, in their own right. And that was one of the things that drew a lot of people to this province.

But Mr. Evans, upon moving here, Mr. Speaker . . . and I might say as an aside to the topic under discussion, that the hardship that settlers faced in those days is born out by Mr. Evans in one of the comments that he's well known for making, Mr. Speaker. He stood outside his homestead one day, and he looked upon a landscape in which he could see that 11 homesteads, Mr. Speaker, 11 homesteaders' shacks had been abandoned which speaks to the harshness of the environment that homesteaders and pioneers were living in at the time.

And Mr. Evans, Mr. Speaker, not only went on to make a success of his own homestead with his wife and family, but he made a huge volunteer contribution to political life in this province, Mr. Speaker, by working to build a coalition of farmers and labour and veterans who'd returned from the war,

Mr. Speaker, into the progressive movement of this province, Mr. Speaker.

And Mr. Evans was ultimately a candidate for that movement, but he spent thousands of volunteer hours building that movement, Mr. Speaker, as did many men and women in that period, Mr. Speaker. It was a period of political excitement in the history of this province. And it was largely driven by volunteers, Mr. Speaker, a unique contribution in Canada, I would say.

Mr. Speaker, I think about the enormous contribution of volunteers through tough times that have hit this province. And one of the toughest, Mr. Speaker, was the outbreak of Spanish flu in 1918.

And I think about the fact, Mr. Speaker, that in Saskatoon during that epidemic, there were hundreds of people who volunteered to distribute food throughout the city, to assist those who were ill, Mr. Speaker. We had great leadership, I might say, during that time. It was the time of Saskatoon's first medical health officer, Mr. Speaker, who worked almost ceaselessly day and night with the sick. And, Mr. Speaker, he succumbed to the Spanish flu for a time himself; fortunately he recovered.

But he was assisted, Mr. Speaker, by many, many volunteers in the city who were distributing food to the needy, who were helping families in which all members of the family were sick and needed support from outside the home, Mr. Speaker. That was one of the other important volunteer contributions that was made that I think deserves recognition in this Assembly.

Well, Mr. Speaker, those are just some of the early contributions that were made. And I want to say that it's those kinds of contributions, Mr. Speaker, that we saw continue to make a difference in the life of our province.

We often recognize, Mr. Speaker, and rightly praise this Assembly and the Douglas government for some of the pioneering legislation they passed. What we should not lose sight of, Mr. Speaker, is that so many of those pioneering pieces of legislation were made possible by the volunteer efforts of movements across this province, movements that wanted . . . movements in the arts, Mr. Speaker, that wanted to see an arts board established in Saskatchewan. And we established the first arts board in North America. But that was made possible, Mr. Speaker, through the volunteer efforts of artists across our province, Mr. Speaker, who dreamed that vision. And the Douglas government made it possible, Mr. Speaker, and it's a vision that I'm proud of.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, the unique contribution that Saskatchewan has made in establishing, first, universal hospitalization and, second, universal medicare, Mr. Speaker . . . that was made possible not only by the outstanding work of the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] and NDP governments of the day, but by the work of hundreds and hundreds of volunteers across this province who ceaselessly pursued the principle of a publicly funded and publicly administered health care system.

And we saw that develop first of all, Mr. Speaker, in the Swift

Current region of the province of Saskatchewan. And much of what drove that, Mr. Speaker, was volunteers. And we saw, Mr. Speaker, hundreds of volunteers in the CCF and New Democratic parties who worked and pursued the principle of a publicly funded and publicly administered health care system. So not only was this contribution made possible by government, Mr. Speaker, it was made possible by volunteers — not only volunteers in political parties, but volunteers in the health care sector, Mr. Speaker, who made a unique contribution not only to life in Saskatchewan, but to life in North America by making possible, Mr. Speaker, the unique contribution of a publicly funded, publicly administered medicare system in Canada that all started here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think about the volunteer contribution in Saskatoon that made the Meewasin Valley Authority possible. And I was in this legislature, Mr. Speaker, in 1979 when the legislation was passed to establish the Meewasin Valley Authority. It was a very exciting partnership, Mr. Speaker, that has really, I think, one of the best illustrations of volunteerism in all of Saskatchewan . . . is the work of the Meewasin Valley Authority. And I'm very proud today, Mr. Speaker, to be the Minister Responsible for the MVA [Meewasin Valley Authority] in this province.

But what I want to highlight, Mr. Speaker, is that the partnership that was created with the province of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan and the city of Saskatoon agreeing to work together to protect our riverbank and enhance our riverbank, what has . . . despite the enormous importance of the work of those three parties, what has really allowed the MVA to flourish is the involvement of thousands of volunteers in the city of Saskatoon over the years — on everything from riverbank cleanup, Mr. Speaker, to the dozens of public events that happen each year in Saskatoon along the river and have for the last 25 years now as a result of the work of the MVA, Mr. Speaker, to the protected lands that have been established.

I think about Wanuskewin and its development, Mr. Speaker, much of which was driven by volunteer work as well as important paid work both by First Nations and also by the University of Saskatchewan. So I think the MVA, Mr. Speaker, is an outstanding example of volunteerism.

And today in Saskatoon we have a unique trail system that is I think the best riverbank trail system you'll ever find anywhere in Canada. And government at the provincial level has invested in a significant way in that trail system. But what's particularly noticeable is the outstanding fundraising efforts that have been made by volunteers working for the Meewasin Valley Authority that has contributed very significantly to the capital investment that was made in that trail system, Mr. Speaker. So it's a great example of local government, provincial government, our university, and volunteers working together, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to highlight some of the important events that are going to be coming up in our centennial, Mr. Speaker. And again, Mr. Speaker, many of these events are made possible by volunteers.

I had the pleasure, Mr. Speaker, of attending one of them last night. It was a Sask Sport's event. And at the Sask Sport event which was attended by at least 600 people, Mr. Speaker, it was

the success that was being celebrated at last night's event where five of our outstanding athletes in this province were honoured, and several of our volunteer coaches and officials were also honoured, Mr. Speaker, including two from my own constituency of Saskatoon Greystone.

That event, Mr. Speaker, again epitomized the best of volunteerism in our province. I can venture to say that at least half of those present were volunteers, Mr. Speaker. And it's really volunteers that are at the heart of our amateur sport system in Saskatchewan.

And I believe, Mr. Speaker, as a result of that volunteer investment, Saskatchewan is blessed with the best amateur sport system in all of Canada, Mr. Speaker. It's an outstanding sport system, Mr. Speaker, and it provides enormous opportunity for young people in this province to grow as individuals, to perform in outstanding ways athletically, Mr. Speaker, but also to mature and contribute themselves in major ways to the development of Saskatchewan.

And so last night's celebration was very exciting, Mr. Speaker, and it's just typical of the events that we're going to be able to enjoy throughout our centennial year.

[16:15]

Mr. Speaker, I want to just say that we can look forward to Saskatchewan Heritage Day, which will be held on March 22 at St. Francis School. And, Mr. Speaker, again in addition to the contribution of our school division employees, volunteers will play an important role at that event.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, of course, Mr. Speaker, will be in Saskatoon on March 31. And again, Mr. Speaker, volunteers will play an important role in making that event possible.

We will have the celebrate Saskatchewan on Ice event on April 2, Mr. Speaker, at Sask Place or what is called now Credit Union Centre. And there will be over 1,000 Saskatchewan figure skaters performing, Mr. Speaker, at that event. And again, so much of that event, Mr. Speaker, is going to be made possible by volunteers. And, Mr. Speaker, that can be said for every one of the exciting events that is going to be held in our centennial year, Mr. Speaker.

Just in July alone, we already have 300 homecomings planned in the province, Mr. Speaker, all made possible through the work of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely excited about our centennial celebrations. It's a great opportunity to recognize the outstanding endeavours of the last 100 years. It's also a great opportunity to think about contributions in the future. And, Mr. Speaker, when I dream about the future, I think about the contribution, Mr. Speaker, that volunteers will make in the future to building the environmental movement in this province, Mr. Speaker, which has largely been sustained by volunteers over the last 30 years, Mr. Speaker, and has already helped to shape government policy in many important areas, Mr. Speaker.

I think, for instance, about the initiatives that our government

has taken in the last three years in wind power, Mr. Speaker. And we now have 22 megawatts of wind power electricity in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. The lobby for that, Mr. Speaker, is at least 20 years old and it's been made possible by organizations like the Saskatchewan Environmental Society that have lobbied for wind power to become an important part of our electrical generation mix in this province for a very long time, Mr. Speaker.

And I see a future, Mr. Speaker, in this province, where wind will play a much greater role. I dream of a province, Mr. Speaker, where wind and solar and other renewable energy sources will be the main source of energy in the future, Mr. Speaker. And I believe that that policy vision will not only be driven by this NDP government but will be driven, Mr. Speaker, by volunteers in our community.

I had the pleasure, Mr. Speaker, of working for several years for an organization called Saskatoon Communities for Children. And it was, Mr. Speaker, a bringing together of people from various government departments and agencies that serve children. But most significantly of all, Mr. Speaker, it was an organization that was made possible through the contribution of volunteer representatives who devoted their time, Mr. Speaker — many, many, many hours every month — to working on public policy initiatives that would better serve children and families in Saskatoon. And when I think of some of the policies that we have put in place in government in the last few years, Mr. Speaker, these again have been driven by the work of volunteers.

I think of the outstanding initiative that SaskTel took a few years ago, Mr. Speaker, 1997, ensuring that telephone service would be made available to the poor in our communities, Mr. Speaker. And to begin with, Mr. Speaker, all social assistance recipients, for instance, were guaranteed by this government to have basic telephone service, Mr. Speaker. And there were policy changes made by SaskTel that made it easier for families that were carrying debt on their telephones that hadn't been paid off to get their phone service back, Mr. Speaker. If they took local service only with no long-distance privileges, they could re-establish a phone in their home. And there were some 12,000 new phones hooked up in this province as a result of that.

But, Mr. Speaker, what made that possible? Well it was made possible in part by the good work of staff in SaskTel and Social Services. But above all it was made possible by the volunteer efforts, Mr. Speaker, of people from inner-city community associations in Saskatoon who became part of a policy committee that met on dozens of occasions to develop the strategy, Mr. Speaker. It was made possible, Mr. Speaker, through volunteer representatives from First Nations organizations in the city of Saskatoon who volunteered to be on that committee and to serve, Mr. Speaker, and to think about how government could put in place policies that would better serve First Nations and Métis families in our city, Mr. Speaker.

It was those volunteers who ultimately gathered the stories, Mr. Speaker, that spoke to the need for local telephone service in the homes of every person in our province, Mr. Speaker, and the need for policies that would help facilitate that. So it was an outstanding volunteer effort, Mr. Speaker, that again I think needs to be recognized in this legislature. And I think, Mr.

Speaker, part of the richness of this province and of our work is that we have creatively combined the efforts of local government and our provincial government with the outstanding contribution of volunteers, Mr. Speaker. And that has made for some of the most creative public policy that you'll see being developed anywhere in North America, Mr. Speaker. And I think that's one of the things that we can be very, very proud of in our centennial year.

Mr. Speaker, it's been a pleasure to take part in this debate and I want to urge all members of the Assembly to support the subamendment. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — I'd like to thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my mixed pleasure today to speak on the subamendment and the amendment and the motion, if I can describe it that way. The subamendment recognizing volunteers, volunteerism, the volunteer sector in Saskatchewan. I think this is very fitting in this our centennial year, our year of Saskatchewan being 100 years as a province because after all it was the pioneers of Saskatchewan who in an amazing display of neighbour helping neighbour, of volunteerism, of working together, that really built the building blocks of our province. Whether we're talking in name the village or hamlet or town or city in Saskatchewan, all of it, the foundation is built on neighbours helping neighbours, on volunteers.

My colleague spoke about telephones and I'm reminded of a great many barbed wire telephone corporations that had been put together over the years. They were volunteer. It was a way of getting telephone services, particularly in rural Saskatchewan, from neighbour to neighbour. And that has grown until the condensed version, Mr. Speaker, is that that barb wire telephone system has grown and amalgamated to the point that today we have SaskTel which is just the sweetest, the greatest little telephone company in the universe. It is one of the top 50 corporations in Canada to work at. It is a corporation that we're very, very proud of.

Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking to the volunteer sector. And I said in my very, very opening remarks I said it was with mixed feelings that I was speaking to that. And I say that because what we have originally was a motion that recognized 100 years of progress, a motion that recognized our collective — members on the other side and members on this side and people who aren't even in this Legislative Assembly — it recognized our collective history.

The motion recognized, the original motion recognized our collective history, our collective past. It was an opportunity to celebrate 100 years and all of the wonderful things that we've done, and an opportunity to recognize that things aren't perfect. That's why part of the original motion was talking about the future, talking about the future.

It was a wide open motion that allowed members to speak with great affection hopefully to the past because we owe a huge debt to our pioneers, to the volunteers that built this province

into what it is. And my bet is in Saskatchewan we're going to owe a huge amount to volunteers in the future. Why do I say that? Because that's who we are. We cannot change who we are as Saskatchewan people.

But I see the members opposite wanted to change it. Only the Sask Party could take a motion, a once-in-a-century opportunity to celebrate our great and historic past and turn it into a cheap shopping list, a cheap shopping list. And that's a shame, that's a tragedy. Once a century we have an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, once a century.

And I am so proud of our province. I am so proud of what we have accomplished together. I am so proud of people here. There's so many memories that I have even growing up and there's memories that come from even before that. But, Mr. Speaker, it's . . . I guess the best way I can say is I'm honoured to have had a small opportunity to talk about our volunteers. I'm honoured to have had an opportunity to talk a little bit about Saskatchewan. I will be supporting the subamendment. I don't expect I'll be supporting the amendment, and I do expect I'll be supporting the main motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the subamendment to the main amendment, which has been moved . . . The subamendment has been moved by the member for Regina Wascana Plains, seconded by the member for Saskatoon Centre, and it reads:

I move to amend the amendment to the centennial motion, by adding after "raises in revenue" in the last line in the amendment:

(100) recognize the contributions of the voluntary sector.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the subamendment?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Debate now resumes on the amendment to the main motion. The question before the Assembly is the amendment to the centennial motion, the amendment being the one moved by the member for Canora-Pelly, seconded by the member for Moosomin. Will the members take it as read?

Some Hon. Members: — No.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I will then conduct the vote. The motion once again is a vote on the subamendment . . . pardon me, a motion on the amendment moved by the member for Canora-Pelly, seconded by the member for Moosomin. Those who favour the amendment say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those who oppose the amendment say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the nos have it. Call in the members for a standing vote.

[The division bells rang from 16:29 until 16:36.]

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. We will now conduct the vote on the amendment to the centennial year motion as amended. That is the one that has been moved by the member for Canora-Pelly, seconded by the member for Moosomin. Those who favour the motion please rise.

Just to clarify that, I will repeat that we are voting on the amendment as amended.

[Yeas — 23]

Wall	Toth	Elhard
D'Autremont	Krawetz	Hermanson
Bjornerud	Stewart	Wakefield
Chisholm	McMorris	Harpauer
Bakken	Cheveldayoff	Huyghebaert
Allchurch	Brkich	Weekes
Kerpan	Morgan	Dearborn
Hart	Kirsch	

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the amendment as amended, please rise. Order please. Order. Order. Order.

[Nays — 28]

Calvert	Addley	Lautermilch
Hagel	Van Mulligen	Serby
Atkinson	Cline	Sonntag
Crofford	Prebble	Forbes
Wartman	Belanger	Higgins
Thomson	Nilson	Beatty
Hamilton	Junor	Harper
Iwanchuk	McCall	Quennell
Trew	Yates	Taylor
Borgerson		

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. Order.

Clerk Assistant (Committees): — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 23; those opposed, 28.

The Speaker: — I declare the amendment lost. Debate then resumes on the main motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Swift Current.

I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to join in on the debate of the main motion now, now that the amended motion was defeated, which really I think is probably the story of this whole debate. When 100 ideas are put forward . . . Actually I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker; there are 99 ideas put forward.

One was put forward by the government members. And we heard four speakers speak on the absolute wonderment of the volunteers that we have in our province and we supported that 100 per cent. But what did 29 or 30 members on that side of the House say? Twenty-eight members voted against the words they just spoke about volunteers in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Can you understand the logic of that to stand in the House and use up at least two to three hours of time talking about the virtues of volunteers in this province and then not two minutes later stand and vote against the very words that those members spoke about, Mr. Speaker. Talk about the height of hypocrisy. Talk about the height of gimmickry, Mr. Speaker. Each and every one of them stood and voted against the words from Regina Wascana Plains, the words from . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order, please. Order, please. Why is the member from Regina Lakeview on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — Leave has been requested for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you to all of the members of the legislature, Mr. Tony Ianno, who's in behind the bar with us here. He's the Minister of State in the federal government for families and caregivers, and he is here in Saskatchewan to talk to quite a number of people about issues that relate to that particular role. And so, he's met with the member for Regina Rosemont in her role as the minister and he's going to be meeting with me later today.

I think it's important, Mr. Speaker, that we acknowledge him and recognize that there are some good things that are being done in a co-operative basis in our confederation.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The Leader of the Opposition has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, very briefly but sincerely, on behalf of the official opposition, we would like to join with the Minister of Health in welcoming the Minister of State to the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

We'll be very interested in the work that he is doing in his

department, his portfolio. And indeed, we'll be interested in the progress he makes with discussions he's obviously having with the provincial government. We would join with the government in welcoming him here to Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ADJOURNED DEBATES

MOTIONS

Saskatchewan Centennial

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying, it's very ironic that they would stand and vote against the very words that they just spoke regarding volunteerism and stand en masse and vote against that.

But it's also interesting, as we have guests in the House, in looking at some of the other issues that this government — this NDP government, the government with social conscience — voted against.

You know, I look at item no. 3, idea no. 3 under social policy: increasing the food allowance for social assistance recipients. They voted against it en masse. And I think it's very interesting that the guest that was just introduced, what he has to say about that.

When you've got a government that hasn't increased social assistance allowance for 20 years and we put a motion in front of the House that they can support and every one of those members — from the inner city of Regina to the inner city of Saskatoon, the member from Prince Albert — all voted against. The Premier that represents one of the lowest income constituencies in this province, Mr. Speaker, stands in his place . . . We know exactly what he says now. He is not in favour of raising the assistance for people on social assistance, the food allowance for people that are on social assistance, Mr. Speaker.

[16:45]

That is just unbelievable that each one of those members would stand in their place and vote against 99 different ideas — actually 100 different ideas; one of them put forward by their own members — spoke on by three different members of this House and then voted against it.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that would have to go down in history that you'd put forward a motion and then vote against it. We would put forward a motion and stand for three or four hours and listen to them talk about the virtues of volunteerism and then say, you know, quite frankly I guess we didn't mean any of that. We didn't mean any of that because we cannot support it, Mr. Speaker.

They cannot support many, many different ideas that were put forward. Whether it was ideas in agriculture, such as reviewing crop insurance program with the view to expanding coverage. Mr. Speaker, they don't agree with that. The Minister of

Agriculture, the member from Regina Qu'Appelle, I'm sure all the farmers in his constituency would be very interested to know his real stance on crop insurance. His real stance on crop insurance is that it's just perfectly fine the way it is. We're going to keep increasing the premiums and we're going to reduce coverage and that's just perfectly fine. He's not in favour of reviewing crop insurance to make it a better program to meet the needs of farmers that have just come through two of the worst years in history with the frost that we received last year and the drought that we received the year before.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to going through each and every one of these 99 ideas and showing how it relates to the true feelings of this NDP government. I see the minister of Education, the member from Regina South, rolling his eyes.

Well let's see what some of the different ideas in education has to say. I remember . . . Just briefly I'll go to education for example. Item no. 27. Let's look at item no. 27 and see what the minister of Education would have against this idea, Mr. Speaker, because he voted against it. We know he voted against it. Item no. 27 talks about increasing funding for K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] education to provide short- and long-term property tax relief.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think every one of us that campaigned in 2003, that went door to door, we all heard the issues of property tax. I think every one of us heard the issues of property tax and the fact that we're relying far too much on property tax to fund education. So for example, if a idea came forward that we should reduce the reliance of property tax by funding education through other sources, you would think the minister of Education would stand in his place and vote for that idea. But not a chance. It was an emphatic no, when he had the opportunity to vote on an idea to reduce property tax in this province, Mr. Speaker.

There's many other ideas, such as the implementation of the School^{PLUS} program. Mr. Speaker, the implementation of the School^{PLUS} program is an idea that was put forward by this very government. They stood and they talked about the virtues of School^{PLUS}, Mr. Speaker, and they continue to talk about the virtues of School^{PLUS} but they don't really mean it because they can't support an idea that talks about putting School^{PLUS} into every school division in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I hear the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote speaking quite a bit and trying to enter into the . . . trying to enter into the debate. Now, Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the member from P.A. Northcote did not support the 100 ideas, because there wasn't one potato idea in the 100 ideas, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. McMorris: — I am quite positive that if we would have talked about investing another \$34 million in potatoes in our province, he would have stood in his spot and supported it, Mr. Speaker. But because we did not talk about potatoes, because we did not talk about a \$34 million loss to our taxpayers, I can understand why he couldn't support it, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let's see who else. Now the Minister of

Rural Revitalization, let's talk . . . oh, the Minister of Labour. Let's talk about the Minister of Labour. That would be the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow. I know there's a couple things in the 100 ideas that would directly relate to some of the things that she truly believes in. But for some reason, she was unable to vote for some of the ideas. And I'm just going to labour. And number 71 is a good one; I think she would enjoy reading number 71. Seventy-one says . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. I'd like to bring to the member's attention a reference in Marleau and Montpetit on page 524, leading into page 525, the essence of which is that once a vote has been taken on a matter, debate on that ought to be ceased and closed. So I would ask the member who is . . . any members on the floor speaking to the main motion, that any remarks they make be made relevant to the main motion. I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, you bet. We are celebrating the 100 years in our province, and we look at the accomplishments that we've seen in our province. But from this side of the House we look at so much more this province can be within the next 100 years. In fact we look at the next 100 years as the real time that this province is going to hit its stride. But in order to hit its stride, Mr. Speaker, we think a certain amount of things have to change in this province.

Such as idea no. 71 for example, to improve the province over the next 100 years. We've come so far in the first 100 but to improve it over the next 100 years, I think idea no. 71 in the defeated amendment would be a great idea to springboard this province into the new century. I mean, it's not good enough to just say idea no. 71 because there's a lot of people, for example, that are watching the legislative channel, that wouldn't have any idea what no. 71 would mean.

So I want to say that item no. 71 talks about establishing, not only the people in . . . that are watching this, but also the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow who stands for labour and is a strong advocate of labour in this province — and I agree with a lot that she says, I agree with an awful lot that she says — and I think she will agree with me when I quote no. 71, “establish fair and balanced legislation that respects the collective bargaining process and removes barriers to investment, job creation, and economic growth,” Mr. Speaker.

Now I don't know what in that idea the Minister of Labour would disagree with. Because I think if she looked at each and every word, she would realize that for the next 100 years of our province to be a progressive place that we all want on this side of the House, and I think on that side of the House, she would have to agree that that would be good for the province.

Mr. Speaker, we heard when the Premier was speaking about some of the initiatives and some of the legislation that was passed first here in our province, some of the things that we stand for in our province, and I would believe that fair and reasonable collective bargaining would be one of them. But unfortunately the government side decided that wasn't what they could support, which is really quite outstanding. Unbelievable really is what it is.

But, you know, there's so many things. And as the Health critic for the official opposition I'd be remiss not talking about some of the different ideas that we need to have put in place so our province can be the model in this dominion and in the next 100 years.

Because quite frankly, when we started 100 years ago in 1905, the expectations of this province were huge. It's been said before, the building was built because we expected a population, the first Premier of this province expected a population to be in the 4, the 5, the 6 million people mark. And here we are still hovering around the million people. And unfortunately over the last number of years under NDP government, we've fallen below the million mark.

But the province is supposed to be doing so very, very well, Mr. Speaker. And what we are saying is that when you look at our province and the potential of our province, and you hear of some of the horror stories that we deal with on our side of the House and, I know, no doubt, come from their side of the House, regarding health care, for example, we need to look at how we have been doing things in this province over the last 100 years and what we need to make this province the leader in Canada over the next 100 years. And there are a couple of ideas that I think would really be of interest to the . . . I believe there's only eight MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Saskatoon now. There's certainly eight NDP MLAs from Saskatoon now. There was a few more prior to the last provincial election but that dropped a little bit.

But there's a couple of issues regarding health care and I'm just leafing through them to find out the one issue that talks about a children's hospital in Saskatoon. I would like to I guess . . . Many people in Saskatoon would like to understand why the member from Saskatoon Nutana would vote against a children's hospital in Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. They would ask many members on that side, former Health ministers that are sitting on that side that would realize the need for a children's hospital and the importance of a children's hospital and what that would look like in our province as far as setting us as an example, as a destination for people, so people tend to look at us as a place to come to — Saskatchewan, that is — as opposed to a place to come from, which is unfortunately all too often the case.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many ideas that are put forward, that when you go on them one by one . . . And I look at the members on the opposite side talking about how they can't support it. There's an idea that comes forward that talks about highways in the North and the importance of transportation in the North. And then the two members from northern Saskatchewan that this would most benefit — the member from Cumberland and the member from Athabasca — standing in this House and voting against the fact that we need to improve transportation in the North. Now, Mr. Speaker, the next time they're in their constituencies I hope they have to answer the question: why in the world would you vote against an idea like that, Mr. Speaker?

And you know it's not that necessarily these had to come into place next year or the year after or the year after. The whole point of these ideas are to set a direction for this province. Now perhaps they don't want to see the North with better transportation. Perhaps they don't want to see a children's

hospital in Saskatoon. Perhaps they don't want to see education property tax lowered. These are directions. These are ideas for our province to move in.

Do they have to implement them this year or next year? Maybe not. But they certainly need to look at where our province needs to go so that in the next 100 years we are number one in Canada, not lagging behind as we so often are.

You know, when you look at job growth in this province, we are second only to Newfoundland for the poorest job creation record across the nation. There are many, many great ideas in the motion that they just passed that would set them on the track so that job creation was a priority, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister of Finance rail on about how he couldn't support this because there wasn't anything about balanced budgets. Well I disagree with that. But if he was so upset, he could have been like the member from Regina Wascana Plains, put an amendment in like she did with volunteers. He could have put one in about balanced budgets, but then he would have had to vote against it, Mr. Speaker, because it just didn't matter.

So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move adjournment of the main motion regarding the centennial . . . No, I would just end my speaking right now on the centennial motion.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Swift Current, Leader of the Opposition:

That this Legislative Assembly mark the first sitting in our centennial year by honouring Saskatchewan — our rich history of traditions and diverse cultural fabric that have developed, that have helped to shape our identity; our innovative thinking and inventiveness that built the province and helped to define Canada over the past 100 years; our community spirit and collective pride; our past accomplishments and future opportunities; and all of our people, places, and perspectives that will provide the foundation to build a bright and prosperous future for Saskatchewan.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — I will then call the question. Those in favour of the motion say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those who oppose the motion say no.

The Speaker: — There being no nos, I declare that the motion is carried unanimously. Call in the members for a standing vote.

[The division bells rang from 17:00 to 17:03.]

The Speaker: — Order, please. The question before the Assembly is the motion with respect to the centennial, honouring Saskatchewan during its centennial year, moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition. Will the members take it as written?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 51]

Calvert	Addley	Lautermilch
Hagel	Van Mulligen	Serby
Atkinson	Cline	Sonntag
Crofford	Prebble	Forbes
Wartman	Belanger	Higgins
Thomson	Nilson	Beatty
Hamilton	Junor	Harper
Iwanchuk	McCall	Quennell
Trew	Yates	Taylor
Borgerson	Wall	Toth
Elhard	D'Autremont	Krawetz
Hermanson	Bjornerud	Stewart
Wakefield	Chisholm	McMorris
Harpauer	Bakken	Cheveldayoff
Huyghebaert	Allchurch	Brkich
Weekes	Kerpan	Morgan
Dearborn	Hart	Kirsch

The Speaker: — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays - nil]

Clerk: — Those in favour of the motion, 51; those opposed, nil.

The Speaker: — I declare the motion carried.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — *Nemine contradicente*, meaning without anybody opposed.

It now being past the hour of 5 o'clock, I declare that this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:06.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Elhard	2073
D’Autremont	2073
Wall	2073
Hermanson	2073
Stewart	2073
Eagles	2073
Huyghebaert	2074
Brkich	2074
Weekes	2074
Kerpan	2074
Dearborn	2074
Hart	2074

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk	2074
--------------------	------

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Brkich	2075
Dearborn	2075

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Forbes	2075
Hart	2075
Belanger	2075
Iwanchuk	2075
Van Mulligen	2093
Nilson	2102
Wall	2102

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Young Professionals Conference Held in Saskatoon	
Cheveldayoff	2075
St. Patrick’s Day Greetings	
Hamilton	2076
Brkich	2076
Z99 Radiothon	
Trew	2076
Stars of Life Award Recipient	
Weekes	2077
Saskatchewan Athletes of the Year Awards	
Belanger	2077
Business Growth in Indian Head	
McMorris	2077

ORAL QUESTIONS

Incentives for the Livestock Industry	
Wall	2078
Serby	2078
Testing for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	
Bjornerud	2079
Wartman	2079
Privacy Guidelines and the Automobile Injury Appeal Commission’s Website	
Morgan	2081
Quennell	2081

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Kickoff of Green Team Program	
Beatty	2083
Eagles	2083

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 90 — The Adult Guardianship and Co-decision-making Amendment Act, 2005	
Quennell	2083
Bill No. 91 — The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2005	
Cline	2083
Bill No. 92 — The International Protection of Adults (Hague Convention Implementation) Act	
Loi de mise en oeuvre de la Convention de la Haye sur la protection internationale des adultes	
Quennell	2084

Bill No. 93 — The Doukhobors of Canada C.C.U.B. Trust Fund Amendment Act, 2005	
Beatty	2084
TABLING OF REPORTS	
The Speaker	2084
MOTION UNDER RULE 49	
United States Border Closing to Canadian Cattle	
Wartman	2084
Bjornerud	2087
Serby	2089
Stewart	2091
GOVERNMENT ORDERS	
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
MOTIONS	
Saskatchewan Centennial	
Forbes	2093
Kerpan	2096
Atkinson (point of order)	2096
Morgan (point of order)	2096
Prebble	2098
Trew	2101
Recorded Division (amendment)	2102
McMorris	2102
Recorded Division (motion)	2105

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Premier

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