



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

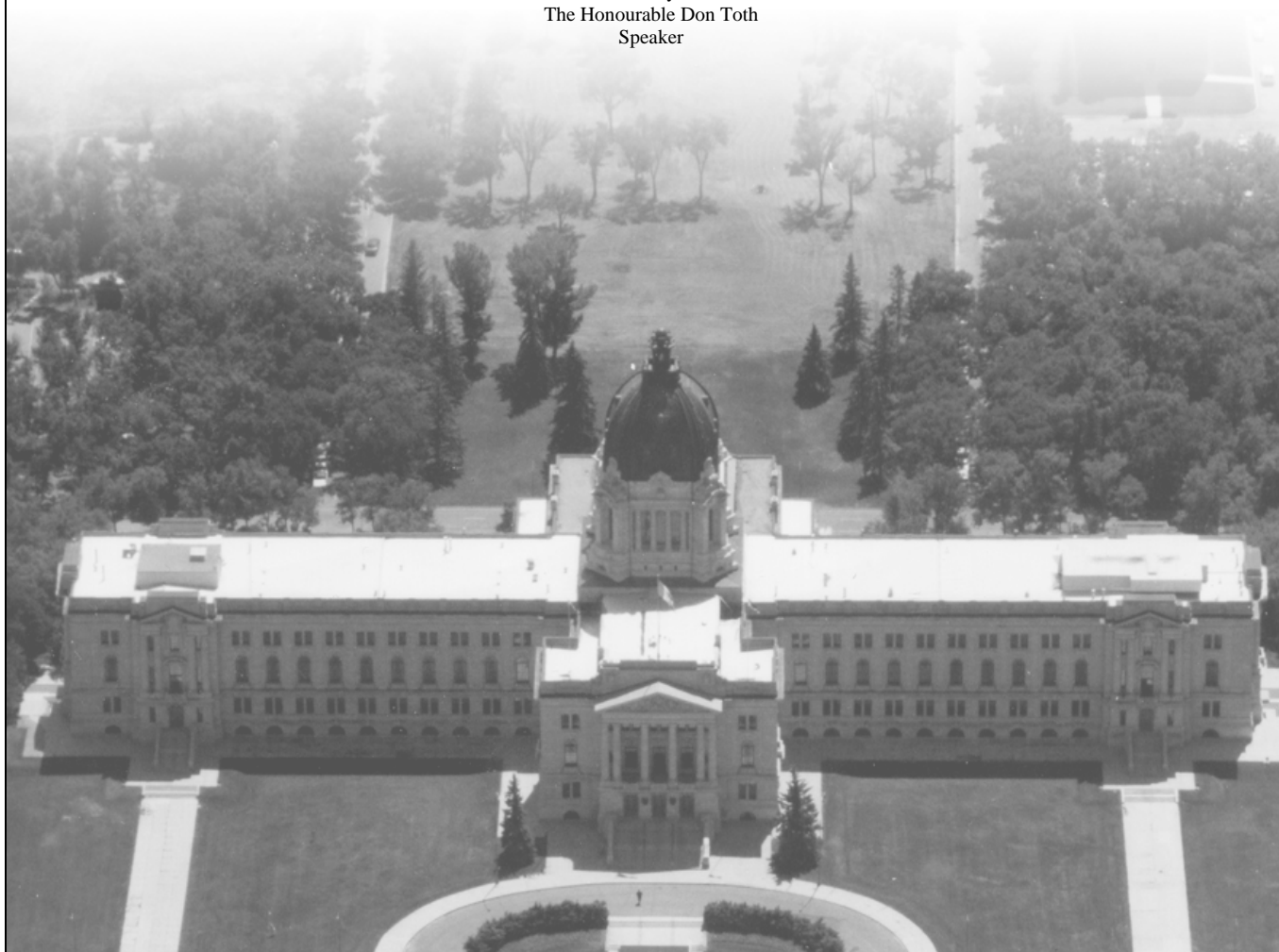
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)  
Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — Lorne Calvert

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Calvert, Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serge	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Assembly a group of students who come from a school that had visited here before, and we're always delighted to see them. This is a group of 29 grade 8 students who are seated in the main in the east gallery, and I think two on the floor behind the bar.

They come from the Regina Christian School. They're accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Geoff Glasspell, and by Mrs. Tanya Foster. I look forward to meeting with this group after question period. I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in extending a very warm welcome to this group of students and their teacher and chaperones. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

#### United Way Recognizes Saskatoon Citizens

**Mr. LeClerc:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of two very special people who are members of my constituency, Wally and Colleen Mah. On November 22, the United Way of Saskatoon honoured Wally and Colleen for their citizenship, their philanthropy, and their community spirit. The Dinner Date is the premier event for the United Way of Saskatoon and is designed to recognize outstanding leadership in our community.

The Mahs have contributed to the Saskatoon community through their involvement on numerous boards and charities such as the United Way, Saskatoon city foundation, Children's Wish Foundation, Tamara's House, the Royal University Hospital, and the Saskatoon Community Foundation. On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, without his assistance on a 24-bed expansion to Teen Challenge Saskatchewan as a project manager, many young men might be in prison or dead today from their addictions.

The community of Saskatoon indeed showed their appreciation of this remarkable couple with more than 600 people in attendance at the Dinner Date, and the event raised over \$120,000 for the United Way. This is the largest-attended dinner in the United Way history and raised more money than ever before. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all of the members to join me in congratulating Wally and Colleen Mah for their role in making Saskatoon a stronger community.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

#### Tribute to Late Senator Miles Venne

**Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago the North and Saskatchewan lost a great First Nations leader, an elder, in the passing of Senator Myles Venne of La Ronge.

Senator Venne was born in a log cabin on the trapline and educated at the All Saints Residential School. Later he, along with his two brothers Edgar and George, worked as hunting guides in the North. Mr. Speaker, Senator Venne served as the chief of the La Ronge Indian Band for 14 years. He was then appointed as a senator of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, serving 18 years until his recent illness and passing.

He spent his early years advocating, organizing, and negotiating with provincial and federal governments, constantly pushing for access to education and employment for his people. Senator Venne was often quoted as saying, "I don't want to see my people go hungry any more." He worked diligently, developing the foundations for the many successful business ventures the Lac La Ronge Indian Band now owns and operates today. Senator Venne understood the way out of poverty for his people was through education, training, employment, and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Venne may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. I ask my colleagues in the House today to join me in extending our condolences to his wife, Mary, and the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

#### Recognizing Saskatchewan Rivers Constituents

**Ms. Wilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge Mike Doyle of Garrick who had his 90th birthday this past November. Mike is one of 13 children born to Matt and Elizabeth Doyle of White Fox. Mike and his wife, Evelyn, now have 8 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

This past month Hugh and Audrey King from the Smeaton area were also honoured by friends and family as they marked their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to recognize these outstanding Saskatchewan citizens of Saskatchewan Rivers constituency.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Support for Abused Women and Children

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight an individual in a program striving to effect positive change for

mothers and children who are afflicted by environments of domestic violence and abuse.

Maggie Blondeau is the program manager of Riel House, a new 11-suite housing program and administered through Gabriel Housing, serving the needs of women and children fleeing violence. Mr. Speaker, both Ms. Blondeau and Riel House are committed to meeting the needs of families fleeing violence through providing a rich environment of supportive relationships and care. The program offers access to a family support worker, liaison and links to programs that support within the community, therapeutic treatment and support groups, and many fun, healthy family events.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Blondeau takes pride in her work and notes that no one can ever be free if contained within a context of violence. She offers a wealth of personal and professional experience. She says that her philosophy is one of working with, not for, and believes that firm but fair structures and rules are essential to foster empowerment and long-lasting change.

I ask the members of the Assembly to join with me in commending Gabriel Housing and Maggie Blondeau for their community leadership. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

#### Saskatchewan Joins The Energy Council

**Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that Saskatchewan is now an official member of The Energy Council.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Harrison:** — Saskatchewan will join several other oil- and gas-producing provinces in membership. In opposition the Saskatchewan Party lobbied the former government to have our great province represented at this important forum, but the NDP, being the NDP, were like the cheap neighbours on the block who wanted to go to the meetings for free and get all the benefits of membership. It is now in government that the Saskatchewan Party proudly announces that Saskatchewan has been welcomed into this association.

The Minister of Energy and Resources will be attending The Energy Council quarterly conference for the next few days. Saskatchewan is an energy powerhouse and our full membership into this group reinforces our province as a secure and reliable energy supplier to the United States.

Last week Saskatchewan had a record land sale for oil and gas exploration and development. A whopping \$250 million worth of land was sold, shattering the old record. Saskatchewan has an exciting future ahead of it as a major international energy producer, and involvement in The Energy Council will be part of that future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Massey Place.

#### Arts Training Program for Saskatoon Youth

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On December 7 I had the honour of attending the graduation ceremony and final exhibit of Urban Canvas VII. Urban Canvas is one of the many quality programs offered by Saskatoon Community Arts Programming Inc., more commonly known as SCYAP [Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming Inc.]. Urban Canvas is a 34-week intensive program of arts training for youth aged 16 to 30 facing multiple barriers to employment. Training in arts skills is accompanied by sessions on personal and professional development, job skills, health, and literacy.

Mr. Speaker, I was truly impressed by the variety of works and the artistic skill evident through the students' art. I was equally impressed to hear from the youth about how they have benefited through completing the Urban Canvas program. It was exciting to hear of their post-graduation plans.

I ask all member to join me in congratulating Alexander Mann-Kuefler, Ashley Morin, Charlene Mususkapoe, Crystal Bendig, David Shingoose, Kimberley Peeququat, and Thora Gudmundson. We wish them all the best and look forward to how they will contribute to our province in the years to come.

I think it is also appropriate to highlight the good, ongoing work done by SCYAP president, Darrell Lechman, and Urban Canvas co-ordinators, Jessie Zoerb, Tammy Krueckl, and Stacey Schmidt. Well done and keep up the good work.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Arm River-Watrous.

#### A Great Lady's Strength and Determination

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my first member's statement of this new term, and I can't think of a better way to start my new term than to honour one of my oldest constituents. On September 17 Mrs. Mary Heintz of Semans, Saskatchewan led the local Terry Fox run in that community. She walked the entire course and personally raised 1,100 of the 1,600 total in pledges, all at the age of 95. And she says next year she plans to be back there again leading that again.

As we all know, each year thousands of volunteers organize Terry Fox run events across Canada and around the world. To date more than 400 million have been raised worldwide for cancer research in Terry's name. The run is a non-competitive event where people can get together to raise money for cancer research. It is also a day of celebrating Terry's legacy and keeping his dream, a cure for cancer, alive. And it's one of the main reasons that Mary participated in the run. She wants to keep that legacy going forever.

The Terry Fox participants, led by Mary, had a very successful day, enjoyed a delicious lunch after the walk. Sharee Blixrud, Anna Runolfson were on the special lunch committee. Marj Marshall organized the walk with assistance from her committee of Josephine Richardson, Edith Sorenson, and

Bertha Paproski. On behalf of the constituents of Arm River-Watrous I would like to personally thank Mrs. Mary Heintz for her efforts, and all the other volunteers in Semans. I know her inspiration in this year's Terry Fox run . . . We should all be inspired by the strength and the determination of this great lady. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### QUESTION PERIOD

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

### Enterprise Saskatchewan

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Many words could be used to describe Enterprise Saskatchewan — spectral, ethereal, insubstantial, hypothetical, and certainly, at least to date, secretive. It seems to be just one of many plans the Sask Party has announced, spoken of many times, and now just can't find or at least can't seem to lay their hands on the details.

But what does the Sask Party platform say, Mr. Speaker? Under the heading in the platform, "Week One," I quote, "There will be terms of reference for Enterprise Saskatchewan."

Well, Mr. Speaker, actions do speak louder than words. To the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation: given the government is now in week six, will they deliver on their week one promise and tell us what the terms are for Enterprise Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the hon. member for his question. The details about Enterprise Saskatchewan and this exciting new approach to economic development in our province were provided in an economic paper that I actually released at the University of Saskatchewan in September 2004, and we've been wanting to talk about it ever since. Interestingly the model is not unlike what the previous NDP [New Democratic Party] government did with respect to Tourism Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership. Enterprise Saskatchewan is going to give this province the chance once and for all to get the NDP politics out of economic development.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — It is the absolute best chance that we have to ensure that our economy remains the most competitive that it can be, the most competitive in the country so that we can attract investment, bring families home to the province of Saskatchewan, all the while engaging the stakeholders in the economy, not just the tired, old, NDP former government, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Premier wishes to brief his minister on Enterprise Saskatchewan in the Legislative Assembly, that might be helpful, if he actually answers the questions. Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party's *Promise to Saskatchewan* document specifies that Enterprise Saskatchewan board will draw from, and I quote, ". . . provincial [government] and local government, industry, First Nations, labour, post secondary institutions, and other economic stakeholders . . ."

As the people of Saskatchewan have come to expect from Sask Party statements on policy, many details remain unclear. The Sask Party's been talking about its group of appointed decision makers since before the last provincial election as the Premier says. Surely they must have selected the members of Enterprise Saskatchewan by now. But only yesterday the Premier let slip that there will be 15 Enterprise Saskatchewans, one for each 15 economic sectors.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: who is on the entity of Enterprise Saskatchewan? How are these people being selected, or how were they selected? How much are they going to be paid? Or should I ask, who is on each one of these 15 entities, and how are they selected; how are they to be paid — if the minister knows who these sectors are.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. The member outlined basically who will be on the board of Enterprise Saskatchewan, and many more details will be forthcoming when our legislation is tabled. And I urge patience to the member. Just a few more sleeps and he'll have all the details.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, is the minister saying that in a few sleeps we'll have the names? Because that's what I asked for — not the categories from which they will select these people. I asked for who the individuals were. Is that what the minister is saying?

Enterprise Saskatchewan represents the Government of Saskatchewan's intention to absolve itself from its responsibility in governing as it relates to the economy of this province. Instead they will leave this to a group of unelected, appointed Sask Party appointees.

During the course of the election, even leading up to the election, the Premier said that Enterprise Saskatchewan will be up and running within a week, should they win government. That meant the board had to be already picked and ready to go. Yet here we are more than a month from the election and still little sign of Enterprise Saskatchewan. Yet another case of say

one thing and do another. They must have determined the composition of the board. Who is on it?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the question from the member as well, but the member seems to have his facts somewhat confused. No one has said that the Enterprise Saskatchewan board would be appointed in a week. That didn't happen, Mr. Speaker, and I don't know where that information came from, but unfortunately it's not correct.

The Enterprise Saskatchewan model will be very much like the NDP's model in Tourism Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, Mr. Speaker. I think the NDP will be very pleased to know that there will be a nomination process. The letters are being drafted right now to the stakeholders of the economy, and we will be accepting nominations, Mr. Speaker, from those stakeholders, and choices will be made based upon those nominations.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — So, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, Enterprise Saskatchewan is up and running. We just don't know who's running it. Mr. Speaker, either that, Mr. Speaker, or the promise was not kept.

Mr. Speaker, it started with the election campaign. On October 25 the member from Swift Current said a review of oil and gas royalties rates would be done immediately if elected, upon election, but done by Enterprise Saskatchewan. Then they got elected, and the newly sworn in Minister of Energy and Resources, who apparently is on winter vacation, agreed that a review would be quite prudent . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order, order. Members know that they're not to refer to presence or absence of members. Remind the member.

**Mr. Quennell:** — I apologize, Mr. Speaker. Then they got elected, and the newly sworn-in Minister of Energy and Resources agreed that a review would be quite prudent and that they were looking to do it in a very short period of time. But the Minister of Energy and Resources said that he could not answer the questions or any questions about royalty rates until he heard from Enterprise Saskatchewan. My question, Minister of Enterprise and Innovations: when will the real Government of Saskatchewan be announced?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to

answer that question as well. We have a process every four years in which a government is chosen. And the people of Saskatchewan spoke loudly and very clearly and forcefully in a substantial voter turnout. The voters have chosen the Government of Saskatchewan, the new Government of Saskatchewan, and the party that will be the Government of Saskatchewan for a very long time, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan voted for a responsible government, for government that . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Quennell:** — They voted for responsible government, Mr. Speaker, but that's not what they're getting. Mr. Speaker, they're getting a government that abdicates its responsibility, Mr. Speaker, that can't ask . . . ministers who can't answer questions until they hear from an appointed group of people who have not yet been appointed, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Speaker, the original 2003 version of Enterprise Saskatchewan was meant to, quote, "... manage the government's existing portfolio of more than 80 business investments." The 2004 version admitted that it would, quote, "... cede significant control over ... economic development ..." Mr. Speaker, we're talking about an unelected group of friends of the Sask Party which will now have significant control . . .

**The Speaker:** — I ask the member to place the question.

**Mr. Quennell:** — . . . control of the province's economy. Can the minister at least indicate whether the Provincial Auditor will have access to Enterprise Saskatchewan's books?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate that question. I appreciate that question from the member because we want to make this crystal clear. Yes is the answer.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the minister for the first direct answer given in this sitting of the legislature.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, can the minister, who is

technically responsible for this entity called Enterprise Saskatchewan, provide us any information about the numbers of members, whether the provincial government is a majority or minority on this board, and who these individuals are going to be?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be giving another clear answer to that member, Mr. Speaker. The answer is you'll find it in the legislation before Christmas — just a few more sleeps. I urge, I urge the member to be less angry and a little more patient.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — I'm very happy, Mr. Speaker, to hear that the legislation is drafted and it has the answers to the questions. I assume the minister has seen the legislation; therefore he knows the answer to the questions. Who are these individuals? When were they selected, and how were they selected?

Mr. Speaker, one of the most prominent features of the Sask Party's election platform is Enterprise Saskatchewan. They cannot give any details about the number of board members or what sectors the companies the members represent. And although they will not give details about the First Nations or other economic stakeholders represented and although they will not give details about how much these people will be paid or how they were selected, they have assured us that Enterprise Saskatchewan will benefit the people of Saskatchewan.

But if, Mr. Speaker, if Enterprise Saskatchewan was as necessary to our province as the Saskatchewan Party says, why did the decisions on essential legislation and the cancelling of the Domtar deal not wait until they heard directions from Enterprise Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was no Domtar deal is the answer to that question.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — The document that that member refers to as a deal was a MOU [memorandum of understanding] that I had the privilege to read, Mr. Speaker, that didn't bind anybody to do anything. And that's the direct answer to that question, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon

Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, if decisions are going to be made of the magnitude that the government is willing to make without consulting anybody, why would the people of Saskatchewan be paying this group of unelected people appointees of the Sask Party government? What is going to be the budget? What is going to be the cost of Enterprise Saskatchewan to give advice that may or may not be disclosed to the legislature because it's not being done by ministers, and may or may not be acted upon depending on what the government's real agenda is, Mr. Speaker?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Enterprise and Innovation.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I urge patience to that member. There's nothing sinister here, Mr. Minister, and that member knows it full well. They're trying to make something out of nothing, Mr. Speaker, and I urge patience. The legislation will be tabled in this Hon. Assembly before we break for Christmas, and that member's questions will all be answered.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

### The Ministry of Health

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, as a prominent political columnist said recently, you couldn't swing a dead cat in the rotunda after Monday's Throne Speech without hitting old Tories. It appears the same can be said about recent appointments made by the member from Swift Current. Gren Smith-Windsor served as Grant Devine's clerk of Executive Council in the mid-'80s. Today he's the acting deputy minister of Health.

My question is for the Minister of Health: was the appointment of Gren Smith-Windsor based on political loyalty or competence?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Health.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I welcome the question. I want to tell this Assembly as well as the people of the province that we have full confidence in Gren Smith-Windsor. He has been involved in the health care industry and system for more than 30 years and has served the public very, very well.

And when you see a new government come into place, you want to review the people that you have in charge. We decided, as far as the Ministry of Health, that we would make some changes. We've brought in somebody that is an interim position while we do a nationwide search that started yesterday, Mr.

Speaker. We look forward to that search bringing in very qualified people. But in the meantime, Gren Smith-Windsor has our confidence.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Gren Smith-Windsor has had a variety of jobs in the health care system. In 2002 he was hired as CEO [chief executive officer] of the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region. He was terminated from that position in 2005. As the P.A. *Herald* put it on Tuesday, Dec. 11, and I quote:

The CEO fired from the local health region in 2005 has found a new — and more high-profile — position.

In November, about two years after the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region terminated Gren Smith-Windsor's contract as CEO, the Saskatchewan Party appointed him as acting deputy minister of health.

Mr. Speaker, people have serious questions about this appointment. As CUPE Local 4777 president Carol McKnight put it when questioning the appointment to the P.A. [Prince Albert] *Herald*, and I quote, "I'm shocked that the government would appoint a CEO of a health region who has just been fired." She went on to say, quote, "People don't get fired for fulfilling their duties."

[10:30]

My question is for the Minister of Health: will the minister put the minds of the people of Saskatchewan at ease and say why Mr. Smith-Windsor was fired and why he believes that to be separate from his ability to act as the deputy minister? And are there any other issues within Gren Smith-Windsor's employment history that the public should be aware of?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my previous answer that Gren Smith-Windsor has the confidence of this government. He is serving in an interim position until a permanent deputy minister is found.

But I find it very curious that the second first question coming to this government, this new government, regarding health care would be dealing with the personnel, the staffings. For years we heard how terrible it was when we were in opposition, that if we would attack any of the civil service. The second question in health care is attacking people that are sitting in an interim position, that was qualified to serve in the health care system for over 30 years, Mr. Speaker. I find it very curious from that opposition.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health can rest assured there'll be lots of questions coming to him from this side of the House over the next little while. But my question today is again about Mr. Gren Smith-Windsor. He's the Premier's replacement for John Wright.

Mr. Wright served as deputy minister of Health since 2004. He began his distinguished career of public service in 1977. John Wright was the consummate civil servant having worked through various administrations diligently and capably. His passion and integrity made him the type of deputy minister that others within the public service could look up to and seek advice from. He provided strong leadership and sound advice to all he served.

Mr. Wright's dismissal has left a large hole in one of the most important portfolios of this province — a hole that cannot be filled by a partisan appointment. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Health state on the record today, why Mr. Wright was dismissed without cause?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to absolutely acknowledge the contribution that John Wright made to this province. He served the province very well in many different areas and most recently in Health. He was under a secondment from SaskPower which was going to be finished by this summer. So, Mr. Speaker, we have decided to move and look for a permanent head, a deputy minister of the Health ministry, and in the interim we have Gren Smith-Windsor.

But I also find it more than curious; this government hasn't learned the lesson because priority number one to people in this province is nurses and doctors on the floor.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — I look forward when the critic stands in this House and starts asking questions regarding recruitment and retention, something that that government, when it was in government, that opposition failed to do miserably over the last 16 years.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the minister can rest assured that there will be many questions along that line, and I'm looking forward to his answers.

The new acting deputy minister will be responsible for some pretty important tasks. Instead of waiting for a permanent deputy minister to be in place, the Saskatchewan Party have



their friend, Mr. Smith-Windsor, undertaking their so-called patient-first review.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party has spent 10 years relentlessly complaining about the Saskatchewan health care system, and now that they are in charge they don't have a clue what to do. They have to audit the system to find out. Who will perform this audit? They don't know. What will the terms of reference or mandate be? To be determined. When will they start or complete their work? Soonish. How much spending are they targeting to save? Not too sure.

Will the Minister of Health today let the people of Saskatchewan in on the details of the patient-first review? Specifically, when will the review get under way? Who will conduct it? And what is the budget for the review?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that question was asked. The health care system is a \$3.4 billion operation, Mr. Speaker. I think that a review of the system is more than required. I'm interested to hear from that opposition then. Do they feel that \$3.4 million, every one of those dollars is being spent — billion dollars — every one of those dollars is being spent appropriately, Mr. Speaker?

I understand that they're a little reluctant when we start talking about reviews. Every four years a government is reviewed, and the last review of that government didn't turn out very well, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, they're worried about layoffs. Well I'll tell you, after the last review on November 7, there's the same amount of people working in this room. There's just a whole lot different focus.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, according to the Sask Party platform, the review will look for ways to direct dollars away from bureaucracy to front-line care. According to the Canadian Institute of Health Information, CIHI, Saskatchewan's admin costs in the health care system are 4 per cent of the total budget — one of the lowest in Canada.

And what did the current deputy leader have to say about the review or the audit two years ago? When confronted by reporters about whether the review would include privatization of health care services, the member from Canora-Pelly said, quote, "I guess it's being ruled out right now." But, quote, "It could or couldn't be in the future."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister state unequivocally that the health

audit will not even consider privatization? And can he state categorically that if the audit recommends privatization or user fees, the government will reject those recommendations?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, over the last number of years, we've talked about a patient-first review. It's met with great expectation from the public, but not only the general public. People within the system are saying day in and day out, there are efficiencies to be found within the system.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked to SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses], and we'll continue to talk to SUN. We've talked to the SRNA [Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association]. We'll talk to SALPN [Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses]. We'll talk to the SEEU. We'll talk to SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union]. We'll talk to CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] because they all want to have input in this review. And that's exactly what this review will look like.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's important for the public to know that they can trust deputy ministers and the service they will provide. Reporters recently asked the Premier how the public can trust the new acting deputy minister given his dismissal from the P.A. Health Region. The Premier's answer was, and I quote, "Well he's not alone."

Mr. Speaker, talk about damning with faint praise. The Premier went on to say the deputy minister would be working with others including assistant or associate deputy ministers and the health regions. Mr. Smith-Windsor was the only acting deputy minister appointed by the Premier who came from outside of a department. There are qualified and proven ADMs [assistant deputy minister] in the Department of Health who could've stepped into the role. So one has to wonder why the Premier chose to appoint Mr. Smith-Windsor in spite of his inexperience in the department and the questions that remain about his past employment.

Will the Minister of Health please explain why his government needed to bring Gren Smith-Windsor in. What task or tasks could they not trust the current qualified professional civil servants to undertake?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's interesting because the people of the province on

November 7 called for change. They voted for change, Mr. Speaker. We have made a few changes, and one happened to be the deputy minister for the Ministry of Health. I have answered the question that Gren Smith-Windsor has our confidence. He will be in that position on an acting role until a national search is found.

I find it very curious that the critic would suggest that we should only, only hire from within and not take a look at what's available around the province as well as the country when it comes to dealing with a system that is using \$3.4 billion a year, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that's unrealistic. I think there are very qualified people within the province. But I also know that there are people outside the province — now that there's a Sask Party government — are looking forward to coming into this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, this is just one more opportunity that if a qualified person is found in the province, they'll definitely be hired. But if we find somebody outside the province, we know they'll be glad to take residence here in Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I call the members to order.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### Bill No. 1 — The Growth and Financial Security Act

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 1, The Growth and Financial Security Act be now introduced and read a first time.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved Bill No. 1, The Growth and Financial Security Act be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Gantfoer:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

#### TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

**Hon. Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before orders of the day, Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to submit supplementary estimates accompanied by a message from His

Honour, the Lieutenant Governor.

**The Speaker:** — I call the members to order. Would you please rise for the message from the Lieutenant Governor. The message is as follows:

The Lieutenant Governor transmits supplementary estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province for the 12 months ending March 31, 2008 and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly. [Signed] Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### SPECIAL ORDER

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the address in reply which was moved by Ms. Eagles, seconded by Mr. Ottenbreit, and the proposed amendment to the main motion moved by Mr. Calvert.]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start today by congratulating you for taking on the huge responsibility of Speaker of the legislature in this great province. I know that you are more than capable of carrying out the duties. And sometimes there may be challenges, and I know that your gracious wife will be beside you, as we've seen over the years, to help you carry on that responsibility and while welcoming guests into our province and into the Assembly.

I'd also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker for putting his name forward. Our legislature will be in very good hands during this twenty-sixth sitting of the legislature.

I'd also like to congratulate the members on both sides of the House for their success, especially the new members, on the election on November 7. This job or career or lifestyle — whatever we'd like to call it — is unlike any other experience you'll ever have. I'm so very proud of the new members on the Saskatchewan Party side of the House. Their knowledge and their experience and the depth of their wisdom is already noted. And we really trust them, and I know that they'll be a great part of our team. And I'm telling you, we are just hugely grateful for them putting their names forward.

Mr. Speaker, I was humbled and honoured when the people from the Kelvington-Wadena constituency chose me to be their representative for the fourth consecutive time. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their ongoing support. During the past 12 years I have been welcomed and shown a lot of hospitality at every event I have been invited to. And I haven't always gotten the positive results they've asked when they've asked me for help, but I've always tried.

I've had the privilege of speaking to students who visit the Assembly and I remind them of the honour it is of hearing the words, "member from Kelvington-Wadena," whenever I'm addressed from the Speaker's Chair. That's the democratic process and it's an honour that too many times we take for granted.

I'd like to thank my family for their support for the past 12 years. When I decided to run for the first time in 1995 I had one grandchild. Today I have six. So there's been a lot of progress in my life as well. My family has been there for me during the good times and the hard times in our journey to becoming government, and I couldn't have done it without their unconditional support.

Mr. Speaker, often you've heard me state that my constituents are the best in the province, and I continue to believe so. They are caring and they are hard-working people who show the attributes of homesteaders. It takes tough, resilient people working together to create communities that we call home. I'm immensely proud of the people from Kelvington-Wadena and I'd be remiss if I didn't tell you some of their stories.

[10:45]

This summer the whole community of Porcupine Plain mourned the loss of seven-year-old Pacen Logan, who drowned on the family farm. Their family was having a very difficult time dealing with the loss of the little boy who loved playing hockey.

About two weeks ago a team of ex-NHLers, led by hometown boy Kelly Chase, put together an unbelievable hockey game playing the local Porcupine Plain Blues before a standing-room-only crowd of 700 people at Chase Place Arena in Porcupine Plain. During the intermission, there were auctions and raffles and draws. Many of the NHLers donated their hockey jerseys, and those playing in the game donated sweaters, and the sweater auction alone brought in \$36,000. The total evening raised \$55,000. So from this tragedy, an evening of joy and laughter was enjoyed and the community of Porcupine Plain will build a playground in the memory of Pacen Logan.

Mr. Speaker, the other day in the legislature members had the privilege of meeting another one of my constituents, Trevor Lowey. I know many have heard the story of Kelly Schermann, a teacher from Strasbourg, and Trevor Lowey, a paramedic from Kelvington, who in their Rider fever thought of others and banded together to find a flight, seats, hotel rooms, and tickets for Grey Cup for 10 individuals with cancer and their families. Not only did they give these families a memory of a lifetime, the money that was left over will go to create a Chris Knox legacy foundation with money being used to provide supporting tickets for all children battling health issues in future years.

Mr. Speaker, in another part of my constituency, a group of 10 women from Foam Lake, now known as the Breast of Friends, staged their first fundraising gourmet dinner for Prairie Women on Snowmobiles approximately four years ago to raise money to fight breast cancer. After several more dinners, this led to publishing a cookbook in the honour of family and friends who died from breast cancer. Later, Kelvin Cooper in 2005 died, and they produced another cookbook for Kelvin. They are now getting ready to publish a third book, this one for survivors. To

date they have raised over \$600,000 which they have donated to cancer agencies and patients that need help right across Canada.

Foam Lake can also boast the perogy ladies who have raised over \$118,000 to pay for their community hall just by making and selling perogies.

Not only does my constituency have a number of caring individuals within their town as well as the town themselves . . . One of the individuals is Dan Blatchford, who will be retiring after 30 years of coaching the Kelvington Golden Hawk 4A Boys' Volleyball. On the same weekend that the Riders brought home the Grey Cup, the Hawks brought home the gold medal from the provincial championships held in Oxbow. Since 1978 the Kelvington Golden Hawk Boys' Volleyball Team, coached by Dan Blatchford, have won six gold, six silver, and five bronze medals at provincial championships.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Kelvington-Wadena continue to open their hearts and their pockets to individuals and to projects even though they've faced a lot of hardships within industries of farming in the last number of years.

After years of drought and frost and flooding, they did see a glimmer of hope with an increase in grain prices this year. And although a lot of them didn't get all their seeding completed due to excess moisture, what they did seed did give them higher prices. Unfortunately, on the other side, the higher prices and the rising loonie hurt the livestock industry. And even through this hardship, there's still another glimmer of hope.

Fishing Lake First Nation, situated in Kelvington-Wadena constituency, is part of the Saskatchewan slaughter plant initiative which is working towards the construction by the year 2008 of a new hog slaughtering plant to replace the one Maple Leaf closed in Saskatoon. The current plan calls for the creation of an urban reserve in Saskatoon on which the plant would be located.

An investment group called Anishnabe Foods Ltd., a partnership investment group for First Nations government, will be the source of the funds. Fishing Lake First Nations is the founding member and 15 other bands in Saskatchewan and Alberta have expressed an interest in participating in this plant. The proposed slaughter plant is expected to create 3 to 400 jobs.

Many of the towns and RMs [rural municipality] within my constituency continue to deal with the increased maintenance of infrastructure due to excessive moisture in the last couple of years in our constituency. The flooding at Fishing Lake has absolutely devastated the tourism industry in that area. Cabin owners are frustrated with the lack of progress in cleaning up the mess and flood proofing, and many of them are still waiting for compensation for the disaster. And then they worry about next spring.

Mr. Speaker, after the election I was deeply honoured when the Premier gave me the responsibility for First Nations and Métis Relations, and Northern Affairs. The Aboriginal file in Saskatchewan is extremely complex and has never been given the priority it deserves by federal or provincial governments.

Northern Saskatchewan is blessed with natural resources that

are now making us the envy not only of the nation, but of the world. Combining the two does not dilute the importance of either; it gives strength to both. It provides an opportunity to show the vision of a new government not content with the status quo for the people or for resources.

It's been said that success is not a destination, it's a journey. This government, the Saskatchewan Party government, looks forward to the successes that will be achieved when we journey together with First Nations and Métis people to grow the economy and to provide a secure future for all the children in Saskatchewan.

The day before yesterday I listened in disbelief as the NDP had the audacity to talk about consultation. One would think that in government they would have learned a whole lot about consultation with the jurisdictional issue on smoking. But no, just a few years later on the same, on the issue that is absolutely critical to ensuring growth in our economy — that being the duty to consult — the people that sat in the chairs on this side of the House last session failed to consult with the First Nation and Métis people on the guideline that was prepared. How can a government write an entire book entitled the guidelines for consultation and accommodation without consulting? The very act is an insult, and it's disrespectful and probably the very best example of how arrogant and out of touch government can become.

Mr. Speaker, treaties are more than a contract. They are the founding document between nations. They're the origins of our country, the paper every land title in Canada is based upon. As Saskatchewan people, we must understand the treaty relationship. Treaties are enshrined in the constitution. They are part of the make-up of Canada. They cannot be ignored, removed, or forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased that this Throne Speech recognizes the importance of our First Nations people and Métis people and the need for better understanding of our treaty through the implementation of the treaty education system in our school system in a mandatory manner.

The people of Saskatchewan are feeling new hope after the provincial election. They are feeling renewed pride in being a Saskatchewanian. They are excited about the new way to look at the economic potential in our province, Enterprise Saskatchewan. They're excited about the opportunities for our youth through the post-secondary tax credits and tax break for young business owners. They're excited about keeping some of the education property tax money in their own pockets. They're excited about the plans for safer streets and the hope for people with addictions. They're excited that this great province will be marketed to other provinces and countries throughout the world by the doubling of tourism funding.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this speech, Saskatchewan people are caring and they believe in helping families and individuals in need. Supporting community-based organizations to give them a hand up rather than a handover will guarantee the quality of life will improve. We know that the culture and physical activities are essential components of daily living and they're excited that this government has recognized the importance with our active families benefit.

We have a wonderful province but we must ensure that it remains that way by taking responsibility for the stewardship of our environment. Saskatchewan people are excited about the programs that have been introduced to facilitate solutions to environmental problems facing our province.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are excited about the future of our province. They feel the energy and they're renewed with a sense of hope they can provide a better and more secure life for the people of Saskatchewan.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support the motion put forward by my friend and colleague from Estevan and seconded by my new friend and colleague from Yorkton. I will not be supporting the amendment.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Greystone.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I'd like to congratulate you and the Deputy Speaker as you take on your new roles within this distinguished Chamber. It's an honour to speak in support of our Premier, our government, and for the Speech from the Throne.

And while I'll return to the significance of my family, especially my wife, Martha, professor of history at the University of Saskatchewan, and my dear daughter, Jacqueline, who's in grade 3 at the Saskatoon French School — without their support I wouldn't be here today.

Quite simply, what we have is a great opportunity before us here. And so as we focus on the Throne Speech, we can see that our government is committed to ensuring growth and opportunity, security and community, and is focused on keeping its word. It outlines a clear, fresh, and prudent vision for our province as we move forward in the 21st century. But it does not stop at vision. It reinforces the significance of acting on that vision, working to articulate and realize the promise of our province and its peoples.

The significance of the synergy between vision and action in public life is not new. Vaclav Havel, the first president of the Czech Republic, once said:

Vision is not enough, it must be combined with venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps, we must step up the stairs.

As I first approached the steps of this magnificent building, those words had a very deep and personal resonance. Havel's statement emphasized the importance of citizenship and community, leadership and discipline, honour and humility, as we carry out our tasks as elected members. I believe that these values provide a solid and enduring foundation for positive change in our province and across our country.

Again as we look at our shared future, it is worth recalling our common past. To paraphrase Walter Scott, our first premier, as he met the first president of the University of Saskatchewan, Walter Murray, he welcomed him and said, Saskatchewan is a

big land for big people with big ideas.

Mr. Speaker, the statement is as true today as it was then. Like our first government, Brad Wall's government, Premier Wall's government believes in the potential and the promise of this province and its peoples. My apologies. A glance will do. The people of Saskatchewan know this. The Government of Saskatchewan knows this. We've come to a point in our history where we can no longer settle for being anything less than what we should be. Our obligation to our neighbours and to future generations is to realize and maximize our potential within a framework of fiscal prudence and sound stewardship.

We're already getting a sense of what our promise is — a leader in the new West in Canada and around the world in areas of resource development and key niches of the knowledge economy. And we must work tirelessly and in focused fashion to secure our place as a renewed contributor to Confederation. Mr. Speaker, during the Speech from the Throne we were able to outline a new growth and security agenda for Saskatchewan, and today I'm proud to speak to some of these key themes.

The stakeholders, with particular interest in the new Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour — including those working for improved post-secondary education most especially in the First Nation-Métis communities, immigrant communities, and more broadly across our province looking at enhanced immigration, a fair labour environment, and greater attention to gender equality — these are vital stakeholders as we move forward to helping transform our communities.

Our challenge, indeed our opportunity, is to bring together the resources available to government and across our community to help provide creative, effective solutions to some of the market challenges that we face, as well as the community challenges, so that everyone is included and has the opportunity to realize their full potential. By creating that kind of sustained growth for communities and opportunities for individuals, this ministry and our partners will be contributing to an ultimate goal of a safer, better, and more secure life for the people of this province.

Sustained growth will also help us to further enhance our human capital and to nurture, attract, and keep at home more highly skilled people. We'll work to raise education levels to further fuel the knowledge economy, and we will establish a fair labour milieu that will help further sustain this growth. Doing this will require the collaboration of various partners across our community, and our new government will work to foster innovative and creative solutions, collaboratively, that are responsive to the needs of this new economy and to our changing communities.

Together we will set a new direction that meets the needs of all Saskatchewan people across every region of the province, urban and rural, central and remote, from the farm gates to First Nations, from backyard enterprises to mature companies, from labour, and of course into the learning communities. With a prudent fiscal framework, this ministry and our partners will focus on some key five priorities that will help to achieve excellence and ultimately move Saskatchewan forward.

First we'll work with our advanced education and skills training partners to achieve excellence in our post-secondary system and

to help our young people meet the demands of an increasingly knowledge-based economy. Addressing Saskatchewan's current labour shortage is key to securing the future. Forecasts approximate that Saskatchewan will be between 9 and 13,000 workers short over the next three to five years. Clearly we must act to keep more people in Saskatchewan, to bring more people to our province, and to encourage communities and individuals to meet their individual and our combined potential.

[11:00]

We need to become more strategic, disciplined, and focused in our approach. While post-secondary education is a priority for this government, we'll encourage that new innovations occur across the system to increase our responsiveness to the economy and to changing learners. Each of our institutions brings distinctive strengths to bear and will encourage these stakeholders and institutions to bolster those strengths.

Our province's regional colleges will provide a critical link between students and the need for respective local economies that they'll be playing a role in. We must work much more closely with stakeholders in those communities to build partnerships that better serve local and provincial needs. We can look to SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], that provides an impressive level and scope of skills training and opportunities. And it is in SIAST that we have already seen some examples of public-private partnerships at the programming level that have helped to enhance facilities and training opportunities across Saskatchewan.

Through its recently announced alliance with Alliance Pipeline, instrumentation engineering students at SIAST will have the benefit of a new lab and state-of-the-art equipment as they learn their trade. It's these kind of program-based, public-private partnerships that will help to meet the dynamic needs of our knowledge-based economy, and we're delighted to see those examples.

Our universities of course are a wellspring of knowledge, innovation, excellence, and inclusion for our students and scholars across Saskatchewan and around the world. An excellent example of this type of innovation and its success, we can turn to the field of biotechnology where after three decades of work we are considered a world leader. A project such as the Canadian Light Source synchrotron, the Petroleum Technology Research Centre, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, the international vaccine centre, to name but a few, they point to a challenge for us — what will be the new areas of leadership in the knowledge economy?

To further enhance this science- and technology-based research, Saskatchewan's government looks forward to establishing the global institute for energy, the environment, and natural resources in partnerships with our post-secondary institutions and with industry. And that way we can begin to position ourselves as a leader in research and development in this dynamic aspect of our economy. To bring this and other initiatives to fruition we'll continue to look at our institutions to generate even more innovative ideas and build more collaborative partnerships across our economy and community.

Mr. Speaker, while the individual strengths of our institutions

are critical in allowing our ability to build and take a leadership role in the knowledge economy, Saskatchewan's new government places a high priority on collaboration and inter-institutional co-operation. Each of our institutions is part of a constellation of elements that create a robust system premised on excellence, affordability, and accessibility.

We also place a priority on credit transfer and institutional articulation — an area that we are woefully behind in. And we'll work with our post-secondary institutions to recognize learning gained in other institutions, both inside and beyond our boundaries. Eliminating the gaps that exist in these areas will, I believe, maximize our post-secondary system and ultimately create a more engaged citizenry — citizens that have greater career and life opportunities.

I bring to this portfolio a keen interest in measuring outcomes and ensuring that evaluations are part of our progress and will ensure that Saskatchewan expands its leadership role in interprovincial and especially Western Canadian partnerships based on the post-secondary sector and other areas of labour market development.

Our experience in the bioscience sector demonstrates that where we have played a leadership role in the past points us to new leadership roles in the future. We can think simply of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine where decades ago our province decided to take a leadership role in co-operating with other provinces. And today as a result of that, not only through the Western College of Veterinary Medicine but to the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization and now through the international vaccine centre, we are playing a leading role worldwide.

A second opportunity to achieve excellence is through working to keep our skilled young people where they belong, right here in Saskatchewan. Retaining our young people is absolutely critical to the long-term growth and prosperity of our province, and Saskatchewan's new government is acting aggressively to ensure that this happens. Within a framework of fiscal prudence, we'll provide valuable long-term incentives for post-secondary graduates to remain at home.

During the campaign we promised that we would have up to \$20,000 rebate for tuition costs for post-secondary graduates. In this program a maximum tuition rebate that is dependable, where students can actually know before they enter a program — whether it's a certificate program where they'll be eligible for \$3,000; graduates of two-year diplomas, \$6,400; graduates of three-year programs, \$15,000; or graduates of four-year university programs, \$20,000 — that as they start their program they are appreciated, their efforts are appreciated. And we're anticipating that they help us grow Saskatchewan.

We're also going to be contributing \$125 million over the next four years — that's a 28 per cent increase to the post-secondary sector — to ensure that that base funding is going towards increased excellence, innovation, accessibility, and inclusion.

We will also of course be promoting youth entrepreneurship, especially for those self-employed entrepreneurs under 30. Our remarkable potential as a province is tied to the promise of our young people and we're going to demonstrate that through

action, sir. The people of Saskatchewan have voted in favour of a government committed to building the knowledge economy and to retaining skills and talents within our young people as they are the very foundation of our communities.

Third, our government will work to create a fair and balanced labour environment that respects the rights of workers and employers and is competitive with other Canadian jurisdictions. This focuses on ensuring that Saskatchewan people have access to essential services such as health care and clean roads in the event of job action. Furthermore this legislation will help to balance the rights of workers who are going to be striking with the public need for public security and safety, and we look forward to moving back and receiving feedback from across the policy community as we move forward in the coming days.

Fourth, and this is very important, we'll be working to ensure that First Nation and Métis peoples participate more fully in our social and economic future and that where gaps exist in education and employee levels, that we'll be focusing and working in those areas. Our new government consistently has stressed the need to work hard on this commitment. We have a historical legacy to overcome and we have an opportunity through the labour market shortage where we can actually move forward to close this gap. As First Nations and Métis peoples prosper, so too will our entire province.

Finally we will achieve excellence beyond our borders by demonstrating to the world that Saskatchewan offers a world of opportunity and a secure, prosperous future. We will spread the word across Canada that Saskatchewan offers a combination of professional lifestyle and social opportunities that are unparalleled in our country.

We'll also aggressively market Saskatchewan to immigrants and potential newcomers from other countries and around the world. We'll work hard to ensure that Saskatchewan is a welcoming and an exciting place for newcomers. And how do we do this? We can look to Richard Florida's *The Rise of the Creative Class*, and focus on three T's: what we've referred to already, investments in technology and institutions; the focus on talent; and most importantly, stressing tolerance, so that everyone feels at home in Saskatchewan.

As we move forward I would like to take this opportunity most especially to thank the people of Saskatoon Greystone for their confidence and their trust in this mandate that I've been given. In particular I'd like to thank these fine people, hard-working people in Saskatoon Greystone for the opportunity to serve our community. I'm humbled by the responsibility placed on my shoulders as we move forward.

I'd like to spend a few minutes just thanking some people, and most appropriately I'd like to thank the previous MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Greystone for his commitment to our community and public service. I'd like to thank Andrew Mason who ran for the NDP, Zeba Ahmad who ran for the Liberal Party, and Robert Cram who ran for the Green Party during the previous election.

What I'd also like to do is speak to the significance of my family. My father, my mother became very committed to this. My sister helped out tremendously. Probably the highlight of

the campaign for me was on a particularly long day, Mr. Speaker, and I was called into my office expecting the very worst of news, and there sitting before me by surprise were my grandparents. They'd travelled a fair distance across Canada to come and lend their support, and I was absolutely delighted to have them in our campaign office.

Not far from my thoughts, my other grandmother, Blanche Coté, was watching from afar. And watching from perhaps a different vantage point, a more optimistic vantage point, my grandfather Paul Coté.

Most especially I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to our Premier for his trust, to my colleagues who are supporting me during these early days, to all those on our Greystone team that worked so hard, tirelessly, to ensure that we had this opportunity. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just reiterate my support for the Speech from the Throne. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to take my opportunity to respond to the Speech from the Throne and to first of all, of course, congratulate you and the Deputy Chair, Deputy Speaker, on your selection as Chair, as a Speaker, and of course, Deputy Speaker. And you've heard all the great praises of some of your work so I won't go into detail. I'll save some of the opportunity that I have to certainly respond to what I think is some of the weaknesses and some of the lack of vision that this particular government has espoused through their Speech from the Throne.

I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the kind people of the constituency of Athabasca have seen fit to return me to office. It was certainly, certainly always a tough go when you go back to the people and ask for their support. So I want to particularly thank all the folks that worked hard on the campaign and all the people from the various communities that certainly did work hard to get me re-elected.

Mr. Speaker, I think what the people of Athabasca have said is that we want you to continue working hard. We want you to continue representing us. And we want to make sure that you go forward and fight for economic and social justice for us. And it's something that the people of Athabasca have certainly bestowed upon me as my duty, and I intend to work very hard to accomplish that.

Mr. Speaker, as I listened to several members from across the way speak about some of the issues that they face when it comes to the Speech from the Throne and how they have glossed over some of the issues that they don't want to talk about, I want to take the opportunity to respond, Mr. Speaker.

First of all I took a special interest at what the member from Saskatoon Northwest had to say. And again, the people of the northwest part of Saskatoon are probably very decent people, very good people. But what I want to point out is that the statement that I was quite struck by, Mr. Speaker, was in *Hansard*, and I quote, "... the reason why I came to this province — to correct what is wrong with this province..."

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that member to look around him, look around him, and look at the people that he's sitting with and see what they have done for the past number of years. Absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker, but have become a problem for us to make sure that we drove the agenda forward. It was that party, Mr. Speaker, that that individual sits amongst, that supported, Mr. Speaker, a \$50 million cut to social services, Mr. Speaker. Remember that. He seems to forget that, Mr. Speaker.

And, Mr. Speaker, every time we had opportunity to help the poor people, to do something specific for the underprivileged people, they voted against every budget, Mr. Speaker. Every bit of money that we spent to help the poor people, they voted against. So as that individual preaches from his chair I say to him, look around him and look at the people around him, and then he can appreciate the battle that we had to undertake to make sure that the people that live in this Saskatchewan...

**The Speaker:** — I call the Assembly to order. I call the members to order and allow the member from Athabasca to have his say.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And that's really important to point out; to allow the member from Athabasca to respond to the charges made from that party and in particular that member from Saskatoon Northwest. I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that party that he sits amongst did propose a \$50 million cut to social services not more than two or three years ago, Mr. Speaker. Shame. And he's sitting there and pontificating about how the NDP have forgotten the people in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, let me say this, let me say this. There are certain parts of our province — northern Saskatchewan and the inner cities — that have struggled throughout the years, Mr. Speaker. No question about that. They have struggled throughout the years. And, Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue working with them. And the problem is when you have people that come along and judge these people and judge these regions, I say to him, you, sir, have no right to judge anybody or any region...

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I want to remind members that they're not to bring other members into the debate. I recognize the member from Athabasca.

**Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I say to that individual and that party, you have no right, you have no right to judge any region or any person, Mr. Speaker. And I've listened to that individual heap abuse the few days that he's been here. And I say to him that that is enough, sir — that is enough. Because this party, this party took the effort, Mr. Speaker, under a mountain of debt, under a mountain of debt. When we assumed government in 1991 I was not here but many people that are sitting in these chairs were, and many others have gone on. We have worked hard under a mountain of debt, Mr. Speaker, to help those in poverty. So as he pontificates and preaches and scolds people, I say to him, enough, because he wasn't even here when the battles were fought on this floor and in the inner cities and with the labour movements and the different people that were trying to help.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[11:15]

**Mr. Belanger:** — And then he comes along and he says, oh, “. . . the reason why I came to this province — to correct what is wrong with this province . . .”

How about all the other groups, all the anti-poverty groups that worked for many, many years, Mr. Speaker? All the groups out there that have lobbied and have fought for some of the gains that they got, Mr. Speaker. He doesn't acknowledge them. It's all about me, and it's all about this new government. That's an old government wearing new clothes, Mr. Speaker.

And I will say one thing. I will say this: actions speak better than words. And what did we do, Mr. Speaker, as a government? We increased minimum wage — how many times? They fought against that, Mr. Speaker. We moved to protect vulnerable workers. They fought against that. We supported rental subsidies to help with rents. They fought against that, Mr. Speaker. Day care subsidies, we put them in place. They fought against it, Mr. Speaker. The \$15 bus pass, the good food box — every bit helps. They fought against that, Mr. Speaker.

We had the community schools concept, built and developed, Mr. Speaker. They fought against that. We are going to make sure that we embrace the First Nations and Métis people and making sure we have solutions driven by them to help our people, these Saskatchewan people. They fought against that, Mr. Speaker.

We made sure that we guaranteed the lowest costs for power, for telephone, for insurance. And that helps the poor people, Mr. Speaker, those that live in poverty. They fought against that. They're going to scrap that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we also embraced the new role of the food banks in which we said it is not about giving away free food. This is also about tuition, about daycare, and offering other supports, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's important that that individual looks around him and sees the people that have fought against some of the progress and some of the programs that we put in place, Mr. Speaker; that we put in place despite the mountain of debt that we had at this time, Mr. Speaker. So don't come along, don't come along and tell us you're going to do all these great things because there's been many groups before them and many groups after them that have done a great amount of things and have done a lot more than they preach about, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, I think what's also very important that people should point out — and I'm going to point it out as well — these guys are sitting along thinking, oh, look at this great oil and gas sector we've got going. The Saskatchewan Roughriders won the Grey Cup. They've never won under the NDP government. Well, Mr. Speaker, that was a couple weeks ago. The Saskatchewan Party like to take credit for absolutely everything. They didn't see the tough years that the Roughriders had to rebuild. They didn't see all the challenges they had to go through, and then they win the Grey

Cup, oh, because we're in government.

Mr. Speaker, when this party took over governing from that party in 1991, we started under a mountain of debt, Mr. Speaker, a mountain of debt — fifteen and a half billion dollars. And what could any party or any government do fifteen and a half billion dollars in the hole? We could not do very much, Mr. Speaker. We had to rebuild. We had to say no so many times that it hurt, Mr. Speaker. But we rebuilt. We rebuilt and we worked very hard. So when I hear some of those members preach and go after certain colleagues of mine, I will point out to them one thing, is that it was the NDP and the people of Saskatchewan that rebuilt this province from the wreck left by those guys across the way. That's what happened, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Belanger:** — And I'm going to point out as well, I'm going to point out to that member from Saskatoon Northwest that espouses the great virtue that he brings to this province: first of all your party, sir, inherited almost \$2 billion from this government and the people of Saskatchewan. Not fifteen and a half billion dollars in debt — 2 billion in the black, Mr. Speaker. You have had the debt slashed. The economy is banging on all cylinders, Mr. Speaker. There's many, many people working, and you have record oil and gas revenues, Mr. Speaker, and all the resources, all the resources that are certainly putting record money into the provincial coffers.

And I will state to them today, I will state to them today that it was not the poor people that put this province \$15 billion into debt, Mr. Speaker, in the '80s. And it's not going to be the poor people that are going to get money from this mountain of cash that these guys inherited from this government and the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. So as you pontificate from this mountain of money, this mountain of money, I want to say to you the poor people will not get any of that money. The disability community will not get any of that money. The North, the cities, the towns, and the East and the West and the South will not get that money, Mr. Speaker. We're going to make sure where that money goes is where it's needed. And they can preach all they want, but guess what? Actions speak better than words, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, the disabled people need more money. The nurses need more money. Farmers need more money. The poor people need more money. Educators need more money. The poor people need more money. The cities need more money. Workers need more money. The poor people need more money. Highways need more money. Mr. Speaker, health needs more money. Poor people need more money. Students need more money. Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of demand out there. There's a lot of need, a lot of choices.

And I predict today that despite the pontification from that mountain of cash that that member and that party sits on, which the people of Saskatchewan alongside the NDP have put in place for them, that the poor people will be the last group to get any money off this government, Mr. Speaker.

And I say to him, shame. Shame. As you get up and you expose



all your values, shame on you for trying to use the poor people for political purposes, Mr. Speaker.

I was born from a Cree mother as well. And, Mr. Speaker, I lost my mother when I was five years old. And we worked very hard to rebuild our family. So absolutely everybody has challenges coming to this job or living in this world. It does not mean you come along and you preach down at the people. It means you respect people. Because if you're going to preach down to them and scold them, that's not respect. That is not respect. And if you're doing it and disregard all the groups and all the organizations, all the organizations that worked hard for years, that's disrespect, Mr. Speaker. That is disrespect.

And I point out today that we will not — we'll not — we will not turn ourselves into that type of politician because it sounds good on TV. Actions speak better than words. Actions speak better and louder than words, Mr. Speaker.

And the worse thing that . . . I sit back here and I listen. He talks about what the NDP have morphed into. What I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, is one thing, is they have morphed into a party that pretends to care, Mr. Speaker. They have morphed to a party that pretends to care and that is the worst thing that the people of Saskatchewan could ever, ever hope for, Mr. Speaker. That's the worst thing.

Mr. Speaker, again, I go back to the quote, “. . . the reason why I came to this province — to correct what is wrong with this province . . .” Mr. Speaker, that is absolute silly . . . a absolute silly statement, Mr. Speaker. All these people, all of these people that worked very hard over the years. Over the years they worked hard to rebuild. And what happened, Mr. Speaker? All that is for naught because the great saviour's here now.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you one thing is that people need to realize actions speak better than words. So from atop your mountain of money, let's see what you guys can do. And I encourage the member from the Northwest to take a count over there. There's 38 members on that side, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Belanger:** — And there's 20 over here, Mr. Speaker. There's 20 over here. And, Mr. Speaker, that makes that member of Saskatoon Northwest, who's out preaching, that makes him government. The responsibility is theirs, Mr. Speaker.

Your guys are the government. This is an update for you. You guys are government. So why don't you stop blaming the NDP. Why don't you stop talking about the NDP and let's see what you can do. Let's see what you can do. Let's see what they can do, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Belanger:** — You know in the past few weeks, Mr. Speaker, I will point out, I will point out that we've lost some great people on this side — talented people like Eric Cline, like Eldon Lautermilch, Andrew Thomson, and Clay Serby. Mr. Speaker, they chose not to participate in this last election for a variety of reasons. But they're great and intelligent people. We

lost some very good people as well, Mr. Speaker. People like Maynard Sonntag, like Glenn Hagel, and Chad Nilson, and Mark Wartman.

But let me say this to the people of Saskatchewan and to the people out there that yes, we have lost. And our leader — and he'll always be my premier — has told us we're going to embrace the new role that the people of Saskatchewan have given to us. And I accept that role and we all accept that role. And, Mr. Speaker, this is what we talk about being gracious losers and making sure that we continue fighting forward for the people of Saskatchewan, and we intend to do that.

And what I'll tell the people of Saskatchewan and that opposition, we're not going to try and convince you guys. You guys are gone forever in our books. We're not even going to listen to you guys on that side of the House. We're going to talk to the people on the streets. We're going to talk to them in the farmyards. We're going to talk to them in northern Saskatchewan. We're going to talk to them in the cities. We're going to talk to them in the community centres, Mr. Speaker. We're going to tell them what is wrong with the Saskatchewan Party and we're going to tell them that we have not lost hope.

We have faith, Mr. Speaker, and that's all . . . All that is going to stop us from governing again and all that stopped us this last time was 6,000 votes in 10 seats. Had we got those 6,000 votes, Mr. Speaker, we would have been government today. So 6,000 votes, Mr. Speaker, 6,000 votes is all that's separating the NDP from the Saskatchewan Party from forming government. Do your math. That's all that stopped us, Mr. Speaker.

So I tell the people of Saskatchewan, all of our supporters and those that have . . . certainly trying to find their way. Don't lose faith, because we're here to fight. We're here to fight and we're not going to be preached to, we're not going to be scolded, we're not going to listen to the pontification. And everything that has been happening so well in Saskatchewan, all the great things that happened so well in Saskatchewan is because of this leader and this party and the people of Saskatchewan, not over there, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Belanger:** — So, Mr. Speaker, again . . . Again, Mr. Speaker, again I'll point out which party won a national award to fight against child poverty. It was the New Democrats under our former Premier Roy Romanow. He gave us this province back from the debt created by that party opposite. So as that individual from Saskatoon Northwest pontificates and says we're going to save you all, look around. Look around. Look around you and be very careful.

And I predict one thing, Mr. Speaker, D-Day for these guys is election day and we're going to see, we're going to see if they've done anything innovative, anything exciting, and any kind of commitment to the poor people, Mr. Speaker. We're going to see what the Aboriginal and the Métis and the First Nations people have under this . . . [inaudible] . . . The devil's in the details. Let's see what they do, Mr. Speaker. And I predict today the first thing these guys are going to do, they're going to continue blaming us. They're going to continue blaming us. No, no, you're the government. You want to be

government. You accept the responsibility for your decisions and that will be your future doom, Mr. Speaker. They refuse to do that.

So again I will point out we're going to stand here; we're going to fight. We've got 47 months to go, 47 months and counting, and there's 6,000 votes that's separating us from government from that party opposite, Mr. Speaker. And they can preach all they want. They can preach all they want but they ain't going to convince many organizations in this province. And I predict that their so-called honeymoon, their so-called honeymoon, it ain't going to last a long time, Mr. Speaker. It ain't going to last a long time. Why? Because they ripped up the Domtar deal. They said no to the people of P.A. That's gone.

They are now putting essential services legislation, taking away our right to strike from many workers, Mr. Speaker. They don't know what their Enterprise Saskatchewan is going to be about. They don't have a clue what they're doing, Mr. Speaker. They're firing people left and right and the people of Saskatchewan are going to say, well we experimented with you, but enough of that. Mr. Speaker, my final word — 47 months and counting, we're coming back. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[11:30]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you first of all for taking that job. I don't know if you realized that you were going to be yelled at by the member from Athabasca for the last 25 minutes. And it is interesting that it was 25 minutes, and if that's the time allotment we have, I'll be glad to use my 25 minutes as well.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, he said many, many times that actions speak louder than words. And before he . . . as he's still in the room I would like him to maybe go up into the gallery and look down and see that there are 38 seats . . . 37 seats on this side and 20 seats on that side. Actions have spoke louder than words.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — The people of the province spoke loud and clear on November 7. But unfortunately from the way we've been seeing the debate in the House over the last three or four days, there are a few members on that side of the House that are having an extremely hard time accepting what the people have told them. The people have told them that they weren't happy with their record for the last four years or the last eight years.

You know, it was interesting that the member was saying that if we only would have had 6,000 more votes. If we only would

have had 6,000 more votes. But he wouldn't answer the question of what happened in 1999 when the Saskatchewan Party garnered more votes than they did, and they still hung on by buying a few Liberals over, hung on to power for four more years, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker . . . And I don't think they'd want to be saying too much about the 2003 election where they just squeaked through as well. But finally the people of Saskatchewan had had enough. They spoke. Their actions of 37 seats in the Sask Party side speak far louder than any words that we just heard from that member opposite.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, I have a number of thank yous and congratulations to go through and then I look forward to getting into more of the debate on the Speech from the Throne. But first of all as I said I want to thank you. You fit the role the very, very well.

I can say that when I was first elected in 1999, I was always amazed at . . . We're kind of learning the system and we were going through legislation, and there was one person that always stood up after the second reading of a Bill, and it could have been a Bill on almost anything and that person from Moosomin, that member from Moosomin would always stand up. He was the designate and always made sense. I don't know how he knew so much about every piece of legislation the government was putting forward but he did a great job. And I'm certainly glad to see him in the seat of Speaker and I know he'll do an absolutely wonderful job over the next four years.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Next four years and longer, if he so chooses. I also want to congratulate the newly elected members. I met three of the members from the opposition side last night and have been impressed with their early entrance into the fray, asking questions on the second day. But I also want to thank and welcome and congratulate the numerous, numerous members on this side of the House that won from all over the province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — You know it was really gratifying on election night. For the longest time a lot of people looked at us as a rural party, but we won seats in Moose Jaw. We won seats in Prince Albert. We won seats in Regina — three of them. We won Meadow Lake. It took a little bit longer than that night, but we won Meadow Lake. We won a number in Saskatoon. And I want to congratulate the members from all of those constituencies.

But I also want to congratulate the two or the three members that were elected in 2003 in Saskatoon that started the beachhead for the party. Two of them are here now, but all three did great work. The two members that are here now did an absolutely wonderful job, and the results showed in Saskatoon. The results have shown in Regina, Moose Jaw, and various communities around the province. So the Saskatchewan Party truly is a provincial party that represents all of the province, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — I also want to . . . I'm going to term it a little bit different than what I heard yesterday from the opposition, when somebody said they wanted to congratulate the old members that were elected. And I didn't know if that meant re-elected or just old members that were elected. But I would like to congratulate all the members that were re-elected. For many of us on this side it will be our third term. For some others it's been a lot longer than that. But I do want to congratulate all the members for their re-election, and in particular the members on this side. I don't believe there was one incumbent that went down in votes. Every incumbent significantly increased their votes.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — And I think that speaks volumes about the work that they have done over the last four years in their constituencies. So . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Twelve.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Or twelve years or however long they've been here, some as long as, I guess, five terms. So congratulations to them.

The other thing I want to congratulate and recognize are the leaders. And I will say to the Leader of the Opposition now, the former premier, I want to thank him for the service. I don't know how much longer he's going to be in this House. By the volume of that last speech there could be leadership charges starting already, mounting already. But I do want to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition.

You know, I can tell you that for as long as I've been in this House — its dating back to 1999 when then Premier Roy Romanow was in the Chair — I know the sacrifices that leaders have to make. I mean, I think I know what the sacrifices are.

I remember sitting very closely with our then leader, Elwin Hermanson, and realizing the hours and the time that he put in, the sacrifices that he put in, the tough decisions he had to make, and it was just absolutely amazing. And I don't know if any of us that are elected members realize the commitment that a leader has to put forward.

I want to congratulate the former premier for that, because I know it hasn't been easy. The last four years haven't been easy. People expected a change in government and that isn't easy leading through that period. And so I'll congratulate him for that. I certainly didn't agree with a lot of things that he said, or some of the mechanisms that they used, such as advertising before the last election — government advertising. I don't agree with a lot of things that that former premier did, but I will recognize the commitment and the contribution that he made to the province. And I'm not sure that I'll be able to say the same after the next Throne Speech because I'm quite sure that it'll be a different person sitting in that chair a year from now.

I also want to thank our Premier, the member from Swift Current, for the great work that he's done over the last eight years, but in particular the last three years as leader of our

party. I've never felt prouder going into an election and more confident going into an election as I did this 2003 election . . . 2007 election, under the leadership of — I was going to say his name, Mr. Speaker, but I have been heard enough times in this House in the last few days; I'd better not say his name — the member from Swift Current, the now Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — And I think I also want to thank him . . . I think I want to thank him for entrusting in me the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. It is a huge responsibility, but I look forward to — and not to coin a phrase that I heard far too often from a former minister of Health — but I do look forward to the challenges that I will be seeing in the future.

I also want to talk a little bit about the campaign team that helped me get to this seat. And, you know, I think all of us . . . the one thing that I learned really early in politics and was amazed at, when I first ran in 1999, is that you sure don't do it by yourself. For most of us, and whether it's a police officer or whether it's working at the university, you chose to get into those professions on your own. You did the work. And from my perspective, I farmed. I mean what I did on my farm would produce the results — if it was not enough work or whatever — but it was my own self that was controlling my destiny.

But when you put your name on a ballot for the first time in a nomination, you don't realize how much help and how many people have to get behind you to make it successful. I've been very fortunate over the last three elections to have a great campaign team, and this year was certainly no different. I want to thank my campaign, and I'm going to name . . . I think I have them all here. I'm pretty sure I do, but I want to thank my campaign manager, Donna Strudwick, who is from Balgonie, who just recently retired from an administrative position with the RM of Edenwold, and she just did an absolutely wonderful job, excellent job. Very organized and always upbeat, and it was a pleasure to have her as my campaign manager.

Dwayne Entner, my business manager, who was there three years ago, and I was surprised that he actually came back and took on the role the second time. But I want to thank him very much — also from Balgonie. Jim Williams — that looked after our signs — from Fort Qu'Appelle, did an absolutely excellent job. I was amazed at how, when I travelled out of my constituency into other constituencies, how well our party was organized as far as getting the signs up early.

I was amazed though at a government at that time — the NDP party who had been in government — how it took literally weeks, three weeks, sometimes two weeks before any signs went up. And I found that was absolutely amazing. Well I guess you can't get signs up when you don't have a name on the ballots. So a candidate was, I guess, their first task. But yes, I guess I was amazed.

And so anyway back to my campaign team, before I go off on that tangent too long, is that I wanted to thank Jim Williams. Ron Saal who did a great job in fundraising . . . certainly it's always again a little humbling when you see the money roll in

to go behind your name to get you elected. It's just . . . it's simply, simply humbling.

Don Schmeling was our IT [information technology] guy that looked after all the voter identification and did a great job keeping that straight; Bill Missal who looked after election day for me. Jamie Gibson who did our communications, and that name will be very familiar to the Speaker. He did a great job in communications in our campaign. And last but not least Vonni Widdis who looked after my office during the campaign, she has been my constituency assistant for the last eight years and looked after our campaign office.

And you know we saw our votes, as I said earlier, we saw all of our votes increase significantly. In 1999 I think I ended up with about 3,850 votes. In 2003 I just snuck over the 4,000 mark to about 4,100; and this election, I believe, we're well over 5,000, about 5,500 votes. But it was absolutely amazing at 65 per cent of the vote.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — And I would like to say that, yes, thank you very much. But I think what you have to do is when you look at or talk to any of our campaign team or especially my constituency assistant, who is the first contact into our constituency, most of the credit would have to go to them because they have done an absolutely wonderful job.

In our constituency it was amazing, again humbling, because there was always pockets. I'm from the southern part of the constituency. I grew up around Milestone and Lang area, and I lived in the small town of Lewvan, which nobody lives in that town any more. So the northern part was always kind of a struggle. Fort Qu'Appelle and Indian Head, now Balgonie, was always . . . maybe leaned a little bit more to the NDP. But I was gratified when I saw the results after that night that we won every poll but three. Forty-six out of 49 polls we won. So it is . . . not that I ever felt uncomfortable going to those communities, but it sure is gratifying when you go to those communities and you know that the majority of the people supported the Saskatchewan Party. So that was very nice.

I guess I'm 10 minutes in, so I've got another 25 or . . . [inaudible] . . . yes, something like that. I do want to talk about the Speech from the Throne which really mirrored the election campaign and the platform that we put in front of the people of Saskatchewan. The platform that we put in front of the people of Saskatchewan garnered 52 per cent of the vote. Fifty-two per cent of the vote is a very rare number, Mr. Speaker. To have that many . . . In fact I'm not a historian and maybe some of the members on this side are. The NDP are the so-called governing party of this province. How many times has the NDP received 52 per cent of the vote?

Well my colleague who has been around for longer than I have says five times that they received over 50 per cent of the . . . It's that many times? Since 1944. That's a higher number than I thought. Because I know the last number of years they had received . . . well the last election a majority and the election before a minority, and well under, well under 50 per cent — probably around the 38, 39, 40 per cent range. This time they were down to 35 per cent. As a lot of people say, a lot of the

political pundits will say they've hit their core bottom. Thirty-five per cent is where they can expect to be; that's their core support. And I think they'll be at that 35 per cent for a very, very long time, Mr. Speaker.

Because I think, you know, listening to the last speaker and him railing on, he obviously didn't get it. I don't think he got it. And when I received questions from the now Health critic, I'm not so sure she got it either. She was asking questions. The first questions that came from that opposition is about one individual, the deputy minister, the acting deputy minister of Health. You know the election wasn't fought on who the deputy ministers are in this government or in their government. The election was fought on who was on the floor of our health care facilities.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[11:45]

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — And they didn't get it. And they haven't got it. And I'm not sure they'll get it in the next four years because it doesn't necessarily . . . I'm not saying it doesn't matter. It matters greatly who's in the deputy chairs. But what is more important is, is that there's enough RN nurses, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, specialists to give the care that people of Saskatchewan wanted, Mr. Speaker. And this government has failed . . . that government, that opposition failed to do it over the last 16 years.

For as long as I have been in this House, the opposition then — now the government — has raised the issue around human resources. The former Health critic from Melfort started the charge back in '99, saying the most important issue facing health care today — and that was 8 years ago — is human resources. And he carried that message for five years. And I continued on with that message.

And it resonates with the people of Saskatchewan because under the NDP government, they put us in a position to have the longest waiting lists in Canada. They put us in a position where, quite frankly, at times our health care system is fragile because they didn't address the most important issue. They didn't address the most issue, and that's nurses and doctors on the floor, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . In the early '90s . . . that's right; they sure did fire a bunch. In the early '90s, this government had the nerve to close 52 hospitals and lay off hundreds and hundreds of nurses.

At that time, not only did they do that, they decided they were going to reduce the number of training seats so that we only had — at one point through the mid-'90s — 115 nurses graduating while the retirement rate of nurses are around 3 to 400 a year. And they thought they were going to fill it . . . first of all, after letting a number of nurses go who went to other provinces but reducing the number of training seats down to 115.

We have a nurse shortage crisis right now in Saskatchewan, and it's because of one reason. It's because of 16 years of NDP government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party plan which was laid out during the election — during those 28 days — I have here in front of me. And I just want to reiterate so many of those points because it's really our action plan.

The Speech from the Throne talked about it, but I'm going to go maybe further into depth as to what the Speech from the Throne had to say. I'm going to talk about our plan for health care.

And, you know, I certainly heard one comment about the patient-first review, and I found that curious as well. You know, they went through — when they were in government — they had Ken Fyke do a review of the system, and that was perfectly fine. But we say that we're going to do a patient-first review and to them you'd swear that the sky was falling.

You know, it's a three point billion dollar industry, and that's only the public side of health care. It's said that at least 40 per cent of the total health care spending is private, so 3.4 billion which is the public side of health care and they're saying it shouldn't be looked at. It shouldn't be reviewed. We shouldn't see that all the money is going to where it was initially intended. Mr. Speaker, I find that amazing.

And I know that they're really into trying to scare people and create fear. They've done it over the last, I don't know, however many years, for as long as I've been in here. In fact every election they would always bring out, they dust off the old medicare campaign — the old medicare platform because that's what's going to allow them to be elected. Well I am very, very proud to say that in 2007 the people of Saskatchewan didn't buy medicare. They bought better health care here in Saskatchewan . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — That's what they voted for. And they voted for better health care in Saskatchewan. And better health care in Saskatchewan comes by recruiting, retaining, and training more nurses; by training more doctors and retaining them; by dealing with the number of issues that health care professionals face. We set a target for a goal, and now they're trying to play with that — is it a target, is it a goal?

But it's interesting that they would play with the term — is it a target or is it a goal? — when that government for years were asked how many nurses do we need. And what did the then Health minister, the member from North Battleford, say? He said, wow man, I'd hate to set a target because we probably won't need it. Isn't that amazing? I don't want to set a target because I probably won't need it. Like, I don't know if he ever played a game of football that they didn't want to put an end zone there because he wouldn't get there. I don't understand that train of thought. You don't want to set a target because you may not get there.

Well the Saskatchewan Party, under the leadership of our Premier, are not afraid of targets. We're not afraid of being measured against our record. We're setting a target of 800 nurses, new nurses. Six hundred to fill the vacancies and 200 more to increase the complement so that we're not relying on overtime, so we're not burning out our most precious resource. We're going to ensure that we have 800.

But more than that, when I talk about having 800 more nurses on the floor, let's look to the flip side. Let's look at if that doesn't happen, what the health care system will look like in four years if we do not accomplish our goal or our target or whatever you want to call it, but if we do not accomplish it. I don't think the health care system can survive.

We have seen the workers' compensation rate of back injury from people working on the floor almost double over the last number of years because of the demands that are being put on them. There just simply isn't enough staff. We're seeing nurses that are working overtime that eventually get so burnt-out that they say I've had enough of it; I'm quitting. I'm able to retire. I'm eligible to retire, and I am retiring. We need those nurses to stay and work, but they'll only stay and work if there's a proper complement of nurses on the floor.

If they're not getting . . . You know, I know of households that have a nurse living in that household that will be away for five days, seven days. They're away for seven days — five working days and a weekend — and when they came home there was 17 phone calls. Three of them were for the husband. Fourteen of them were for the nurse to come to work. In five working days, there were 14 calls to come to work. That's how desperate they are to get people to the floor, Mr. Speaker.

And you know, for years, for years we pounded on that NDP government to recognize it and do something about it, and they didn't. They sat on their hands. And what we hear today is they're more interested in attacking a temporary deputy minister than dealing with the real issues of recruitment and retention. Shameful, that's absolutely shameful, Mr. Speaker.

So our goal and our target is 800 more nurses. And they've asked, how are we going to get there? We're going to get there by working with the professionals. We're going to get there by working with SUN — something that government could not do. We're going to get there working with SALPN. We're going to get there working with the SRNA. We're going to get there by having a team approach, not unlike what they did in Manitoba.

Manitoba is not facing near the shortage as what we are because their government and their unions and professional organizations have worked together, step-in-step, to address the problem. You only address a problem if you have the nerve to realize that you have a problem, and that's why this government never did.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting and I'm really going to enjoy, well, the four days next week, but the session going forward, with the critic, the Health critic who was a member, who is a registered nurse herself and was a member of SUN, was the president of SUN, and seeing how she is going to square the argument about asking questions — Are you going to get more nurses? When are you going to get more nurses? — when they never addressed the issue.

And you know how offside she was or out of step she was with her own organization. SUN has led the charge, quite frankly, about the proper complement of nurses. And they have said

over and over again that they just couldn't get through to the old government. They just wouldn't listen. For years and years they tried to get through and the government wouldn't listen. Well there's a former Health minister in the chair right now. They just simply wouldn't listen to the . . . not demands, the pleas, quite frankly, of putting a proper complement of staff on the floor. And they wouldn't listen to those calls.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you and the rest of the province, as well as the health organizations, we are here to listen and we are here to work with you to make sure that that never happens again because quite frankly . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Our health care system is too valuable.

You know they wanted to, during the election, talk an awful lot about oh, you're going to privatize this, you're going to privatize that. No, we're not. No, we're not. What we're going to do is make sure that the proper complement of nurses and doctors are on the floor so people don't have to look outside our province to get health care. They look inside our province to get health care, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, we've talked about increasing the number of training seats, both in nursing . . . We've also talked about increasing the number of training seats as far as the College of Medicine is concerned. It's an absolute must. Do you realize for the last number of years we have had 60 training seats in the College of Medicine? It is the smallest college of medicine in Canada.

I guess it maybe fits along with the former premier's description of our province as a wee province. We're going to have a wee college of medicine. And that's unacceptable, because our province deserves better than that.

And we are going to move towards increasing the number of training seats for doctors to 100, because it's not fair enough, it's not fair to go and poach doctors from South Africa, a Third World country.

We have got the highest reliance of foreign trained grads of any province in Saskatchewan. Until we take seriously our responsibility and start looking at a homegrown solution, by training our own students and who will stay easier to retain and work in the province, will we start addressing the real problem. We need to increase the number of training seats, and under a Saskatchewan Party government that's what's going to happen.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — So, Mr. Speaker, there are many more aspects of our health care policy that I look forward to discussing and debating in this House as they come forward. I look forward to many more questions. I was answering questions from the now critic from the opposition. She was saying, don't worry, you're going to have more questions. We look forward to it because we have a solution. We have a plan

that goes forward.

The people of Saskatchewan . . . It was interesting — in a polling that was done just before the general election where they talked about showing and the Saskatchewan Party at 50-some per cent and the NDP certainly nowhere close to that, but they also talked about health care. They talked about health care, and I think for the first time — as long as I can remember seeing the polls — that we, the Saskatchewan Party, were at 45 per cent and so was the NDP. It was the first time that I can remember that. It used to be the sacred cow for the NDP. It was their baby.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to tell you now, and I'm going to tell you into the future, it is no longer your baby. It's our baby. We're going to be dealing with the system. We're going to be improving the system, because people in Saskatchewan voted for better health care, not medicare.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to stand in the House and be supporting the Speech from the Throne. I will not be supporting the amendment.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To start off with, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that it's my pleasure to speak for the first time from the government side of the House.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — It's taken some few years to reach this point, but I think the training ground on the opposition bench has been well worth while. And I hope that the members opposite in the former government and the new members get an equal opportunity for training that I had, Mr. Speaker, and that for those that find it a little more difficult, that they get an even longer time period of training than I did, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate you on your position as Speaker. You come from the neighbouring constituency to me, and I have known you for a good many years, Mr. Speaker. And I have always known you to be very fair. In fact is, if I had any concerns it's that you might be too fair because I am somewhat of a partisan person, Mr. Speaker, and . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I'm obviously not doing my job well enough because the members opposite are not agreeing with me, Mr. Speaker.

[12:00]

But I know that you will be exceedingly fair in your role as Speaker and that you will be doing your utmost to ensure that the tenor of the House is maintained in a proper manner befitting the Saskatchewan legislature, which is known to be rather raucous, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the member from Arm River-Watrous. They keep changing these names and

making them longer. I would prefer they make them shorter, Mr. Speaker, because I'm starting to get grey hair and the long names become more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the member from Last Mountain-Watrous . . . no, Arm River-Watrous, is looking forward to this role and I know that his rulings, Mr. Speaker, when he gets the opportunity to be in the Chair and make a ruling, will be very interesting rulings, Mr. Speaker, and I look forward to those.

I've mentioned the new members in the House on the opposition side. I would like to welcome all of the new members and congratulate them on their election to this legislature. This is a very unique body that we are all a part of. We reflect the democratic process going back to Magna Carta in Great Britain, and it's amazing how it's . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . I was almost there; I have spoke to those that were.

Mr. Speaker, it's amazing how we have all branched out across the Commonwealth and chosen slightly different roles and procedures in each and every House. And I'm glad to see that our procedures in this Assembly are evolving over time and that we have new rules coming in again for this session.

It's probably not proper for any Assembly or any House to remain stagnant and tied hidebound to the past. If that was the case, then governments would never change. And obviously the people of Saskatchewan believe that there was a need for a change of government and so that happened. And we also see the opportunity as well for changes within the operations of this Assembly.

I'd like to congratulate my colleagues, the new cabinet of the new government, Mr. Speaker. I know that they are looking forward to the challenge that they all will face. It's a steep learning curve, especially for those members who are also new to the Assembly. They have certainly a struggle to not only learn their portfolios, but to learn the procedures of the House as well. So they will, I know. I have full confidence that they will be able to handle those roles very well, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to thank the Premier for his confidence in me in appointing me to his first cabinet as the Minister Responsible for Government Services, the Liquor Board, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming, and ITO [Information Technology Office], which a lot of people don't even know what ITO stands for. So I'll let them have the opportunity to do their research, Mr. Speaker.

Cannington constituency, Mr. Speaker, is in the very southeast corner of the province, and I would like to thank the people of that area, Mr. Speaker, for their confidence in me. The first time I ran, Mr. Speaker, in 1991, I received 45 per cent of the vote. And virtually every election since then, those numbers have increased to this past election, Mr. Speaker, to 78 per cent. And I would like to thank them for that overwhelming vote of confidence, Mr. Speaker.

But as my colleague, the member from Indian Head-Milestone, was saying, that it takes a large group of supporters to help get you elected. And in every election, I have had two people that

have done exceptional and beyond-the-call-of-duty work, and that's Garnet and Jean Ball. They have been there from day one for me, Mr. Speaker, and have worked very hard in every election. Also, Mr. Speaker, Marcia, Bonnie, and Don were very instrumental in this election as well and I would like to thank them for their efforts.

It seems — at least in my campaigns; I can't speak for others — that if you want to get the job done, Mr. Speaker, you get a woman to do it, and that certainly works well in my constituency. So I would like to thank and congratulate the women who do get involved in politics, Mr. Speaker, and it would be nice, Mr. Speaker, if more of them would get involved.

Mr. Speaker, I listened with bated breath I guess perhaps, or astonishment, to the speech given by the member from Athabasca. I note though, Mr. Speaker, that in the election in 1991 in which I first ran, the NDP numbers were . . . I believe it was 56 members were elected. And in every election since then, those numbers have decreased until in this last election they are down to 20 members, Mr. Speaker.

And in fact is, in the campaign in Cannington, the NDP first sign that went up — which was I think in the second week of the campaign — was actually a sign from the previous election campaign. They were so disorganized that they didn't even have their signs ready for the election, when the only person who knew when the election was actually being called was the premier, the leader of the NDP Party of the time, Mr. Speaker, and obviously he hadn't communicated the message to the rest of his colleagues and across the province so that they could even be prepared, Mr. Speaker.

The Liberal Party in my constituency, Mr. Speaker, was non-existent. They had a candidate. They had no signs and to the best of my knowledge and everyone that I have talked to, the Liberal candidate was not even in the constituency once. And I note in the neighbouring . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . And I only got 78 per cent. There are still those diehard Liberals that as long as they see the L, they have to put the check mark there. But, Mr. Speaker, those numbers are diminishing every election. I note that in the neighbouring constituency of Moosomin, the Moosomin *World-Spectator* even had a contest looking for who had spotted the Liberal candidate. And I don't believe anybody won that competition, as the Liberal candidate was never visible, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in listening to the member from Athabasca's commentary, he wanted to move on and forget the past, and yet he started his speech out trying to relive the 1991 election. And I understand why the NDP Party wants to do that because in every election since 1991, their percentages of the vote have continuously declined. They want to fight the only election in the last 20 years that they've actually won. They want to refight that one every time. Mr. Speaker, while the NDP party may not have moved out of the last century, the people of Saskatchewan have, Mr. Speaker, and because of that they chose a new government in 2007 to move this province forward for the next century, Mr. Speaker.

The member from Athabasca talked about this government is now responsible, and I understand that that is a new concept for

the NDP. For in the 16 years that they were government, they never accepted responsibility for anything, Mr. Speaker. Whenever they talked about responsibility, it was always Grant Devine's responsibility, not the NDP for their decisions, Mr. Speaker. So this government, Mr. Speaker, is prepared to accept the responsibility of its decisions — unlike the previous administration, the NDP, that could never accept responsibility for themselves and their actions, Mr. Speaker.

Talking about the new government, Mr. Speaker, this new government is about growth and opportunity, and I know the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow wants to know this. She is waiting with bated breath for the opportunity to gain some knowledge on how this government is going to proceed and the benefit that the people of Saskatchewan are going to accrue from this government, unlike the administration she was a part of, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this government is going to be . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . You see, Mr. Speaker, she mumbles from her seat, no, no, no, don't go back to the past. And yet the whole time she was in government, it was all about Grant Devine and the 1980s. As I said earlier, they were incapable of accepting the responsibility of their own actions.

Mr. Speaker, this government is about growth and opportunity. It's about security and compassion in the province of Saskatchewan, and it is about keeping your word. The promises that we made in the election campaign, Mr. Speaker, are those things that are going to happen within this province.

And we have already seen that action start, Mr. Speaker. The Premier, immediately after the election, announced the date of the next election as had been promised in the election campaign. Everybody in the province, including the members of the official opposition, knew that the election, the next election would be occurring on November 7, 2011. It's no surprise to anyone. Unlike the previous premier, there would be no games playing as to when the election would be called, Mr. Speaker. The opposition NDP knows when that'll be happening. The media knows when it'll be happening. The people of Saskatchewan know when the next election will be, Mr. Speaker. And that is as the people of Saskatchewan wanted it to be, Mr. Speaker. That's how they voted on November 7.

As my colleague said previously, 52 per cent of the people chose the Saskatchewan Party. Less than 40 per cent — the fact is mid-30s — voted for the previous administration, decreasing their numbers by 50 per cent. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that was raised in the Speech from the Throne was . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . 50 per cent — yes, 10 members of 20 is 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, "Securing the Future" was one of the titles of this Speech from the Throne. Mr. Speaker, safe highways is a critical part of this government. Whenever I was going around knocking doors in my constituency, the number one issue that was raised on the doorstep was the condition and the unsafe condition of the highways of this province — the unsafe condition.

In my particular constituency, in southeast Saskatchewan in general, there is a huge volume of traffic, Mr. Speaker, directly

related to the oil industry — an oil industry that was in place prior to the previous administration, that continued to invest in this province, Mr. Speaker, and will continue to invest in this province in the future understanding that they are a benefit to the entire economy.

But, Mr. Speaker, that comes with a price. That price in our area of the province has meant a severe toll on the highways — the highways and byways, the municipal roads of southeast Saskatchewan.

The previous administration, their idea of highway maintenance and highway construction was to turn the highways back into gravel. They didn't want to invest in rural Saskatchewan. They wanted to ignore rural Saskatchewan because politically they were not getting the support of rural people. So their attitude was, if you aren't going to vote for us, we're going to ignore you. And they certainly did their best, Mr. Speaker, to ignore southeast Saskatchewan — except, Mr. Speaker, when it came time to tax. There they knew where southeast Saskatchewan was, and they taxed heavily, Mr. Speaker.

Just take a look at the education property taxes, which are the highest in Canada, in Saskatchewan. This administration knew how to extract taxes, Mr. Speaker, but they did not recognize the cost to those communities, to those areas and those highways, those roads in the generation of those tax revenues? They completely ignored that.

The consequence of which, Mr. Speaker, is the roads in southeast Saskatchewan are in terrible shape and need significant new revenues to renew them and to return them to a passable condition.

I had a constituent call me this week with a concern about highways, that his windshield is cracked because he lives on a highway that is full of potholes. His daughter needs to go in and get her driver's licence, but they can't use their vehicle because the windshield is cracked, and there's no point in fixing it because the highway is still covered in rocks, Mr. Speaker, and it would only be a matter of days after replacing a windshield it would be back to the condition it was in before. That's the legacy left by the NDP government.

That gentleman lives on a highway that has a significant amount of oil traffic on it, and yet the previous administration, the NDP of the day, refused to repair that road and to renew it. Mr. Speaker, I have full confidence that the current Minister of Highways recognizes that duty and will do his best to secure the necessary funding to deal with the highways in southeast Saskatchewan to return them to a usable condition, Mr. Speaker.

[12:15]

Mr. Speaker, one of the promises, the campaign promises that this party put forward during the election campaign and will be moving forward on, is the tuition rebate for post-secondary education. I know that for many people that is a particular interest. And education costs are high especially if you're coming from rural Saskatchewan and taking your post-secondary education in one of our major urban centres. Not only do you have the cost of the tuition fees, the books, but



now you also have to pay for additional accommodation costs. So those are significant costs to be borne either by the students themselves, if they're in that position, or by the parents of that particular student.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you from personal experience, with three children presently in post-secondary education, that those costs can be extremely high. Therefore I think that the promise made by the Saskatchewan Party to provide up to a \$20,000 rebate, tax rebate, to post-secondary students is one that will encourage students to remain in school, to take their classes in Saskatchewan, and to stay in Saskatchewan to help us build this economy.

When you talk to people, one of the problems that we face in Saskatchewan is not that we don't have enough youth, Mr. Speaker. It's not that we don't have the seniors here. It's that we don't have the people in the middle between those two groups in those tax-paying years, Mr. Speaker, to help support the programs that we all desire such as education, such as health care, such as good highways to drive on. We need to grow this economy, Mr. Speaker, and this party is prepared to step forward and take the necessary measures to ensure that the economy in the province of Saskatchewan grows.

Manitoba has managed to grow by 15 per cent over the last 10 years, Mr. Speaker, and yet when I listened to the former government speaker, said it was impossible to grow Saskatchewan. The one member said it's statistically impossible for Saskatchewan to grow. Well I understand that under the NDP policies it was statistically impossible for the previous member from Regina Wascana Plains, who was the Deputy Speaker at the time, Mr. Speaker, I believe, that under the NDP policies it would be statistically impossible for that previous government to have grown the population of Saskatchewan.

But under this new administration, Mr. Speaker, the province and the population of Saskatchewan will be growing, Mr. Speaker. People will be remaining in Saskatchewan to build their careers — not just have a job, Mr. Speaker, not just a job, but to build a career here in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**An Hon. Member:** — Oh they're enthusiastic, Dan. They all want you to . . .

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — Yes, they're all listening carefully.

Mr. Speaker, this government has promised something innovative, innovative at least in the sense of the normal course of action by the Government of Saskatchewan when viewed in comparison to the previous 16 years worth of administration. This government, new government, Mr. Speaker, is going to fully fund the CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] program for agriculture, Mr. Speaker — something which the previous administration would never do. And fact is, I still get phone calls, Mr. Speaker. I got a phone call this week asking, asking that we meet the commitments made by that government in 2003 to fully fund the CAIS program.

The previous administration had no concept of rural

Saskatchewan, no concept of meeting your commitments, no concept of supporting the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And that's why they're sitting on that side of the aisle now, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was like their balanced budget statements. They would set up one little fund and say, yes, that fund is balanced, while they're paying debt, Mr. Speaker, to support that program.

They set up in the CAIS program a fixed amount of money and said, yes, we have fully funded our fixed amount. When the needs of the CAIS program exceeded that, they demanded the federal government pay more in, but they refused to fund their share of that, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** — We always funded our share.

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — No, you didn't; 2003, you did not fund your share.

**An Hon. Member:** — We always funded our share.

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite are claiming they always funded their share. They would designate what their share was, prior to the needs of CAIS, and fund that commitment. They would not fund the needs of agriculture, Mr. Speaker, within the CAIS program.

Mr. Speaker, one of the areas that the new Premier has asked me to deal with is Government Services, Mr. Speaker. And within that role, Mr. Speaker, Government Services provides vehicles to all of the government entities. One of the things that we promised in our election campaign, Mr. Speaker, was that the vehicles of the Government of Saskatchewan would be as green as possible, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will be providing direction to the Government Services directorate, that ministry, Mr. Speaker, that the vehicles that we purchase, cars or light vehicles, be either hybrid or high, fuel efficiency vehicles. We will be doing our part, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we meet our reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> in the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working and supporting the government. I look forward to voting in favour of the Speech from the Throne. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to rise today and provide my reply to the Speech from the Throne. But first, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass along my congratulations, and I would like to join the members of the House to offer congratulations on your new role and your appointment as Speaker of the House. And I would agree with many of the comments that have been made by colleagues, that your experience will be a benefit to each and every one of us.

I would also like to take a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to thank the constituents of Moose Jaw Wakamow for their support during the provincial election, and not only during the provincial election but throughout the years that I've had the

privilege of representing them.

Moose Jaw Wakamow is a great constituency. It's an urban area or has an urban section to it, with everything from brand new housing developments to more established neighbourhoods to heritage homes. We have a historic downtown and a revitalizing industrial sector. And of course I can't make comments about Moose Jaw without mentioning our jewel of an urban park, the Wakamow Valley. Moose Jaw truly has it all. Our rural area of the constituency is home to cattle operations, feedlots, grain, mixed farming and, of course, just south of the city, 15 Wing, the NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] flight training school and home of the Canadian Snowbirds.

But, Mr. Speaker, what truly makes my job special is the people in Moose Jaw that I represent — innovative, dedicated, down-to-earth. It's a community with a strong and vibrant sports sector, arts and culture sector. And we can talk about many of the names that you will see, authors, artists that are well-known within Saskatchewan and beyond. It truly is a great place to live and represent.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank all of the volunteers who worked on the election campaign. I had some great people that have come out over the last three election campaigns that I've run in to help, done a huge amount of work. But I'd also like to pass along a thank you to all the volunteers from each campaign that came out to work. Many hours were put in supporting their candidate. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank them for the time they dedicated, not only to individual campaigns but in a larger purpose of supporting a democratic process.

And, Mr. Speaker, it wouldn't be appropriate if I didn't pass along a thanks to my family for their support. The hours that they put in, not just at election time but throughout our busy lives in these very public jobs, I couldn't have done it without them and I couldn't do it without them so I'd like to thank them.

But, Mr. Speaker, we're here today to offer comments and a reply to the Throne Speech. And, Mr. Speaker, when I think of the Throne Speech there are two things and two comments that have stuck in my mind since I've heard the speech and I had to go back, go through the written copy to make sure I had heard them correctly.

First there was a comment that led off the speech early on, and it talked about keeping our word. The other comment contained later in the speech was, actions speak louder than words. So how do these comments fit in to what we've been seeing and hearing over this past six weeks? I know that the members opposite — and we've just heard some pretty long-winded examples of this on that side of the House — have continually blamed the members on this side of the House saying that we're responsible, have been, will be for years to come, responsible for all the woes of the province. And we've seen that attitude in excess since they've been sworn in. And we've watched as they have tried to soften their commitments and lower expectations on all of the election commitments and promises that they put forward.

Now fresh from the swearing-in ceremony the member from Swift Current spoke to the media about our stark financial

picture, but one of the first orders in council that this new cabinet passed was to increase wages of some of their political staff. Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech is right. Actions do speak louder than words.

Finances are stark, but they kicked off their government with some new wage increases and I'm sure there are more coming down the pike. With the release of the mid-term financial report, we could all see just how stark the financial picture was or is. Mr. Speaker, it must have kept everyone up right across this province wondering how this new government was ever going to be able to balance the budget with only 1.9 billion in cash and surpluses — stark indeed.

Mr. Speaker, now we can look towards Prince Albert, where even though the member from Prince Albert, the new member from Prince Albert ran his election campaign on a promise to keep the P.A. mill open — a vote for him was a vote to keep the mill open and people working — but then tore up the MOU as soon as they could get their hands on it. No plan put forward to keep the mill open. No consultations with stakeholders, the community or the owners, Mr. Speaker. So is that keeping your word to the people of P.A.?

And, Mr. Speaker, over the past week we've all listened to another issue. The Minister of Health and the Premier said before the election that no essential services legislation was necessary. It should be negotiated by the parties. That's what they said. And then their sudden decision to introduce essential services legislation. Well now maybe it wasn't a sudden decision, because now we hear that it's been in the works for the last year. So then why are they saying it wasn't necessary in October, and it wasn't a topic during the election? Are they keeping their word? Or maybe we're asking the wrong question, Mr. Speaker. What we should be asking is: which word are they keeping? No consultations and they won't table the legislation till late next week to avoid, and I quote, "inciting unnecessary fears." They'll sneak the legislation into the House at the last minute, adjourn, and head home for Christmas.

Simple questions that can't be asked, Mr. Speaker. What's in this legislation that they're afraid to table it and open up legitimate debate? Is that not what we're here for, legitimate debate? Who are they trying to scoop into this basket covered by essential services?

In manufacturing, welders are essential. Nurses are essential in the health sector, lab techs. Is it teachers? Highway workers? Prison guards? City workers? Who else besides the university support workers that they mentioned yesterday? Mr. Speaker, actions do speak louder than words.

[12:30]

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech also commented on the operating grant for school funding, stating that it will be increased by 20 per cent over four years. But it still leaves many questions. Does the 20 per cent increase include teachers' salary increases or are they calculating salary costs over and above that amount? There's a big difference in what it means for education funding.

So last spring after going through some very difficult school

board amalgamations, and eventually some school closures and grade reductions, the members opposite took every chance to criticize and play on the emotions of families and communities. At that time the members stood out front of this legislature and offered \$350,000 to boards of education for each school that was kept open, to be paid when they were elected government. Well now they're government. So where are we now? And are they keeping their word?

Revising The Education Act to improve consultation is now a commitment to "examine revising The Education Act." All these soft word changes. They're lowering expectations, or trying to lower expectations. Where did keeping your word to parents and school boards go? Actions truly do speak louder than words.

Now, Mr. Speaker, agriculture is always a big topic of any discussion in Saskatchewan. And the Throne Speech commitment is to fully fund CAIS — and oh, Mr. Speaker, I almost forgot the rest of this exciting agricultural proposal — and lobby the federal government for more programs. This Minister of Agriculture has criticized the shortfalls of CAIS consistently and criticized any calls to the federal government that they should be funding agriculture in Saskatchewan appropriately. You've criticized them. You've criticized them as purely ploys to avoid our responsibility.

So now what is this government and the new Minister of Agriculture doing? What is your agriculture vision laid out in the Throne Speech? This Saskatchewan Party government is doing exactly the same thing that they criticized the previous government for — fund CAIS fully and lobby the federal government. Mr. Speaker, how underwhelming for the agricultural community. I can hardly wait to see this new minister hit the speaking circuit to sell this new idea, telling producers they can't afford anything else with only \$2 billion in surplus sitting in the treasury.

Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign they were quite definite that a commitment was to hire 800 nurses. And I was very pleased . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear the Minister of Health stand up this morning and use definite language when he again spoke of this commitment in the House, because the worry is, in the Throne Speech, it had gone from being a definite commitment to a goal. And the targets for improvement for residencies at the university and for seats for doctors have disappeared from the Speech from the Throne. So you start to worry that . . . what happens with these words and what happens to the downplaying of expectations.

And, Mr. Speaker, this isn't new, because we can look back to early 2000. The Saskatchewan Party had a cute logo. The Saskatchewan Party has a plan to grow Saskatchewan by 100,000 people in 10 years. We heard it everywhere. It was everywhere. But after a couple months, you looked on the website and it said, the Saskatchewan Party has a goal to grow Saskatchewan. It went from a plan to a goal. And then you know what? It disappeared — gone, gone. Nobody says it. Nobody talks about it. No targets, no goals.

So, Mr. Speaker, soon as we hear, from election campaign to Throne Speech, the wording starts to change, the commitments that we know about that were made previously — like the one that now-Minister of Finance made to parents out in front of this legislature and now just shrugs like it's no big deal — playing on the emotions of voters and parents and families and communities is unacceptable. And this opposition will keep this government accountable.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on because there are lots and lots of examples — too many examples for the time that I have allotted for me here — where keeping your word is purely a cliché and not a value of this Saskatchewan Party government. And I'm sure, and I'm afraid to say, we will see more and more of this as the years go on.

Actions do speak louder than words. And all of their actions to date have been contrary to their words — say one thing, do another, flip-flop — call it what you will, but I cannot support this Throne Speech. Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the amendment.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to participate in this debate and pleased to support the Speech from the Throne.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your election and wish you the best in your new responsibilities. You've been a member of this Hon. Assembly for longer than any of us on either side, and you've always represented your constituents with dignity. And now you will represent the province the same way in your new role as Speaker of this Hon. Assembly.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank my hard-working constituents, the constituents of Thunder Creek, the salt of this earth, Mr. Speaker, for their dedication, commitment, and loyal support in the last election and for many years before.

For my constituents, the election of this Saskatchewan Party government is like the sun rising on a new Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — They want to see this province as a land of opportunity, and the opportunity is now available to do a better job for this province than has been done in the past. And, Mr. Speaker, I will do the very best job possible for my constituents and all of the people of Saskatchewan. I thank my constituents, and I ask them for their continued support as I represent them in this Legislative Assembly and through my new responsibilities as Minister of Enterprise and Innovation.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honour for me to rise in this House as the new Minister of Enterprise and Innovation for Saskatchewan to talk about our bold and innovative approach to securing the future for our province and its people. Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful to the Premier as well for the confidence that he has shown in

me by appointing me as Minister of Enterprise and Innovation.

We are setting a new course, Mr. Speaker. We are a government that believes in Saskatchewan values. We believe in keeping our word. We believe in security and compassion. We believe in growth and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, as stated in the Speech from the Throne, our government has a plan to create lasting growth for Saskatchewan and to ensure that this growth means security and a better future for all Saskatchewan people. And central to these plans will be the creation of Enterprise and Innovation Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, over the last number of years governments have attempted to dominate the Saskatchewan economy at the expense of the private and co-operative sectors. The old government domination model hasn't worked, Mr. Speaker, and those days are over. Mr. Speaker, it's clear that Saskatchewan's economic strategy for the last 60 years have failed to improve our economy, grow our population, attract investment, or adequately capture and commercialize intellectual property and innovation. And it's time to try something new.

Mr. Speaker, our economic vision for the province must recognize that the private sector, co-operative and non-profit sectors must be the engines for economic growth, and not the government. Mr. Speaker, we are going to do things differently and do things better. We're going to involve the people of Saskatchewan, those people who create the jobs, invest the dollars, and build the labour force, in setting the course for economic development into the future. Mr. Speaker, this will be done through a new special operating agency called Enterprise Saskatchewan.

Enterprise Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, will be a unique public-private partnership that will be governed by a broad cross-section of stakeholders and leaders from business, labour, Aboriginal, municipal, regional, education, and research communities. Mr. Speaker, Enterprise Saskatchewan represents a new co-operative team approach to economic development in Saskatchewan.

Enterprise Saskatchewan will coordinate the government's growth agenda by working across government and with stakeholders throughout the province on focused, collaborative economic development efforts. Mr. Speaker, this approach will ensure that stakeholders in our economy have an opportunity to share ideas, identify opportunities and challenges, and build strong relationships between government and business. Mr. Speaker, this approach is about shared responsibility for economic development in Saskatchewan and about sharing in the wealth and success that such collaboration will create.

Mr. Speaker, Enterprise Saskatchewan will take the form of a special operating agency similar to the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, and it will be governed by a board of directors who will be selected through a broad consultation process to ensure that the interests of key stakeholder groups are well represented.

Mr. Speaker, Enterprise Saskatchewan will create a network of business and industry sectors to work with government to

attract investment, strengthen existing business, promote Saskatchewan's advantages, and to work to create more wealth and more jobs for our province and its people.

Mr. Speaker, Enterprise Saskatchewan will address key issues affecting economic development in Saskatchewan such as the shortage of trained workers in the province. And this agency will focus on building capacity across communities and networks, and removing barriers to growth, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will focus on knowledge transfer, entrepreneurial training and development, investment attraction, business development, and enhanced services. And it will do this, Mr. Speaker, because Enterprise Saskatchewan will have the direct involvement of the stakeholders and community leaders who can make this happen.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, Innovation Saskatchewan will represent a new approach to research and development, and to the commercialization of innovation in the province. Innovation Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, will ensure that provincial resources are allocated to research and development in the areas that will provide the greatest benefit to Saskatchewan people and to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that the fruits of the fertile minds of our Saskatchewan innovators are more able to achieve commercial traction within the boundaries of this province.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the ultimate goal of our government; to ensure that the people of this great province share in the benefits and successes of a growing Saskatchewan economy to provide a safer, better, and more secure life for every Saskatchewan citizen. The new collaborative approach to economic development and growth that we are undertaking through Enterprise and Innovation Saskatchewan will help us, Mr. Speaker, to achieve that goal.

[12:45]

Mr. Speaker, this morning we listened to a speech from the member from Athabasca — more, I'd say, Mr. Speaker, a 25-minute angry rant at the top of his voice. Mr. Speaker, apparently that member believes that volume is some sort of a replacement for good sense.

In that rant, Mr. Speaker, that member talked about . . . He ended that rant, Mr. Speaker, by talking about how we shouldn't blame the failures of the NDP government for the problems that we may have in governing this province. And fair enough, Mr. Speaker. You know, we can manage, we can manage around the mistakes that have been made by that NDP government. But, Mr. Speaker, he started that angry rant by blaming the Devine government of the 1980s for all of the problems that they had and for losing the election.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not one who likes to pick at the members opposite, but inconsistencies of that sort ought to be brought to the attention of this Hon. Assembly and the people of Saskatchewan.

It's a new day, Mr. Speaker, and we're ready and eager to get to work on a new direction for Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, accordingly I will be supporting this Speech from the Throne.

And, Mr. Speaker, I don't know that there's time for another

speaker, but if it pleases you, I would, due to the lateness of the clock, I would move to adjourn debate.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The member from Thunder Creek has moved to adjourn debate. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — It is the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that this House do now adjourn. This House stands recessed until Monday the 17th at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:46.]

**CORRIGENDUM**

On page 42 of *Hansard*, No. 3A Wednesday, December 12, 2007, reference to “Sheldon Bourne” in the third paragraph of Mr. Forbes’s speech should read “Sheldon Born.”

We apologize for this error.

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