



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

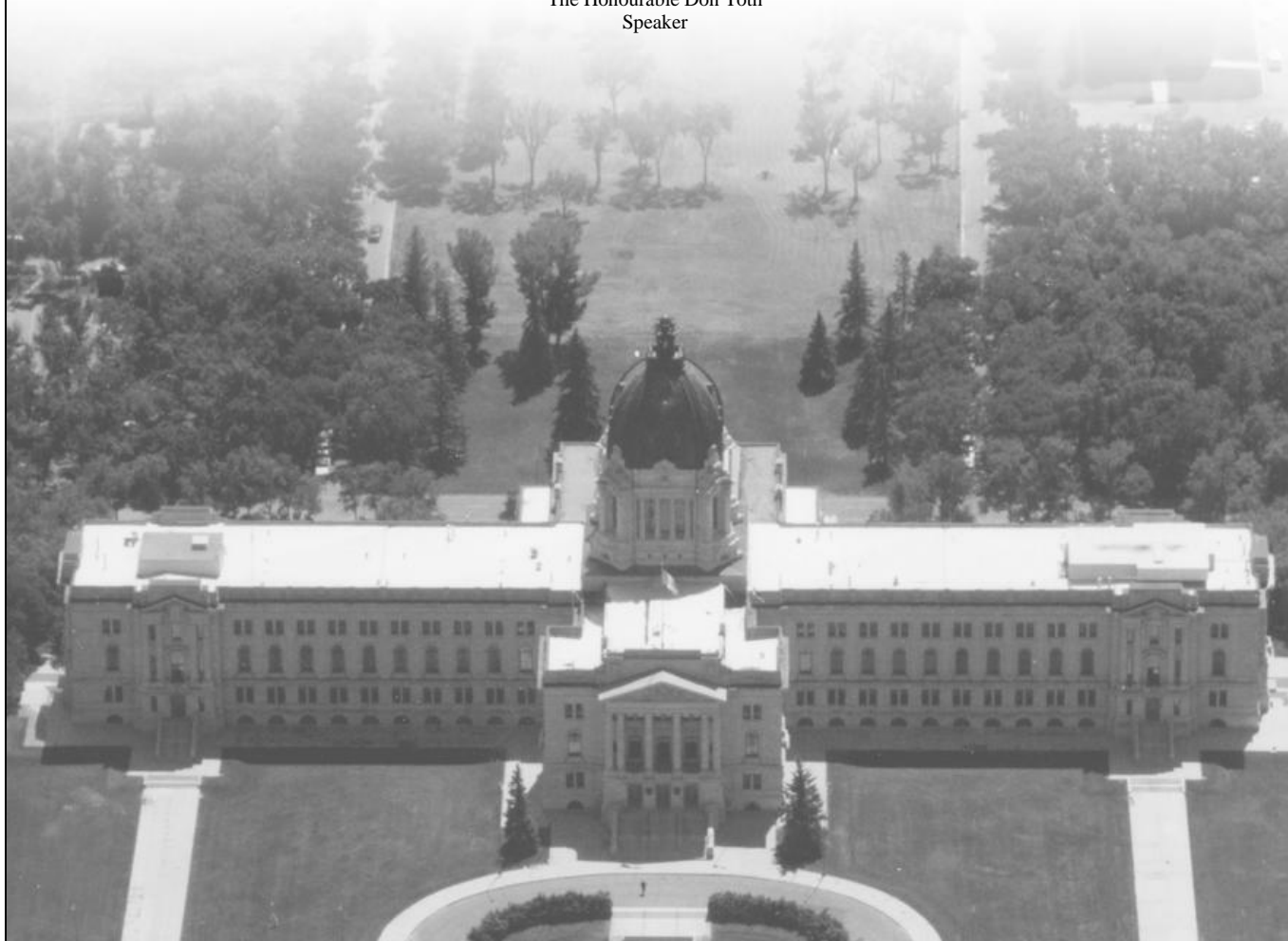
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(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
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
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
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 from Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to introduce to you and through you to the members of the Legislative Assembly a group of students that are seated in the east gallery, this group of grade 8 students, I think 15 or 16, from the Regina Christian School located in the constituency of Regina Douglas Park. They're grade 8 students. They're accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Geoff Glasspell.

I've met with Mr. Glasspell's students in the past, and I know that I can look forward to a very well-informed group of young students with lots of questions. And I look forward to doing that at the conclusion of question period. And I would ask all the members to join me in extending them a very warm welcome today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the west gallery there is a group of young ladies and gentlemen from A.E. Peacock Collegiate in Moose Jaw. These are grade 12 students from the social studies 30 class and their teacher, Ms. Carrie Kiefer. The students are currently studying governance in Canada, which prompted them to come to their Legislative Assembly.

A.E. Peacock Collegiate is a very well-known school and participates in the Student Vote program that corresponded with the last federal election. They're also active in a lot of school activities. Last year their football team won the provincial championship, and their junior girls' baseball team won the city championship. As well, this Assembly will remember that the Junior Achievement awards for their company Jarfuls which was a big winner in this year's Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame and awards earlier this spring.

So I'd ask all of this Assembly to welcome the students from A.E. Peacock Collegiate in Moose Jaw.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With permission for extended leave please.

The Speaker: — The member has asked for leave for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly someone that is seated in the east gallery. He's a fine resident of the constituency of Regina Walsh Acres. He works tirelessly on behalf of the people that he represents in his organization and the best interests of Saskatchewan people as well.

He is Lee Harding, and perhaps you could stand and give us a quick wave. He is the Saskatchewan director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. He was visiting this morning with our Leader of the Opposition, Lorne Calvert, and delivered 1,200 petitions on behalf of taxpayers of Saskatchewan. And I thank him for coming to the Assembly today, and I hope he enjoys the proceedings.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to quickly thank another group of individuals that sits here with us, day in and day out. They are very dedicated individuals in terms of providing us with prayer and guidance. And I want to extend my thanks on behalf of the official opposition to the members of the House of Prayer and thank them for their guidance and their prayers, and we certainly appreciate their dedication to the province of Saskatchewan which is obviously very deep.

And while I'm on my feet yet, Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to introduce four people that are seated in the Speaker's gallery. We have four legislative interns with the Saskatchewan legislative internship program. They are obviously no strangers to the Assembly, and perhaps they could stand as I call their names. It's Andrew Restall, Michael Radmacher, Dawn Gibbons, and Nicole Leach.

These interns are invaluable to the assistance of the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] that they have chosen to work with on both the side of the government and of the opposition. It's an outstanding program that we have the privilege of being involved with, and we have wonderful conversations and discussions and assistance from these interns. And I hope their experience was as fulfilled as ours was in terms of being able to work with them.

So I'd like to ask all my colleagues to welcome these guests to the Assembly today and thank all of them for their dedication to the province in the work that they each do in their individual ways. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Humboldt.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly an honour for me today to stand and introduce a very, very special person in my life — seated with the staff from my office who are also very special because they help me out each and every day — is my daughter, my middle daughter Shannon. And so I'm truly a little bit surprised to see her here today, but delighted to have her watch the proceedings. So if everyone would join me in welcoming my daughter Shannon to her Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members, as well I'd like to introduce a few individuals who have joined us, in fact that good-looking group of young men and women in the second row in the Speaker's gallery. They're individuals from visitor services, the summer group that are with us. And as you may or may not be aware, beginning Sunday the Legislative Building will be open from 8 a.m. till 9 p.m., seven days a week for the summer months to accommodate the many individuals who take the time to come and tour the chambers.

And so I am pleased to introduce four new information officers: Alexander Brazil — maybe we could have them stand as I introduce them — Amanda Dancsok; Brittany Love; Troy Smith; and returning information officers, Marita Clark and Alyssa Pittet. As well joining them today is Melanie Marchuk, Arnold McKenzie, and Lorraine deMontigny. And I invite members to extend a warm welcome to the individuals from visitor services.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome to the Assembly today, and would invite members to join me in greeting them, my two closest political advisors. They are, Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery. They are today watching carefully over the activities of government. I would like to introduce and welcome my wife Betty and our grandson, Levi Anderson Calvert.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition that speaks to the need for the Government of Saskatchewan to recognize the essential role of all health care providers as valued members of the health care team.

This speaks specifically to SEIU [Service Employees International Union] west members that are employed at the Cypress, Five Hills, Heartland, and Saskatoon regional health authorities and speaks to the valuable care that they provide to citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it also speaks to that there needs to be a realization that utilization and the full value of the range of professional skills needs to be recognized and that this promotion can only be achieved through a commitment to adequate funding and the installation of good faith in the collective bargaining process.

And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to maintaining quality health care

service and job security for all public health care providers.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present on behalf of citizens in Harris, Plenty, Cabri, Saskatoon, Maple Creek, Delisle, Mildred, Rosetown, and Dinsmore. Mr. Speaker, I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions in support of indexing the minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, we all understand that indexing the minimum wage would ensure minimum wage earners would be able to maintain a standard of living as the cost of living increases, Mr. Speaker.

And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to indexing Saskatchewan minimum wage to ensure that the standard of living of minimum wage earners is maintained in the face of cost-of-living increases.

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

And the petitions are signed by residents of Shellbrook. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. And we know that workers in community-based organizations in Saskatchewan have traditionally been underpaid, and many continue to earn poverty-level wages. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the development and the implementation of a multi-year funding plan to ensure that CBO workers achieve wage equity with employees who perform work of equal value in government departments.

And, Mr. Speaker, these citizens come from Melville, Balcarres, Lipton and Fort Qu'Appelle. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present

yet another petition, as I have every day of this session, on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind with respect to safe and affordable water and who, as of yet, have not had any commitment whatsoever of any kind from the government. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency and that this government fulfils its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Duck Lake, Saskatoon, Mistawasis, Beardy's, and Prince Albert. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of fairness for Saskatchewan students through the necessary expansion of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately expand the graduate retention program to include master's and Ph.D. graduates.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are university students here in the province, as well as a number of health care professionals with graduate degrees and are practising here in Saskatchewan. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition to pave Highway No. 135 that runs through Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan. The petition is signed by the leadership and community members of Pelican Narrows First Nation, the village of Pelican Narrows, and area. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to pave the 7 kilometres of Highway 135 through the community of Pelican Narrows, as committed on August 24, 2007.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people of Pelican Narrows and area. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise in my place and present a petition on behalf of 1,200 Saskatchewan residents who have signed this petition. Mr. Speaker, these signatures have been collected by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation in our province. They essentially call on the government to keep its promise and provide relief to Saskatchewan motorists with the price of gas through a reduction in the fuel tax. Specifically the petition is to government to "Reduce the provincial gas tax from 15 cents per litre to 8 cents per litre."

I present these on behalf of 1,200 Saskatchewan people whose residences are across this great province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Acknowledging Academic Excellence

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to rise today to recognize outstanding Saskatchewan students who have been recently honoured for their academic excellence.

Carly Priebe of Saskatoon Sutherland constituency is a University of Saskatchewan student, world-class triathlete, dedicated coach, and winner of the prestigious Vanier Graduate Scholarship. This scholarship awards leading doctoral students with \$50,000 a year for up to three years and has been compared to the world renowned Rhodes and Fulbright Scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, it also gives me great pleasure to highlight the achievements of three students who have been recognized for their exceptional dedication and hard work in their academic pursuits. These students are Lea Klump of Winston Knoll Collegiate, located in my constituency of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley; Kaitlin Sherven of Athol Murray collegiate of Notre Dame in the constituency of Indian Head-Milestone; and Lisa Poon of Campbell Collegiate, located in the constituency of Regina South. These impressive young people were recipients of the Millennium Excellence Awards.

Mr. Speaker, with outstanding young people like Carly, Lea, Kaitlin, and Lisa, we can be sure that Saskatchewan students are truly the next generation of outstanding researchers, professors, and industry leaders. I ask all members to congratulate these exceptional students.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Battlefords Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again to congratulate The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce for another very successful event, the 2009 Battlefords Business Excellence Awards, better known as BBEX, which for 16 years now have been recognizing the contributions that local business have made to the quality of life in The Battlefords.

One of the annual highlights of the event is the recognition of a heritage business — a business that has served the people of The Battlefords continuously for many, many years. This year, the award was presented to Bee J's Office Plus, a stationery and office equipment store that is not only locally owned and operated, but today continues to expand and serve a large area throughout northwest Saskatchewan.

Other successful businesses recognized at this event held Tuesday night, May 12, include Business of the Year, Lakeland Veterinary Services; Award for Customer Service, Battleford Super A Foods; Award for New Business, Cradleberry's Restaurant; Award for Community Involvement, RBC Financial Services; Award for Export Achievement, EnviroSAFE Chemicals Canada; and Award for Marketing, Blue Rentals.

All these businesses, their owners, and employees have served The Battlefords extraordinarily well during the past year. And the BBEX committee of The Battlefords Chamber of Commerce has done a good job in bringing the attention of the community to their good works. I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in congratulating this year's award winners and thanking the BBEX committee for their very successful efforts in providing this well-deserved recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Estevan.

Physician of the Year

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honour a family doctor from southern Saskatchewan that has been named our Physician of the Year. Earlier this month, Dr. Werner Oberholzer from Radville was presented with this award by the Saskatchewan Medical Association. The award was presented during a two-day meeting of the Saskatchewan Medical Association's assembly where approximately 80 doctors gathered from throughout the province.

Dr. Oberholzer is a respected and admired member of his local community and of the medical profession. He is dedicated to his job and strives to provide the best patient care possible, rising up to every challenge he has faced. Dr. Oberholzer and his wife, Dr. Helms, have been working in Radville since 1999, providing a vital service to the rural community. Mr. Speaker, it is physicians like Dr. Oberholzer and Dr. Helms that help build communities and sustain them while ensuring a top-notch medical care is available when we need it. Being named the top physician in our province by his peers showcases the excellence of his work as our province is home to many outstanding physicians.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating Dr. Oberholzer on receiving this recognition. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Norwegians Celebrate Constitution Day

Mr. Nilson: — [The hon. member spoke for a time in Norwegian.]

On Sunday it's going to be May 17, and Norwegians over the whole world will be singing their national anthem to celebrate Constitution Day in 1814. In Saskatchewan we have many residents who are descendants of Norwegians, and they celebrate May 17 here in Saskatchewan as well. And we know that there'll be parties in various places.

There are many Norwegians around the world. In fact I think there are more Norwegians who live outside of Norway than live in Norway now because of immigration across the world. But we in Saskatchewan are proud to have the highest percentage of Norwegians in our population of any province in Canada.

So with those members of the legislature who celebrate this with me — the member from Regina Coronation Park, the member from The Battlefords, the member from Saskatoon Massey Place, member from Saltcoats, the member from Saskatchewan Rivers, as well as the spouse of Mr. Speaker — we all wish all Saskatchewan people a happy Constitution Day. Hej, hej, Syttende Mai.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Leadership Campaign Controversy

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Dwain Lingenfelter was trying to make a political comeback. He was running to replace the former NDP [New Democratic Party] premier, but first he had to beat three other candidates — two men and a woman. Suddenly controversy erupted over allegations that Mr. Lingenfelter's campaign had improperly bought memberships for some people so that they could vote. At first he denied the allegations, but a party investigation found that Lingenfelter's campaign had bought memberships. The NDP disqualified those memberships and promised new rules to prevent that from happening in the future.

Mr. Speaker, you're probably thinking that I'm talking about the events of the past two weeks, but I'm not. All of this happened 21 years ago in 1988 when Lingenfelter was running for the NDP nomination in Regina Elphinstone, which just goes to show the NDP have learned exactly nothing. It's the same old problem with buying memberships. It's the same old Lingenfelter. And it's the same old NDP, only this time it was worse — more phony memberships, more cash to pay for the phony memberships, more of a mess for the NDP. But, Mr.

Speaker, what else would you expect from a tired, old party that is clearly stuck in the past?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Understanding Ministerial Portfolios

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I wonder how it is that the Sask Party cabinet makes any decisions. I mean it's not as if the ministers seem to know what's actually going on in their portfolios. It's one thing to have Robert Watson, the president of SaskTel, camped out in this building when we're asking questions about SaskTel privatization. We all know the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] couldn't answer those questions. And we've accepted that the minister of parks and recreation has such a lack of understanding of her portfolio that the deputy minister has to answer every single question that the media asks.

But the Minister of Environment set a brand new low yesterday, Mr. Speaker. When asked questions about her portfolio, she turned not to a department official. No, she turned to a political hack in her office to answer the media. A political staffer, Mr. Speaker, answered the media's questions on behalf of the minister. Finally we understand why the political speech writers in the Sask Party government get paid so much, Mr. Speaker, because they're expected to know more than the ministers. Of course with some of these ministers, I guess that's not asking all too much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Government Record

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you. Today I would like to share our government's record — the largest income property tax cut in Saskatchewan history, historic debt reduction in infrastructure spending, a new children's hospital in Saskatoon. We are building schools, nursing homes, and fixing hospitals and highways. Saskatoon and St. Louis will have new bridges. Regina will be home to world-class transportation hub. Funding for agriculture's at a historic high.

Mr. Speaker, under this government, Saskatchewan's now a leader in Canada. We are leading in economic and job growth. Saskatchewan people are earning more, and they're taking more of what they earn home. We are making life more affordable for Saskatchewan people. Thanks to our tax cuts, 80,000 people will no longer have to pay provincial income tax. We introduced a new low-income tax credit and benefits under the seniors' income plan, and they have doubled. Shelter rates, the employment supplement and training allowance for low-income

people, the food allowance for group homes, and funding for community-based groups are all up. Just yesterday we announced a new income program for people with disabilities, something they had been waiting years for. Saskatchewan today is a growing, vibrant, confident province. We are on the right track, moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, I see across the way that they have turned Sask Party green with envy. Mr. Speaker, this is our record in just 18 months, and we're just getting started.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Outsourcing and Crown Corporations

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. For 10 of the past 11 weeks, the New Democratic Party opposition has been asking questions of the government. Our goal has been to raise issues of importance and interest to the Saskatchewan people and to hold the government accountable not only for their election promises but for their management of public resources.

The people of Saskatchewan who have been watching question period throughout this 11-week time period know that our questions have been direct and often specific, but there have been very few answers specific to the questions asked.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, today in question period, on this the last day of the spring session, in order to seek real answers to our real questions, we are going to seek answers to questions previously asked for which Saskatchewan people have been denied a real answer. We are giving the Saskatchewan Party a second chance.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Taylor: — For example, Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on March 4 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer. So I ask it again today: how can outsourcing at SaskTel be consistent with the Sask Party pledge that they are going to grow the Crowns and that the Crowns will serve the people of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm delighted to talk about the Crown corporations and this party's record regarding those Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, on this the last day of the House.

Let's talk about SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] — amongst the lowest rates in the country. Let's talk about ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] — service standards within one day for . . .

The Speaker: — The minister responsible for the Crowns.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Let's talk about all the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker. Let's talk about SaskEnergy — 7,500 new connects, the lowest rates in the country in 2008, Mr. Speaker. Let's talk about SaskTel. Let's talk about 100 per cent high-speed Internet coverage in the province of Saskatchewan, 98 per cent cellular coverage. Let's talk about STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company]. The only new route in 30 years was done by this government, Mr. Speaker.

Let's talk about affordability, Mr. Speaker. Let's talk about SaskPower rates. Let's talk about . . .

The Speaker: — The minister's time has elapsed. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Nuclear Development

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on April 7 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so I'm asking it again today. To the minister: what are the actual, not hypothetical, markets for nuclear power exported by a reactor based in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker, so we'll . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . It certainly is a hypothetical question. There is no nuclear reactor in the province of Saskatchewan and there are no specific plans to build one, Mr. Speaker.

What we're doing though is the most consultative process ever in the province of Saskatchewan with the people of Saskatchewan. We're involving them as much as is humanly possible in a decision-making process as to whether there may be at some day in the fairly distant future a nuclear reactor in this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Minimum Wage

Ms. Atkinson: — We asked this question on April 30 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so I'm going to ask it again today. Saying he's studying it is simply not an answer.

To the minister: will the Sask Party commit today to indexing the minimum wage?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to talk about population growth, up over 15,000 people. I'm delighted to talk

about employment growth, but I'm especially delighted to talk about wage growth, Mr. Speaker — average weekly earnings up by 3.5 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Order. It seems to me we have questions being asked where members felt they didn't receive an answer before. And I would like the members to at least allow the minister to answer the question this time.

[10:30]

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Any assistance I can help the members opposite to continue looking in the rear-view mirror, we're going to just provide that, Mr. Speaker.

Eight hundred and four dollars, Mr. Speaker — \$804 average weekly earnings. I think our track record is very solid. In addition to that, since coming into office over the last number of months, we've raised the minimum wage three times, Mr. Speaker. We've kept three more promises. And, Mr. Speaker, we're delighted to say that this work continues. The work continues at a much greater speed than members opposite were ever able to pursue it in 16 years.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Regina Correctional Centre Escape Report

Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on March 16 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer. To the Minister of Corrections: will he refer the unedited report of the escapes from the Regina Correctional Centre to the Information and Privacy Commissioner, or will he continue to hide the truth?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections and Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As stated after the question was posed, and in the media, we said the members opposite have the right under *The Privacy Act* to make an application for the report. When they got the response from the ministry, if they were not liking the response, they then could go to the Privacy Commissioner and do that, Mr. Speaker.

The Privacy Commissioner said in the media that for us to go to him first with our report would be very unusual in circumstances of this nature. So they have the process. They could follow it, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Pay Equity

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on April

22, April 29, and April 30, and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer so I'm asking it again today. To the Premier: will the Premier commit to introducing provincial pay equity legislation?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Ed.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, most especially we can see that out of the more than 500,000 people working, the most recent numbers in Saskatchewan where we have First Nation and Métis people, 1,800 new employment opportunities and, Mr. Speaker, women's employment opportunities up by over 10,000, Mr. Speaker. We're delighted with this progress.

We know there's more to do, Mr. Speaker, and this government endeavours to ensure that we make sure the people of this province remain the priority. And that includes sharing the prosperity right across the province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

2010 Olympics

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We asked this question on April 28 and the people of Saskatchewan have not received an answer, so I'm asking again today. To the minister: what share of the \$7 million being spent for the Vancouver Olympics is being invested in Saskatchewan athletes?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the members opposite are aware, that we have signed a contributing territory and province agreement with Vancouver Olympics, a \$1.5 million cost to that agreement — \$750,000 of that 1.5 agreement, dollar agreement with Vancouver Olympics is going to athlete development, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

SaskWater Operations

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question March 24 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer. To the minister: will he guarantee to the people of Moose Jaw and SaskWater employees that he will not take a course of action that will lead to substantial layoffs at SaskWater?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for

Crown Corporations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's great to be able to continue our discussion on Saskatchewan's Crown corporations.

SaskWater has done a tremendous job in providing safe and reliable water for Saskatchewan people. As we've noted in this House, there's been agreements that have been signed by members opposite, by the previous government, that were troublesome for SaskWater, troublesome for the community of Duck Lake.

Mr. Speaker, thank goodness that that will not continue because this government is committed to ensuring that SaskWater and all Crown corporations provide the service at the lowest possible cost.

There will be no equity stripping, Mr. Speaker. There will no infrastructure deficits, as we saw from the members opposite. There'll be safe, reliable service for Saskatchewan people. That's our commitment on the election day. That's our commitment today. That's our commitment going forward, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Van Mulligen: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we asked a question on May 11 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, and so we're asking this question again today. And the question is to the Minister of the Environment: why was a 32 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achievable during the election campaign, but now it is not?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, we said all along that we will balance the economy with the environment. We have heard from business and industry that the 20 per cent target that we've adopted is still going to be a difficult one to reach, Mr. Speaker, but they indicated to us that a 32 per cent reduction would destroy them.

So while the members opposite are leafing through their very well-worn copies of the *Regina Manifesto* and contemplating how to eradicate capitalism from our province, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to make life affordable for people in this province. We will continue to invest in business in this province. We will continue to promote jobs in this . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, we will continue to promote jobs. We will continue to promote business. We will

continue to promote growth in this province, and environmental protection. Mr. Speaker, that will be our record. This is the NDP record, if they want their own yellow sheets.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Tendering of Contracts

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Member from Regina Coronation Park.

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on May 6. The government assured the media and the people of Saskatchewan that the contracts in question were tendered, and that they would make those tenders available. To the best of our knowledge, this has not happened.

To the minister: will he release the tenders for the contracts that were ultimately awarded to Garven & Associates?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, this firm has been doing work since about 2001 for the Government of Saskatchewan and the people of this province. The exact same format and structure as far as tendering of contracts has been used by this government as has previously, Mr. Speaker.

These people do good work as it relates to regional economic development and a variety of related tasks. Mr. Speaker, we're delighted with the work that's under way, that stretches across various ministries, Mr. Speaker. And we're very pleased that these people continue with that work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Storage of Nuclear Waste

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on April 28, and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer. So I'm asking it again today. The Minister of Enterprise and Innovation is clearly on record saying that the province is not going to store nuclear waste. But the Minister of Crowns says the province is going to consider nuclear storage. Which minister is correct? Which answer reflects government policy?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Well there is only one government

policy on this piece. There's never been any ambiguity on that. We've said from the outset that we believe that the people of Saskatchewan are not interested in storing spent nuclear fuel cartridges in the province, and so we are not interested in it either.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Delivery of Educational Programs

Mr. McCall: — This question was asked on April 18 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so we'll try again today, Mr. Speaker.

To the Minister of Education: why did he let the Minister of the Environment cut the Project Wet and the Project Wild programs that are recommended by his own ministry, and which benefit almost 1,000 teachers each year?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, as we seek to find efficiencies in government, something that the NDP were not necessarily committed to, one of the proposals that we undertook was to allow third party organizations to deliver those education programs for us. They are conservation organizations that are operating in this province, Mr. Speaker, that have an amazing network. They have very committed people working for them. And we felt that it was completely appropriate for those organizations to deliver those programs, Mr. Speaker.

So they will continue to be delivered at an actual cost savings to the government with absolutely no reduction in services to the people of this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Water Supply for Saskatchewan Communities

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on March 25 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so I'm asking it again today.

To the minister: with a 10.2 billion surplus and a 12 per cent increase, will the Sask Party focus some of that spending to help Saskatchewan communities struggling to provide their citizens with their safe and affordable drinking water?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Watching today's question period might remind viewers of the end of the season when all you get is reruns because that's what we're seeing today.

Mr. Speaker, we have provided historic increases in investment directly into municipalities for the benefit of their infrastructure through the Saskatchewan infrastructure growth initiative, through the municipal economic enhancement program, and we've given them more operating dollars than they've ever seen in their history through revenue-sharing increases. All of these financial resources are now available to people in communities all over Saskatchewan for drinking water and other vital infrastructure projects.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on April 8 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so I'm going to ask it again today. The Watershed Authority's plan says that there are at least two other high-risk communities where the authority will be conducting an assessment.

To the minister: what are the names of those communities?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is committed to offering free water testing for different communities. Those communities have not, we haven't had formal agreement, so for us to actually announce publicly who those communities are would be inappropriate.

But, Mr. Speaker, if the NDP are concerned about water in our province, I have a document, an NDP document from January 1999 which says, Mr. Speaker, and I quote, "In some situations such as in smaller communities, there are insufficient resources available to replace aging infrastructure and meet existing regulations." So, Mr. Speaker, what they proposed to do in 1999, and I quote, "establish a funding mechanism to support provincial water infrastructure." That was in 1999. They never got it done.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Severance of Public Servants

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We asked this question on April 28 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so I'm asking it again today. To the minister: will he confirm that the severance packages will not exceed 10 million, and will that include what we heard is a \$1 million severance for John Wright?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I can advise the member opposite that that particular lawsuit, the one regarding Mr. Wright, has been settled for approximately \$400,000.

It was the intention, Mr. Speaker, to deal with all of the people that were let go on the changing over, to treat them all with dignity, compassion, and respect. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, that is in fact what this government has chosen to do. And I'm pleased to say that virtually all of the outstanding claims have now been settled, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Tuition Fees

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on March 24 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so I'm asking it again today. To the Minister of Advanced Education: which colleges will be hardest hit by his decision to hike tuition?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I can offer some quotes from former members of the NDP. And you know, Mr. Speaker, what we can say is \$840 million invested through this ministry — 665 million invested directly to institutions. We've seen \$23.5 million invested to offset tuition. We've seen increases in infrastructure — record this year, Mr. Speaker.

We're helping to ensure that we have excellence, that we have innovation, that we have inclusion, that we have effectiveness, Mr. Speaker. We do that through the investments and hard work of this ministry and this government. We're working to ensure that we're supporting our students, our scholars, our institutions, and as a result the people of this province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:45]

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

Enterprise Saskatchewan and Job Creation

Ms. Junor: — . . . question on March 31 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so I'm asking it again today. To the minister: did Enterprise Saskatchewan advise the government on its so-called economic stimulus package, and will Enterprise Saskatchewan be conducting an analysis of how many jobs the package will actually create?

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 that question. And I can say this: that the work of Enterprise Saskatchewan is creating hundreds of jobs around this province and will create thousands in the near to medium future. And that work will continue to go on despite the resentment of our success from the members on that side of the floor, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

EZ Finder Phonebook and Crown Corporations

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we asked the question on March 12 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer. To the minister: why did he report to this House that all prospective purchasers of EZ Finder Phonebooks had been contacted when in fact they hadn't?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a tale of two parties. It's a tale of two views of Crown corporations in this province — one that would see greenhouse gas emissions go up by 67 per cent, one that would see the NDP government raise tuition fees by some 99 per cent, Mr. Speaker. That's their record.

They like to wrap themselves in the flag of the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, but what did they really do? Infrastructure deficits, equity stripping, no vision, no 10-year plan, no five-year plan, no four-year plans, no plans whatsoever for the Crown corporations.

Mr. Speaker, we are leading the way, whether it's SaskTel with 100 per cent Internet coverage, any Crown corporation, we're leading the way, Mr. Speaker. We're very proud of our record, and we challenge the members opposite to dispute that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Consultation Meetings on Nuclear Development

Mr. Vermette: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we asked this question on April 7 and the people of Saskatchewan received no answer, so I'm asking it again here today. To the minister: will experts be available at the UDP [Uranium Development Partnership] consultation meetings to answer the questions the public may have?

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 that question. I appreciate the opportunity to point out that there certainly will be expertise on hand to answer questions that the public may have at the consultation process that's going to criss-cross this province as a result of the recommendations of the UDP report.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

Support for Station 20 West and the West Side of Saskatoon

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, please do not hold this warm welcome against my time. Mr. Speaker, I came into the House today not with . . . at least not this one, a white sheet of paper. And I've endeavoured over the course of this question period to note the specific answers which government has provided to these many questions that have been asked — 19 in total.

My scorecard says, the Minister of Sport answered her question. The Minister of Enterprise gave us half an answer. He gave us an answer, but we're not sure what the answer of CIC would be, so I'd give him half a point. That's one and a half, Mr. Speaker, out of 19. My page is still virtually clear.

And the fact of the matter is, this is a serious issue with this government. They have not been open, they have not been transparent, and they have not been answering the questions of the public. And so, Mr. Speaker, I brought my own yellow sheets today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — And I note the government is well equipped with yellow sheets today too. I'll ask the Premier to bring out his yellow sheet. The two questions I have today for the Premier, the first is this — and if I may coach the Premier a little, the answer is yes.

My first question is this, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Premier has been kind enough to write a letter of support to the people who are still at work building the Station 20 West project in Saskatoon. Because the Premier has made a decision and the government has made a decision to support Saskatchewan's presence at the Olympics to the tune of \$7 million because they support that project, my question to the Premier: will he show the same level of financial support to Station 20 West in Saskatoon?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we will show more than that support for that member's riding and for the people of the west side of Saskatoon who obviously face challenges on a daily basis. We'll make that investment though at St. Mary School

and in an excellent housing project right around St. Mary School as well, Mr. Speaker.

We wish those who are undertaking the Station 20 fundraising, we do wish them well. We've stated that we are going to continue to invest in that constituency on the west side of Saskatoon and now, just in the event that we are not going to get to have another question asked and answered, let me just say this, Mr. Speaker . . . And I agree. We should probably at least have one more question. But let me just say this. And I'm prepared to sit down, Mr. Speaker, if you'd indicate that we might get one more question and one more answer and . . .

The Speaker: — One more.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — There we go.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Representation for Saskatoon Riversdale

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, as I believe you are aware, I yesterday did as the legislation requires. I caused to be delivered a letter of my intention to you, sir, to resign as the member of the legislature for the constituency of Saskatoon Riversdale effective June 30, 2009.

My question to the Premier is this: will the Premier today give the people of Riversdale the assurance that they will be represented in this legislature by the time this legislature resumes its sitting in fall, and preferably by a New Democrat?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm in a position to give an affirmative answer only to the first part of that hon. member's question. In fact, I think we may be in for a bit of a surprise here, at least a close race. I know there's a contested Sask Party nomination that's going to be under way, actually is under way there right now.

Mr. Speaker, we have noted over the years that in the past, certainly, in the past when NDP retiring politicians would have to move to Alberta for a job. I think of Mr. Anguish and Mr. Shillington. I think of Mr. Lingenfelter who has now come back. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful today that all of us live and serve a province of Saskatchewan with such an economy, with such a robust, job-creating economy, that that hon. member will continue his career in another way right here in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Because I think it's fair to say his efforts left the province better than he found them, and I know he'll continue to contribute to Saskatchewan. And while he

contributes, he will do so in a province where he'll have to pay lower taxes, where the debt'll be a little lower, the roads a little bit smoother, where there'll be more nurses to provide health care if it's needed, Mr. Speaker. And I look forward to future discussions between he and I on the future prospects of the province of Saskatchewan, his home.

We wish him well. We'll do so more formally later. Most of all, we're glad he's one of many who are staying and coming to the great province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

I would like to ask leave to move a motion concerning the order of business today.

The Speaker: — Order. The Government House Leader has asked for leave regarding a motion and the order of business today. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

MOTIONS

Order of House Business

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move:

That this Assembly proceed directly to government orders, Committee of Finance; and upon completion of the appropriation Bill, leave to revert back to motions to return (debatable).

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved:

That the Assembly proceeds directly to government orders, Committee of Finance; and upon completion of the appropriation Bill, leave to revert back to motions for returns (debatable).

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — Committee of Finance. I do now leave the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

Motions for Supply

The Chair: — We're in Committee of Finance now and I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move resolution no. 1:

Resolved towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010, the sum of \$9,545,542,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — Minister of Finance has moved that, no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010, the sum of \$9,545,542,000 be granted out of General Revenue.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move:

Be it resolved towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2011, the sum of \$282,304,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that, no. 2:

Resolved towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2011, the sum of \$282,304,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Chair: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I move that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and ask for leave to sit again.

The Chair: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the committee rise and that the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Chair: — Carried.

[The Speaker resumed the Chair.]

FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions and instructed me to report the same and to ask for leave to sit again.

The Speaker: — When shall the resolutions be read the first and second time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First and second reading of the resolutions.

The Speaker: — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Later this day, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Later this day. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

[11:00]

APPROPRIATION BILL

Bill No. 96 — *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 3)*

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 96, *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 3)* be now introduced and read the first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 96, *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 3)* be now introduced and read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this Bill.

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

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Mr. Speaker, under rule 72(2), I move that the Bill be now read a second and third time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 96, *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 3)* be now read a second and third time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Second and third reading of this Bill.

MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Debatable)

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Return No. 35

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 35 showing:

To the government: The third party review that formed the basis for the decision to contract out SaskTel conference calling capabilities.

The Speaker: — The member from The Battlefords has moved an order of the Assembly do issue for return no. 35. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A third party review was not required for the decision to contract out SaskTel conference calling capabilities. Nothing has changed to the policies affecting the requirements for third party reviews by SaskTel during the term of this government. It is operating under the same policies related to third party reviews that were in place during the tenure of the previous government. It is also important to note that there were no job losses at SaskTel as a result of contracting out these services. People affected were given other responsibilities within SaskTel.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move an order of the Assembly do issue for return . . . Oh, excuse me, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member from The Battlefords regarding return no. 35. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the nos have it. I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Return No. 36

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move an order of the Assembly to issue for return no. 36 showing:

To the government: the third party review that formed the basis for the decision to contract out SaskTel email services.

The Speaker: — The member from The Battlefords has moved an order of the Assembly for return no. 36. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A third party review was not required for the decision to contract out SaskTel email services. Once again nothing has changed to the policies affecting the requirement for third party reviews by SaskTel during the term of this government. It is operating under the same policies related to third party reviews that were in place during the tenure of the previous government. As was also the case with the conference calling, no jobs were lost at SaskTel as a result of contracting out email services. People affected were given other responsibilities within SaskTel.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the member from The Battlefords regarding an order of the Assembly to issue for return no. 36. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Return No. 42

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to move an order of the Assembly to issue for return no. 42 showing:

To the government: the Kirsch report on forestry.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion by the member from The Battlefords regarding an order

of the Assembly to issue for return no. 42. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to rule 21(1) returns are requested when, I quote:

Seeking a document or detailed information of a lengthy nature from the government generally or, more specifically, from a Minister of the Crown . . .

The requested document was not a government document. Mr. Kirsch's recommendations were made while in his capacity as forestry critic for the official opposition. This was an internal caucus working document.

The recommendations listed in this working document are certainly no secret. They were incorporated into the Saskatchewan Party election platform for the 2007 general election. This platform was widely accepted and supported by the people of Saskatchewan and we continue to work diligently for the continued support of Saskatchewan citizens.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion by the member from The Battlefords regarding the issue for return no. 42.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Those in favour, say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — Those opposed, say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the nos have it. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we await the arrival of the Lieutenant Governor, I move that we recess until just before 11:30.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved a time of recess till the arrival of His Honour. Is the Assembly agreed with the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. The bells will ring just prior to the availability of His Honour.

[The Assembly recessed for a period of time.]

[11:30]

The Speaker: — Order, order. His Honour is here for Royal Assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 11:31 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills.]

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed several Bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to which Bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — Your Honour, the Bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 57 - *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 69 - *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Amendment Act, 2008/Loi de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur l'exécution des ordonnances alimentaires*
- Bill No. 50 - *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Act*
- Bill No. 70 - *The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 46 - *The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 86 - *The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission Amendment Act, 2009*
- Bill No. 44 - *The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 45 - *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 43 - *The Trespass to Property Act*
- Bill No. 51 - *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 67 - *The Education Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2008 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*
- Bill No. 79 - *The Education Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)/Loi n° 2 de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*
- Bill No. 87 - *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2009*
- Bill No. 88 - *The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2009*
- Bill No. 59 - *The Election Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 60 - *The Senate Nominee Election Act*
- Bill No. 61 - *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 85 - *The Municipal Grants Act*
- Bill No. 68 - *The Arts Professions Act/Loi sur les professions artistiques*
- Bill No. 54 - *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008/Loi de 2008 sur les services de l'état civil*
- Bill No. 55 - *The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendments Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 47 - *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2008*
- Bill No. 902 - *The Stephen and Micheline Worobetz Foundation Amendment Act*
- Bill No. 92 - *The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine*
- Bill No. 93 - *The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2009*
- Bill No. 605 - *The Traffic Safety (Maintenance Workers — Gallenger) Amendment Act*

- Bill No. 73 - *The University of Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2008*
 Bill No. 76 - *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)*
 Bill No. 84 - *The Labour-sponsored Venture Capital Corporations Amendment Act, 2009*
 Bill No. 71 - *The Innovation Saskatchewan Act*
 Bill No. 89 - *The Education Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 3)/Loi n° 3 de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*
 Bill No. 90 - *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Education Property Tax) Repeal and Amendment Act, 2009*
 Bill No. 94 - *The Profits of Criminal Notoriety Act*
 Bill No. 63 - *The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Amendment Act, 2008*
 Bill No. 66 - *The Witness Protection Act*
 Bill No. 49 - *The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2008*

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly, I present to your Honour:

Bill No. 96 - *The Appropriation Act, 2009 (No. 3)*

to which I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

His Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 11:37.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask for leave to move a motion, and I'd also ask for leave to have permission of the Assembly to use the member from Riversdale's proper name.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave to move a motion, as well as to use the proper name of the member from Riversdale. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

MOTIONS

Farewell to Lorne Calvert

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At the end of my remarks today, I will move a motion, seconded by the Premier, that the Assembly pay tribute to the Hon. Lorne Calvert for his 22 years of service to the people of our province.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the last day Lorne Calvert will lead

Her Majesty's Official Opposition to do honourable battle in this House. Today is the last day we will hear his voice in this Chamber as the Leader of the New Democratic Party. But this is not the end of his guidance and influence. Lorne Calvert's enduring support and friendship, I believe, will remain with us all.

Lorne Calvert and I were both elected for the first time in 1986, when he was chosen as the member for Moose Jaw South and I was chosen as the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

For some reason our leaders, both Mr. Romanow and Mr. Blakeney, always put us near each other in the House, and then in the case of Mr. Romanow, he had us sitting beside each other in the cabinet. We quickly shared a close friendship, the kind of friendship where you respectfully speak your truth to one another even when we disagreed. And, Mr. Speaker, I can say with certainty there were moments when Lorne Calvert and I vehemently disagreed with each other. Mr. Speaker, the truth in any kind of friendship can be difficult and sometimes it can even hurt, as my mother would say, but it's the kind of friendship that I think will last a lifetime.

We also over the years got to entertain each other with the trials and tribulations of our everyday lives, and entertain each other we did. Lorne is a leader who supported his colleagues, and Lorne was the kind of leader who was always forgiving. He is a kind, principled, honourable man who showed great humility in his triumphs and bore so many undeserved slings and arrows with grace. Though a passionate and formidable debater, he always rose above nastiness, remembering to treat others without malice.

It is these personal qualities that I believe helped us win an election in 2003 when all the pundits thought we weren't going to win, and it's these qualities that helped us form an opposition in 2007 when I think some of our colleagues across the aisle thought we just might disappear. Thanks in large part to Lorne Calvert, we're still standing on this side of the aisle and getting a bit more used to our role as critic of government.

Lorne Calvert administration reshaped our province through his vision of social progress made possible through economic progress. We heard time and time again, whether it was in the cabinet, in a meeting with the chamber of commerce, in meetings with the United Church of Canada, or in meetings with community-based organizations, Lorne Calvert's words that there could be no social progress without economic progress. Lorne's vision helped to create a new social and economic environment that paved the road home for so many of our young people. I think one of Lorne Calvert's proudest accomplishments is that in the year 2007, over 15,000 people came to the province and our population grew.

We saw improvements to our tax and royalty regimes, diversity in our economy, protection of our natural environment — particularly the Great Sand Hills — and commitment to work with First Nations and Métis communities. Lorne Calvert paid attention to post-secondary education and training to prepare students for employment in our booming economy. These really are the hallmarks of the Lorne Calvert administration. New immigrants from within Canada and from abroad also learned of a welcoming province where they could find work and build

new lives.

Under Lorne Calvert, Saskatchewan emerged a proud province. And he wasn't afraid to advertise all of the glories of our province, even when he was being criticized, because he thought it was important that people within our boundaries understood the greatness of our province.

He also spent time developing our rich assets with an eye to social progress so that all of our citizens would share in our growing prosperity. Given more time, I believe that there was much more to accomplish to create the perfect province or as Tommy Douglas would say, the New Jerusalem, but I guess we'll have to wait for another day, Mr. Speaker.

Lorne Calvert did the preliminary, essential work for the abundance we now enjoy in Saskatchewan. In his steady and unassuming way, he shifted ground, providing us with tremendous wealth and a vision for an even better province. And for that we owe him our many thanks.

My personal debt to Lorne Calvert can only be paid with my immutable loyalty and friendship to him, to Betty, and to his family. Mr. Speaker, there are few friends that we develop in political life. We develop a lot of acquaintances, but I can say with certainty a friendship has been developed — a friendship that I believe will last a lifetime.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Atkinson: — Now, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Premier:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan hereby pay tribute to the Hon. Lorne Calvert for his 22 years of service to the people of Saskatchewan as a member of this Assembly, for his leadership and dedication to the public good, for his humility and faith in the equality of all people, for his many contributions to making Saskatchewan a better place to live, and for his abiding belief in social and economic justice for all.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member from Saskatoon Nutana:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan hereby pay tribute to the Hon. Lorne Calvert for his 22 years of service to the people of Saskatchewan as a member of this Assembly, for his leadership and dedication to the public good, for his humility and faith in the equality of all people, for his many contributions to making Saskatchewan a better place to live, and for his abiding belief in social and economic justice for all.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Premier.

[11:45]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour and a privilege for me to be able to participate in the debate and second the motion of the member for Saskatoon

Nutana on behalf of the government, more specifically on behalf of Saskatchewan Party MLAs who are here in the Chamber today.

October 20, 2008, there's a very, very interesting editorial in the op-ed pages of the *National Post* which I read, and was a little bit kind of vexed about frankly, Mr. Speaker, a little bit frustrated even a little bit by it, although I believed it to contain truth. The editorial, the opinion from the editorial board of the *National Post* was, they were weighing in on the legacy of Lorne Calvert, if I can continue with the hon. member's request that we would use proper names.

It's a pretty interesting editorial. I'm not sure if Mr. Calvert has even yet read it. I don't think . . . He strikes me, I don't know this to be certain, but he strikes me as the kind of individual that doesn't worry too much what's written about him, whether it is positive or negative. But he may or may not have.

It begins interestingly. It says:

For better or worse, the leadership of the Saskatchewan New Democrats is a role whose symbolic significance in the Canadian imagination well exceeds the importance of either the province or the party to the country's daily affairs.

Quite a kudos, frankly, from the *National Post*, which may not be sort of the flagship of socialist support in Canada, but certainly kudos for the New Democratic Party.

No one contends for the . . . throne of Tommy Douglas on a mere whim [it goes on to say]. Its occupant is traditionally expected to continue Douglas's legacy of policy innovation and keep the fires of democratic socialism burning in the heartland.

Now, on behalf of a group of women and men who tend to want to put out some of those fires at every occasion, it is difficult to argue with what the rest of the editorial goes on to say. And I won't read it all into the record, but for those members who have not read it, I invite you to google it and to go online and read this from, again it's October 20, 2008 *National Post*. It does conclude this way. It says, "Today, Saskatchewan is a place with an exciting future."

Those are words that could not have been written without irony just a few years ago and Lorne Calvert deserves part of the credit for that change. You know, Mr. Speaker, I think all members on this side of the House agree with that. I had the chance to just moments ago discuss, I guess, my views for whatever they're worth, of Mr. Calvert's legacy with our press gallery here at the Legislative Assembly. And I highlighted too his economic achievements.

Something that perhaps maybe tends to be forgotten, or maybe there're just other achievements that people focus on with respect to Mr. Calvert's career and his leadership as Premier, but we agree on this point — that you simply cannot fund quality of life. You can't provide infrastructure; you can't hire nurses; you can't pay teachers what you'd like to pay or ensure that post-secondary education is affordable without a growing economy. And to the extent that that sort of was the bulwark or

the foundation for Mr. Calvert's approach and vision to public policy and the development of specifically taxation policy, we benefit from those decisions today. There's absolutely no question about it.

There are other things that are important to a growth agenda in our view, in my view, Mr. Speaker. But none as important, I think, as a competitive tax system, as a tax system that makes sure we welcome investment. We don't punish capital investment unnecessarily. And those changes didn't occur, didn't happen from a centre, centre-right party necessarily. They didn't come from a leader of a "conservative" government. Those changes that have, I think, set the table for the feast that we are grateful for today, those changes were made by the government of Mr. Calvert, the hon. member that we salute today.

And were that the only achievement — and certainly it is not the only achievement — but were that the only achievement of Mr. Calvert, that'd be enough. That'd be enough for all of us to say today, thanks.

There are a number of other attributes that I'd like to touch on if I can, Mr. Speaker, my observations if I can. And then I know, more importantly, there are members on that side of the House that would wish to enter this debate — though I don't think there'll be much debating on this point anyway — and so I want to make room for them. But a couple of other observations, if I may.

Because of the aforementioned tax changes that he undertook, I think it's fair to say that Mr. Calvert is a man of courage. That he probably has a certain amount of toughness to him that maybe people don't recognize, because he would have had those in his party who would have been vehemently opposed to those business tax cuts. Cutting the corporate capital tax — those words might have been an anathema to many in the party, I'm guessing. And so I would say that we know that he is a man of courage and he's tougher perhaps than anybody understands because those changes happened. And as I recall, none of the members opposite voted against those changes when they were the government. Those changes passed.

I think we can all agree that he is a man of integrity. And while I'll be very frank and say that maybe on occasion I would have taken exception with a certain turn of phrase he may have used in the heat of debate or even a tactic in a campaign or part of a communication, part of a campaign, I don't think any of those, none of those circumstances would lead me to believe, or anyone else, that they were in any way an indictment, if you will, of his character. Because I think we understand him to be a man of integrity.

He was a leader of a political party though, and political parties compete — and they compete hopefully fairly. And I think that has also been his legacy, that sense of fair competition and the integrity and the honesty with which he's approached his public life. No one can doubt his sense of service and dedication of the province. I'm getting just a little bit of a glimpse of that over the last 18 months, just about the schedule, for example, and sacrifices made in terms of family and other issues.

And I'm also mindful of the fact that Mr. Calvert begun his

career on the government side anyway. I know he was an opposition member. I was an erstwhile young staffer, as members opposite every once in a while will point out, when Mr. Calvert was first elected. Well I wasn't here yet. I was still in university, but shortly thereafter was. So he was in opposition.

But when he was first part of a new government in the '90s, there was some herculean tasks that faced the government and very, very difficult decisions to be made. I freely admit that we have not — and I'm glad we have not — faced that scale of challenge as a new government. But because of the glimpse I've had of that time — I guess looking in the rear-view mirror, trying to understand what was going on — would tell me that this is a man of great service and dedication and resolve. And I think that that was the case when he was first elected to a government and obviously carried through as leader of his party and premier.

And I would also say this finally of Mr. Calvert. I don't think there is a more underestimated politician in Canada perhaps than Lorne Calvert. And every day for about four years — from 2003 to 2007 — was a reminder for many on this side of the House that we were some of perhaps a group that is too large who underestimated the abilities, the political abilities and just, you know, the abilities I guess in leadership of Mr. Calvert. I think that's fair to say.

The hon. member from Nutana referenced the 2003 election. I tend to think that our side — and I played a role in this as well, obviously, as a candidate and someone that was helping develop policy — I think our party helped in the '03 election. And the hon. members are thanking us and we say, you're welcome. But I do believe a part of it was perhaps an underestimation of the man that we honour today. Now there can be no underestimating about the accomplishments and the dedication. And we've already touched on that.

And so just before I offer a bit of a close, I also want to acknowledge, on behalf of the opposition, Mr. Calvert's family, Betty and the family. And his grandson is here as well.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well when the legislature is working right, Mr. Speaker, and when we have groups of students into the office that Mr. Calvert was in — and now I'm an honoured and temporary tenant of now — I show them a drawing that my son has done. He doesn't do much more art or drawing, Mr. Calvert, because it's not cool any more. But he used to do a lot of it and he did animation and he liked to animate the Looney Tunes. And I think we all can probably recount far too many of those cartoons — probably verbatim — at least, full disclosure, I probably can.

But one of my favourites and one that I asked him to depict was of that cartoon — if I may on a very serious occasion — that cartoon of Ralph and Sam. Ralph was a sheepdog and Sam was a coyote. And they spent those series of episodes beating each other over the head and Sam would try to steal the sheep and Ralph would try to protect the sheep. And they went at it hammer and tong for three minutes every Saturday afternoon. And then at the end of the day they would say, good night

Ralph, good night Sam. And they would, I guess, resolve to come back and do it again — but leave as friends.

And, you know, when this place is working right — and it doesn't work right every day — when it's working right, we go at it hammer and tong and we have debates and we disagree. But when it's working right, we acknowledge the fact that we are all here for the same reason. We think maybe we ought to get to places a different way and maybe at a different speed. But we're here for the same reason. And so when it's working right, we should say, good night Ralph and good night Sam. And so because of the leave that the hon. member for Nutana has asked for, we can say thank you, first of all, to Mr. Calvert and also, good night, Lorne.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And it truly is a privilege and an honour to be able to rise and make a few short comments this afternoon, and try as I may over the past day to think of, how do you speak about someone's career in the legislature and in public life in a few short minutes? And it's pretty difficult.

You look at a young man that came from very humble beginnings, born to a working-class family on South Hill of Moose Jaw, went on to a role as the MLA in Moose Jaw South — then referred to as Moose Jaw South, now Moose Jaw Wakamow — then to Saskatoon Riversdale and eventually to hold the office of the premier of the province of Saskatchewan. This journey alone speaks to the many, many accomplishments and stories that are held over that period of time.

I thought about talking a little more precisely to some of the accomplishments in Moose Jaw. We just have to look at our downtown. We look at redevelopment of a CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] rail station that was sitting empty for many years and a number of other developments that have really meant the renewed success and the renewal of our community in Moose Jaw.

I could also speak about a premier who had to make some very difficult decisions during some tough times to build a brighter future for all of us right across the province. And we went on to see Saskatchewan proudly become a have province and an economy that was changing and adapting to the demands of the world.

But, Mr. Speaker, I could also talk about a few more personal comments that come to mind. I could tell a story about a certain phone booth in a certain small community that was a bit of a campaign. I could also talk about Mr. Calvert's famous or infamous mechanical skills and the escapades of the Calvert family as they travelled around in their favourite mode of transportation, a series of buses — bigger buses and not always better buses — as they travelled around. Or I could touch on the member's artistic and creative talents as a painter that has a direct connection to the Moose Jaw murals and a letter on those murals. Or we could talk about his musical talents playing the piano at a number of occasions or being part of the famous

Loose Jaws from Moose Jaw.

But what really strikes each of us who's had the privilege of serving with this man is his undying commitment to and enjoyment of and respect for not only this province but the people of this province who truly make Saskatchewan. So try as I may, I have to give back to Mr. Calvert something that he has mentioned on a number of times, an Eastern proverb which in translation reads:

I fell asleep and I dreamed that life was happiness.
I awoke and I found that life was service.
I served and found that service was happiness.

So to Lorne Calvert and to his family and on behalf of many, many people not only in this legislature but in my constituency and across the province, thank you for realizing that your happiness was in the service to the people of the province of Saskatchewan. And best wishes for your future and we hope to hear from you often. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, the very Hon. Lorne Calvert.

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have given some consideration to the motion that is before the House. I am prone to support it.

Although I must say, Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting circumstance when listening to the debate around this motion. It has the sense of a condolence motion, and one is not usually present in the Assembly for that kind of motion. I express my deep appreciation to the members who have spoken to this motion today and to the members on both sides of the House who have spoken to me over the course of the past few days and weeks. These comments and these thoughts are very appreciated.

[12:00]

I sincerely appreciate the Premier's comments today. I did appreciate his and their help in 2003, less so in more recent times. But I sincerely appreciate both the gesture that the Premier's made today and, Mr. Speaker, made yesterday in terms of a more personal visit that we had.

In this place, Mr. Speaker, and across these aisles, we are political foes and we are political friends. And even in the height of our deepest disagreement, there is a unity, I believe, among us of a love for this province and its people. There is a unity in the common experience we all have as public life figures and elected members. And when we leave this place, I think we are more sensitive to that which makes us one as opposed to that which makes us separate.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to note that, since question period, others have joined us in the gallery. This has been a day of some surprise for me. I'm so pleased to note that in the east gallery, Mr. Speaker, some former senior public officials in the government that I led, members today of our own caucus, the staff. I was so surprised to see in the rotunda just moments ago

— not expecting this — some of my very best friends and constituents from the constituency of Riversdale. And to identify one particularly, Ms. Yvonne McCowan who has served all of my time in Riversdale as our constituency assistant. So I thank you all for being here.

I can't take a lot of time today, but I must say this, members, about my constituency assistant, Yvonne McCowan. I've told this story on a number of occasions in Saskatoon, but I tell it here again today. When I was first elected in Riversdale and establishing an office, as many of us do, I posted an ad. We interviewed a number of people for the position of constituency assistant. We narrowed it down to three people. I was to conduct an interview with the three. On that given morning, Yvonne was first on the list. She brought some cinnamon buns. Yvonne, before her work in the constituency office, has done work in baking. In fact she had a little business called Yvonne Kneads Dough. After the cinnamon buns, there was no need to conduct any further interviews that day. I so much appreciate the fact that these friends have joined us here today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Having heard some of those comments that have been made today by my colleague from Nutana, Moose Jaw Wakamow, and the Premier, I offer this little bit of advice to all members, something which I read some time ago. This is an advice to all members. Remember this: you are never as good or as bad as they say you are. Lest we sometimes lose touch with reality in this work or sometimes succumb to depression, just remember we are never as good or as bad as they say we are.

Although I must say, Mr. Speaker, I'm kind of pleased that Betty was in the gallery to hear these comments. With her more inside knowledge, she may not have been quite as generous.

And if I may say, Mr. Speaker, how pleased I am to have in the gallery today our grandson, Levi. I will tell members that last Sunday, being Mother's Day, we were together, and I suggested to Levi that perhaps he may want to join us here today, knowing that Levi has been my political advisor. He helped me call two elections — one win, one loss. Not bad for elementary school. In any event on Sunday, when I suggested to Levi that perhaps he would like to join us here today — this would be grandpa's last day — he paused, thought about it a bit and said to me he wasn't sure about that because he has a perfect attendance record at school, and he didn't particularly want to ruin that. Lesson number one in politics: keep reality always in mind.

But later in the course of the day he considered this further and decided, yes; he perhaps would like to be here because, members, Mr. Speaker, this is what he said: "Grandpa, I think I would like to visit that yelling place." I have some education to do with my grandson. The parliament is the talking place. Although I must say, members, in question period today you did not disappoint my grandson.

Mr. Speaker, when I came to this House in 1986, I could not have imagined, would never have imagined this day nor the many days that have intervened. I could not have imagined a journey that has been as long and as varied and as rewarding. As Allan Blakeney often said to we who joined his caucus in

1986, there isn't a bad seat in this House. Having occupied many of them, I agree. There is, Mr. Speaker, not a bad seat in this House, for we enter this place only, only because of the confidence of our neighbours who entrust us to lead in the matters that concern the province we share and love, and that's true no matter what seat we occupy in this legislature. They are, as the Premier has indicated, they are all temporary seats. But for a season, we are entrusted by our neighbours to together lead this province. To be entrusted to lead is a rare privilege.

Robert Cooley has said this on the subject of leadership: "The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last responsibility of a leader is to say thank you. In between you become servant and debtor."

With greater or lesser success, I have endeavoured to define reality for my season in this legislature. I have heard it reflected again this morning. I saw reality in the simple equation that we cannot make social progress without economic progress. But the equation, Mr. Speaker, does not stop there. The equation is concluded by saying, but we should not make economic progress that does not result in social progress. We should never make economic progress just for the sake of economic progress. It ought to result in a better life for the many.

That was my reality, Mr. Speaker. And with greater or lesser success — and history will judge how we were able to accomplish towards that reality — but I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, and proud that at the end of our term in government I believe a single mom working in this province had a better chance to get a job than she might have when first we came to government. History will be the judge of the rest.

In the first speech I ever made in this legislature, I quoted Roosevelt. I quote him again today, you know: the test of our progress is not in whether we have added more to the abundance of those who have much, but on how we have met the needs of those who have little. And history will be the judge of my time and our time here.

So if the task of leadership first is to define reality and then we become servant in pursuing that reality and then we become a debtor according to Cooley, well if I don't know much about or can't rule on how successful or not we were, I can rule on this, Mr. Speaker. There is one thing of which I am certain. I leave public life a debtor, a debtor to the people of this province, a debtor to my party, a debtor to this institution and all the opportunity it has afforded me. Mr. Speaker, because of our democracy, because of this institution, I had that great privilege of leading this province through our centennial, through the celebration of this province's centennial.

I, as the Premier now does, had the great opportunity to celebrate the Saskatchewan team, be it the Olympic team or the football team or the hockey team. And I had the great opportunity handed to me to celebrate the Saskatchewan artist: the Andrea Menards, the Theresa Sokyrcas, Megan Lanes, Kyle Riabkos; our poets, Gary Hyland, Robert Currie, Lorna Crozier; the Joe Fafards.

I had that opportunity to celebrate the Saskatchewan artist and had the opportunity to celebrate the best of our people, whether it was through our Order of Merit or the Volunteer Medal, the

Protective Services Medal, and I think of those ceremonies. The most meaningful for me was always the Literacy Award. I had that chance.

And by virtue of this institution, Mr. Speaker, I had the chance to sit at the table with three different Canadian prime ministers, two American presidents, two Russian presidents, every member of the current royal family. By virtue of this democracy, I had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to walk in the corridors of the White House and to walk in the corridors of the Kremlin and to walk in the corridors of the Great Hall of the People.

And I've had the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to have the signature of Randy Travis on my guitar and the signature of four Rolling Stones on the guitar strap. And I had the privilege to stand on the stage of the Junos and get the bear hug from Tom Jackson. And I had the privilege, Mr. Speaker, to do the touchdown lap around Taylor Field with Gainer the Gopher.

And I tell you, Mr. Speaker, how does this work? How does this work, that in some ways the most unlikely candidate for political office — never mind high political office — the almost accidental tourist, the son of a lumberyard worker from the south hill of Moose Jaw, how could all of this opportunity have happened? Because of democracy, this institution, our party process.

I leave a debtor. But much more than those things I've mentioned, I leave the debtor because, Mr. Speaker, this institution and this democracy and this party process of ours gave me the opportunity to play "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, Cwn Rhondda" on the pump organ in the church at Stanley Mission and then to have a feast of fresh, fresh pickerel in the pavilion that stands beside that church. And this opportunity that was handed to me allowed me to stand on the highest hill in the grasslands and go over to Eastend and touch the T. Rex.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the chance to ride in a bus over every pothole in Saskatchewan — each of them nicely pointed out to me by opposition members at the time we were in government. I have dined in virtually every Legion hall. I have met in our corporate boardrooms. I have sat in our classrooms. I have walked the picket line, and I've had soup in the church basement. And, Mr. Speaker, in that love-hate relationship that exists between a people and their politicians, I have known nothing but hospitality in this province. In fact I once said to my friends in Eastend, I have never met a friendlier or more hospitable people who never voted for me.

I leave, Mr. Speaker, public life and this institution. I leave a debtor. And if according to Cooley, the last responsibility of a leadership is to say thank you, I have cause to say thanks. My thanks today to a free and persistent press, the journalists who preserve independent expression and accountability within our democracy. I will miss you. Sometimes.

My thanks today to the officers of this legislature, including yourself, Mr. Speaker, and all who serve this legislature. Our democracy is protected by an institution that is greater than any one of us, an institution that outlasts any one of us, an institution that survives because of the people who serve this

legislature in all its capacities. My thanks to those who work here to make it so.

My thanks to those with whom I work today and have in past, those who have served in the constituency office, those who today serve in our caucus office, those who have served in the office of Premier when I was there, those who have served our caucus throughout. Mr. Speaker, many of these were co-workers and, as I leave, I am proud to say I now count them friends.

[12:15]

My thanks, as well, to the Saskatchewan public service known appropriately across this country as the best public service in Canada.

And, Mr. Speaker, a particular thanks to those I worked with most closely in cabinet and Executive Council — my deputy and deputies and associate deputies. My thanks to my elected friends, present and past. If I've been able to accomplish anything in public life, it was always in the context of a team, an elected team. As my friend from North Battleford says, if you find a turtle on a fence post, he didn't get there by himself. We do not accomplish alone. And my thanks to my elected colleagues, to them I owe a great deal. And as the member from Nutana, I think, referenced in her remarks, you know in this politic, we make many, many acquaintances but very few friends. So to my friends on both sides, I say thank you.

To my party, my deepest thanks. My party. You recruited me. You nominated me. You volunteered election after election on my behalf in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon. You've inspired me. You've tested me. You've challenged me. You made me your leader, and you're giving me a gracious farewell. And so to the party I love and will always support, my thanks.

And to my family — extended to the Calverts and the McCurdys and the Phillips and the Henders and the Sluzalos, and the Pangracs and the Davidsons — sometimes who were proud to be identified and other times embarrassed, always supportive, my thanks. And to my closest — to our grandchildren, our children, and my wife — my thanks.

There's not a bad seat, Mr. Speaker, in this House. And I've been privileged to sit in many of them. To you who will continue to occupy these seats, you are never as good as they say you are, nor are you as bad. Yours is the task now of leadership, of defining our realities, and then becoming servant and debtor, and when your time is right, to say thanks. So love this province, love its people, be true to your work, be true to this institution, be true to the people who brought you here. And to quote the Electric Light Orchestra, through all the chances and changes of life, political life:

Hold on . . . to your dream
When you see your ship go sailing . . .
Hold on . . . to your dream.

It's your dream that brought you here. Hold on to it. And let no divide between us, internal or external, ever grow wider than that which unites us, which is the great people in the province of Saskatchewan who make this all possible for us. Hold on to

your dream. And may the God in whom I believe bless you and bless this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I personally thank the members for their kind words shared for the Hon. Lorne Calvert for his time and years of service, not only in this Chamber but to our province. And the question now before the Assembly is the question presented by the member from Saskatoon Nutana:

That the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan hereby pay tribute to the Hon. Lorne Calvert for his 22 years of service to the people of Saskatchewan as a member of this Assembly, for his leadership and dedication to the public good, for his humility and faith in the equality of all people, for his many contributions to making Saskatchewan a better place to live, and for his abiding belief in social and economic justice for all.

Is it 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. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, I request that this motion be passed *nemine contradicente*.

The Speaker: — The motion is passed *nemine contradicente*. Thank you. I recognize the Government House Leader.

An Hon. Member: — Does that mean we won that vote?

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, the question was, does that mean we won that vote? We all won that vote, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask leave to pass a motion regarding the end of session and to make some comments.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave to move a motion of adjournment as well as make some closing remarks. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

House Adjournment

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again we come to the end of a legislative session. And it certainly is an appropriate time at the end of this 2009 spring session to thank a good number of people who have contributed to the success of this Assembly.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you and the Clerks at the Table and the Legislative Assembly staff. I'd like

to thank all of the elected members, the Chairs and Co-Chairs, and members of all the committees that serve this Assembly. I'd like to thank the Hansard staff, the Journals staff, the broadcast services staff, the Sergeant-at-Arms and all the commissionaires, the building maintenance staff, the library services staff, the cafeteria, and the interns and the summer students.

We'd particularly like to thank the Pages for all their efforts of trying to accommodate the needs of the members of this Assembly. I'd also like to thank staff in respective caucus offices, the staff in the Executive Council offices, and the staff in all the ministers' offices as well, and particularly to thank the media for their attention and dedication to what we do in this Assembly.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues in this Assembly on both sides of the House. And I'd like to especially thank the Opposition House Leader for the close and congenial efforts that we've made to make sure that the business of this House was conducted in an appropriate and time-sensitive manner.

But most of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our families on behalf of the members of this Assembly. Our duties as members of the Legislative Assembly take us away from home far too often, far too long. And we leave behind our family members who support us even though we are away from them on many occasions. And so on behalf of all members of this Assembly, I would like to express my thanks to all of our families for their support, guidance, and continued inspiration and love.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to move by leave of the Assembly:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day in accordance with the resolution of the Assembly adopted May 13, 2009, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 21, 2009, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government; and if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is a motion presented by the Government House Leader. Will the members take it as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. I recognize the Opposition House Leader, the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I wish to join the Government House Leader in expressing thanks to those who serve us — the officers and others so expressed by the Government House Leader — on behalf of the official opposition.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to publicly thank the Government

House Leader, the member from Melfort, and his staff within government business for all the co-operation that we've been able to achieve, that he's provided in order to ensure that this place runs smoothly. Mr. Speaker, I think to many members of the public this place often looks chaotic. But, Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of order to the chaos that is perceived here, and that order exists because there is a great deal of behind-the-scenes co-operation between the government and the opposition.

And it's thanks to the people who work in government business, the Government House Leader and his colleagues, that ensure that we on this side of the House are able to understand how a day will function and what is achievable and not achievable in order to perform the functions that we must achieve. So I thank those responsible on the government side for that.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my thanks to my leader, the member from Riversdale, for his confidence in me to manage the affairs of the House for the official opposition. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on this side of the House — and also include members on the government side of the House, Mr. Speaker — for their confidence in my ability to ensure that we do have the co-operation necessary to get the work done that needs doing here.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to express my thanks to those that the Government House Leader has already mentioned — our immediate families and, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, my own family who allow me to do the things that need to be doing here in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I wish all members of the House a very successful and productive time away from this place. And as the motion indicates, I look forward to joining all members on October 21 when we return to this place to conduct the business of the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before placing the question, I would ask leave just to make a short statement of thanks. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you. As has already been expressed by the two House Leaders, we've extended thanks to a number of individuals, but I would personally like to extend my thanks as well as the Speaker of the Assembly.

And first of all to the Government House Leader and the Opposition House Leader in their work and their co-operation. And even just a few moments ago, as we said our thanks to the member from Riversdale, without the leadership of both the Premier and the member from Riversdale as well, this job — sitting up here and trying to be the impartial person in the Chamber — would be a lot more difficult. And I recognize and I appreciate the co-operation of members, as has been already indicated.

This is a place for political debate. You see the political spokesmen on the floor of the Chamber. And yes, the debate becomes quite passionate. But I want to express my thanks and gratitude for those moments as we become passionate, but as

well of recognizing the decorum and doing our best to bring a mode of decorum to the Chamber, and I express my thanks and gratitude.

Most importantly, we extend our thanks to the people who serve us. We serve. We're here as servants. Those who elected us say, you're our leaders. But in reality we're servants. And then we have a number of people who serve us to help make us look even better.

And to the Clerks at the Table, to our Sergeant-at-Arms and the legislative security and sessional security staff and the committee staff, we say thank you for your commitment and your dedication to the members of this Assembly.

To the officials who appear before the committees, and as well, thank you to the Pages: Brianne Coffey, Megan Fraser, Tanessa Johnson, Samantha Kerr, Desiree McPartlin, and Raegan Woods. Thank you so much for your dedication as Pages to serve us this past session.

I also want to extend a special thank you to the other members of this building, many whom we don't see: those in the Dome Cafeteria for their work and dedication in the many meals they prepared for us, but even importantly for serving us in the many receptions that have been held in this building; to Government Services; branches of the Legislative Assembly — the Clerk's office, and Office of the Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel, communication and technology services, financial and administrative services, Hansard, human resource and payroll services, Journals, Legislative Library, and visitor services.

[12:30]

And I would like to also add to our Journals and Legislative Library, and to the technicians a special thank you as well, as we've been working through the challenges of dealing with the additional lighting in the building. We say thank you.

And I'd like to just complete my thanks by also extending thanks to our constituency assistants, families of MLAs, to my wife personally, my children, and as some other members have mentioned, grandchildren that I now get to enjoy. And if you don't have them yet, yes, they're a great pleasure to have and then to enjoy.

So to each and every one of you and to our staff in our constituencies, we say thank you and we wish you a pleasant and enjoyable summer and opportunity just to enjoy the family and to enjoy your constituents.

I present the motion by the Government House Leader by leave of this Assembly:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day in accordance with the resolution of the Assembly adopted May 13, 2009, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 21, 2009, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government; and if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such a date and time.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The Assembly stands adjourned until the call of the Chair.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:32.]

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Premier

Hon. Bob Bjornerud
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Crop Insurance Corporation

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Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of Crown Corporations

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