



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

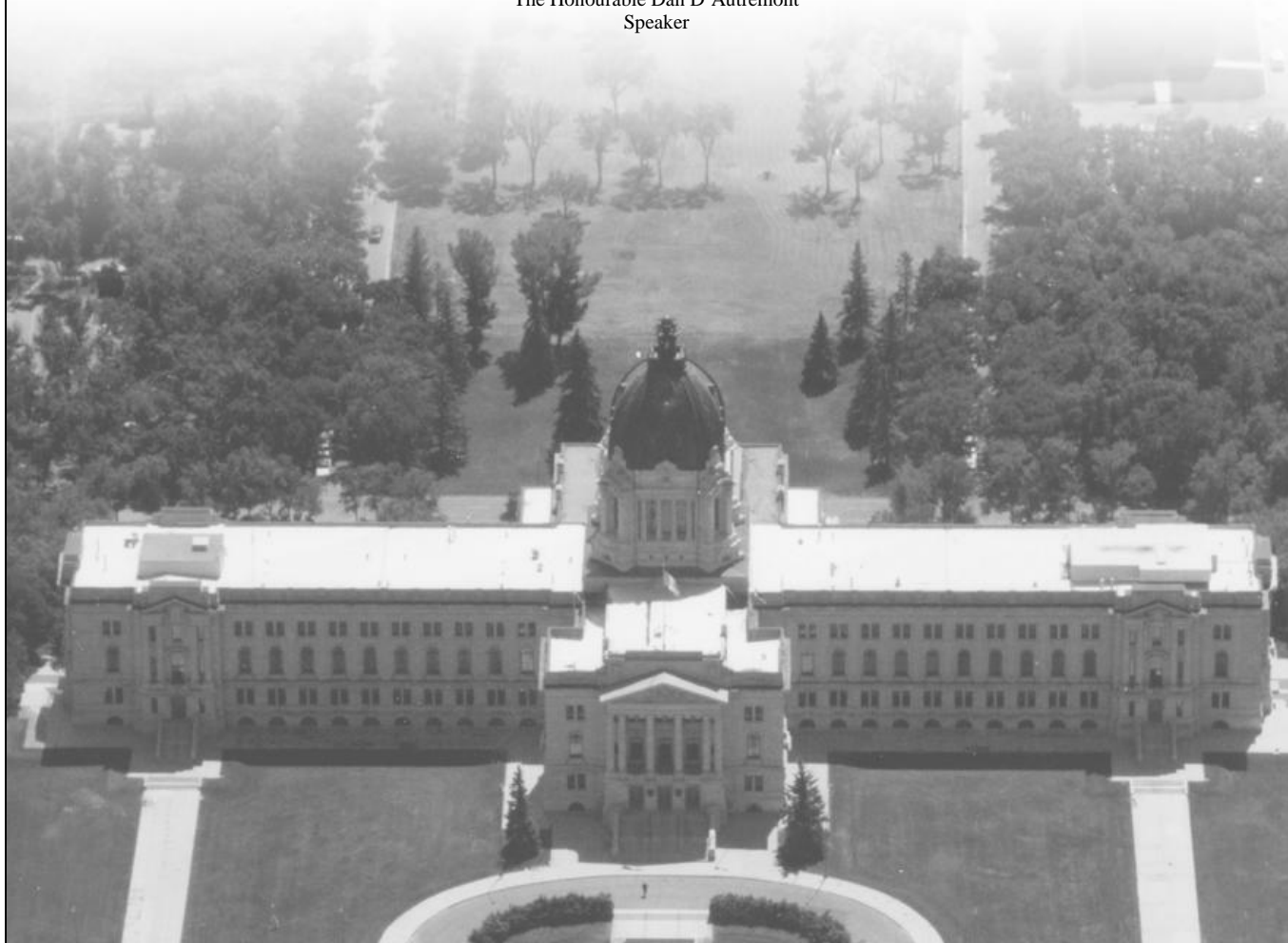
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Dan D'Autremont
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Dan D'Autremont
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — John Nilson

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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
Broten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Campeau, Jennifer	SP	Saskatoon Fairview
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Cox, Herb	SP	The Battlefords
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Docherty, Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Jurgens, Victoria	SP	Prince Albert Northcote
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lawrence, Greg	SP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Hon. Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Hon. Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Tochor, Corey	SP	Saskatoon Eastview
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

Clerk: — I wish to inform the Assembly that I've received a communication from the private secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor stating that His Honour will open the first session of the twenty-seventh legislature at 10 a.m. today this 5th day of December 2011.

[His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber at 10:01.]

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that he does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present legislature until later today when the Legislative Assembly shall be convened to elect a Speaker according to law.

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 10:02.]

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Clerk: — Please be seated. Members of the Legislative Assembly, pursuant to the rules of this Assembly, it is my duty to call upon you to elect a member to preside over your deliberations as Speaker.

In accordance with the procedures specified under rule 42, the following members have declared their intention to stand as candidates for election of Speaker. I will call the names in alphabetical order: Mr. Dan D'Autremont, the hon. member for Cannington; Mr. Don Toth, the hon. member for Moosomin.

In preparation for the vote, the Sergeant-at-Arms will now bring in the ballot box and the Pages will distribute a list of candidates to the members and post the list in the polling booth. The ballot box will then be inspected and the sealed ballots opened, and then I will announce the beginning of the voting procedure.

Members, I'll ask you now, all of you who wish to cast a ballot, to proceed to the registration tables which are behind me to receive your ballot paper, to sign the registration sheet, and then proceed to the polling booths which are in front of me.

May I remind all hon. members to please print the first and last name of the candidate on the ballot paper. Thank you. The voting may now proceed.

[The members proceeded to cast ballots.]

Clerk: — Members, may I bring the House back to order. Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that you have elected a Speaker. The Speaker is Dan D'Autremont, the Hon. Member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Cannington.

The Speaker: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to express my gratitude, my grateful thanks and humble acknowledgement of the high honour the Assembly has conferred on me. While I leave the floor of this Assembly to take the Speaker's Chair, I leave behind all political partisan biases in order that I may discharge with impartiality to all, and

to the best of my ability, the various and important duties pertaining to the high office of Speaker.

It will be my aim and duty to uphold the principles and traditions of the Assembly; secure for each member the right to express his or her opinions within the limits necessary to preserve decorum; to recognize the rights and privileges of the hon. members, the political groups, and the Assembly itself; to facilitate the transaction of the public business in an orderly manner; and above all, to seek to be fair and impartial in the decisions you entrust me.

I would like to thank the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition for their support to the dais.

I would like to thank all the members of the House for their support in allowing me to serve this Assembly and all Saskatchewan people. It is a humbling experience to be selected by your peers to represent and to speak for them.

Thank you to my family for their love and support in my political career. It is their support that has allowed me to serve. I would also like to thank the people of Cannington for the privilege of representing them once again in this legislature.

This legislature is a respected institution of democracy in our province. It is the focal point of political passion and partisanship in this province and yes, I have been an active participant in that passion and partisanship. However now is the time to put aside that partisanship to work for the benefit of all Saskatchewan people without favour to any party. I will do my best to serve in a non-partisan manner, but should I fail it is my failing, not that of the office of Speaker.

I pledge to serve this historic legislature, all members, and the people of Saskatchewan with honour and integrity. Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. May I be the first to congratulate you on your success in this election by the members of this House to be the Speaker for this session and for our Assembly. I have a few things I'd like to share with you, Mr. Speaker, and with members and guests about you.

First though, I would like to thank our former Speaker, the hon. member for Moosomin, if I may infringe on the rules, Don. The former Speaker of the Assembly, the current member for Moosomin has been a member, obviously continues to be a member, but has been a member now through seven elections, and that speaks mightily for one's ability to do the duties of an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to represent your constituents, to be in touch with them and with many others across the province. Because of course we have our MLA duties, but whether it's through committee or in the last four years you've been as Speaker of this Assembly, the member for Moosomin has touched many in this province and has represented all of Saskatchewan well from the position that you now hold, sir. And so on behalf of the government members, I just want to say to the member for Moosomin, thank you so very, very much for your able service and leadership in this Assembly.

I want to thank the Leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition for assisting in your escort to the Chair, sir. Depending on how much of a fight you were prepared to put up, I was grateful to have the hon. member there in case some assistance was needed.

I think everybody in this House who has known you as an MLA, sir, has recognized your passion for this Assembly. And for anyone in this House, especially for new members who may wonder about your commitment you've just made about leaving partisanship behind, they ought not to because we have seen it on this side of the House, and members have seen it on the opposition side of the House as well, when for example together with the former member for Regina South, Mr. Thomson, and others you led significant reforms in this Assembly — I think improved the operation of the Assembly, the procedures here, the rules by which we operate.

The fact that we now have a fall sitting, a regular fall sitting, and a spring sitting and a regular calendar is in large measure owed to you and to members of the then-governing New Democratic Party who worked together, setting aside partisanship to benefit this particular institution. We have every confidence that that is how you will now conduct your affairs, sir, as Speaker of this Legislative Assembly.

We on this side of the House know that from time to time during debates in our own caucus about how long session should go and how many hours we should sit, there was always a clarion voice advocating for more days of session and more hours of sitting, and that voice will now come from your general direction, Mr. Speaker. I remember early on as a brand new caucus when we met for the first time after the most recent general election, you seemed to be, well more than tacitly, I think pretty much directly advocating that December 24th would be a good end date for this current sitting of the Assembly. We're grateful for the fact that you will listen to members and take counsel from the House leadership on both sides before making any arbitrary decisions about the calendar, sir. But it does speak to the passion you have for this place, that you have always had as long as I've known you.

[10:45]

Mr. Speaker, I had the chance in March, if I can conclude, I had the chance in March to go on a trade mission, and while we were there, we took a chance on the weekend to go to the palace at Westminster and see the original parliament. And there on the tour you can stand on the place where they believe Speaker Lenthall withstood the pressures from Charles I to divulge the name of certain members that the king was not happy with. I think the tradition is, the legend is he rode into the parliament on his horse and demanded the names of these members.

And we know now the tradition, much of the tradition that guides your office, sir, in proceedings of this Assembly, stem from that very historic moment when of course Speaker Lenthall would refuse to give up any of the names of the members. To this day we have an anonymity here, known by our districts, by our constituencies. But his was an example for all of us, and it's a story from our history we should all be familiar with, especially if we are members of a House like this.

And that's the tradition that we know you'll bring to this, to the Chair. That's the tradition we know you'll bring to the rulings that you're going to make and to the fact that you're also the presiding officer for the Assembly building, for the Assembly itself, for this building, and for many of the services that'll be found here.

So, Mr. Speaker, we want to say congratulations to you on this achievement. We're interested in working with you for constant improvements in this Assembly, both in terms of rules and proceedings and perhaps even the tone and the demeanour with which individual members take part in debate. And we look forward to the passion you have for this place manifesting itself in fair rulings and an effective presiding over this precinct, in this particular Assembly. Mr. Speaker, congratulations.

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

Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and it's a pleasure to be able to say that to you as somebody who I've served with all my years here in the legislature. And so it's a great honour to be able to say congratulations to you.

It's also a great honour to say thank you to our member from Moosomin who over the years has served us very well, and we know that he will continue to serve the members in Moosomin in his role as an MLA. But on behalf of all of us here and all of us who worked in the last legislative session, thank you very much for the good work that you've done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you end up having a very important role, as you know, because as you've indicated on many occasions, you go to sleep at night reading Beauchesne's. And part of the problem though is that sometimes Beauchesne's gets you off so far into other worlds, like the Premier was talking about with all these historical precedents, that we forget about the fact that we're here in Saskatchewan. And we're very practical people in Saskatchewan. We're very straightforward people. And I know that you have that skill as well, to put all that stuff over there and say, okay, in Saskatchewan we have this kind of a problem; this is how we solve it. You didn't survive in your previous occupation without having that kind of an attitude.

So I'm looking forward to working with you, and I know our House Leader is looking forward to working with you as we proceed in this place. I'm also pleased to be able to say that my family and your family know each other and have worked together in a number of different ways, and a real pleasure to see your wife and your son here today and there may be other family members here as well. But we've spent many hours together on the volleyball stands watching our children play volleyball, and it's amazing how much you can learn in that kind of a context about a family and about how they work together. And so I'm looking forward to continuing that kind of thing.

And also I would say that my brother and his wife — that's my brother Ralph and his wife Suzie — gave very fine reviews of your brother's restaurant in Connecticut. And I know that when you came to speak to us in our caucus, you talked about food and about how it's served in this place. And that you're now in charge of this legislature, and so I'm looking forward to seeing whether you compete with your brother, kind of like I compete

with my brother, so that we can see even more dramatic things around the food and the hospitality in this place.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to working with you. I know all my colleagues are looking forward to working with you, and we will be happy to support you in your work. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The Premier has requested leave to introduce guests. All in favour?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Wall: — If I may be so bold as to introduce very special guests who have joined us on the floor of this Assembly to witness an important date of someone important to them and someone important to all of us. Mr. Speaker, if I may introduce and welcome your wife, Heather, and Nicholas to this Assembly and just acknowledge the fact that none of us can do any of this without the support that you have mentioned in your remarks we get from family. So welcome to Heather and Nicholas here today.

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, if I can very quickly introduce some special guests in your gallery today. We have a couple of individuals from BHP Billiton, who are here witnessing this morning's historic proceedings. Tim Cutt who has taken over and is running the offices for BHP Billiton in Saskatoon — that's become their Canadian headquarters for diamonds and potash, which we're grateful for — moved from the Vancouver to the city of Saskatoon. And joining him, originally from Melville, Saskatchewan, Chris Ryder, also with BHP Billiton. I'd ask all members to join in welcoming these individuals and the company they represent to the Assembly here today.

The Speaker: — Thank you. Before I move the recess, I would like to make a couple more comments. I'm in an unusual position of being the Speaker and not being allowed to speak. But I would like to thank the Premier and the Leader of the Official Opposition for their kind words. And I was remiss in not thanking the member from Moosomin for the diligent and excellent job he did over the previous four years as Speaker. It's a tough job and he did it well.

The Assembly will now recess until 2 p.m. later today, when His Honour the Lieutenant Governor will present the Speech from the Throne.

[The Assembly recessed from 10:53 until 14:00.]

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President of the Executive Council
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Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Bill Boyd
Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskTel
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority

Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Gaming Corporation

Hon. June Draude
Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Donna Harpauer
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Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Enterprise
Minister Responsible for Trade

Hon. Darryl Hickie
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Hon. D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert
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Hon. Jim Reiter
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