



FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

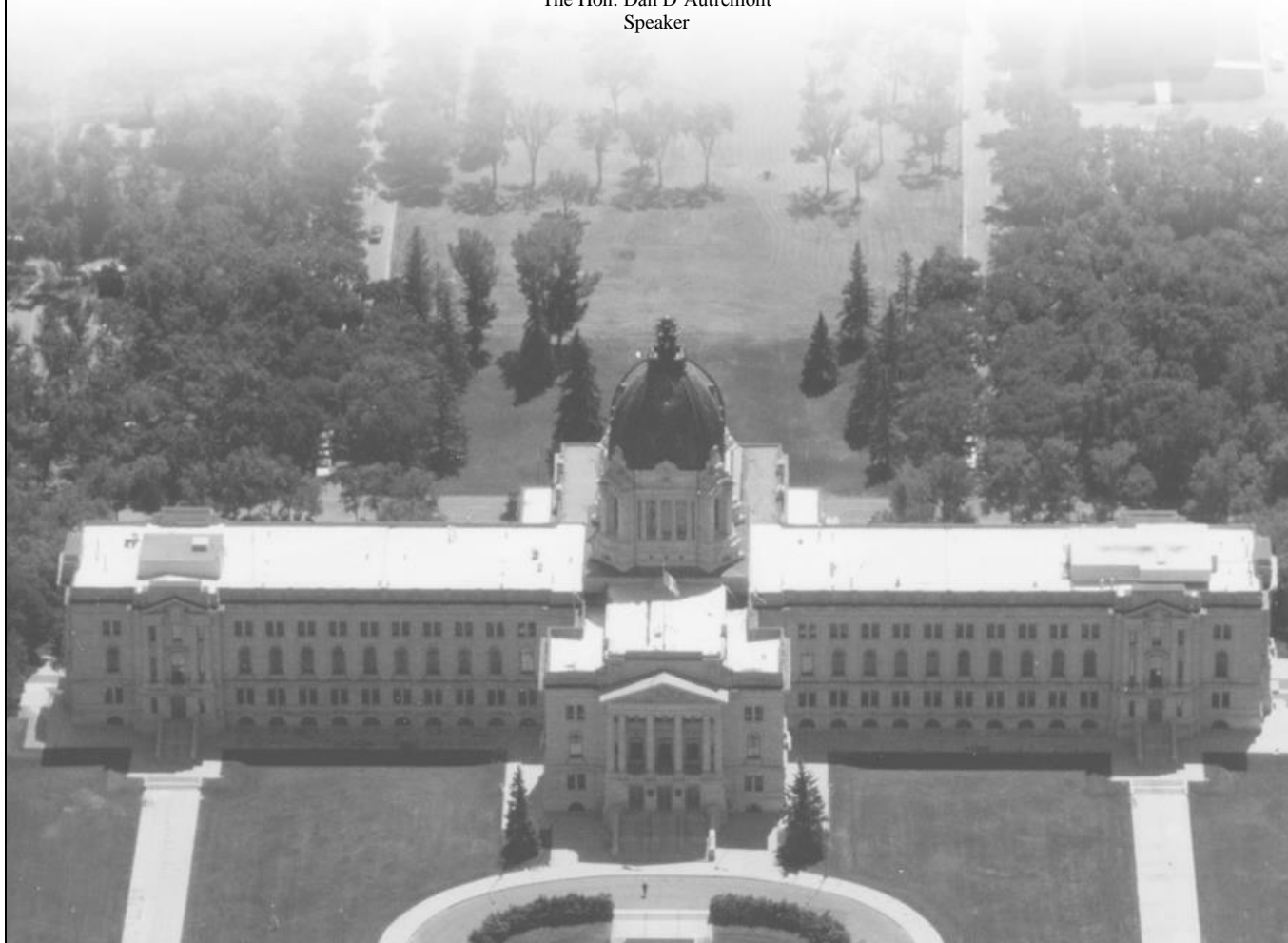
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Hon. Dan D'Autremont  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Dan D’Autremont  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — Cam Broten

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, 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, Hon. 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, Hon. Mark	SP	Regina Coronation Park
Doherty, Hon. Kevin	SP	Regina Northeast
Doke, Larry	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, 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, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hutchinson, Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, 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
Makowsky, Gene	SP	Regina Dewdney
Marchuk, Russ	SP	Regina Douglas Park
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Paul	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Moe, Hon. Scott	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Hon. Greg	SP	Yorkton
Parent, Roger	SP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Phillips, Kevin	SP	Melfort
Reiter, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu’Appelle Valley
Sproule, Cathy	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Steinley, Warren	SP	Regina Walsh Acres
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Tell, Hon. 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, Hon. Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Wyant, Hon. Gordon	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Young, Colleen	SP	Lloydminster
Vacant		Prince Albert Carlton

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, Colin and Ashley Chorneyko, the owners of Munro Homes Ltd. They are sitting in the Speaker's gallery.

I will be highlighting their award-winning home building in a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, but I'd like to ask all members of this Assembly to give them a good welcome to their Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members, I'd like to introduce a few individuals who are seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. And as you know, Mr. Speaker, later on today we'll have an opportunity to recognize former members of the legislature who have passed away over this past year. And today we're joined by some of the family members of two members that we'll be paying tribute to later on today.

With us is Ruth Smishek, widow of Walter Smishek, along with her son and daughter. Also with us today is Darlene Ware, widow of Serge Kujawa, Mr. Speaker. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these individuals to the Assembly here today. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to introduce some guests visiting the proceedings today. These individuals are part of a program called INVOLVE, integrating newcomers with volunteer opportunities to add leadership value through education. I had the great opportunity to spend this past Saturday with them.

The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, Regina Open Door Society, and Sask Culture have partnered to launch this pilot project. The INVOLVE program encompasses and prepares newcomers to connect to the community in various leadership capacities through a four-day training program. Participants gain experience, improve their English language skills, and build a personal network, and organizations get new volunteers who bring fresh ideas and energy.

Joining us in the west gallery this afternoon — and if you could give a wave when I read your name — is Rhonda Rosenberg who is executive director of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan; Nohora Ardila who is the Regina Open Door

Society settlement caseworker; Bonnie Sorensen, volunteer coordinator, Regina Open Door Society; Zainabu Mwangangi who is a participant and Regina Open Door Society youth worker; Israel Canon, a participant; Erika Canon, participant; Anita Mukendi, participant; Hughes Kandeke, participant; Roberto Misterio who is a participant; and Nenita Anonas who is a participant.

Congratulations to all of you on your successful completion of this great program.

Mr. Speaker, supporting multiculturalism provides an opportunity to celebrate the advantages of being a welcoming multicultural province and to envision future opportunities related to the changing multicultural face of Saskatchewan. The INVOLVE program provides a winning formula for both newcomers and community organizations. And I wish the organizers luck with its continuation. I ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members please join me in congratulating and welcoming these guests to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in with the minister in welcoming these folks and just congratulating them on the completion of a four-day workshop over the month of March. This is really something pretty special when you have newcomers come to our province — and we are all newcomers in so many ways — but what's so special is we know what makes Saskatchewan great is the volunteerism, how we connect with people and make Saskatchewan the wonderful place it is.

So thank you so much for doing that work, completing the workshop. I understand it was a gruelling, good four days in March. Thank you for doing that and we look forward to hearing great things about INVOLVE over the next while, and we really do wish you all the best. And thank you, multicultural, MCOS [Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan] and open door society for putting this together. I think you're a model for the rest of the province. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all the members a group of grade 12 students from F.W. Johnson Collegiate here in Regina. There's 16 of them. They're in a socials 30 class and they are accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Scott McKillop, and there's two interns with them today as well, Leanne Varley and Brooklyn Orban. I look forward to meeting with them after routine proceedings. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce a constituent of mine that needs no introduction to this House, a former Member of Parliament, also a former member of this House, also a constituent of mine and a very good friend. To you and through you I would like to introduce Mr. Allan Kerpan. He's been very busy with his sons running an extensive

farming operation in his retirement from the House. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to extend a welcome to all of our guests here today, and specifically to two who are here. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to members of the House two gentlemen that are important to the Saskatchewan Party caucus for reasons that will become evident in a moment. Seated in the west gallery is Tom Wildeman. Tom will just give us a wave. Tom is the boyfriend of the Minister of . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Fiancé, correct, of the Minister of Social Services, Mr. Speaker. And we certainly want to welcome him to the House as we have welcomed him to this extended family, and appreciate what he and the minister have together.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to introduce to you, in your gallery, Al Brigden. Al is the significant-other partner of the current member for Estevan. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that he has often been here to the House, but I've never had a chance to welcome him. He's also now a part of the extended family of the Saskatchewan Party caucus, and we want to welcome him here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to inform members of the House that the member for Kindersley and I were very worried about both of these gentlemen as to whether or not they met the standard of these excellent women that are part of the caucus, but they have successfully gone through a bit of a vetting process and the caucus has therefore approved things going forward from this standpoint.

I'd also point out that Al's son Preston yesterday took delivery of the province's only 2015 Hellcat Hemi Challenger. There will only be nine of them in Canada. I saw a picture of it. It's sublime, is the name of the Mopar colour. It's a great modern muscle car and, Mr. Speaker, so I'm sure Al's a very proud grandfather today.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege today to introduce guests that are seated in your gallery, people that are here who will be meeting with MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] later today, from Merit Contractors. They are Shaun Howdle who is the general manager, industrial, Western Canada and Vice-Chair of Merit Contractors Association of Saskatchewan. Shaun is originally from Unity but now hails from Humboldt. He has been with Concept for three years as the company worked on the Key Lake mine, Cigar Lake mine, and the BHP Jansen site, and are now getting mobilized out to the K+S Legacy potash mine as well.

Also seated with him is Sean Hamelin, district manager, PCL Construction who is an adviser to the Merit Saskatchewan board of directors. Sean is from Regina, and everyone here will be familiar with PCL's two current projects in the city: the new stadium and the renovation currently under way here at the legislature. Most people will be aware of it because it has converted this building into what looks like a giant inland grain terminal, but I'm sure it will look wonderful when it's

completed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to ask all members to welcome them to the legislature today.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join with the minister opposite in welcoming these two representatives and leaders within our economy here on behalf of Merit. Thank you for being here and thank you for connecting with us here today.

And while on my feet, Mr. Speaker, it's also my pleasure to welcome someone that's no stranger to this Assembly and may cause me to make sure I'm on my best behaviour today. It's a pleasure to have my mother here today, Faye Wotherspoon, and she's joined today by her good friend, Ms. Elaine Bennett Fox who was a lifelong educator, a teacher-librarian. And her son, Doyle Fox, is working as a communications officer in our caucus office doing a fine job, a heck of a guy, great hockey player. He was also our Movember fundraising team captain. So it's a pleasure to welcome folks from Merit, my mom, and Elaine Bennett Fox to her Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, I'm pleased to welcome and would ask members to help me in welcoming, seated in the west gallery, Alan Stephen. Alan is the CEO [chief executive officer] of Eden Care Communities here, largely based in the city of Regina, Mr. Speaker. Eden Care Communities does a terrific job in supporting the seniors that reside in their home, Mr. Speaker, in a number of locations.

Mr. Speaker, just on Saturday, Eden Care Communities received a Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award for the work that they are doing with seniors. And I've had an opportunity to meet with Alan and members of his team in the past, and I'll have an opportunity to meet with him later this afternoon. And so I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming Alan to his Legislative Assembly.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm please to join the minister in welcoming Mr. Stephen to his legislature here today. The work that Eden Care Communities does was recognized this weekend in receiving a Saskatchewan Healthcare Excellence Award, and that is definitely well deserved. So I would like to ask my colleagues to join me as well in welcoming Mr. Stephen to his legislature.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like join in welcoming Mr. Stephen from Eden Care Communities to the legislature. My parents live at Broadway Terrace, which is part of the organization. And I know my father likes to visit with Mr. Stephen, and I have as well. And I know that he is somebody who has built on a long tradition of the Regina

Lutheran Home, which is now the Eden Care Communities in the city of Regina. And we all congratulate that organization and all the people who are part of it for the good work that they do for southern Saskatchewan. So thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I would like to take this opportunity to welcome anyone who was missed in the introductions.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for greater support for education here in Saskatchewan. And we know that education is one of the most vital services this government provides to its citizens but yet this government has failed to deliver a long-term plan and vision and the necessary resources to prioritize delivery of educational excellence. And we know that this government has failed to develop a real plan to close the Aboriginal education gap, support English as an additional language students, support community schools and their communities and students. I'd like to read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on this government to immediately prioritize education by laying out a long-term vision and a plan with the necessary resources that provides the best quality of education for Saskatchewan, that reflects Saskatchewan's demographic and population changes, that is based on proven educational best practices, that is developed through consultation with the education sector, and that builds strong educational infrastructure to serve students and communities long into the future.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Air Ronge, Regina, Saskatoon, and Estevan. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise once again today to present petitions on behalf of residents as it relates to the unsafe conditions created by that government on Dewdney Avenue with their failure to safely and properly plan the traffic flow of heavy-haul truck traffic, Mr. Speaker, and their failure to recognize this critical safety issue, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly call on the provincial government to immediately take action as it relates to the unacceptable danger, disturbance, and infrastructure damage caused by the heavy-haul traffic on Dewdney Avenue west of the city centre, to ensure the safety and well-being of communities, families, residents, and users; and that those actions and plans should include rerouting the heavy-haul truck traffic, receive provincial funding, and be developed through consultation with the city of Regina, communities, and residents.

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

These petitions today are signed by residents of Saskatchewan once again. I so submit.

[13:45]

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again to present a petition in support of safe staffing levels in long-term care. The petitioners point out that many aspects of long-term care are deteriorating under this government. They talk about how the government has removed the regulations requiring a minimum standard of care for seniors, which results in neglect; and that chronic understaffing in long-term care facilities results in unacceptable conditions, including unanswered calls for help, infrequent bathing, and a rise in physical violence amongst residents. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the government to commit to the creation of safe staffing levels for all valued members of the health care team and to reintroduce actual numbers of staff to match the level of care needs and the number of residents under their care in long-term care facilities.

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

Once again, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by folks around Saskatchewan. Today we have folks from Martensville, Prince Albert, Rosetown, Air Ronge, Saskatoon, and Langham signing this petition. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition in support of retaining Yarrow Youth Farm. Saskatoon has Yarrow Youth Farm, a facility for low-risk teens who benefit from an open custody home with a caring, supportive environment with programs to help residents live more productive lives. Saskatoon also has Kilburn Hall, a secure custody unit for youth considered greater risk.

Now the government is planning to close Yarrow Youth Farm and create an open-custody wing in Kilburn Hall. The provincial Advocate for Children and Youth has declared he cannot endorse such rationalization, as low-risk teens could be influenced and pressured by close proximity to high-risk youth. Kilburn Hall has a more institutional environment and that could intimidate and alienate teens that have committed minor offences. The prayer reads as follows:

Respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the government to keep Yarrow Youth Farm open to ensure a caring home environment for youth who have committed minor offences and to provide support to help these young people redirect their lives by setting more positive goals.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by individuals from Saskatoon. I so submit.

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### International Transgender Day of Visibility and Trans Awareness Week

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is indeed a historic day as the trans flag is flying proudly here at the Saskatchewan legislature as part of the International Transgender Day of Visibility and Trans Awareness Week. This is a first for Saskatchewan and actually a first for any provincial legislature in Canada. Well done.

Many speakers at today's event commented positively on our new amendment to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* that we passed last December. We can now say protection as a gender identity is now included — again, well done. And while many were calling for greater protection for including both terms, gender identity and gender expression, we will continue to monitor whether gender expression should be part of our Human Rights Code as well.

But we know that for the trans community much more work remains including, for example, we need to explicitly ensure that there are strong provisions in our schools for students who request supports like GSAs [gay-straight alliance]. And, Mr. Speaker, we also know that we need much more improved health care services and mental health supports and a revision of *The Vital Statistics Act* to reflect current best practices here in Canada.

I would like to, Mr. Speaker, recognize the important work of TransSask Support Services in helping to provide services to meet the needs of trans identified and gender diverse people within Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to recognize and celebrate Trans Awareness Week and TransSask and to pledge continued support to the goal of helping transgendered people feel safe and supported in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### World War II Veteran Awarded France's Highest Honour

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Barry Needham is a 94-year-old World War II veteran from Wynyard. The French government recently awarded Barry with France's highest honour for his efforts in helping to liberate France during the Second World War. Barry received the rank of Knight in the National Order of the Legion of Honour. On February 27th, Barry was presented with the medal on behalf of the French government at a ceremony at the Wynyard Legion Hall. A statement from France's ambassador to Canada was read at the ceremony, stating that the medal is a testament to Needham's "courage and devotion to the ideals of liberty and peace."

Mr. Speaker, Barry first enlisted with the Canadian Armed Forces in 1940. He served in Europe as a flight lieutenant with the Royal Canadian Air Force 412 Squadron. Needham flew four sorties over the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. A month later, on July 7th, 1944, his Spitfire plane was shot down in France. He was taken prisoner of war. He spent nearly a month in a prisoner of war camp until it was liberated in early August and he returned to Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking Barry Needham for his courageous service and sacrifice during World War II, and congratulating him on receiving this prestigious honour from the French government.

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

#### National Nutrition Month

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in recognition of Nutrition Month. Although today is the last day of Nutrition Month, it is important to keep nutrition and the work that Saskatchewan's professional dietitians do fresh in our minds all year long. Dietitians serve an important role in our province and work in many different sectors including health care, community-based organizations, seniors' care, and in public policy among others. They work across the lifespan, beginning with prenatal nutrition and breastfeeding support, right up to ensuring those at the end of their lives have the nutrition they need for quality of life, and at every stage and age in between.

For many people, it's a lot more complicated than just more fruits and vegetables. Registered dietitians have the specialized knowledge and training to help ensure people with complex conditions affecting their health — like diabetes, celiac disease, and kidney disorders — get all the vitamins and nutrients they need. Registered dietitians also have important knowledge to share with people who have specialized diets for religious or moral reasons. When someone gets sick, a registered dietitian's medical know-how and cultural understanding helps ensure people following vegetarian, halal, or kosher diets recover as soon as possible.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing National Nutrition Month and in thanking all of our province's registered dietitians for the work that they do to help build a healthier Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Corrections and Policing.

#### Local Firm Wins Housing Excellence Award

**Hon. Ms. Tell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to profile some award-winning construction that is happening right here in Regina. On March 6, the Canadian Home Builders' Association's National SAM [Sales and Marketing] Awards Recognizing Canadian Housing Excellence were held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

At the SAM Awards, Canada's leading home builders, renovators, and developers were honoured. In the category of

single detached homes over 2,200 square feet, the winning home was built right here in Regina by Munro Homes Limited. Located in The Creeks, Munro Homes' 2,658-square-foot Oslo production home beat out finalists from Ontario, Alberta, Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Speaker.

With roughly 180,000 homes built in this country, over a thousand entries in all categories, roughly 100 entries in the 2,200-square-foot category, and the top 5 being nominated for the award, it is no wonder than Colin Chorneyko, the president, said that it was "... just an honour to be nominated for this prestigious award."

Mr. Speaker, this isn't the first time they have been nominated. This is the fourth time in the last five years that Munro Homes has been honoured with being nominated and the second time they have won a SAM Award. In 2010 Munro Homes was nominated and won, making a Saskatchewan first. I also understand that this is the third home to be nominated in The Creeks. One of them was built by Homes by Dream.

I would like all members in this House today to congratulate Colin and Ashley Chorneyko on the award-winning work being done right here by Munro Homes. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

#### Safe Digging Month

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to announce April as Safe Digging Month in Saskatchewan, which draws attention to the importance of safe digging practices both on job sites and at home. Safe digging is everyone's responsibility. It starts with contacting Sask 1st Call to have underground utility lines located, following safe excavation practices, and ends with everyone going home safe.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that in 2014, SaskEnergy, SaskTel, and SaskPower saw a combined reduction in third party line hits of more than 30 per cent. In 2014 the safety patrol pilot project was launched, the first of its kind in Canada, saw safety patrollers meeting directly on job sites with contractors and homeowners. They ensure line locates had been done and that a safe digging plan was in place. A new tool that will help make safe digging easier than ever before, the Sask 1st Call app, a new smartphone app makes requesting a line locate simpler and more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, as our province continues to grow, safety is a top priority for our government. The Sask 1st Call app and the safety patrols are innovative ways to reduce accidental line hits, and dangers that come with them. Our government would like to thank Sask 1st Call and the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance for their continued dedication to promote safe digging practises year round. I hope everyone digs safe. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

#### Pharmacist Awareness Month

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to recognize March as Pharmacist Awareness Month.

Mr. Speaker, pharmacists are highly skilled, dedicated professionals who play a vital role in bringing about the transformation that we're seeing today in our health care system.

They are the health professionals with specialized expertise and knowledge about prescription drugs and their effects. You'll find them working in Saskatchewan's hospitals and community pharmacies, both big and small. And due to their accessibility, pharmacists are frequently the first point of contact that patients have with the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years, we have collaborated with pharmacists on many significant initiatives and programs to improve patient care. For example, this government introduced legislation last fall that will expand the scope of practice for Saskatchewan pharmacists. This extended scope will benefit patients through more accessible health care services. Amendments to *The Pharmacy Act* will allow pharmacists to administer vaccines and drugs such as flu shots. Mr. Speaker, pharmacists are valued health care professionals. We support them working to their full scope of practice.

On behalf of my colleagues and Saskatchewan citizens, I would like to thank the 1,400 pharmacists of this province for the excellent work they do every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### Anniversary of Canadian Flag

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On February 15th, 1965, Canada became the proud owner of its own national flag. Some may remember the fierce debate and strong feelings about the introduction of this symbol. It was feared that adopting a new flag would tear the country apart. Those sentiments could not have been more inaccurate. Our flag stands as an international recognized symbol of Canada and the values we promote and live.

Mr. Speaker, this year Canadians celebrate the 50th anniversary of our flag. On February 13th, 2015, the Lieutenant Governor's office and the Government House partnered to launch an exhibit called, Celebrate the Flag. The Deputy Premier brought greetings on behalf of the government and cut the ribbon to open the exhibit.

The exhibit chronicles the history of the debate over the flag and showcases the three final renderings. There is an interactive booth for guests to provide a personal testimony about what our flag means to them. The Premier has recorded his tribute, and many other leaders in our community have as well.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members and their families and friends to visit the exhibit at Government House and to join the Celebrate the Flag Lieutenant Governor's Garden Party on July 1st. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

### Housing of Young Offenders

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, will the Premier finally do the right thing today and finally admit that it is a mistake to shut down the Yarrow Youth Farm?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There has been a considerable process that's been undertaken to come to this decision. Mr. Speaker, we know that there have been concerns expressed with respect to the changes that are occurring, and we certainly respect those concerns.

Mr. Speaker, we have to do a couple of things. We have to make sure there is optimal programming for those who need that programming, Mr. Speaker. We also have to ensure the safety of those who neighbour any facility. Mr. Speaker, we're going to achieve those things. We also have to deliver things as efficiently as possible on behalf of the taxpayers. And, Mr. Speaker, the government's satisfied that those objectives have been met in this regard.

[14:00]

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, this is a bad policy and this is a bad decision that this government is making.

Yesterday the Minister of Corrections couldn't answer even the most basic questions about the closure of Yarrow and couldn't answer questions about why there's a new gate being put in at Kilburn Hall when community members were promised that there wouldn't be. At every step of the way, Mr. Speaker, that Corrections minister has shown an extremely limited understanding of her portfolio. In fact the only way that she's lived up to the title of Minister of Corrections, Mr. Speaker, is that she's had to make correction after correction after correction when it comes to her file.

Mr. Speaker, the plan should not go ahead. The Saskatoon Tribal Council, our province's Children's Advocate, Defence For Children International oppose this move. They oppose it, Mr. Speaker, because it's a step backwards when it comes to our youth justice system here in the province. People in Buena Vista neighbourhood are incredibly frustrated because of the inaccurate information and the lack of consultation.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier. How can he stand beside his Corrections minister and plow ahead with this reckless and ill-informed plan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, well I just disagree with the Leader of the Opposition's depiction of this particular decision and the project that's under way with respect to the gate issue that the member from Nutana raised yesterday in the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the gate is there not because of any requirement or decision on the provincial government, which is why the minister would have made her answer as she did yesterday. It's a requirement of the federal government with respect to these

kinds of facilities.

However, the commitment that we've made, Mr. Speaker, with respect to folks . . . Well if the members want to hear the answers . . . ask the questions, they might want to hear the answer as well. The movement of those who will be using the facility through the front entrance is the main part here that's important to residents of course and important to what the minister has provided in terms of answers and the government's position going forward. Mr. Speaker, we think this does achieve the balance that I spoke to in my first answer, and so we will be going forward with the decision.

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

### Costs and Benefits of the Lean Initiative

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the gate's going in because they're changing the nature of the facility. And what is clear from this minister's approach and this government's approach is that they have not done their homework, and they have communicated inaccurate information to the people of Buena Vista and the people of the province. That is very, very clear. Mr. Speaker. It's astonishing that the Premier will still stand and defend that minister's poor responses.

I want to talk about another issue as well, Mr. Speaker. We know that most nurses have said that they have seen absolutely no improvements to patient safety or the quality of care over the last year. And one-third of nurses say that patient safety and quality of care has declined over the last year. New numbers released today show that three out of four nurses in our province say that they've seen short-staffing put patients at risk.

Now this government likes to talk about overall numbers but doesn't reflect the reality on the front lines. This government used to look at the actual number of people working on the front lines for each shift. That has not increased, Mr. Speaker. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we see deliberate short-staffing, not replacing workers who are sick, and we see massive, massive amounts of resources going to lean specialists and stopwatch-holders. And nurses say that patient safety is put at risk as a result.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Premier. What does he have to say about this very damning indictment, not from me, but from our province's nurses?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition will know that we've also put massive resources into our regional health authorities, over 50 per cent increase in the budgets of our regional authorities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this was a government, when we were elected in 2007, where we inherited a deficit in a number of areas on the capital side as well as the front-line staff and human resource side, Mr. Speaker. We inherited from the members opposite a government, an administration that refused to put targets on how many nurses we needed in the province even when SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] at the time was saying that we



needed 800 additional nurses in the province, Mr. Speaker.

We not only committed to that, Mr. Speaker. We exceeded that by hundreds, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-six hundred licensed nurses of all designations are now in this province, Mr. Speaker: RNs [registered nurse], LPNs [licensed practical nurse], RPNs [registered psychiatric nurse] practising in this province. And that has allowed us, Mr. Speaker, to open up beds that had been previously closed under the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, we take these issues very seriously. That's why we're committed to working with our partners like SUN and like our other organizations in this province, Mr. Speaker, to continue moving forward in health care.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, once again we see this government's dismissive approach saying that those on the front lines don't know what they're talking about.

Just 1 in 10 nurses say they've seen positive changes in health care over the last year, just 1 in 10. The majority of nurses say they've seen no improvements to patient safety and quality of care, and a third of nurses say that patient safety and quality of care have gotten worse over the last year. And now 75 per cent of nurses say short-staffing is putting patient safety at risk. That is hugely concerning, Mr. Speaker.

Are these really the results that this government and this Premier wanted when they've gone down this John Black lean approach for our entire health care system? Or will this Premier, will the Premier at least admit that he's disappointed with the overall results of John Black lean, especially when it comes to patient safety and quality of care? Will he admit that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what the survey also indicates is that a strong majority of nurses that were surveyed responded that the quality of patient care delivered in their workplace is positive, Mr. Speaker, 72 per cent, as well as a high . . . Over 60 per cent rate that the safety of the service that is being provided to patients is of a positive quality, Mr. Speaker. So that's what the survey had to say.

Mr. Speaker, we are a far cry though from the days of the NDP [New Democratic Party] when 455 fewer nurses were working in this province, when they slashed nurses, when they slashed nursing positions, when they closed beds. Mr. Speaker, we've taken a different position than the position taken by the member from Lakeview or from Len Taylor. When he was the Health minister, we couldn't set targets when it came to nursing numbers, Mr. Speaker.

We not only set a target. We exceeded the target. We ensured that we have the training seats in this province, Mr. Speaker. We have ensured that we're providing the training in the right places so that we have a nursing regiment in this province that is at par in terms of what we need in this province and in fact is leading the nation when you look across all of Canada. Mr. Speaker, that's a record that we're proud of on this side as opposed to what the members opposite left this province.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the same time as we have nurses saying that health care is going in the wrong direction, 3 out of 4 saying that they've seen patient safety being put at risk because of short-staffing, we see this government plowing ahead with a misguided and ill-informed lean agenda through John Black.

Here's what a nurse with 35 years experience says about the government's obsession with lean: "Do more faster with less resources. Oh and spend millions on a consultant to tell us how the automotive industry would do this."

The nurse goes on:

They (the lean process team) come in for their rapid process improvement week in their colour co-ordinated shirts, timers and clipboards, with their "metrix" set. They know what the problem is and they set out to solve it.

Meanwhile this nurse says she's regularly faced with short-staffing and being stretched thin:

We all try to put our patients first. This week though I also did the housekeeping job regularly, portered patients, picked supplies for our cases all while educating a new staff member.

And we have the member from Indian Head-Milestone heckling. This is the guy, Mr. Speaker, who handcuffed us to John Black in the first place. You think he would have a bit of a better approach, Mr. Speaker.

The reality is that John Black isn't working. It's not listening to front-line workers. It's not respecting front-line workers, and it's leaving nurses stretched thinner and thinner. My question to the Premier: what does he have to say to this nurse?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that in my own health region, in Sun Country Health Region, a lean event was able to reduce the time that patients waited unnecessarily for the day of surgical procedure by 60 per cent. And they reduced the defects. Because of the work of lean, Mr. Speaker, and the front-line staff having that knowledge, they reduced the defects from 25 per cent of the time to zero.

And, Mr. Speaker, here's what a couple of nurses had to say. Here's Tara. She's an endoscopy nurse. "I love this. It's 100 per cent better than before. It was chaos before." Here's another nurse, Kendra, a surgical nurse: "This place was screaming for a patient status-at-a-glance board." Mr. Speaker, these are the changes that are under way in this province, Mr. Speaker, in health care.

Here's what the nurses were saying under the NDP. March 2007, Saskatchewan Union of Nurses first vice-president, Marlene Brown, described the 18 new seats to train registered nurses as "pathetic and an insult" to the province's registered nurses. "It's clearly evident there is no recognition of the crisis that the workforce is in." Mr. Speaker, that's what the NDP left

us. That's the legacy of the NDP when it comes to nurses and health care all across this province.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, this government continues to have its head in the sand when it comes to its obsession with the John Black lean program. We have 1 out of 10 nurses saying, Mr. Speaker, that they haven't seen . . . only 1 out of 10 saying they've seen positive changes over the last year.

A majority of nurses say lean hasn't improved patient safety and quality of care. In fact if anything, it's made it worse. The majority of nurses are raising alarm bells about patients being put at risk because of short-staffing. Nurses say that lean specialists don't listen to those on the front lines. We've heard story after story about that. We've seen and heard from nurses who are stretched more and more every day because of deliberate short-staffing. But we see this government continuing to put its head in the sand, plugging its ears, and just chanting the lean go-team lines over and over again, Mr. Speaker. It makes no sense.

We not only need to see the end of the John Black tea party farewell, big hug fest that we see from this government. Not only do we need to see the end of the big paycheques going to John Black, but we need to see the end of the John Black approach to lean, and we need to start listening to those on the front lines. My question to the Premier: will he commit to that today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Mr. Speaker, if it means going back to a time when wait-lists for treatment for mental health patients were a week without having a known appointment, going from that to now 100 per cent of very severe patients receiving an appointment within 24 hours, Mr. Speaker, no we're not going to go back to that.

If it means that children in this province at risk of a viral infection, of a respiratory infection — now we can be assured that 100 per cent of the time they're getting the follow-up care that they need, Mr. Speaker — or go back to the days where we didn't know, we didn't track that, we didn't ensure that that care was provided, no we're not going to go back to that.

Mr. Speaker, if it means going back to the days where the union of nurses were saying that the plan by the NDP was pathetic and wasn't a recognition of what the crisis of the workforce was in . . . Are we going to go back to those days, Mr. Speaker? No, we're not going to go back to those days. We're not going to go back to those days.

We're not going to go back to those days, Mr. Speaker, where we're closing beds in this province. We're not going to go back to those days where we had the longest wait-lists for surgery in this country, Mr. Speaker. No, we're not going back there.

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

## Grain Transportation

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, the federal government has decided to remove the pressure from the big rail companies to ship our grain, and this Sask Party government told the federal government that's just fine. How can the Agriculture minister possibly justify that?

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

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for her question. We've not asked for the minimum standards to be continued after the end of this month. However we have asked the federal government, and I sent letters to both ministers Ritz and Raitt last week to this effect, that the federal government continue to monitor grain shipments very closely and ensure that the railways continue to deliver grain in a fashion that will bring our carry-over down to reasonable levels by the end of the crop year.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, it's pretty clear the only way to get the railways to react is to put pressure on them, and this government has abandoned that approach. The Ag Transport Coalition says:

The number of hopper car orders not filled by CN and CP has continued to increase each week since the beginning of the crop year; overall, unfulfilled orders have levelled off at about 10 per cent of total shipper demand in recent weeks, indicating that the railways are not making up ground for prior weeks' shortfalls.

To the minister: how on earth does it make sense to take the pressure off of the big rail companies at a time like this?

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

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're still hearing issues from producers about small shippers, processing plants, shortline railways, branch lines not being properly served and, Mr. Speaker, this is partly a function of the minimum weekly shipments that have been imposed through the legislation. We all recognize that in the industry.

The legislation achieved or was supposed to achieve . . . It got rid of the backlog. Shipments, if they continue in the way they have, the backlog will be quite small by the end of this crop year, down below 10 million tonnes, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully the railways can then stop picking the low-hanging fruit of only taking unit trains off of mainlines and start to serve the rest of our shippers as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, rather than taking the pressure off the railways, doesn't the minister agree we should be actually increasing the pressure?

It's not just the Ag Transport Coalition that's expressing concern about the performance of the big rail companies. The Western Grain Elevator Association agrees with the Ag Transport Coalition. Just a couple of days ago they said, "Demand for rail cars is exceeding the supply of rail cars for grain." Yet the Sask Party government sends off a letter to Ottawa saying it's time to start doing the big rail companies some favours by taking away the pressure to ship grain.

To the minister: did the CN [Canadian National] and CP [Canadian Pacific] lobby the Sask government for that letter?

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

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — No, no. I can honestly say that I haven't had any contact from the two railways for some time now since the meeting that we had with Hunter Harrison some months ago.

I would say that the legislation is a temporary measure that was designed . . . The minimum shipments were designed to end at the end of this month, Mr. Speaker. The CTA, the *Canada Transportation Act*, is in the process of being reviewed. That is the greatest opportunity that we have to fix this problem, this railway problem, permanently, Mr. Speaker. I don't know that we can say it's the chance of a lifetime, but it's certainly the chance, the best chance we'll have in a long time to fix it, and the railways have been performing. The carry-over will be quite low at the end of the crop year, and I think we need to find ways to motivate the railways to do this without legislation.

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

**Ms. Sproule:** — Mr. Speaker, this government's approach to the big rail companies is appalling. When a new report from APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan] and Sask Wheat, Sask pulse, SaskBarley said the big rail companies have overcharged grain producers at least \$2 billion over the last seven years, what did the Sask Party government do? They said they're not really concerned about that. Now we have the Sask Party government scheming with Ottawa to take the pressure off the big rail companies to ship grain despite the fact that CN and CP have not even come close to meeting the need.

To the minister: will he admit he made a mistake, and will he call on the federal government to extend those minimum volume shipping requirements today?

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

**Hon. Mr. Stewart:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the floor, we're more interested in finding workable solutions to the problem than in just simply standing up to grandstand in question period. Mr. Speaker, the minimum weekly delivery requirements required under the Act only service mainlines proper, and it has dispensed with the backlog. That's all it could be expected to do.

It's impossible to develop legislation that can force railways to serve every shipper because it's just there are just too many variables, Mr. Speaker. That can't be done through legislation.

We have to develop a proper Canadian transportation Act with the right motivations in it to encourage the railways to do this, and now is the time to do it. This is the opportunity, not the time to grandstand about how we need to clean things up or change things or legislate railways to do something that they're not properly motivated to do, Mr. Speaker. It's time to work with the railways and the industry.

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

#### Development of White Butte Trails

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, many people in Regina and area are concerned about the provincially owned White Butte Trails recreation site being turned into a private golf course by this government. This is one of Regina's only remaining accessible parcels of unbroken native prairie, and it's used all year-round for education and recreation. Turning this rare and important area into a private golf course should simply be a non-starter. Why is the Parks minister pursuing this?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for the question. To start with, I did not meet with the proponent that is looking to develop a golf course at White Butte. We received an unsolicited proposal for this proposed development. We have not made any decision on whether this type of development should proceed at the site.

We will be proceeding with public consultation very soon, and we'll use that feedback as a key component in our assessment of whether the proposal will proceed. This type of consultation is part of the regular process of reviewing proposals for development on parkland and allows the ministry to obtain feedback from interested parties.

White Butte Trails recreation site is an important natural area for residents as well as recreational and educational groups from Regina and area. We will take that under strong consideration when we make a decision on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, privatizing White Butte should be a non-starter for this government, full stop, period. And the minister says he hasn't met, but we understand that ministers of this government have met. Maybe he wants to clarify who's been meeting and who's been giving them the thumbs up, Mr. Speaker.

White Butte is used throughout the year by school groups, by runners, by hikers, by bikers, by snowshoers, by dog walkers, recreation groups, and conservationists. It makes absolutely no sense to turn one of the last shreds of native prairie in this region, which is enjoyed year-round, into a private golf course that'll be used for a few months.

The golf course proponents can purchase the private land adjacent to White Butte if they're interested. They don't need to take over public Crown land, Mr. Speaker. Why won't the

Parks minister simply do the right thing and scrap this proposal, full stop, period?

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

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thanks again to the member opposite for the question. I'd like to remind the members opposite that they were the government that put golf courses into provincial parks, just out of interest.

I'd also like to remind the member opposite, we've not made any decision on whether this type of development should proceed at this time. We will be proceeding with public consultation very soon, and we'll use that feedback as a key component in our assessment of whether the . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. I'd like to hear the answer as I heard the question. I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're actually, on this side of the House we're actually interested, in government we're interested in listening to people, listening to their opinions, and I believe this is an opportunity to listen to citizens. We don't take everything at face value, but that's where we're at. We're going to proceed with public consultations, and this is exactly what we're going to do. We're going to proceed with this.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Mr. Speaker, this is a 2-square-mile parcel of land, a small parcel of land that's untouched, native prairie that is used year-round, and that government thinks that they need to gift that to some private developer. We welcome a golf course, but they should be doing it with private land, Mr. Speaker. This government is . . . Well it can't be trusted to have a meaningful consultation through this process because we've already heard that Sask Party cabinet ministers have been enjoying their meetings and apparently giving them thumbs-up, Mr. Speaker, and saying that they support this plan to turn White Butte into a private golf course.

Conservation groups oppose this plan. The Regina Ski Club opposes this plan. The Regina Wildlife Federation opposes this plan, and many residents of Regina and area oppose this plan. To the Parks minister: why on earth is this government willing to turn the valuable White Butte Trails recreation site into a private golf course?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again I actually reject the premise of the member opposite's question. I reject that premise, and I'll remind the member opposite — I think I've only said it three times during these questions — we have not made any decision on whether this type of development should proceed at the site.

Mr. Speaker, this recreation site again is an important natural area for residents as well as recreational and educational groups from Regina and area. We will take that under strong consideration when we make a decision on that matter. But I'll . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to remind the member opposite again that we've made no decision on . . .

**An Hon. Member:** — Just apologize, stop it, and resign.

**The Speaker:** — Why don't you try that? I would like to hear the answer, so please stop interrupting. I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did reject the premise of the member opposite's question. I find it ridiculous that he reaches a conclusion based on the fact we haven't met with anybody. Thank you anyway, but no decision's been made, and we will talk to people, unlike the members opposite that actually don't talk to anybody.

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for the Economy.

#### Evrax Announces New Investment

**Hon. Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I had the pleasure of joining the Premier as well as members of the legislature from Regina Qu'Appelle Valley, Regina Dewdney, and Regina Walsh Acres in attending a major investment announcement by Evraz. Evraz has announced that they will make the single largest investment that they've ever made, around \$200 million, at its facility right here in Regina.

Over the next two years, this investment will include installation of a new, two-step, large-diameter line pipe mill which will enable the production of larger, thicker walled pipe and increase their annual production capacity by over 100,000 tonnes. Evraz is also making state of the art upgrades in steel making.

Mr. Speaker, our budget included a corporate tax rebate to encourage investments in primary steel production. This rebate is to be triggered by a minimum investment of \$100 million in a newer, expanded steel production facility. The company would have 10 years to claim this rebate.

We are excited to see that Evraz has chosen to take advantage of this opportunity. Our recent budget has also provided an incentive for new job creation in export manufacturing and processing. It is great news to see Evraz respond to these incentives with an investment that will create around 40 new jobs as well as about 1,100 jobs during the construction phase.

It is investments like this that increase production for the

company while helping to further diversify our provincial economy. Major announcements such as this show the confidence that business has in Saskatchewan and proves that Saskatchewan really is the best place to live, to work, and to raise a family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to welcome this investment here today and this announcement, and to join with the minister in doing so.

Certainly Evraz provides a very important investment into our economy, very important employment for many, and this is a good project. We're pleased to see this announcement here today, and so we welcome this investment.

I know that in conversation with those in this industry and those at Evraz, certainly it's on their radar as well that we really need to be improving the transportation system in this province to make sure that as an exporting economy, and that for exporters . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Sorry. The member from Northeast would like to shout across the floor. This is a good news announcement. I'm not sure why he wants to get loud and belligerent during a good news announcement. But this is an announcement that we welcome, and a good one.

What government should focus on though as well is fixing that transportation system to make sure that we can serve all of those incredible exporters in Saskatchewan, including Evraz steel mill, to get that product to market, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order, both sides of the House. That includes the Minister of Crown Investments, the Minister of Advanced Education, and the member for Regina Rosemont.

[14:30]

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 141, *The Archives and Public Records Management Act* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this bill and that the bill be now read the third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 141, *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to grant leave?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

#### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 141 — *The Archives and Public Records Management Act*

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport that Bill No. 141, *The Archives and Public Records Management Act* be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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:** — Third reading of this bill.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

#### Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

**Ms. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report Bill No. 142, *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014* — this is a bilingual bill — *The Archives and Public Records Management Act* without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 142, *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014* and that the bill now be read the third time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading. I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this

bill and that the bill be now read a third time.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 142, *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014*. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The minister may proceed to move third reading.

### THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 142 — *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendments Act, 2014/Loi de 2014 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Archives and Public Records Management Act***

**Hon. Mr. Docherty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It's been moved by the minister that Bill No. 142, *The Archives and Public Records Management Consequential Amendment Act, 2014* be now read the third time and passed under its title. 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:** — Third reading of this bill.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, thanks very much. I would request leave of the Assembly so that we may present a number of condolence motions before the House and members on both sides of the Assembly can participate in those condolence motions.

**The Speaker:** — The Premier has requested leave to move condolence motions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

### CONDOLENCES

**Edgar Ernest Kaeding**

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on a former MLA from the Saltcoats constituency, Edgar Kaeding, who passed away

Tuesday, January 4th, 2015, at the age of 94.

Edgar Kaeding entered into provincial politics in 1969, campaigning as a New Democratic Party candidate for the June 23rd, 1971 general election. He won that election, defeating long-time Liberal MLA James Snedker. Mr. Kaeding went on to win the next two general elections in Saltcoats, garnering 2,887 votes in '75 and 3,354 in 1978.

Serving under Premier Allan Blakeney, he was appointed Minister of Agriculture in 1975 and Minister of Rural Affairs from 1978 to 1982. After being defeated in the 1982 general election by Progressive Conservative Walter Johnson, Edgar stepped back from provincial politics to become administrator for the town of Churchbridge, retiring in 1998.

Born on June 16, 1920, on the family farm south of Churchbridge, at the age of 22 he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Army. Upon being discharged from the army, he and his wife, Alva, took over the operation of the Kaeding family farm in 1946, raising prize-winning Shorthorn cattle. He was very active in the local groups and organizations including 4-H, the Churchbridge Co-op, Sask Wheat Pool, Churchbridge Credit Union, Ag Society, and the Royal Canadian Legion.

The Kaedings raised four children: sons Jerry and Harold and daughters Heather Sveinbjornson and Deb Dedels.

The funeral service was held on Thursday, January 8th in Trinity Lutheran Church in Churchbridge with the Reverend Jeff Dul officiating.

Mr. Speaker, predeceased by his wife, Edgar leaves his four children, his sister Ruth Swanson, 15 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

And, Mr. Speaker, just from my own experience when Mr. Kaeding was Ag minister and actually our MLA over the years, I got to appreciate Edgar, because of course our politics were a little bit at different ends of the spectrum, but Edgar was a very good MLA, and as Ag minister and actually as minister of Rural Development on a number of occasions met with us when I was reeve of the RM [rural municipality] of Saltcoats. And he was very much appreciated for the time he took to deal with us as our MLA.

And, Mr. Speaker, with that I would like to pass on our condolences, Mr. Speaker, from the constituents of the Melville-Saltcoats riding and the province of Saskatchewan to the Kaeding family, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move this motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Edgar Ernest Kaeding** who passed away on January 4th, 2015 at the age of 94 was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1971 until 1982, representing the constituency of Saltcoats for the New Democratic Party.

He served as minister of Agriculture, minister of Municipal Affairs, and minister of Rural Affairs.

Mr. Kaeding was born on June 16th, 1920 on the family farm south of Churchbridge. Mr. Kaeding is survived and sadly missed by his four children, Jerry, Harold, Heather, and Deb, and their families, including 15 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melville-Saltcoats:

That this Assembly record with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

Will you take the rest of it as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to pay tribute to Edgar Kaeding this afternoon. When I learned of Edgar's passing in early January, I took some time to read the first speech that he delivered in the Legislative Assembly after being elected in 1971. It was in response to the Blakeney's government's first Throne Speech. Edgar started off by saying:

Mr. Speaker, I had not originally intended to participate in the Throne Speech Debate. Being a hard-nosed farmer I should like to see things done with dispatch. I had anticipated that we could, with a few pertinent presentations from each side of the House, have proceeded with the business at hand. I guess I was naive to think that Government could act so quickly. No doubt I shall learn to be patient in the next few years.

Mr. Speaker, Edgar Kaeding didn't care about pomp and circumstance. He just wanted to get things done for Saskatchewan people. And it's no wonder, because of those characteristics, that he earned a reputation as someone who was full of common sense, intelligent, principled, and incredibly fair and honourable. And it's no wonder why he was so well respected across party lines and recognized as someone who truly listened. As a self-described hard-nosed farmer, as the member of the Legislative Assembly for Saltcoats, as Minister of Agriculture, as Minister of Municipal Affairs, and as Minister of Rural Affairs, Edgar Kaeding contributed so much to our party and to our province. And for that we are tremendously grateful.

So today I pay tribute to a life well lived, and I honour Edgar Kaeding, a very good politician, a dedicated New Democrat, a

committed public servant, and a passionate advocate for the issues that matter to people. I extend my sympathies to Edgar's children, Jerry, Harold, Heather, and Deb, and to Edgar's grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and his great-great-grandchild.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker. I guess I would just add to the record in the case of all of these that we will honour today, former members of the House, that each one of them, regardless of where they happened to sit in the Legislative Assembly, sacrificed much in the commission of their public service and their public duties.

And that was certainly the case with Mr. Kaeding, Mr. Speaker. That has been well noted by the member from Melville-Saltcoats and the Leader of the Opposition. And today we honour individuals, members of this House, who not only participated in debate, in the case of the member, former member we're discussing today, not only participated in decision making and policy development but, Mr. Speaker, individuals who each one served their local constituents and served them to the best of their abilities, trying to respond to the specific requests they have had from the casework perspective, and also the broader issues that they would have brought before this Assembly on behalf of their constituents. It's the bull work of our democracy. It's what makes this place as special as it is. Nothing really but the individual members who've come into this Chamber, and signed the roll and taken up these duties.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I join with the Leader of the Opposition and the member from Melville-Saltcoats in passing along our deepest condolences and our very best to the family of Mr. Kaeding, Mr. Speaker, and posthumously thanking him for his great service to his constituents and to the province of Saskatchewan.

**The Speaker:** — The motion before the House, moved by the member from Melville-Saltcoats:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Edgar Ernest Kaeding** who passed away on January 4, 2015, at the age of 94, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1971 until 1982, representing the constituency of Saltcoats for the New Democratic Party. He served as the minister of Agriculture, minister of Municipal Affairs, and minister of Rural Affairs.

Mr. Kaeding was born on June 16th, 1920 at the family farm south of Churchbridge. He and his wife, Alva, were married in 1943 and in 1946 returned home and took over the operation of the Kaeding family farm. He raised prize-winning Shorthorn cattle. After the provincial election in 1982, Mr. Kaeding served the public as the administrator for the town of Churchbridge.

Mr. Kaeding is survived and sadly missed by his four children, Jerry, Harold, Heather, and Deb, and their families, including 15 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Walter Edmund Smishek**

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In a few moments I'll move a condolence motion in respect of Mr. Walter Smishek, a former member of this House. Before I do that, I'd like to just share a few comments if I may, Mr. Speaker.

I grew up in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, as folks will know, and became keenly interested in politics there and provincially at, what some would say, a disturbingly young age. Mr. Speaker, I can remember coming home to our house and noticing that a sign had been installed on the front lawn. And somebody, I thought, I believed at the time, named Dennis Ham was about to sell our house to someone else, Mr. Speaker. Of course that wasn't the case. This was a lawn sign, a political lawn sign, and so it started for me a discussion with my parents about politics.

And in a moment, by the way, we'll honour the memory of an individual who served: Mr. Dennis Ham who went on to be the MLA for Swift Current, served within this House as well.

But, Mr. Speaker, because of this interest that began to grow at that period of time in the mid-to-late '70s, I became very aware of ministers in the government of the day and the premier of the day in Premier Blakeney's government. And, Mr. Speaker, then and even now I think we can all reflect, regardless of our political affiliations, we can reflect on very significant achievements in that decade.

First of all, for the most part, it was a decade of some significant growth in the province of Saskatchewan. And it was also, Mr. Speaker, a time of great import for the country and what was happening from a constitutional perspective. And I can remember feeling pretty proud of Peter Lougheed's stand on behalf of the West and that constitutional dynamic. But he was aided and . . . well, more than aided. His partner in that was former Premier Allan Blakeney.

But beyond Premier Blakeney, I remember the names of ministers then still, which really speaks to the strength of the cabinet of Mr. Blakeney. Of course we remember the names like Romanow and Tchorzewski and Eiling Kramer and Bob Long. I knew all of these in junior high and high school, and I very much knew the name of Walter Smishek.

And it would make sense that anybody that was following politics in Saskatchewan at that time, regardless of their age, would know this man, not only by his name and by the fact that he would have been in the *Swift Current Sun* and *The Southwest Booster* and on CJFB-TV and in the news, but also by what he did here in this legislature and at home in his constituency, Mr. Speaker. He served for 15 years as an MLA, and for those of us that have been here for around about that period of time, and some for much longer, we know that this is a significant commitment that was made by Mr. Smishek to this place and to public service and to the Government of Saskatchewan.

Moreover, during that time, we know of his record in the cabinet where he was entrusted by Premier Blakeney with very significant duties as minister of Public Health. The name later changed but his title stayed the same, the minister of Health. And, Mr. Speaker, we understand what the challenges in that portfolio are today. It would have been the same, similar; they would have been proportionate certainly for the time that Mr. Smishek served. Remember also, colleagues and Mr. Speaker, that the system of health care we had was obviously, well it would have been 25 years, 30 years newer, fresher than it is today. And so there would have been still many moving parts since its inaugural years when health care was brought into its current form in the '60s in the province of Saskatchewan.

He also served as minister of Finance. We just came through a budget process and members on both sides of this House will understand the amount of work and the amount of stress that rests with a Finance minister. Surely that Finance minister has a good deputy and a great ministry, and whomever they are and whenever they've served, that would have been the case. They would've had a caucus to help them. They would have a treasury board, and they would have cabinet colleagues to rest on. And they'd have external advisors and those that would be forecasting the price of commodities for the purposes of budgeting.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if Mr. Smishek's luck with forecasters was any different than other Finance ministers' luck has been. But he would have had all of those people assisting him but, at the end of the day, the very end of the day, he would have made the recommendation for a budget to a very seasoned, in this case, very experienced cabinet, and to a premier who was very much involved in the financial life of the province with respect to, not only the treasury board function of government, but also the duties to be the fiscal steward for Saskatchewan. He would've had a premier that was very engaged.

And so the pressure would've fallen to Mr. Smishek, in the course of developing of those budgets and then submitting them, and then perhaps even more importantly, standing in his place in the legislature, delivering the budget on budget day, and then going out and communicating to the people of the province why the decisions were made by the government. And obviously they would've been all good decisions. I don't think there's one Finance minister that's ever stood in this place and delivered a budget and had nothing but good news. There would've been decisions he would've had to communicate with stakeholders, with citizens. That would've been difficult to do.

He also served as the minister of Municipal Affairs and Urban Affairs. And in this province, partly because of the number of



municipalities we have, and that's been a subject of some debate in this place, but also because of the importance of municipalities in Saskatchewan — not only in terms of their front-line relationship with all of our constituents but because in many respects they are the deliverer of much of what's appropriated by this Assembly for the purposes of budgeting — so that function of government, that particular file, is maybe not uniquely important in our province, but it certainly has a very special space.

Imagine the confidence that Premier Blakeney had in Mr. Smishek to give him these files, to give him the minister of Health, first public health then health; then as Finance minister; then the important file, the municipal affairs and urban affairs until 1982 when the government changed.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a testament to the man, and in the company and in the presence of his family, they must be and I know they are very proud of his commitment. And rightly so, given the obvious confidence placed in him, not just by the premier of the time, but by his colleagues and by his constituents for 15 years as an MLA.

I will also note for the House, Mr. Speaker, that I'm very much aware that the interests of Mr. Smishek did not end in 1982, for I read many letters to the editor and saw the engagement of Mr. Smishek in the public life of the province through that way. Would not have agreed perhaps with the contents of every letter to the editor, but I'd probably say that a number of them would have given me pause and an important opportunity to kind of back up and maybe consider my own position on something, because he could certainly put an argument, even in that short space that's allotted by our newspapers, as he could, I'm sure, in this House when he was debating.

Mr. Speaker, I in many ways owe my interest in politics, which has been an abiding thing, not just to the party that I'm a part of and it's perhaps the parties that were its forebearers, but to all of those who were dedicated in politics at that time that I looked in on, that I watched and I followed. And Mr. Smishek was one of those.

And so I owe him a personal debt of gratitude and, through his family, I offer that thanks because he would have maybe the part of the protagonist, but he would have played an important part in the development of my interest and the interests of, I'm sure, many people in the House on both sides. And so, Mr. Speaker, I know there are others that will want to say a few words. Let me just quickly move this motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former Member of the Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency and to the province.

**Walter Edmund Smishek**, who passed away 22 December, 2014, at the age of 89, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 to 1982, representing the constituency of Regina East for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and Regina North East for the New Democratic Party from 1967 to 1982. [So, Mr. Speaker, I need to correct my remarks. He served much

longer than those 15 years.] He served as minister of Public Health, the minister of Health, minister of Finance, the minister of Municipal Affairs and Urban Affairs.

Mr. Smishek was born on 21 July, 1925 in Poland and immigrated with his parents in 1930 to a farm near Hafford. Prior to being elected, Mr. Smishek was a labour leader. He was employed at Western Grocers and became their union representative. He was later employed as the education director for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, RWDSU, and executive secretary for the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour.

Mr. Smishek is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Ruth; their children Mark, Kelly, and Erica; son-in-law Earl; and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family. I so move.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Walter Edmund Smishek**, who passed away on December 22, 2014, at the age of 89, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 to 1982, representing the constituency of Regina East for the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and Regina Northeast for the New Democratic Party from 1967 until 1982. He served as the minister of Public Health, the minister of Health, minister of Finance, and the minister of Municipal Affairs and Urban Affairs.

Mr. Smishek was born on July 21, 1925 in Poland and immigrated with his parents in 1930 to a farm near Hafford. Prior to being elected, Mr. Smishek was a labour leader. He was employed at Western Grocers and became their union representative. He was later employed as the education director for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, RWDSU, and executive secretary for the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour.

Mr. Smishek is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Ruth; their children Mark, Kelly, and Erica; son-in-law Earl; and grandchildren and great grandchildren. In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a true honour to pay tribute to Walter Smishek this afternoon. And it's also, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned at the beginning of the proceedings today, an honour to welcome his widow, Ruth, here to the Assembly to listen to the remarks made about Walter, as well as

some of their children.

And I hope, Mr. Speaker, as they're here, they told me it's been a good number of years since they've been back to the Assembly, and certainly a longer number of years since watching the proceedings here on the floor. And I hope throughout the day that they've thought of the warm and the fond memories of watching their husband and dad over the many years serve here in the Assembly on the floor of this Chamber.

Walter, Mr. Speaker, was a giant, perhaps not in physical stature, but absolutely a giant in terms of his role within this province, his leadership within this province, and the huge contributions that he made through public service for the people of Saskatchewan.

Walter Smishek was incredibly smart, incredibly caring, and he was always, always a gentleman. He always exhibited an aura of calmness, strength, and leadership, measured restraint and resolve, and his life was fully committed to the pursuit of social and economic justice.

He contributed so much to Saskatchewan, and I already miss his wise insights and his helpful advice that he was so willing to give to those who would be able to sit down and listen.

I recall Premier Romanow speaking at Walter's memorial. He talked about asking for Walter's thoughts on the most important ideal that one should pursue in both public and private life. Premier Romanow says Walter's response was firm and clear — fairness. That's the underlying ethic that Walter Smishek identified as the most important ideal that we should pursue in both public and private life.

Walter's record of service stands as a testament to his pursuit of fairness. Walter was passionately committed to advancing the causes of working men and women through organized trade union activity. He knew that through organized union activity, working men and women stood the best chance of meeting the needs of their family, getting ahead, and achieving their aspirations.

Walter served as a representative for the retail, wholesale, and department store workers union. He was the executive director of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour. He was a member of the political action committee of the Canadian Labour Congress and he was labour's representative on the University of Saskatchewan senate for six years.

Walter Smishek never wavered in his commitment to improve the lives of working people and their families. For him this was fundamentally about fairness. Walter served on the Thompson advisory committee, which was established by Premier Douglas to set out for the provincial government a framework and the principles and details of medicare. Walter was the trade union representative on the Thompson committee, and he agreed with the majority of the committee that medicare should be universal, but he issued a minority report, a dissenting report arguing against user fees of any kind.

Walter firmly believed that health care was both an individual right and a public responsibility. And Walter played a crucial

role in the formation of public universal medicare here in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada, because for Walter it was simply about fairness.

Walter represented Regina East from 1964 to 1967 as a CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] member. He represented Regina North East from 1967 to 1982 as a New Democrat member. In the lead-up to the 1971 election, Walter was the lead author that drafted Allan Blakeney's platform known as the new deal for people. It was an exciting, far-sighted, and progressive platform that had, at its root, a fundamental belief that government could serve as an instrument for the people to advance their rights, to advance their opportunities.

A land bank for farmers, resource control for our province, legal aid, an independent ombudsman, expanded social services, health care reform, a human rights commission, and many other progressive and innovative ideas were begun with the new deal for people. And Walter Smishek was responsible for its formation because Walter cared about fairness.

When the Blakeney government was elected in 1971, Walter was appointed as the minister of Health. Under Walter's leadership we saw the most dramatic expansion and innovation of public health care programs our province has seen since we adopted universal medicare. Walter established the Saskatchewan dental plan, the first of its kind in North America; a provincial prescription drug plan; the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living; wellness programs; and the beginning of a chiropody program. All of this for Walter was about fairness, and then from Health to Finance to Municipal Affairs, each with their own record of incredible achievements.

And long after his retirement from public life, Walter remained passionate about politics. He remained passionate about fairness. I loved visiting with Walter, and I appreciated his advice and I appreciated his regular book recommendations as well. Mr. Speaker, even on my last visit to Walter and Ruth's home shortly before he died, Walter recommended some books. In every way he was a class act, a true gentleman, and an incredible politician. I was blessed to know Walter Smishek, and we are all fortunate for his service as a member of this Chamber, as a cabinet minister, and as a leader in our province.

Today I pay tribute to Walter Smishek, and I thank him for his service to Saskatchewan and his service to Canada. And I thank his wife, Ruth, and their children Mark, Kelly, and Erica, son-in-law Earl and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren for sharing Walter for us. We are better for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[15:00]

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

**Mr. Marchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of Regina Douglas Park, the MLA for Regina Northeast, the Minister of Advanced Education, and all of my colleagues on this side of the House, I very much appreciate the opportunity to say a few words for Mr. Walter Smishek.

Mr. Speaker, as we've heard, we know from the history of this great province and from others here today the significant impact that Walter Smishek had on the province during his time in public life. We thank him for that service, Mr. Speaker, and we thank his family for the support they gave him, enabling him to serve.

I came to know Walter and Ruth through their daughter Kelly and her husband, Earl Kummerfield. Earl and I were on staff together at F.W. Johnson when we first met. Earl was an English teacher and coached senior girls' basketball. Kelly, a dedicated supporter, rarely missed a game and, Mr. Speaker, along with Kelly, always Walter and Ruth.

It was there that I was able to sit beside Walter and Ruth and share stories about basketball and students. And I learned the appreciation and the support that Walter and Ruth had for their daughter Kelly and son-in-law Earl. It was at those events, Mr. Speaker, that I came to know Walter as the consummate family man: husband, father, grandfather, and community member. The Douglas Park neighbourhood where Walter and Ruth reside loved him and they reciprocated, Mr. Speaker. And that sentiment was sincerely expressed by his neighbours and his family at his celebration, a celebration held at the Conexus Arts Centre overlooking Wascana Lake and his home in Regina Douglas Park.

Mr. Speaker, I know Walter is missed by Ruth, Mark, Erica, Kelly, and Earl. We extend our deepest sympathy and say thanks for sharing Walter with the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are wonderful remarks that we are hearing today, from members of both sides of this Assembly, for a remarkable person. And I think the Leader of the Opposition described Mr. Walter Smishek as a giant, not of physical stature, but of his contributions to the province, and there couldn't be a more accurate statement.

Mr. Smishek, Walter, gave so much to the province that he so loved. His contributions are enormous in many ways when you look at the transformation of our province. He left an impressive and a progressive mark on our province, and for all of that we can only say thank you.

It's a pleasure to have family here today, to have Ruth here today, his wife; to have Mark and Kelly join here as well. I know that in Walter's service, that it wasn't just his service. I know that it was that of a family. And I know that it was that of his wife Ruth as well, someone who was a powerful force in bringing together community and working with community and working together for progress.

Mr. Smishek was exceptionally intelligent to his very last days. He had an incredible vision but a practical and common sense approach to getting things done. He was incredibly determined and hard working and, quite simply, focused on making the lives of Saskatchewan people better, focused on fairness, as was referenced by the Leader of the Opposition.

He left an incredible mark on our province and on our party, the New Democratic Party, and as well, of course, the CCF. So it's incredibly special to honour Walter here today, someone who right to his very last days, as referenced by the Leader of the Opposition, was genuinely interested in the affairs of the province and the affairs of the party, and was always ready to offer insight and to offer ideas and to also offer challenging questions and suggestions, and was always a treat to listen and to work with, Mr. Speaker.

I know that their family shared a love of community, shared a love of Last Mountain Lake, and worked together with so many to make our province a better place. So it's with humble honour that I rise here today to pay tribute to Mr. Walter Smishek and to the entire Smishek family and to say to them, thank you so very much.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour to also rise to pay tribute to Walter Smishek and to Ruth and to the family. Walter Smishek was that person who you always knew was there and available with very concise, clear advice and also a very good memory of what had happened over the decades prior to the time that I was elected and in politics. And there were a number of times where you would look at all the documents, look at all of the information, and realize there's some other piece to this that I don't understand, and Walter would be the kind of person that you could contact and he would describe more of what had happened.

In that way, he was very much like Allan Blakeney, and the two of them, if you could ever get them the same place, you'd actually get a very big picture of how some of the policy choices that have been made for Saskatchewan have influenced what we do now.

I don't think there's any way we can downplay the role that Walter Smishek had in the whole medicare development in the province, and we need to especially thank him for that. As a Health minister who was involved with that later, he always had advice — there's no question about that — but it was always suggestions. It wasn't directions.

Another thing that I want to say about Walter is that he basically helped me understand the importance of Wascana Centre to the province and to the city of Regina. This was something that was very important to him and, you know, obviously to all of the MLAs in Regina, but he had a special interest in making sure that Wascana Centre would be something that would be a jewel or something that we were all proud of in the province.

And if there were things that, or decisions that were being made that troubled him, you could be assured that he would get hold of the Regina MLAs to say to us, hey, you have to watch this because this is an important piece of this province. And we know that all of the governments since the establishment of Wascana Centre have worked hard to make sure that it works properly, but Walter was always that person who was keeping track of that.

I want to say to Ruth and to the family that we will miss having

Walter around. But I know that for all of us as Regina MLAs, we'll reflect on the fact that Walter's keeping track of what we're doing. And so I say, Mr. Speaker, that we want to thank the family for sharing him with the people of Saskatchewan and the people of Canada. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's with a great sense of humility, even more than regular for myself, that I enter into this debate. And certainly I often think about, as one who's privileged to serve in this place, about that time when we as members of the Legislative Assembly get to sign the roll. And you think about all the different giants that made the debate and the public life in Saskatchewan something that's known throughout the continent, and in some cases throughout the world, for its vigour and for its energy, Mr. Speaker.

And for me I always thought of, you know, like Tommy Douglas and Allan Blakeney, and I thought of people like Walter Smishek because of course I grew up in north central Regina when Mr. Blakeney was our representative in the legislature and premier of the province, and took an early interest in the history of the CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party]. And you don't need to get into that, that in turns proud, in turns contentious history very far, Mr. Speaker, before you find out about the contribution that was made by Walter Smishek. And I'll always think of him as, you know, as Walter and Ruth and certainly Allan and Anne, and it was a tremendous friendship that that couple had over many years. And I think of, Mr. Speaker, what a sacrifice on the part of a family for the ability for Walter to serve, and that again it wasn't just Walter but it was very much a team effort in terms of the Smishek family.

But again, Mr. Speaker, in this day of politics such as they are, you think about the battles that someone like Walter Smishek was there, not just as some interested observer but in the teeth of the fight for medicare as the labour representative to the Thompson Commission and, you know, having the sand to put out his own minority report in terms of the whole question of salary versus fee-for-service for physicians. And again the way that that debate raged in the province of Saskatchewan but that we came through it to a better place I think, Mr. Speaker, and the way that it took the fortitude and the determination of people like Walter Smishek to say that, as the Leader of the Opposition has referred to, that fairness should be brought to bear in matters of health and the provision of health care.

Or you think about the battles around natural resource policy in the '70s and the way that different of those fights carried out, not just in the province but certainly in the federal government, and again there was Walter right in the thick of it.

And as has been referenced, as the person that marshalled up the new deal for people platform for the NDP in the '71 election — and being interested somewhat in, you know, how platforms get put together or not, certainly for the CCF-NDP side of things; I think it's a matter of some agreement, Mr. Speaker, we're always very interested in policy — in terms of what Walter did for the Saskatchewan CCF-NDP was pretty much, make it impossible to top what had been brought forward in the

'71 election. You know, good luck trying to improve upon the effort that was brought to bear there.

In so many different ways the impact, the legacy of Walter Smishek lives on. I think about a strong trade unionist and the way that those principles held some fealty to for the rest of his, for all of his life. I think about being part of a government . . . We were just celebrating the 40th anniversary of *The Multiculturalism Act*, and the way that someone like Walter Smishek undoubtedly played a part in that.

I think about something as simple, and now as many years gone on, as the school-based dental program where kids in places like Kitchener School in north central Regina got to get first-rate preventative dental health care. And it didn't matter that their parents weren't rich, or that their parents were working class, but that they could have something as fundamental as good dental health care. And I think of the role that Walter played in that.

He was a gentleman, as has been said. He was always very well put together. He was always proper and had that very sort of fiery spirit that you could see coming down the street, Mr. Speaker. But as much of a gentleman as he was, he was a hard-charging guy. And he was very much animated by ideas and principles and didn't take to satisfaction, I think, very easily. He was always looking for ways to make things better, to improve, and to, as again has been said, to address the imperatives of fairness.

Saskatchewan, I believe, Mr. Speaker, is a better place for the contribution that has been made by Walter Smishek and the Smishek family, and by Ruth, the kids, grandkids, and the great-grandkids. And we are a better province for the contribution, for the life of Walter Smishek. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[15:15]

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure and honour to as well enter into this. My comments will be brief. I just want to relay maybe a story or two about Walter because he really was such a really important elder statesman in our party.

Just a couple of things: his record is amazing, truly amazing. But one thing I just want to add about the new deal for people that he pointed out to me was the environment section. As you remember, the '60s were pretty amazing when it came to . . . the environment protection Act was passed in Washington by Lyndon B. Johnson. As all these things were happening in North America, Walter was watching this very closely. He pointed out that things like the environment, that we really had not touched in Saskatchewan, were coming through with the new deal for people. And that was a wonderful thing.

And of course I got to know Walter more when I was part of cabinet, through the labour initiatives and stuff that we did, and also through the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] annual Christmas party. And I think he always went to the annual Christmas party right up to the last few years, and of

course party events.

But there is one story I want to tell which is just, really I think epitomizes who Walter is. And that was Wes Bolstad. Many people will know Wes Bolstad. I didn't know him really well, but Wes Bolstad, I knew more from Meewasin days than from what he had done as actually working for cabinet for four different premiers. Wes had passed away in December of 2008, and I was at his memorial in Saskatoon and so was Walter. Walter needed a ride to get back to Regina, and I was going to Regina, so this worked out really well.

So as well, many people remember that was the winter that we were amending the Saskatchewan Housing Act, 1978. So I naively asked Walter if he knew anything about the Saskatchewan Housing Act of 1978, not knowing he was the minister who brought that forward. And of course we had just an amazing, an amazing drive back from Saskatoon those three hours on that December evening where he basically taught me all about the '70s.

And I appreciate the Premier's remarks. You know, we all think that we're aware of the different ministers. And you know, I was just starting my career and going to school in education, that type of thing, and knew the ministers, but didn't really appreciate what was happening in Saskatchewan in the '70s. What an amazing cabinet and the achievements that were happening in the province at that time, but also how we were thinking about our cities and what housing meant. And of course in very many similar ways, what our province was going through in the late '70s to what they were going through in 2008, in that time period.

So Walter in his very gracious way taught me a lot of things over those three hours, you know, and I really, really value that to this day. And I wish that all of us as we grow old and will impart advice to future members, that we can do it with grace and in a way that we can all hear and learn from. Walter was just so good at that. And I just wanted to say thank you to him and to his family. He was a really, really pretty special guy. So I would just say that, you know, in our party we kind of recall Wordsworth's phrase of a happy warrior, and I would say he was one of our best happy warriors. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — On the motion by the Premier, will the Assembly take the motion as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### Serge Kujawa

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Once again in a moment I will be moving the formal condolence motion for Serge Kujawa, a former member of this House.

And, Mr. Speaker, I did not know him personally but certainly am very aware of, not only his contribution as a member of this House for a term, but the very significant contribution that he made in the Ministry of Justice and frankly to, well to law and order in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, when I read the condolence motion, you'll note that he graduated with his law degree in 1957 and almost immediately joined the Department of Justice, it would have been at the time. I think 1960 was the year that he began, Mr. Speaker, rising to, I think what we notionally know today as the chief prosecutor for the province. But in the course of his public service in that ministry, in the then Department of Justice, he in fact presented at the Supreme Court of Canada. He will be well known for some very, very infamous cases in the province of Saskatchewan.

And what can be said in all of his work I think, and I've had a chance to briefly chat with the Attorney General who's had a chance to revisit things with his ministry, that his reputation is stellar amongst his peers and amongst those who are aware in a much more detailed way of his service in the now Ministry of Justice and some who were able to serve with him.

Imagine this then, Mr. Speaker. After a life of that, after a life of that level of public service which would have been very stressful and taxing — and, may I say, in the presence of his wife; a sacrifice not only on his part frankly, that public service, but on the part of those whom he loved — after that public service, he ran for office and sought a seat in this House and wanted to be a part frankly of a very difficult time in the political life of the province of Saskatchewan, wanted to be a part of a government at that time that faced huge challenges with respect to where the province was from a fiscal standpoint.

Decisions that had to be made — by not just a very small cabinet that Premier Romanow put together but indeed, I'm sure, by all of caucus — would have been immense, those decisions, not only in their implications were they made, but in the implications of not making some tough decisions. Those too would have been very significant in terms of what might have happened, and not in a positive way necessarily, in the province had those decisions just been avoided.

And so I just can't help but salute someone who after a lifetime of that kind of public service, as a prosecutor and a minister of Justice, that would see fit then to continue to serve the constituents, I think, of Regina Albert Park or sometimes it's known as Regina South. And we want to honour this former member today as well and pass on our very, very best to his wife, and through her to his family and loved ones. And so, Mr. Speaker, I will move now that:

This Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Serge Kujawa**, who passed away September 22, 2014 at the age of 89, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1991 until 1995, representing the constituency of Regina Albert South for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Kujawa was born in 1924 in Radin, Poland. His family immigrated to Canada and settled in St. Walburg. Mr. Kujawa went to the University of Saskatchewan and completed a law degree in 1957. He moved to Regina and articulated at a private law firm. In 1960 he joined the Justice department as a public prosecutor where he served until his retirement in 1989. As the chief Crown prosecutor, he took many cases to the Supreme Court of Canada. He also served on many committees and boards and taught courses for lawyers in Halifax and Calgary, as well as for the RCMP and the Regina City Police.

Mr. Kujawa is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Darlene; his brother Nick; his children Ivy, Judy, Kim, Mandi, Melodi, and Melissa, and stepson Scott.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Serge Kujawa**, who passed away on September 22nd, 2014 at the age of 89, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1991 until 1995, representing the constituency of Regina Albert South for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Kujawa was born in 1924 in Radin, Poland. His family immigrated to Canada and settled in St. Walburg. Mr. Kujawa went to the University of Saskatchewan and completed a law degree in 1957. He moved to Regina and articulated at a private law firm. In 1960, he joined the Justice department as a public prosecutor where he served until his retirement in 1989. As the chief Crown prosecutor, he took many cases to the Supreme Court of Canada. He also served on many committees and boards, and taught courses for lawyers in Halifax and Calgary, as well as for the RCMP and the Regina city police.

Mr. Kujawa is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Darlene; his brother Nick; his children Ivy, Judy, Kim, Mandi, Melodi, and Melissa, and stepson, Scott.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a true honour this afternoon to pay tribute to Serge Kujawa. And I again would like to welcome his widow, Darlene, here to the Assembly. I didn't know Serge personally, Mr. Speaker, but I didn't need to

in order to know the remarkable life that he indeed lived, and the remarkable contributions that he has made to Saskatchewan.

Like some of the other members, I took a look at the maiden speech that he gave in this legislature on December 5th, 1991. He said, "I suggest for your consideration that probably the best test for civilization is to assess how considerate are these people one to another." And he went on, Mr. Speaker, and he concluded with a story I think that points to a few things: a sense of humour, but more importantly, paints a bit of a picture as to what was his motivation for serving in the different roles that he had. This is what he said:

I was once surrounded by a whole lot of these social scientists in a conference in Toronto, and that night we were having a banquet and a great speaker from the United States of America. And I figured . . . I have to tolerate all of this just to get some free booze and . . . a real good meal. And the answer is, yes I'll tolerate it!

I went in, and I listened to a guy by the name of John Graecen address us. At the end of the address, I walked up to him and I told him I thought it was a great performance. He was a great deal of help to me. I talked with him a bit and I asked him, didn't you know that talking to this sort of an audience, what you had to say would be unpopular. And this guy says, yes I knew that. And I said, well doesn't it bother you? He says, it used to bother me a great deal but not so much any more because I have slowly learned that it is not my job to change the world. My job is to try.

Mr. Speaker, Serge Kujawa's maiden speech does speak volumes to me, emphasizing the importance of being considerate, being fair, and being kind. I think it also paints a picture of a good balance, a mix of idealism and pragmatism. He knew that it wasn't his job to change the world, but he was determined to try, and we've seen that through the remarkable career and the various forms of public service that he provided.

Before becoming an MLA, Serge had a distinguished law career handling many high-profile cases, including convicting Colin Thatcher of murder and taking many cases to the Supreme Court of Canada. I didn't, as I said, have the pleasure of knowing Serge Kujawa, but I wish that I did. I've heard about his quick wit, his intelligence, his honesty and his integrity. And I've heard about how considerate and down to earth he was.

[15:30]

I've also heard, Mr. Speaker, about his incredible athleticism, able to do one-handed push-ups in his 60s, tearing phone books in half, and regularly winning arm wrestles with much younger people, often using only one finger, right into his late 80s, Mr. Speaker.

Serge Kujawa's life was full and productive, and he contributed so much to Saskatchewan. So we thank him and we express our sincerest sympathies to his family: his wife, Darlene, brother Nick, children Ivy, Judy, Kim, Mandi, Melodi, and Melissa, stepson Scott, and his grandchildren. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join in the motion to add my condolences to former member Serge Kujawa. I would also, Mr. Speaker, like to recognize and thank his wife, Darlene, for being here today. I think it's of some significance when family members choose to attend these events, and I think it's important that members show appropriate respect for them, and we're pleased that they're here.

As the Premier mentioned, Mr. Kujawa was born in Radin, Poland. The family would leave when Serge was three years old. They arrived in Canada at the Halifax Pier 21 in 1928. They travelled by train to the settlement of St. Walburg to homestead.

After school, he had a number of jobs. They included teaching, joining the army, panning for gold, and playing poker. His book that he wrote indicated that playing poker was a career option, so I won't ask any questions about how you make money playing poker. He certainly was more skilful at it than I've ever been.

A farm accident would change the course of his career. No longer able to work on the farm, he attended the University of Saskatchewan and obtained a law degree. After graduation he moved to Regina, worked for a short period of time in private practice, and then joined the Justice department. He eventually became chief Crown prosecutor and he worked during his career on a number of high-profile cases, including the Thatcher and Milgaard cases. Many of the cases ended up in the Supreme Court, and he was a tireless and a strong litigator at all levels of court.

Mr. Speaker, I first met Mr. Kujawa as a very young defence lawyer. You can imagine my terror going to court, not knowing who the prosecutor might be, and the living legend himself walked in. My client was quite properly convicted, and in spite of the fear and trepidation that I had, Mr. Kujawa was a gentleman. He took me aside, explained things to me, and it was a great learning experience for me.

I can also advise that later on, during my time at Legal Aid, we had a senior prosecutor that worked with us, Harold Pick, who was close friends with Mr. Kujawa and obtained regular advice and they were frequent visitors back and forth and provided no-cost or low-cost counsel to young Legal Aid lawyers. So on behalf of the Legal Aid Commission, we thank him for his contribution, albeit second hand.

I can advise as well he was an incredibly fierce competitor, a great athlete, and had a softer side. He liked to fight for the little guy. He wrote in his book, and I quote:

From a young age I had been painfully aware of the price of injustice and was tired of having to defend my right to occupy a spot on this earth. I looked to the law as a way to right those kind of wrongs.

After retiring, he served a term in the Legislative Assembly as MLA for Albert South from '91 to '95. Mr. Speaker, he will be remembered for his enormous contribution to Saskatchewan's legal history over his storied career.

He came from humble immigrant roots, and his life was embodied in Saskatchewan's motto, *Multis e gentibus vires*, "from many peoples, strength." He made this place a better place for having been here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to add my voice of praise for Serge Kujawa's life and add a whole number of things that I learned. I'm very pleased that Darlene is here because Darlene asked me to preside at Serge Kujawa's funeral. And I had known Serge over many decades, but in that day and in that time I was able to learn many things about Serge that really cemented for me why he was so well loved by his family, by the public, and by his colleagues here in the legislature.

I think I'll start with the theme song for his funeral. It was "You Are My Sunshine." That was his favourite song, and it was one that Darlene and Serge got to sing many places around the world because people would know it in lots of languages and they could join in with that.

And so what we have here is this man who was very much the symbol of justice in Saskatchewan, who took some of the toughest cases and dealt with them in a very fair, even-handed way, taught the young counsel as we just heard from a member opposite, and taught many of the people that he was working with about what it means to be fair, what it means to provide clear counsel.

Mr. Kujawa was a learner I think his whole life. He was a teacher. One of the stories that was shared with me by Darlene was a reunion where Serge as teacher was invited back to Timberlost school. Timberlost school is near Big River, and I think probably there's not much of it left, but there's a community there. And those people welcomed him back into his old role long before he was a lawyer and reminded him how he had been an inspiration for all of them in their lives. I think that's what happened in many different situations.

I ended up knowing Serge through the bar in Regina, through the lawyers. But my parents moved to North Battleford and they ended up living across the back fence from Serge's sister, Dr. Barbara McPhail. And it was clear that Howdy McPhail and Barbara McPhail and Serge and his family were very much a part of that whole history of northeast Saskatchewan even though he lived most of his life down here in Regina.

I know that Darlene spent many, many years with Serge as he finished his legal career and then went into his legislative career, and then after that they had a chance to travel to many parts of the world.

But I know that many of the most important parts of Serge's life involved his role as a lawyer. It's very interesting that one of the other members that we're going to honour a few minutes later today is Mr. Collver, because Mr. Collver played an important part in Serge's life in the Thatcher case, in that Mr. Collver became a witness for Serge as prosecutor in that case. And we all kind of know that history back in the recesses of our memory, but it's interesting how that made a difference there as well.

I remember Serge from around the courthouse and around different places, but more importantly, after Serge retired he would be very much one who wanted to continue to exercise, continue to basically show how physically strong he was. And he loved the sun, and so often you'd see him start on a trip or a walk somewhere and then he'd take his shirt off and you would say, well who is this? Well that was a time for us as lawyers, especially us younger lawyers, to stop and visit with him and he would stop and give advice in that situation as well.

I had the honour to represent an area that he had represented when he was member for Regina South. Between 1991 and 1995 there was a re-districting and so about a third of Regina Lakeview was the old Regina South riding. And he came into that riding as somebody that everybody knew and respected, and he got elected and served in those years. When I then ran, I would hear about Serge as our MLA, somebody that we were proud of. So I had a great sort of reputation to follow, and I have to say that I really much appreciated that. Also Serge was very good about giving advice even after he'd left this place about how it works here, over and against my role at that point as minister of Justice. Because he had many more years working in the Ministry of Justice than he had in the legislature, I always listened to him carefully because he could understand both sides of that role.

I know that he was very proud of his children and his grandchildren, and many of those people have and continue to serve the province of Saskatchewan. I know a number of them are very good athletes, and I know he was especially proud of that, but he was also proud of everything that they do. I know that Darlene, his wife, was an absolute, I guess, queen in his life and it was their years together as he got older that I think were probably the most important part of his life.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that all of us in Saskatchewan need to thank Serge Kujawa for his service, and we very much appreciate that Darlene and the rest of the family have allowed him to be part of our community. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Hon. Mr. Wyant:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Attorney General, I felt it important that I should stand and pay tribute to a formidable and honourable gentleman, Mr. Serge Kujawa, Q.C. [Queen's Counsel]. Members of this Assembly have heard of his career as an MLA. This was a natural outgrowth of his commitment to the principles of justice and public service. Yet before his career as an elected official, he lived out his allegiance to these principles as a lawyer in the Ministry of Justice for nearly three decades.

In his memoir, Serge wrote that "the call to the study of law came to him like a prophecy asking to be fulfilled." Serge began working with the department of the Attorney General as a prosecutor in February 1961, his first office facing the lake on the second floor of this very building. He would eventually rise to become the director of public prosecutions, serving in that role until August 1974 when he became the director of the newly created policy and planning branch.

In May 1978 Serge was appointed to be the associate deputy

minister and general counsel for the department, a position for which he continued to serve the people of Saskatchewan until his retirement on November 25, 1989.

Serge prosecuted several high-profile cases during his time at Justice, although he was particularly proud of one case in which he prosecuted a hotelier in Montmartre for making Aboriginal customers sit in a different location from other people. His strong sense of justice was reflected in his work and made Saskatchewan a safer and a fairer place to live.

At the same time he also made our province a fairer place to live. His commitment to the unbiased exercise of law contributed to the state of the legal system as we now know it. He was highly critical of allowing politics or the media to interfere with the rule of law. As he reflected:

Call it the Bermuda Triangle effect or the perfect storm, but when you bring these three groups together, it can only result in disaster. When these three forces choose to tango, costs go up and precedent-setting legal decisions are made based on faulty information and for the wrong reasons. It's just bad law.

He was committed to this principle even to the point of endangering his own career. In his memoirs he tells the story about how he once stood against a former attorney general who asked him not to prosecute a particular case because his constituents didn't like what they were reading in the news. Once presented with the facts, the attorney general changed his mind but not before Serge had reinforced the convention of prosecutorial independence which is a hallmark of today's judicial system.

His colleagues describe Serge as a consummate professional with an analytical mind. He felt the position was a high calling and performed his duties with ferocity and integrity. I thank his family for empowering him to serve the people of the province with such dedication, and relay, on behalf of his co-workers in Justice past and present, our condolences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[15:45]

**The Speaker:** — On the motion by the Premier, will the Assembly take the motion as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Richard Lee Collver**

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In a moment I'll be moving a motion of condolence in respect of former member Richard Lee Collver, or Dick Collver as he was known inside and out of politics during his life here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I'll read the motion. It includes



some biographical comments about Mr. Collver. I never had a chance to meet him either, but I'm certainly aware of his accomplishments and contributions to the province's political life. Mr. Speaker, they are significant indeed.

Mr. Speaker, it's noted in a book called *Singing the Blues: The Conservatives in Saskatchewan*, a book by Dick Spencer, that Mr. Collver's career began or his political aspirations were first manifest in civic politics in Saskatoon. Though he had come here from another province, he had quickly involved himself as a young man in the political life of Saskatchewan, seeking to be the mayor of Saskatoon. Mr. Speaker, he was unsuccessful in that endeavour, but he gained some recognition and turned some heads perhaps amongst those who, as Mr. Spencer points out in his book, maybe were concerned about whether or not the government of the day, the Blakeney government whom we have feted and honoured here today, but concerned about whether the Blakeney government in fact was business friendly enough. They were concerned about economic issues, this group of business people and those interested in politics, and they were seeking some vehicle perhaps, some conveyance of change in the province.

And of course at the time we had in opposition when this would have been happening, the Liberal Party which of course formed a government for two terms in the '60s under Mr. Thatcher, and by any reasonable measure would be considered I think a business-friendly or certainly centre right on the spectrum, but were finding it difficult in making any headway against the formidable political abilities of the Blakeney government of the day. So here we have a group of people in Saskatchewan, mostly in Saskatoon but then the group grew, looking at options, I would say, on the centre right of the spectrum, wondering if in fact the Liberals, with the loss of Mr. Thatcher, could in fact again form government in Saskatchewan.

And of course the Liberal brand itself had been altered significantly, not here in the province and not by Messrs. Malone and Steuart and prior to that Thatcher, but rather by their federal counterparts, by folks like Trudeau and Lalonde and MacEachern who I think had taken the party to a different place, the Liberal Party to a different place certainly than what I think most provincial Liberals at the time were comfortable with. And so there was this atrophy in Saskatchewan of that base for the provincial Liberal Party, and those who wanted an alternative to the New Democratic Party on the left were wondering where would that option come from, not just in the short term but very much I think their concern was about the long term.

So enter Mr. Collver and the attention that he received from those in Saskatoon. And if you read what he had to write about the time or the book that I've referenced by Mr. Spencer, his personal approach to politics, even as he became involved provincially, was mercurial I think to put it perhaps in an understated way. I think, for example, it's well noted than on the night when he stepped down, stepped away from politics, I think it's pretty well proven that he was shooting a .357 Magnum handgun from his window or somewhere thereabouts. So mercurial might in fact be a bit of an understatement about Mr. Collver's own personal disposition, but there ought to be no doubt about his willingness to work hard. His father had taught him that.

His father had taught him the importance, in the case of his family's business, of sales, the importance of perseverance, the importance of hard work, the importance of really never giving up on a sale or some potential gain in business. And of course he took this with him to politics. The easy transition from that part of the business world of sales to politics for Mr. Collver was no doubt rooted in what his father had shared with him and what he had learned from his family.

And so, Mr. Speaker, though he took over a party that, upon his selection as leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, had about 300 members, 293 I think, notwithstanding that number, just a few short years later at the end of the 1975 election where the Blakeney government had, I would say, from a popular vote standpoint, a near-death experience, he had taken his party from 300 to 10,000 members and had gone across the province and sold. He had sold his vision for one alternative, his alternative, to the governing New Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, he did so, not always with the support of the establishment. The former prime minister, the only prime minister from Saskatchewan, Mr. Diefenbaker, thought him to be a bit of a tourist when it came to Saskatchewan politics, and there was not a great deal of support from Mr. Diefenbaker for Mr. Collver. Certainly I don't think he went out of his way to make public comments that were problematic, but neither were there gestures or offers of support from "the Chief" for Mr. Collver.

Still he built up a group of people that wanted, that were willing to follow him. He campaigned quite purposely. He would tell those who would write about this time later, he would tell those folks that he campaigned quite purposely in sort of a more vague platform — not a lot of specifics in that '75 platform, not a lot of specifics in the '78 one either. And I think he regretted it, and more on that in a moment. Because when you leave a bit of a vacuum in your campaign platform, I think we all understand in this House, your opponents may be happy to fill that vacuum and finish the sentence that you didn't quite complete.

In '75 though, the campaign by any measure from a partisan standpoint, was very, very successful; 390 members in '73, 10,000 at the end of that night, that fateful night, June 11th. The New Democratic Party went from 55 per cent of the popular support in '71 to 40 per cent. So they won far less than the majority government at that time in terms . . . I'm sorry, a majority popular support, but had enough to win, as we all know, a majority government because the Liberals held at 15 seats, and out of nowhere I think the number turned out to be 19 seats for Mr. Collver and his party — including that gentleman I was referencing earlier on, this Mr. Dennis Ham who I'd mistaken for a realtor and was worried my parents were selling the house and found out that no, he was a candidate for election and was successful on that Collver team.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1978 election . . . And I know other members will perhaps want to talk about his constituency work for the people of Nipawin and area, though he had roots in Saskatoon. But I want to focus on his contribution, his leadership in terms of trying to build and provide an alternative to the government. Because whatever we think in this House and however we debate economics and social policy and health

care, I think we do agree that it's healthy to have an effective opposition, and it's healthy to have a government that's held accountable and is aware that there is another option the people could consider and choose at an interval of, you know, of every four years when the election's called. And so I think therefore his contribution to politics in Saskatchewan in the '70s was important, because he built that conveyance for an alternative to the New Democrats. And the full fruit of that wasn't born until 1982, but certainly he laid a lot of the groundwork in the 1970s.

In '78 he I think took a similar approach to his campaign. He also took a similar approach to candidate recruitment. I think a young doctor, I think, a young economist at the University at Saskatchewan first ran in that election in the constituency of Saskatoon Nutana. If you look at the candidate, that was Grant Devine. If you look at the candidates that Mr. Collver recruited, it's a significant and substantial list of people that he was able to attract to the party to try to build this alternative.

And also there was membership sales, and the machinery of the party was there. I think that would be fair to say, and I think the party had a real discipline and an understanding of the importance of membership and door knocking and canvassing. And so all of that part was right.

But we also understand that in an election campaign you need to provide your plan, maybe your vision, but some specifics as well to the people of the province that you're asking to consider you as the government perhaps, and in this case as premier.

And I remember a story being told to me I think by Mr. Taylor — Graham Taylor, who had this story told to him by others, but I've heard it since — that in that '78 election the Progressive Conservatives sort of left far too vague the area of health care policy. And as I mentioned earlier on, the risk in politics today is if you leave something too vague in your platform, your opposition may be happy to fill in the planks. And Mr. Blakeney who was pretty good at the practice of the political art was happy to fill in the blanks for Mr. Collver with respect to health care.

For example, I think there was more than a suggestion that were the province to finally move from a New Democratic government to this Progressive Conservative government under Mr. Collver, that health care would be in jeopardy. There might have been enough of some commentary in the health care platform the PCs [Progressive Conservative] did to make this have a bit of a grain of truth to it to the voters. Because as the story has been told to me, he would literally be going into meetings of the Progressive Conservative Party on the campaign trail, talking to people about health care who were worried about the loss of health care because they'd heard the governing New Democrats say, if you vote for this fellow, this is what's going to happen to your health care.

And it got to the point where he was writing out individual notes, in my understanding, to voters, a promise from Dick Collver that he was very concerned about it. Now this may now be the stuff of legend, but I've heard it from more than one and so it underscores (a) how important it is to have that platform ready to present, not just a great team as he had assembled, not just a great political machine but it also points out how hard he worked in the '75 election, in the '78 election, how earnestly he

tried to seek the support of Saskatchewan people.

And we all know that from a political perspective, although I don't know if he had very many regrets personally, it didn't end all that well politically here. We know that Mr. Collver made some decisions, along with a former MLA for Swift Current, to form another party whose aspirations were that the province of Saskatchewan would join with the United States. And of course that didn't last long and the rest, as they say, is history. Mr. Collver then went on about his business. He had been an entrepreneur before politics. He returned to that, to his ranch in Arizona, and continued to be involved in business.

Mr. Speaker, we ought to mark well today in our remarks I think and in our thoughts, the commitment that he had to the province of Saskatchewan. He believed strongly in what the province of Saskatchewan needed from an economic policy standpoint. He believed in his heart that those policies were not forthcoming from the government of the day, that that government of the day needed first and foremost to have a strong opponent, what he would probably call a free enterprise alternative, and that he would hope one day of course that the government would be replaced. That was what he was seeking.

And notwithstanding all the other stories around Mr. Collver that we're aware about, that we're aware of today, today's an opportunity, this afternoon's an opportunity to mark his intent, to mark well what he wanted and desired, the big picture that he saw for the province, this alternative he desired and the success of Saskatchewan that he wanted very much, again, Mr. Speaker, facing problems sometimes within his own party, from stalwarts in his own party sometimes, and of course the political opponents across the way that he faced on a daily basis in this particular place.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do want to move this official motion now, if I may, for members to give way for their comments as well:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Richard Lee "Dick" Collver**, who passed away on August 7, 2014 at the age of 78, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1982, representing the constituency of Nipawin for the Progressive Conservative Party and Unionist Party. Mr. Collver became the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1973 and led the party to official opposition status in 1978.

Mr. Collver was born on February 13, 1936 in Toronto. He graduated from the University of Alberta. He then moved to Saskatoon in 1965 where he founded Management Associates Limited, a company offering management services. After his political career in Saskatchewan, he spent much of his time in Arizona and later in Thailand.

Mr. Collver is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Nuan; and children Lee Anne, Paula, Mark, and Jet; as well as his many grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

[16:00]

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Premier:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Richard Lee “Dick” Collver**, who passed away on August 7, 2014 at the age of 78, was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1975 until 1982, representing the constituency of Nipawin for the Progressive Conservative Party and Unionist Party. Mr. Collver became the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1973 and led the party to official opposition status in 1978.

Mr. Collver was born on February 13, 1936 in Toronto. He graduated from the University of Alberta. He then moved to Saskatoon in 1965 where he founded Management Associates Limited, a company offering management services. After his political career in Saskatchewan, he spent much of his time in Arizona and later in Thailand.

Mr. Collver is survived and sadly missed by his wife, Nuan; and children Lee Anne, Paula, Mark, and Jet; as well as many grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too today rise in this Assembly to send my condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Richard Lee Collver who passed away on August the 7th.

Mr. Speaker, Dick Collver, as we all called him, represented Nipawin which is now in the constituency of Carrot River, or which is now the constituency of Carrot River Valley, and was quite the person. He was once described as a bit of a renegade, and he once staged a 38-hour filibuster in this House which, Mr. Speaker, has to really be something to do.

Mr. Speaker, as has been said by the Premier, he took over the PC Party in '73 and then eventually turned around in 1978, took it up to 17 seats and made it the official opposition in this Chamber. To quote Dale Eisler, the former *Leader-Post* political columnist, and I quote: “He, more than anybody else,

revived the Progressive Conservative Party . . . which had been moribund for generations.”

Mr. Speaker, he was quite the character, and I have to tell you a little bit of a story. In 1978, I put up a sign on the end of my one quarter, which was right along the highway, with the Dick Collver sign, one of the 4-by-8 signs. And at that time they were pretty expensive signs. It was actually a nice sheet of plywood and I put it up on the end of my quarter. Now at that particular time we were renting land from the Meachem family.

Now the Meachem family, unbeknownst to me, were on the other side of the fence, so to speak. of what I was getting at. And they weren't very happy about it, so they called my father. We were renting land from them and they called my father and said that this wasn't a very good idea. So, Mr. Speaker, my dad called me up and he said, you know Fred, he said, we better do something about that. So I moved the sign down to the other end of the quarter so the Meachems, who we were renting land from, wouldn't be so disappointed.

But I offer my sincere condolences to the family and wish them all the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to join with the Premier to pay tribute to Dick Collver who served in this Assembly from 1975 to 1982, Mr. Speaker, and occupied and served in a number of roles here in the constituency, starting out, Mr. Speaker, with just 7 members in a caucus, and then growing to 17 members in 1978.

In his maiden speech, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Collver said some interesting remarks, I think, that portray a picture of his commitment to the legislature and his desire for the province. And he was speaking about the important work that is conducted here in the Assembly. He said, “We believe that times are serious, Mr. Speaker, and require a serious tone to the debate.”

And, Mr. Speaker, he talked about a number of complaints that he saw occurring at that time, about:

Interrupting during the speech with cat calls; disrespectful comments, snide remarks, talking out loud while another speaker is in the middle of his address; slouching in the chairs; personal references to other Members' private business in a sarcastic fashion; conducting electioneering in the Assembly by expounding at great lengths about the virtue of one's own constituency. [He goes on to say] We are all citizens of the province of Saskatchewan. Boasting and bragging about how well a particular party may have conducted a government yesterday or in fact today. Playing to the press gallery by obviously changing the tone and tenor of the House between radio time and other time.

Mr. Speaker, we are concerned about these practices. We are concerned that there will be continued disrespect for this Assembly and therefore a disrespect for the Legislature of our province.

Mr. Speaker, so in these comments, to me, I hear a real commitment to ensure that we as members of the Assembly conduct ourselves with honour and with the seriousness that the issues that we talk about deserve. Dick Collver was passionate about the importance of the Legislative Assembly in conducting the serious business of our province.

While our political views differed, I respect Dick Collver's emphasis on the importance of this place, the importance of taking it seriously, the importance of holding government to account, and the importance of giving voice to the concerns and the ideas of Saskatchewan people.

On behalf of the official opposition, I express gratitude to Dick Collver for his service to our province, and our sympathies to Dick Collver's family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Mr. Speaker, it's certainly an honour to be able to stand in this Assembly and just provide a few thoughts regarding Richard Lee "Dick" Collver. I first met Mr. Collver early in the '70s. Mr. Collver had just been elected leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan, and when I met Mr. Collver, I myself was just kind of getting involved in the political sphere. What I remember of the election of Dick Collver as leader of the PC Party in 1973 was the excitement and anticipation within the Conservative ranks that they might have finally elected a leader who could lead the Progressive Conservative Party out of the political wilderness.

I first met Mr. Collver when he came to our area of the province following his leadership win, and what I noted was that here was a young man with a lot of drive, ambition, and energy. He was not afraid of being continuously on the road promoting the PC [Progressive Conservative] Party of Saskatchewan. It also didn't bother him to speak to any group, small or large. He was determined that he would speak to anyone who would listen and share with them his views and vision for the province of Saskatchewan and why they should buy a PC Party membership and vote for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Collver, as I remember, was a heavy smoker, and as a result had quite a raspy voice. This however didn't deter him from becoming an excellent speaker and motivator. While I didn't have the opportunity to observe Mr. Collver speak on this legislative floor, I'm told that he could hold everyone's attention through his articulate, cutting, and emotionally driven speeches.

As a result of his drive, hard work, and dedication and ability to find well-thought-of individuals who would put their name on the ballot as a Conservative candidate, the people of Saskatchewan elected Mr. Collver, along with six more Conservative candidates, to sit as members of the Legislative Assembly in the general election of 1975. This certainly was a tremendous achievement.

The Progressive Conservative Party then went on to become official opposition after winning two by-elections and convincing two Liberal members, Gary Lane and Colin Thatcher, to join them. In the 1978 election, the PCs received 38 per cent of the vote, electing 17 members to this Legislative

Chamber. Mr. Collver stepped aside as PC leader in 1975.

One commentary I read said, "Collver, the nice guy, called for new civility in public debate, more amity in public life, advising his candidates that 'Mud thrown is ground lost.'"

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sympathies and thoughts to Dick's wife and family at this time in their lives. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too knew Dick Collver from my days in the law firm in Regina when he was a member of the legislature. I started working at MacPherson Leslie & Tyerman in 1978, and he was a frequent visitor to the law firm, both for politics but also because of various court cases that he was involved in over the years.

He always struck me as someone who knew where he was going, what he wanted to do, and was not afraid to work hard to get there, a very friendly person who basically was interested in all the people who were around him.

I know in the election of 1978, that was my first election in Regina after graduating from law school. I was involved with the New Democrat campaign. And one of my other lawyers in the firm was the campaign manager for the Progressive Conservative candidate, who was Ian MacPherson in Lakeview, and he was running against Doug McArthur.

And the intensity of the campaigning in that '78 election, which I know that the member from Moosomin identified, was quite intoxicating in the sense of, boy this is something that you want to get involved with. And at that point I had no idea that I'd ever run in an election, but I have to say that reflecting back on Dick Collver running and attracting some very capable candidates, as the Premier said, actually was a factor in my eventual entry into political life.

And so over the years Dick was not in Saskatchewan as much, but he was always somebody who we would hear what kinds of things he was doing. He was a successful businessman because he really, when he decided to do something, he did it, and he worked hard to make sure that it was successful. So I appreciate his contribution to the life of Saskatchewan, and I express my condolences to his family. Thanks.

**The Speaker:** — The motion before the House by the Premier, will the Assembly take the motion as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Lindy Marian Kasperski**

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This will be for me the most surreal participation of this afternoon.

It's always an interesting and introspective day, this day when we salute members who have passed. Mr. Speaker, it's I think much more difficult when we have served with those members and when their passing seems just very untimely.

We're going to reflect for a moment, if we can, on the life and the public life of Lindy Kasperski, Mr. Speaker, and I'll move a motion of condolence here in a moment. But he was obviously in this House when I was first elected on the 16th of September in 1999. You know, in those days I was just, I think most of us new members were first trying to get to know each other because we hadn't served in anything like this, a caucus, and really didn't know each other very well, but we were also trying to get to know as best we could members who sat on the government side.

I would offer to the House that it's probably easier to make a connection with private members on the government side of the House. They had a greater opportunity to just be in the legislature through evening sittings and more of an opportunity perhaps to get to know through some visiting and some good-natured joking between us and those private members on the government side. And Lindy was one of those, although I think from the very beginning, he was serving as the Deputy Speaker or perhaps a Chair of a committee. There was a role that Premier Romanow had identified for him and then later Premier Calvert.

[16:15]

But I did get to know Lindy quite well and found him to be someone who was just very sincere, obviously very interested in this place, interested in politics, interested not just on the public policy side but in the dynamic between the two parties, in that case really a brand new party that had contested its first general election in 1999. I think that intrigued Lindy. I think he was interested in how that might have happened, from the party really not existing prior to August of '97 to it winning the popular vote in '99 and coming very close to forming a government.

I remember talking to him about that. He wanted to maybe canvass the history of our party and talk a little bit about what we thought were the reasons for a relatively rapid rise to the state that the party had achieved. And it was a good discussion exercise for us to go through because I don't think we had all of the answers to those questions either.

I always appreciated the chance to visit with Lindy on those occasions, and we had some private time just to discuss not just politics but I know public policy matters as well as family and just the things that you talk about when maybe you're sitting in these chambers at 9 o'clock at night, maybe a bit behind the bar, trying to avoid eye contact with the Speaker and having a chat about maybe not exactly what was being debated on the floor of the House but also important things.

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember Lindy's good sense of humour. He would be the first one — and often it was self-deprecating — he'd be the first one to enjoy maybe a good-natured heckle across the way, and he had a easy laugh about him. And that is all too rare a thing in this place and all too precious a thing in this place, someone who didn't

necessarily take himself too seriously and who had an easy laugh. I will certainly miss that of Lindy because we did have a chance to meet and continue to know each other after politics, after he was done serving here in the legislature post the 2003 election campaign.

My memory of Lindy in the House will always be as well of the many languages he seemed to know when he would introduce maybe guests or there would be an occasion for a delegation here. I'm not sure what the number was or how many he actually knew in depth, but he knew enough of a lot of languages to introduce many, many delegations, and you'd watch them in the gallery to make sure that Lindy was actually speaking words they understood. They were generally nodding in agreement that he had succeeded.

Lindy was one of those individuals, and we've had a few on this side of the House over the years who, when he spoke English, did so very, very quickly, even when he was on his feet, even on occasions when he was in your chair, Mr. Speaker, even in private conversations where, because he knew a lot of languages, I found myself doubting at times that he was actually speaking English to me when I knew that in the end that he was. He just was one of those individuals who could laugh quickly but spoke very quickly as well and always seemed to be in a bit of a hurry.

Many of us continued a friendship and a relationship with Lindy in his other business ventures after his time in politics was concluded. And, Mr. Speaker, I think we all would say, we all would hope that when we're done our service here, no matter the length, no matter the term of that service, that we could credibly say we had friends. We made friends easily on either side of the House, with all parties.

At that time there were three parties present: the Liberals and the Saskatchewan Party and the governing New Democratic Party. And I think it's reasonable and fair for us to say that Lindy had friends in every camp, and that's a testament I think to his character. That's a testament to the fact that he reached out frankly because you don't gain friends in other places unless you go over and make them, and sometimes that's not always the easiest thing to do either. So he left us a good example in this regard for how we might treat each other in this Assembly and how we might conduct ourselves and what we might be aspirants to in terms of the final legacy we leave on an interpersonal basis with our colleagues in this Assembly.

We think of his family as we think of him today and say a few words. We're grateful that they shared Lindy with the province of Saskatchewan, with the legislature, with the Government of Saskatchewan as well. We were grateful that they shared him as well in terms of his interest in matters of local economic development. This was another area that we shared of common interest, an awareness of those mechanisms in the province that we had for local economic development and groups like the Saskatchewan economic developers association, and I was a member of that. Even as a member of this House, he was a patron; he was there. He was supportive of that particular organization. All along we know that his family was sacrificing as well, and so we acknowledge and thank them as well today with the following motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former Member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Lindy Marian Kasperski** who passed away on April 18, 2014, at the age of 63, was a Member of this Legislative Assembly from 1995 until 2003, representing the constituency of Regina Sherwood for the New Democratic Party and as an independent member. Mr. Kasperski was a member of the Crown Corporations Committee for four years and served as the Deputy Speaker from 2001-2003.

Mr. Kasperski was born on October 29, 1950 in Regina. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Regina. Mr. Kasperski owned Kontakt Consulting, a website development and new media service provider. He was committed to many organizations including the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, Regina Northwest Sports Association, and the St. Anthony's Polish Community. He canvassed on behalf of the Cancer Society, Lung Association, CNIB, and Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Mr. Kasperski is survived and sadly missed by his sons Dan and Jay, daughter-in-law Sharon, grandson Oliver, as well as his parents and three sisters.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

**The Speaker:** — The Premier has moved:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and to the province.

**Lindy Marian Kasperski** who passed away on April 18, 2014, at the age of 63, was a Member of this Legislative Assembly from 1995 until 2003, representing the constituency of Regina Sherwood for the New Democratic Party and as an independent member. Mr. Kasperski was a member of the Crown Corporations Committee for four years and served as the Deputy Speaker from 2001-2003.

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Dan and Jay, daughter-in-law Sharon, grandson Oliver, as well as his parents and three sisters.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to pay tribute to Lindy Kasperski and to honour his service to our province.

Theodore Roosevelt said, after his retirement from politics, that a person who engages in political service is one who "... knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." Mr. Speaker, Lindy took that risk. He put his name on a ballot and on election signs in consecutive elections, and he earned the trust of his fellow citizens in the 1995 and 1999 elections, representing the constituency of Regina Sherwood for eight years.

Outside of his political involvement, Lindy was heavily involved in the community and St. Anthony's Polish church, the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, the Regina Northwest Sports Association, the Cancer Society, the Lung Association, CNIB, and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Clearly Lindy cared a great deal about his community and our province, and he made many important contributions.

On behalf of the official opposition, I express gratitude to Lindy for his service to our province, and I extend sincere condolences to his sons Dan and Jay, daughter-in-law Sharon, grandson Oliver, as well as his parents and sisters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Steinley:** — Thank you much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in and share some thoughts about Lindy Kasperski along with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

Lindy Kasperski was the president of the Regina Walsh Acres constituency association when we, my wife and I, first started running in politics. One of the first meetings we had when talking about possibly running in Regina Walsh Acres was with Mr. Kasperski. He was gracious to sit down and talk. Obviously we were quite young, and the decision to run, we still hadn't fully made it yet.

Talking with Lindy and all he did in the community ... He worked for the Regina northwest soccer association. He volunteered on so many different committees. One thing that hasn't been mentioned is his love for history. He knew his past splendidly. In talking with the Finance minister from Canora-Pelly, he said he knew Ukrainian history, Polish history, and he thought he might know Ukrainian history even a bit better than the member from Canora-Pelly, which says a lot coming from his mouth, Mr. Speaker.

So sitting down to talk with Lindy before we decided to run and just knowing how much influence he had in the community and how much he'd worked in the community and getting his insights was valuable for us when we made our decision to put our name in the hat for Regina Walsh Acres. He was very helpful in telling us some of the difficulties of becoming an MLA, some of the sacrifices you have to make with your family. Your family has to be totally behind you when you're an MLA, and Lindy was sure that he made us aware of those decisions before we threw our hat in the ring.

Also I got to work with Lindy a little bit when I was a member of the caucus staff. He ran a lot of websites through Kontakt Consulting, and we had some good conversations about what should or should not go on a website. He always had a great political lens to put on things, on issues when you're talking from an MLA point of view, and that was valuable for us as well.

I think one of the things that also I was mentioning is Lindy was a huge Regina Pats fan. He had season tickets forever. In talking with some of the members on this side, Lindy, after he was not elected anymore, he invited people out. If he had an extra ticket, you'd be able to go and watch the game with Lindy and have a good conversation.

I think the Premier said it well, is that when you can look back on your career as a politician and have friends on all sides of the House, it speaks to your character and to your likeability as a person and how genuine you are as a person. You treat everyone with respect, and you take the time to listen when they're talking with you, and I think that's some of the best words that can be said about Lindy.

My thoughts go out to his family. We gave a member's statement when we were here after he passed away on April 18th, 2014. And I know Dan and Jay. I got to know them well. They were members of the constituency association. It was a family affair for Lindy, and he placed a high priority on his family, as we all do, and that could be seen when he interacted with his grandchild Oliver. And I know his family will miss him greatly, so our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lindy and I were elected in the same election, 1995, and we were new members that were New Democrats. And it was a quite a small group of us because the people who had been elected in 1991 formed probably 80, 90 per cent of our caucus. And so quite quickly Lindy and I became really good friends and we often travelled together to caucus meetings or other events, or we worked on various projects.

I had the opportunity to speak at Lindy's memorial service at the Polish hall at St. Anthony's and it was a very interesting group of people, very much like the Premier said and other members have said about how Lindy made friends in many different communities.

One of the I think strong connections that Lindy and I had was that we both had bachelor's and partial master's degrees in the

study of history, and we both were avid local Saskatchewan historians of an amateur nature. And so when we would go on trips, he would phone me and say, well let's go this way because there's four cemeteries that we can go to on the way that will provide us with information about the Polish community or the Jewish community or the Norwegian community. And those of you who have been around for a while would remember that Lindy was always included in my 17th of May syttende mai speech because he had a Norwegian grandmother from down Weyburn way and so that he actually, in addition to the incredible knowledge of the Ukrainian and Polish and sort of Austro-Hungarian Empire roots, also knew a lot about Norway, Sweden, and Denmark and Germany.

[16:30]

And so it was very much . . . A good part of our political life was to have these long car rides with very interesting trips. We went up to Edenbridge together, for example, to see the synagogue, and Lindy knew a lot about that.

Right after he graduated from the University of Regina with his history degree, he started working for the provincial government. And one of his legacies that people don't necessarily know is that he was the main organizer of Mosaic, the whole multicultural program in Regina that's now had I think probably 40 years of history. He was the guy who did the legwork and got everybody together so that the first Mosaic was held in Regina. And that stood him in good stead when he went into politics as well because many of the people that he had known in that time were people who would come and support him politically. He also was very involved with his sons and their athletic careers in northwest Regina. And that was also a place where he had many, many friends and many supporters.

When Lindy was part of our caucus, he ended up I think at various points being deputy caucus Chair and other leadership roles. He always had that ability, as the Premier mentioned, to laugh at himself and to get people to start thinking together. And I think that was an important gift that he brought to his constituency as well. I know that he was very, very proud of his family, and ended up finding a lot of support from them.

He also was a great lover of cats. And he always had cats at home, and as he got a little older, he spent a lot of time actually helping out in Regina dealing with cats that were on the street.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my special condolences to Dan and Jay and Sharon and grandson Oliver; and also Dan and Jay's mother, Barb; Lindy's parents, Mike and Sheila; his sisters, Diane, Janet, Susan and their families; as well as a big array of family that he had right across Saskatchewan. He was proud of all those people and they were very proud of him.

He had a strong sense of railroading and the importance of the railroads in the province because of his family members who had been involved with railroading. When you added that into his interest in the communities of the province, there were very few people that could match him in explaining how your roots fit into Saskatchewan, and then he'd take that leap and get you back over to Norway or Poland or Ukraine.

The last number of years one of the things he enjoyed the most

was Mosaic and being a resource on genealogy for people who came to the Polish pavilion. And you would go down there and say hi, but if somebody came in with a genealogy question, well you had to wait your long turn as he explained in great detail the history of some young person who was trying to figure out where they'd come from.

I know that he was an early adopter of much of the computerized electioneering and I know that he worked for members in all parties, federally, provincially, and municipally, and he used his skills in organizing to help many, many people.

We're all going to miss him and I especially miss the fact that we would still say, okay, where are you going next, John? Can I come along? And which graveyards, which churches can we visit? And I know that his sons have learned a lot from him, but they have many years of study to catch up to their father.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I say thank you very much to his family for allowing Lindy to be part of this legislature. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to get up and say a few words about Lindy. This Premier was right. When I first came in the House in '99, he was very friendly, very open. If you had any questions about the House, he was, you know, one of the first guys that approached us as new members.

And even heckling, I can't even remember him. I don't ever . . . being mean spirited, heckle across the floor. He liked a good jibe back and forth, and laugh. If you made a good one, that laugh, he always had that distinctive laugh, but I don't think he had a mean-spirited bone in his body.

I know when he was Deputy Speaker, he was very fair and would . . . And I think we as members on the opposition probably even pushed him a little bit when we came to being a loudness in the House, but he always took it in good nature and I always respected him in the Chair when he was there, because even though we did maybe try to push the limits with him a bit, he was still . . . You knew that he could get tough if he had to. I always admired him at that end of it.

As the other members have spoke about the history, myself being Croatian, once he found that out he always wanted to come over and talk about Croatia, the history of that country and the turmoil it went through. Unfortunately I'm third generation so most of my experiences would have just come from my grandparents, not even my parents, of the history. But he was quite willing to fill in some gaps, the stuff that I didn't know about, the history of Europe. He took that very to heart. With the languages he, as the Premier had mentioned and the Leader of the Opposition, I don't think there was . . . He was very versed, a very intelligent man.

I also worked with him a bit. He helped us with our website. When it comes to computers, hey, I am pretty lacking in knowledge when it comes to that. Thank God for my CA [constituency assistant] and Lindy. He did a very good job of

walking us through, helping us set up websites. When I first got elected, that wasn't even part of our, I wouldn't even think part of my plan. I was just a door knocker, but realized that the world of politics is changing and it's more reaching out at the electronic end. So we worked very well with him. He helped us, helped myself understand that you need other ways to reach out to constituents, that the old days of just picking up the phone is starting to change. It's emails, websites, along them lines.

I greatly respect him for the work we did together and for the work he did in the House. Members spoke of his commitment to the community and also to the many charities he worked for. He was like I'd say all members of both sides of the House. When you become an MLA, you're doing it to try to make the province better. And that was Lindy's always goal.

So my condolences go out to the family, and I know that they will miss him, and I miss him also as the business we worked with and also here as an MLA. I tried to learn some things from him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move a motion that notwithstanding . . .

**The Speaker:** — On the motion before the House by the Premier, will the House take the motion as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move a motion:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit an audio/video record of the tributes, together with the verbatim record and the *Votes and Proceedings*, to the bereaved families in memory of the deceased members.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit an audio/video record of the tributes, together with the verbatim record and the *Votes and Proceedings*, to the bereaved families in memory of the deceased members.

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. I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that the House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — This House stands adjourned to 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:41.]

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