



FIRST SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

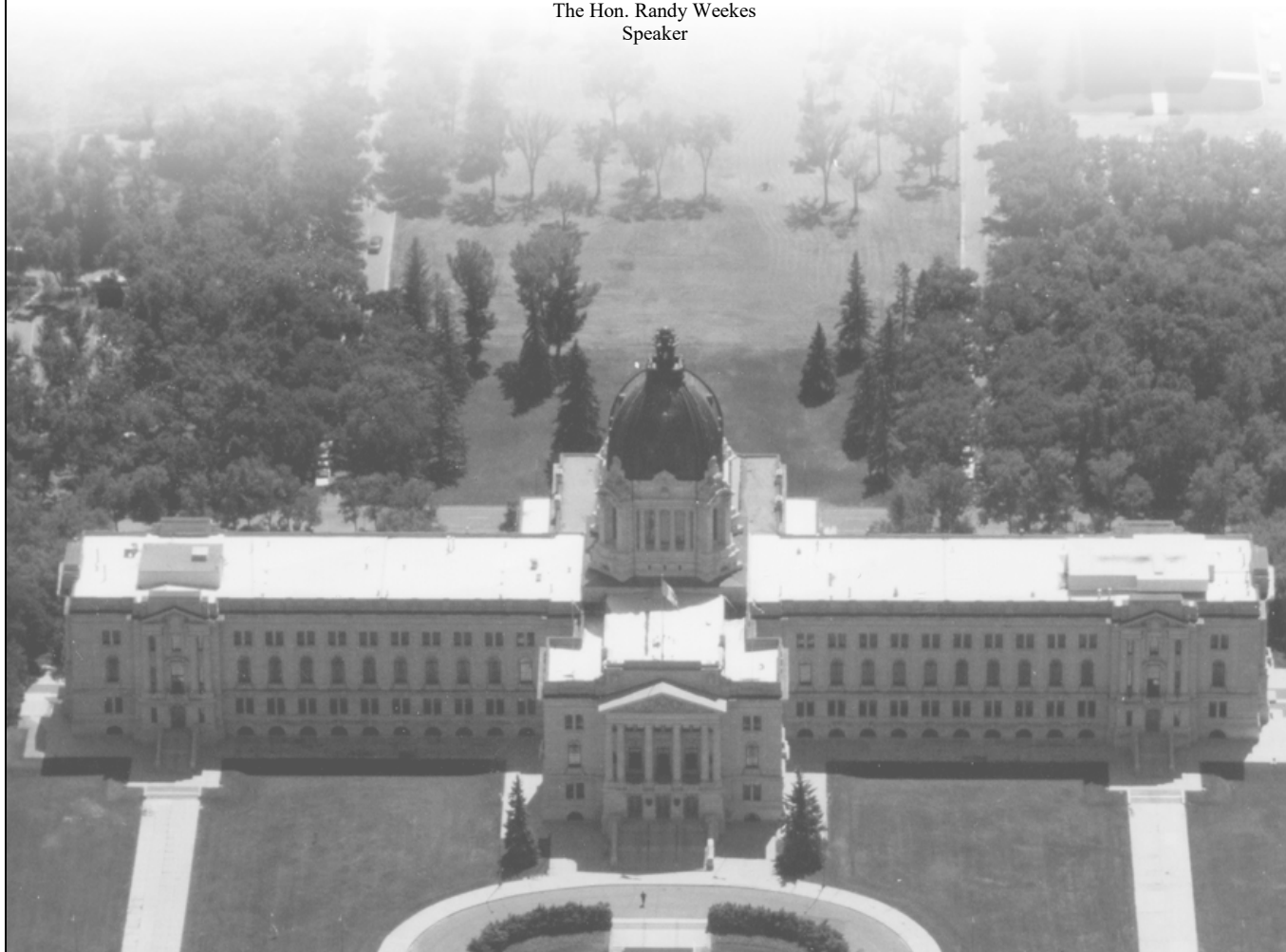
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Randy Weekes
Speaker



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
1st Session — 29th Legislature

Lieutenant Governor — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

Speaker — Hon. Randy Weekes
Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

Beck, Carla — Regina Lakeview (NDP)
Belanger, Buckley — Athabasca (NDP)
Bonk, Steven — Moosomin (SP)
Bowes, Jennifer — Saskatoon University (NDP)
Bradshaw, Fred — Carrot River Valley (SP)
Buckingham, David — Saskatoon Westview (SP)
Carr, Hon. Lori — Estevan (SP)
Cheveldayoff, Ken — Saskatoon Willowgrove (SP)
Cockrill, Jeremy — The Battlefords (SP)
Conway, Meara — Regina Elphinstone-Centre (NDP)
Dennis, Terry — Canora-Pelly (SP)
Docherty, Mark — Regina Coronation Park (SP)
Domotor, Ryan — Cut Knife-Turtleford (SP)
Duncan, Hon. Dustin — Weyburn-Big Muddy (SP)
Eyre, Hon. Bronwyn — Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota (SP)
Fiaz, Muhammad — Regina Pasqua (SP)
Francis, Ken — Kindersley (SP)
Friesen, Marv — Saskatoon Riversdale (SP)
Goudy, Todd — Melfort (SP)
Grewal, Gary — Regina Northeast (SP)
Hargrave, Hon. Joe — Prince Albert Carlton (SP)
Harbauer, Hon. Donna — Humboldt-Watrous (SP)
Harrison, Daryl — Cannington (SP)
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy — Meadow Lake (SP)
Hindley, Hon. Everett — Swift Current (SP)
Jenson, Terry — Martensville-Warman (SP)
Kaeding, Hon. Warren — Melville-Saltcoats (SP)
Keisig, Travis — Last Mountain-Touchwood (SP)
Kirsch, Delbert — Batoche (SP)
Lambert, Lisa — Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood (SP)
Lawrence, Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)

Love, Matt — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)
Makowsky, Hon. Gene — Regina Gardiner Park (SP)
Marit, Hon. David — Wood River (SP)
McLeod, Tim — Moose Jaw North (SP)
McMorris, Hon. Don — Indian Head-Milestone (SP)
Meili, Ryan — Saskatoon Meewasin (NDP)
Merriman, Hon. Paul — Saskatoon Silverspring-Sutherland (SP)
Meyers, Derek — Regina Walsh Acres (SP)
Moe, Hon. Scott — Rosthern-Shellbrook (SP)
Morgan, Hon. Don — Saskatoon Southeast (SP)
Mowat, Vicki — Saskatoon Fairview (NDP)
Nerlien, Hugh — Kelvington-Wadena (SP)
Nippi-Albright, Betty — Saskatoon Centre (NDP)
Ottenbreit, Greg — Yorkton (SP)
Reiter, Hon. Jim — Rosetown-Elrose (SP)
Ritchie, Erika — Saskatoon Nutana (NDP)
Ross, Alana — Prince Albert Northcote (SP)
Ross, Hon. Laura — Regina Rochdale (SP)
Sarauer, Nicole — Regina Douglas Park (NDP)
Skoropad, Dana — Arm River (SP)
Steele, Doug — Cypress Hills (SP)
Stewart, Hon. Lyle — Lumsden-Morse (SP)
Tell, Hon. Christine — Regina Wascana Plains (SP)
Vermette, Doyle — Cumberland (NDP)
Weekes, Hon. Randy — Biggar-Sask Valley (SP)
Wilson, Nadine — Saskatchewan Rivers (SP)
Wotherspoon, Trent — Regina Rosemont (NDP)
Wyant, Hon. Gordon — Saskatoon Northwest (SP)
Young, Aleana — Regina University (NDP)
Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

Principal Clerk — Iris Lang

Clerk Assistant — Kathy Burianyk

Sergeant-at-Arms — Terry Quinn

Hansard on the internet

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Legislative Assembly are available
within hours after each sitting.

<https://www.legassembly.sk.ca/Calendar>

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[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

Clerk: — I wish to inform the Assembly that I've received a communication from the private secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor stating that His Honour will open the first session of the twenty-ninth legislature at 10 a.m. today, this 30th day of November, 2020.

[At 10:02 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne.]

His Honour: — Pray be seated.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that he does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present legislature until later today, when the Legislative Assembly shall have elected a Speaker according to law.

[At 10:03 His Honour retired from the Chamber.]

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

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

Pursuant to the procedures specified under rule 43(1), the following members have declared their intention to stand as candidates for the election of the office of Speaker. I will now call the names in alphabetical order: Mr. Mark Docherty, the hon. member for the constituency of Regina Coronation Park; Ms. Lisa Lambert, the hon. member for the constituency of Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood; Mr. Hugh Nerlien, the hon. member for the constituency of Kelvington-Wadena; Mr. Greg Ottenbreit, the hon. member for the constituency of Yorkton; Mr. Randy Weekes, the hon. member for the constituency of Biggar-Sask Valley; Ms. Nadine Wilson, the hon. member for the constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers.

In preparation for the vote, the Sergeant-at-Arms will now bring in the ballot box. The ballot box will be inspected and the sealed ballots opened, and then I will announce the beginning of the voting procedure. The list of candidates has been previously announced in accordance with the rules, and it will also be posted in the polling booths.

I will now ask those members who wish to cast their ballots to proceed to the registration table in the rotunda by departing the Chamber through the side doors. There you will sign the registration sheet, receive your ballot paper, re-enter the Chamber through the main front doors, and proceed to one of the two voting booths which are located here in the Chamber.

May I remind all hon. members to please print the first and last name of their candidate on the ballot paper. Once you've placed your ballot in the ballot box, you may return to your seats. The voting may begin.

[The members proceeded to cast ballots.]

Clerk: — I'd like to now call on any members who have not

voted and wish to do so. Will they vote now please. All members having voted, the Assembly will recess to the call of the bells while the Table Officers count the ballots. The bells will ring for three minutes to recall members to the Chamber when the results of the first ballot are ready to be announced.

[The Assembly recessed from 10:26 until 10:42.]

Clerk: — Members, it is my duty to inform you that a second ballot will be necessary.

The list of candidates for the second ballot has been prepared in accordance with the rule by excluding the name of the candidate who received the fewest votes on the previous ballot. The list of candidates for the second ballot are as follows: Mark Docherty, member for the constituency of Regina Coronation Park; Hugh Nerlien, member for the constituency of Kelvington-Wadena; Greg Ottenbreit, member for the constituency of Yorkton; Randy Weekes, member for the constituency of Biggar-Sask Valley; and Nadine Wilson, member for the constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers. If any hon. member whose name I've just read to the Assembly wishes to withdraw as a candidate on the second ballot, will he or she please rise in his or her place and state that intention.

We will now prepare for the second ballot. The list of candidates will be posted in the voting booths and the sealed ballots opened. I'll ask the Sergeant to bring in the ballot box.

[10:45]

Will hon. members now please proceed to cast their ballots in the same manner as before, and I will remind members to please print the first and last name of their candidates on the ballot paper. Thank you.

[The members proceeded to cast ballots.]

Clerk: — If there are any members who have not voted and wish to do so, will they please vote now. All members having voted, the Assembly will recess to the call of the bells while the Table Officers count the ballots. The bells will ring for three minutes to recall members to the Chamber when the result of the second ballot is ready to be announced.

[The Assembly recessed from 10:59 until 11:12.]

Clerk: — Members of the Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that a third ballot will be necessary. The list of candidates for the third ballot has been prepared in accordance with the rule by excluding the name of the candidate who received the fewest votes on the previous ballot.

The list of candidates for the third ballot are as follows: Mark Docherty, member for the constituency of Regina Coronation Park; Greg Ottenbreit, member for the constituency of Yorkton; Randy Weekes, member for the constituency of Biggar-Sask Valley; and Nadine Wilson, member for the constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers.

If any hon. member whose name I've just called wishes to withdraw as a candidate in the second ballot, will he or she please

rise in his or her place and state that intention.

We'll now proceed to the third ballot. The list of candidates will be posted in the voting booths and the sealed ballots opened. I invite the Sergeant to bring in the ballot box.

Will hon. members now please proceed to cast their ballots in the same manner as before. And again, a reminder to please print the first and last name of the candidate on the ballot paper. Thank you.

[The members proceeded to cast ballots.]

Clerk: — If there are any members who have not voted, wish to do so, will they please vote now.

All members having voted, the Assembly will again recess to the call of the bells while the Table Officers count the ballots. And again the bells will ring for three minutes to recall you to the Chamber when the result of this ballot is ready to be announced. I invite the Sergeant to remove the ballot box.

[The Assembly recessed from 11:28 until 11:40.]

Clerk: — Members, it is my duty to inform you that a fourth ballot will be necessary. The list of candidates for the fourth ballot has been prepared in accordance with the rule by excluding the name of the candidate received the fewest votes on the previous ballot.

The list of candidates for the fourth ballot are as follows: Mark Docherty, member for the constituency of Regina Coronation Park; Randy Weekes, member for the constituency of Biggar-Sask Valley; and Nadine Wilson, member for the constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers. If any of these hon. members wish to withdraw their name as a candidate on this ballot, will he or she please do so by rising in their place and state that intention.

We will now prepare for the next ballot. The list of candidates will be posted in the voting booths and the sealed ballots opened. I'll ask the Sergeant to bring in the ballot box, please.

Will hon. members now please proceed to cast their ballots in the same manner as before. And again, please print the first and last name under the candidate on the ballot paper. Voting may begin.

[The members proceeded to cast ballots.]

Clerk: — If there are any members who have not voted and wish to do so, will they please vote now.

All members having voted, the Assembly will recess to the call of the bells and the Table Officers will count the ballots. Again the bells will ring for three minutes to recall members to the Chamber when the results of this ballot are ready to be announced.

[The Assembly recessed from 11:56 until 12:08.]

Clerk: — Members, it's my duty to inform you that a fifth ballot is necessary. The list of candidates for this fifth ballot has been prepared in accordance with the rule by excluding the name of

the candidate who received the fewest votes on the previous ballot. The list of candidates is as follows: Mark Docherty, member for the constituency of Regina Coronation Park; Randy Weekes, member for the constituency of Biggar-Sask Valley. If either of those hon. members wish to withdraw as a candidate on this ballot, will he do so now by rising and stating that intention.

We will now prepare for this ballot. The list of candidates, as before, will be posted in the voting booths and the sealed ballots opened. I invite the Sergeant to bring in the ballot box.

Will hon. members please proceed to cast their ballots in the same manner as before. And again I remind you to print the first and last name on the ballot paper. Thank you. Voting may proceed.

[The members proceeded to cast ballots.]

Clerk: — If there are any members who have not voted, they must do so now.

All members having voted, the Assembly will again recess to the call of the bells while the Table Officers count the ballots. The bells will ring for three minutes to recall you to the Chamber for the results of this fifth ballot. Invite the Sergeant to remove the ballot box.

[The Assembly recessed from 12:24 until 12:35.]

Clerk: — Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that you have elected as your Speaker Mr. Randy Weekes, the Hon. Member of the Legislative Assembly for Biggar-Sask Valley.

[The Hon. Randy Weekes was installed in the Speaker's Chair.]

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

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

Just a few personal notes. Just obviously, I really am humbled by the trust you've put in me. Thank you to all the members, especially the members who ran for Speaker. And if I may, House leaders, I'd like to ... special thanks to Doc for his service.

At this time I'd like to recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Moe: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and

thank you for your remarks. They are very much appreciated. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to be the first to congratulate you on behalf of the members of this side of the Assembly. We have every confidence that you will carry out your new duties with patience, with diligence, and impartiality, and we look forward to working with you as we begin a new session in this legislature.

Mr. Speaker, you are the 27th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and you join a select group of legislators who have taken on this great responsibility. And you follow in the path of the member from Regina Coronation Park, and today I know all of my colleagues join me in thanking this member for his services in the Speaker's Chair.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Regina Coronation Park is a warm, compassionate, good-humoured person — a previous seatmate of mine — and he brought all of those qualities to the office of Speaker. But he was certainly no pushover, and I think us on both sides of the House would agree with that. This member could and would bring the hammer down when he had to in this Assembly, and he did that firmly and he did that fairly without creating ill will or resentment. Mr. Speaker, as the member resumes his duties as a representative in our government, he has every reason to be very proud of his time as Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my gratitude to each of the other members who put their names forward here today. The member from Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood, the member from Kelvington-Wadena, the member for Yorkton, and the member for Saskatchewan Rivers, thank you to each of you. And I think it reflects well on the members that so many capable and commendable individuals took part in this election, so thank you again to each of you for putting your names forward.

Mr. Speaker, you are assuming a position that has a long and storied history, longer than yours in this legislature, Mr. Speaker. The Office of the Speaker dates back more than 600 years to the beginning of the parliamentary system in Great Britain. And it may interest you to know that for many years the Speaker was considered an agent of the Crown, and as such, was given the task of delivering bad news to then the King or the Queen. And this could be, as we know, extremely hazardous business to undertake, since from 1394 to 1535 seven Speakers in England were beheaded.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way since then. The job of Speaker across the Commonwealth is much safer today than it was previously, but it's still challenging. The Speaker must have diplomatic skills to handle the protocol duties that come with this job. You have to be a strong administrator as you oversee the business of the Assembly. And, of course, the Speaker must ride herd over the sometimes raucous debate that occurs in this Assembly.

In short, Mr. Speaker, you have your work cut out for you. But in reality all of us in this Assembly, we also have our work cut out for us as well. We have a shared responsibility to ensure the business of the people gets done with the semblance of civility and respect that it deserves. Particularly I think this is true at this moment in history, when Saskatchewan is being challenged like it has never been challenged before, facing this COVID-19 pandemic.

We will debate, yes, and the debate will get heated of course, but we are not here to engage in private animosities and petty quarrels. We are here to serve the people of the province and we must always keep that in mind. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity to thank the members opposite in advance for their co-operation, and I want to thank the good folks who are supporting you, the Clerk of the Assembly, and his entire team. And finally I would be remiss if I did not recognize and thank the Sergeant-at-Arms and the tremendous work that he and his staff do in this beautiful building.

Mr. Speaker, again congratulations on your election, and we wish you the very best in the days to come.

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

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to welcome you and congratulate you on your new role and welcome all the members, new and returning, to this House, this Assembly of the people of Saskatchewan, where the work we do is so important. And, Mr. Speaker, congratulations to you as the member for Biggar-Sask Valley and now the Speaker of the House. You take on a role of great honour, tradition, and importance.

And I want to thank all of the members who put their names forward for this role today. Thank you for offering your service and your commitment. And to the member for Regina Coronation Park, for your service and dedication to the role as Speaker. It was a very important role and you served it well, and thank you for that work. And I want to also thank the Clerk and his team and the Sergeant-At-Arms for running this election, which was an unusual election in an unusual time.

And I urge the Speaker to count on that tradition, on your good judgment, and the support of the Clerk and his team — which we know is reliable and wise — to maintain decorum and fairness in this House, which is always important. It's always what we need to do, but especially now. As we look around this room, your tricorn hat is complemented by a black face mask. We've got Plexiglas and no seatmates.

Things have changed so much already, and in this time of COVID-19 the choices that we make today, the questions and the debates that we have today, will have a huge influence on the lives and livelihood of Saskatchewan people. The people of Saskatchewan expect and deserve our serious and steady attention to the challenges ahead. And so to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all of us today charged with that solemn duty, I look forward to doing that work together. And once more, congratulations.

The Speaker: — Thank you very much. The Assembly will now recess until 2 p.m. later today when His Honour the Lieutenant Governor will present the Speech from the Throne.

[The Assembly recessed from 12:45 until 14:00.]

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Scott Moe
Premier
President of the Executive Council
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Lori Carr
Minister of Social Services

Hon. Dustin Duncan
Minister of Education

Hon. Bronwyn Eyre
Minister of Energy and Resources

Hon. Joe Hargrave
Minister of Highways
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

Hon. Donna Harpauer
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Trade and Export Development
Minister of Immigration and Career Training
Minister Responsible for Innovation
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan

Hon. Everett Hindley
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,
Seniors and Rural and Remote Health

Hon. Warren Kaeding
Minister of Environment

Hon. Gene Makowsky
Minister of Advanced Education

Hon. David Marit
Minister of Agriculture
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation

Hon. Don McMorris
Minister of Government Relations
Minister Responsible for First Nations,
Métis and Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the
Provincial Capital Commission

Hon. Paul Merriman
Minister of Health

Hon. Don Morgan
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Power Corporation
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Telecommunications
Minister Responsible for
Saskatchewan Water Corporation
Minister Responsible for the
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Liquor
and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority

Hon. Laura Ross
Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

Hon. Christine Tell
Minister of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

Hon. Gordon Wyant
Minister of Justice and Attorney General