



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

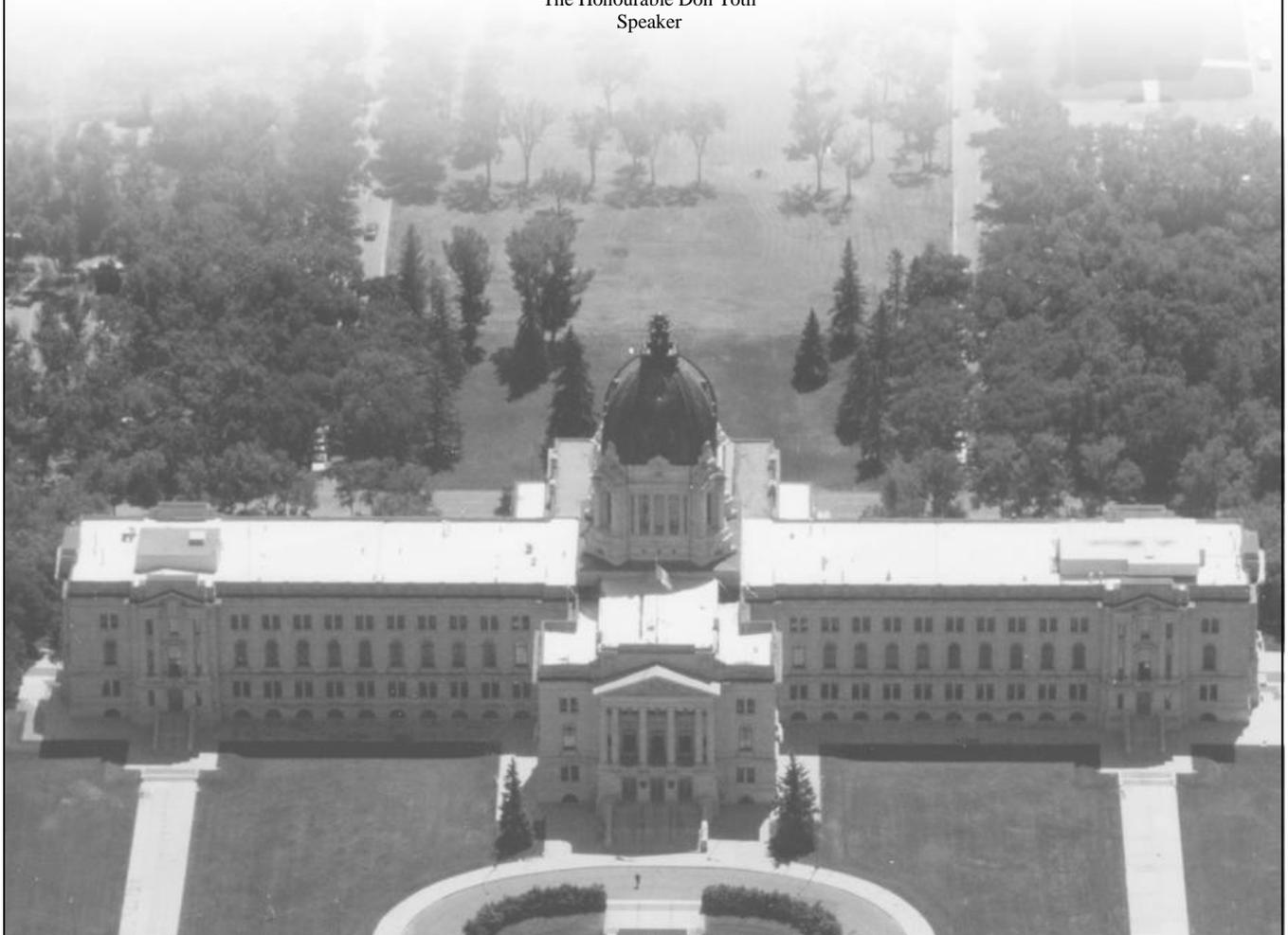
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Dwain Lingenfelter

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction of Page

The Speaker: — Before introduction of guests, I wish to inform the members of the Assembly that Megan Fraser will be returning as a Page for the spring session. I'd like to invite the members to welcome Megan.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me to be able to introduce to you and through you to all of the members of the Legislative Assembly a friend of Saskatchewan. Laura Lochman is the consul general for the United States to our country, based in Calgary. She's joined today by Kim Klassen who has also been in service for some time at the consulate in Calgary and is also a good friend of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Lochman has been in the province on numerous occasions. And I've had the pleasure of being able to meet with her and discuss specific projects and just the general relationship between the province of Saskatchewan and the United States with whom we depend, on whom we depend on for 62 per cent of our exports in terms of market share, Mr. Speaker.

I would also say that Ms. Lochman was of particular assistance when the province of Saskatchewan hosted, I believe, its first ever CODEL, congressional delegation, when Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican, of South Carolina; Senator Hagan, Democrat, of North Carolina; and White House official Jessica Maher were here this fall to look at carbon capture and sequestration leadership that the province is demonstrating and to talk a little bit about clean coal. And Laura was particularly helpful with that meeting, in addition to the other relationship that we have ongoing with the consul general in Calgary.

And so I would just invite all members to welcome her to the Legislative Assembly today and thank her for her continued work to make sure the relationship between Saskatchewan and the United States continues as healthy as it is today.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, through you and to you I'd like to join with the Premier in welcoming Laura Lochman to the Legislative Assembly and just say that we appreciate the close relationship that we have had with the consulate over the years. And I know Laura Lochman is replacing Tom Huffaker who had a great relationship with Saskatchewan. I know that will continue.

And we had a great meeting in Calgary not that long ago to discuss relationships between Saskatchewan and the US [United States]. And I might add, Mr. Speaker, because I'm sure you know, the U.S. Consulate throws the best July 4th party anywhere in Canada. I'm not hinting about an invitation, but I do want to say that we appreciate that close relationship.

I want to as well introduce Kim Klassen. Kim I've known for a number of years and does an excellent job in that position. She had a tour to the office in Iraq, and I know did great work for the country there and also has roots, family roots in the Eastend area of Saskatchewan. So I just want to include that and say we look forward to working closely with the office and wish you all the best here in the Assembly today. Thanks.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I was on my feet, I was going to also introduce some people sitting just behind Ms. Lochman and Ms. Klassen in the Assembly today, close friends of our family, of myself and of a number of members in the Legislative Assembly. And they're here for the condolence motions that will be happening after question period, Mr. Speaker. We're joined by Isabel Taylor, the wife of the late Graham Taylor, and Katherine Gagne, one of his kids, one of his daughters. And there's another gentleman from Mr. Taylor's old constituency that I think the Minister of Health wants to introduce a little bit later on. But I want to welcome them as well to their Legislative Assembly today.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Legislative Assembly, we have a number of healthcare providers sitting in our galleries today. They're here to watch the proceedings, and they're here because of their struggles with the collective agreement.

Mr. Speaker, in your gallery we have Bonnie Erickson who is the vice-president of the health component and president of the healthcare bargaining committee for SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union]. We also have Barb Cape, president of SEIU [Service Employees International Union] West and Gord Campbell, president of CUPE [Canadian Union of Public Employees] healthcare council. And a good friend of all of us here, Gunnar Passmore from the Sask. Building Trades is also here.

I ask all members of the Assembly to welcome these people to our Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health, the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to join with the member opposite first of all, for a couple of introductions.

First of all, welcome all the health care workers to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure we may hear a little bit more

regarding health care as the day moves forward. At least I would anticipate that.

I also would like to, while I'm on my feet, introduce Ken McCabe, as the Premier had referred to him earlier, from Indian Head. Actually I would probably more refer to him as Mr. Indian Head. He's been in the community pretty much all his life and has the *Indian Head-Wolseley News*, owns the paper there and has supplied the community with great information for many years, for decades.

But I think the one piece that I . . . When I first met Ken, we talked a little bit of politics, but we soon gravitated to probably the passion we both have more than politics, would be the sports hall of fame that he has in Indian Head and the memorabilia that he has in that facility.

The first couple visits that I had with Ken in the office of the newspaper, the sports hall of fame was right in that area. So I didn't mind if I got there a little early and Ken was busy that I couldn't meet with him because there's more than enough to see, memorabilia from around the area. And I would just say, and invite on behalf of Ken, for anybody that's in the Indian Head area — or for as a matter of fact, anywhere from Saskatchewan — to go. And you'll find artifacts in there that you won't find in any other sports hall of fame. So congratulations, Ken, on the great work that you do and welcome to your Assembly.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the opposition, I'd also like to recognize in your Chamber, Ms. Katherine Gagne who also serves in another capacity, being the school board here in Regina with Regina Public Schools and serves our community in that capacity. I'd like to have all members welcome Ms. Katherine Gagne and thank her for her service.

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

Ms. Schriemer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While on my feet, I would also like to welcome the Taylors to their legislature and wish them my deepest sympathy. Graham Taylor was a great part of my hometown, Montmartre, and a good friend of my father's as well.

As for the introduction, I'd like to introduce a constituent by the name of Brad Bent. He's a constituent of Sutherland, which by the way is named for the first Speaker ever of this Legislature. And Mr. Bent is from CLAC [Christian Labour Association of Canada]. I'd like to through you and to this House introduce him and thank him for coming and also welcome him. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake, the Minister Responsible for Municipal Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce a friend of mine sitting in the west gallery, Mr. Ezra Levant. Ezra is the author

of four books, a lawyer, a political commentator, a political activist, founder of the *Western Standard* newsmagazine, and also sold me my very first political membership at the University of Alberta. So I'd ask, Mr. Speaker, all members to join me in welcoming Mr. Levant to the Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly I'd like to introduce to you in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, Mike and Karen Longworth from Harris. Folks, if you'd just give everybody a wave.

Mike and Karen are great friends, great supporters. Mike also was a long-time employer of mine, having been a long-term councillor with the RM [rural municipality] of Marriott, my former employer in Rosetown. They were here for an excellent convention this weekend, and they're staying through for the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] convention this upcoming week. I'd ask all members to please give them a warm welcome to their Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I would like to introduce to the members of this House, Karl Breker and his daughter Aime. We will be dealing with the condolence motions, and Karl is the son of former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] Matt Breker. So welcome to your House. It's a pleasure to see you here. Thank you.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens who are concerned about the safety of our highway, particularly Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and junction of No. 1. And we know, Mr. Speaker, that this particular portion of highway is a year-round traffic route to tourist destinations. So, Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to construct passing lanes on Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of No. 1 in order to improve the safety for Saskatchewan's motoring public.

And in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by the good folks from Regina, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour today to present a petition on behalf of the Saskatchewan Student

Coalition. The petition is in support of the implementation of a Saskatchewan scholarship fund which was in the Sask Party government election platform in 2007. The petition prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to implement the promised Saskatchewan scholarship fund.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to present this petition.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a petition in support of new long-term care beds in La Ronge. There's a growing wait list for long-term care beds in and around La Ronge and an increase in the aging population of the Mamawetan Churchill Health Region.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately invest in the planning and construction of new long-term care beds in La Ronge.

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

The signatures are from La Ronge, Air Ronge and Potato Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, this is a petition in support of withdrawal of Bill 80. And it's signed by hundreds of citizens from across the province. In the petition it indicates that *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Act, 1992* has provided a stable environment for labour relations in the construction industry. It also has resulted in quality work and safe construction worksites, and that the existing building trades support apprenticeship in our province which does lead to highly skilled workforce. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its ill-conceived Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* which dismantles the proud history of the building trades in this province, creates instability in the labour market, and impacts the quality of training required of workers before entering the workforce.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in repair of Highway No. 123 that goes to the community of Cumberland House. This petition is signed by the leadership and community members of the village of Cumberland House and Cumberland House First Nation. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to stop denying the money that was allocated to this highway and commit to immediately provide the repairs to this highway that the people of northern Saskatchewan deserve and were promised.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

It is signed by the good people of Cumberland House and Cumberland House First Nation. I so present.

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

[13:45]

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand today to present a petition that has been circulated by the Saskatchewan Student Coalition. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to implement a long-term tuition management strategy in which tuition is increased by an average of 2 per cent or the most recent increase to the consumer price index.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed this petition are from the city of Regina and Moose Jaw. I so present.

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

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition in support of reducing the interest on fixed rate student loans to prime.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately reduce the interest on fixed rate student loans to the prime rate of borrowing so that students can accumulate less debt and focus their finances on building their lives here in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition has most recently been circulated by the Saskatchewan Student Coalition. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present yet another petition on behalf of rural residents of Saskatchewan who question why the Sask Party government is leaving them behind with respect to providing safe and affordable water and who have yet not had any commitment of assistance from the Sask Party government. And the prayer reads as follows:

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

These petitions are signed, Mr. Speaker, by the good residents of Prince Albert and Duck Lake. I so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions in support of maintaining quality health care services in our province. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to negotiating a fair and just collective agreement with health care providers in the province of Saskatchewan.

The petition is signed by people from Melville, Cudworth, Aberdeen, Martensville, Hafford, Duff, Esterhazy, Gerald, Kamsack, Weyburn, Kinistino, Weldon, Rabbit Lake, Leoville, Prince Albert, Wakaw, Big River, Leask, Radville, Birch Hills, Spiritwood, Glaslyn, Medstead, Albertville, Crystal Springs, Marcelin, Hagen, Veregin, Calder, Norquay, Canora, Pelly, Preeceville, Sturgis, Yorkton, Foam Lake, Regina, Estevan, Oxbow, Fillmore, Stoughton, Yellow Grass, Midale, Lampman, Coronach, Beechy, Rosthern, Prud'homme, Debden, Battleford, Meota, Turtleford, Cut Knife, Gallivan, Baldwinton, Unity, Neilburg, Kindersley, Wynyard, Shaunavon, Nokomis, Govan, Duval, Sifton, Earl Grey, Dinsmore, Birsey, Duck Lake, Tway, Canwood, Edam, Vawn, St. Walburg, Rockhaven, Paynton, North Battleford, Marsden, Saskatoon, Dalmeny, Quill Lake, Admiral, Watrous, Strasbourg, Craven, Southey, Bulyea, Wiseton, Lucky Lake, Meadow Lake, St. Benedict, LeRoy, Success, Liebenthal, Rockglen, Langham, Gull Lake, Frontier, Wiseton, Eston, Milden, Zealandia, Macklin, Togo, Vanscoy, Waseca, Loon Lake, Brightsand, Paradise Hill, Marshall, Annaheim, Aylesbury, Lancer, Leader, Maple Creek, Verwood, Warman, Hazlet, Climax, Lacadena, Madison, Conquest, Rosetown, Primate, Wilkie, Kyle, Goodsoil, Makwa, Spruce Lake, Kitscoty, Englefeld, Congress, Craik, Cabri, Mendham, Rush Lake, Asquith, Perdue, Eastend, Elrose, Fiske, Outlook, Delisle, Hanley, Kerrobert, Denzil, Maidstone, Meadow Lake, Mervin, Livelong, Lloydminster, Watson, Lisieux, Griffin, Springside, Fenwood, Churchbridge, Wroxton, Hyas, Ebenezer, Spy Hill, Bredenbury, Rhein, Redvers, Goodeve, Langenburg, Theodore, Willowbrook and Dubuc. Mr. Speaker, I so humbly present.

The Speaker: — Order. I'd just like to remind our guests that while you're welcome to sit and observe the proceedings in the Chamber, you're not to participate in any form of any kind. And we'd really appreciate if you would respect the rules of the Assembly.

I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise and present a petition in support of affordable rents and housing for The Battlefords. The petitioners note that rent increases of about 40 per cent that have been provided to residents of The Battlefords are outrageous. And the petitioners pray:

That the honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to a greater number of people throughout The Battlefords, and that will implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive housing environment.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of the constituency of The Battlefords. I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents of Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented financial mismanagement by the Sask Party. They allude to the shameful billion-dollar deficit that's been created. And what they're concerned is that things are getting worse, not getting any better, Mr. Speaker. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Sask Party government to start managing our provincial finances responsibly and prudently to ensure that it does not continue its trend of massive budgetary shortfalls, runaway and unsustainable spending, equity stripping from our Crowns, and irresponsible revenue setting.

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

These petitions are signed by many, many residents of Yorkton. I so present.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of expansion of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

I so present.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Eastview.

International Women's Day

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, March 8th, marks International Women's Day. This year's theme, as chosen by the Status of Women of Canada — Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All.

This theme reflects the federal government's stated desire to encourage women and girls to participate in leadership roles, thereby realizing female potential, fulfilling female dreams, and building a more prosperous Canada. It would be wonderful to actualize every woman's potential and fulfill every girl's dream, especially if doing so meant making Canada more prosperous. But unfortunately women still struggle to reach leadership positions, to achieve wage parity, or even to receive basic human rights. We still have a long way to go.

Mr. Speaker, last year was the 20th anniversary of the Montreal massacre, marking the death of innocent women murdered simply because they were striving in a traditionally male discipline. Twenty years later, we haven't made enough progress in eradicating violence towards women. In fact both federal and provincial governments no longer fund a Status of Women's office. Why not?

Today we must also remember that sisterhood goes beyond race, class, or nationality. And so internationally I would like to honour the lives of feminist Haitian leaders who died in the massive earthquake on January 12th of this year. Myriam Merlet, Magali Marcelin, and Anne Marie Coriolan organized shelters for battered women and girls, published a feminist newspaper, and worked tirelessly to get the Haitian judiciary to take rape seriously.

They will be missed, but they will not be forgotten. Let their death be a reminder that struggle for equality and rights and opportunities will continue around the world and right here at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Yorkton.

34th Annual Kinsmen Telemiracle

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to tell the story of a baby boy named Alexander. Alex was diagnosed with a congenital heart condition called hypoplastic left heart syndrome. This basically meant that the left side of his heart did not develop enough to fully function.

In order to save his life, he needed to go Edmonton for a series of surgeries. Unfortunately his parents could not bear the cost of the travel. That is where Telemiracle stepped in and ensured that their costs, accommodations, meals, and transportation were covered so this family could be with their boy. Thankfully Alex has exceeded all expectations and is growing quite quickly.

With the conclusion of the 34th annual Kinsmen Telemiracle telethon this Sunday, the people of Saskatchewan have once again shown the tremendous spirit of generosity that exists in

our province. This weekend the people of Saskatchewan raised an incredible sum of \$4,010,314 to assist people with special needs. These funds are also extremely beneficial for those that require special assistance accessing medical treatment. These initiatives are making it possible for people to live at home and still receive the care they need.

The Telemiracle foundation ensures that all money raised by the people of Saskatchewan is helping the people of Saskatchewan. And it truly makes me proud to be a Kinsmen member from Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

International Women's Day

Ms. Ross: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is so important that our Assembly acknowledge today is International Women's Day. This day is significant in the promotion of equality of women in all aspects of society. Today I urge every individual here to take some time and think of all the women that have made a positive impact on their life.

In particular, this day is a wonderful opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation for Saskatchewan women. These women have made great contributions to all aspects of life here in Saskatchewan. These contributions range from the growing number of female physicians to homemakers who are the cornerstone of our respective communities and families.

Mr. Speaker, International Women's Day was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1975, but it originates with women's activities in the early 1900s.

The theme of this year's event is Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress For All. In Canada our theme for this year is strong leadership, strong women, strong world, strong economy. This theme should not be limited solely for today. With this message as our foundation, we can continue to move forward with equality and make Saskatchewan women strong leaders. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

34th Annual Kinsmen Telemiracle

Ms. Chartier: — Mr. Speaker, this weekend marked the 34th annual Kinsmen Telemiracle. This year, Telemiracle raised over \$4 million, surpassing last year's total of 3.8 million, an absolutely amazing feat for a telethon that lasts only 20 hours. As always, Saskatchewan people gave generously, making the event a huge success.

Telemiracle first began in 1977 in Centennial Auditorium in Saskatoon, and certainly no one would have dreamed 34 years ago that the momentum would carry this event on for three decades, raising more than \$85 million. This money has helped thousands of people throughout the years, both individually and through the organizations that Telemiracle supports.

Financial support from the Telemiracle Foundation helps to

provide special needs equipment and access to medical assistance to Saskatchewan residents, groups, and health foundations. The independence and improvement in quality of life that this provides is invaluable.

This year Telemiracle committee was kind enough to offer MLAs a behind-the-scenes tour, giving us a sneak peak at how much work is put into making this event happen. It's a hive of activity backstage, especially processing the thousands of donations that came in. Every year it takes approximately 1,200 Kinsmen and Kinettes to run the Telemiracle, not to mention the 120 production volunteers.

Thank you to Charlene Duckworth, Chair of the Kinsmen Foundation; Heather McInnis, Chair of Telemiracle 34; and Executive Director Joan Steckhan for offering us a chance to see their hard work. Congratulations on another successful Telemiracle.

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

Impaired Driving Awareness Week

Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe, but some people still make the choice to get behind the wheel and drive after drinking. To help everyone remember the dangers of drinking and driving, March 7th to 13th has been declared Impaired Driving Awareness Week. In honour of this week, initiatives have been made to promote awareness for this serious matter.

Students against drunk driving has just been provided with \$200,000 in support of their efforts to combat impaired driving. This sum is evenly comprised of two \$100,000 donations from both the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority and SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance].

Drinking and driving devastates the family and friends of those injured or killed in alcohol-related crashes. Each accident is a tragedy in itself, but more and more people are beginning to realize that drinking and driving is a terrible decision. It is through the educational initiatives of hard-working groups like SADD [Students Against Drinking and Driving] and MADD [Mothers Against Drunk Driving] that these people are beginning to make the right decisions in regards to planning a safe ride home.

[14:00]

However work still needs to be done to ensure that there are fewer and fewer lives lost on Saskatchewan roads. It is something that is as preventable as impaired driving. So in honour of Impaired Driving Awareness Week, I encourage everyone in this province to plan a safe ride home every time you plan on drinking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Public Finance and Potato Chips

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, the Premier was

speaking to a group of business owners in Saskatoon and gave us a glimpse into his understanding of public finance. Here's what the Premier said: "Deficits are like potato chips . . . they're not very good for your long-term health, and bet you can't stop at just one." And then he chuckled.

The Premier might be able to deliver a good one-liner every now and then, Mr. Speaker, but can he run a province? Absolutely not. Perhaps it's not surprising that he can joke and chuckle about his financial mismanagement. After all, he was schooled at the Devine school of economics where squandering prosperity and leaving behind a legacy of deficits is common practice when it comes to public finance.

But for the business owners he was talking to and for the rest of the people in Saskatchewan, squandering prosperity and running deficits is not acceptable. And the Premier joking and chuckling about his financial mismanagement is also unacceptable, especially when it's Saskatchewan people that are paying the price for the utter incompetence of his Saskatchewan Party government. The NDP [New Democratic Party] left behind a massive surplus. The Sask Party turned that into a massive deficit in two short years.

Mr. Speaker, the terms of right wing governments are actually a lot like potato chips — they're horrible for the province's long-term health. But unlike potato chips, I bet you we can stop at just one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

2010 Vancouver Olympic Games

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I don't think we can begin this session without remarking on the most extraordinary event to have occurred in our country in decades — the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games.

We took a record number of gold medals for Canada — 14 of them — as well as seven silver and five bronze. Our own Saskatchewan athletes made us extremely proud, earning 11 medals in total. Leading the charge were the four representatives of women's hockey and three from the men's team.

However medals do not tell the whole Olympic story. Canadians became united in Vancouver in a way that has never been seen before. There was an outpouring of patriotism and pride that was unheard of. We sang *O Canada* with more feeling than we ever have. We waved our flag with pride.

And our Saskatchewan pavilion was the centre of it — 120,000 people came through the doors. People from across the world enjoyed the Saskatchewan experience. They responded to our renowned hospitality, and they loved our food and our atmosphere. Even *The Wall Street Journal* thought our pavilion was the very best.

Mr. Speaker, we will talk more at another time about the material legacies such as the 2010 Legacy Fund that will flow from this event, but the igniting of our national and the provincial pride is a legacy that is timeless.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Potash Royalties and the Provincial Economy

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. And, Mr. Speaker, last fall when we had the mid-year report, we thought we'd seen everything when it came to financial mismanagement in the province. But last week we saw even worse and even more unprecedented incompetence.

Let me just review the situation around potash. Last spring the Premier told us we would get 1.9 billion from potash; and his sidekick, the member from Kindersley, said no, it's probably going to be \$3 billion. Then in the mid-term report they said, oops, a mistake: it's only 100 million. Now they're saying, last week, we didn't even stop at zero. We're now at 204 million we owe to the potash companies.

My question to the Premier is this: when did you get it so wrong?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the situation that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to is a result of a change made in how potash royalties are collected in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in 2003 under the New Democratic Party, in 2003 they made the change in policy wherein potash companies — much like citizens of the country and citizens of the province — pay in advance, Mr. Speaker. The situation has never occurred, obviously, where a refund was required, as is the case with people's income tax. That was the case this year, Mr. Speaker.

But also in the third quarter report, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to note that as a result of actions taken by the government, expenditures are down from what was budgeted. And as a result of a growing economy, revenues are up, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, new question to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity to work in many countries around the world and I've seen countries where the people didn't get as much as they should for their resources, but this is the first ever anyone has seen where the people have to pay the resource company to take the resource. That's the first time.

My question to the Premier is this: how much are we owing to the potash corporations? Is 204 million the final amount or is it in fact greater than that? How big is his mistake?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite will know, the Leader of the Opposition will know that royalties for potash and other resources of the province are collected by the province when the, in this case, in the case of potash, when it is mined and then when it is sold. Mr. Speaker, the anomaly of

having to pay back potash companies is a direct result of a change in the collection of those royalties instituted by members opposite when they were the government.

Mr. Speaker, there's some other things that have happened since we last met, since the third quarter report. Other things, Mr. Speaker, like Saskatchewan has continued to lead the country with the lowest unemployment rate, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've broken our own record for capital investment in the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The Premier may complete his response.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, other changes that have happened since the third quarter report is that Saskatchewan's population hit an all-time high. And CIBC [Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce], RBC [Royal Bank of Canada], and Laurentian Bank are all saying the province will lead the country in economic growth this year. As of the third quarter, Mr. Speaker, our revenues are moving up. We've reduced expenses, Mr. Speaker, and we look forward to tabling the strongest financial balance sheets in the country later this month.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, again to the Premier. Let's just go through this one more time. We started at 3 billion. That was according to the member from Kindersley. Then the Premier said, 1.9. Then it was 100 million. And again, not even stopping at zero, at three-quarter time we were at . . . We owed the potash corporations 204 million. A friend of mine said, stop the game; by the end of the game, if you keep this up with that team on the field, the potash corporations are going to own the province.

The question to the Premier is: why did you keep it a secret? Why did you keep that number a secret when the mid-term report came out?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — This member, you know, I remember a day when this member would not make a mistake like asking a question like that. He said . . .

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the member asked why did we keep it a secret, this anomaly, this method of collecting taxes in the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, it's an NDP secret. It's their plan. They instituted it in 2003 and we have tried very hard, we have tried very hard, Mr. Speaker, to divulge all the list of things that the NDP did.

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we didn't get around to this

particular anomaly in how the NDP decided to tax the potash situation. The hon. members are shouting from their seat, why did you hide it? Again it was implemented by the NDP in 2003, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's now clear that the numbers the Premier is using as it relates to potash simply can't be believed. That's obvious after a year of changes going from 3 billion to 1.9 to 100 million to zero, now to minus 204 million. And while the potash corporations here will get a cheque, there are a number of people who'll be getting NSF [not sufficient funds] cheques — the children's hospital, municipalities, education, long-term care homes, the surgical care centres, and employment and skills training. They'll all be getting NSF. And everybody else is being told to tighten up, including the workers who are here today.

My question to the Premier is this: when will you realize that you should leave the financing to the people in the Department of Finance, and when will the Premier understand that his fiscal management is not that good? And when will he stand and apologize to the people of the province for creating this mess?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, when we inherited government from members opposite, there was \$6.8 billion in General Revenue Fund debt in the province of Saskatchewan. There was \$1.2 billion in the savings account that was left behind by the previous government. 6.8 billion in debt; \$1.2 billion cash in the savings account.

In the two years since the Saskatchewan Party's been elected, the debt's been reduced to 4.2 and there is \$700 million in the bank account. That's a net improvement of \$2 billion, even after record infrastructure investment, record debt repayment, record tax cuts, and record investment in those who are most vulnerable — in housing, Mr. Speaker, in those who have disabilities, Mr. Speaker, in health care in terms of recruiting and retention. This government has done more in two years than that outfit did in 16, Mr. Speaker.

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

Contract Negotiations for Health Care Workers

Ms. Junor: — The Sask Party government has presented Saskatchewan's 25,000 health care workers with a take-it-or-leave-it deal which health care workers have described as insulting and disrespectful. Health care workers have asked the government to come back to the bargaining table and the government has refused.

To the minister: why is the government refusing to negotiate with Saskatchewan's 25,000 health care workers, 80 per cent of which are women?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say from the outset that, you know, every day in Saskatchewan there are \$8 million spent on health care wages throughout the province, Mr. Speaker, from corner to corner. It doesn't matter whether it's in long-term care, whether it's in home care, acute care. Mr. Speaker, it's a very complex system with very valuable people working in it from corner to corner, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to tell the Assembly that this government respects those workers, Mr. Speaker; we absolutely do. But I will also say that it's very interesting the question coming from that member. Is she saying that we should step into the middle of negotiations? Is that what the former government did all the time?

We have a negotiator, SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations], and we have the service provider unions that settle on a contract, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, any time those negotiations start heating up, I think we get close to a final agreement, Mr. Speaker. I would ask those two parties — employer, employee — to eventually reach an agreement.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is too little respect, too late. And I think to the minister: training days are over. Put your big boy pants on and get to work.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Just a reminder that it's a privilege to be allowed to sit as guests in the gallery. Been asked to refrain from any involvement in the debate. The member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Party promised to shorten wait times and fix the health care problems in the province. To date the government has done nothing but break their promises. Wait times are higher now than they were two years ago. The front-line health workers who provide care and support to patients and contribute to reducing wait times have been without a contract for over two years.

To the minister: how does refusing to negotiate with health care workers who are on the front lines every day reduce wait times?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said in the opening question, that we value the work that all health care providers do, Mr. Speaker, whether it's in dietary, whether it's in laundry, whether it's an LPN [licensed practical nurse], a lab tech, an RN [registered nurse], a doctor, Mr. Speaker. It's a very complex system and we want to make sure that they're all working in conjunction to provide the best care that is possible, Mr. Speaker.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, but I would challenge that member to compare any two years out of that former NDP government's record to the two years that we've put in as government, Mr. Speaker. We have recruited more nurses in this province than that

government ever imagined on doing. In fact, Mr. Speaker, that government literally turned the back on health care workers.

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

Ms. Junor: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that's simply not true. The Saskatchewan Party spent \$1.5 million on the Patient First Review because they said they're going to put patient care first. Nobody, nobody believes that.

Mr. Speaker, the 25,000 health care workers that have been two years without a contract are people that provide the care. These are the special care aides, the licensed practical nurses, emergency medical personnel, diagnostic technologists, to name but a few who work every day caring for our parents, our grandparents, our children, and our partners.

To the minister: the 25,000 health care providers view this final offer as insulting and disrespectful. How can ramming this offer through improve employee morale and patient care?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, these employees are extremely valuable to the health care system. Mr. Speaker, the contract . . .

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — The employees and the employer have been . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. The member from Saskatoon Sutherland will come to order and allow the minister to respond. I recognize . . . Order. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the employees and the employers have been negotiating for a long time. This contract has . . . Some of them have expired for certainly a lot longer than we would like to see as a government, Mr. Speaker. But that is contract negotiations that happen through SAHO, the employer, and through the employee unions, Mr. Speaker. And I don't think it would be appropriate for any government to step inside.

I think from the line of questioning, Mr. Speaker, that if they ever got a chance to form government again — which I can't see for quite a long time — they would probably be injecting themselves directly into the negotiations. Is that how they would have negotiations conducted, Mr. Speaker? Because that isn't the way our government is working, Mr. Speaker. We allow the employer and the employee to come to a final agreement, Mr. Speaker.

And absolutely there are always times where there's going to be disagreements. I've had the opportunity to go through a few of

these negotiations from the seat of the Minister of Health. And, Mr. Speaker, it is very tense at times, but, Mr. Speaker, I believe an agreement can be reached and I believe it will be a fair agreement for not only the health care workers but the people of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — Order. My apologies to the member from Saskatoon Sutherland. It was the member from Saskatoon Fairview I was . . . [inaudible] . . . I recognize the member from Saskatoon Eastview.

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, this business about standing behind SAHO . . . The minister is the puppet master. Pull the strings. You know how it works. SAHO's merely the puppet of the government.

It's no secret, Mr. Speaker, that recruitment and retention of health care workers is a big issue. On the one hand, the government says they are working to recruit more health care professionals and retain the ones we have. On the other hand, the Sask Party has brought in essential services legislation, left front-line health providers without a contract for over two years, and forced a final offer on with them which health care workers feel is insulting and devalues their work.

To the minister: how does the Premier's take-it-or-leave-it agenda that is disrespectful and insulting and devalues the work of health care employees encourage new health care workers to come to Saskatchewan or those that are here to stay?

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

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, thanks very much for the opportunity to provide a highlight and an update on essential services. As far as people coming to Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, the Premier's already highlighted, we've broken our population growth record ever, Mr. Speaker. And certainly we assume and anticipate that's going to continue.

But regarding essential services, Mr. Speaker, we made sure that essential services were put in place. We came to power in the midst of strikes at the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan when 400 people per day were being turned away from medical care.

We've said that when it comes to plowing highways, when it comes to medical care, we want to make sure that the people of this province are protected, Mr. Speaker. We've done that with moderate legislation, Mr. Speaker. We stand beside and behind our essential service legislation, Mr. Speaker. And we're not alone, Mr. Speaker. In Melville, in Swift Current, at the University of Saskatchewan, in Moose Jaw, for SGI, and ISC [Information Services Corporation], we said that agreements have already been signed. Essential services are part of . . .

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, the minister can talk all he wants but essential services is not a sell for people who are sitting without a contract for two years basically because this government cannot seem to get their head around how you

bargain, how you bargain fairly, and that essential services has done nothing to move that forward or help it.

And because of the fiscal mismanagement of this government, the Premier has said now to the health district, no more than 3 per cent in health care spending in the next year. The government is wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars on an advertising campaign, trying to force health care workers to accept a final offer by in essence bargaining in the media.

Instead of using this money in a propaganda campaign, these resources could be used to negotiate an agreement. Mr. Speaker, how can the minister justify that this is money well spent?

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

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said from the outset, any time that there is a bargained contract, there are people on each side and certainly the emotions will start increasing and certainly some concern, Mr. Speaker.

But I think it's extremely important that you'll see both sides get their information out. SAHO has decided to take out some information ads as to their side of the agreement, Mr. Speaker, and the unions, representative unions, have done the same. They've taken out advertising to certainly get their message out to their members, Mr. Speaker. The employer, SAHO, is taking out information messages to try and . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order, order. I'd ask the opposition members to allow the minister to respond. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — The employer, through SAHO, is certainly doing the same — getting the message out that they feel that this is a fair agreement to both the service providers and the employers, Mr. Speaker. Ultimately it is the employer's decision as to whether they want to agree to that contract or not, Mr. Speaker. It is a system that has been in place for many, many years, Mr. Speaker, and a system that I think has served the province quite well.

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

Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day, and many of us in Saskatoon are asking a very simple question. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why did the government cut the domestic abuse outreach program?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the services that are provided in this program were transferred from the Ministry of Social Services to the Ministry of Justice. Mr. Speaker, I can advise the member opposite and advise the members of this House that it is the intention of this government and the intention of this ministry to ensure that services will be provided. They'll be provided by a variety of different social

workers.

And I want to assure the members opposite that we value the work that is being done in that area. And it is of primary importance that the people that need this assistance are given this assistance, Mr. Speaker. And this government will ensure that that takes place.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, this government cut this program without making sure that there were services in the community to replace them. The money for Family Service Saskatoon came after the fact and so far is just an interim measure.

A letter from 14 community-based organizations to the minister received in December states, "None of us at the table had been aware . . . [of] this decision . . . pending." Mr. Speaker, no one asked the agencies in Saskatoon whether or not they could handle this work.

To the minister: how could you possibly cut a program for abused women and their children without even checking with the community to see if the services could be provided elsewhere?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we have in fact increased the amount of money that has gone to sexual assault centres. We have made sure that we have provided appropriate service wherever it is necessary. Mr. Speaker, this is part of an intended plan where we will ensure that services are provided uniformly across the province.

There was an anomaly in the city of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. We will ensure that services continue to be provided. Services are being provided now, and there will be no disruption in the services that are provided, Mr. Speaker.

I want to assure the member opposite and the people that are using those facilities that they ought not be subject to political vagaries or political accusations. The imperative, Mr. Speaker, is that the services are being provided and will in fact continue to be provided.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — The domestic abuse outreach program provided some very practical services to abused women and their children. It helped women find emergency shelter. It helped women when they had to go back to their home to retrieve their belongings. It helped them in the courts. It helped them go to the hospital or to go to the police station.

These services are not being provided by any other organization, and the government has only offered funding for one full-time interim position at Family Service Saskatoon when there used to be four people that assisted women who were fleeing abusive situations.

To the minister: what are these women supposed to do now? Why did the government cut this program when there's nothing in the community to replace it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite will be well aware that February 1st, 2010, services were provided by Family Service Saskatoon under a contractual basis. Those services will be continued. Services will be provided by other sources, Mr. Speaker. We will ensure that those services are provided and will continue to be provided, Mr. Speaker.

The imperative is that the people that need those services — and some of those people, Mr. Speaker, are some of the most needy people in this province — this government will ensure that we provide services for those people through transition houses, through sexual assault centres, and through whatever sources that they need because those people need it. And we will ensure that, Mr. Speaker, that those services will continue to be provided, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, on December the 18th, a group of organizations representing the violence against women interagency committee and other service providers wrote the government. And, Mr. Speaker, here's what they said. They said that they came together in 2005 to ensure that the Saskatoon domestic violence court was put in place in order to support other initiatives. And this court began in September of 2005. This is what they say to the government:

Had the community known these workers would be withdrawn in 4 years time, they may not have put their support behind this very valuable initiative or could have, at least adapted their operations. It is unconscionable to provide services and programming for largely male offenders without corresponding services and programs to support the very victims of those offences.

There is one person working at Family Service Bureau . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we recognize and appreciate the work that has been done by service providers through domestic violence court, through the variety of agencies that provide service. We also recognize, thank, and appreciate the people that work in transition houses. And Mr. Speaker, we have worked with a variety of different agencies to ensure that the necessary services are provided and will in fact continue to be provided.

Mr. Speaker, I could also advise you, and I can advise the members opposite, that there is a consultation process under way to determine what services will continue to be necessary to be provided and will also, Mr. Speaker, that consultation will continue to ensure how best those services can, should, and ought to be provided, Mr. Speaker. It is not appropriate, Mr. Speaker, to make an assumption that because one program is cancelled . . .

The Speaker: — The minister's time has elapsed. The member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, this service had been in place in our province for over 20 years. This service provided on-the-ground support to women and their children fleeing domestic abuse. This service provided very practical services for women: going to the hospital, going to the police station, going through the court system, going to their home to retrieve their articles and clothing, and then going to emergency shelters.

Now there's one position — one position only — and I ask the minister very simply, will his government heed the call of hundreds of women in Saskatoon and reinstate this program so that women that are victims of domestic violence simply aren't the latest victims of this government's . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I want to advise the members opposite and I want to reassure the people that use this service, services will continue to be provided. They will in fact be provided by a variety of different sources, Mr. Speaker. We will ensure that they are appropriately provided and appropriately . . .

[Interjections]

[14:30]

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, some of these services will be provided through victims services through the Ministry of Justice. Some of them will be provided through the Ministry of Social Services. The consultation process is under way. There is an interim plan through Family Service of Saskatoon. We will work with those agencies, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the necessary services are provided.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely unfair that the members opposite are attempting to use this matter . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I'd ask the opposition members to allow the minister to complete his response.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, we will continue to ensure and we will work with these services to ensure that there is not a gap for any of the people that need these services, Mr. Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 611 — *The Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy Act*

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

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill 611, *The Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy Act* be now introduced and read a

first time.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Eastview has moved first reading of Bill No. 611, *The Autism Spectrum Disorder Strategy Act*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

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

The Speaker: — When will the Bill be considered a second time?

Ms. Junor: — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Speaker: — Members, I have a statement from Her Majesty for Commonwealth Day, and if you'll just bear with us for a second until people leave the galleries, and then I'll ask you to rise.

I'd ask the members and the visitors in the galleries to please rise for the message from Her Majesty.

Today's societies are constantly seeking ways to improve their quality of life, and science and technology play a vital part in that search.

Experimentation, research and innovation, mean that more opportunities for improving people's lives exist today than ever before. Take long distance communication, where the obstacles of time and geography have been dramatically reduced: people can now use mobile phones to be in instant contact virtually anywhere in the world, be it with a medical centre in the Himalayan mountains in Asia, a Pacific island school, a research facility at the South Pole, or even the International Space Station, beyond this planet altogether.

Advances in modern telecommunications are also having a marked economic effect on people from developing nations in the Commonwealth, helping to transform small to medium-sized businesses. The internet is playing an important part in helping to nurture these fledgling markets but, as yet, it still remains an unaffordable option for too many of our Commonwealth citizens.

Progress in the fields of healthcare, manufacturing, and education have, for the most part, helped improved people's lives throughout the world. In the health sector, the Commonwealth has shown how collaborative schemes can successfully assist member states fight pandemics and diseases.

In making these advances the Commonwealth recognizes

that the best forms of innovation are those that unite, and help build resilient partnerships and better societies as a whole.

This is particularly important for the more than half of the Commonwealth citizens who are under 25 years of age. It is vital that their potential to build on the exceptional scientific expertise that exists in the member states is also fully supported through education and social development. The Commonwealth understands this, and should continue to aid and encourage our young people to participate in the exciting new opportunities that lie ahead, in the knowledge that progress is something which must be sustained and shared by all.

Signed by Her Majesty, Elizabeth R
8 March 2010

Thank you, members.

Before orders of the day, we have some condolence motions to move. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure, based on that introduction, that I should seek leave or not. So I'll do that. I'll seek leave of the Assembly to move a motion of condolence, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. I recognize the Premier.

CONDOLENCES

Mathieu Theodore Breker

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I, at the end of my remarks, and there are three separate motions of condolence today for members to consider, and I will move, request leave and move a separate motion for each of those that we honour today. I would advise the Assembly that at the conclusion of my remarks I'll be moving the formal notice of motion, I believe seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker, the first individual that we wish to honour today was a member of this Assembly from 1964 to 1971. He served in the Ross Thatcher government. Mathieu Theodore Breker is his name.

Mr. Speaker, we all understand in this Assembly that whether we're on that side of the House or this side of the House, whatever our partisan beliefs may or may not be, we understand we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us. We understand that not only the traditions of this Assembly, but the history and the building of the province of Saskatchewan are owed not only to those who've served in this Assembly prior to all of us, but in large ways, Mr. Speaker, in many ways our proud history and what we've accomplished is owed to those who were in this Chamber and who made decisions on behalf of the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

I know that from my read of history, Mr. Speaker, that the government, the Thatcher government, 1964 to 1971, undertook very many important initiatives — initiatives not limited to economic development, but I think certainly that would have been a focus of that government. I think it would be fair to say that the Thatcher government was focused on the economy of the province and trying to foster within Saskatchewan a stronger private sector, a stronger . . . well in fostering, really bringing together all of the sectors of the economy. But I know their focus in those eight years was on ways to make sure that small-business women and men could flourish in the province, that agriculture also could flourish.

And, Mr. Speaker, that caucus, that government was aided by people like Mr. Breker who contributed much both to the government itself and to this Assembly and to his constituency of Humboldt.

And so, Mr. Speaker, by leave of this Assembly I would move:

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.

Mathieu Theodore Breker, who passed away on November 20, 2008, and was a member of this Legislative Assembly from 1964 to 1971 representing the constituency of Humboldt for the Liberals during the Ross Thatcher government.

Mr. Breker was born February 15, 1928. He grew up in Englefeld. He graduated from Humboldt high school, then attended the University of Saskatchewan where he attained a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in pharmacy.

Mr. Breker married the love of his life, Elvira, and together they raised six children. He farmed his land and worked as a pharmacist. And in 1973 Mr. Breker became the mayor of Humboldt and served in that capacity for 13 years, Mr. Speaker. And so his public service was not limited to this Assembly, but also to the council chambers in what would have been then the town of Humboldt. He served many boards and committees and was known for his sense of servant leadership.

Matt is survived and sadly missed by his wife of 55 years, Elvira, and six children — Kurt, Kevin, Karl, Kris, Eric, and Joanne. In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

So moved, 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.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to stand today and join the Premier in offering condolences and sympathy to the family of Mathieu Breker.

I wasn't in the Assembly, obviously, at the time that Mr. Breker was an MLA, but I want to say that we had several things in common. I grew up in a Liberal household, my mother being Irish Catholic. It sort of came with your baptism at that time that you would be Liberal. And some of my colleagues will understand and some other members will understand how that worked in large families that were Catholic, especially when you were . . . family had immigrated from the United States. In the United States, they were Democrat, big Kennedy fans, and we had many discussions around that.

But we came by our politics very much by being part of an Irish Catholic family and I remember very much going to Liberal meetings early in my life, going along with mom and dad. And I also remember the first time I became involved in politics — it was as a student on the Regina campus — and the first time I came home and told my parents that I was going to be supporting Allan Blakeney and the New Democratic Party. And it was a very cool reception for a long time after that.

But I just want to say that when it comes to politics, what becomes obvious — and Mathieu Breker obviously had many of these strong beliefs in being committed to this community and being an activist for over 20 years — that whether you're a Sask Party member or a Liberal or Conservative or New Democrat, people become involved in politics with the best interest in mind. And I know that Mathieu Breker and his team of that day did everything that they believed was in the best interest of the province.

When I look at the life of Mathieu Breker, I'm struck by the fact that we share two things in common: one is the love of politics, the other is the love of farming. And while Mathieu Breker was a Liberal member from the constituency of Humboldt from '64 to '71, and then he was defeated by another distinguished member, that is our dear departed friend, Ed Tchorzewski, who was a teacher in that area.

Now the fact that he was defeated doesn't necessarily speak to his popularity because he was one of the most popular MLAs, as was the member I defeated, Sonny Anderson, a Liberal in southwest Saskatchewan. He was a very, very popular individual. And I think in many ways his legacy in politics will be well remembered as being an honest, outstanding member of this Assembly.

And I just want to say that he also served as mayor for a number of years. And as many of us know who have served in this Assembly, there is life beyond. And we all have had experiences that tell us that when we complete our task here, there'll be many callings that Mathieu took up — that of farming and working with his dad near Muenster and then working with his son as he helped him get established on the farm.

So it's with emotion and a feeling of nostalgia for the period of

time that he would have represented that I want to join with the Premier and other members of the Assembly in extending to the family of Mathieu Breker our most serious and sincere sympathy and condolence. And I would second the motion.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the House for the opportunity to speak on the condolence motion for Matt Breker.

When I was a young boy, Matt Breker was my family's MLA. I remember being along with my father and stopping at the Humboldt drugstore and my dad talking with Matt about politics. Matt, being a great politician, always included me in the greeting. In later years, I in turn would stop at the drugstore and talk politics with Matt Breker.

Matt loved people. He was a very warm and genuine person with a great sense of humour. When you met him, you felt the very warm and genuine greeting. He made you feel good.

Matt was a farmer born in Englefeld and his roots never left the land. He was a great voice for agriculture. But his biggest legacy might be a simple quote that bears for all of us. And the quote is from his maiden speech in this legislature. And he said, "The province's welfare comes first and foremost. Our political lives are only incidental."

[14:45]

Mathieu's political career was not only in the legislature, but he was the mayor of Humboldt for more years than most mayors can manage. He was an outstanding person, a great people person, and a tribute to our province and communities. I would like to thank Matt and especially his family for what they endured because we know the pressure on political families. So we thank you, and we are all better off for having known him. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the one 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.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I request again leave to make a motion of condolence.

The Speaker: — The Premier has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. I recognize the Premier.

Michael Alfred Hopfner

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to members of the Assembly for leave to make another motion of condolence. I will be moving it more formally at the end of my remarks, and then I believe again the Leader of the Opposition will be seconding the motion. And I think others may also wish to speak on the motion.

Mr. Speaker, in this second motion of condolence we honour former member Michael Hopfner who was the member for Cut Knife-Lloydminster from 1982 until 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I did know Mr. Hopfner personally. I knew him as someone who worked in this building, and after about 1988 or so and prior to that, someone who was involved in youth politics. And met him, I think, for the very first time at a convention, at a political convention not unlike we just had in our own party here over the weekend.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think this is probably a trait of successful politicians — as has been alluded to very eloquently by the member for Batoche in honouring Mr. Breker — and that is that those members who are able to get elected to this place and who are able to get re-elected to this place are first of all very genuinely committed to the province, as has been noted.

And secondly they are, they just easily relate to people of all ages. And that was the case with Mr. Hopfner. He sought us out as young people at a convention, perhaps intimidated a little bit about being at an early political convention. I remember he was one who actually sought out the young people that attended and would sit down with us at tables and encourage us to be involved in the debate.

He would be one, I recall, who would specifically get up to support youth resolutions that came before the convention. Sometimes he may even had some questions about all of the detail that would have been put forward by the youth wing of the party in those resolutions, but I think he thought it important to support and encourage that kind of involvement.

And then I got to know him a little bit more later on when I had the privilege of working in this building, in ministers' offices, and found him to be an assiduous and articulate advocate for not just his constituency, not just the people of Cut Knife-Lloydminster, but for the industry that he left and then returned to after politics. And you will know, Mr. Speaker, very well — I wasn't at any caucus meetings in those years, but I expect — when matters, when issues related to the hotel industry were brought forward before the government of the day, I expect he was as articulate and as, at times, fiery on those issues on behalf of that important industry as he was when he worked directly with ministers responsible and he advocated for important changes.

Mr. Speaker, like other MLAs, I'm also aware that he worked very hard for a number of important projects in Cut Knife-Lloydminster, be they education or be they health care. And so when we remember Mr. Hopfner today, we remember someone who served the Legislative Assembly and who was

also dedicated to his constituents, but also dedicated to a very important industry in the province. We remember someone who always had time for people who were interested in politics regardless of their age. And for that I will always be grateful.

And it's an honour therefore for me to move, with leave of the Assembly:

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.

Michael Alfred Hopfner, who passed away on April 19, 2009, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1982 to 1991, representing the Cut Knife-Lloydminster constituency for the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Hopfner was born in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, on January 25, 1947. He grew up and attended school in Lake Lenore before moving to Saskatoon where he studied to become a journeyman electrician. After leaving Saskatoon, Mr. Hopfner was involved in several small-town Saskatchewan communities.

He and his wife Lori eventually settled in Lashburn and raised their family there. Mr. Hopfner is survived by his wife and two sons. Once established in Lashburn, Mr. Hopfner became very involved in municipal politics and was soon elected mayor. After provincial politics, he returned to his hotel business in Lashburn.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family. Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to so move.

The Speaker: — It's been moved by the Premier:

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

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to say a few words on the passing of former MLA Michael Hopfner who was the PC [Progressive Conservative] MLA for Cut Knife-Lloydminster from '82 to '91.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, one of the things that I think a lot of people who are not members of the Legislative Assembly don't know, and can't know because they're not here, is the friendship that often builds up and camaraderie between members of a caucus. But in many cases, across the floor with members of the opposing party as well and there are many examples of that.

And during the years that Michael was a member, of course

winning election in 1982 . . . I remember very clearly coming to the Assembly with Michael when he came for the first time. And if you can imagine, we had gone from government with a majority to eight seats in opposition. And our scraggly little crew sat right in this area here. There were 15 members of Premier Grant Devine's caucus on this side of the House and the House was full on the other side with Conservative members. And, Mr. Speaker, you will remember that because it was a very exciting time for the newly elected government, and I might add, not very exciting for the eight members of the NDP who were returned to the Assembly.

And I remember sitting where my colleague from Moose Jaw is sitting. And Mike sat right near the back and we struck up a friendship. And he was one of the people, even in those heady days of the Conservative government, who would always stop in the hall and not console, he wouldn't quite go that far, but say positive words about the role of opposition. And I quite liked his style and what he did. And he became a good friend to the point where several times . . . And the Premier has mentioned his interest in the hotel business, that we talked long and hard about the role of the hotel system across the province and how it was key to the economic development.

And when towns and communities in this province lose their hotel, it really is the beginning of the end in many cases. And he taught me a lot about — not the tipping of the glasses in the bar — but the importance of the role that a hotel plays in a community because it's much more than a place where people go to imbibe. It's a place to meet, greet, join friends, celebrate events. And without the hotel system in rural Saskatchewan, it simply wouldn't be the same.

So I wanted to rise today to join with the Premier in saying a few of these things. And I also with your approval, Mr. Speaker, would like to just add a comment from one of his other friends, Violet Stanger who replaced Mike as the member for Cut Knife-Lloydminster. And in chatting with her the other day, she remembers him too. And she described him as a small town guy from Lashburn who everybody in the area liked. And she remembers him as an avid hockey player and that he loved to be involved in community events.

And I just wanted to add that to my comments. And, Mr. Speaker, I too want to join and say on behalf of the caucus I represent and lead, our very, very, deep sympathy and condolences to the Michael Hopfner family.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to add some remarks in the remembrance of the former member Michael Hopfner from Cut Knife-Lloydminster. I think it is most appropriate that I first mention a couple of the notable things that happened in our constituency when Michael was the member.

Michael believed in Saskatchewan, and he believed that our area of the province was going to be a major part of its future and of its growth. And Michael I think must have been a leader within his caucus for some of the projects that took place in our area. And I'd like to mention a few of those.

I look around my community now and many schools were built when he was the MLA. And I would expect that it was his advocacy that we are growing and that this infrastructure is needed. Some of them are the new school in Hillmond, the Paradise Hill School. Lashburn High School was built in those years, and just a few years after it was built, the Lashburn High School expansion and gymnasium was built. And that's where I went to school and where I played my sports, Mr. Speaker.

The hospitals, the Lloydminster Hospital was built in the years that Michael was MLA as was the Maidstone Hospital and the Paradise Hill Hospital. And I think it's a real testament to Michael that he was advocating for his constituents at that time and that we were seeing the growth in our area that required this sort of infrastructure.

One thing that I was thinking about is if someone in our area was to point a finger at what is maybe the instrumental piece in the Lloydminster area that has driven a lot of its success, that people would look to as a fundamental of the growth that we've seen in the last 25 years, and I think almost everyone would say the upgrader has had a real crucial role.

And I was a young, young person at that time, but I remember how big it was that that project would come into our community and it would really allow the oilfield to flourish as a whole. It was more than just the unit itself, it meant a lot to everything and everyone. And that has been an unmitigated success for our constituency and I would argue, for our province. The upgrader has been expanded many times and is currently running at capacity, and I think financially was quite a success for the province as well.

Mr. Speaker, I got to . . . I shouldn't say I got to know Michael. I was a young, young kid and Michael was a major part of our community. I can say that Michael was never boastful. He always handled himself with utmost of respect and class. I think I was eight years old when he was first elected and I was very proud that I knew him. His oldest son, Cole, was in my class, and I knew him from kindergarten to this very day. And his oldest son Bart was one year younger. We played sports together and travelled together. And I think a lot of their family, Mr. Speaker.

At that young age, it made a large impression on me that I knew someone that had this very public role. And I thought that it was very important that this job he had was to represent me and all of our common neighbours. I never thought of his time in Regina back then. It was probably too abstract for me, but I knew that people were very proud that the premier had asked him to be Deputy Whip and have a leadership role within his caucus.

It is only now that I hear stories from some of my colleagues on both sides of the House of what Michael's roles were here in Regina and how he handled himself. And I've heard stories that he was an aggressive . . . He argued the points very aggressively and articulately. It doesn't surprise me that he was articulate, but the spirit that he brought to this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, it impresses me when I hear those stories.

It is also now that I realize while growing up with his sons that their family were making many sacrifices, and the amount of

time that he would have had to spend away from home.

[15:00]

As a kid, you don't realize about your friends' families and parents, but I know that, through personal experience of what I'm living now, that Lori, Michael's wife, would have been picking up a lot of the slack at home with their two sons and with their business, the Lashburn Hotel.

On weekends playing hockey with his sons, you know, Mike was a mainstay. He'd drive home like we do for the weekends, and he'd be in the box or running the score clock, opening the gate. He was there and part of our community. I think it's a testament to the Hopfners, Mr. Speaker, the commitment that Mike made to our community and his family continues to. Both Michael's sons still call Lashburn home. In fact Mike's grandchildren are in preschool with my oldest daughter.

And Bart, he has travelled extensively. He lived in Japan. He married a girl who was born and raised in Japan, and they decided that they wanted to move back to Saskatchewan, back to Lashburn, to raise their family. And I think that's a testament to the work that his father did — and to the community — that everyone in this Chamber at that time and currently have added to this province.

The Hopfners are business people, Mr. Speaker — Michael in the hotel industry. Cole and a couple of partners started a very successful oil field service company, and they've based it out of Lashburn, hiring dozens and dozens of people in Lashburn, running trucks, pressure trucks in the oil industry. And I know it's a very well-respected business.

In closing I would like to make a couple of comments that . . . I'd like to thank Michael Hopfner for his service to our community, his service to this Chamber. And I know that I will long remember that, as will the members of my community. I was proud to know Michael, and I'm glad that his legacy lives on through the great works that we see around us in our community every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Trew: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my — I don't know whether to say duty or pleasure — we'll call it a pleasure, to join in this condolence statement today for Michael Hopfner. First off, I want to express my condolences to Lori and her two sons and all of the Hopfner family and Mike's friends and colleagues.

I actually first met Mike Hopfner in 1975, and he was working at the time for an irrigation company. I believe it was Tofin Irrigation in Outlook. Mike was working there, and I was working for Sask Wheat Pool at the farm service centre. These many years later it seems like an entirely different lifetime and in many ways it was. But I can say this about it clearly: Mike and I both were significantly younger than I am today and he was at his passing. The Premier mentioned that Mike Hopfner related well to people and indeed he did. He related very well.

I had just moved into Outlook and decided it was a great

community to live in and was looking forward to a long future there. That lasted just over a year. And then they ran me out of town, and I wound up in Regina with a promotion with the Wheat Pool is actually what happened.

I didn't get run out of town, but Mike and I had many discussions in the early time. We'd have significant discussions. And I know that the member for Lloydminster said that Mike could be quite aggressive and strident, and I can simply say that we were both aggressive and strident. And I don't think — I'm actually feeling generous enough — I don't think it's a case of either of us being wrong. We just had our divergent beliefs, and we shared those divergent beliefs quite aggressively and stridently with each other.

And this is where we came together as happens in communities all across Saskatchewan. The senior men's hockey team was having trouble that year, 1975, getting organized. I was new to town so I don't know whether the old manager, the previous manager just quit or what. I don't know the history, never did find it out, but Mike Hopfner stepped up to the plate. Mike organized the team that year.

And so we played senior hockey together and he was the defenceman. And I'd love to tell you I was the star forward, but let's just leave it that I was a forward, one of many. And we had a good year. It was fun playing on the same team as Mike. It was fun playing hockey with Mike. And I am always grateful that he made that happen because it was part of the community, and it really enabled me to fit into Outlook a whole lot better.

To my chagrin — well to my joy — we came to Regina, and then shortly after that I think Mike and Lori moved to Lashburn where he took up the hotel business. And I thought things were going pretty good for Mr. Hopfner and the Hopfners right up until he wound up being here on the then government side of the bench in 1982. And Michael served the Chamber, I would argue, quite well.

Mike took his job seriously. I remember many, many evenings being here and sitting . . . Well in the years that Mike and I sat together, I was in opposition and he was in the Grant Devine government. But at the end of the day, many's the evening when it was Mike Hopfner's duty to say, Mr. Speaker, I move this House do now adjourn. And the rules were somewhat different in those days than they are now because we adjourn for committee, but that effectively shut the House down in those days.

And I know Mike was . . . You could always count on him to be around, and you could count on him to enter into debates. You could count on him to say exactly what he really felt. He didn't pull a whole lot of punches, but for my part I always respected that at least he believed what he was saying. And I know he did. I know he did. And he usually said it fairly well.

Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful for Michael Hopfner's service to his communities, and I say that with an "s" because it was multiple communities. I knew him from Outlook, as opposed to his Lashburn days. But I'm grateful for Mike's service, and I want to thank the Hopfner family for supporting Mike's service to the public. I think the world is in many ways a little bit better for Michael Hopfner's having lived his life with us and done the

things he did.

So thank you for this opportunity to participate in the condolence motion.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Vermette: — To ask for leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The member from Cumberland has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to introduce some guests from my home community of La Ronge. They're with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. There are 16 students. They're here to, I guess, take part and see how some of the provincial politics work. And we'll get a chance . . . I wish you guys could have been here earlier. You could have seen some of the conversation that goes back and forth and a process that's very important.

But at this time, I would like to acknowledge Roger Ratt, Faye Charles, Judy Ratt, Gregg Charles, and Sally Ross. I would just like to welcome the students as well. You're getting an opportunity to see how the provincial politics work and some of the processes that happen here. I hope you have an interesting time. You ask some questions later on when we get together.

It is an honour to have you here from my home community, to have you here. And I want to say this with all my colleagues, members: I would like to welcome you to your legislative on behalf of my colleagues anyway. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford.

CONDOLENCES (continued)

Michael Alfred Hopfner

Mr. Chisholm: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of Lashburn and surrounding area, I welcome the opportunity to say a few words and to offer condolences in light of the recent passing of a former member of this legislature, Michael Hopfner.

As has been mentioned, Michael and his wife Lori moved to the Lashburn area in 1979. He served as a councillor and mayor and in 1982 was elected to this Legislative Assembly. Lashburn was very much a community that benefited and continues to benefit from the enthusiasm and community spirit brought forth by Michael, Lori, and their two boys Cole and Bart.

Small town rivalries between Lashburn and surrounding areas, and in particular Maidstone, were much more prevalent in the '70s and '80s than they are now. But Michael and his family

played, in my mind, a key role in promoting these fun-filled activities, but continuing the rivalry. My family's association with Michael and Lori was at the rinks and the gyms, where it wasn't cool for us to be too friendly in case our sons saw us talking.

However, Mr. Speaker, as we matured — Mike and I — I had the opportunity to play old-timer hockey and golf, both with and against Mike. His zest for life, for his community, his province, and his country was always evidenced in his welcoming smile and sportsmanship. After retirement his tool belt was always within reach for those with nagging electrical situations that required attention, for his neighbours and his friends.

To his wife Lori, his sons Cole and Bart, their families, and their many, many friends, I offer our heartfelt condolences for the passing of a loving husband, father, grandfather, friend, and public servant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Before I place the question, I would ask members if I could have leave to make a few comments in regards to Mr. Hopfner.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — When I was elected in 1986 and first came to the Chamber, Michael was one of those who was one of the first to come and welcome me as a, first of all — actually in '85 — as a member of, as a candidate for the party and then in '86 as an elected member.

And as the Premier has said and a number of others have said, one thing I observed about Michael, he could be very dramatic in ensuring that his voice was heard not only in the caucus room but also in this Chamber, something we're trying to address. But he really, he had a firm love for public life, for politics — and I understood, even as we've heard from other members — his community, and his devotion to his community. And I really appreciated Michael's work.

But one thing that stood out in my mind about Michael, he was one of those MLAs who didn't just hang around with a couple, sometimes . . . but he was really part of the team. And he really went beyond, above and beyond to make sure that everyone felt a member of the team, especially in his role as Deputy Whip and then as Whip. And I truly enjoyed getting to know Michael and to appreciate him.

And one thing about Michael, for those of us especially newly elected, there was a little reluctance to stand in the Chamber and speak at any specific time. And I remember the first speech I actually gave in this Chamber. And as I was speaking, all of a sudden, someone poked me in the ribs and said, keep talking. And I thought, man I run out of notes. But then I'd recall that just a few days earlier when we were in debate and Michael had been on his feet, and he had been asked to carry the clock for the next hour and a half and to make sure we got through the House, to not allow any other member into the debate at the time.

And I don't know if we do that any more these days, but that was a period where MLAs took their responsibilities, as they do

today, very seriously. And if they were asked by the party leader or caucus Whip to just speak a few extra minutes, Michael was one you could always call upon. Really, I enjoyed Michael for his vibrant nature, his knowledge, and love for the Legislative Assembly.

But there's one thing that really stood out in my mind as we got to the later part of his life. I remember meeting Michael after a number of years — I'd stopped by to see him but kind of lost contact — at Joe Saxinger's funeral. And we were chatting with Michael and Michael informed me that he had just sold his hotel and they were now looking to retire. But he also informed me that in a week he was going to be seeing his doctor because he hadn't been feeling well. While he looked healthy, he looked strong, he just hadn't been feeling well, and at that time he wasn't aware of what was happening.

And then I remember hearing just a few short weeks later that he was struggling with cancer and he didn't have a lot of opportunity or time — doctors, medical professional wasn't giving him a lot. And you know what, what really speaks out in my mind is all of a sudden everything we were doing, all of the things and the contributions we felt we were giving to people, became somewhat second point as we began to look at the eternal nature of each and every one of us.

[15:15]

And I appreciated the opportunity of just conversing with Mike, even up to within a few weeks of his passing. One time I called him; I said, Michael. We chatted away and I said, Michael — and many of you know where I come from — I said would you mind, could we have a word of prayer together. And Michael said I'd love that.

You know, ladies and gentlemen, we have our disagreements on the floor of the House, but we also appreciate who we are as individuals. And I appreciate the comments that you've made in regards to members that we're recognizing today. And I just want to add my comments as to how much I appreciated Michael Hopfner, and express my condolences to Lori and the family at this time.

I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. With leave to make a motion of condolence.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly 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.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried. The Premier has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

Douglas Graham Taylor

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In a few moments I'll be moving more formally a motion of condolence, and I believe the Leader of the Opposition will again second that motion.

Mr. Speaker, I'll freely admit that this is a little more difficult for me personally because of a warm and lasting relationship I was fortunate enough to have with Douglas Graham Taylor, or Mr. T as many of us will always think of him. And that relationship, though on a daily basis spanned really only a couple of years — a year and a half really — it lasted beyond that. But in terms of that daily contact, it was relatively short because I was one of his ministerial assistants when he was a minister of the Crown and serving the government and the people of the province of Saskatchewan, not only as an MLA but as a member of the Executive Council.

Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. Taylor would just as soon that I would be quoting Shakespeare or one of his other favourites that he loved to quote around the office randomly from time to time. But I'm a Lincoln man, so I'm going to offer a quote from the former president. He said, "... a man's character is like a tree, and his reputation like its shadow; the shadow is what we think of it, the tree is the real thing."

I was fortunate, Mr. Speaker, and I am fortunate today because I got to experience and see the real thing when it came to Graham Taylor — not the reputation, but the character. And he possessed attributes that would be the envy of all of us, I believe, Mr. Speaker, especially in executing his duties as a public servant and as an MLA.

When I think of Mr. Taylor, I think of passion. And it manifested itself in the work ethic and how hard he worked on behalf of constituency or his files, how his day would begin at 7 when he would drive in from Wolseley and end probably maybe 10 or 11 o'clock at night when he drove back home. It manifested itself in his workday. It manifested itself in what he would accomplish during the day, and how he seemed to be tireless when it came to the meetings that had to be done. It manifested itself in terms of his work on behalf of his constituency.

And I know Mr. McCabe is here today, and he will I'm sure attest to the fact that Mr. Taylor was just an outstanding constituency person, worked tirelessly for the entire constituency. And if he had just a little bit of extra left over after he was working on Indian Head issues, he was working on Wolseley issues, was my experience, Mr. Speaker.

So that's part of the character of the man that I honour today is the passion that he had. And it was an example that he set for all of us that worked with him and got to know him and became friends with him. Because by the way, it was very difficult to work for and with Mr. Taylor and not also become a friend, and a close friend, and also not to be able to take from his example some things that have been very instructive and constructive in

my life. And I think it's true for others that worked with him.

So the tree of the thing, the character from Mr. Taylor, was also his vision — the vision that he had, not just for his own area of the province that he represented in such a dedicated way, but for the province in general. And although it was well before my time, even before my involvement in youth politics frankly, it's well known, it's a fact of history that Mr. Taylor proffered his vision for the province in the context of a leadership campaign — ran for the leadership of his party and ran strong for the leadership of his party.

And in order to do that, Mr. Speaker, anyone I think has to generally have a notion of where they'd like to take the province, should you be successful in that aspiration, or how you'd like to lead the team that you're offering yourself to into the future. You have to have a bit of a vision.

And I travelled the province with him so, Mr. Speaker, I got to get a sense for what his vision of the province was and what he felt about the potential of Saskatchewan, how Saskatchewan's best days would always be ahead of her. And it's something that I hear in this Assembly even today, and sometimes of course we've come to that conclusion independently. Some of us were introduced to that kind of a far-reaching vision because we were able to be close with, work with, in this case, Mr. Taylor.

His character was also marked by his sense of service. He was a servant. In this Assembly, he was a servant on both sides of the House for his constituents. And he was tireless in his efforts on behalf of his constituents. And then in cabinet, first as the Health minister — and again, that was before my time — he was tireless in his service to the province of Saskatchewan as the Minister of Health.

And great things were accomplished in health care in the province is certainly my read of his track record as the Minister of Health, both in terms of important capital investments, but also in terms of the issue of personnel and human resources in our health care system. Within health care I got to see from time to time how passionate he was about in particular issues.

And one I remember very distinctly from question period as a young staffer in the House when the opposition of the day was asking a question, and rightfully so, about an important issue of sudden infant death syndrome, something that was very, very close to him and to his family. And I remember that day when he was basically I think running across the floor of the Assembly to where the Minister of Health was to talk a little bit about what he had made sure was done during his time as the Minister of Health, and what the government was continuing to do with respect to monitors and some other initiatives as a result of something that was very close to him.

His character was marked by an amazing sense of humour that bordered on mischief, more often than not. And it made for a great place to work because you really didn't know what was going to happen on any given day, more often than not. And I had the chance to speak at his funeral in Wolseley, and I told this story, there's another one I'm going to tell with a few editorial adjustments in it.

But I will say that one story I told at the funeral, which is true, is that the front-line staff in the office were always a little bit worried about what Mr. Taylor would come to the office with. Because more often than not — I mean I should say regularly, probably once a month it seemed — he would come to the office with a big garbage bag. Usually the garbage bag would be dripping blood.

So when I first started, Mr. Speaker, and saw that I was a little bit worried and concerned about what was happening. What was happening was that Mr. Taylor would drive in every single day from Wolseley. And all too often, unfortunately, he may happen across wildlife that had been hit by another vehicle on the road — wildlife that he believed was worthy of memorializing. And so he would bring in a lot of snowy owls, it seemed. But not just snowy owls that were . . . unfortunately had lost their lives.

And right across from us, in the office across from us up on the third floor, was then the Minister of, I think it was Parks; I'm not sure of the name just now. But Mr. Maxwell; Colin Maxwell was his name. And he would bring the bag in there for awhile, and then he'd go across the hall and Mr. Maxwell would have the ministerial people do the taxidermy which would stay in the building. And I've seen some actual artifacts that have long survived Mr. Taylor's time here that are still here today, and I know that ministries have them from around the place. And you know that was kind of an interesting place to work when that would happen.

There was other stories I could tell. I'll share one, that I'll maybe do a little bit of editorial adjustment to, about his passion for people not just with respect to constituents, but across the province. I remember shortly after becoming one of his staffers I got a call from my mom who happened to be on the board of the Palliser Regional Care Centre — or hospital as it was known at the time — in Swift Current. She phoned to say that the board had been working hard to get the attention of then SPMC [Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation] property management who of course — now it's Government Services — but of course they were responsible for all of the buildings around the province.

The board of the Palliser was trying hard to get their attention because of what was happening at that regional health care facility, a geriatric facility as it was known at the time. The plumbing wasn't working very well, and literally those who were able to shower on their own would get, every once in awhile, alternating blasts of different temperature water which was obviously unacceptable. And the board was just having a hard time, as too often — I mean it happens sometimes in government, I guess — there's not calls returned as quickly as everyone would like and there was a bit of an issue.

And so my mom phoned me up and said, I understand you're working for this gentleman who I think he's the minister of this thing that we're, you know . . . And she explained the whole story. And I said, yes that's not my area in the office, but I guess I'll raise it with him. I was still pretty nervous and worried at the time. And I had the chance to raise it with Mr. Taylor as we were heading to Saskatoon. I was going to staff him at a meeting. And he said, when we get back to the office, have the head of the SPMC there at the office, and we'll have a

meeting.

And well, a long story short, and perhaps the most colourful exchange that I've ever seen occurred after that because Mr. Taylor and this official that was head of SPMC, they were also good friends. And so the official knew when Mr. Taylor was serious, but maybe, you know, being also reasonable about it. And I'll never forget that exchange between the two of them.

And I'll never forget the call I got about three days later from my mom saying, I don't know what Mr. Taylor did, but we've gotten a call from the officials and the plumbing is fixed, and people are happy. I mean it was just something that needed to be done immediately. And Mr. Taylor understood the importance of prompt action and how sometimes government needs to be reminded that it is the servant and not the master.

Mr. Taylor was known for some trademarks. Trademark boots, for example. He wore I think cowboy boots every single day right up until the very end when he was the self-appointed tour guide and ambassador for Wolseley and enjoyed wearing cut-offs but still cowboy boots. And he wore, well I mean, boots, cowboy boots are really for all occasions. They're good with suits; they're good with cut-offs; it doesn't really matter. It certainly didn't matter to Mr. Taylor.

There are a few other trademarks of his. He used to say that, you know, his two favourite kinds of music were country and western. And we listened to a lot of that as we would travel around.

And there's one other attribute of Mr. Taylor, of his character, that is the tree of the thing — and not the shadow, not the reputation — and that is his love for family, his family. And his unqualified commitment to his family evidenced by the fact that he would drive home every night. And there too is an example that some of us have found worthy of trying to emulate, although it's just impossible for many because of distances that we may live from home. Wolseley was a little closer. But every single night, he'd leave the office and head home to Wolseley and talk endlessly about his kids. He talked a lot about Peter when we were together, but all of his kids. And we were able to become fast friends.

Those that had the honour of serving with Mr. Taylor and his kids and especially his wonderful wife Isabel — Mrs. Taylor and Katherine are here representing their family today — but like her husband, Isabel was just . . . It was just a great honour to get to know her and become fast friends and close and lasting friends with her.

He had a love for horses that we were reminded of all of the time. And his passion manifested itself in the fact that I think he had a race horse or two. I know they didn't do as well as he would hope that they would do. He would give us the report every now and then from Saskatoon and would make jokes about wondering that maybe they're not really, they shouldn't be thoroughbreds, they should be standardbreds. They should be, they were more trotters really than anything else on some occasions. And he had great jokes and stories about that.

We have said about all of those that we have honoured today that there are examples in all of them. And there was an

understanding, at least I began in terms of my comments about Mr. Breker, in saying that we stand on the shoulders of those who have went before us. And for no one is that more true for me personally, for no one is that more true than Mr. Taylor because I have, I got to see in him first-hand the kinds of things that can make you successful in public life and received first-hand from him important lessons that I still try to adhere to, try to follow today.

[15:30]

At the very end of things, we thought actually we were through the woods because Mr. Taylor had come through a very difficult incident with respect to his heart. And we were getting emails at home and, you know, in true Mr. Taylor fashion, I think when everyone was sort of thinking . . . well didn't have a lot of hope left, he pulled through and he was fine.

And you know, it wasn't very long after that that I got the call that he had passed away quite suddenly after . . . I think he was at a town meeting in Wolseley, engaged in Wolseley affairs and was walking home and suffered his heart attack. And so it did take us all by surprise. Even though he had been fighting for his health only months earlier, he had come through that in typical Graham Taylor fashion. And we lost him all too soon.

But towards the end when I was even able to talk to him, he had also developed a new reference, Mr. Speaker. He also had developed an interest in matters of the heart, matters of faith. And I think part of that was some of the leadership from his family as well and encouragement. And I would have liked to have been there for some discussions and debates; I bet you they were pretty good. And we heard the story at his funeral about some important developments that had happened in his life in respect of that which also was very greatly encouraging for all of us to hear at the funeral.

So we will miss him. I will miss him, Mr. Speaker. And I know that his family misses him deeply and desperately. And we offer our condolences to them today on his passing, and we thank them for sharing with the province of Saskatchewan, sharing him with all of us.

And, Mr. Speaker, we should close with that, perhaps a final image of Mr. Taylor. And I don't remember the whole story — Katherine told it at the funeral — but this is absolutely vintage Graham Taylor, and it's perfect. Apparently — well I think it was this last summer, when he was the self-appointed ambassador for Wolseley — he would wait to see coming across that beautiful bridge in Wolseley, that walking bridge, he'd wait and look for tourists, people that were obviously not from there. And then he would go to meet them with his cowboy hat and his cut-offs and his cowboy boots, I think.

And this one couple apparently, he reported later to Katherine, he engaged in conversation. And they wanted to ask about the amazing community of Wolseley and how . . . I mean, understand that they've just met a man who is in cowboy hats, cut-offs, and cowboy boots, and he's just sort of there to welcome them to their town. And they get talking a little bit about Wolseley, amazed at how beautiful it is, amazed at all of these assets the community has. I think their first question was about the bridge itself, I think. And they said, well how did this

bridge get here?

I know, Katherine, we could correct the record. If I get the story wrong, we'll correct it for *Hansard*. But I believe they asked about this bridge and how it got here. And he said, well I used to be the MLA for this area — picture how he's looking now — and I actually used to be the minister of something called Property Management Corporation. And there was a chance for government to be investing in these kinds of things and so I was part of that and I helped get this bridge here. You know, I had played a role in that.

And they kind of just wanted to move on from that and they said, well what about that beautiful building over there? What is that? And he said, oh that's the nursing home. That's the nursing home. He said, you know, when I was the MLA I also got to be the minister of Health. And in addition to a number of other facilities, I built that too. I got to be a part of building that too. Imagine. And he apparently told Katherine he could see the doubt in their eyes. Here's a crazy guy that's met them on the other side of the bridge, claiming credit for all of the things in Wolseley.

But you see, what they didn't know, Mr. Speaker, is that a man's character — and if I can be so bold as to amend this — maybe a man's achievement is like a tree and his reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of; the tree is the real thing. And that was the real thing. That day they met Mr. Taylor, a pretty average guy, but pretty extraordinary, average gentleman and one who served this province with distinction, one who clearly left things better than he found them. And I'm honoured to be able to honour him in some small way today and to offer our condolences to his family.

Mr. Speaker, the motion reads as follows:

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.

Douglas Graham Taylor, who passed away October 7, 2009, was a well-respected member of this Legislative Assembly from 1978 until 1990, representing the constituency of Indian Head-Wolseley for the Progressive Conservatives.

He served in a number of cabinet posts including as minister of Health from 1982 to 1986. Graham's other cabinet positions included the minister of Tourism and Small Business, the minister of Supply and Services which later became Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation, the minister of Tourism, Small Business and Co-operatives, and the minister of Public Participation.

Mr. Taylor was born July 4, 1936. He grew up in Candiak, Saskatchewan; attended high school in Wolseley. He received a Bachelor of Education and a postgraduate certificate in education administration.

Mr. Taylor married his high school sweetheart, Isabel Garden, on the 3rd of October, 1959, and together they

had five children. He began his teaching career in Kipling and was the principal of the Wolseley High School from 1967 to 1979. Following politics, Mr. Taylor became the agent general for Saskatchewan in Hong Kong.

He was passionate about horses, his community, and this province. Graham was the director and founder of the Qu'Appelle Valley Science Fair, past president of the Indian Head Superintendency Teachers' Association, member of the Qu'Appelle Valley Principals Association.

Graham is survived and sadly missed by his wife of 50 years, Isabel, and four kids: Robert, Katherine, Susan, and Peter.

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

It's my honour to so move.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion 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.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to rise with the Premier and others who will make a few comments here today. I express, on behalf of the caucus, our sorrow and sympathy and extend that to Isabel and Katherine who are with us today, but also to the other family members. And obviously I didn't know Mr. Taylor as the Premier did. I knew him and very much respected and enjoyed his company.

The debate of the day back in that period . . . From '78 to 1990 of course was the heyday of the Devine government, and it was an exciting time in many ways, and the great debates that went on here in the Assembly. And I think people's memories of that period often fade, but a number of the people who were sitting on that side of the Assembly — and Graham was one of them — people like Gary Lane and Pat Smith and Gordon Currie, Joan Duncan, Mr. McLeod, these were very able people. And the debates that went on at the time, and it was intimidating because obviously when you have a government with 56 members and you had eight, you get almost blown out the door at the back. And, Mr. Speaker, you'll remember those were exciting times.

And of all the ministers, whether it was Paul Schoenhals or the brilliant debaters going back and forth, and I remember . . . I comment on Gary Lane in particular because he was the person I had the most difficulty with, and we've chatted about this many times since, but he was a powerful speaker. But the best minister of all, and this is confirmed by my good friend, Ned Shillington — we did a little survey when we were talking about Graham the other day — we both agreed that Graham

Taylor was the best person to put the point of the government across and put the opposition in their place. And of course every government needs that, and every opposition needs that.

But Mr. Taylor was brilliant in the House. And he had a way of explaining things in a very practical way that we would have a difficult time answering your supplement question because Graham had covered off all three of your supplements. And it was very disarming.

And at a time when eight members were expected to carry the House . . . Because the strategy at that time was not that you had Fridays off; we sat some sessions over 100 days. It was a very, very difficult time. And I remember Graham as being one of the best adversaries that I've ever dealt with.

But having said that, he was also the kind of guy . . . And I remember going to CPA [Commonwealth Parliamentary Association] meetings, one in particular in Toronto, where we simply forgot about politics and we had one of the best times, of my life at any rate, just travelling around, talking about small communities, and talking about CPA issues. And I think it also tells us that from time to time in this business we should simply forget about the fact that we're on different sides and from time to time just enjoy each others' company.

Because I don't think getting to know each other personally is a bad thing because at the end of the day — I say it again — we're all here for the common good of the province. We may see it differently, but the fact of the matter is we're here with the blessing, at least for the short period we're here, of our constituents. And I know that Mr. Taylor understood that.

The areas that Mr. Taylor was the minister for, and the Premier has mentioned Health and privatization . . . Or we called it privatization. Graham did a better job at calling it Public Participation. And that was always the challenge of words, and I think most of the time he won. Because I would go out to rural communities and they'd be talking about Public Participation, and I knew my message wasn't getting across as well as Graham's because I was the critic for privatization.

And I mean that still goes on. And we have these debates in the House, and I think it's a wonderful thing, Mr. Speaker, to have known someone like Graham Taylor who took his responsibility here seriously but he didn't take himself seriously. And I think many of the comments that the Premier has made today show what a very interesting individual he was.

So I want to say in closing that I want to join with the Premier and other members who will speak in wishing the very sincere condolences and sympathy to the family members who are here, but importantly to the family members who aren't, and just know that Graham was a very special man, a special friend, and we all miss him.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health, the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege as well to stand in my place and add a few words to the record regarding Mr. Graham Taylor. I had the opportunity of meeting Graham a number of times of

course as I would when I would be in the community of Indian Head or communities around Sentaluta and running into him at various events. I also had the opportunity of having Graham come to my office a few times and lobby for different interests regarding Wolseley and the surrounding area.

But what I have heard more than . . . Maybe I would know Graham perhaps a little bit better from the stories that I've heard of Graham from around the community of Indian Head maybe more than just my experiences with him. And what I would say is that Graham represented the constituency of Indian Head-Wolseley for three terms, from '78 to 1990. And in 1995, that constituency was then redistributed to become . . . Wolseley went into of course, as you would know, the constituency of Moosomin. And Indian Head was then combined with the community of Milestone — and more where I was from — to create the constituency of Indian Head-Milestone.

Now I can only speak for the constituents that I represent in that Indian Head and Sentaluta area, that I think they would probably agree the best MLA they've ever had or will have happens to be Graham Taylor. Now I won't speak for the constituents of Wolseley. Now that's up to the member from Moosomin to talk about that, but I certainly do know that the people in Indian Head had a great and have a great respect for Graham Taylor and the work that he did.

You know, it's interesting, and I have only had the opportunity to be the Minister of Health in our new government for two years and four months and an extra day or two there. Now Graham had the opportunity to be the minister of Health for four years. And because I haven't served in any other portfolio, I can only speak for the Ministry of Health and acting as the Minister of Health — I don't know if it's the same perhaps in Finance or perhaps in Justice — but there's, I think there's a bit of a fraternity of ministers of Health.

I know there are a number sitting on the opposite benches who have been ministers of Health, and they realize some of the trials and tribulations you have to go through. It isn't necessarily a numbers game; it's a human services game. And I don't mean it game as far as lightly — some very, very tough decisions — and I don't think anyone could serve for four years without having to struggle at night with some of the decisions that have to be made. I know it's a tough position because right now at two years, four months, and two days I think I'm the longest serving Minister of Health in Canada because they tend to turn over.

So a tenure of four years is really quite remarkable. And dealing with some of the situations and discussions and, as we heard today, negotiations that can weigh on a person, certainly Graham knew them very, very well.

[15:45]

He did a great job for his constituents. We know that, and I've heard that many, many times. The Premier referred to a special care home that is in Wolseley. And you know, I don't know if you can say that it, in large part, by far the strongest proponent of that facility probably in the, prior to it being built and after it was built, was certainly Graham.

In fact, a few of the times that he would be in my office to meet on various issues, it wasn't necessarily on the long-term care facility. But I'll guarantee before the door was shut, before he left, he had worked the special care home from Wolseley into the conversation somehow. It could have been a conversation on something completely different, but I knew that there was always wanting to be an expansion of beds in Wolseley because the facility has some capacity there. And he was certainly, he did a great job of bringing that up any time that he was in my office.

I remember the first couple of times that I met him in my office. You know, Graham wasn't a tall, wasn't an imposing structure, physical structure of a man when he came in, but all he had to do was start talking and, boy, could he get your attention.

He was a great lobbyist and a great proponent for his constituents of Indian Head-Wolseley and then of course, near the end, of just the community of Wolseley, as the Premier said, as the self-proclaimed ambassador. What a great job he did — but not only just for the community of Wolseley, not only for the constituents of Indian Head-Wolseley at the time, but I truly believe was a huge ambassador for this whole province and did just a marvellous job. It is a great honour to be able to represent some of the people that he had the ability to represent. Thank you.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the opportunity to enter into the debate on the condolence motion. And I'm not going to take much time, but I have a couple of things I'd like to say.

Prior to my election in 1986, I was very active in my community in Saskatoon and I had the opportunity to meet Graham Taylor, along with a number of other people that were lobbying for a group home for autistic teenagers and adults. And we worked very hard to try and convince the government — and Graham was the minister of Health at the time — that we should have a group home facility for young adults because we knew how difficult it could be for the families of those young adults to be with them day in and day out.

And I happened to live on a street where we had two — well actually three — autistic young men. And their families were getting pretty worn out. And what I appreciated about Graham was that when he met with us he did everything he could back in Regina, as we would say, to ensure that that facility was opened. And the facility was opened shortly after I was elected in 1986, and I really appreciated the fact that he invited me to the opening of the facility for autistic young men. That's my first observation about Graham Taylor.

The second observation was that Graham was a huge advocate for persons who are mentally challenged. And what I remembered about him was that he was a fierce debater in the legislature — fierce. And when the member from Indian Head-Wolseley talks about his stature, it wasn't his imposing stature. It was the voice. And what I appreciated about Graham was that he had this tremendous voice in the legislature and he was a tremendous debater, but under it all he had his soft side.

And instinctively . . . I don't know if people knew that, but I instinctively knew that he cared about people who didn't have all of the luxuries of life that many of us take for granted day in and day out.

I happened to be the critic for privatization after I was the critic of Health, and at that time the government made the decision to privatize Sask Minerals and the peat plant in northern Saskatchewan, up by Carrot River. And Graham had gone out to give the word to the workers, and Lorne Calvert and I went there shortly thereafter and we met with them. And I'm not sure that he was very happy that we were following him around, but that was the nature of politics in those days. And when we came back to the legislature . . . And as the Leader of the Opposition said, he was the minister responsible for Public Participation. We called it privatization. And he went about doing the work of the government in those days, and there are a number of Crown entities that were privatized. And we had many, many debates in this Assembly.

I remember the potash debate and I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, you remember that debate. For those of us that now enjoy this calendar where we come in here in March and we go home after the long weekend and we come back in the fall, in those days there was no such thing as a calendar. And we stayed in this Assembly. I think it started in March and we stayed until November. No one had holidays or anything like that. People were trying to, you know, work around having families and balancing work and families but that wasn't the expectation. You were to be here, and we were.

So to Mrs. Taylor, I served the Assembly with Mr. Taylor, Graham Taylor, from 1986 to 1990. He was, as I said, not an imposing presence in terms of physical stature, but he had physical stature in terms of his ability to debate the issues. He may have learned that as a teacher in teacher's college, a principal who had to keep all of those kids in line. I'm not sure. But there were many occasions when he kept us in line.

And I just want to say that from my point of view as a young person that was not particularly involved in politics before 1986, but was interested and active in the community, I will always appreciate that he listened to parents of autistic young adults and he put in place that group home in Saskatoon. So I say, thank you.

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

Ms. Ross: — Thank you. I would also like to rise in the Legislative Assembly today and speak to the motion of condolence for Graham Taylor. Now I haven't known the Taylor family for years like some of the members here. However I did have the wonderful opportunity of working very closely with the Taylor family in 2003 election. That's when Graham and Isabel's son, Robert, chose to run for the Saskatchewan Party. And Katherine Gagne, Robert's sister, was his campaign manager. And I got an opportunity to see the master at work.

He had instilled in his children the love of public service and commitment to this province of Saskatchewan. It was a treat and it was an honour to be able to work side by side with them.

I'm not going to look at them right now because I know it will . . . But I had an opportunity to also see what a dedicated family man he was. And his children loved him dearly.

I know when I spoke to Katherine over the summer many times, she explained how tough it was to see her dad in such bad physical shape. But they willed him better at that point. So it was kind of a unique situation that he happened to pass away doing something he really loved which was walking down the streets in his wonderful town of Wolseley.

I know when I was elected in 2007, I had undertaken a public service announcement and the phone rang after that and it was Graham saying, way to go girl; you did us proud. And I felt so pleased that he paid attention, he paid attention to someone like myself. And so I felt so honoured that he had taken the time to pick up the phone to call me, but also to realize that this was a man who never forgot his province, never forgot his family. So I think we were all the richer for having someone like Graham Taylor committed to this province of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour today to stand and say a few words to Isabel and Katherine and Ken McCabe — Ken being a friend of theirs — about Graham Taylor. I want to start by saying I served in the Chamber with Mr. Taylor from '86 until he left. And one of the major differences: I'm still here. One of these years I'll get it right and then I'll be able to take my leave. But in 1986, Mr. Speaker, I was the youngest New Democrat elected in that crew. I was the kid of the caucus in 1986. As I have said, it seemed like, in many ways, a lifetime ago.

As the kid of the opposition caucus — I say this in as nice a way as I can now — man, did I dislike Graham Taylor. Because as has been pointed out, he could make points that were so difficult to refute. He had that commanding presence that I didn't really appreciate because he wasn't on my team. But I know that I would have appreciated them hugely if we'd been on exactly the same team at that time. So I say that to help you with a sense of pride for Graham and the work that he did. He was really an inspirational person.

There was one other thing that I should share. I was the buddy MLA in Indian Head-Wolseley, which was the opposition shadow, and I spent a lot of time working out there. And I have to tell you that — this is particularly for the Taylors, but for government members — every time Graham's name would come up and they would talk about his being a teacher and being a principal, I knew I had to change the subject. I had to get on some solid ground for us because he had such a stellar reputation as a teacher and as a principal and he was so genuinely well liked in that community. But I learned quickly, you know, you just would find something else to talk about. Anything else was better than that. But Graham, as I say, an interesting person.

I see by the bio . . . I didn't realize he had been minister of so many portfolios. It's not a huge multitude, but I note with interest that he was a member of what became Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation. So again I say, we shared

that. I served as the minister responsible for Property Management Corp for just over a year when we formed the government. So Graham and I shared that small piece of history.

It was about 1988 or '89 when . . . I've got to tell a short story about when I met Ken McCabe and I was trying to get the nomination for the New Democrats out of the way. Ken came as the owner/publisher of the *Indian Head News*, came and he covered the nomination. And we had a gymnasium, school gymnasium just packed with people and it was an exciting time.

And at one point, I was introducing the NDP candidates who had been nominated from various constituencies. And I said, and there's Ron Wormsbecker and he's going to beat . . . And you think I could remember Lorne Hepworth's name? We've all had those moments. But I could not remember Lorne Hepworth who was a member of cabinet and serving in Weyburn. I couldn't remember his name. So I said, there's Ron Wormsbecker; he's going to defeat Buggy. And of course the place just erupted with laughter. And then I remembered it and then I went on and said, you know, for those of you who don't know Buggy, it's Lorne Hepworth — whom I have considerable respect for, incidentally. Mr. Hepworth also served this place well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by again, I guess, where I started, by saying that Graham Taylor had a terrific reputation as a teacher, I know as a mentor to many, as a servant, and as a servant to the public, and a servant to Saskatchewan. I know that our province is better for Graham's service. I know that. I know it deeply.

And I know that it's a bittersweet moment, particularly for Isabel having been married for 50 years. I was so pleased to find out, childhood sweetheart. I know it makes you smile, Isabel. And it does our hearts all good to know that life can be pretty darn good for a pretty long time, and unfortunately it wasn't a little longer. But we're very grateful for Graham Taylor's service, and we're grateful to you and the entire family for the support.

And again I say to our friend Ken McCabe, welcome to the Assembly. And it's good to see you here honouring your friend, our friend, Graham Taylor. Mr. Speaker, it's been an honour to speak to this condolence motion.

[16:00]

The Speaker: — Before placing the question, I too would ask for leave to make a few comments. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you. As a number of members have already indicated, I've had the privilege of serving with Mr. Taylor, getting to know him first of all following my nomination and then election in 1986. Let me say this about Mr. Taylor: he was an individual who really took an interest in all of the MLAs.

And even as a minister, he recognized that the reason he sat on the front benches is because there were more members on his

side of the House than there were on the other side of the House. And he would always come to the back when the House adjourned, and as the member from Saskatoon Nutana mentioned the lengthy days, and in those days we also sat three evenings.

And when we'd break for supper, Mr. Taylor was probably one of the first ministers on numerous occasions who came to the back. And he'd say to those of us who were fairly new backbenchers, where are you going for supper tonight? Can I join you? And then we'd go out for supper together. And that's how a lot of us really got to know Mr. Taylor more comfortably and got to know who he was as a man — not just by observing his actions, but he put his words to action, his feet to action as well.

I can also remember the very first banquet after I was elected as an MLA. And I invited Mr. Taylor because he had been, as we've heard, a teacher in the community of Kipling. Well we filled the hall. That was easy. And I regret that I didn't actually take that opportunity more often to invite Mr. Taylor because wherever he had served, people knew him. And it wasn't necessarily the fact that I had to work that hard, the fact that Mr. Taylor was going to be the guest speaker, it was a lot easier to get tickets sold to an event. He certainly was a drawing card.

He was an individual who, whether he was in opposition or in government, took his politics seriously. And members have also brought out the fact of how he represented his constituents. And we have guests with us today, not only his wife and Katherine, but Mr. McCabe, who will vouch for the fact that he was an individual who stood up for his constituency and fought for his constituency.

But not only that. As the Premier said, he had a vision for the province and in seeking the leadership. And in 1979, I believe, is when he sought the leadership. And I remember that debate.

And what was interesting about the politics in those days as well, and the opposition members can attest to this, how all the parties endeavoured to, at least the day before or a couple days before, to fill a facility someplace. It was fill the Centre of the Arts or fill the centre of the arts in Saskatoon; it wasn't just a small hall. And you worked to get people there. And the opposition members did their thing and the government did their thing just to let people know. And Graham was one of those who was very instrumental in encouraging members to get their constituents out so we could just be one step better than the opposition. He was a man who cared for his province.

Well there were a number of stories as the ambassador for Wolseley I was going to talk about, but I won't talk about that. I'll talk a little bit about a couple of the incidents in chatting with Mr. Taylor. I remember when he went to Hong Kong and chatting with Graham and Isabel. And they were telling me of how they arrived in Hong Kong and they had this little suite, but there was absolutely nothing in it. So they went shopping and they had all these bags and no way of really communicating, trying to figure out how are they going to get back to their suite with all these shopping bags in their hands. And Graham very ingeniously went back to the store and he bought a broom. And they hung all the bags on the broom and they walked down the street, got their groceries to their place of

residence.

And then a little later in life, after they had come back, I was chatting with Graham again. We hadn't see each other for a while and we were chatting about our families. And Graham said this to me. He said, I know you'll understand this. He said, you should see those daughters of mine on the streets in Hong Kong just preaching up a storm. That was just exactly how he expressed it. He was just so proud of his family and of some of the stands they had taken and the excitement he brought to his life.

You know the interesting thing about Mr. Taylor as well was, while he wasn't actively involved anymore, you can't say he wasn't actively involved. He still had an interest in politics. And I took great pleasure in calling up Graham or listening to Graham or looking him up on, whether it was on his acreage. You go out to the acreage, and as the Premier mentioned, didn't matter where I saw him, especially in the summertime with cut-offs, cowboy boots, and his cowboy hat. And we get talking, and of course the discussion always got around to looking after the elderly, caring for people, providing services.

And right up to his dying day, I know we were working on a little project. We've got a ways to go yet there, Isabel, but we had a little project that he had in mind of maybe some alternatives to some of the ideas that were being presented at the time. And I'm looking forward to just sharing some of that. I've thrown out the broad spectrum with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Social Services, basically passing on what Graham brought to my attention. Would this work to meet the needs of people who aren't heavy care but need some care? How do we meet that immediate need?

And as the Premier said, and a couple other members, I remember meeting him — it was about this time last year — in the General Hospital when he was struggling for his life with a second incident with his heart. And then how he rallied through that. And then through the summer it just looked, well, Graham's here. We've got him here for quite a while yet. And then unfortunately, his untimely passing.

I will always remember his commitment to his community, to his province, but as has been said, to his wife and his family. And as the MLA for the constituency that now has the community of Wolseley in, I want to extend my condolences to Isabel, Katherine, the family. To Ken, thank you so much for joining us. And thank you so much for joining me earlier today, and the fact that we could share some of our thoughts together about husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

At this time I will place the motion to be presented 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.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave to move a motion of transmittal.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move by the leave of the Assembly:

That notwithstanding rule 8.2 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, an audio-video record of the oral tributes, together with a *Hansard* transcript and the resolutions adopted, be communicated in memory of the deceased to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader by leave of the Assembly:

That notwithstanding rule 8.2 of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, an audio-video record of the oral tributes, together with a *Hansard* transcript and the resolutions adopted, be communicated in memory of the deceased to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Why is the member from Weyburn on his feet?

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — To ask leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — The member for Weyburn has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to the other members of the Assembly, it's a great honour and a privilege for me to introduce a special guest seated in the west gallery. Mr. Speaker, today we're joined by Judy Buzowetsky who is from Weyburn, splits her time between Weyburn and Blaine Lake. And, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Buzowetsky was a long time teacher at the Weyburn Junior High.

It'd be interesting to know how many students she actually had throughout her career as a teacher. My wife was one of her students, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Buzowetsky has been a University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors member. She has a long affiliation with the Red Cross. And, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Saskatchewan I believe in 1996 presented her with the Volunteer Medal, Mr. Speaker.

I think, Mr. Speaker, there's probably not a person who has been to a Throne Speech or a budget speech or dare I say to an event at Government House who hasn't probably had the pleasure of meeting Judy Buzowetsky. And so I'd ask all members to help me welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Broten: — With leave to join the member opposite in welcoming Ms. Buzowetsky.

The Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Massey Place has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join the member opposite in joining the guest to the gallery. I'm not from her home area, but I have had the privilege of chatting with her during a number of convocation ceremonies at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan].

And it's always interesting to be with her because she takes note, I know, of every student that she's had contact with that are passing across the stage, and rightfully so takes a great deal of pride in the role that she's played with many successful students and the role that she's played in the senate of the University of Saskatchewan. So I'd like to join with the member in welcoming her to her legislature.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 129 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*. Mr. Speaker, the procedure for the enforcement of money judgments in Saskatchewan has not changed significantly for decades. It has never been consolidated into a cohesive, comprehensive procedure.

Instead a number of outdated Acts such as *The Executions Act* and *The Exemptions Act* combine to create an inconsistent and difficult legislative framework that requires a great deal of expertise and effort used with little certainty of success. This had led to the legitimate concern for individuals who've gone through the court process, that their judgment is of limited value

since it is difficult, if not impossible, to enforce for an average person.

Mr. Speaker, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* will repeal *The Executions Act*, *The Exemptions Act*, *The Creditors' Relief Act*, *The Absconding Debtors Act*, and *The Attachment of Debts Act*. It will introduce a new, comprehensive, modern, and effective money judgment enforcement process. Under the proposed Act, a judgment will have to be recorded in the judgment registry to use the new enforcement process. This will create a province-wide searchable public registry where all judgments that are capable of immediate enforcement will be recorded and priority will be determined.

Mr. Speaker, the Act will also update the exemption protection available to debtors in the enforcement process to ensure that Saskatchewan's traditional debtor protection regime is rationalized and fundamentally retained. Property other than exempt property that is subject to an enforcement charge may be seized and sold by an enforcement officer. Mr. Speaker, the distribution of the proceeds of an enforcement proceeding follows the principle of pro rata distribution among those creditors who have given an enforcement instruction to an enforcement officer.

Mr. Speaker, this new legislation will remove a host of procedural burdens and legislative inadequacies in this process. Instead they will be replaced by a rationalized exemptions process that ensures the debtor's basic needs are protected, while allowing creditors to proceed to enforce their judgments in an effective manner. This Bill is based on a draft Bill prepared by professors Ronald Cumming and Tamara Buckwold at the University of Saskatchewan, as well as on legislation recommended by the Uniform Law Conference of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, all members of this Assembly will recognize that it is only right to ensure that someone who follows the rules through the judicial process and obtains the money judgment be able to effectively enforce that judgment. Mr. Speaker, this also impacts victims of crime who have obtained a restitution order and wish to enforce that as well. It is the intention of this legislation to see that creditors are much better served by our judicial enforcement process. Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 129, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise to speak at second reading of Bill No. 129, as the Minister of Justice has just indicated is, *An Act respecting the Enforcement of Judgments for the payment of money, making consequential amendments to certain Acts and repealing certain Acts*.

[16:15]

Mr. Speaker, this is a consolidation, as the minister indicated, of a number of pieces of legislation and practices over the years that have been put in place and used to assist creditors, Mr.

Speaker, particularly creditors achieve the beneficial results of a court order.

But, Mr. Speaker, anyone who has the opportunity to take a look at Bill No. 129 knows that it is of a great deal of substance. When the minister indicated that, in his remarks when the minister indicated that previously to this Act being introduced and ultimately to be passed, the process required a great deal of expertise. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think one can argue that expertise is still required, regardless of the consolidation.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who has a chance to look at this Act knows, just by simple looking, it's 111 pages in length. Mr. Speaker, 111 pages, I would argue, that's still trying to understand how all this works, still requires a fair bit of expertise. And, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the legal profession is still going to want to look at the arguments that are made in this consolidation, equate that to past practice, and would still want to provide considerable amount of advice to anyone who is seeking enforcement of judgments.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that enforcement of judgments has always been a challenge in this province, across Canada, actually across North America, Mr. Speaker, because there's always two sides to this question before judgment is rendered. Mr. Speaker, you always have two individuals or two corporations or organizations or an individual and a corporation or an organization and an individual. Mr. Speaker, there's always two arguments that are made before a judgment is rendered. And, Mr. Speaker, there are those who are seeking to receive payment for something they feel that they deserve, and there are others who feel that the payment may not be justified or cannot be made, Mr. Speaker.

This consolidation doesn't address the emotional activity, engagement of individuals that may occur before a judgment is rendered. It simply ensures that there is a fair dealing with the circumstances after a judgment is rendered, Mr. Speaker. But we can't forget that even after judgment is rendered there are still considerable emotions that are tied up in that judgment. And that is why a process, understandable and fair, is required to ensure that enforcement of that judgment can be made simply and obviously to the benefit of the person or organization or corporation to whom the judgment benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I had expected the minister to take a little more time in outlining some of the changes that may have been made in the process, Mr. Speaker. If he wants us to believe that the old way was difficult for the average person to get enforcement, then I would have thought he might have explained a little bit more how this consolidation makes it less difficult for the average person to find enforcement.

He talks about a new, modern enforcement process. Well, Mr. Speaker, nothing he said in his remarks indicates really that there is much new or modern here, other than the fact that it's been consolidated, put into one place and perhaps easier for the legal profession to make reference on behalf of their clients, or perhaps for the average person, as the minister describes some of the individuals, the average person to simply read the whole thing and get an understanding of what is and what is not the process relating to a judgment.

And likely, Mr. Speaker, again you have two groups who may have some emotional commitment to the judgment that would want to read the Act and understand how fair is this process. There is indeed the creditor to whom the judgment has said money or objects are to be transferred in favour of the creditor. And there are also, Mr. Speaker, those who may still argue the judgment was not fair or perhaps wants to know what the process does to ensure that their ability to meet other obligations continues to be fair.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stress just a couple of things in my remarks here for members of the public. And I want to stress these things because there's always concerns, Mr. Speaker, when people are confronted with the idea that something that you have may be taken from you in the interests of someone else. And so, Mr. Speaker, this whole prospect about exemptions is important for people to understand, both those who are seeking transfer from one to another in their favour and those who may not wish to see any transfer take place. So, even after judgment, Mr. Speaker, there are certain exemptions which I think people need to know about.

Mr. Speaker, the minister did not indicate whether or not there are new exemptions in the Act or whether the consolidation simply brings the old exemptions into one place. Mr. Speaker, this is something that I think that, when we have a little more time to review the legislation and discuss it with the minister in committee, that we might want to look a little more in-depth at what's new and what is not.

But for members of the public, Mr. Speaker, there's an area, it's section 93(1) in the Act as we have it printed. It's on page 63. It deals with exempt property. And this is what is subject to exempt property according to the Bill in front of us, subject to the regulations of course. And, Mr. Speaker, we all know that regulations are an important part of the legislative process, and we'll have to take a look very closely at how these regulations will be written and what they'll mean. But:

Subject to the regulations, the following personal property and land of a judgment debtor is exempt:

- (a) clothing, including jewelry, with a cumulative value that does not exceed the prescribed amount.

So, Mr. Speaker, an exemption does include, you know, the clothes that you wear on a daily basis, including some of your jewellery, maybe your wedding rings and that sort of thing. These are exempt from judgment and from enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, "medical [aids] and dental aids or other devices required or ordinarily used by the judgment debtor or a dependant of the judgment debtor due to physical or mental disability." So, Mr. Speaker, you may not have much, but if a judgment is rendered against you, your hearing aid can't be taken away from you.

"Some household furnishings, utensils, equipment and appliances." So, Mr. Speaker, your ability to sit in your living room, eat a meal that's cooked on your stove, again you've got some exemptions and some protections in that regard.

What about domestic animals, Mr. Speaker, that are kept as

pets, with a cumulative value? How do you put a value on a pet, Mr. Speaker? I'm sure there's a legal argument to be made here, but "domestic animals that are kept solely as pets with a cumulative value that does not exceed the prescribed amount." Mr. Speaker, that's an exempt property.

Another exempt property, Mr. Speaker, "one motor vehicle with a value that does not exceed the prescribed amount". So perhaps the minister with three, four cars in his driveway, have to give up three of them if the judgment indicates that, but he'll have one motor vehicle, Mr. Speaker, that he can take to work every day.

Other exempt property includes "items of tangible personal . . . [value], other than a motor vehicle, required for use by the judgment debtor to earn income for the support of the judgment debtor and his . . . dependants". So, Mr. Speaker, this could be lawn equipment if he's doing or she's doing landscaping work, or a trailer to carry that equipment around.

Mr. Speaker, another exempt property listed under (g) under section 93:

money, and property or income acquired through the investment of money:

(i) that can be separately identified as being received or as having been received by the judgment debtor pursuant to a legal entitlement to compensation for physical or mental injury.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, if you have a workers' compensation claim or perhaps a Canada Pension Plan disability income, Mr. Speaker, that's considered money for the purposes of exemption. And:

(ii) that is being used or will be used to meet the reasonable and ordinary living expenses of the judgment debtor and his or her dependants or to provide medical or other care facilities for the judgment debtor or his or her dependants.

So, Mr. Speaker, certainly if you have been incapacitated in one way or another and you have certain living expenses that must be covered by money or money property that you have, Mr. Speaker, that's considered exemption. And as far as money is concerned, Mr. Speaker, also certain employment income necessary to maintain and support you is also considered exempt for enforcement of judgment.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few other interesting exemptions I want to indicate. For example, another exemption are prepaid funeral services or a burial plot intended for the internment of the debtor. So in other words, Mr. Speaker, if you've prepared for the afterlife in some way, that can't be taken away from you in judgment or by those who are enforcing the judgment.

And:

property of the judgment debtor that is of such low value that the sheriff believes that the costs of seizure and sale are likely to be approximately equal to or greater than the amount of the proceeds that would be available for

satisfaction of the amount recoverable.

So, Mr. Speaker, if you have nothing of real value, you can be assured that if the sheriff doesn't think it's worth his or her time to take care of that, that property will be exempt from the judgment.

And then, Mr. Speaker, I think one that many people are extremely interested in exempt property — the homestead. The homestead, Mr. Speaker, provided it is not more than 160 acres. So, Mr. Speaker, for those who have always been worried about losing the home, the homestead, Mr. Speaker, that has been entrenched in law in the past and this legislation, enforcement of money judgments, also protects, Mr. Speaker, the homestead. And I will add into that section, "an interest in one house, house trailer, or equivalent facility and the land on which it is permanently situated, with a value that does not exceed the prescribed amount." So, Mr. Speaker, certainly land, house, trailer protected in law by this legislation, Mr. Speaker, has been and will continue to be exempt under judgment.

And then also, Mr. Speaker, exemptions:

if money or an account has been seized, the portion that, combined with income of the judgment debtor that is exempt pursuant to . . . [other sections], is required to maintain the judgment debtor and his or her dependants for a period of one month following the date of seizure, up to the prescribed amount.

So, Mr. Speaker, you are left with money to help to get you back into the workforce if you're out of the workforce, or those sorts of things.

[16:30]

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that that's just a brief list of exempt property, and of course it's subject to regulations that we haven't seen yet. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that that list is a list that a number of people in the province may wish to review and make comments upon. I think that there are probably questions for the minister and his officials when the opportunity is given to us where we can take a look. Is this exemption list — if we're looking at a new and modernized Act, Mr. Speaker, to deal with this process — is this exemption list enough or is it too much?

Mr. Speaker, there's an opportunity here for us to discuss this at greater length with the minister before the Act is finalized here in the Legislative Assembly. If we want to ensure that we have a new, modern enforcement process, if we want to create a process that makes it less difficult to enforce for the average person, if we want to ensure that the exemption list is updated — something that the minister did indicate he was thinking this Act would take care of — and if we want to ensure that, by and large, the people of Saskatchewan are much better served, well, Mr. Speaker, we are going to have to take the time necessary to have the discussions with the minister and his officials, with the legal community, and with individuals who may be going through this process at the moment.

Mr. Speaker, I think it should be indicated to members of the public that we are in fact going to amend a considerable number

of other pieces of legislation when we deal with this Act in general. Mr. Speaker, we are amending the landlord-tenant Act. We are amending the limitation of the civil rights Act. We are amending *The Mineral Resources Act*. We are amending *The Mineral Taxation Act*. We are amending *The Municipal Board Act*. We are amending *The Municipal Employees' Pension Act*. We are amending *The Municipalities Act*. We are amending *The New Generation Co-operatives Act*. We are amending *The Northern Municipalities Act*. We are amending *The Oil and Gas Conservation Act*. We are amending *The Partnership Act*. We are amending *The Personal Property Security Act*.

We are amending *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act*. We are amending *The Public Employees Pension Plan Act*. We are amending *The Residential Tenancies Act*. We are amending *The Revenue and Financial Services Act*. We are amending *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*. We are amending *The Securities Transfer Act*. We are amending *The Superannuation Act*. We are amending *The Tax Enforcement Act*. We are amending *The Thresher Employees Act*. We are amending *The Threshers' Lien Act*. We are amending *The Traffic Safety Act*. We are amending *The Workers' Compensation Act*.

And, Mr. Speaker, we are repealing *The Absconding Debtors Act*, *The Attachment of Debts Act*, *The Creditors' Relief Act*, *The Executions Act*, *The Exemptions Act*.

Mr. Speaker, that's a considerable amount of work. Obviously it's been a considerable amount of work to get to this point. And Mr. Speaker, I congratulate those who have done so much work to get us to this point, Mr. Speaker. A lot of that work has been shared with the minister. The minister's speech didn't share a lot of that background with us in his comments. So, Mr. Speaker, the work that's been done to get us to this point now can be reviewed and comments received from members of the Saskatchewan legal community.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know that there are quite a few members on this side of the legislature who have an interest in ensuring that indeed this consolidation will do exactly what the minister wants it to do. Simple, introduce a new modern enforcement process.

Mr. Speaker, we know that it's difficult sometimes for individuals to go to the sheriff, who's responsible in most cases for the enforcement. We know that it's difficult for individuals when the sheriff knocks on their door to say, I'm here to enforce this judgment. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people who are emotionally tied to this issue of enforcement of judgments, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, we want to ensure that it is done to ensure the fairness for all Saskatchewan residents.

So, Mr. Speaker, with those few remarks, I just want to thank again the legislature for giving me the opportunity to say a few words on this, but I'd like to ensure that others have a chance to review and discuss this Act as well. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move that debate on Bill 129, that debate be now adjourned.

The Speaker: — The member from The Battlefords has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 129. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 130 — *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009/Loi de 2009 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009*. This Bill is the companion to *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*. It provides for the consequential amendments to bilingual Acts affected by the introduction of this major law reform Bill.

One of the Acts amended by this Bill is *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act, 1997*. The Act is amended to reflect the new, improved process; however, the existing special priority for the enforcement of such orders is preserved. Those enforcing maintenance orders will continue to be able to choose how best to enforce an order for payment and to use a variety of methods to do so.

Mr. Speaker, as I have noted in my speech regarding the main Bill, the intent of this new process is to assist those who have played by the rules and successfully completed the judicial process to effectively enforce their judgment. These consequential amendments to the affected bilingual Acts will assist in this objective.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009*.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has moved second reading of Bill No. 130, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again I thank you for recognizing me to speak here at second reading of Bill No. 130, an Act representing consequential amendments resulting from the enactment of *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act*.

Mr. Speaker, as you will know, and those who are watching, that we're talking about a Bill that stems from the legislation that was just spoken to in the House by the Minister of Justice and myself. Essentially we are talking about consequential amendments. And the Minister of Justice in his remarks specifically pointed out maintenance enforcement provisions.

Mr. Speaker, I again think that there are a lot of people in Saskatchewan today that are concerned about the whole issue of maintenance enforcement, Mr. Speaker. In fact in my constituency office, I think on a regular basis, the issue of the process of maintenance enforcements comes up by individuals who have expressed some concern to my constituent assistant and to myself.

So, Mr. Speaker, any time we as legislators are dealing with the issue of or the process of maintenance enforcements, I think there are a lot of Saskatchewan residents who would like to

know exactly what it is that we are talking about. The Minister of Justice, in his remarks, alluded to the fact that this legislation will provide new sections of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* but, Mr. Speaker, he didn't do the detail that would allow those who are concerned about or have an interest in this area to fully understand what is the government's intention here, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously that means that the work of the opposition is actually increased, Mr. Speaker, because we will need to know what the intent of the changes are. We will need to find those who might be most affected by those changes, consult with those individuals, and of course bring some questions back to the minister during the process of review by committee in the legislature when we get to that point.

Essentially what this appears to be is, again, a registration of the order. Now for the most part, I know that eases the process somewhat but, Mr. Speaker, does it address concerns that have been made by individuals affected by orders? So, Mr. Speaker, we'll need to address that.

Just for the interest of those who are watching and who might be at all interested in what I am referring to in the Act, Bill 130, that we're talking about, there is a section 4, talks about sections 44 and 45 of *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* are repealed and the following substituted, and essentially it gets to this part (2):

44(2) If there are arrears owing under a maintenance order, the recipient may enforce the maintenance order pursuant to *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Act* by:

- (a) registering the maintenance order as a judgment in the judgment registry; and
- (b) providing the sheriff with enforcement instructions with respect to the maintenance order mentioned in clause (a).

So, Mr. Speaker, for all intents and purposes what this is saying is Bill 129 created a registration process and Bill 130 says that registration process also includes *The Enforcement of Maintenance Orders Act* and the judgments that have been made.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are other pieces here that allow the sheriff to enforce the maintenance order, that ensure that, if there are exemptions, that the enforcement of the maintenance order respects those exemptions. And, Mr. Speaker, an interesting point here, and I must say I don't know if it's in the existing legislation or not but I'm sure there will be questions relating to this:

On application by the payor, if a judge is satisfied that it would be grossly unfair and inequitable to do otherwise, the judge may make an order specifying the amount of money that is exempt from enforcement.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do believe that's in the existing legislation, but again because the minister didn't indicate specifically what all this means, we're going to have to review this in detail — review the existing Act, consult, and question the minister in

committee.

I also recognize, Mr. Speaker, that this is an Act that is bilingual in the province of Saskatchewan. It's an Act that is in French and in English, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of changes that this Act makes that are reflected in the language, the language of the French edition, and that is corrected and set out in this Bill, No. 130.

[16:45]

So, Mr. Speaker, while I realize that there are a number of members who would like to speak to Bill 130, I think there's an understanding and a recognition that we need to spend some time on Bill 129, the Act introduced prior to this, do some consultation on this Act, Bill No. 130, and that those members would like some time to review that and then make some comments here in the Legislative Assembly before questioning the minister in committee.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, that having been said, I would like to move that the debate on Bill No. 130 be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from The Battlefords has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 130, *The Enforcement of Money Judgments Consequential Amendments Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 131 — *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2009*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This government takes seriously its responsibility to maintain a healthy environment that is so highly valued by our citizens. Ensuring that our ecologically sensitive land is protected is an important part of fulfilling this responsibility.

Until now, government has been limited to what it can do to protect sensitive land. Conservation easements have been shown to be an effective tool to protect important ecological values on privately owned land. It's a tool that has been used extensively by conservation organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The proposed amendments to this Act strengthen the Crown's ability to maintain and protect these lands. Along with granting easements to specific individuals, easements can now be applied to Crown land. This new type of easement will have enhanced enforcement capabilities and will ensure that our most sensitive land will be protected. This will also ensure that the easements remain intact and active, even if the lease changes hands or the land is sold.

This approach will begin with the comprehensive ecological assessment of all surveyed Crown land. This assessment, developed in consultation with stakeholders, will determine which parcels of land require the protection afforded by a

conservation easement. We are confident that this will help to protect our ecologically valuable Crown lands for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment has moved second reading of Bill No. 131, *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And I was pleased to hear the minister's comments and a very quick explanation as to Bill No. 131, *The Conservation Easements Act*, what exactly it does, why it's being moved ahead. And I also noticed that it also makes a consequential amendment to *The Tax Enforcement Act*. I didn't hear any comments on that but I do know that there has been a fair bit of interest in this Act and what it basically does, what the minister just laid out.

Basically a new definition is created that reflects a new category of easement that may be applied to Crown land, where the Crown is both the initial grantor and holder. So it fills a gap, obviously, as we move through environmental protection and, as the minister said, protect sensitive lands. That we will see, I would think, a number of changes that will be coming on a fairly steady basis until we get up to speed and make sure that we have all the protections in place that we need and opportunity for protection here in place that we need here in Saskatchewan.

I guess really what comes to mind is, why the new class or new category of easement when we know that a conservation easement may already be granted for a number of purposes: the protection, the enhancement, or restoration of natural ecosystem, wildlife habitat, or habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species? So why add a new category? And what have we missed?

Well it turns out, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Crown and the Crown in right of Canada or a municipality may grant a conservation easement to itself or anyone eligible to be a holder. So the explanation for the changes to that existing provision are that the Crown no longer will require the power to apply a conservation easement to its own land, as it will have the new power to create Crown conservation easements with enhanced compliance provisions. So, Mr. Speaker, that's really I think a very quick explanation of what this Bill is doing.

But there are also a number of references to other Acts. There is some housekeeping that is contained within the Bill and I know that a number of new pieces raise a couple of questions. And I know that as we move forward we will hear some of my colleagues who have a great interest in the environment and changes, and an interest in how the Government of Saskatchewan is moving ahead, protecting the environment. And the minister made the comment that this is of great interest to citizens across the province.

The environment is becoming more and more an issue of the day and it is becoming a general topic of discussion when we

are out and about at various events. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm sure you've ran across it also in your constituency — I know all of my colleagues have — that the environment and the steps that are taken are of interest and importance right across the province, and also how they all fit together, how the puzzle and all of the pieces of this puzzle fit together to provide that overall package that people are looking for for environmental protection right across the piece. And that's a question that many will ask and many will be looking at when we are talking about *The Conservation Easements Act* and the changes that are coming forward in here.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know there are a number of changes. It may not sound that comprehensive or that involved when we look at how small the Bill is, but it does have an impact. And I know there are a number of people that are interested and I know there are a number of my colleagues that have an interest in speaking much to the detail of the Bill and what the possibility of the changes are. But, Mr. Speaker, with that I know there are a number of consultations that we have in progress and many more to do, and looking at the other impacts of this legislation, so as of this time I would adjourn debate on Bill 131.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Moose Jaw Wakamow has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 131, *The Conservation Easements Amendment Act, 2009*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 132 — *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Our government recognizes the need to ensure that areas of ecological value are protected. This Act will allow the government to protect sensitive land more efficiently, more effectively, and more sustainably than ever before.

Until now, government had no detailed values inventory of protected land in our province. We didn't know why a piece of land was currently being protected and if that land still had the characteristics that originally qualified it for protection. Much of the current protected land is used for various activities such as grazing. We will now be able to identify which land has changed and is suitable for limited activity. We will also be able to tell which land is the most sensitive and needs stronger protection.

This Act also creates a Crown land ecological assessment. This will allow government to evaluate and identify important ecological values and know how best to protect them. This has been developed in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders such as the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Saskatchewan, Ducks Unlimited Canada, The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association, and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

Most importantly this Act will streamline management and enhance the protection of ecologically valuable land. The changes will allow the Crown to sell land with permanent easements attached.

Our government believes that the land users are great stewards of the land and have a vested interest in its ongoing environmental protection. To ensure that they do so, fines for contraventions of easements will increase from \$2,000 to \$100,000 for individuals and from \$50,000 to \$500,000 for corporations. The amendments to this Act will continue to ensure the protection of Crown land while allowing land ownership by responsible owners.

Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of the wildlife habitat protection amendment Act.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment has moved second reading of Bill No. 132, *The Wildlife Habitat Protection (Land Designation) Amendment Act, 2009*. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And again I must say that it looks like a very quick piece of legislation, but it will have huge impact across the province. And when we look at *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* . . . And it will be amended. In fact the schedule will be repealed, and the schedule is the listing of the designated lands in *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. And the explanation of the legislation goes on to talk about the province's position to adopt a new strategic approach to evaluate and manage ecological, social, and economic values on Crown land in the surveyed area of Saskatchewan and ensure protection of critical features while enabling sale of the land.

This new approach includes assessing the ecological attributes of all Crown land with an initial focus on land within *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*. This information will be used to determine which lands may be sold, sold with a conservation easement, or retained by the Crown.

And that's just the first couple of paragraphs, and it raises a number of concerns. I know that there is a great deal of concern across the province for wildlife lands and protection of habitat in a number of areas. And I know the previous government paid particular attention to, if there was a reason that some of the land would've been removed from the schedule, that there would be a replacement or a goal to within a very short period of time replace that land, so that we were maintaining a wildlife habitat across the province that was appropriate for the species within the province.

Now I'm very pleased that the minister made the comments of talking about the stakeholders, the amount of consultations that had been held so far on this piece of legislation. And there was a couple of others that I could think of that may have been added to the list and I may just have missed the minister making the comments in her few comments towards the legislation.

But, Mr. Speaker, when we see changes such as this and the same with *The Conservation Easements Act*, the changes that

have been made to that, there is concern. And we talk about the effect that each has on the other and how the environment is a puzzle and there are many pieces to that puzzle that we need to make sure that we have in place, and that we are making the appropriate changes across the province to make sure that there is protection, not only for wildlife habitat, but for sensitive ecological areas. And make sure those are protected, not only for the future of the province, but the future of citizens of the province so that they can enjoy not only the land but the opportunities that we have here.

So while, Mr. Speaker, there is a number of changes that will be made, consequential amendments to other Acts, I know we need to have a closer look at the legislation and see exactly what it does change to the, in the consequential amendments. And I look forward to having an opportunity . . . oh, sorry.

The Deputy Speaker: — The time being 5 o'clock, this House will now recess until 7 p.m. later this evening.

[The Assembly recessed until 19:00.]

CORRIGENDUM

On page 3161 of *Hansard* No. 3A, Monday, October 26, 2009, the member who delivered the statement entitled “Proclamation of Health Care Provider Week” was identified as Mr. Forbes.

The member should have been identified as Mr. Iwanchuk.

We apologize for this error.

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