

The Assembly met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Ms. Draude:** —Mr. Speaker, I have a petition today to reduce fuel tax by 10 cents a litre.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

The people that have signed this petition are from Rose Valley, Wadena, and Naicam.

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of citizens in my constituency concerned about the continuing high price of fuel. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

Signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Tisdale, Melfort, and Beatty.

I so present.

**Mr. Peters:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition in regards to the high cost of fuel, and the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

And, Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by people from Lloydminster, Swift Current, and even Winnipeg, Manitoba realizes we pay too much.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens concerned about the high cost of fuel. And the prayer is as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

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

And this is signed by citizens of Swift Current, Regina, Moose Jaw, and Gravelbourg.

I so present. Thank you.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of people in my constituency concerned about the high price of fuel. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people from the city of Swift Current.

I so present.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present petitions on behalf of citizens from my area of the province who would like to see improved cellular telephone coverage in their area. And the prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause government to provide reliable cellular telephone service in the districts of Prud'homme, Bruno, Vonda, and Cudworth.

And the signators on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are all from the community of Cudworth.

I so present.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too present petitions on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan regarding cellular telephone service. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to provide reliable cellular telephone service in the districts of Strasbourg, Duval, Govan, and Bulyea.

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

This is signed by people in the Strasbourg, Duval, Govan, and Bulyea area.

I so present.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here to reduce fuel tax by 10 cents a litre. The prayer goes as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The signatures are from Davidson, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and I even have one from Lethbridge who agrees with the one from Manitoba.

I so present.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens concerned with poor cellular telephone service. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to provide reliable cellular telephone service in the districts of Strasbourg, Duval, Govan, and Bulyea.

And the petitioners come, Mr. Speaker, from the communities of Strasbourg, Bulyea, Regina, Saskatoon, Cymric, and Lumsden.

I do so present.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in this Assembly today to bring forth a petition regarding the high cost of fuel.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the federal and provincial governments to immediately reduce fuel taxes by 10 cents a litre, cost shared by both levels of government.

And the citizens that have signed this petition are from Spiritwood, Medstead, and Glenbush.

I so present. Thank you.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 12(7) they are hereby read and received.

Of citizens of Saskatchewan petitioning on the following matters:

To cause the federal and provincial governments to reduce fuel taxes;

To cause the government to abandon plans to confiscate municipal reserve accounts;

And to cause the government to provide reliable cellular service in Strasbourg, Duval, Govan, and Bulyea.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 48 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Social Services: did the Minister of Social Services, any employees of the minister's office, or any employee of the Department of Social Services review the final draft report or a draft of the final report by the

Children's Advocate entitled *Children and Youth in Care Review: Listen to Their Voices*, prior to its release on April 12, 2000; if yes, who reviewed the document, who did they review it with, and for what purpose did they review it?

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, I too have a notice of a written question. I give notice I shall on day no. 48 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Agriculture: how much has the Government of Saskatchewan spent so far in payments to farmers under the 1999 Agriculture Income Disaster Assistance program?

**Mr. Wakefield:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written notice. I give notice that I shall on day 48 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Economic and Co-operative Development: what was the cost to fly the minister from Regina to Prince Albert and back to Regina on May 11, 2000; what time did the aircraft land in Prince Albert and what time did it depart Prince Albert; was the minister accompanied by his staff, and if yes, what is or are their names?

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce to you and through you to members of this Assembly two members of the Swift Current emergency services or the Swift Current Fire Department who are seated in the west gallery. They are firefighter Ryan Hunter as well as Captain Wade Sutherland, Mr. Speaker.

And while I'm on my feet I'd also like to introduce to you and through you the spouse of one of the recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, Mr. Ralph Thistlethwaite.

I'd ask all hon. members to welcome these guests to the Assembly today.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Hillson:** — Yes, Mr. Speaker. Of course we have the entire Assembly today filled with some very distinguished residents of our province.

However, as always, I know the members are most interested to know what's going on from the Battlefords and I'm pleased to introduce to you and through you the president of the provincial Association of Dental Therapists, Mr. Daryl Berg, seated in the west gallery, who is with us today.

I ask all members to welcome him.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to you to the rest of the Assembly and to the guests, I'd like to introduce you to a number of members from the Saskatchewan firefighting association. These members met with us in caucus earlier today, and I'd like to give them a warm welcome for all

the sacrifice that they do to keep as safe as we are in this province. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — I want to join with my colleague from Indian Head to welcome all of the firefighters that are here from across the province today.

I had an opportunity to meet with them this morning as well. I want to say to the House and to the members opposite that we have with us today two firefighters from both Burnaby and Ottawa. Mr. Terry Riche who's with the sixth division. He's the vice-president from Burnaby. And Mr. Shawn McManus who's the Canadian director from Ottawa.

When I met with the firefighters this morning, they assured me that in spite of the fact that they were not in their own communities protecting the fire services, they could be called on here during question period, Mr. Speaker, if we needed their services.

So, I'll ask all of the Assembly to welcome the firefighters from across the province to our city of Regina today.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to the Assembly some constituents of mine.

First of all Marguerite Gallaway who is a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and a member of the Order of Canada. Margaret served two terms as chairperson for the Saskatchewan Honours Advisory Council from 1992 to 1997. Her husband, Ron Gallaway will receive a Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal this afternoon.

This is the first time that a husband and wife have received both provincial honours, the Order of Merit and the Volunteer Medal.

And, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I would also like to introduce to you, John Len, the mayor of Estevan, and two people who are very dear friends of mine, Harold and Tilley Crawberg from Estevan.

And I'd ask everyone to join me in welcoming them. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Jones:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you, and through you to all members of the Assembly, 23 grade five students seated in the west gallery. They're visiting us here from the Pleasant Hill School in Saskatoon.

They're actually . . . their school is in the Minister of Finance, the hon. member from Saskatoon Mount Royal, but he is away today so I would like to welcome them.

With them is . . . are their teachers, Barbara Wright, Leo

Yahyahkeekoot, Cal Arcand, Theresa Fiddler and Gerry Adams. And I ask all members to please welcome this group from Saskatoon.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you, and through you to all members of the Assembly, family members of two of my constituents who will be later today receiving the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

I'd like to introduce to you, and maybe they could stand to be recognized, June Kalmakoff, who's the wife of Bill Kalmakoff. And Bill's son Rodney Kalmakoff, and his daughter, Sandra Kalmakoff, and Shelly Lavertue.

And I'd also like to introduce to you, Mr. Speaker, the husband of Alice Leung who later today will be receiving the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. Her husband Kwun is here, and also her daughter, Kimberley.

I ask all members to welcome these family members of Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal recipients to the Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well I would like to join with other members in extending special greetings and welcome to this Assembly a number of individuals from the Moosomin and surrounding area. Lest I forget, first of all I should introduce my wife. I've unfortunately made that mistake once before; that was once too many. Please greet my wife Lois who has joined us today.

As well, Mr. Speaker, we have in this Assembly a number of guests from the Moosomin area who have come to celebrate with Mrs. B. Middleton in this volunteer recognition ceremony. And I would like to recognize her sons — her son Don Middleton and his wife Colleen; her son John Middleton, he's back here. And then her daughters Karen Strutt and her husband John; and daughter Jean Ross.

As well, the mayor and his wife from the community of Moosomin, Mr. Don Bradley with his wife Pat and they're seated over in the right corner. And, Mr. Speaker, there's so many other guests.

I'm just wondering if all the Moosomin guests would mind standing so we can give you a warm welcome to the Assembly this afternoon. Would you mind doing that please, all of the guests from Moosomin.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was beginning to feel like a jack-in-the-box there. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to introduce to you today three guests. Two are Regina firefighters, dedicated men: Leo Chapman, who is the secretary of the Regina Professional Fire Fighters Association; and Kevin Sinclair, executive member. And both are seated in the west gallery.

Welcome to this House, and I would ask all other members to join in welcoming them.

And while I'm on my feet I would also like to introduce to this legislature Mr. Allan Barss, who is the president of the United Church of Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church of Canada. Allan is seated just behind the bar over here.

Welcome to this House.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Peters:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you, people that were part of my former life when I was on the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) Board of Directors, the administrators that Clay Serby so graciously has declined to visit with . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. I just remind the hon. member to use the members' constituencies and not refer to them by personal names.

**Mr. Peters:** — And I would ask them to stand please. There's 10 of the administrators there. I would like you to stand. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I want to introduce the ultimate firefighter. He's sitting in your gallery. He's the mayor of Jans Bay and he sits on numerous other committees in northern Saskatchewan. He's here — travelled eight hours to visit the Assembly. And I would ask all members and all guests to welcome the mayor of Jans Bay, Mr. Louis Morin.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to the others members of this Assembly, the wife of one of the recipients of the medal award this afternoon, Mrs. Dorothy Perry. She's seated behind her husband. Also there are a number of other family members of the Perry family with us here this afternoon, including seven grandchildren. I believe they're seated just to my left.

And also I'd like to introduce to you someone who was influential in nominating Mr. Perry for the award, Mr. Bill Small and his wife Agnes from Craven. They're seated to my left.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms. Lorje:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I debated whether I should rise because there are so many distinguished people here in the Chamber and I would like to welcome all of them. But I want to extend a particularly warm welcome to one gentleman and introduce him to the House. This is a person who has exemplified the Doukhobor ideals of toil and peaceful life, and is a very dear friend of mine, Mr. George Stushnoff.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Since so many people are introducing guests today, I thought it important, since so few of us have relatives that come to visit the Assembly on many occasions, to introduce my cousin, Adele McLeod, who is here as part of the administrator group.

She is the person in charge of the RM (rural municipality) of Biggar. And I want to welcome Adele to the Legislative Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

**Mr. Addley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatoon business community honoured its own last night at the Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence awards night. And the winners are as follows:

Business of the year, zu.com communications; new business venture, Interactive Tracking Systems; new product, zu.com communications; customer service, Yanke Group of Companies; marketing, Interactive Tracking Systems; community involvement, Glen Scrimshaw Gallery; for exports, Wavecom Electronics; and for growth and expansion, Kocsis Transport Ltd; innovation, zu.com communications; and for strategic alliance, Cosmopolitan Industries in partnership with *The StarPhoenix* and the city of Saskatoon.

In addition, this year's inductees into the SABEX (Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence) hall of fame were the Pinder family, best known for their pharmacy chain founded in 1917. The second inductee was Ronald Smith, co-owner of Buy-Rite Furniture until his retirement in the mid-1980s.

Mr. Speaker, all of Saskatoon and district, indeed all of the province, benefit from the business community in Saskatoon, for their enterprise and their contributions to the economy, the quality of life we enjoy, and the opportunities that we have for the future.

I'm sure all members will join me in wishing and congratulating the SABEX winners and all members of the Saskatoon business community.

Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wakefield:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and along with the member from Saskatoon Sutherland, I too would like to congratulate the winners of the SABEX presentation awards in Saskatoon last evening.

These awards called the Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence awards represent the highest honour and recognition given to the Saskatoon business community. And in fact it exemplified exactly what it was intended to do.

I wish to compliment as well the sponsors of this event, particularly the Saskatoon and District Chamber of Commerce

and the Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan for honouring so many of the worthy businesses there.

And again, I would like to make special note of the induction to the SABEX hall of fame these two very prominent Saskatoon business people, Ronald Smith and the Pinder family.

And as was mentioned, these awards presented in nine categories, all of very vital interest to businesses. They were the new business venture, new product, customer service, marketing, community involvement, exports, innovation, growth and expansion. And a new category just this year, strategic alliance.

The overall winner, as mentioned, and named the 2000 SABEX business of the year was actually a multiple winner, zu.com communications.

Congratulations to all the nominees and the winners.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Seeding and Assistance to Farmers Update

**Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to announce to the House today that as of Tuesday, May 17 almost half of this year's crop has been seeded. This is well ahead of the five-year average of 25 per cent and last year's progress of 18 per cent at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to update the House on the Canada-Saskatchewan adjustment payment activities. Of the applications that were mailed out on April 13, 2000 Saskatchewan Crop Insurance has received back from farmers about 42,000 applications, and of these has processed just over 39,500. This means, Mr. Speaker, that SCIC (Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation) has paid out approximately 94 per cent of the applications they have received back.

To date, just over 165 million has been paid out to Saskatchewan farmers to help with spring seeding. This 165 million is in addition to the 40 million in tax cuts on farm fuel and educational land tax, 300 million available under the AIDA (Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance) program, and 400 million available under the spring credit advance program.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that these programs that have been put in place as a lifeline for seeding the 2000 crop are working. Saskatchewan farmers have now seeded half of the 2000 crop and are well on their way to seeding a projected 33 million acres, which is slightly above the 10-year average.

God's blessings to the farmers and good weather.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Lanigan Student Receives Ballet Scholarship

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell my colleagues in this Assembly this afternoon about the accomplishments of one of the young people in my home constituency of Watrous.

Mr. Speaker, Braden Stevenson of Lanigan has been awarded the Investors Group scholarship. This scholarship is worth \$2,000 and will allow Braden to study at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Students who attend this school benefit from the famed ballet company's tradition of artistry and dance excellence.

Mr. Speaker, Braden started dancing at the age of five. His first competition was when he was only six years old. Last fall, Braden attended his first audition and performed in the Dare to Dance, a showcase of Saskatchewan dance performed in Regina and Saskatoon.

In December, Braden attended the audition of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet summer session and that's where he received the scholarship from the Investors Group. Mr. Speaker, Braden will attend summer school for the month of July in Winnipeg.

I would ask my colleagues to join with me today in congratulating Braden Stevenson on all his accomplishments.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Norwegian National Holiday

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, today is Syttende Mai, the 17th of May, the Norwegian national holiday. And I have a special greeting today for the Assembly from the King of Norway, King Harold, and his wife Queen Sonja.

(The hon. member spoke for a time in Norwegian.)

We bring greetings to all of the citizens of Canada and all of the Norwegian descendants in Canada with best wishes on this national day.

It's a great pleasure to once again remember this day in Saskatchewan because we do have so many descendants of Norwegian settlers in this area. And it's especially an honour to do that this year as we have some new people who have joined the Assembly.

And on behalf of all of those of us who are Norwegian descendants — including the member from Regina Coronation Park, the member from Saskatoon Southeast, the member from Regina Sherwood, the member from Rosetown-Biggan, the member from Saltcoats, and the member from Saskatchewan Rivers — we would like to celebrate with all of those people in Saskatchewan.

Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Swift Current Firefighters

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Throughout today, firefighters from Saskatchewan Professional Fire Fighters Association are meeting with MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) and government officials on issues important to themselves, their departments, and their home communities.

In Swift Current, we're fortunate to have a team of firefighters absolutely dedicated to the important duties they have on behalf of Swift Current taxpayers. They're constantly demonstrating a willingness to go beyond the call of duty, to serve taxpayers as is evidenced by such projects as a high school based CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training program they developed and executed.

And, Mr. Speaker, they are helping to put Swift Current on the map. Late last year, viewers of TSN (The Sports Network) would have seen our fire department's combat challenge team competing in the Canadian Firefighter Combat Challenge. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to inform my colleagues that our entry into these intense tests of firefighting skills resulted in the top recorded time in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and the second best time in all of Western Canada — this from a department that is the smallest professional department in these competitions.

But, Mr. Speaker, more importantly our Swift Current firefighters, like all Saskatchewan firefighters, professional and volunteer alike, are best at fighting fires.

I can think of no more appropriate opportunity to once again encourage all of my colleagues in this House to lend their support to my non-partisan private members' Bill, The Fire-fighter Protection from Liability Act, which would allow them to do what they do best without the fear of a lawsuit. And that of course is protecting our property and saving lives.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Baby Born In Air Ambulance

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise in this Assembly today to tell you that I have a brand new constituent. And this just isn't any new constituent. This new Athabasca constituent was born in an Air Ambulance, 5,000 feet in the air, just outside Saskatoon last Thursday.

Early Thursday morning, Air Ambulance picked up the expectant mom at 6:15 a.m., taking her to Saskatoon. On the final approach, the pilot was told by the nurse to find some smooth air and avoid a landing.

The pilot went into a holding pattern around Saskatoon and mom gave birth to a child just after 8 a.m., and the Air Ambulance touched down at 8:15 a.m.

Mr. Speaker, births in the air are rare, and I wish to congratulate everyone involved with this delivery. I'd particularly like to thank Norman Meyer, the pilot, and the nurse, Lynn Boudreault for their assistance and expertise.

Mom and baby girl are doing just fine. Again congratulations to the new parents, and a job well done by everyone involved.

Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Polling Results

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, well, well, well, well. There's a new poll out today and the results are very clear, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan people don't like the NDP (New Democratic Party) budget. And they don't like the NDP tax grab. And plain and simple, they don't like the NDP any more.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Support for the NDP is at 17 per cent — that's an all-time low for this party. And the Liberals are even less popular than the zit on a school photo-day picture.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Deputy Premier. Mr. Deputy Premier, are you going to listen to what the people of Saskatchewan are telling you? Will you admit that your budget and your government are a colossal failure?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to answer the question from the Leader of the Opposition. And to tell him very clearly to enjoy the moment because obviously polling is obviously short-lived and whether the results are accurate or not accurate will remain to be seen in three and a half years when the election comes.

But, Mr. Speaker, I was interested particularly in that member's response to this poll as compared to a poll done in September of 1999, when the results were that the NDP were far ahead. Now this is when the NDP were far ahead. What did he say about polling from *The Leader-Post* at that time? I quote:

Hermanson said *The Leader Post* poll is unreliable because of the 44 per cent of the people who are undecided or refuse to say how they intended to vote.

The poll that you're so excited about has 45 per cent undecided.

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. Next question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would remind the Deputy Premier that the important poll taken in September was won by the Saskatchewan Party. We won the popular vote.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Mr. Speaker, we didn't need — we didn't need polls — we didn't need polls to tell us this. People just simply are telling us they don't like the NDP's PST (provincial sales tax) tax grab. In fact we told the Minister of Finance, before the budget we wrote him a letter and we said, cut taxes, don't raise taxes.

But, Mr. Speaker, he didn't listen to us. He didn't listen to the people of Saskatchewan, and the result is his budget is a disaster. Saskatchewan people are rejecting this budget by a two to one margin. To the Deputy Premier: Mr. Deputy Premier,

will you listen now to what the people of Saskatchewan are telling you? Will you admit that it was a mistake to raise the PST?

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this budget delivers the largest tax cut in Saskatchewan history, a tax cut that will grow our economy, make us more competitive, and create jobs for Saskatchewan people. It also provides more funding for health and education to preserve our high quality of life.

But you know what that paper also shows? It shows the agenda of members opposite. The Leader of the Opposition would pay for his tax cut by dipping into the peoples' savings fund, by taking one-time money out of the Fiscal Stabilization Fund for an ongoing tax cut taking us back to deficits and debt.

They would not provide any increase in real spending for priority areas like health care, even though every other government in Canada has done so to preserve our quality health care system. And my favourite, they would discard what is not necessary. Mr. Member, what is not necessary?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we can tell by the minister's answer that they're hurting over there. But it doesn't matter how many times you say it, it doesn't matter how many ads you buy, in the budget insert in today's paper, Saskatchewan people know that your budget was not a tax cut — it was a tax grab. And, Mr. Speaker, they don't like it.

Madam Minister, 55 per cent of your own supporters — your own supporters — disapprove of your tax grab; 66 per cent of Liberal supporters don't like the tax grab. But the members over there, the government, is not listening. It's no wonder support for their party is dropping like a rock.

To the minister: when are you going to get the message? People want tax cuts, not tax hikes. Will you admit that your tax grab is a complete disaster?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, this budget is about growing Saskatchewan. And I would tell the Leader of the Opposition to listen to what our business leaders are saying about this budget.

Shirley Ryan of the North Saskatoon Business Association says:

There's no question it will benefit all people in this province. It should broaden our economic base.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, we know that broadening our economic base means more than tax cuts. It means investments in research and development so that we can once again do such feats as get the Synchrotron for this province — the largest, single scientific investment in Canadian history.

But do you know what? They wouldn't allow us to have a

Synchrotron. Do you know why? Because they would not support the increase in spending in my department for an R&D (research and development) fund.

What's not necessary that these members would discard? Investments in our future, our best and brightest minds.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister didn't read the results of the poll but there was really only one thing that the people did like about the budget and that was the part that was stolen from the Saskatchewan Party — the cutting incomes taxes and taxing PST on First Nations people.

Just think, Madam Minister, how popular your budget would have been if you had taken all of our advice. Instead, you're taking direction from the Liberal brain trust over there and that's why the NDP is headed for the same direction as the Liberals — straight down.

Madam Minister, it's not too late. We still haven't passed the budget. Why don't you now listen to the people of Saskatchewan, listen to the Saskatchewan Party, scrap this budget, and come back with a new one that actually has tax cuts instead of raising taxes. Will you do that today, Madam Minister?

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — Mr. Speaker, we've been very frank with the people of Saskatchewan. We've told them how we're going to pay for our tax cut. We took the advice of an independent commission in terms of broadening the sales tax base. We have moved to tax things that are taxed in most other provinces in Canada and we still have the lowest sales tax in all of Canada of the provinces that have sales tax, no health care premiums — the least expensive place in which to live.

What people need to worry about is how they would pay for their tax cut. They would pay for their tax cut by dipping into the people's savings account; using one-time money for an ongoing tax cut; taking us back to deficits, debts and higher taxes.

Mr. Speaker, we believe in tax cuts. We also believe in balanced budgets and quality services for people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That minister, that minister knows the people of Saskatchewan are taking their savings accounts and moving them to Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, last September the people of Saskatchewan sent this government a wake-up call. But instead of heeding the wake-up call, they crawled into bed with the Liberals, they rolled over, and they went right back to sleep.

Mr. Speaker, that may be good news for the Saskatchewan Party but today the poll shows it's not good for the province of Saskatchewan. We can't afford four more years of NDP sleepwalking while our province's future goes down the drain. We can't afford four more years of high taxes, closing

hospitals, destructive labour laws, and failing farm policies.

Everywhere we go, Mr. Speaker, people are telling us it's time for a change. We can't wait four more years; we need it now. Madam Minister, you should start making those changes today, or else call an election so we can elect a government that will.

What are you going to do to change the direction of your government, a direction that's failing the people of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ms. MacKinnon:** — I ask the members opposite, can the people of this province afford 10,000 new jobs in the month of April, relative to April last year? Can they afford a repeat of that?

I ask the member opposite, can the people of this province afford the largest single income tax cut in Saskatchewan's history?

I say to the members opposite, can the people of this province afford significant increases in funding to priority services like health and education?

You know what I ask the members opposite? I ask them the question that I'm not getting an answer for.

They would discard what's necessary, discard what's not necessary, even though our spending per capita is well below Alberta's. I ask the members opposite again, what are you going to discard that is not necessary in this province — our publicly funded health care system?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Deputy Premier. Mr. Minister, this morning I turned on the radio at 7:30 and the Deputy Premier was already trying to downplay this poll. I guess the NDP has to get up pretty early these days to do damage control. The Liberal leader probably doesn't even get to go to bed any longer.

They're going to . . . what did the Deputy Premier say? They're not going to change, they're not going to listen, they don't care about this poll. They don't care about high taxes; they don't care about failing health care.

Well, Mr. Deputy Premier, this poll makes it very clear the people of Saskatchewan don't care about you any longer. The people of Saskatchewan are sick and tired of a government that doesn't care, that doesn't listen; they're sick and tired of the NDP.

Mr. Deputy Premier, when are you going to start listening to the people of this province?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, there was another poll in the recent newspapers in this province and I just want to read some of the headlines that would indicate what is being said by

the reporters in this province when not paid for by Conrad Black, as this poll was.

Here's the headlines, Saturday, April 8th, "Sask leads job statistics." And then a wonderful picture of our Minister of Economic Development.

Then there's another article May 11th, "Straight A's for Saskatchewan's credit rating."

Another one, "Home market booming", this is from May 9th from *The Leader-Post*.

Another, "Canada Life bringing 75 more jobs to the province."

Here's another, March 29th, shortly after the budget, "Forecast calls for growth."

Another here's on Wednesday of March 29th, "A good day for tax cuts." And the list goes on and on.

I say to the members opposite, enjoy the glory of Conrad Black's poll today . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### Call for By-election in Wood River

**Mr. Boyd:** — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Premier, if the Deputy Premier is so confident about the government's policies, then let's put it to the test. Let's call the Wood River by-election right now.

I know the NDP is very fond of quoting from the editorial page when it suits their purposes. Here's what the editorial in today's paper said:

The government must do the right thing and call the by-election as quickly as possible — even if it means taking lumps as a result.

Mr. Deputy Premier, if you're going to stand by this brutal budget, if you're going to stand by your tax increases and your destruction of the health care system and your decision to buy off the Liberals, then why don't you put the policies to the test?

Mr. Deputy Premier, it's time for your trip to the woodshed. Do the right thing. Call a by-election before the end of June. Will you give us that commitment today to call the Wood River by-election now?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I listened to the member from Kindersley and we have to remember that when his former leader, Grant Devine, was in government, he waited 22 months to call the by-election, and never did call the by-election, 22 months.

I read the editorial in today's *Leader-Post* . . .



**The Speaker:** — Order.

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the members opposite, I read with interest the editorial in Conrad Black's paper today that said we should call the by-election even before Mr. McPherson has vacated the seat.

I understand that he hasn't signed the documents yet, so there's no vacancy. There's no vacancy. But I cannot remember in the 22 months that the Kindersley seat was vacant, *The Leader-Post* ever saying that the by-election should be called.

Now you have to wonder about the ownership of the papers in this province and their commitment to fair play when we know the by-election will be called within six months. So get ready. The by-election will come, and we'll see how you on the other side make out.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Coalition Government

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Grant Devine and the Tories, the Premier, the Deputy Premier, and the NDP, are exactly similar and have a similar problem — lack of public support.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, the people of . . . Mr. Speaker, the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order. Kindly allow the question to be asked.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan went to the polls last year and voted to get rid of the NDP government: 40 per cent for the Saskatchewan Party, 30 per cent for the NDP. Unfortunately for Saskatchewan families and businesses, it has been a downhill plunge ever since.

So it's not surprising this morning's paper are confirming that the people have rejected the NDP government. They have rejected a budget that raised taxes instead of cutting them. They have rejected a budget that ignored the priorities of Saskatchewan families. And they have rejected the dark-of-the-night deal between the Liberal leader and the NDP that overturned the results of the election and installed a majority NDP government.

My question to the Minister of Education is simple. In light of the fact that most people are opposed to the provincial budget, will you show true leadership and withdraw your support for the NDP 2000's budget?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, again I want to quote from *The Leader-Post* of September 15, 1999 where the Sask Party challenges the poll results of that day which showed them a long ways behind in a poll.

Well . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . but that's my point. The polls are not always accurate. And what did Mr. Leader of the Opposition say at that time? I quote from the newspaper of that day . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order, hon. members, order. Kindly allow the questions to be heard and the answer to be heard as well. I ask for your co-operation.

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to quote from *The Leader-Post* of September 15, and in that article it says:

Saskatchewan Party leader Elwin Hermanson discounted the new *Leader-Post* poll as rogue and inaccurate because it had a margin of undecided of 44 per cent.

The poll you're talking about and giving great credibility to has 45 per cent undecided and won't say — and won't say. So how is it that in 1999 you discredit polls that have 45 per cent — 45 per cent undecided and won't say — but today you take great credibility?

One of those answers isn't correct. In which one of them are you trying to mislead the public of the province? Which one?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order, I'd ask hon. members to choose their words judicially please.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The September poll that the minister was quoting was proven wrong less than a week later on September 16 when the polls we were talking about turned out to be right. If the minister thinks that poll is wrong, call the by-election.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. Eventually you're going to have to get up and answer a question on the decisions you have made. The people are clearly rejecting the coalition government. They are condemning your decision to prop up the NDP in exchange for \$100,000 cabinet post.

People are also condemning your performance as Education minister. School divisions are saying your budget forgets children. They say your lack of commitment to education is going to drive up property taxes. The people are recognizing that you reneged on your election promises to increase the provincial share of the K to 12 system.

Mr. Minister, in light of yours, and the coalition's failure to honour your election promises with K to 12 education . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. The questions must be directly related to the minister's responsibility and his portfolio — in his portfolio — not with respect to any party affiliation. Order.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have completely rejected the promise to the Saskatchewan people both in the budget . . . in your election platform and the budget to support education.

Will you be tendering your resignation from cabinet and leaving this abysmal coalition until education receives the proper funding?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member opposite again: the two polls that I'm referring to were both done by newspapers in the province. One is accurate, he says, and one isn't accurate. One works in your favour; one doesn't.

The fact of the matter is we're three and a half years before an election. I know you've never gotten over the defeat in the last election and the fact that you're in opposition — but just relax.

I've been in opposition. The three and a half years will go by very, very quickly. Three and a half years will not be very long and then we'll go back to the polls and then we'll see what the people think.

But to continue to wish that you had worked harder and won the last election is a waste of your time. Look forward to the future. Three and a half years will go by. We'll have an election and we'll see what the people think.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Saskatchewan are looking forward to the future when you're in opposition again.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, another question to the Minister of Education, or whoever is speaking for the Liberals and their leader today.

Mr. Minister, you can run but you can't hide. The today's poll shows the Liberal Party's support is disappearing under your leadership and most people give all the credit for that collapse to you.

The people of Saskatchewan have rejected the provincial budget; they have rejected the Liberal-NDP coalition; and even your own member from Wood River has rejected your leadership . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, order, order. I'll ask the hon. member to pose his question to the minister in his responsible portfolio. Party-related issues are not addressed on the floor.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Minister, as the co-leader in this coalition and the Minister of Education, the education community is saying that your leadership has forgotten children and has forgotten the promise to reverse the 60/40 split on property taxes.

Mr. Minister, your decision to share a bed with the NDP has been a disaster from the first kiss. Will you end this dysfunctional relationship and tear up the coalition agreement and keep your promise to the children of this province?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the member opposite . . . I think I've heard the slightest hint of a question with regard to education. So I will answer that question.

Mr. Speaker, the budget that I voted for and that all members on this side voted for provided \$28.5 million in additional spending for education, \$1.9 million in grants-in-lieu, an additional 25 million in property tax rebates for a total of \$55 million — the largest increase in this province's history.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — And when we talk about what they would provide for education — the members opposite — not 1 cent. Frozen — not 1 penny. Do they care about children? No, they don't care. Do they care about health care? No, they don't care.

The fact of the matter is our budget was balanced, it makes sense, and we're all very proud of it on this side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have seen since this session started the complete failure of that minister and his responsibility as Minister of Education. He promised money for children. He promised that there would be a reversal of the 60/40 split on property taxes. And what has he delivered? Mr. Speaker, he has delivered not even enough money to cover the teachers' settlement that was just made.

Property taxes are going to have to increase, teachers are going to have to be fired, programs are going to shut down because of his failure as the Minister of Education.

Mr. Minister, will you abandon this coalition that is failing the people of Saskatchewan. Stand up for what you did, what you promised in the election campaign. Show your leadership, show your support for the people of Saskatchewan, and vote against this government and their budget. Will you do so?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, I think the members opposite are having some trouble in hearing the responses to their questions.

The Education budget, which we're all very proud of on this side of the House, provided significant new money for education. And they voted against that budget. They voted against an additional 14 million for special education. They voted against doubling the community funding for northern community schools. They voted against providing \$18.5 million on the foundation operating grant.

And you know what? We've had, we've had people, trustees from school divisions . . . In fact I had a trustee from Naicam the other day call me and thank me for their capital budget that provided new facilities in a member opposite's riding.

We are hearing from all across this province how well it has been received with regard to our education funding, and no . . . and I remind the members not one . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

##### **Bill No. 67 — The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2000**

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I move Bill No. 67, The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2000 be now read and introduced for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

##### **Bill No. 68 — The Rural Municipality Amendment Act, 2000**

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 68, The Rural Municipality Amendment, 2000 be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

##### **Bill No. 69 — The Urban Municipality Amendment Act, 2000**

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 69, The Urban Municipality Amendment Act, 2000 be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

##### **Bill No. 70 — The Education (Elimination of Business Tax) Amendment Act, 2000/Loi de 2000 modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation (élimination de la taxe professionnelle)**

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 70, The Education (Elimination of Business Tax) Amendment Act, 2000 be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting.

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the House do now adjourn.

The Assembly adjourned at 2:27 p.m.



## Volunteer Medal Presentation

May 17, 2000

9

**Mr. Jackson:** — Ladies and gentlemen, Her Honour the Honourable Dr. Lynda Haverstock, Chancellor of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

Please join in singing the Royal anthem, *God Save the Queen*.

Please be seated.

Your Honour, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the fifth presentation of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

It is now my pleasure to call on the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Ron Osika, for his remarks. Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Your Honour, Deputy Premier, Mr. Hermanson, Mr. Melenchuk, members of the Legislative Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of all of the members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to welcome everyone here today. We especially welcome the eight volunteer medal recipients and their guests.

This is the fifth year, as our master of ceremony has pointed out, to hold the presentation for the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal in this Assembly. In 1995, with all-party support this legislature adopted amendments to The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act which established the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. As this honour was created by the Legislative Assembly, it is most appropriate that the members of the Legislative Assembly are asked to introduce each of the recipients today, and are taking an active part in presenting these noble ladies and gentlemen with this honour.

When we hear of the high level of volunteer service given by the recipients, we will instantly understand that these eight people typify the overwhelming volunteer spirit of Saskatchewan people. To our guests of honour today, I want to say you are some of our province's outstanding citizens. My friends, you have truly given, and in doing that, you have been a significant part of building a better Saskatchewan.

Too often people hesitate to get involved thinking that a task or a challenge is too large or too complicated. Your work shows us that our individual efforts indeed do make a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Margaret Mead has said, and I will quote:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Along with all the hon. members of this Legislative Assembly, I say to you, thank you, and congratulations.

**Applause.**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is now a pleasure to call on Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor for her address. Your Honour.

**Her Honour Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock:** — Mr. Deputy Premier, Mr. Speaker, ministers of the Crown, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Leader of the Liberal caucus, members of the Legislative Assembly, distinguished honourees, ladies and gentlemen.

Many have learned from the writings of Viktor E. Frankl and I am no exception. Of the holocaust he said, and I quote:

We who lived in the concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts, comforting others, giving their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a human being but one thing, the last of one's freedoms, the freedom to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances. To choose one's own way.

We have come together in this legislative Chamber, a place which exemplifies democratic rights and freedoms, to pay tribute to eight remarkable individuals. Each has chosen to contribute to our society, improve upon their communities and enhance the lives of others.

Each comes from their own unique background and has varying skills and strengths. But they have one extraordinary characteristic in common. A willingness to give a most treasured gift that all of us possess — the gift of time. And by choosing to focus on others, they have already left a legacy in their own lifetime, and stand as examples to every citizen to emulate.

It is important for us to have days like today, days when we express our gratitude to citizens such as these. Not just for the actual deeds they have done, but for the message their choices send to others. This occasion helps us to re-examine our own priorities and reflect upon how we can do things better, kinder, and wiser.

If Saskatchewan is to continue its impressive tradition of volunteerism, children and youth must see service in action from individuals who are unwilling to be distracted from giving, regardless of the demands of their busy lives.

I am very pleased indeed to be able to publicly say thank you to these special men and women receiving a medal this afternoon for their generosity of spirit, and for being such superb models for upcoming generations.

So in closing I am proud, very proud to bring you greetings on behalf of Queen Elizabeth Her Majesty, the Queen of Canada, all of the people of Saskatchewan. We are the beneficiaries of your good works.

And now I would like to invite the secretary to present the recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

### **Applause.**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Thank you, Your Honour. On behalf of the chairperson and members of the Saskatchewan Honours Advisory Council, it is my privilege to advise your Honour, as Her Majesty's representative in our province, that eight citizens duly selected to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal are present today for this purpose, and to read the certificate formally appointing them:

In the name of the Crown in right of Saskatchewan and pursuant to The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act Ferdie Ewald of Regina, Ronald Gallaway of Estevan, William Kalmakoff of Saskatoon, Alice Leung of Saskatoon, Beatrice Middleton of Moosomin, Geraldine Pepler of Yorkton, William Perry of Craven, Patricia Thistlethwaite of Swift Current have been awarded the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal for 1999 in recognition of outstanding volunteer service and exceptional community involvement in the province of Saskatchewan. Presented at Regina this 17th

day of May 2000.

Signed, Jack Hillson, Provincial Secretary; Roy Romanow, Premier; Lynda Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor.

**Applause.**

### **Ferdie Ewald**

**Mr. Jackson:** — At the age of 19, Ferdie Ewald volunteered for service with the Canadian artillery in Europe during the Second World War. Then throughout a lengthy and varied career in social work, he always showed a willingness to go above and beyond his normal duties to respond to human need.

Since his official retirement, Mr. Ewald has built a second career as an advocate for seniors and health care. Among those benefiting from his dedication and skill have been the Canadian Seniors Network called “One Voice Canada”, and the Regina Senior Citizens Centre. He is a public representative on the board of the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses’ Association.

Ferdie Ewald organized and hosted an award-winning series of television programs on issues facing seniors. He has more than fulfilled his goal of giving something back to the community in which he was nurtured.

I call on the member of the Legislative Assembly for Regina South, Mr. Andrew Thomson.

**Mr. Thomson:** — Your Honour, it is my privilege to present to you a constituent of mine, Mr. Ferdie Ewald, to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

**Applause.**

### **Ronald Gallaway**

**Mr. Jackson:** — For half a century Ron Gallaway has juggled innumerable volunteer activities with a successful career in farming. His voluntarism is characterized by long-term commitment, continuity, and perseverance. He has been an elder in the United Church for 45 years, school board member for 30, and Chair of agricultural district board committees for 30, not to mention 15 years as director of a rural telephone company and six years on the senates of both provincial universities.

Mr. Gallaway is appreciated for his high personal standards, his unselfish desire to serve without expectation of recognition, and his ability to work harmoniously with others. He was a key player in the merger of the Agricultural Societies Association and the Association of Fairs and Exhibitions into the Saskatchewan Association of Agricultural Societies and Exhibitions and served as its founding president.

I call on the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Estevan, Ms. Doreen Eagles.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Your Honour, it is my privilege to present to you a constituent of mine, Mr. Ronald J. Gallaway, to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

**Applause.**

**William Kalmakoff**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Bill Kalmakoff volunteered constantly during a busy and demanding career in education. Retirement simply meant an exponential increase in his voluntarism.

He has worked diligently to promote the cause of heritage languages and multiculturalism. He has held key positions in the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association, the Saskatchewan Association for Heritage Languages, and MultiFaith Saskatchewan.

Mr. Kalmakoff is committed to the preservation of Doukhobor religious and cultural traditions. He is a long-standing trustee and elder of the Doukhobor Society. His volunteer activity also extends to bowling, lawn bowling, curling, and barbershop singing.

Bill Kalmakoff is a fine example of the dedicated volunteer who contributes so much to the vibrant multicultural mosaic of our province.

I call on the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Saskatoon Greystone, Mr. Peter Prebble.

**Mr. Prebble:** — Your Honour, it's my privilege to present to you a constituent of mine, Mr. William Kalmakoff, to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

**Applause.**

**Alice Leung**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Alice Leung is a leading light in the Chinese community, promoting and preserving Chinese culture and helping immigrants adapt to Canadian living.

Chinese art, poetry, dance, cuisine, healing and exercises, women's and seniors' activities, and pavilions at Saskatoon's Folkfest have all benefited from her leadership, as have the scout and guide movements, her church, and Mandarin school. On top of her full shifts at Canada Post, Alice Leung volunteers for its annual Christmas letter program, answering children's letters to Santa Claus.

Mrs. Leung is an inveterate fundraiser, numbering the Kidney Foundation, Lupus Society, Terry Fox Run, United Way, and Kinsmen Telemiracle among her causes. Voluntarism is in her blood. "Volunteer activities," she says, "come and find me." Secure in her pride in her own heritage, Alice Leung confidently promotes harmony and equality of races and cultures.

I call again on the member of the Legislative Assembly for Saskatoon Greystone, Mr. Peter Prebble.

**Mr. Prebble:** — Your Honour, it's my great privilege to present to you a constituent of mine, Mrs. Alice Leung, to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

**Applause.**

**Beatrice Middleton**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Bea Middleton exudes a palpable enjoyment of her volunteer activity in a community known for its high rate of voluntarism. She can be found regularly at the seniors' lodge, nursing home, adult day care and hospital in Moosomin. At age 86 she is far too youthful and vigorous, too busy



helping seniors, to realize that she is one of their number. She drives seniors and visits them and recruits others to do the same.

Mrs. Middleton is a multi-faceted musician, playing piano, organ, saxophone and violin. She contributes her musical talents generously to local vocalists, choirs, concerts, parties, dance bands, and the United, Anglican, and Lutheran churches. She is a member of the pastoral team of the United Church.

With her characteristic gentleness, grace, and good humour she is an inspiration to those around her.

I call on the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Moosomin, Mr. Don Toth.

**Mr. Toth:** — Your Honour, it is my privilege to present to you a constituent of mine, Mrs. Beatrice Middleton to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

**Applause.**

### Geraldine Pepler

**Mr. Jackson:** — Gerri Pepler has transferred her skills as a media personality to the volunteer field. As chairperson of the Yorkton Housing Authority she spearheaded efforts to accommodate independent living for seniors confined to wheelchairs. She has served on a geriatric task force. She volunteers in the health district and the regional hospital. Her communications background is a great asset to the Special Olympics and the Saskatchewan Summer Games.

Gerri Pepler translates her compassion for the disadvantaged and vulnerable into energetic action. She has been a long-standing volunteer in the “Coats for Kids” initiative. She contributes her talents and experience to Shelwin House, a shelter for battered women and their children, to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers and to Parkland Victim Services. She is hailed as “an excellent embodiment of the volunteer spirit” of our province.

I call on the member of the Legislative Assembly for Yorkton, the Hon. Clay Serby.

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Your Honour, it is my privilege to introduce to you a constituent of mine, Mrs. Geraldine, Gerri, Pepler to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

**Applause.**

### William Perry

**Mr. Jackson:** — Bill Perry has always volunteered his services far beyond the requirements of his employment. While on the staff of the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) Training Academy in Regina, he founded the volunteer band which continues some forty years later.

He was largely responsible for the sunset ceremony which has prospered into one of our province’s leading tourist attractions. He was the volunteer manager and producer of the RCMP festival in 1995 and the tattoo in 1998. He assists at the RCMP Museum and is president of the RCMP veterans.

When general manager of the Regina Exhibition Association, Bill Perry was instrumental in organizing the first Saskatchewan Recreation Facilities Association. He plays a key lay leadership role in Lumsden’s Anglican church. He is chairing the committee for an expansion to the district seniors’ home.

He is dedicated to the community of which he is such an integral part.

I call on the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Last Mountain-Touchwood, Mr. Glen Hart.

**Mr. Hart:** — Your Honour, it is my privilege to present to you a constituent of mine, Mr. William (Bill) Perry, to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

**Applause.**

### **Patricia Thistlethwaite**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Pat Thistlethwaite's four decades of volunteer service are reflected in the life memberships bestowed on her by the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church, the Swift Current Agriculture and Exhibition Association, the National Farmers Union, and the Associated Country Women of the World. Her voluntarism is broadly based, proactive, and long term.

After retiring to Swift Current, Mrs. Thistlethwaite immersed herself in volunteering for seniors. Her musical talents are put to good use in a band bringing joy to senior care citizens homes in the city. She strives for the improvement of social policy through the Saskatchewan Seniors' Association and the Swift Current Senior Citizens' Activity Centre. Her calendar is full and her telephone never stops ringing, because she is a firm believer in the vital role of the volunteer helping others in the community.

I call on the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Swift Current, Mr. Brad Wall.

**Mr. Wall:** — Your Honour, it is my privilege to present to you a constituent of mine, Mrs. Patricia Thistlethwaite, to receive the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

**Applause.**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Your Honour, this completes the presentations of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal for 1999. Thank you very much for presiding.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to call on the Deputy Premier of Saskatchewan, the Hon. Dwain Lingenfelter for his remarks.

**Hon. Mr. Lingenfelter:** — Your Honour, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, and Leader of the Liberal Party, to my fellow members of the Legislative Assembly, and of course our distinguished recipients and their families who are with us here today, as well as the many special guests who are here with us on the floor of the Assembly and in this gallery, good afternoon and welcome to each and every one of you.

I'm pleased and proud to bring greetings on behalf of the people of the province and the Government of Saskatchewan, and to join you all in honouring these very special eight recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal.

Congratulations to each and every one of you.

Now the criteria for the medal are:

That the recipient has (and I want to quote from the official manual) provided without reward or

gain, outstanding volunteer service, or exceptional community involvement in an area that is beyond the performance of the individual's normal duties, or the exercise of the responsibilities of a profession to which that individual belongs.

Or to put it in a more simple way, Damien Hess once wrote, and I quote:

Service is giving what you don't have to give. Giving when you don't need to give. Giving because you want to give.

Now our recipients wanted to give, and for that we are truly grateful — not because you had to, not because you needed to, but because you wanted to, to help your community, your family and friends.

Ferdie Ewald, Ronald Gallaway, William Kalmakoff, Alice Leung, Beatrice Middleton, Geraldine Peppler, William Perry, and Pat Thistlethwaite, you have all gone above and beyond, and I want to say a very, very special word of congratulations to each of you.

And in doing so, you have proven yourselves as great examples to your families and to other citizens in our province. And we in our province of Saskatchewan take justifiable pride in the highest level of volunteer activities of any other province in the nation.

Now volunteering is an expression of what we know as the Saskatchewan way, an expression of our core values, of community, and of co-operation.

So I thank you — not just because of your many years of contributions, but for helping make our province such an outstanding place to live, to raise a family, and for setting such a good example for your sharing of generosity and selflessness.

And I'd like to end with a quote that I feel illustrates the gift that you have given to our province. Mahatma Gandhi once said, and I quote:

Be the change you want to see in the world.

And thank you for being part of the change that has made our province truly great.

Once again, on behalf of Saskatchewan, the government, and the people of the province, congratulations on this exceptional award, and I wish you and your families the best of luck in any and all future endeavours. Thank you.

### **Applause.**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Thank you, Mr. Lingenfelter. Ladies and gentlemen, the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, Mr. Elwin Hermanson.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you. Your Honour, Mr. Speaker, Deputy Premier, and Leader of the Liberal Party, fellow members of the legislature on both sides of the House, particularly to the eight honourees, your families, and all special guests in the legislature, I too would like to welcome you here on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

And I want to join with others in offering my congratulations to all the recipients of this very, very special honour bestowed here today.

There is probably no other province in Canada where the concept of volunteerism is as important as it is right here in Saskatchewan. The strong sense of community which we all enjoy in this province stems from the fact that so many people are willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved in projects in their cities, their towns, and villages.

People throughout this great province contribute many hours of their free time to a myriad of projects, and they do so for no compensation other than for the sense of a satisfaction of a job well done. If these dedicated acts of selflessness did not exist, neither would many of the things in our communities that we hold so dear. I believe there isn't a single town or city in this province where you can't find major projects that were conceived, planned, and completed by volunteers.

And the fact that these eight accomplished individuals have been selected for special recognition this year tells us just how dedicated they have been in their own communities. Amongst the bumper crop of volunteers in Saskatchewan, you stand above everyone and you should be very, very proud of your accomplishments. You are leaders in your communities, you are role models for youth, and you are deserving of this special recognition.

The eight of you symbolize what makes our province great and what will continue to make us great long into the future. Thanks to each and every one of you for your hard work throughout the years, and my sincerest congratulations on this well-deserved honour. Thank you.

### **Applause.**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Ladies and gentlemen, the Leader of the Liberal caucus, the Hon. Dr. Jim Melenchuk.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Your Honour, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Deputy Premier, Mr. Leader of the Opposition, ministers of the Crown, fellow members of the Legislative Assembly, honours recipients, and guests, I am very pleased to rise on behalf of the Liberal caucus to give thanks for the magnificent contributions made to our province and our country by these wonderful people we have here today.

As Alice Sandstrom, winner of the Jefferson Award for volunteerism once said: Volunteers polish up the rough spots in our communities.

The character of our country and our province, the very nature of who we are can be defined by the efforts of these noble individuals. Mr. Speaker, the value of our society can be seen in several ways — how it treats the less fortunate, how active people are in civic activities, how committed it is to art and culture, and constantly striving to bring out the best in not only others but themselves as well.

Our guests today are the benchmark by which we measure our commitment to our society. And we should consider ourselves the luckiest people in the world that we have these people here today that also serve as role models to our community, as examples on how best to live our lives, but also showing us how far we have come as a society.

We are here to show our respect, our appreciation, our faith in such an outstanding group of people. These people have sacrificed their time, their talent, their energy in the service of others.

Saskatchewan people have a deserved reputation for giving, be it financially for worthy causes, giving of their time and efforts to help neighbours and those less fortunate, giving of themselves to better the lives of others.

We have tremendous talent in the province of Saskatchewan. We have people who are willing to sacrifice not only their most precious resource of time, but their energy and income as well to do better for the people of this province. These awards show us all we have that ability to do something to help someone else.

And so it is on behalf of the Liberal caucus, I take great pride in recognizing the tremendous contributions and accomplishments of each and every one of you to your communities, to Saskatchewan, and to Canada. From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank all the award winners today for making Saskatchewan a better place to live. Thank you.

**Applause.**

**Mr. Jackson** — Ladies and gentlemen, before we conclude the formal part of our ceremony this afternoon, the Speaker has asked me to invite all of you to the Speaker's tea immediately following the ceremony in the rotunda and in room 218 in the west corridor. And there you can meet the recipients of the Volunteer Medal, the official party, and the members of the Legislative Assembly.

Following the singing of the national anthem, could you kindly remain in your places for the departures from the Chamber in the following order: first, the viceregal party; then the Deputy Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the Leader of the Liberal caucus; then the Speaker's party; then the recipients of the Volunteer Medal, the members of the Legislative Assembly, and other guests.

I would like to thank Ambiance Quartet for the music this afternoon. As always, of a high standard. Thank you.

**Applause.**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Mr. Speaker, I have to make a confession to you at this point that earlier today the recipients asked me with some concern if they occupied those seats during question period. I reassured them on your behalf that they would be sitting elsewhere.

But we all appreciate what you, Mr. Speaker, have done and the House leaders of all parties in permitting this ceremony to take place during your time and in your Chamber. We're sincerely grateful and we would like to express our thanks to you.

And this is an occasion where I'm going to ask, and I can say it this time because I'm chairing, asking all members of the Legislative Assembly to remain seated and not to applaud and everyone else to rise and applaud our members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

**Applause.**

**Mr. Jackson:** — Thank you very much for your thanks to our MLAs.

And now would you please rise and join in the singing of the national anthem, *O Canada*.

Ladies and gentlemen, Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.