

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a petition on behalf of people in my constituency who are very concerned about Highway No. 49. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway No. 49 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in Kelvington and the surrounding areas.

The people who've signed this petition are all from Kelvington.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon on behalf of citizens of Moose Jaw who are concerned about the lack of dialysis service. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take necessary action to provide the people of Moose Jaw and district with a hemodialysis unit for their community.

The signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Moose Jaw and also from Estevan and Bellegarde.

I am pleased to present on their behalf.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by citizens who are concerned about the frightful and deplorable lack of a hemodialysis unit in the city of Moose Jaw. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to provide the people of Moose Jaw and district with a hemodialysis unit for their community.

The people that have signed the petition are all from the city of Moose Jaw.

I so present.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of constituents who are very concerned about the condition of Highway 47 between Estevan and Boundary dam resort. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 47 South in order to avoid serious injury and property damage.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Swift Current, Estevan, Torquay, and Lampman.

I so present.

Ms. Bakken: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about Crown leaseholding. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure current Crown land lessees maintain their first option to renew those leases.

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Weyburn, Leroy, Tribune, and Creelman.

I so present.

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens . . . (inaudible) . . . And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure continuation of the current level of services available at the Kindersley Hospital and to ensure the current specialty services are sustained to better serve the people of west central Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by . . .

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens concerned for fairness for Crown leaseholders:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take the necessary steps to ensure current Crown land lessees maintain their first option to renew these leases.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Wilkie and Landis and district.

I so present.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of constituents who are very concerned about a section of Highway 22. It's a section of highway that I had the opportunity to review myself on the weekend and it certainly does need repairs. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway

22 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Ste. Rose, Manitoba, Southey, and Craven.

I so present.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise . . . (inaudible) . . . signed by citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned with the 2003 significant increase in crop insurance. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to have Saskatchewan Crop Insurance reverse the 2003 premium increases and restore affordable crop insurance premiums to our struggling farmers.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The signatures on these petitions, Mr. Speaker, are from Shell Lake and Spiritwood.

I so present.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Radville Christian College, I present petition 01 for a private Bill to amend the college's Act of incorporation.

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, we seem to be having some difficulty with our sound system. I would propose that we continue on until . . . through members' statements, if members could just keep track of their statements and perhaps hand them in to *Hansard* in case there's a break. And we hope by then we'll have the system repaired. We may have to pause before oral question period.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Speaker: — Thank you all.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received:

A petition concerning the retention of schools in rural communities such as Denzil; and

Addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 10, 12, 13, 18, 35, and 36.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 49 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of CIC: during the month of April 2002 how much money did SGI spend on television ads?

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of other questions for the following months.

I also give notice that I shall on day no. 49 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of CIC: during the month of April 2002 how much money did SGI spend on radio ads?

And again, Mr. Speaker, I have questions for subsequent months, following months.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 49 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of CIC: during the month of April 2002 how much money did SGI spend on print lots?

And again I have questions for following months.

And I'm pleased to present these questions to the government.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 49 ask the government the following questions:

To the Premier: has Executive Council ordered any polling on the subject of Crown corporations and Crown investments; if so, will that poll be released to the public?

And also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 49 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of CIC: Has the minister or his department ordered any polling on the subject of Crown corporations and Crown investments; if so, will that poll be released to the public?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce through you to the other members of the Assembly some representatives of the mining industry in Saskatchewan, both from management and labour. And I'd like to, in recognition of Saskatchewan Mining Week, Mr. Speaker, also ask for leave to say a few words about Saskatchewan Mining Week, if I may.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to inform the Legislative Assembly that May 25 to May 31 — this week — has been proclaimed as Saskatchewan Mining Week. This week is a time to salute and recognize the significant contribution mining makes to our province's prosperity, to growing our economy, and to creating jobs for Saskatchewan people.

Let me begin by asking some guests in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, to rise. First of all, from the Saskatchewan Mining Association, we have Mr. Norm Beug, who is the president. We have Mr. Michael Hogan, who is the second vice-president; Mr. Moe Davyduke, who is a member of the executive; Mr. Josef Spross, who is the past president; and Mr. Phil Reeves, who is the executive director.

And we also have with us Mr. Roy Howell, who is

Occupational Health and Safety Council member, representing workers. He is from the United Steelworkers of America, Local 7689. We have Kelly Reynolds, the Co-Chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee of the United Steelworkers of America, Local 7552; Mr. Gord Gress, United Steelworkers of America, Local 7656; Mr. Lorne Wagner, the president of the United Mine Workers of America, Local 7606; and Lonnie Haux, Chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, United Mine Workers of America, Local 7606, also.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — So the House has welcomed them and thank you for that.

I just wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, if I might, that Saskatchewan has many reasons to be proud of the mining industry and the people that work within it. We are the third largest non-fuel mineral producer in Canada. Approximately 6 per cent of our provincial GDP (gross domestic product) is now from mining.

Saskatchewan is unique in Canada for leading international production of two very important minerals, uranium and potash. We are the world's largest producer. And today Saskatchewan produces 100 per cent of all uranium mined in Canada and over a third of the uranium extracted around the world.

Similarly we produce about a third of the world's potash. We also produce a diverse range of other minerals like coal, gold, copper, zinc, clay, salt, sodium and potassium sulphates. And there are additional potential exploration opportunities for rare earth and platinum group metals and especially exciting prospects for diamonds, Mr. Speaker.

Mining is clearly of great benefit to Saskatchewan's economy. Last year the industry sold \$2.4 billion worth of products and returned about \$250 million in resource royalty and tax revenues to the people of our province.

Mr. Speaker, the taxes we collect from mining companies help fund education, health care, and other important social programs across the province. And just as important, our mining industry is all about jobs — jobs that benefit towns all over Saskatchewan in our rural communities, in the North, and for our Aboriginal people.

Mr. Speaker, approximately 20,000 people work directly and indirectly in the mining industry. These employees are well trained and highly skilled. They receive some of the highest industrial wages of any sector, on average \$56,000 per year. And mining is also one of the safest industries to work in.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Mining Week goes a long way each year to increase public awareness of this very important sector of our economy. And so through you, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members and indeed everyone in the province to reflect and take pride in the contribution mining makes to ensuring a future that is wide open for Saskatchewan. And I encourage everyone to celebrate Saskatchewan Mining Week from May 25 to May 31 because, Mr. Speaker, mining is very, very good for Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stewart: — . . . I rise to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Hon. Assembly several very important men in the mining industry within this province — Norm Beug, president of the Saskatchewan Mining Association, Mike Hogan, second vice-president of the Saskatchewan Mining Association, Moe Davyduke a member of the executive, Josef Spross, immediate past president of the Saskatchewan Mining Association, and Mr. Phil Reeves, executive director of the Saskatchewan Mining Association. I hope you all enjoy your visit to this Hon. Assembly and that Mining Week is a great success this year.

And also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce some officials from the United Steelworkers and United Mine workers of America unions . . . (inaudible) . . . this great industry important for Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to all the members of our Assembly today, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce 16 grade 12 students from the community of Eastend, my home community. And I'm so grateful to have these students here today. It's become almost a tradition.

And I was meeting with them earlier, just prior to the session, and informed them how important I feel that these visits are by various classes throughout the . . . (inaudible) . . . provincial constituency at the provincial legislature.

Mr. Speaker, we have, with the students, teachers Marie Hanson and Shelley Morvik. They've been very conscientious about teaching the political system to these young people and made the arrangements for this particular trip.

And accompanying them, behind the wheel of the bus, is Kurt Humphrey, the driver. Now last year you might remember, Mr. Speaker, when I introduced Kurt, I said he was the best backhoe operator in the province. We're not going to go there this year. I'm just going to say that he's a very important coffee buddy of mine when I'm at home. It's nice to have Kurt here.

But also on behalf of our Page, Brock Egeto, I'd like to introduce two of the students specifically. He has two cousins, twins, Stephanie and Shelagh Morris, attending as part of the grade 12 class today. On behalf of Brock, I'd like to have them stand and introduce them to you specifically this afternoon.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Legislative Assembly, a group of 49 students seated in the western gallery. They're a group of grade 5 and 7 students hailing from Walker School, and they're here with their teachers, John Stark and Cheryl Ball.

It's the third time I've had the great opportunity to meet with this particular group — a different group of students, of course, but the same excellent teachers. So it's a pleasure to see you up

here today in the gallery. I hope you enjoy the proceedings and I look forward to meeting with you after the question period. Thank you.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Due to technical difficulties the text of members' statements published in today's *Hansard* is not a verbatim record. The following text was provided by members and is published by leave of the Assembly.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Prince Albert Community Events

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As you will know, Friday night was a pretty busy evening in Prince Albert. It was so busy in fact that we had to import an extra MLA in to help cover all the events taking place that evening. I was very pleased to be present at the grand opening of the Prince Albert Arts Centre. You, I understand, helped the Minister of Community Resources celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Prince Albert Housing Authority — fine events, both.

Meanwhile out at the Exhibition Centre about 300 of Prince Albert's finest gathered for the 14th annual YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) sponsored Women of Distinction awards banquet. As you know this is one evening of the year when we recognize the year-long outstanding contributions of several women to the business, social, and cultural life of our city. But we should also mention it's a very important fundraiser by the Y to support the many programs and services, particularly its residence.

There were 14 nominees in five categories. All are winners, but the declared winner in each category is: Sheryl Kimbley, in Arts and Culture; Peggy Paull, in the Business and Professional Women; Ellen Grewcock, in Health, Sport and Fitness; Delphine Melchert, for the Community Enhancement; and special recognition, as well as the \$1,000 Roberta Bondar scholarship going to the Young Woman of Distinction, Erica Nelson. Erica met Canada's astronaut, Ms. Bondar, in the second grade, a meeting which left a lasting impression on her.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees, and to the organizers.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mining Week in Saskatchewan

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is Mining Week in Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Mining Association has a busy week planned, beginning with the launch of Mining Week at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum this morning, and wrapping up on Saturday with the emergency response and mine rescue competition and banquet at Exhibition Park here in Regina.

It is very appropriate that this week be set aside annually to recognize the contribution that mining makes to Saskatchewan. The theme for this year's mining week is, The Economic

Impact and Significance of the Mining Industry in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, the economic impact and significance are considerable, mining being Saskatchewan's third-largest industry in terms of value of sales, after oil and gas and agriculture. The total value of mineral sales in 2002 was over \$2.4 billion.

The industry spends more than \$2 billion annually on wages and goods and services. The mining industry pays more than \$250 million a year in royalties and taxes. The mining industry employs 20,000 people directly and the average employee earns more than \$55,000 annually.

Saskatchewan is the largest producer in the world of both potash and uranium, accounting for about one-third of the world's production in both commodities; 63 per cent of the province's power is generated from coal mined in the province.

Mining is one of the safest industries in the province and displays a strong social and environmental conscience.

Congratulations to the Saskatchewan Mining Association and to the industry, and thank you for the work you do and the huge contribution that you make to our province.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Communities of Tomorrow Partnership

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — I can see why they wouldn't want the opposition to be heard but why they wouldn't want me to be seen, I don't understand.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to a five-year, \$30 million investment from various partners in the New Communities of Tomorrow partnership, Regina's set to be a national centre of excellence for work on sustainable communities.

The Communities of Tomorrow partnership will develop, demonstrate, and commercialize technologies and management practices for sustainable communities. It is a partnership that brings together the facilities and capabilities of the NRC — which is of course the National Research Council of Canada — University of Regina, city of Regina, and it brings it together in a unique community environmental laboratory. This will help us to test and assess existing and emerging technologies and applications for sustainable community development.

Mr. Speaker, this new NRC Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure Research is the key to this partnership. The research program will serve as a catalyst for the growth of a technology cluster in the region that will focus on the theme of sustainable infrastructure development.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that the future of Saskatchewan is all about change in attitude. For those of us who choose to believe in this province, the future is truly wide open.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Green Ribbon of Hope Month

Ms. Draude: — Today a number of MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) are sporting a green ribbon upon their lapel. These ribbons, Mr. Speaker, are part of Child Find Canada's Green Ribbon of Hope campaign that ran through the month of May. The ribbons are used to draw the public's awareness to the issue of missing children in Canada.

The students and faculty of Holy Cross Secondary School in St. Catharines, Ontario started this idea following the abduction and horrific murder of their friend, Kristen French.

Every year police departments across this country receive thousands of reports of missing children. As was evidenced by the abduction and murder of 10-year-old Holly Jones in Toronto this year, we are all too aware that not all missing children are found alive, if found at all.

Child Find is dedicated to both the education of parents and guardians to ensure their children are kept safe, as well as the return of missing children to their rightful guardians. I would hope all members of our community wear this ribbon as a sign of their support and concern for this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Gordon Tootoosis Honoured at Yorkton Film Festival

Mr. Goulet: — Mr. Speaker, Otuyumiw, the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Arts honoured Gordon Tootoosis with an ACTRA Award of Excellence at the Yorkton Film Festival over the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon Tootoosis was raised on the Poundmaker First Nation in a home where he was taught that pride in one's culture was of special significance. Pride and respect had to be an integral part of one's life. Like his father, the late John Tootoosis, it meant standing up for one's beliefs in all areas, including the political.

Mr. Tootoosis began his acting career in Toronto in the late '60s as part of the emerging Canadian theatre movement. His first film role was as Almighty Voice in a movie called *Alien Thunder* and since then he has played in more than 40 films and television shows. He has played good guys, bad guys, historical figures, a puppet, a cartoon character, and a ghost. He is probably best known for his portrayal of the villainous Albert Golo in the TV show *North of 60*, although Saskatchewan Indians will likely remember him best as Big Bear in the film of the same name.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon Tootoosis is an outstanding performer, an excellent ambassador for the province, and a worthy role model for all Saskatchewan people, no matter what their background. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tootoosis, not only on receiving this ACTRA Award of Excellence, but for all his achievements.

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

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Prince Albert Women of Distinction Awards

Mr. Wiberg: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 600 people including myself attended the 14th annual Women of Distinction Awards banquet held in Prince Albert on Friday evening, May 23.

This gala event at the Prince Albert Exhibition Centre affords the people of Prince Albert and district the opportunity to recognize women who have gone above and beyond to make our community a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) host this annual event and again the evening was a highly successful celebration for the Y.

The guest speaker was Gail Bowen, a professor at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College and author of several books and plays. As enthralling a speaker as Ms. Bowen is, Mr. Speaker, the 14 nominees held the spotlight. And I would like to inform the Assembly of five of these women.

The first honouree was Erica Nelson, a grade 12 student. Erica received the SaskPower/Roberta Bondar Young Woman of Distinction Award for excellence in education and community participation. Sheryl Kimbley was honoured for her participation and promotion of arts and culture. Sheryl will produce this year's Noises of the North Youth Showcase. Peggy Paull, a realtor in Prince Albert and former office manager for a Member of Parliament, Stan Hovdebo, was honoured in the business and professional category. Delphine Melchert was recognized in the community enhancement category for her role in helping those less fortunate than others. Finally, Ellen Grewcock was honoured in the health, sport and fitness category as a participant, coach and official.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members please join me in congratulating these five recipients.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

John MacLeod Retires

Mr. Harper: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, May 22, I and a number of my colleagues joined a group of men and women getting together to honour a man for his lifelong commitment and tireless dedication to protecting the rights of working men and women of our province. The occasion was the retirement celebration of John MacLeod.

Mr. Speaker, John MacLeod had a long and productive career. From 1993 to 2002 John served as the business manager of the Saskatchewan Provincial Building Trades Council. Previous to that, for over 25 years, he was the business manager for the Local 2038 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. And during his tenure with IBEW John also managed to find time to serve as president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the good fortune of knowing John for a long time and I look forward to knowing him for a long time

yet. And I have to say that rarely, rarely have I met a individual more dedicated to the trade union movement or to the cause of building a better society.

I know all of my government colleagues will want to join me in wishing John and his wife, Kathy, all the best in their retirement and in saying, congratulations John — congratulations and thank you for a job well done.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members, before we proceed any further, I would just ask the House leaders to come forward for consultation.

Due to technical difficulties the Assembly recessed for a period of time.

The Assembly adjourned at 15:31 p.m.

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