

The Assembly met at 10:00.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand once again today to present petitions on behalf of the good citizens of Saskatchewan. And this petition reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

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 No. 47 South in order to avoid any serious injury and property damage.

And the signatures on this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from the city of Estevan and also Langbank and Bienfait.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a petition on behalf of residents of Saskatchewan. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that . . . may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 23 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in Porcupine Plain and surrounding areas.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures come from Porcupine Plain, Somme, Nipawin, Carragana, Wadena, and even the fine community of Invermay.

I so present.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to improve Highway 23, signed by citizens of the province of Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 23 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in Porcupine Plain and surrounding areas.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are primarily from Porcupine Plain and Hudson Bay, and I am pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased again today to rise on behalf of people in my constituency who want the government to recognize the need to fix Highway No. 23. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 23 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in Porcupine Plain and surrounding areas.

People that have signed this petition are from Porcupine Plain, Lintlaw, Carragana, and Chelan. I thank you.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a . . .

**The Speaker:** — I just want to be able to hear these petitions.

**Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by Saskatchewan people who are concerned that deregulation and privatization in the electrical industry is causing electrical rates to increase dramatically in other jurisdictions. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government of Saskatchewan and the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to assure the people of Saskatchewan that deregulation and privatization of the electrical industry in Saskatchewan, including SaskPower, will not be allowed.

And this petition, Mr. Speaker, is signed by people from Raymore, Lanigan, Colonsay, Wadena, and Ituna.

And I so present, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of problematic and difficult roads just will not go away. So this morning I present a petition on behalf of individuals who are concerned about roads in the Porcupine Plain area. The prayer reads as . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please. Order, please. Order please, members. I would ask members if they want to do a little visiting, perhaps they could do so behind either bar and let the proceedings in this Assembly take place.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This reminds me of my days in radio. You get to take a second run at it after you blew it the first time. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 49 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in Kelvington and surrounding areas.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this has been signed by the good citizens of Porcupine Plain.

I so present on their behalf.

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition, actually a large number of petitions, signed by individuals concerned with the crassness and carelessness of

this NDP (New Democratic Party) government with regard to the lack of a hemodialysis unit in the city of Moose Jaw. Mr. Speaker, the prayer reads:

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.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from the communities of Moose Jaw, Regina, Marquis, Caronport, Briercrest, Saskatoon, Caron, Mortlach, and many other jurisdictions within this province and from outside of it.

I so present.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are many pages to my petition as well. 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 people from my constituency, namely Estevan, Lampman, and Bienfait.

I so present. Thank you.

**Mr. Wall:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have petitions here on the issue of Highway 43. It's of concern to these folks as they drive around the Southwest to check out the prairie and some of our forest fringes. They like to drive on safe roads, Mr. Speaker. And the prayer of this petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 43 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are from the communities of Glenbain, Red Deer, the city of Swift Current, Mr. Speaker — my constituency — as well as the town of Eastend.

I so present.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise with a petition. In fact I have a number of petitions that I will submit today from people who are extremely concerned about the condition of Highway 43. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 43 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the number of petitions here are signed by citizens from all over southern Saskatchewan, from the forest fringe area, and from as far away as Germany.

I so present.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to rise again in the House today to present a petition regarding health care and the deplorable condition in west central Saskatchewan, the long waiting list. The prayer, Mr. Speaker, 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 is duty bound, our petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good folks from Kindersley, Saskatchewan; Eston, Saskatchewan.

I so present.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here with citizens basically from all over North America that are appalled at the roads leading to Harbour Golf Course.

Wherefore at the Harbour Golf Course we depend on tourism as our livelihood . . . As you can see by this petition there are a lot of people complaining about our roads, especially the one south. Some have said they won't come back because of them. A lot more would be out if they were better.

Signed by citizens from Biggar and Saskatoon; Calgary, Alberta; Regina, Elbow, Central Butte, Moose Jaw, Eston, Rolling Hills, Alberta; Elstow, Shoal Lake, Marquis, Shaunavon, St. Walburg, Loreburn, Calgary, even one from Scotland, Red Deer, Edmonton, St. Julien, Wood Mountain, Strongfield, Prince Albert, Delisle, Glenboro, Manitoba; Pense, Maple Creek, Eston, Spiritwood, Winnipeg, Blaine Lake, Riverhurst, Phoenix, Arizona; Swift Current, Eatonia, Toronto.

I so present. Numerous other places.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens concerned about the 2003 premium increases to crop insurance rates for farmers. The prayer reads:

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

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

Signed by the citizens from Biggar and Perdue.

I so present.

**Mr. Lorenz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition for the citizens that are concerned on the condition of Highway 14. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to recognize the deplorable condition of Highway 14 from Biggar to Wilkie and to take the necessary steps to reconstruct and repair the highway in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth in rural Saskatchewan.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

These petitions are signed by people from Wilkie, Tramping Lake, Saskatoon, Scott, and a number of other communities in west central.

I so present.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of citizens concerned with the water level in the Qu'Appelle Valley lakes. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to do everything in its power to work with the First Nations people and the federal government to bring a prompt end to the dispute so that the water level of the Qu'Appelle River system can return to its normal level and end the economic harm and uncertainty this dispute has caused.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Cupar, Southey, Dysart, Pasqua Lake, Fort Qu'Appelle, and Lebret.

I so present.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan concerned with the government's handling of the premiums, the increase to farmers. 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from Shell Lake and Saskatoon.

I so present.

## READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed, and are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 18, 21, 35, 41, 100, 114, 120, 124, and 140.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Hillson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all it gives me great pleasure to introduce, on this historic occasion, Mr. David and Grant Karwacki who are sitting in the visitors' gallery for the last time this morning. This will be their last time. They've viewed the proceedings here a number of times from the visitors' gallery. This will be their last time in the visitors' gallery as we prepare to welcome them.

Another person who is also with us this morning as a visitor but not for long, Mr. Allan Kerpan, and I certainly want to offer my welcome and personal congratulations to Mr. Kerpan as he takes his seat in this Assembly.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I too would point out to all members of the Assembly that we have a guest, Allan Kerpan, sitting behind the bar. We want to welcome Allan Kerpan back to public life.

(10:15)

Allan Kerpan served as Member of Parliament in two separate federal constituencies — the riding of Moose Jaw-Lake Centre, at the time when I was a Member of Parliament. He subsequently served the constituency of Saskatoon Blackstrap. And he's received support and platitudes and congratulations and support from many people throughout Canada as diverse as the Canadian Police Association and the former premier of Saskatchewan, Roy Romanow.

But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, he has been affirmed by the people of Carrot River Valley who overwhelmingly sent Allan Kerpan to represent the Saskatchewan Party in this Legislative Assembly. So I invite all members to extend a warm welcome to Allan Kerpan, MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly), for Carrot River Valley.

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I too want to join my colleagues in welcoming Allan Kerpan to the legislature. I'm very much looking forward to taking that . . . seeing him taking his place on the other side of the House.

I expect that we will be looking at Mr. Kerpan and his colleagues from that side of the House for a long time to come. I know that he will serve his caucus well as a member of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. Welcome, sir. And we look forward to the swearing in.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you to other members of the Assembly, someone sitting in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, for the first time and that is Mr. Marty Wenzell of San Francisco, who I had the pleasure of meeting with earlier this morning. And Mr. Wenzell is associate partner of Goodby, Silverstein & Partners, the advertising agency of the Oakland A's baseball team.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — And as members will be aware, Mr. Wenzell's agency designed an ad campaign for Oakland's subway and bus system encouraging folks who weren't fans of the A's to move to Saskatchewan. It was a fun campaign and no one took any offence to it. In fact we counterattacked by taping our own message from the Premier and some little leaguers and sending it to the A's where it has been played a number of times on the coliseum's giant screen.

The Phoenix Group and local tourism businesses have brought Mr. Wenzell to Regina to sample Saskatchewan's wide open hospitality, to visit a province that's also baseball country, and to take in tomorrow's Roughrider game. In fact Mr. Wenzell I understand was greeted by some of the Roughriders' fans and, in particular, Gainer at the airport yesterday. So that would have been quite an experience. Mr. Wenzell will also have a few minutes to experience one of Saskatchewan's other spectator sports — question period.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wenzell is on record as saying his agency chose Saskatchewan because the name was long, beautiful, and visually interesting — a lot more exciting than boring Detroit or Toledo. I trust that in his two days in Saskatchewan, Mr. Wenzell will see that there is a beautiful, visually interesting, and exciting place behind that name — a place that welcomes A's fans and non-A's fans alike to explore its many tourism attractions, a place that loves its baseball and football, a place that has a wide open future. So please welcome Mr. Wenzell.

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

**Hon. Mr. Kowalsky:** — Members of the Assembly, I too have two very special guests in the Speaker's gallery today. My wife, Olesia, is seated there today and with her is our grandson, Sam Wilkinson. Sam is on the move as well. He's on the move from grade 2 to grade 3, and as a special celebration Sam has come to visit the legislature and he's come to see the parade, saw Mr. Speaker in the parade, and I think he wants to try on the Speaker's tricorne after all is done.

So I want all members to welcome my wife, Olesia, and our grandson, Sam Wilkinson, to the Assembly.

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

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

### Saskatchewan Band Settles Land Claim

**Mr. Goulet:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in the House today to say a few words about the land claim agreement signed

yesterday between Kahkewistahaw First Nation and the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, the land claim settlement of 94.6 million is the second largest ever signed in Canada. But, Mr. Speaker, this isn't why it is noteworthy. This agreement is noteworthy because Kahkewistahaw agreement addresses an historic injustice. It provides compensation for financial losses the band suffered as a result of the loss of reserve land in 1907 when over 33,000 acres of land were illegally taken from the reserve so they could be sold to people moving in the area.

And it is noteworthy, Mr. Speaker, because, in the words of Chief Louis Taypotat:

For nearly a century the Kahkewistahaw First Nation have suffered the consequences of not having this land for our use and benefit . . . We can now look forward to a promising new future for all."

Mr. Speaker, the band will now be able to invest in economic development and job creation. Some funds have been set aside for housing. There are plans to build a school and recreational facilities and now, Mr. Speaker, the band will be able to provide services and programs that previously would have been impossible.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure all members of this Assembly will want to join me in congratulating Kahkewistahaw First Nation on taking this historic step into their wide open future.

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

### Condition of Highway No. 42

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the concerns of the residents living along Highway No. 42. On June 25, Mr. Rick Billett, general manager of the co-op in Tugaske, sent me copies of two letters that he sent to the Minister of Highways regarding the deplorable condition of Highway No. 42.

Mr. Billett has worked hard to raise awareness of this bad highway to the government and help individuals and businesses who rely heavily on this route. In the first letter Mr. Billett talks about the advertising blitz suggesting that the current government is building better highways. By referencing Highway No. 42, Mr. Billett correctly points out that Highway 42 is not among those highways the government is bragging about in their ad campaign.

However Mr. Billett also points out that there is a significant amount of highway improvement being done in the constituency of Meadow Lake, one of the few rural ridings the current government now holds.

In the second letter the co-op general manager outlines how important Highway No. 42 is, an important route for individuals, farm businesses, and the growing tourist industry along Lake Diefenbaker. Most importantly the highway serves as a link between residents and their hospitals, as well as a major school bus route.

Further to these concerns Mr. Billett has informed me that he would be faxing up to 150 letters of concern about Highway 42 from area residents to the Minister of Highways this Friday morning. I would suggest that the Minister of Highways ensures that his fax machine has plenty of paper in it today.

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

### Saskatchewan Economy

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Day 68, the last day of this session. And what has happened in our province over the last year where our future is wide open? How has the Saskatchewan economy responded?

Here are some facts, Mr. Speaker. Jobs are up 13 months in a row, year over year.

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please. Order, please, members.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, more good news for Saskatchewan. They can't stand it.

Here are some facts, Mr. Speaker. Jobs are up 13 months in a row, year over year; youth employment is at a 10-year high; kids are working and staying in Saskatchewan. The Bank of Montreal says Saskatchewan will lead the country in growth this year. So does the ScotiaBank. The TD (Toronto Dominion) Bank and the Royal Bank also predict substantial growth.

Add the word up to each of these items, Mr. Speaker: retail sales up; urban housing starts up; value of building permits up; department store sales up; natural gas and oil well drilling way up; land sales record up; potash sales way up; manufacturing sales up. All that's down is doom and gloom, Mr. Speaker.

This good news just didn't happen, Mr. Speaker. We've lowered taxes again. We improved the royalty structure in the natural resource sector, and we invested in highways and infrastructure, Mr. Speaker.

And we began a very successful Our Future is Wide Open campaign, Mr. Speaker. The future of Saskatchewan is wide open, Mr. Speaker, for all of those that continue to live here. Thank you.

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

### Kipling Water Treatment Plant Opens

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning I wanted to take a moment to congratulate the people of Kipling and the surrounding area.

Yesterday I was pleased to join with the mayor and many business leaders and people of the community as they officially opened their upgraded water treatment plant. And, Mr. Speaker, I know the community as well was pleased to have the Minister for Intergovernmental Affairs join with them for this special opening.

Mr. Speaker, over the past number of years we've heard a lot of

issues that have arisen across our country when it comes to water quality. We've seen the situation in Walkerton, closer to home in North Battleford, and certainly many communities in our province have been facing difficulties as they try to deliver quality water to their communities and surrounding areas.

Well, Mr. Speaker, with the official opening of this water treatment facility, the community of Kipling will continue to provide quality water to their community, to the residents of that community, and it will be there for a long time to come.

And I know, Mr. Speaker, that the mayor and his community really have welcomed this facility and welcomed the participation of the Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to acknowledge the work of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation and their chief, Louis Taypotat, in the signing of this very historical agreement. And I know that they have indicated that they've set this money aside to work on behalf of the members of their First Nation.

Congratulations to the Kahkewistahaw Band.

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

### Health and Social Policy Developments

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise today and acknowledge the good news for Saskatchewan residents with regard to health care, social services, and education during this session.

In recent weeks we've witnessed the major expansion in critical care services at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. We've increased the funding to the College of Medicine. And I'm also happy to report the acquisition of two replacement linear accelerators to support cancer services in this province.

But I won't stop there, Mr. Speaker. The provincial government has also invested in the building of new hospitals and health care facilities in Moosomin, Ile-a-la-Crosse, and Swift Current.

In social services, Mr. Speaker, the largest childcare expansion in history is occurring this year with 500 new licensed childcare spaces; 1,400 housing units will be added over the next four years for an investment of \$40 million; and \$1.85 million in new funding has been allocated to support persons with disabilities to move from Social Services to the workforce.

Mr. Speaker, in education we have a record spending of \$1.2 billion. And our commitment to K to 12 (kindergarten to grade 12) includes 10 new community schools and of course School<sup>PLUS</sup>, and our partnership with Lindsay Cyr of FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations), a bilateral agreement to improve education for all of Saskatchewan children.

Mr. Speaker, we are on a roll and this is a sign that our government is committed to securing a wide open future for all of its residents.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### Recognition of Legislative Interns

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure today to rise to congratulate a group of young women and men that have been involved in this legislature for the last five months, and that's our interns, Mr. Speaker.

Our interns were Corinne Barnett, Cameron Baker, Bill Cooper, and Lee Weiss. These young people had the opportunity to see how the legislature works from the inside by participating on both sides of the House — half of their internship on one side, half on the other, Mr. Speaker.

And these young people, in my opinion, have done a very, very competent job, a very proficient job, a very professional job, Mr. Speaker, in an area that is fraught with some difficulties because they have to be very conscious that the information and knowledge they have gained on one side is not imparted to the other side of the House when they switch. And I believe that they have done a very, very excellent job, Mr. Speaker, in doing that.

Further to that, Mr. Speaker, I think the members themselves have done a very good job in not putting the interns in a position where that confidentiality could be challenged, Mr. Speaker. And I think it shows a maturity not only perhaps of the interns, but also, Mr. Speaker, of the members as well.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to wish the interns well in their future, be it to continuation of their studies or as they seek employment. Congratulations interns.

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

(10:30)

### Performance of Opposition

**Ms. Jones:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you've heard a small sample from my colleagues of the successes of this government during this session. Now what about the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker? Not one new idea — not one. They've welcomed bad news and gave new definition to doom and gloom.

In the dictionary, I think their leader's picture is beside doom, and the member from Cannington's is beside gloom, and the member from Swift Current's picture was whited out.

Their agenda consists solely of a headlong grab for power for the sake of their friends and hiding their true plans from the public. But slowly, slowly their plans are becoming more evident, Mr. Speaker. They will cut taxes for the well-to-do, freeze spending on health and education, fire civil servants, privatize liquor stores, and sell off the Crowns — not to mention cutting \$50 million from the department that serves the poorest of the poor.

Mr. Speaker, this government makes tough decisions every day. They had only one decision to make and they got it all wrong. They turned their backs on the democratic decision of 1,200 of their own members in Melville-Saltcoats nomination.

When Grant Schmidt was considered good enough to be the Sask Party constituency president, he said Sask Party MLAs don't have enough experience or education and are too easily taken in by simplistic right-wing dogma. For speaking the truth, he was banished.

Since the Premier took office there have been seven by-elections — four for us, three for them. The people will decide.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### Performance of Government

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well, well, Mr. Speaker, no one needs to wonder why the Premier didn't call an election this spring. Support for the NDP is dropping like a rock and last night we saw the results in the Carrot River Valley by-election.

But all over Saskatchewan, people are saying it's time for a change. This NDP government is failing and it's failing in every area. They're wasting millions of taxpayers' dollars on foreign investments, bad foreign investments. They're driving thousands of people out of Saskatchewan, year after year after year. They have the longest waiting list for health care in the entire nation, Mr. Speaker, and they can't balance the budget any more.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — What is worse, Mr. Speaker, the NDP government has done nothing in the past year to address any of these problems.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Why has this session been such a utter failure on the part of the NDP government here in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, only the Leader of the Opposition could say that things can't happen in Saskatchewan when we just had a report from the Bank of Montreal that said Saskatchewan has what — the fastest growing economy in Canada; the fastest growing economy in Canada.

And the people will see through the doom and gloom and hysteria of the members opposite, Mr. Speaker. They know that when there are 13,000 new jobs in the last year, they know when there's a projection for thousands of new jobs in the next year, when oil and gas drilling is up 67 per cent, Mr. Speaker, when in retail sales we're leading the nation, when housing starts are up very significantly.

Mr. Speaker, people know that we're going in the right direction. And when you're going in the right direction, Mr. Speaker, what do you do? You just keep on going. And we're going to keep on going, notwithstanding the negativity of that

Leader of the Opposition over there, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, a lot of wishful thinking on the part of the minister. But let's look at the facts of this past session. It started with the Throne Speech that was so bad that the Premier ended up going into his cabinet and screaming at his ministers. Mr. Speaker, that's how it started up.

It ended up with an overwhelming . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please, members. I'd just ask members to tone it down so we can — order, please — so that we can hear the words distinctly.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The session started with the Premier screaming at his ministers after a terrible Throne Speech. It ended up with a Saskatchewan Party overwhelming victory in the Carrot River by-election.

And in between the NDP lurched from disaster to disaster. If it wasn't the \$28 million lost at SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) and the apology from the minister for hiding the facts from the people of Saskatchewan, it was the \$8 million mega bingo loss, Mr. Speaker. It was the \$17 million lost at an insurance company in Ontario. It was \$10 million lost on a cable company in Manitoba. They lost \$9 million in the Bahamas, Mr. Speaker. Where have they been?

Mr. Speaker, that is why support for the NDP is dropping like a stone all across the province of Saskatchewan. That is why this session was such a wreck for the NDP. How could they allow the last session to become such a disaster?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, you know, the Leader of the Opposition is all puffed up about his by-election win. But the people of the province know that there have been several by-elections in the last number of years and the party that won their seat in the last general election has won the by-election, and it's not all that noteworthy.

But I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition that he may have won a battle in Carrot River but the war is coming, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — The war is coming. And we're going to go out and we're going to contrast the record of this government and the growing number of jobs, the growing retail sales, the growing economy, with the doom and gloom, reward the rich, with big tax cuts for the rich strategy the opposition . . . and the plan to privatize the Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker.

They say the Crown corporations don't work. We say, ask young people who have to buy insurance in Alberta whether Crown corporations work, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, we don't believe a word that the NDP says any more and neither do the people of Saskatchewan because they said they were going to make a comeback in the forest belt ridings in the province of Saskatchewan.

In fact the NDP invested a lot of political capital in the Carrot River Valley constituency and that investment turned out like all their other investments, Mr. Speaker — they lost again and they lost big time.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Mr. Speaker, the NDP can't balance the budget. All their investments are losing money. They have no plan for agriculture. They have no plan to fix the health care system. They have no plan to grow the province. Mr. Speaker, the Premier of Saskatchewan and his NDP team are absolutely out of steam.

Mr. Speaker, do they realize — has it dawned on them — that it's time for a change?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well for the information of the Leader of the Opposition who's so busy listening to his own rhetoric he doesn't have time to listen to the facts, Mr. Speaker, the reality is in the last year, what has this government done? Continued personal income tax reform, Mr. Speaker; the largest personal income tax in the history of the province.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Reformed oil and gas royalties, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Reformed mining royalties, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — And what do we see? We see the banks saying, Mr. Speaker, that the Saskatchewan economy will outperform their beloved Alberta economy more than 2:1 this year, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — And then we . . . if we compare it to the Leader of the Opposition's great friend, Gordon Campbell in British Columbia, we know that the Saskatchewan economy is going to outperform the British Columbia economy three times . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — So nothing happening in this Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? I don't think so.

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

### Carrot River Valley By-election

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Carrot River Valley by-election showed just how desperate the NDP has become. Mr. Speaker, they can't run on their dismal record. They have no plan for the future. And so instead they resort to launch a dirty personal attack on the Saskatchewan Party candidate.

They ran newspaper ads that were nothing but a personal attack on Allan Kerpan. And worse than that, they weren't true. Mr. Speaker, this is the lowest kind of gutter politics.

But do you know what, Mr. Speaker? Do you know what? It didn't work. It didn't work because the people, the voters of Carrot River Valley, rejected those personal attacks and they rejected the NDP, and they voted for the Saskatchewan Party.

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

**Ms. Julé:** — Mr. Speaker, is this the kind of dirty gutter politics that we can expect from the Premier in the next provincial election?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I never thought that I would rise to the defence of a new member of the legislature, in particular one that's going to be joining the opposition.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that there's internal attack on this new member that we're about to see. And I want to quote from a February 21, 2001 article in which the Government House Leader says:

“The Saskatchewan Party has no involvement with Mr. Kerpan.”

And then he goes on to say:

As for Mr. Kerpan's political future in the Saskatchewan Party, D'Autremont suggests (and I quote) his attendance at the Yorkton meeting (this is a separatist meeting) likely didn't help.

And then he goes on to say, Mr. Speaker:

While the Saskatchewan Party would never blackball someone seeking the nomination, D'Autremont suspects “it will be an issue” . . . (and I quote, Mr. Speaker.)

Mr. Speaker, these people have a history. I say to the member, the new member being sworn in from Carrot River, you're into a nomination on July 3 which is only a few days from now. You better be careful of the Leader of the Saskatchewan Party. He's got a history of nailing his own people.

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

**Ms. Julé:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the NDP have got a great burden to carry into the next provincial election, but the greatest burden they have to carry is that member from Prince Albert and his record.

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

**Ms. Julé:** — Mr. Speaker, this is how desperate the NDP have become. They can't talk about . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please, members. Order. Order, please.

**Ms. Julé:** — Mr. Speaker, this is how desperate the NDP have become. They can't talk about their record because it is a disaster. They cannot talk about their plan for the future, because they have none. So instead, they run ads that are nothing but dirty personal attacks on the Saskatchewan Party candidate.

And, Mr. Speaker, it did not work in Carrot River Valley and it's not going to work in the next provincial election. But I say to the Premier and his crew, go ahead if you must. The Premier and the NDP can go ahead and they can choose to spend the next election in the gutter if they wish. Because the Saskatchewan Party will be on the doorstep of voters, telling people . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. Order, please. Order. I ask the member for Humboldt to go directly to her question.

**Ms. Julé:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're going to see the same result as we did last night. We're going to see it in Saskatoon. We're going to see it in Regina. We're going to see it in Prince Albert and Moose Jaw and Meadow Lake and Yorkton.

Mr. Speaker, is this the kind of gutter campaign that we can expect once again in the next provincial election from the Premier and the NDP?

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

(10:45)

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm appalled. I'm absolutely appalled. I want to say to the member opposite that I've never seen such a thin skin anywhere. The Saskatchewan Party can dish it out, but you know what, Mr. Speaker? They can't take it.

You know, Mr. Speaker, a former premier of this province once said, you never say whoa in a mudhole. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that opposition has been mired in a mudhole for a long, long time — misinformation, half information, Mr. Speaker. I say to them, whoa.

You know, there's a question, there's a question that needs to be asked here, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell you, the New Democratic Party has won 11 out of the last 15 elections. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party has won zero. And I want to tell you that after the next election their record will be consistent because they will still have won zero. They'll be sitting over there still mired in the Grant Devine mudhole, which is nothing more or nothing less than what they are.

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



### Consequences of Occurrence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night the . . .

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I knew the NDP had an appreciation for me; I just didn't know how much.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Mr. Speaker, last night the international panel of scientists reviewing the CFIA's (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) investigation into the BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) case released their written report.

As expected, the scientists made several recommendations including that Canada ban all animal tissues that can host BSE prions from the food chain, and they want that implemented immediately. Mr. Speaker, they also recommended a review of the animal feed restrictions, stronger tracking and tracing systems for livestock, and increased disease testing and surveillance.

Mr. Speaker, the minister was participating in a conference call with the federal minister and his provincial counterparts this morning. Would he fill the Assembly in as to what happened this morning, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and the Minister of Agriculture are still on the conference call. We began the call about 25 minutes after 10, and we anticipate that that call will go for at least another 40 minutes before it's completed.

What the minister had not gotten into yet when we started the conversation prior to the House beginning is the fact that there are five recommendations, as the member points out. It appears as though there will not be a mandated requirement, as the committee puts it, to implement all five of the conditions that have been set out by the committee.

What in fact the committee has done is recommended a number of areas of which both Canada and the US (United States) should proceed down. And it's my view — and I expect will be the view of the Minister of Agriculture federally — that we should proceed with these changes collectively, not only as an individual country of Canada, but collectively we should move together on all of the five recommendations. Now this will require a variety of different changes. It will require policy changes and investment, but it would be my view that this would be done collectively with the US.

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

**Mr. Bjornerud:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this summer once this legislature adjourns we're going to be a gap and we aren't sure about the representation coming from the government members on that side.

Will the government do the right thing and convene the Standing Committee on Agriculture to work on these changes beginning next week, as members of the Saskatchewan Party represent just about every farmer in this province, Mr. Speaker? Will they do the right thing and convene the Standing Committee on Agriculture through July?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — I've said in this Assembly a couple of days ago, I said to the media, we've said publicly, Mr. Speaker, that this government through its association with all of the other provinces will continue to work on this file throughout the summer. The industry will be connected as we will take advice from the industry in moving ahead with this piece. The federal government, the provincial government, the industry, and through our association with the national governments in the US, and the states, will be continuing to work through the entire summer.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that on other occasions I've also said and will say again today that in the time that I've been in this Assembly as the Minister of Agriculture, I have not yet received one iota or one snippet of paper from the opposition opposite on agricultural policy — not one. And it is a political, it is a political, it is a political composition of the, of the standing committee and I don't see anything coming from over there, Mr. Speaker. I don't expect anything to come from over there.

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has lapsed.

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

### Support for Beef Industry

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, yesterday the member for Thunder Creek suggested that the government should use its influence as a major shareholder in Centennial Foods to support our Canadian beef industry. The Minister of Agriculture called that a ridiculous idea and refused to talk to Centennial about using more Canadian beef.

Mr. Speaker, all we are saying is, wherever possible companies should use more Canadian beef and Canadians should buy more Canadian beef. But for some reason the NDP is against this.

Mr. Speaker, why does the NDP think using more Canadian beef is a ridiculous idea?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, the question from the member yesterday — from Thunder Creek — was whether or not the government would intervene, Mr. Speaker.

And I say to the member opposite first of all, first of all, Mr. Speaker, there wouldn't be a Centennial Foods in Saskatchewan if it were for the Saskatchewan Party because they don't believe in any investment, Mr. Speaker, at all. And so there wouldn't be a Centennial in Saskatchewan to start with because they wouldn't put any public money into Centennial.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, it is idiotic, if I might put it that way,

Mr. Speaker, it is idiotic for the . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, we're on a . . . we're currently on a trade discussion right now with the federal government, Mr. Speaker, talking about a relationship that's integrated. And you have the member from Thunder Creek and today the member from Weyburn stand in her place and say what we should be doing is we should be placing a ban in the movement of beef from the US (United States) into Canada, Mr. Speaker.

That's exactly what the member said yesterday, Mr. Speaker. Should business be doing business in Canada today on their own and importing beef and associating Canadian product, Mr. Speaker? And that the answer is absolutely yes and they're doing it and we support it from that perspective.

But will this government intervene . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed.

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

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Speaker, there are some companies in Canada that think using Canadian beef is a pretty good idea.

In the past few days I have been in contact with the head office of Dairy Queen Canada. This morning Jean Champagne, the executive vice-president of Dairy Queen Canada, informed me that he agreed with our suggestion and Dairy Queen Canada will be switching to 100 per cent Canadian beef.

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

**Ms. Bakken:** — This is great news, Mr. Speaker. That means that they will be directing their suppliers, which includes Centennial Foods, to start producing 100 per cent Canadian beef burgers for every Dairy Queen in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous show of support for the Canadian cattle industry, and the Saskatchewan Party was able to accomplish this with just a few phone calls.

Mr. Speaker, why is the NDP refusing to support our Canadian cattle industry?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the government on this side of the House is refusing to support the beef industry and that's why we just finished negotiating an agreement for Canada of which this province will be committing its \$30 million to that industry, Mr. Speaker. That's how we're not showing our support, Mr. Speaker. That's why, on this side of the House last year, Mr. Speaker, we put \$25 million into a herd retention program so that in Saskatchewan we'd have a continued herd program for the future, Mr. Speaker.

That's why we implemented a range of programs and crop insurance, Mr. Speaker, to be able to grow the beef industry in Saskatchewan for the future, because we're not interested, Mr.

Speaker; that's why we did it. And not one speck of information from that side of the House to support the agriculture policy, Mr. Speaker.

And today the member stands up and says look at what we've done in terms of beef product in Saskatchewan. Centennial Meats, Mr. Speaker, is making that change on their own. They're bringing in additional Canadian beef, integrating it into their policy, and it will help the member from Weyburn begin her job in the Dairy Queen again, Mr. Speaker, when she gets defeated in this Assembly.

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

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Speaker, according to Jean Champagne of Dairy Queen Canada, the Saskatchewan Party was the first to raise this idea with them. Dairy Queen thought it was a great idea. They wanted to do whatever they could do to be a good corporate citizen and we applaud Dairy Queen, and we applaud the Dairy Queen operators for doing their part to support the Canadian cattle industry. Mr. Speaker, we hope Dairy Queen will be the first of many restaurant chains to take this step.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party will be writing to McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, A&W, and others to encourage them to move to 100 per cent Canadian burgers as well.

And we are encouraging all Canadians to support our Canadian beef industry by choosing restaurants that use 100 per cent Canadian beef.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about closing the border; this is about choosing to support our Canadian cattle industry. Why is the minister opposed to supporting our Canadian cattle industry?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I just went through a whole issue of initiatives that this government has put in place in order to assist the beef industry, Mr. Speaker. And I can go through them again, that litany, Mr. Speaker, if the member would like me to repeat them.

And on any of those occasions of which we've introduced any of those initiatives, Mr. Speaker, we have not had any, any idea from the members opposite as to what we should be doing in terms of enhancing the beef industry today.

Today the member opposite stands up and says, look at what we've done with the retail industry in Saskatchewan. We've written them all a letter and we're asking them to use Canadian beef, Mr. Speaker. They are using Canadian beef, Mr. Speaker; they already integrated Canadian beef in their product, Mr. Speaker. And they will continue to integrate more Canadian beef into their product if in fact they can choose to do that, Mr. Speaker.

But to say, Mr. Speaker, that what this government should do is intervene and decide in the marketplace from where the commodity should arrive will be a trade action, Mr. Speaker, initiated by the US. And we are not about to get into that action, Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed.

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

### Call for Election

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just as this day has been an absolute disaster for the NDP, this entire session has been a disaster for the NDP.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Mr. Speaker, they have so utterly failed to answer our questions. There's really only one more question to ask, and that's when's the general election going to occur in the province of Saskatchewan? When are Saskatchewan's voters going to have the same opportunity that the Carrot River Valley voters had last night, not just to boot an NDP candidate but to boot the NDP government out of office?

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Saskatchewan people want a brighter future, Saskatchewan people want hope, and all they get is heckling from the NDP. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people want a plan and all they get is platitudes from the NDP. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people want a government and all they get is a goofy NDP group over there.

Mr. Speaker, when is the Premier — the unelected Premier of Saskatchewan, the Premier who has never had the courage to go to the people of this province — when is he going to do the right thing and call a general election so the people of Saskatchewan can boot that group out of office?

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition stands in his place today and he calls for an election and there'll be an election in Saskatchewan in due course, Mr. Speaker — absolutely. And the member opposite can change his colour and change his spots but at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, there will still be a Conservative and Alliance Party in Saskatchewan, and that's who they represent, Mr. Speaker.

And at the end of the day — and at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker — when we have a general election in Saskatchewan we will find that Saskatchewan people will support us. Because, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the polling, Mr. Speaker, that member only had one decision to make, Mr. Speaker — only one decision, Mr. Speaker. He had a decision to make around the Melville riding, Mr. Speaker, and he blew that, Mr. Speaker, he blew that.

Come the next provincial election, Mr. Speaker, we will see on this side of the House greater representation, Mr. Speaker, and we will find members on that side of the House exactly where they are today, Mr. Speaker, because Saskatchewan people don't trust that leader. They don't trust him and they don't . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed.

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

(11:00)

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order.

Why is the member for Saskatoon Mount Royal on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Ministerial statements, Mr. Speaker.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Changes to The Securities Regulations

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you and the members about recent changes to the Saskatchewan Securities Regulations that came into effect on June 16. The changes will make it easier for small- and medium-sized businesses to raise capital in Saskatchewan while continuing to protect investors. Mr. Speaker, these changes represent a significant step forward in ensuring that our future is wide open for businesses and investors in our province.

Under the new rules, companies will be able to raise capital without the expense of preparing a prospectus and will have access to a larger group of potential investors. There are situations where investors either do not need the information set out in a prospectus or are able to obtain that information themselves through direct discussion with the company. For instance, the exemption could apply to distributions to sophisticated investors called accredited investors or to family members, close personal friends, and close business associates of a company's directors or senior officers.

The new rules also permit the use of an offering memorandum in place of a prospectus. An offering memorandum does not contain the broad, detailed disclosure found in a prospectus and will be much less expensive for businesses to produce.

Our government is strongly supportive of the set of rules that have been adopted by the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission. The exemptions, Mr. Speaker, will significantly benefit small- and medium-sized businesses and could potentially create thousands of jobs.

Similar exemptions in Ontario have been credited with the creation of more than 35,000 jobs since 2002 and have added approximately \$3.5 billion to Ontario's gross domestic product. This is good news for Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to thank the minister for providing a copy of his ministerial statement before the House began.

Mr. Speaker, as we've looked through the province of Saskatchewan and heard from people across this province, one of their very great concerns is that this province lacks investment of funds from outside of this province. We need to grow this province and we need to achieve growth by changing a number of things. And it's interesting that the minister stands

today and talks about regulation changes.

Every one of us in the opposition is responsible for a critic department and we have a great deal of difficulty trying to get a clear change to regulations and what kinds of things are done to regulations outside of this Assembly. So it's interesting that the minister stands today and has a ministerial statement about regulation changes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that these regulation changes, as we've first had the opportunity to see this morning, I believe will encourage the province of Saskatchewan to move into a new millennium. We have been behind on so many things in this province, it's about time that we've started to look forward.

The minister has given an example of Ontario, where Ontario since 2002 has made this change and we've finally seen some growth in that area. No question, the province of Saskatchewan, if we can make things easier for businesses, if we can attract investment and allow investment groups to put together large sums of money that will allow small businesses to come to Saskatchewan to grow, is of course beneficial to us. Everyone realizes that small businesses create 80 per cent of the job opportunities across Canada and I'm sure in the province of Saskatchewan that figure is no different.

So for government to create the environment, to create the climate that allows private businesses, private investment, to come into this province and grow this province and succeed in our goal as an official opposition — soon to be government — of growing this province by 100,000 people in 10 years, we applaud that and we support this decision.

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

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

**Mr. Goulet:** — Before orders of the day, I'd like to have leave from the members to make a personal statement.

Leave granted.

#### STATEMENT BY A MEMBER

**Mr. Goulet:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to say thank you for the members from . . . all the members of the House for giving me leave to make a personal statement.

Today will probably be my last day of sitting in this legislature. I've had 17 years of tremendous experience. And I did a lot of learning, you know, over the years from all members of the House in all these times, being in opposition, being in government, being in cabinet. But also learning a lot from the people of this province right through from northern Saskatchewan, my fellow Aboriginal people, and all peoples in this great province of ours.

As I look back, Mr. Speaker, and all members, I wanted to say — I wanted to go back a little bit on the historical side — and say I was a very, very lucky guy. I was raised in a very tremendous community of Cumberland House. And as I was

growing up I was in the fishing and trapping and hunting industry. And in many cases, you know, our parents were dreaming that one of these days that I could become a teacher. You know the hope and dream and the jobs that I saw in the community was that I would become a teacher.

Later on I was able to fulfill my dream, although my mother died when I was 16. You know she was in the school trustees and she did not see that I would later become a teacher in the classroom. I taught grades 2, 3, and 4; grade 6 for a couple of years. I was teaching at the university by '71 and then did teacher education programs; became a community college principal out of Gabriel Dumont Institute. So I had about 19 years of varied experience which included my Bachelor of Education and Master of Education.

And it was quite a unique experience for a young person, a young Cree, Métis person, you know, growing up in Cumberland House and being exposed as I went through this whole experience. And I went through and I was debating as to what I should do, you know, after my time in the educational scene and . . . but my goal was working in the educational field.

And a lot of people started asking me to enter politics, you know, as all of the members in the House have been asked. And it took me a whole term to think it over, you know, before I finally made a decision, yes, that I was going to run. And I finally made my decision in '86 and I ran, and with the good graces of the people of Cumberland constituency, you know, I was elected in this House.

I as a member, like all members, combined, you know, a sense of awe and, you know, a sense of grandeur coming into this House, you know, for the first time. And you had a tremendous sense of drive and idealism, you know, mixed with the common sense of pragmatism. And you had all these feelings, you know, that were with you as you entered the House.

And as I look back into those areas I had very, very tremendous experiences. I mean, I was an opposition member. I was lucky to be an opposition member. You know, I learned what it was to be, in the fine traditions of democracy, what it means to be a member of the loyal opposition. We debated the debates of the day, whether it was privatization or whether it was this and that issue in the North. We debated these issues in grand style and I saw a lot of the eloquence by the different members of the House on both sides, you know, talking about the issues.

And I looked back and look at those days that were my formative days in politics, you know, that gave me, you know, a sense of depth on what this institution was about and what democracy was about. And as I got elected and became a government member it was very, very strategic times in histories — whether we were dealing with the Charlottetown Accord, you know, when I was a Provincial Secretary, and dealing with that aspect at the national scale.

And it was very, very important for me to be not only learning about our great province but our great country. You know, we were looking at one of the leaders in the world, you know, in terms of our own country and our own province. And I was very, very proud of that but, like every other politician, I always felt we could do better; you know, that we had to make the next

step and move forward in that regard.

As I look back on some of these challenges on the first time, I learned about such things as what a balanced approach was. You know, we were in a great big challenge on the financial side and we had to deal with a misuse of taxation, debt, and spending. And we had to do those types of actions that were necessary for the people of this province and that we had to do it in a sustainable fashion. And those were the hallmarks of that time, you know, when I was looking back on it — balanced approaches, sustainability — and those are still reverberating in my brain, even though my opposition days were in '86 to '91.

And as I look forward to the future, the question that a lot of people will ask you as a politician is, well what have you succeeded in doing with others as a team, you know, as you look in because it's not only an individualist view that you are here in the legislature, you are here a part of committees, part of teams, part of cabinets, part of this MLA committees, and the caucuses, and part of the government of the whole.

And it was very, very important for me that being a young Cree, Métis from the North, I knew that economic development and education were key, you know, for our people. We went into this situation on tough times and I was proud to say that we had moved in, just on the mining sector alone, we went from \$20 million worth of contracts for northern businesses to 200 million. It's been 180 to \$200 million worth of contracts for northern businesses in the past five years. And that to me was a tremendous feeling that I had when I knew that that was the big challenge.

I've always made speeches that economic self-determination for Aboriginal people will be key in this century, and I firmly and still strongly believe that. When I looked at that issue, combined with it, we needed an approach on education. When I was a person growing up in the North:

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

In my way of thinking when I was speaking in Cree, my first senses of love, my first senses of knowledge — the love of knowledge — was mixed in into my brain and into my actions during that period in time. And in that sense as I was growing up, it gave me the strength, you know, to carry it on. I knew that there was challenges to that. I knew that there were people that were worried about the R word here and the R word there. And that the racism was there and I knew and I saw it.

And to me, we have improved on that. I can say that we have improved. We have a long ways to go on the partnership side on that. You know, partnerships not only with First Nations and Métis people, but with all peoples of the province and the new immigrants who come here as well. And to me it has widened my view as to who I was as a person in this House.

(11:15)

And I saw success in education. Therefore we had about 1,000 . . . 1,200 people going to post-secondary in 1991. I was proud to say that last year we had 2,600 people going to post-secondary education in our areas of the two constituencies in the North.

I was also very, very pleased on our sewer and water because, you know, before Walkerton we had made a decision in northern Saskatchewan to put in sewer and water systems, and we had two projects which totalled over \$40 million. These were tough times in terms of our budgeting but we went ahead with it. I thought of the children as they were taking a wash, taking a bath. You know my grandparents and my . . . and everybody like that, the cleanliness that is required you know as we lived on. That's what I thought about when we went into these programs. And we were able to do those things. We still have a ways to go but we were able to do those types of things.

And there are many things that I would talk about on Aboriginal people, like treaty land entitlement, you know, that we partnered with the federal government, First Nations, and all citizens, on behalf of all citizens to have this TLE (Treaty Land Entitlement) Agreement, you know the 2 million acres.

And I must say that the land use policies of the past, even for the settlement here, were good. We had a settlement with land where we had 31 million acres of free homesteads in this province. It provided a basis and a sense of strength for many people from all parts of the world. We had 6 million acres of paid homesteads. We protected our forests. We protected our parks, about 5 million acres. Our community pastures were 8 million acres. Our amount of land for the railroad companies in this province were over 15 million acres of land. We had, for example, 7 million acres of land for Hudson's Bay Company in Western Canada, 3.4 of which were in this province.

When we did TLE of 2 million acres it was with a sense of pride that we were able to do and finish that. We still have a ways to go on it and we still have some process questions and other questions but we have to know that even if people question, have a question mark on treaty rights, that indeed it is a sense of fairness for all peoples in regards to have a base to work from; a base of land in terms of economic development; a place to call home; a place to say yes, this is where we can work from and yes, we are welcome in this province and this land. And I think that in that sense that I felt that indeed this was very, very, very important.

And I'd like to say as well that I'm very well looking forward to the future as I look to the politics of inclusion in this great province of ours and our country. We have many steps to take and I've always felt that economic development and education were the key.

I'm going back to my first love of education. I did 19 years and then prior to that, and I did 17 years in politics. So I'll be going back into education. I want to do probably my Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) and try and do a study . . . go back to the community level and work with the people from Cumberland House and do the Cree concept of land — you know, something that's very, very dear to their heart.

And I want to be able to do some other works in creating a strength of partnership. Weechiyauguneetowin is the word we use in Cree — partnerships. And it's a very important word in our culture and it's also an important role, word in all languages. It is something that has to be meaningful, realistic, and planned; and this is the way of the future.

So as I sit here in the legislature, I'd like to say thank you again, you know, to the people of this great legislature, you know, and all the people that are in this House — the new member and everybody — because democracy is an important part of this system.

And as I look forward I'd like to say as well thank you to my wife Linda and my daughters, Koonu and Danis, who are very, very important in terms of your political lives. Had a tough time, you know, as a politician living up North and coming over here and trying to be a father and a politician at the same time. And it's sometimes very, very testy in terms of what you're able to do as a father; and a lot of people sometimes don't fully understand that. But I think I want to say that I understand that very much as a person who has raised children. And now that they have grown up and, you know, I've watched and know the . . . I'm very, very appreciative of their support — you know, my children's support, my wife's support, my family's support, my friends' support.

And lastly I would like to say that indeed I want to express a tremendous thank you to the people of Cumberland constituency. You know, they have treated me well, you know, as a politician. You know, that in many ways I left with a great deal . . . I started with a great deal of positive feelings. And today I leave with a great deal of positive feelings. Certainly there was steps that we were able to do but there's always unfinished business. You always have to have faith and trust in the people, that the next generation of leaders will carry on the torch of progress and the torch of partnerships and the torch of inclusion.

Those are the wishes and the dreams that I have, that whether we are from the farm or whether we are from the city or whether we are from the North, this province will grow together in a true spirit of partnership. And I really, fully believe that that is indeed possible. In this new century as we move forward on the self-determination, the co-determination aspect with Aboriginal peoples and the public determination of our system, my dream is that we all come together as we move forward.

Yes, there will be challenges; yes, there will be naysayers, but we will indeed move forward.

So, on behalf of my family and everybody, I would like to thank everybody that's here in the legislature and all the people who have supported me over the years.

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

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and table written responses to questions 782, 784, and 785.

**The Speaker:** — Responses to 782, 784, 785 have been submitted.

**Mr. Yates:** — Ordered for return, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — 783 has been ordered for return.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd ask leave to move a motion.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Agriculture is requesting leave to move a motion. Would the member just indicate what the motion is?

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Leave, Mr. Speaker, to move a motion, Bill No. 45, The Carrot River Valley Constituency By-election Act, to be introduced the first time.

Leave granted.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 45 — The Carrot River Valley Constituency By-election Act

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 45, The Carrot River Valley Constituency By-election Act, be now introduced and read for the first time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a first time and, by leave of the Assembly, ordered to be read a second time later this day.

## SECOND READINGS

### Bill No. 45 — The Carrot River Valley Constituency By-election Act

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 45, The Carrot River Valley Constituency By-election Act, be now read for the second time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a second time and, by leave of the Assembly, referred to a Committee of the Whole later this day.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### Bill No. 45 — The Carrot River Valley Constituency By-election Act

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

## THIRD READINGS

### Bill No. 45 — The Carrot River Valley Constituency By-election Act

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — With leave, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Bill be read a third time.

Motion agreed to, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

(11:30)

**ROYAL ASSENT**

At 11:31 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills:

- Bill No. 20 - The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 3 - The Child and Family Services Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 26 - The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 21 - The Superannuation (Supplementary Provisions) Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 13 - The Parks Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 28 - The Health Information Protection Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 4 - The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 15 - The Saskatchewan Insurance Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 27 - The Condominium Property Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 29 - The Non-profit Corporations Amendment Act, 2003/Loi de 2003 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les sociétés sans but lucratif
- Bill No. 16 - The Coroners Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 32 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 33 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Security Management) Amendment Act, 2003(No. 2)/Loi corrective (gestion de la sécurité) de 2003 (n<sup>o</sup> 2)
- Bill No. 8 - The Youth Justice Administration Act
- Bill No. 17 - The Land Surveys Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 30 - The Pledged Property (Recording) Act
- Bill No. 23 - The Cities Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 40 - The Rural Municipality Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 41 - The Urban Municipality Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 24 - The Northern Municipalities Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 39 - The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 34 - The Film Employment Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 11 - The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 36 - The Agricultural Safety Net Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 37 - The Crop Insurance Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 38 - The Farm Financial Stability Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 31 - The Alcohol and Gaming Regulation Amendment Act, 2003/Loi de 2003 modifiant la Loi de 1997 sur la réglementation des boissons alcoolisées et des jeux de hasard
- Bill No. 35 - The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 301 - The Western Christian College (Amendment) Act, 2003
- Bill No. 43 - The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2003
- Bill No. 45 - The Carrot River Valley Constituency By-election Act

**Her Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills.

Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 11:36.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I request the leave of the House to recess for a swearing-in ceremony.

Leave granted.

**The Assembly recessed for a period of time.**

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**The Speaker:** — Order, please.

I hereby inform the Assembly that pursuant to an Act of this Legislative Assembly respecting a by-election in the constituency of Carrot River Valley, which was assented to earlier this morning, Mr. Allan Kerpan is authorized to take his seat as a member for the constituency of Carrot River Valley.

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you, Mr. Allan Kerpan, member for the constituency of Carrot River Valley, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims his right to take his seat.

**The Speaker:** — Mr. Kerpan, I want to say welcome to the Legislative Assembly and I hope your time here will be one that serves as a record of honour to yourself and to your constituents. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly, and let the hon. member take his seat.

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member for Regina Centre on her feet?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — With leave to introduce some guests, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Up in the gallery opposite is seated Erin Crowe. Erin comes from a long line of people interested in politics in all parts of Saskatchewan. She's the granddaughter of Lorna Standingready and David Acoose, as well as the daughter of Donna Standingready.

So would everybody please join me in welcoming Erin to the legislature today.

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member for Carrot River Valley on his feet?

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave for this House to allow me to introduce guests that I have in the gallery today.

Leave granted.

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'd like to introduce through you to this House, three guests that I have with me. And I'm very proud to have with me today three people who are very, very important. As anybody knows who has ever run in a political election those people that work with you on a daily basis become more than just volunteers — they become friends and they become confidants. And I have three such in the gallery today: my campaign manager, Shelly McCrea; my office manager, Gai Mlazgar; and my business manager, Mr. Vic Allen.

Thank you so much.

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

#### COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

##### General Revenue Fund Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation Vote 53

Subvotes (SP01), (SP02), (SP03) agreed to.

Vote 53 agreed to.

##### Supplementary Estimates General Revenue Fund Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation Vote 53

Subvote (SP02) agreed to.

Vote 53 agreed to.

##### General Revenue Fund Highways and Transportation Vote 16

Subvote (HI01), (HI02), (HI04), (HI10), (HI03), (HI06), (HI11) agreed to.

Vote 16 agreed to.

##### General Revenue Fund Lending and Investing Activities Highways and Transportation Vote 145

Subvote (HI01) agreed to.

Vote 145 agreed to.

(12:00)

##### Supplementary Estimates General Revenue Fund Highways and Transportation Vote 16

Subvote (HI03) agreed to.

Vote 16 agreed to.

#### Motions for Supply

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Chair, with regard to the General Revenue Fund I would move the following motion, no. 1:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003, the sum of \$137,872,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Chair, I have a second resolution with regard to the General Revenue Fund, no. 2:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004, the sum of \$4,330,368,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

I so move.

Motion agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Chair, I move that the committee rise and the Chair report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and ask for leave to sit again.

The committee reported progress.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

Motion agreed to and the resolutions read a first and second time.

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member for Regina Centre on her feet?

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

Leave granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Mr. Speaker, I see that my guests are just still coming in, but seeing as the legislature is in its last few minutes for this session I want to make sure that I get a chance to introduce them before we're done.

Today we have in the gallery a group of Catholic Homeschoolers of Regina that live in the constituency of Regina Centre. And I welcome you all here to the legislature today. The coordinators of the Catholic Homeschoolers are Teena Boomhower and Pam Milas. And everybody else, I think as you can readily see, are either parents or children.



So I ask everybody in the legislature to join me in welcoming this excellent group of people today. Thanks very much.

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

### APPROPRIATION BILL

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move:

That Bill No. 44, The Appropriation Act, 2003 (No. 3) be now introduced and read the first time.

Motion agreed to and, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill read a first time.

**Hon. Mr. Melenchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly and under rule 55(2), I move that the Bill be now read a second and third time.

The division bells rang from 12:08 until 12:17.

Motion agreed to on the following recorded division.

**The Speaker:** — Order.

#### Yeas — 27

Addley	Crofford	Hagel
Lautermilch	Serby	Melenchuk
Cline	Sonntag	Osika
Lorjé	Kasperski	Goulet
Van Mulligen	Prebble	Belanger
Thomson	Junor	Nilson
Harper	Forbes	Jones
Higgins	Trew	Wartman
Yates	McCall	Iwanchuk

#### Nays — 22

Hermanson	Toth	Heppner
Julé	Draude	Bjornerud
Elhard	Wakefield	Stewart
Eagles	D'Autremont	Bakken
Wall	Huyghebaert	Brkich
Wiberg	Weekes	Lorenz
Hart	Allchurch	Kerpan
Hillson		

The Bill read a second and third time and passed under its title.

### ROYAL ASSENT

At 12:21 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bill:

Bill No. 44 - An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of Money for the Public Service for the Fiscal Years ending respectively on March 31, 2003 and on March 31, 2004.

**Her Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative

Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 12:22.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would rise in this House and I would like to ask for leave to make a few remarks before we adjourn the House.

Leave granted.

### MOTIONS

#### House Adjournment

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm going to begin my remarks with a promise, and that promise is to all my colleagues that I'm going to be very, very brief. I know . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well sure, that's the only applause we ever get around here.

I know that it's been a long session. We've done I think a good job in terms of serving the people of Saskatchewan once again, and I know we're also anxious to get home to spend the summer in our constituencies and around the province, spending time with our family and with our constituents.

And I want to say a few thank yous before we leave today. I want to begin by thanking our Pages, who have done very good service for the members of the legislature. And I want to as well thank the Clerks of the Assembly. It's sometimes, I guess, difficult to keep us on track but the Clerks always do a very good and a very professional job and I want to thank them for that.

I want to make mention of course of the interns who were introduced earlier today in the gallery. And I hope that they enjoyed their time working with members of the legislature. I think it's a good program that we're all really quite satisfied with. Certainly the government members are.

I also want to say a big thank you to all of the Legislative Assembly staff and all of the staff who work for Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation in this building. During the session they work particularly long hours and I want to thank them for their diligence and the work that they've done on our behalf.

I'd like to as well thank all of our caucus staff, the people who work in the caucus offices, the ministerial staff. And by the way I see two of mine up here today and I want to give them a special thank you for the work they do — Allison and Shirley. And that was just a little personal thing, Mr. Deputy House Leader.

I also want to thank government departments and all of Executive Council, the people that work very long hours in order to help us carry on our duties. And there are some people who we don't see around here but who do equally as important work — our constituency assistants who represent us, who represent this government in this province, in our

constituencies, in our offices. And I know they put long hours in too so I want to thank them.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on the work that you've done during this session. I think all members of this legislature will agree that you show fairness and a respect for the institution that really is appreciated by all members. And those of us that have been here for a while will understand that the job that you do and your position is one that is a difficult one — adjudicating the debate; ensuring that we follow the rules. Sometimes we stray a little but you're always there to bring us back on side. And I know all members appreciate what you do.

I would just want to say that in the years that I've spent in this legislature, I have seen Speakers' rulings challenged, rarely, but I note that that doesn't happen and it hasn't happened in your tenure. And I think it's because you've ensured that you do represent all of us as members of the legislature fairly. And so thank you for that.

I want to as well say a special thank you to our partners, our spouses, and to our families. And I guess it's fair to say that in a lot of ways this session is probably as hard on them, if not harder, than it is on us. As members of the legislature we're not around for some of the events that happen in our family life that we would probably like to attend to, and I know that our partners, our spouses, do show a lot of flexibility which allows us to do our jobs. And I want to thank all of them, on behalf of the government members for sure, and I know this would be echoed by members of the opposition as well.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank members of the Legislative Assembly. I want to welcome our new member, Mr. Kerpan, to this House and I know he will serve members of his constituency, the people of his constituency, well.

Members of the Legislative Assembly I think sometimes are involved in what we believe to be at times a thankless job, but I do believe the people of Saskatchewan very much appreciate the institution and the members who have chosen to take times out of their lives, out of their work lives and out of their family lives, to do the job of a member of the Legislative Assembly. And surely it doesn't come without some sacrifices. I think all of us can relate to having missed perhaps a wedding anniversary or a family function, a soccer game; and so, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the members for their commitment and dedication to the people of Saskatchewan.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, this may be the last session before a general election in our province, and I want to make special mention of one MLA who I've had the pleasure of serving with since 1986, and that's the member from Cumberland. He has made a personal decision that he will be moving on to other things in his life. He won't be back here unless there's a session before the election, and that could happen. But I want to, Mr. Speaker, just say a personal note and thank Keith for the many years of public service.

Keith was the first Aboriginal person elected to this legislature and I want to say that he has been very much a strong voice for Aboriginal people all across this province. And I want to say that we will miss him in a personal way and I think this House

will miss him because he's been a very strong member and he's become a very good friend to many of us.

And, Mr. Speaker, before I move the adjournment motion I want to wish all members of the legislature a good summer. We'll be gearing up, I'm assuming, for an election campaign. I want to wish all members good luck, but I want to wish some members more good luck than others, and I think you'll understand what I am saying.

(12:30)

And with that, Mr. Speaker . . . Mr. Speaker, with that, I would ask leave of the Assembly to move a motion of adjournment, and it would be seconded by the member from Cannington.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Cannington:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of the sitting day, it shall stand adjourned to the date and the time set by Mr. Speaker upon the request of government and that Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice if possible of such date and time.

I so move.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to rise today on this 68th day of the session. It hasn't been a long session as far as Saskatchewan legislatures go, but I think it would be fair to say, Mr. Speaker, that it, at times, has been fairly intense.

And I would like to thank first the members, Mr. Speaker, for their dedication to the Assembly and to the people of their constituencies which, on both sides of the House, they have been . . . have so ably represented in this province and in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think there's another group of people — and my colleague, the Government House Leader, has mentioned them — that don't get the recognition that they should do in this Assembly. And I can see everybody kind of looking around and wondering just who I'm talking about.

Mr. Speaker, it's our families. They put up with a lot when we're in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. We're not at home, be it in your home in Regina or wherever across this province. But our families, especially our spouses, have to pick up the load that we're not there any longer to be able to support them on.

And, you know, just an example of my own case last weekend, our water quit on Thursday night. I'm in Regina, Mr. Speaker, and so my family had to put up with no water for a day. And needless to say, they were anxious that I get home, Mr. Speaker, not to welcome my pleasant company home but so they could have a bath, Mr. Speaker.

And those are the kind of things which each and every family across this province has to deal with, Mr. Speaker, when the members are in the Assembly doing their duties, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to thank those that support us in making sure that the Assembly runs as it should do, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Clerks for their hard work and dedication, for their knowledge in ensuring that we carry out the procedures of the House in the proper manner in the traditions that have been established in Saskatchewan.

I'd like to thank the Pages for their hard work, for doing their job unobtrusively and doing their job in a very, very professional manner. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned the interns earlier; they have done an excellent job as well.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms and his crew for their hard work. And in fact I'd like to thank all of the legislative staff, Mr. Speaker. No matter what area they work in, their hard work, the work that they perform makes our job so much easier. It makes our job . . . makes us able to have our debates and still carry on the business of the province of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to thank the Government House Leader and his staff for their work, for their co-operation at times and for challenging us at times, Mr. Speaker. We all need to be challenged from time to time to rise to our potential. And in dealing with the Government House Leader, he has challenged me in that manner, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I listened very attentively to the words of the member from Cumberland. And I'd like to thank him on behalf of the opposition, Mr. Speaker, for his dedication to the people of Saskatchewan.

Seventeen years is a long time to serve in this Assembly and he has done an excellent and admirable job of doing it. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would look forward to working with that member in the future in whatever walks of life that he chooses to go down.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — I'd also like to congratulate the new member for Carrot River on taking his seat, Mr. Speaker, and for his 100 per cent attendance in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to wish all of the members of the Assembly and all of the staffs a good summer and a safe summer, Mr. Speaker. And to the members opposite I look forward to meeting them again, either on the doorsteps, if we have an election this fall, or back in the Assembly for a fall session.

And if there is neither one of those, Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to this fall, as I'm sure the Sergeant-at-Arms is, and having some good hunting.

Thank you, everyone.

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

**Mr. Hillson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased also to have this opportunity to rise and wish my

colleagues and the staff of this Assembly a good summer. And I want to start by offering my welcome and personal congratulations to the member for Carrot River Valley. It does seem to me though that for the past year we've heard a lot from NDP ranks about the forest fringe being their salvation. I wonder if it might not be more accurate to say it was their Waterloo.

Mr. Speaker, today marks my final day as the lone Liberal in the Saskatchewan legislature. When I return I'll have a large number of colleagues and my personal recommendation to all hon. members is, before you make your final decision on whether or not you want to run again, consider how you will feel sitting in a legislature where there are a large number of people who think exactly the same way as I do. So I ask you to ponder that.

Mr. Speaker, as I was preparing my remarks for adjournment today I thought I would feel like Eileen Brennan — she was the actress in the movie, *Private Benjamin*. She played the crusty drill sergeant who on graduation day said to Goldie Hawn, let's not keep in touch.

But you know, Mr. Speaker, now as I look around at all the members who won't be back, I think I'm actually going to miss some of you. And so it is with some nostalgia as I take my leave of this House today.

Well, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the session that's just ended, once the government had decided against a spring election we were left with a session bereft of anything very substantial and so we fretted about things as trivial as a female dress code. But as we worked our way through a menu of thin gruel, there were substantive issues facing our province.

We all know that if we do not succeed in getting our borders opened to our beef, the restructuring of the beef industry will be catastrophic. But I was extremely pleased this morning to hear that a panel of international experts congratulated Canada on the way we dealt with the BSE outbreak. And that international committee of experts was very flattering about our regulatory and animal health reporting system.

And I believe all members of this House should pause to thank the staff and workers of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for their work. And I'd go so far as to say that I think this reminds us all that our public servants do valuable work. They are not just overpaid paper-pushers but dedicated men and women who do valuable work on our behalf.

As this session closes, I want to thank yourself, Mr. Speaker, the staff of the Assembly and the library, and I even want to thank the media for being ready always to remind us that we are fallible human beings prone to error.

I especially want to thank my staff, Joanne Jonsson and Jon Jonsson, both of whom have gotten me through this session. Members, I think, will be interested to know when they're not trying to keep me in line that Joanne doubles as a commissionaire at RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) Depot and Jon doubles as consul for the Republic of Iceland, happily snacking on pickled herring and lefse.

To all who are watching this afternoon, I say, good summer. And to my fellow members, I'd like to leave you with a quote of Theodore Roosevelt I came across recently that I think gives meaning and honour to what we do as elected representatives. And it says as follows:

The credit belongs to . . . (those people) who are actually in the arena . . .  
 Who knows the great enthusiasms,  
 the great devotions . . . (to) a worthy cause.  
 Who at the best, knows . . . the triumph of high achievement;  
 And who, at the worst . . . fails while daring greatly.  
 So that . . . (their) place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Good luck to all of us.

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Government House Leader pointed out, I will be brief. I know that members in this Assembly are anxious to get home to their families. I've been here for about a total of 37 minutes now but I know many of you have been here much longer and you are anxious to get back to your families and your constituencies as well.

A bit overwhelming coming into this Assembly today. Yesterday at this time we were still in the middle of a hard-fought by-election campaign where no one of course knew exactly what was going to happen. And some 24 hours later, I have been sworn in to this House by a special Bill passed by all members of this Assembly. And I do want to thank you all very much for that. It's very much appreciated.

As members will know, I have served in another House in Ottawa in prior years. It's tremendous. It's overwhelming. This one is very, very special because I believe that this province and the people that are in it are headed for nothing but greatness, and I'm very much looking forward to that.

I was a bit confused however, Mr. Speaker, when I first took my seat over here. Many of my colleagues on this side of the House said to me, well don't get too comfortable here because we're going to be moving pretty quick. And I'm not sure where they meant we were going to be moving. I think to the other side — something like that — shortly.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be partisan today in the words that I use although sometimes I must admit it's a little tough not to be. Again, any of those of us who have run in an election campaign, which we all have, know that they are very partisan and ours was no different in Carrot River Valley. And I will try to keep my comments to a non-partisan nature.

I'm a new resident of the Carrot River Valley and I love it. I believe it's the heartland of Saskatchewan. I look at what I have seen there in the short few months that I have been there, and I see unlimited potential for that part of Saskatchewan. We've got an outfitting industry that's booming, we've got a forestry industry that's on the verge of some great things, and most of all we've got what I believe are some of the most progressive people who live in this province. And I'm so, so proud to be a

part of that.

Before I go any further, Mr. Speaker, I do want to say, I do need to say a few words about our former MLA, Mr. Carl Kwiatkowski. I know that tributes have been made in this House to that effect prior to this, but I'd like to add my words to that. And I realized and I learned that every day that I have travelled through Carrot River Valley, how well respected and how well-liked and appreciated Carl was.

I know you folks knew that far better than I do, but I just wanted to say that that's been echoed to me every day of my travels. I spoke with Leona last night as I was driving to Regina, and she wished me well and I appreciated that as well. And their family is doing well. I wanted to make sure I got that on the record today, Mr. Speaker.

Lots of people that I'd like to thank today but some of the most important people are the ones that were talked about here by the House leaders — our families that we often leave behind when we enter into this business of politics. And some of my greatest supporters are my family. My mom and dad have been behind me since I got involved in this politics in 1992, and my dad was in Carrot River, or in Nipawin, I should say, last night to hear the results. He's going to be 84 this winter, but he still makes the trip and I give him a lot of credit for that.

My wife, Melanie, who also was in Nipawin last night, and our four children — Josh, Tyrel, Stefanie, and Danille — they've been my greatest supporters. And as we all know, without families and our partners and our spouses, we could never do this business.

(12:45)

Today we are going to . . . our family, in fact, is going to be celebrating another event and I find it ironic and also gratifying that it's the day that I get sworn in to this Assembly as an MLA, our son Tyrel will graduate from high school this afternoon.

That's nothing special in this province of Saskatchewan. All of us, I'm sure, or many of us in this Assembly have had and are having sons or daughters that are graduating from a Saskatchewan high school. But the point about it that I truly believe is so special is that that's why I think we're here to a large degree. All of us, as members of this Assembly, are here to promote and to make this a better province for our children and their children.

And so I'm really, really pleased today that on the day that, as I said, that I'm sworn in, my son . . . or our son will graduate from high school.

I listened to the words of the member from Cumberland as he spoke and I was . . . I guess I would like to say that I wish I had been here longer to hear more of his words, because I think I would have liked that. I want to say to him that I want to wish him well and congratulate him on his many years here. I'm on my way in as he's on his way out and I know that he'll have different thoughts than I do. But having said all that, I very much appreciated what he had to say and I wish him all the best.

The people of Carrot River Valley yesterday placed their trust in me. They placed their trust in our party. And I guess what I hear more so than anything else as I travel right throughout this province or throughout this country is how people have lost their faith, have lost their trust in politicians. To a large degree, we have brought that upon ourselves. And I'm hopeful that in the days and weeks and months and years ahead, that we can start to change that.

But they do . . . they still come to the ballot box to some degree and they still elect their members and they still send them to their provincial capitals or their national capital. And they did that with me last night. They placed their trust in a person they don't know very well, because it is no secret that I am a new resident there.

My goal, my goal over these next few weeks and months is to prove, to show the people of Carrot River Valley that I will live up to that commitment and up to that trust that they placed in me. I have tremendously big shoes to fill but I'm going to do my best to fill them.

I've never made a lot of promises in my time in politics because I think to a large degree people are tired of politicians who make empty promises, but I do make a couple. And that promise to the people of Carrot River Valley today is that I will represent them to the very, very best of my ability. Their issues will always be heard in Regina here, and I will never let them down.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to finish by saying, and my House Leader mentioned, that I do want to go on record today as saying that as of today I have 100 per cent attendance in the House, and also 100 per cent voting attendance, and I fully expect that the government will run ads to that effect in every paper.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to finish by saying thank you to each and every one of you today for allowing me to take my seat in this House. I want to say to you, have a good summer. And I want to say to each and every one of you that I look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you very much.

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

**The Speaker:** — Members of the Assembly, I too want to get away and think there are family members waiting. But I would beg your indulgence for a moment because I do want to extend a thank you for . . . to members of the Legislative Assembly Office staff and extend an appreciation for the professional service that they provide to us.

And I want to start with mentioning Gary Ward and Ihor Sywanyk and Kerry Bond, and the sound system and our broadcast services who got us through a sound-out here and got us back on. And we really appreciate the work that they're doing and the work that they're also committed to, to going to work on a new committee room for the members in the House.

A thank you has to go out to Linda Kaminski and her group of eight — who is director of human resource and administrative services — who helped us with all of our directives.

People in the information systems that keep our computers going — that's Guy Barnabe with his group.

All of our things are recorded in Journals on a daily basis by Pam Scott and Rebecca Best, who is the . . . Pam is the assistant journals clerk.

And of course everything, every word that is said here, is recorded on *Hansard*. And I want to thank Darlene Trenholm, working with Cheryl Behrns and all of the people that are in *Hansard* who do that work for us on a daily basis and often sit here into the night.

Of course our constituency assistants and our members and our caucus officers all appreciate getting their cheques on time, and the credit there goes to Marilyn Borowski and Janis Patrick who work in financial services.

Pat Shaw, we want to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms, along with all of those on sessional security and all of those commissionaires who have been serving us throughout the session.

I want to make special mention of Lorraine deMontigny and her four people that are in the visitor services, in addition to the summer guides who are our ambassadors and our first point of contact in many cases and who are very, very proud of the building and the work that goes on.

We have depended on our Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk, Ken Ring, and his team, and we want to extend a thank you to him.

And of course a lot of the research that is done by our caucuses and other people from the general public come to the Legislative Library, and I want to thank Marian Powell and Pat Kolesar for showing leadership in that aspect.

We often go down to the Dome Cafeteria and we've had many occasions to actually have our guests here, and it's particularly for special events. And we are very appreciative of Trent Brears and his team and the work they've done for us.

I want to say thank you to our landlord, SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation), Steve Bata, and all the people in housekeeping, maintenance, and renovation that work here. And it's kind of a weird situation to be in, I think, to be landlord for your bosses, but he manages that very, very well.

From my own office I want to thank the chiefs of staff from both caucuses — Jim Fodey from the government caucus and his staff; Reg Downs in the opposition caucus and his staff — for the co-operation and the assistance we've received from them any time we've had calls or needed to get in touch.

Thank you to the Pages who — that is, I'm speaking of Curtis Dow, Brock Egeto, Karly Edwards, Paula Trefiak, Luke McWilliams, and Cameron Wensel — who served us very, very well and we wish them the best into the future.

I want to congratulate, along with the House leaders, the interns: Cam Baker, Corinne Barnett, Lee Weiss, and Bill Cooper who are providing a very valuable service I think to the

Legislative Assembly, and they will to the whole concept of democracy, into the future.

Now I want to get closer to the people who I work . . . or to the people I work most closely with and that is the Office of the Clerk. A special thank you goes out to Gwenn Ronyk and her Deputy Clerk, Greg Putz, Clerk Assistant Margaret Woods, Clerk Assistant of Committees Viktor Kaczkowski. And in their office, Monique Lovatt, who is the assistant to the Clerk, and Sandra Gardner, supervisor of Assembly services and office assistant, Zorka.

In particular, though, I want to thank you for your counsel and I want to mention specifically, with respect to Viktor Kaczkowski who will be leaving us — good bye, Viktor, and best wishes to you as you move back east to your home province and thank you for the service that you have provided for us.

And my last thank you has to go to the people who work with me on a daily basis, and have to put up with what I bring to that office, and for their guidance and attention and, really, and the care that they give to their work and to the office and the respect that they have for the office.

And I'm talking about the assistant secretary, Rhonda Romanuk, the secretary to the Speaker, Linda Spence, and the assistant to the Speaker, Margaret Tulloch. And without them it would be impossible to run a Speaker's office.

So, members of the Assembly, with that I want to wish each and every one of you . . . each and every one of the members and everybody in the building a really, really good summer. And I hope everybody has an opportunity to have some time with their families and friends.

Motion agreed to.

**The Speaker:** — This House stands adjourned until notice from the Speaker.

The Assembly adjourned at 12:56.



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