



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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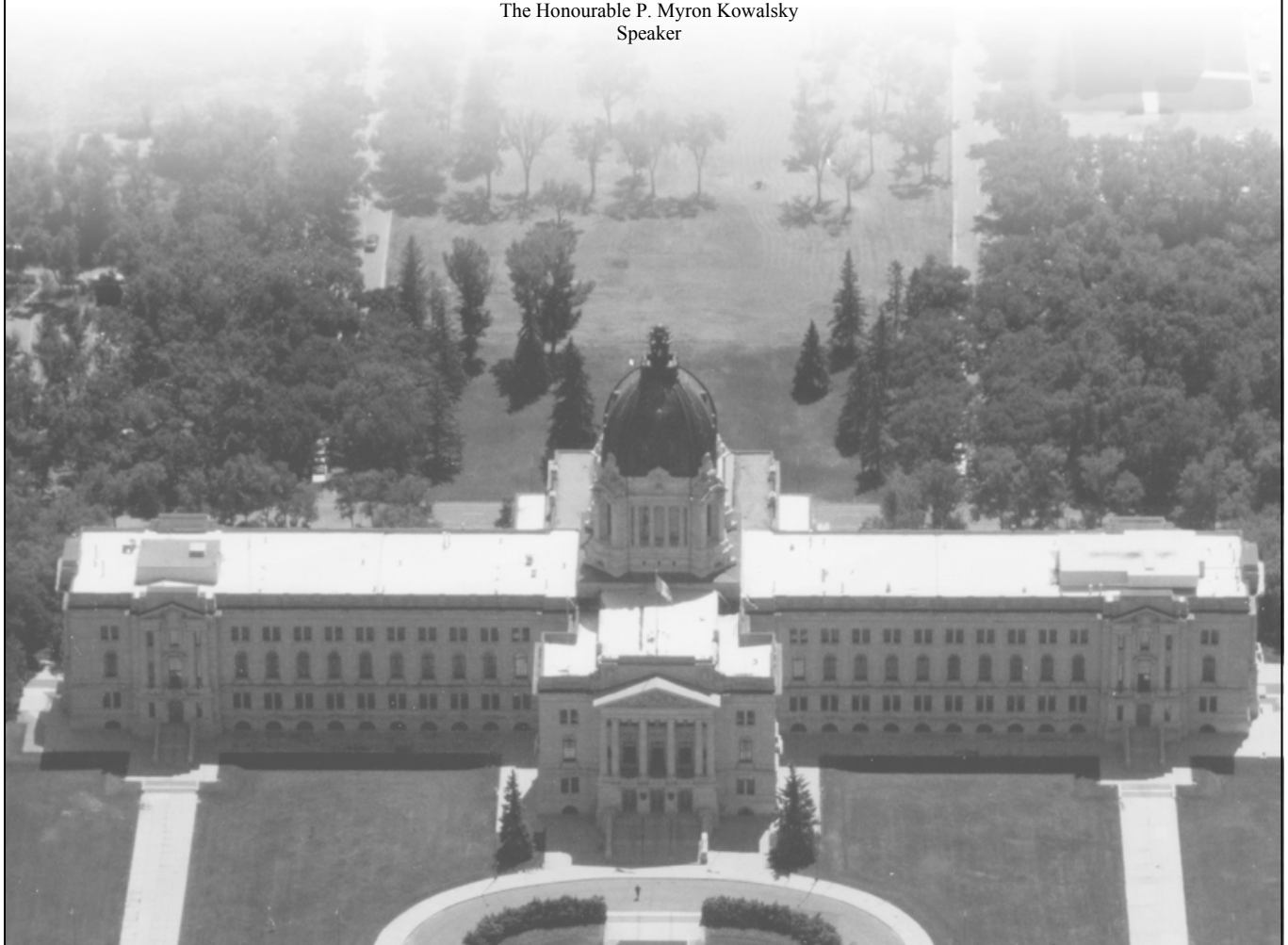
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky  
 Premier — Hon. Lorne Calvert  
 Leader of the Opposition — Brad Wall

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Addley, Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Bakken, Brenda	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Hon. Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Ben	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Kowalsky, Hon. P. Myron	NDP	Prince Albert Carlton
Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lautermilch, Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Ted	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Morgan, Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Prebble, Hon. Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again I present a petition on behalf of constituents who have concerns about increases in the crop insurance premiums this year.

The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all necessary actions to reverse the increase in crop insurance premiums and the reduction in coverage.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from the communities of Shaunavon and Eastend.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Wood River.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise in the House with a petition from citizens who are very concerned about the possibilities of losing long-term care beds and health facilities in the province. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that Lafleche health centre is not closed or further downsized.

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

And Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good citizens of Lafleche and Wood Mountain.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition here with citizens opposed to possible reductions or closures of services to Davidson and Imperial health centres.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Davidson, Imperial health centres be maintained at their current level of service at minimum of 24-hour acute care, emergency and

doctor services available, as well as lab, public health, home care, and long-term care services available to users in the Davidson, Imperial areas and beyond.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This particular petition is signed by good citizens from Davidson, Bladworth, Saskatoon, Marengo, Kindersley.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Biggar.

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from constituents against the closure of Biggar's rural service centre Environment office. 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 reverse the decision to close the rural service centre and Environment office in Biggar.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Biggar and district.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of west central Saskatchewan concerned with health care.

The prayer reads as follows:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by the good folks from Kindersley, Saskatchewan.

I so present.

**READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS**

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order, two petitions presented April 28, 2004 have been reviewed pursuant to rule 14(7) are found to be irregular and therefore cannot be received. The petitions concern right-to-work campaign and closure of Major School.

According to order, the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to the same rule are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions, being sessional paper nos. 48, 63, 72, 107, and 128.

## NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Wood River.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 33 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: what is the department's specific plans in the current fiscal year for repair of Highway 43 west of Gravelbourg?

I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice I shall on day no. 33 ask the government the following question:

To the Learning minister: how many elementary and high schools in Saskatchewan do not have high-speed Internet? And if any, can the minister please provide the names of these schools?

Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 28 ask the government the following questions:

To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: what was the provincial funding level for each community pasture in the province in the last year?

And also to the Minister of Agriculture and Food: what is the provincial funding level for each community pasture in the province in the current year?

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana, the minister of the Public Service Commission.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In the Speaker's gallery today is a group of 20 public servants that are part of a full-day program where they get to attend to the Legislative Building and receive briefings from numerous people who work here in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, we have participants who are employees from Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization; Corrections and Public Safety; Culture, Youth and Recreation; Environment; Health; Industry and Resources; Justice; Labour; and the Legislative Assembly itself.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour is going to meet with the public servants — shortly after the House adjourns to go to committee — as well as a member of the opposition.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, I'd like to welcome all members of the public service that are here this

afternoon.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Kindersley.

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join with the minister, on behalf of the official opposition, and also welcome our members from the public service to their legislature. I hope you enjoy your tours and proceedings today.

Thanks very much.

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

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly someone who is a friend of ours, a operative of Dwain Lingenfelter's team, in fact one of the key players on that team, but a key observer, someone with a keen interest in Saskatchewan and in the goings on.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming in the west gallery, Bob Lee.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Meadow Lake.

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well with the brief vacation that our Deputy Premier took there was, as many of you know, a shuffling of some responsibilities. And in those shuffling of responsibilities I acquired some new staff.

And I would like to introduce to members of the Assembly, and yourself as well, Mr. Speaker, seated in the west gallery, Meghan Moormann. But also seated with her is her younger sister, Lyndsay. And I would like to welcome her here today and I know that she'll enjoy the proceedings through question period. So please, if you'd join with me in welcoming her.

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

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

## Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last evening in Moose Jaw the Minister of Industry and Resources, our colleague from Moose Jaw North, and myself had the pleasure of attending the Moose Jaw Business Awards of Excellence.

Mr. Speaker, there were 320 people in attendance at this third annual awards evening to celebrate and acknowledge the growing success of our Moose Jaw business community.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to extend our congratulations to all of the businesses that were nominated and to the winners in each of the 10 categories. In the pioneer award category, it was won by W.J. Jones and Son; the Business Innovation Award went to Parkview Funeral Chapel. The Community Involvement Award went to Independent Medical Rehabilitation.

The Customer Service Award went to The Bentley Retirement Community. And the Young Entrepreneur went to Ryan Budd at Pest Arrest. The Marketing Award went to Zeke's Jewellers. And the Exports Award went to Simpson's Seeds. The new business venture went to Soul Mate Home Decor. And the Job Creation Award went to Live Global Bid. And, Mr. Speaker, the Business of the Year went to Charles Vanden Broek at Murray GM.

Mr. Speaker, it was an excellent evening and a good representation from all of the business community in Moose Jaw and the surrounding area. And I'd like to offer my congratulations to the folks at the chamber of commerce in Moose Jaw who put on an excellent evening, and to a business community in Moose Jaw that is growing and proving to be very successful, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Wood River.

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, last night I also had the pleasure of attending the Moose Jaw and District Chamber of Commerce third annual Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards along with the members opposite.

These awards were formed to build a positive business climate through recognizing and encouraging excellence. This year there are 44 nominations.

And, Mr. Speaker, the minister has gone through all of the winners. But I think we should pay special tribute to the Business of the Year. And I'd like to just read into the record what the Business of the Year, what the criteria was. And it was open to all businesses that have been operating for at least three years; awarded to a business that demonstrates overall success, judged according to certain financial criteria — growth, use of capital investment, exceptional performance in exporting goods, job creation, stability, or community involvement. And as the minister has alluded to, Murray GM of Moose Jaw won this prestigious award.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate all of the nominees and all of the award winners and also the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce. My only little concern last night was seeing the members opposite at the dinner. And looking at very positive businesses, it could only make me wonder that maybe they were there to try and get some insight into what businesses the Crown Investments could invest in to compete against these businesses with taxpayers' dollars. Thank you.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

### Volunteer Recognition Awards

**Mr. Borgerson:** — Mr. Speaker, given the importance of volunteerism, co-operation, and community service in this province, I was extremely pleased to attend the North Central Regional Recreation Association's annual Volunteer Recognition Awards held in my constituency of Saskatchewan Rivers last Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, over 100 people attended the ceremony to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of the recipients. It should be noted that nominations for these awards came from within the nominees' own communities and so came from those who knew the nominees and their contributions to their communities best.

Mr. Speaker, in the category of recreation/special services, the recipients of the North Central Volunteer Recognition Awards are Mr. Gordon Goodman of Paddockwood, Doris Medernach and Josephine Altrogge of Cudworth, Pauline Nemish of Macdowall, Joy and Eugene Mokar of Wakaw, and Lin and Lucille Lange of Candle Lake.

Albert Blais from Debden won in the category of culture and heritage. Jacqueline Swiderski of Christopher Lake was the winner for sport. For youth, the winner was Joleen Kolla of Cudworth, and in the category of fine arts, the award went to Pat Cooley of Rosthern.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all the nominees and recipients of the North Central Regional Recreation Association Volunteer Awards and in thanking them for their service to their communities.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

### GDP Growth

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm well aware of the hon. members' opposite desire to take credit for things that are not always of their own doing. I recently heard on the radio Saskatchewan . . . Paul Martin talking about the four and one-half percent growth in gross domestic product. Lest my colleagues opposite get on their soapboxes too quickly, I wanted to do a short reality check and point out that this was a rebound from the drought in 2001 and 2002.

Doug Elliott of *Sask trends monitor* said in today's *Leader-Post* that it looks good only because it is better than the negative growth of 2000 and 2001, and I quote:

'We're only two per cent higher now than we were in 2000. We've grown an average of less than one per cent per year.'

Well as an opposition, we will always want to encourage and applaud economic growth. We want to make two points. First, it's not as much as it appears, and I'm not sure that the members opposite are entitled to take credit for it, but thank you. And I want to point that out specifically to the member

from Saskatoon Massey Place because I'm sure in question period he will want to raise the economic growth.

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

(13:45)

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

### SEDA's 2004 Historical Model Legislature

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently had the opportunity and privilege to take part in the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Society's 2004 Historical Model Legislature — an event that brings students together from throughout the province to debate Bills in parliamentary style here in the Saskatchewan legislature.

Mr. Speaker, participants warmed up the parliamentary debate and legislative procedure on the first evening by debating Bills based on resolutions used at SEDA (Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Society) tournaments, all under the watchful eye of the Minister of the Environment — serving as Speaker, I might add, Mr. Speaker. The following day the students re-enacted the legislature as it was in the 1930s, debating actual Bills from that era and even dressing in the style of the period. Prizes were awarded for top parliamentarians and best costumes.

Mr. Speaker, 35 students from six schools took part, and I must say that the quality of the debate was both stellar and entertaining. The top junior parliamentarians were Mitchell Anderson of Jonas Samson Junior High in Meadow Lake, Wudi Wu of Campbell Collegiate here in Regina, and Caroline Ness of Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon.

The top senior parliamentarians were Kevin Hovdestad of Walter Murray, Carlene Variyan of Yorkton Regional High School, and Paraag Trivedi of Campbell Collegiate.

Whitney Skinner and Megan Tokaruk of Yorkton Regional High School, along with Caroline Ness of Walter Murray Collegiate, won for best costumes. And might I say, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Skinner's top costume was "duszhe dobry."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the prize winners, the organizers, and all the participants of the 2004 SEDA Historical Model Legislature. Thank you.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Batoche.

### Birch Hills Racquetball Player in National Championship

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week Brittany Larson, a 10-year-old girl from Birch Hills, went to the Junior National Racquetball Championships in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Brittany will be competing in the 10-and-under singles, 12-and-under singles, and in the double girls' category.

Brittany started playing racquetball before she started school.

She is currently in grade 5 and trains in Prince Albert with her coaches, Amanda Dunne, Lorne Renouf, and her doubles partner, Jessica Renouf. Additional playing tips come from mother, Dawna, and her older brother, Keegan, who also played racquetball at the provincial and national levels. Another sibling, Rachele, who has finished grade 12 last year, will also be . . . who was also a competitive racquetball player.

While the National Racquetball Championships are being held in a very scenic location, the Larsons don't anticipate spending too much time sightseeing, as most of their time will be spent with tournament play. Congratulations to Brittany Larson, and good luck in your competitions at the Junior National Racquetball Championships.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cumberland.

### Saskatchewan Students Win Prestigious Scholarships

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to share with my colleagues that two Saskatchewan students have been awarded full scholarships to attend the world-renowned International Baccalaureate program at Lester B. Pearson United World College in British Columbia.

One of ten United World Colleges, Pearson College, located near Victoria, BC (British Columbia), creates an international community where 200 young people from over 80 countries live, study, and serve the community.

Mr. Speaker, the two scholarship recipients are Francis "Josh" Grehan from Carlton Comprehensive High School in Prince Albert, who received the annual provincial scholarship; and from my constituency of Cumberland, Mika Rai Carrière from Charlebois School in Cumberland House, who is the third recipient of the biennial northern scholarship.

Mr. Speaker, the International Baccalaureate program at Lester B. Pearson College is an exceptional program that gives students an opportunity to not only excel academically, but also to expand their horizons by meeting students and teachers from around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the sponsors of the northern scholarship program for providing this opportunity to northern youth, and in congratulating Josh Grehan and Mika Rai Carrière on their outstanding achievement. Thank you.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

### Results of Wide Open Future Campaign

**Mr. Wakefield:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

During yesterday's committee meetings, both the Minister of Industry and Resources and the deputy minister were asked if

they could point to even one business that has come to Saskatchewan as a result of the NDP's (New Democratic Party) Wide Open Future campaign. And the answer was no. The NDP has blown nearly 6 million taxpayers' dollars on this campaign, and they can't point to a single business that has been attracted to Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, that's pathetic.

Will the NDP stop wasting taxpayers' money on this government advertising that clearly isn't working?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well you know, Mr. Speaker, we heard a few moments ago the member from Saskatoon Southeast getting up and saying that even though Statistics Canada said yesterday that growth in Saskatchewan last year was 4.5 per cent, that we shouldn't celebrate that, Mr. Speaker, because he said we'd had some bad years.

So when we start to turn the corner and build the economy, what do the members of the opposition do, Mr. Speaker? They get up right away and try to drape crepe, black crepe all over it, Mr. Speaker, because all they can talk about is doom and gloom.

But I want to say to the House and to the people, Mr. Speaker, that notwithstanding the doom and gloom of the opposition, we even see in the media, Mr. Speaker, articles like this on the business pages. "Sask. takes export lead." The biggest export growth in the country will be in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. "Provincial labour funds buck national trend." The fastest growth in Canada and 4.5 per cent growth in the economy. We're on a roll and we're going to keep right on moving, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

**Mr. Wakefield:** — But, Mr. Speaker, when this question was asked specifically to the minister and the deputy minister, here's the answer. And I quote:

I . . . (can't) give you an example of . . . a project or an investment . . . as a result of our advertising.

Mr. Speaker, \$5.7 million on advertising and not one project or investment. That's a pretty brutal return on investment. Mr. Speaker, it's time for the NDP (New Democratic Party) to admit that their program is a failure. And how can the NDP justify blowing millions on a failing advertising campaign when they're raising taxes and closing beds for seniors?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, it is a well-known fact that any marketing campaign — and I want to tell the member that

many more millions of dollars are spent in other jurisdictions on this kind of marketing — no marketing campaign will ever say that a business came to a place because of they saw an advertisement, Mr. Speaker. It doesn't work that way.

But we know, Mr. Speaker, that in order to grow, you have to have a positive attitude. And what I would say to the member and to the House is this, Mr. Speaker . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order, please. We seem to have two debates going on at the same time here. I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — What I would say to the member and the House, Mr. Speaker, is this. Last year the oil and gas industry invested \$1.9 billion in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. In the last five years the private sector has invested \$1 billion in new investment in forestry projects in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. In 2003 the economy in Saskatchewan grew faster than any other economy in Western Canada and projections are the same for this year, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

**Mr. Wakefield:** — Mr. Speaker, nonetheless the campaign — the Wide Open Future campaign — has been a flop. But are the NDP getting the message? No, they're not. According to their Web site, the NDP now plan on taking this Wide Open Future campaign to the US (United States), Europe, Asia.

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

**Mr. Wakefield:** — The minister has admitted . . . And even so, Mr. Speaker, the minister has admitted they haven't brought in one new business to Saskatchewan; the campaign has been a complete flop here in Canada. Now the minister is going to start a world tour.

Mr. Speaker, how many more taxpayers' dollars will the NDP blow on this tour of the US and Asia and Europe?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, you know this story about the advertising in other countries is what I would call a John Weidlich CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) exclusive. This is so exclusive in fact — this plan — that it really only exists in the mind of a reporter from the CBC and apparently the opposition member as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have never heard of any such plan; neither has the staff of the Department of Industry and Resources. The CBC has uncovered a plan that is so secret and devious, Mr. Speaker, that neither I nor my deputy nor the staff of the department have ever heard of it.

Mr. Speaker, as I said to the member yesterday, this year's budget for our Future is Wide Open campaign has been reduced

to \$1.4 million. And none of that, Mr. Speaker, is going to be spent on expensive advertising in Germany or France or Japan or Swaziland or any other country that may be in the imagination of either the . . .

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed. I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

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

**Mr. Wakefield:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister can dress this up any way he wants, but the bottom line is that the campaign hasn't worked here in Canada. And I want him to commit again what his intentions are for this advertising outside of Canada.

The NDP have spent nearly 6 million taxpayers' dollars to date, and according to the department officials they've generated 451 inquiries from people outside of Saskatchewan — 451, Mr. Speaker. That's \$12,000 per inquiry. Mr. Speaker. They can't point to one business that's moved to Saskatchewan as a result; not one.

Now the NDP blew nearly \$1 million on an ethanol plant that never came to Saskatchewan. They've blown nearly \$6 million now attracting no businesses to Saskatchewan at all. Will the NDP scrap this failed program?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to reiterate that the assertion that this government is going to be spending money advertising in international markets is not the case, that there is no such plan, Mr. Speaker. It is a fabrication by some reporters and I think the bait has been swallowed by the member in the opposition.

But I want the member from the opposition to know that Ontario has committed to spend \$18 million over four years on marketing Ontario. In 2003 the Government of Ontario announced it would spend \$128 million over two years on an investment attraction and tourism campaign for the city of Toronto to help it recover from the impact of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome).

I could go on, Mr. Speaker, but my point is this: if you can't be positive about yourselves and the place you live, if you're not prepared to sell yourselves, you can't expect anybody else to be interested in you. And that's not where we're at. We're going to sell Saskatchewan for the great place it is, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Arm River.

### 911 Service

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two weeks ago Wayne Townsend was driving by a neighbour's farm at Bladworth and spotted a fire. He did what any of us would have done. He dialled 911 to report the fire and requested to be

connected to the Davidson fire department. Well what happened next, Mr. Speaker, was a gong show.

First he was disconnected, so he called back and was put on hold. Then he spoke to another dispatcher and was put on hold again. Then he was transferred from that dispatcher to the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) here in Regina, who was wondering why he was phoning there. They tried to help him, but connected him to Imperial. Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Townsend hung up in frustration.

Firefighters finally made it to the scene 30 minutes after the initial 911 call. Does the minister think the 911 system is effective here in Saskatchewan?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for Corrections and Public Safety.

**Hon. Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the member and to all members in the House that first of all, I will examine carefully the events that the member is speaking of with respect to this particular incident. Clearly there appears to have been a problem and I will investigate.

Let me say with respect to the 911 system generally that I think it functions very, very well in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. We have tens of thousands of calls that are made. We have four public service answering points around the province — in Prince Albert, in Saskatoon, in Regina, and Lloydminster — that function very, very well. And, Mr. Speaker, as a result of that, within a matter of seconds ordinarily a call that is placed to 911 is relayed to the appropriate dispatch agency.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to examine this particular incident.

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

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

(14:00)

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well this isn't simply a problem in my part of the province or my part of the constituency. Even the Battleford fire chief has raised some serious concerns. Fire Chief Larry Gabruch recently told the Battleford town council that the 911 system implemented by the province is, quote: "a step backwards." A step backwards, Mr. Speaker.

According to the chief, it is the position of his department that this new system has added three to four minutes per call. As he put it, quote:

It can be lots when it's life and death. It hasn't cost us any lives thus far, but eventually it will.

People in rural Saskatchewan deserve a 911 system that can



respond to emergencies in good time. Will the minister today commit to reviewing the provincial 911 coverage to ensure that the chief's fear that lives lost won't be realized?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for Corrections and Public Safety.

**Hon. Mr. Prebble:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I really do not think that there is a need to review the 911 system in this province. We are constantly re-evaluating the 911 system and we will continue to do that. And I will be pleased to take this matter that the member raises up with the fire chiefs' association in the province and happy to discuss it with them.

But I just want to say to the member that I think he is very incorrect when he suggests that 911 has not made a positive difference in this province. I just want to assure the member and the public at large that 911, the new system, is responsible for saving many lives in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Because what we now have, Mr. Speaker, is a system that, with the odd exception, results in the message that is coming from the caller being communicated to a dispatch agency within a matter of usually less than 10 seconds, Mr. Speaker . . .

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

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

#### **Expenditures for Proposed Ethanol Plant**

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister Responsible for Investment Saskatchewan. Last week, Mr. Speaker, the government admitted that more than \$2 million was spent on the NDP's imaginary ethanol project at Belle Plaine. And the NDP government's share of the bill for its imaginary ethanol plant was at least \$829,000.

Mr. Speaker, I say imaginary because there never was a deal in place to build an ethanol plant at Belle Plaine and all that exists today on the site where the NDP spent 829,000 taxpayers' dollars is an imaginary ethanol plant. And, Mr. Speaker, on that plant site, there's two . . . a small pile of dirt and two holes where the signpost used to be.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why would the NDP spend \$829,000 on an ethanol plant that never existed?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well you know, Mr. Speaker, I consider to be . . . our Premier to be a very capable person. But you know, even I do not accept that he could have cast his spell on Broe industries, lured them to Belle Plaine, and persuaded them to spend \$1.3 million of their own money on an imaginary plant,

Mr. Speaker. I don't think American companies normally come up to spend money on imaginary plants.

And as I've said to the House and I've said to the member, Mr. Speaker — and we've provided detailed information — we acknowledge that this was an effort to invest in an ethanol plant which unfortunately, at the end of the day despite the best intentions of all concerned, did not proceed. We have to acknowledge therefore that we spent \$866,000 approximately on a project that will not go ahead. And I acknowledge that, Mr. Speaker.

Was it imaginary? No it was not; it was entered into with the best of intentions, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, despite what the minister says, taxpayers across Saskatchewan are all wondering the same thing. Why would the NDP spend almost \$1 million on a plan to build an ethanol plant where there was no plan in place to build it and no approval for the bank for financing?

Mr. Speaker, despite no plan, despite no financing, that didn't stop the NDP from paying contractors and consultants more than a half a million dollars for design work alone on what turned out to be an imaginary ethanol plant at Belle Plaine.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why did the NDP spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars on an ethanol project that never actually existed?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that obviously there was an ethanol project that existed. People were working for a year and a half on that project, Mr. Speaker, but the project never came to conclusion. It was never completed and we have to admit that, Mr. Speaker, but it was entered into with the best of intentions with a view to building the ethanol industry in this province, Mr. Speaker. It did not succeed.

But I will say this, Mr. Speaker, that we have put in place a regulatory regime for the development of the ethanol industry in this province. We have private sector investments from Husky and also in Weyburn to join Pound-Maker in producing ethanol in Saskatchewan which will be mandated for use in fuel next year, Mr. Speaker, and which will also support the development of the livestock industry.

On this side of the House we try to build, Mr. Speaker. On that side of the House . . .

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the question is, how well have they done so far? The NDP, Mr. Speaker, didn't stop at half a million dollars for contractors and design consultants. No, Mr. Speaker, the NDP also spent another \$300,000 on more — on everything from barbecue and circus tent rentals to marketing, surveys, and site preparation — all, Mr. Speaker, for an imaginary ethanol project that the NDP never had a deal to build.

Mr. Speaker, according to documents released by the NDP as a result of freedom of information request, the NDP paid a company called Points West Consulting \$65,000 for work on this, an imaginary ethanol project. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: what services did Points West Consulting provide to the NDP government in return for its \$65,000 fee?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I want the member to know, Mr. Speaker, that the Points West company in Regina was working for Broe industries long before the ethanol project was even conceived. I believe they were consultants to Broe industries for some months and perhaps years before this project was conceived.

My point is, Broe industries retained Points West Consulting. The Government of Saskatchewan did not retain Points West Consulting with respect to this project. All of the contractors, with the exception of a legal firm in Saskatchewan and one other, and the bus, I believe, were contracted by Broe, Mr. Speaker. And Broe made its choice as to its consultant, which was Points West, long before this project was conceived. They have every right to contract with whomsoever they choose, and they did so, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Points West Consulting is a company with well-known and strong political connections to the NDP. And as the minister has indicated and the NDP has indicated, that Points West was actually hired by Broe industries to represent the company in its negotiations with the NDP government on the Belle Plaine ethanol deal.

Mr. Speaker, if Points West Consulting was already being paid by Broe industries to lobby the NDP government on the ethanol project, then what services is Points West providing to the NDP government on the same deal, and why are the Saskatchewan taxpayers on the hook?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out in my previous answer, Points West Consulting was the long-time consultant of Broe industries. They were also the consultant of

Broe industries with respect to this project.

The fact of the matter is that several people that work for Points West, who are entitled to do business in Regina regardless of whatever political affiliation they may have or not have, Mr. Speaker, were working for a year and a half in an office in Regina doing various things to be the Broe presence in Canada for this project, because Broe did not have any other office in Canada or Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

These individuals were working over a year and a half period to organize the project on behalf of Broe. In fact I believe they were paid by Broe a net total of about 139,000 because 24,000 was paid to third parties, Mr. Speaker. For a year and a half of work, it was not an exorbitant amount, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Lloydminster.

### Out-of-Province Marketing

**Mr. Wakefield:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Industry and Resources to clarify his earlier response about the out-of-Saskatchewan advertising under the Wide Open Future campaign. In the performance plan for Industry and Resources just printed off the Web site, for key actions, 2004-2005, there's a section, and I quote:

Out of Province, the campaign will become less focused on . . . general national business audience and more targeted on sector-specific business audiences and will expand its reach beyond Canada's border to include key markets in the US, Europe and Asia.

Will the minister clarify his earlier comments, please?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — I'm very happy to comment, Mr. Speaker. We have . . . This plan is not secret, Mr. Speaker; this plan was introduced with the budget. It is a public document. And, Mr. Speaker, we are definitely going to make efforts in key markets but those efforts do not include paid advertising, Mr. Speaker.

We have said in our plan that we want to have articles about the key sectors of the Saskatchewan economy in international publications. We don't intend to pay for that, Mr. Speaker; we intend to market Saskatchewan.

We intend, Mr. Speaker, to visit AREVA, the uranium company in France, Mr. Speaker, which the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs was suggesting to me last week that we do. And I said we will. We're going to visit some organizations, we're going to have articles about Saskatchewan, we are not . . .

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

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

### Crown Corporations' Business Investments

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan). Yesterday the government released its policy on third party review of the NDP's money-losing business gambles. But what we actually got was a policy that applies to virtually none of the NDP's high-risk, out-of-province investments.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the policy exempts all of the investments made by the NDP through Investment Saskatchewan. And yet the track record of that investment portfolio has really been quite brutal, Mr. Speaker, a litany of multi-million dollar losers. And the policy exempts most of SaskTel International's high-risk business ventures, even though SaskTel has lost millions of taxpayers' dollars on virtually every one of its investments since 1995.

Mr. Speaker, why bring in a third policy review if virtually every one of the NDP's high-risk business gambles is going to be exempt from scrutiny?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — The Premier announced the vision for Saskatchewan's Crown sector early last September. The Premier indicated at the time that all future investments both in and outside of the province that went beyond the core function of our Crown utilities would be subjected to a third party independent review.

Mr. Speaker, there has been one review that's been undertaken with Navigata in terms of a future investment in Navigata. It was completed by a group called Wolfe; they're telecommunications experts. And the group recommended that the government proceed with that investment, Mr. Speaker.

Every out-of-province investment/in-province investment that goes beyond the mandate of the key Crowns will be scrutinized by a third party process.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister's bragging about a review policy that probably would not apply to NDP mega-losers such as the \$28 million SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) loss; or the \$40 million stock gamble on the Australian stock market; or the \$7 million the NDP have lost in Minds Eyes Pictures. Or what about the \$28 million NDP loss on Retx.com in Atlanta, Georgia? What about the \$10 million loss in Craig Wireless International in Winnipeg or the NDP's \$17 million loss in Coachman Insurance in Ontario? What about the NDP's \$5 million loss on its dot-com in Nashville, Tennessee?

Mr. Speaker, will the minister admit that the NDP's investment watchdog is lame, blind, deaf, and toothless?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister responsible for the Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, those are extremely interesting comments. And, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party continues its cute one-liners that don't get at the substance of the issues, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Crown sector in this province has delivered over \$1.8 billion in dividends to the General Revenue Fund, Mr. Speaker. That has paid for, that has paid for important public services like health, education, agriculture, and highways and transportation.

(14:15)

Mr. Speaker, we have reduced Crown debt by \$2 billion since 1991, when those people increased Crown debt while Devine was in power by over \$2 billion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are extremely proud of our Crown corporations in the province of Saskatchewan. They provide good paying jobs. They provide head office jobs. They support Saskatchewan business. They give dividends. And we had the lowest utility rates in the country, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member's time is up.

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

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and table written question . . . responses to written questions 240 through 248.

**The Speaker:** — Responses for questions 240 to 248 have been submitted.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Government House Leader.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In order for the policy field committees to proceed to the business of the Human Services Committee and the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, I would move that the House adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Deputy Government House Leader that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. This House stands

adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 14:17.

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## **CABINET MINISTERS**

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Premier

Hon. P. Atkinson  
Minister of Crown Management Board  
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

Hon. J. Beatty  
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation  
Provincial Secretary

Hon. B. Belanger  
Minister of Northern Affairs

Hon. E. Cline  
Minister of Industry and Resources

Hon. J. Crofford  
Minister of Community Resources and Employment  
Minister Responsible for Disability Issues  
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