



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

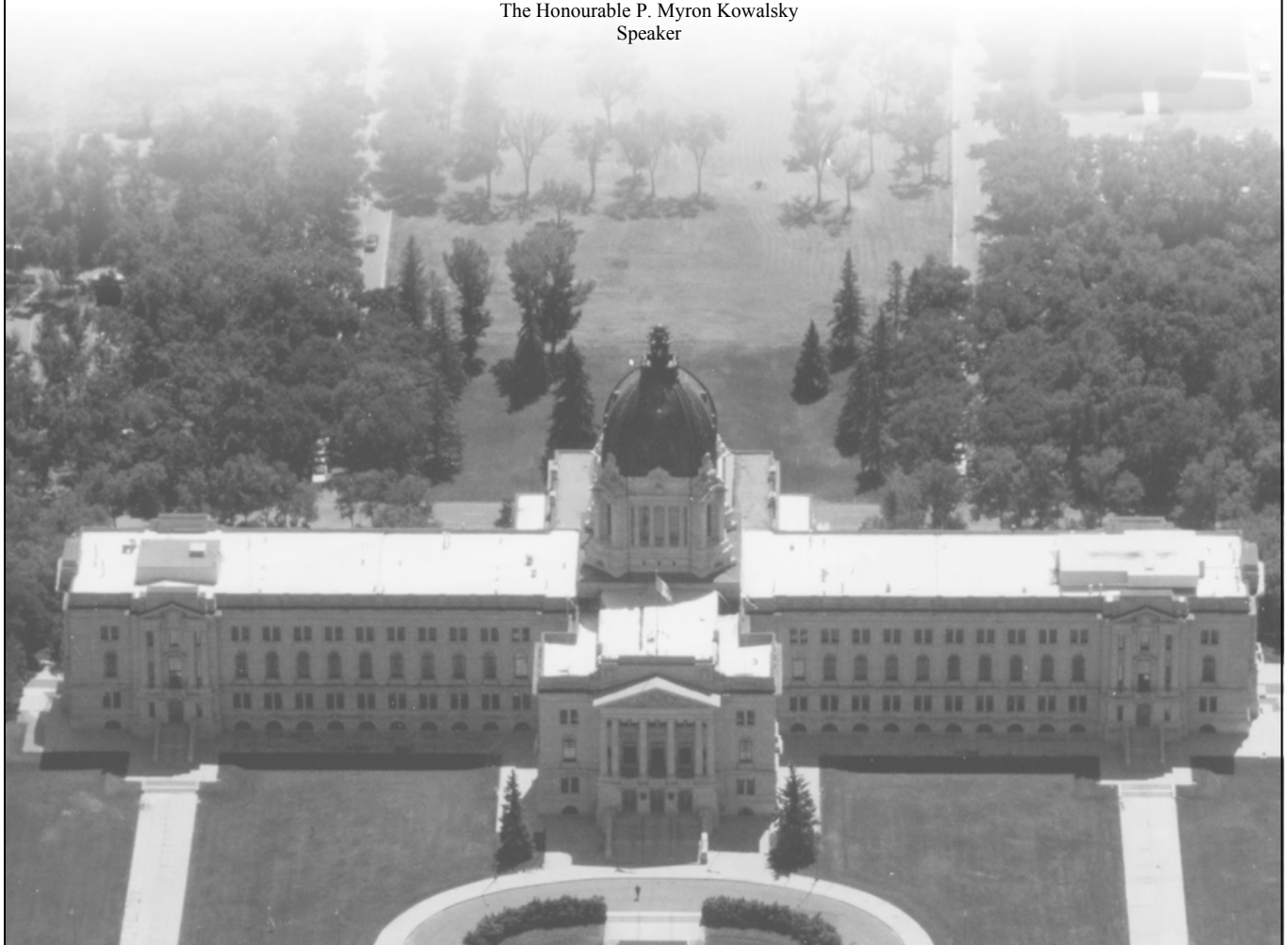
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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 Martensville.

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former educator I take great privilege in presenting this petition on behalf of the students of the province. And I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

And that is signed by students from Springwater and from Biggar.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the Speaker's indulgence I have a brief explanation of a petition I'd like to present. The grade 7 class at St. Gabriel's School completed a unit on tobacco and smoking, and the question was raised: if smoking is so bad and costs so much money, why doesn't the government do something? And further discussion led to this petition, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to thank the grade 7 class at St. Gabriel's School for taking the initiative to discuss this issue and to ask people to sign the petition. And I'd also like to thank my colleagues for assisting me in presenting the petition today. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

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

Signed by the students, staff, and families at St. Gabriel's School in Biggar, I so present.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition signed by students, staff, and families of St. Gabriel's School in Biggar, Saskatchewan. The prayer of this petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the students who have signed this petition are from the community of Biggar, and I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I too have a similar petition from students from Biggar, Saskatchewan, dealing with smoking as well. And I will read from the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think it's commendable that these students have taken an active interest . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. I recognize the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition signed by students in the Biggar school regarding smoking. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of the students from Biggar school. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and the use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

And I'm very pleased to present on these students' behalf.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to present a petition on behalf of the students of St. Gabriel's in Biggar. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

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

And it's signed by students from Biggar and Plenty.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the students at St. Gabriel's School in Biggar. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from the students, and the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

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

And this also is signed by the students of St. Gabriel's School.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition to put an end to smoking. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are all from the students of Biggar.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today on behalf of students from St. Gabriel's School, forwarding a petition on their behalf. And I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by students of Biggar School, but also students from Springwater and Duperow.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of the grade 7 students at St. Gabriel's School for their petition. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

Signed by grade 7 students from Biggar, Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a petition on behalf of the students, staff, and families of St. Gabriel's School in Biggar. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and to put an end to smoking.

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

This is all signed by, what I take it to be, students from Biggar, Saskatchewan.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of the grade 7 class at St. Gabriel's School in Biggar. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And the signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from Biggar.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise with a petition from St. Gabriel's School. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately pass a law outlawing the sale and use of tobacco and put an end to smoking.

As is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And it is signed by the students of Biggar.

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have done in the past consistently, I have presented a petition on behalf of producers in the constituency of Cypress Hills concerned about the Crown land issue. And I'd like to read the prayer which follows:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by producers from the communities of Abbey, Maple Creek, and Tompkins.

I so present.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased today to rise on behalf of the people from my constituency who is really fearful of closures of the hospitals in our area:

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

The people that have signed this petition are all from the town of Wadena.

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

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the possible downsizing or closure of the Craik Health Centre. And the prayer reads:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals all from the communities of Craik and Findlater.

I so present.

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens of my constituency concerned about the future of Mainprize Manor & Health Centre. 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 action to ensure that Mainprize Manor & Health Centre is not closed or further downsized.

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

And this is signed by citizens of Weyburn, Estevan, Moose Jaw, and Tisdale.

I so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here to reinstate the bulk beer discount structure:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to reinstate the bulk beer discount structure cancelled in the recent provincial budget.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by good citizens from Davidson, Kenaston, and Bladworth, I so present.

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of members from west central Saskatchewan concerned with health care in the region:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to ensure that Kerrobert Hospital is not closed or further downsized.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Kerrobert and Major.

I so present.

## READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

A new petition concerning the Pleasant View Care Home;

And addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 48, 96, 97, 145, 160, 166, and 167.

### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 42 ask the government the following question:

To the minister of SPMC: has SPMC found a buyer for Souris Valley Regional Care Centre in Weyburn; if so, who is the buyer? If not, what is SPMC's next step in finding a buyer or alternate tenant or alternate use for this facility? If a buyer or alternate use for this facility is not in place by December 31, 2004 what is SPMC's plan for this facility?

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I have a second question. I give notice that I shall on day no. 42 ask the government the following question:

To the minister of SPMC: what was the cost of the study entitled Free Market Evaluation Study for Souris Valley Regional Care Centre, Weyburn, completed in February 2004 by NAI Commercial Real Estate Services Limited?

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 42 ask the government the following question:

To the minister responsible for STC: can the minister please provide the names of those who have received a severance package in your department in the year 2004, and please provide the compensation package amount given for each person?

Mr. Speaker, I have similar questions for years 2003 and 2002 and similar questions for several Crown agencies. I so present.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview, the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to introduce to you a number of people who have been very instrumental in the work as we deal with the whole issue of reduction of the use of tobacco in Saskatchewan.

So I'd ask these people to give us a sign when we introduce them. The first person Paul van Loon from the Lung Association. Lynn Koehler from Health Canada. Jennifer Miller from Health Canada. Lynn Greaves from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Authority and the Saskatchewan Coalition for Tobacco Reduction. Donna Pasiechnik from the Canadian Cancer Society. Dr. Thakre from the Canadian Cancer Society. Rhae Ann Bromley from the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

And Mayor Don Schlosser who is the president of SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) and the mayor of Weyburn. Mayor Phil DeVos of Yorkton who is also with SUMA and on the chair of the cities' committee working on this particular issue.

And also there are three people here from Saskatchewan Health who have been working hard on this project: Tanya Mengel, Eva Davis, and Lindy McIntyre. And one person who wasn't able to be here today who very instrumental was April Barry.

And I'd ask all members to welcome them here today and thank them for their hard work.

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

(13:45)

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Melfort, the opposition critic for Health.

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with the minister and welcoming the distinguished guests in the gallery this afternoon. I know that they have worked tirelessly in their quest to denormalize the use of tobacco in our province and in our country, and we have consistently supported and encouraged them to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I think today's introduction of further legislation in the province of Saskatchewan is indeed very important. And we look forward to seeing this legislation and being able to in any way we can be supportive of the principles of denormalizing tobacco use in this province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina South, the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I am very pleased today to be joined in the Assembly on the west gallery by a group of grade 8 students from St. Matthew School which is in the heart of Whitmore Park in my constituency of Regina South. There are indeed 25 of them — I didn't count but this is what the sheet says. There are 25 of them I hope, from Mr. Biegler's class.

And I am looking forward to being able to visit with them a little later on today, have a picture, and I understand they're on a bit of a tour. So you and all members of the Assembly would join me in welcoming this group from St. Matthew School.

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

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to introduce a great group of students. We have 14 grade 12 students here from the Allan School. They're accompanied by their teachers, Ms. Teresa Field and Noel Roche. I was able to meet with them earlier and they're great young people that would love to stay in our province.

So with that I would welcome everyone to welcome them to their Assembly.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand in the House today to introduce a fine young man who works in my office as a summer student. He attends the University of Regina in the administration program. He is a husband and a father of a five-year-old son. I would like to extend my congratulations for his third-year anniversary coming up on May 25 to a very lucky woman.

Not only is he a great basketball player, Mr. Speaker, he's also a great man. I would like to ask all members of the House to join with me and welcome the future premier of Saskatchewan, Sheldon Dean, who is here today.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Minister of Health in welcoming the mayor of Yorkton to the Assembly today.

As you know, the mayor was elected just recently for a second term, and two very significant pieces of work that are happening in our area of which the mayor has been leading. One is that we are just building in our city a recreational project somewhere in the tune of about \$15.3 million — a major, major piece of work, of which the mayor is leading.

And secondly, we've been very successful on the eastern side of the province to have a number of people from Alberta move to Saskatchewan and actually farm in the area. And much of that is due to a project that the mayor has led called the Last Frontier, and recently have had a major project of that nature in Yorkton. The mayor has been leading that campaign and has done a tremendous piece of work for our region of the province. So I want to recognize him for that.

And finally, he's been working very hard, Mr. Speaker, as well as on the issue of smoking, but also he's been working hard on changing the time on that side of the province. So daylight savings time is very much on his agenda.

And so, we wish him well as he continues his work, Mr. Speaker, and welcome the mayor to the Assembly this afternoon.

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

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

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, I too want to welcome a former colleague of mine to the House, Donna Pasiechnik, and you can't find a more enthusiastic lobbyist than Donna. She even stopped me on a jogging trail early one morning.

So I welcome Donna to the House this afternoon.

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

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

### 2004 Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, last night I had the pleasure of travelling to Saskatoon with some of my colleagues on this side of the House and some from the other side of the House to attend the annual SABEX (Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence) Awards.

Mr. Speaker, SABEX is the Saskatoon awards of business excellence. It is one of the more popular business events in Saskatoon. It is jointly sponsored by the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce and the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Saskatchewan.

The Business of the Year was Brainsport The Running Store, owned by Brian Michasiw. This business specializes in shoes for walking and running, and is a specialty store.

Another successful contestant in there was Draganfly Innovations, and it's spelt D-r-a-g-a-n, named after the owners of the business. And this is a company that manufactures and makes small, remote-controlled aircraft which can be used for both recreational and military uses as a drone aircraft. It is marketed exclusively on the Internet, and it's been advertised or featured on CNN (Cable News Network) and Discovery Channel. They received two awards; one of them was for exports.

Other significant winners, Mr. Speaker, were Co-op Trust for community involvement; Independent Medical Rehabilitation for customer service; VCom for growth and expansion, a Saskatoon-based high-tech company that has now over 400 employees; Prairie View Chapel for innovation; Cronus technology for new product development.

There was also an Athena Award which recognized the talents of women in business leadership. That award went to Nancy Hopkins, a Saskatoon lawyer. An award of innovation went to three university scientists; there was also a Hall of Fame Award that went to the Klombies family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask all members to join me in . . .

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I too want to say a few words about the Celebrate Success! gala held last night in Saskatoon to recognize dedication, excellence, and outstanding achievement by members of the Saskatoon and district business community.

I particularly want to congratulate the Klombies family for their deserving induction into the SABEX Hall of Fame. It being Women Entrepreneurs Week, I would be remiss if I did not mention Nancy Hopkins as did my friend, winner of the 2004

Athena Award. And of course congratulations to all the nominees and winners at last night's Celebrate Success! gala.

Celebrate success, it's something we don't do often enough in this province. We're often too modest about our impressive achievements — not just in the area of progressive social policies, but in business, in research, in science, and in technological innovation. Yes, we have our challenges, but we also have many successes to celebrate and a solid foundation on which to build for future opportunity. That's what last night was all about.

Mr. Speaker, the entrepreneurial spirit is one of the things that has made Saskatchewan great — the recognition of opportunity and the pursuit and realization of a dream in the competitive world of business. Again I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the nominees and winners of the 2004 SABEX Awards, and congratulating all entrepreneurs in and around Saskatoon for making it one of the most dynamic and cost-competitive cities on the continent. Thank you.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

#### International Nurses Day

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand today to recognize International Nurses Day as part of National Nursing Week. International Nurses Day is celebrated on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday, to raise public awareness of the ongoing contributions that nurses make.

Mr. Speaker, I would specifically like to acknowledge the efforts of Saskatchewan nurses for their commitment to patients and to their profession. They truly are an important and essential component of our health care system. Over the last number of years, health care in Saskatchewan has faced many challenges, including the shortage of nurses and other health care professionals.

These shortages have created an increased workload for nurses, with many nurses working countless hours of overtime. Nurses work these overtime hours, Mr. Speaker, because of their dedication to their chosen profession. Whether it's tending an emergency situation or comforting a dying patient or countless other duties, our nurses are there caring for our needs.

As legislators it's important that we recognize the important role nurses play in the delivery of health care. And it is incumbent on the government to move forward with plans that will increase the number of nurses and improve the quality of their workplace.

Today we would like to say thank you and let nurses know that they are truly appreciated and valued. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the legislature to join with me and applaud the efforts and ongoing commitment of Saskatchewan nurses.

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

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

Eastview.

#### International Nursing Week

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nurses play an important and valued role in our health care system. And everyday we see powerful examples of nurses' compassion, professionalism, and knowledge, whether they're helping to welcome a newborn baby into the world or caring for our most senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, May 10 to 16 is International Nursing Week around the world and National Nursing Week here in Canada. This week provides us with an opportunity to recognize the hard work and dedication of all Saskatchewan nurses. Today is also National Nurses Day which is celebrated every year on the birthday of Florence Nightingale.

The theme of National Nursing Week this year is Nursing: Knowledge at Work. This theme is particularly well chosen because of the many unique and valuable skills required of nurses. Saskatchewan's nurses are constantly learning new techniques and new technologies to help them best care for their clients. Nurses today are expanding their roles, gaining advanced skills, and continuing to increase their contribution to the health system.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that nurses are currently in short supply around the world. In Saskatchewan we are addressing this issue head-on in our action plan which was released in December 2001. In partnership with nursing organizations and health regions, we have made significant progress in implementing the plan's recommendations.

Mr. Speaker, as a registered nurse and as the first nurse elected to this legislature, I extend my best wishes to all nurses for a successful celebration of National Nurses Week. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking all the nurses for their dedication, their commitment, and their contribution to quality health care in Saskatchewan, and in congratulating them all for a job well done.

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

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

#### Distinguished Researcher Award

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise in this Assembly today to recognize the exemplary work of a professor at the University of Saskatchewan. Bill Waiser, professor of history, has been singled out of his many peers to receive the U of S's (University of Saskatchewan) Distinguished Researcher Award at this spring's convocation.

Professor Waiser, who has been a member of the department of history for the last two decades, has been recognized for his ongoing contributions to the field of Western Canadian history. As U of S vice-president, research, Steve Franklin, notes, and I quote:

Perhaps more than any other Canadian historian, Professor



Waiser has found innovative ways of reaching out to general audiences with his insights that make the history of our region come alive.

Bill Waiser has written eight books and is in the process of writing the history of Saskatchewan for the provincial centennial in 2005. At this year's Saskatchewan Book Awards, his most recent work *All Hell Can't Stop Us* now earned him the award for non-fiction. Professor Waiser also hosted and co-produced *looking back* a series of 50 historical vignettes for CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) television that focused on little known and sometimes bizarre tales that celebrated real people from Saskatchewan's past. Dean of College of Arts and Science, Ken Coates, says of Professor Waiser:

No one in Saskatchewan for over a generation has worked as successfully to engage both scholars and the province at large in debate about this . . . (inaudible) . . . character.

I would like to ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in congratulating Professor Bill Waiser on the receipt of this award and to thank him for his engaging work that he continues to breathe life into the people and stories that have shaped this province.

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

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

#### Gathering of Nations Powwow

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year First Nations people from across Canada and the United States come together to celebrate the world's largest powwow, the Gathering of Nations Powwow.

This year's event brought together more than 3,000 people from 500 different tribes throughout North America. This celebration is an opportunity for indigenous people to come together to celebrate culture and to compete in traditional dancing, drumming, and other events.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to say that 12 dancers from Saskatchewan placed in different dance categories at the celebrations. The dancers who placed in first place in the competition: Irene Oaks from the Nekaneet First Nation; Brian Waskewitch, Onion Lake First Nation; Randall, Symone and Jamon Paskemin from the Sweetgrass First Nation.

Second place winners: Kevin Haywahay, Carry The Kettle First Nation; Alanna Tootoosis from the Poundmaker First Nation.

In third place: Yvette Ewalk from the Ocean Man First Nation, Andrea Redman from the Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nation.

In fourth place was Linda Standing, White Bear First Nation; and Maria Shepard also of the White Bear First Nation.

And in fifth place Murdo Tootoosis from Poundmaker First Nation.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Big Bear Singers drum group from the

Thunderchild First Nation in my constituency of Meadow Lake placed fifth out of 31 drum groups in the northern drum contest. And it is with great pleasure that I congratulate my ministerial assistant, Gerald Okanee who is the lead singer from that group.

I'm sure all my colleagues will join with me in congratulating these and all the competitors from Saskatchewan for their fine showing at the 21st Gathering of Nations Powwow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(14:00)

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

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

#### Future of Health Care Facilities

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, people all over Saskatchewan are concerned about the future of health care facilities in rural Saskatchewan and across the province.

On budget day, the NDP announced their intention to close long-term care, acute care beds and facilities in the province of Saskatchewan in spite of the fact — in spite of the fact — that shortly after the Fyke Commission reported, the Premier of this province committed to not closing any beds in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in the intervening time between now and the budget, communities have been asking questions. They want to know from this government what its plans are, and it's a fair request.

So we ask the Premier today to do the right thing. Will he highlight for these communities the fact that he has decided to change his mind and to keep his promise not to close long-term care facilities in the province of Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I've explained before, we had \$160 million new money into the health budget on March 31 in the budget that was presented on that day. Since that time, we've been working with the regional health authorities across the province, looking at all of the different options with the funds that have been made available to the regional health authorities and set out in that budget.

We are looking at all the things that we do because we do have challenges around the resources that we have. And this is no different than any other province in Canada. And we are working diligently at that and we anticipate having a response for communities across the province. But practically, Mr. Speaker, we are going to make sure that people get the care they need here in this province.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, communities across the province

are worried about the future of their health care facilities. The worst thing is, they get answers like that from the government. They can't get any straight answers in terms of what they should be planning, in terms of what they should be doing to protect their beds, Mr. Speaker.

Community leaders from Craik came to the legislature last week. They were looking for answers. They didn't get any. People from Gull Lake and Lafleche and Herbert and Porcupine Plain and from communities across the province can't get any straight answers.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the government to give them some very clear answers about their intentions with their long-term care beds, with acute care beds, with health care in rural Saskatchewan. When is the Premier going to announce these hospital closures? How many hospitals is he going to close, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, in the budget for this year, we have \$160 million in new money for health care. There are many more demands.

The member opposite who raises the question knows that we put substantial money into his community in Swift Current to make sure that we go ahead with the hospital project there, that we go ahead with the new CT (computerized tomography) scanner in that particular community.

We are looking at all of the things that we do across the province to make sure that we're providing what we know is going to be for the long-term care of all the people in the province. This is not an easy task. There are many complex issues. But, Mr. Speaker, we have very many careful, caring people who are making these decisions, and we're going to do that and make that decision and give that information to the people very soon.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, there's an excellent letter to the editor in today's paper from a resident of Herbert, Saskatchewan. She writes:

. . . (our) hospital has 17 beds. Often, these beds are filled with patients from Swift Current . . . If the hospital in Herbert is closed, where are . . . (these) patients to go?

Here are the concerns of Swift Current, Mr. Speaker. The minister raises the spectre of that situation. People in Swift Current understand that this new project will have fewer beds — fewer beds than the previous hospital in Swift Current. Mr. Speaker, what they're worried about then is that if this government goes ahead and closes acute care beds and long-term care beds in the surrounding area around Swift Current, how will that provide better health care to the people of Swift Current or the surrounding region?

And these are the questions that are being asked across this

province. They've been waiting patiently since the budget. This government said they would close beds in the budget. That was weeks ago, Mr. Speaker. When will this minister stand up and be straight with communities in Saskatchewan and tell them if their hospital will close?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite and all his colleagues can do a good thing for the people of Saskatchewan by supporting the budget that we presented because it has 160 million new dollars in health care.

I think, Mr. Speaker, the tone of the questions and the kind of questions that the member opposite is asking reflect the fact that he doesn't understand how difficult some of the decisions you have to make when you're in government.

Mr. Speaker, we are taking a very careful look with all of the regional health authority boards, their senior management, and the people in the Department of Health to make sure that whatever we do will provide good care for the people of Saskatchewan in the long term. But there are many complex questions and they involve every community, and we want to make sure that we do this in an appropriate way. And we will do that.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, in the wake of Fyke, the Premier of this province, the current Premier said that closures didn't make financial sense in terms of reforming health care, Mr. Speaker — that's what he said. And he said he wouldn't do them.

The former premier has highlighted the fact that the closures that we faced in this province in the early '90s maybe weren't the best medicine, Mr. Speaker.

The question to the Premier is this: has he changed his mind? Has he changed his mind? Does he now believe that the best medicine for health care in the province of Saskatchewan is to close beds in rural Saskatchewan and further exacerbate the situation in our tertiary centres?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of government let me say this. The Minister of Health has made it very clear the process that is engaged here. This is nothing different and it's happened in each and every year. This government has found 160 million new dollars to invest in health care, an amount that that opposition votes against. The ministry of Health is currently working with the regional health authorities on how those new resources can best serve the people of Saskatchewan.

But let me remind this legislature, Mr. Speaker, under this

government and with this budget we are investing in new diagnostic services across this province, new CT scans in the Leader of the Opposition's own hometown, new MRIs (magnetic resonance imaging). We are engaged in new bursaries to provide support for students in health care.

Mr. Speaker, the question that begs to be answered in this House and in this province: where are the opposition in terms of health care policy? What are their policies? Would the Leader of the Opposition just acquaint the people of Saskatchewan what are the policies of the Saskatchewan Party when it comes to publicly funded and publicly administered medicare in Saskatchewan?

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

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

#### Summer Employment for Students

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for Culture, Youth and Recreation. Yesterday, the minister admitted the NDP's (New Democratic Party) decision to eliminate \$156,000 in youth employment funding to our regional parks will kill 70 jobs for students this summer. And then this morning the same minister announced she was spending \$200,000 to recreate those jobs under what she called the Green Team program.

Will the minister confirm the NDP is actually spending \$46,000 more this summer to create a grand total of zero new summer jobs for students?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, I am so glad that you asked that question because it gives me an opportunity to tell again or to explain again our new Green Team initiative that's providing meaningful jobs in the area of environment. And we have some really good partners that are working with us in this area, Sask Environmental Industry and Managers Association and Sask Environment, and young people. I met a young person there this morning that's very excited about her job that she's got already, and she's studying climate control. To me, this is one way of not only looking to the future of our province, but providing meaningful jobs to young people in the area of environment.

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

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association, they received \$156,000 last year from the centennial student employment program. Executive director Darlene Friesen indicates regional parks then created 70 summer jobs for students with that money in 2003.

And the minister told reporters this morning the NDP is going to spend \$200,000 to recreate those summer jobs under a new program, the Green Team program. So simple math would suggest the NDP is spending \$46,000 more this year to create

zero new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, of the 70 new jobs that were announced this morning to replace the 70 jobs the NDP cut from regional parks — and the member already alluded to one young person she's talked to that has filled, that has a position — how many positions have already been filled?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — I just want to re-emphasize how important this initiative is for our students and this province. And as far as the CSEP (centennial student employment program) program, there are 600 summer students under that program. Under this initiative, it's meaningful partnerships. It was young people themselves that recommended changes to CSEP. They wanted more jobs that were meaningful, and this is one way of doing that. We are listening to the young people of this province. You know, they want to work in the area of environment and they want to stay in this province.

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

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister announced the new Green Team program to the general public this morning. And yet the minister said also this morning that at least 40 of those jobs before . . . have been filled before the program was even announced.

If the program was only made known to the general public this morning, how did the 40 students who have already been hired under the program even know about the program?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, we have good partners under this program. And there is some initial work that has been done, especially with post-secondary students. So you know, that outreach has been there. There's some high school students that will be part of this program, and there is two more application deadlines that will be coming up.

So the information will be announced all over the province; it's getting out. And young people, including high school students, will be able to apply for jobs

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

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Minister. I'm glad that the people of Saskatchewan are able to find out that there is a deadline to apply. It's unfortunate that there's more than one deadline, and the one deadline seems to be for the minister and the NDP's friends to fill these 40 positions. And what about the other students in the province?

So again the question to the minister: how did the 40 students who have already been hired under this program even know

about this program when it was only announced today? And what is being covered up here?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, this is an innovative program that was developed with good partners. And it's getting out to the province. There's incredible interest in this initiative because students want meaningful jobs, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to ask the member opposite, what is it, you know, what is their plan as far as meaningful employment in the area of environment? We are committed to young people in this province and they want meaningful work and that's what we're doing.

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

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

#### Costs of Closing Rural Service Centres

**Mr. Stewart:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. The minister keeps telling us the NDP's decision to cut 22 of 31 rural service centres throughout Saskatchewan will save \$2 million. Yet on Monday night in Agriculture estimates, the minister told the Committee of Finance that the department would not have a handle on the total cost of the closures until the end of June.

If the minister has yet to tabulate the costs of paying out leases on the closed service centres and the expenses associated with severance payments, how can he assure the House the savings are indeed \$2 million?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we've restructured the agricultural extension program, we have brought some of the people into the new program. Some of them will be hired as agrologists in the new program, some will be retiring, and we are carrying some of the rent for some of the buildings that we were using.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that this program will save ongoing \$2 million a year. It was explained to the members opposite in estimates and they just don't seem to get it yet. We can explain it again any time. But the ongoing savings will be \$2 million per year — \$2 million per year. And we will apply those to programs which we have been very, I think, adept at doing in times of emergency and crisis that meet the needs of Saskatchewan producers. That's what this government is working at. That's what we're aiming for, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Stewart:** — That's interesting, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Party has learned through a response to a written question that the department will be spending an additional \$6.5 million on the remaining service centres. Mr. Speaker, that's \$6.5 million for renovations to existing service centres in nine communities and the knowledge centre in Moose Jaw. It seems like the NDP is spending more money to provide producers with fewer services, or at least poorer access to the same service.

(14:15)

To the minister: how does this expense of \$6.5 million factor in to the \$2 million in savings he keeps referring to? Does the cost of these renovations negate the savings completely?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've explained before, this savings is an ongoing savings of \$2 million per year and that will be the figure. But as it's working out right now, we will see what the determination is for this particular year.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that this change is not about contracting services. This is about changing the type of service that people have been asking for, meeting the needs for agribusiness development in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the people were showing by their actions they were not using the agricultural extension agrologists as they had been in the past. We've talked about the surveys and the amount of use they were getting. Now, Mr. Speaker, we believe that with this new process we will be providing the information through the knowledge centre, and we will be making sure that the agrologists in the other centres are out there in the communities working with the people and helping develop this agriculture industry in Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Stewart:** — Mr. Speaker, first we find out that there are a number of outstanding leases for the closed rural service centres that will continue to cost taxpayers, no matter what department they may fall under.

The minister has also as yet to get a handle on how much severance payments will cost the department. And now, Mr. Speaker, we hear that the government will spend an additional \$6.5 million on renovations and a new knowledge centre.

With all of these additional costs, how does the minister expect to save \$2 million a year? And if we are ever going to see savings in this program, how far down the road will that be?

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these figures were explained to the members opposite in

estimates the other night. Mr. Speaker, we will have an ongoing saving of \$2 million per year and we will be putting service into the communities where it is going to be most effective.

We want to see this province move ahead. We want to see more slaughter and processing. We want to see more development in livestock and we will have the people in place that are going to enable this to happen, Mr. Speaker. They're going to provide the resources and the information that is needed.

For those people who are farming who are looking for on-farm guidance and advice, we have seen in the past few years there has been greater and greater uptake of industry agrologists and of private agrologists, Mr. Speaker. And if people want a second opinion, we're going to have people available — agrologists available — at the knowledge centre to answer those questions, Mr. Speaker, and to support our producers in this province.

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

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

#### Funding For Wide Open Future Campaign

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question's for the minister responsible for Crown Management Board. Mr. Speaker, the question: how much money did Saskatchewan Crown corporations spend last year contributing to the NDP (New Democratic Party) government's Wide Open Future campaign?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the Crown Investments Corporation spent approximately \$2.2 million on the Wide Open Future campaign last year.

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

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the minister for the answer. Mr. Speaker, the NDP has introduced legislation in this session — Bill 35, The Crown Corporations Amendment Act — that establishes legal authority for the Crowns to spend money on the NDP's Wide Open Future campaign. And according to the government's own briefing note, the reason for the amendment is that the Crown corporations don't currently have legislative authority to undertake activities that, and I quote here, "... promote a positive business environment in Saskatchewan."

Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm the NDP government's use of Crown corporation money to fund this Wide Open Future campaign last year was illegal?

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

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — What I can confirm for the member is that CIC (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan), and the mandate of CIC, is to support programs that can promote and enhance economic development. We think that by clarifying the legislation we will ensure and leave no doubt that CIC has the authority to expend funds that promote and enhance the people of this province.

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

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, the NDP's Wide Open Future campaign was nothing more than a taxpayer-funded NDP re-election blitz. The NDP has admitted that not a single job was created as a result of millions of taxpayers' dollars the NDP spent on the Wide Open Future campaign. And the government has also been unable to point to a single dollar of new investment as a result of its so-called Wide Open Future campaign. And, Mr. Speaker, it now appears that it was illegal for the NDP to use Crown corporations to fund its re-election ad blitz.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm the NDP was spending taxpayers' money illegally by using the Crowns to fund the Wide Open Future campaign?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — I as a member of this legislature between 1986 and 1991 know all about what illegal means in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, what I want to say to the members opposite is that we believe that the Crown corporations in this province have the right and the authority and the mandate to promote economic development in this province, and to promote this province.

Mr. Speaker, every day in this legislature we listen to the members opposite throw doom and gloom over this province and the people of this province, Mr. Speaker. We believe that this province has a future. We believe that . . . This province just had 6,000 new jobs created in the month of April, Mr. Speaker. That is progress.

We're opening this province to immigrants, and you know what, we're going to go and promote Saskatchewan to the rest of the world and we're not making any apologies for that, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have with me right now a copy of Bill No. 35, entitled An Act to amend The Crown Corporations Act, 1993 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts. Mr. Speaker, it gives legal authority to the government to do a number of things through the Crown corporations, but if I might for the record, I'd like to read section (r.3) and it says:

“establish, operate, administer or manage programs or policies that promote or enhance business opportunities in and for Saskatchewan”.

Mr. Speaker, the explanatory note says this was important and necessary because there was, “No existing provision.”

Clause (r.3) is added:

... to clarify authority to undertake promotional activities and programs on behalf of Crown corporations that promote a positive business environment in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it now appears that the spending undertaken by the NDP in the Wide Open Future campaign was illegal. Will the minister confirm the NDP was spending taxpayers' money illegally by using Crown funds for that campaign?

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — The books at CIC are audited by the Provincial Auditor, Mr. Speaker. We are simply going to clarify the legislation to ensure, Mr. Speaker, that CIC and other Crown corporations in this province are able to promote the province of Saskatchewan. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have to remember the context.

**The Speaker:** — Order please, members. Order. Would the members allow the response to be put.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to remember the context, Mr. Speaker. Every day — day in and day out — the members opposite threw doom and gloom over the people of this province. Every day, day in and out, Mr. Speaker, they were talking about how we all needed to go to Alberta. Please turn out the lights, the last person out of the province.

Mr. Speaker, we believe that this province has a future. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we are expanding our immigrant nominee program. That's why, Mr. Speaker, businesses are coming to this province. That's why, Mr. Speaker, there are 6,000 new jobs, the largest number of jobs in April of this year, Mr. Speaker. We think this province has a future and we want to create the conditions so that the doom and gloom ends across the way, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, I believe we are beginning to see a trend here, Mr. Speaker. The beginning of the end — the beginning of the end — for the \$28 million SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company) debacle began with no authority to spend money.

Mr. Speaker, this is another example of this government doing what it needs to do for election purposes without legal authority. Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm that the money spent on behalf of Crown corporations on the Wide Open Future campaign was done so illegally?

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

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

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, the member over there says he sees a trend. Well we've seen a trend in this province since this group of people decided to create the Saskatchewan Party. And every day, Mr. Speaker, all we hear about is Alberta envy. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? The people in the last provincial election spoke loud and clear, Mr. Speaker. They were absolutely sick of it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've listened to these members since they got into this Assembly, since March 17, and what have we heard? They don't want us to do anything, Mr. Speaker, that promotes the people of this province. Everything we do, Mr. Speaker, is negative. It's wrong. We put more money into health care — it's wrong. We put more money into education — it's wrong. We change our rural service centres — it's wrong.

But in 2001, Mr. Speaker, what did they do when we hired 570 new civil servants? All they could do was bring in motions to get rid of them, Mr. Speaker. Well make up your mind. Are you in favour of services in this province or aren't you?

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

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### **Bill No. 49 — The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2004/ Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les services de l'état civil**

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 49, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 49, The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Next sitting, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Bill No. 50 — The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 50, The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read for the first time.

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour that Bill No. 50, The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Bill No. 51 — The Limitations Act**

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 51, The Limitations Act, be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 51, The Limitations Act, be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Next sitting of the House.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

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

#### **Bill No. 52 — The Limitations Consequential Amendment Act, 2004/Loi de 2004 sur les modifications corrélatives découlant de la loi intitulée The Limitations Act**

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 52, The Limitations Consequential Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 52, The Limitations Consequential Amendment Act,

2004 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Next sitting of the House.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

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

#### **Bill No. 53 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2004**

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 53, The Securities Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 53, The Securities Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

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

(14:30)

#### **Bill No. 54 — The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004**

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, it is with great honour that I move that Bill No. 54, The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004 be now introduced and read the first time.

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Health that Bill No. 54, The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004

be now introduced and read for the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

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

### 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 responses to written questions no. 278 through 303 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — Responses for questions 278 to 303 inclusive have been submitted.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, to facilitate the work of the Standing Committee on the Economy and the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies, I move the House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the 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 1:30 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 14:32.





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Heppner .....	1065
Weekes .....	1065
Hermanson .....	1065
Morgan .....	1065
McMorris .....	1065
Gantefoer .....	1065
Bakken .....	1065
Cheveldayoff .....	1066
Huyghebaert .....	1066
Allchurch .....	1066
Kerpan .....	1066
Merriman .....	1066
Dearborn .....	1066, 1067
Hart .....	1066
Kirsch .....	1066
Elhard .....	1067
Draude .....	1067
Stewart .....	1067
Eagles .....	1067
Brkich .....	1067

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk .....	1067
--------------------	------

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Bakken .....	1068
Elhard .....	1068

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Nilson .....	1068
Gantefoer .....	1068
Thomson .....	1068
Harpauer .....	1068
Belanger .....	1069
Serby .....	1069
Beatty .....	1069

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### 2004 Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

Morgan .....	1069
Quennell .....	1069

##### International Nurses Day

Bakken .....	1070
--------------	------

##### International Nursing Week

Junor .....	1070
-------------	------

##### Distinguished Researcher Award

Cheveldayoff .....	1070
--------------------	------

##### Gathering of Nations Powwow

Sonntag .....	1071
---------------	------

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Future of Health Care Facilities

Wall .....	1071
Nilson .....	1071
Calvert .....	1072

##### Summer Employment for Students

Dearborn .....	1073
Beatty .....	1073

##### Costs of Closing Rural Service Centres

Stewart .....	1074
Wartman .....	1074

##### Funding For Wide Open Future Campaign

Elhard .....	1075
Atkinson .....	1075

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Bill No. 49 — The Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 2004**

**Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les services de l'état civil**

**Nilson** .....1076

**Bill No. 50 — The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004**

**Higgins** .....1077

**Bill No. 51 — The Limitations Act**

**Quennell** .....1077

**Bill No. 52 — The Limitations Consequential Amendment Act, 2004**

**Loi de 2004 sur les modifications corrélatives découlant de la loi intitulée The Limitations Act**

**Quennell** .....1077

**Bill No. 53 — The Securities Amendment Act, 2004**

**Quennell** .....1077

**Bill No. 54 — The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004**

**Nilson** .....1077

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Yates** .....1078

**The Speaker** .....1078

## **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  
Minister Responsible for Gaming

Hon. D. Forbes  
Minister of Environment  
Minister Responsible for the Office of Energy Conservation

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Hon. J. Nilson  
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