



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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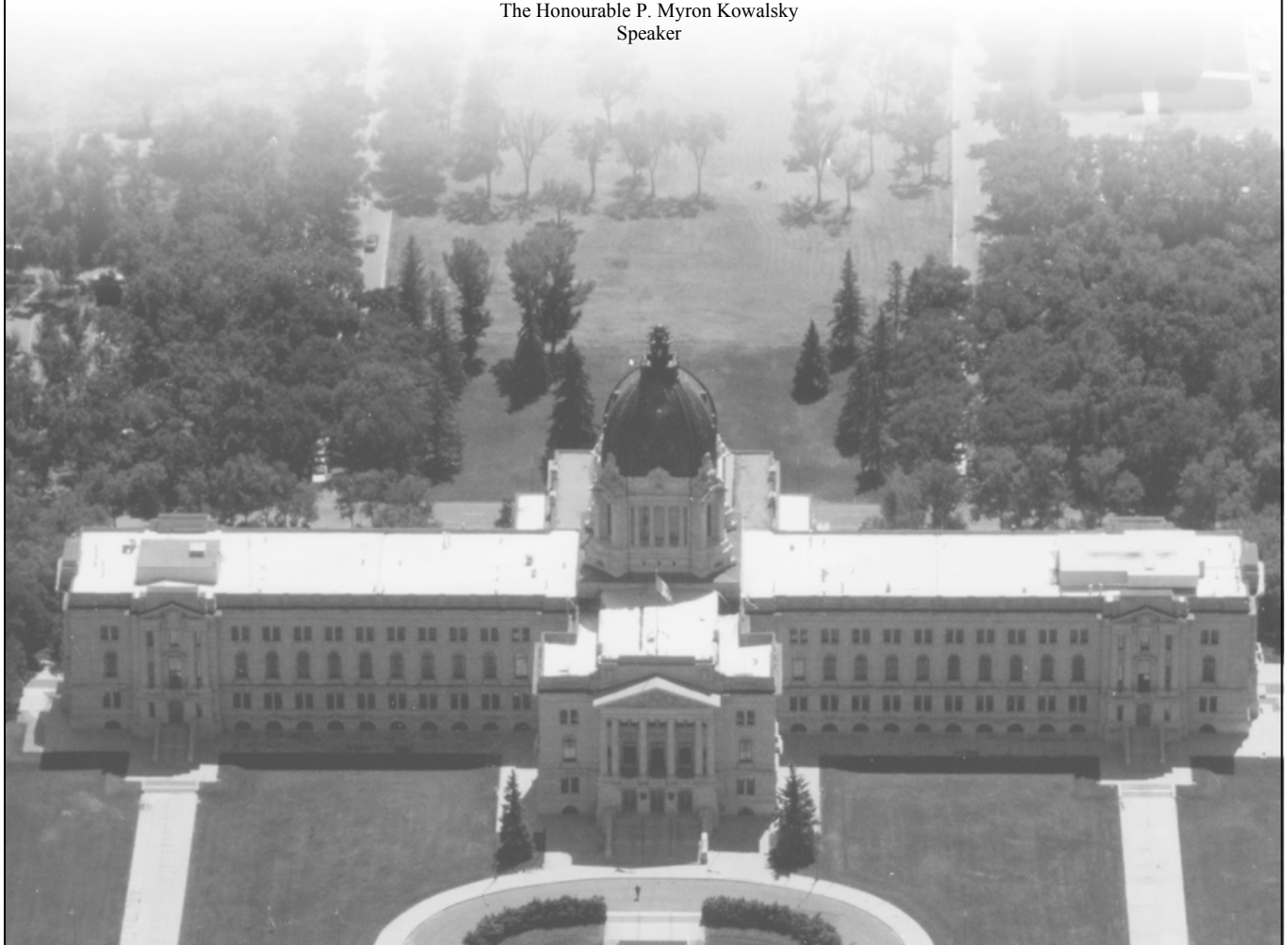
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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

### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — Before we present petitions, I wish to advise the Assembly that I hereby table the 2004 Report Volume 1 from the Provincial Auditor to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the continuing concern about the proposed cutback in hours of operation for the Border Health Centre in Climax, I am pleased to present this petition on behalf of constituents in Cypress Hills. 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 actions to ensure that the Border Health Centre in Climax remains a 24-hour facility.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by constituents from the communities of Frontier, Climax, Shaunavon.

I so present.

**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 the 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 from the communities of Craik, Weyburn, and Aylesbury.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise with a petition in the House from citizens around the whole province that are concerned about the reductions to firefighting services and conservation officers. But this one specifically is from the North, and the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reverse its decision to reduce Saskatchewan Environment's presence in northern Saskatchewan, including the reduction in forest fire fighting services and the closure of Environment offices.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed in total by the good citizens of Cumberland House.

I so present.

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

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents of Weyburn-Big Muddy who are very concerned about the deplorable state of Highway 35 south of Weyburn. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to make the necessary repairs to Highway 35 north from the United States border, in order to prevent injury or loss of life and to prevent the loss of economic opportunity in the area.

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Radville, Colgate, and Weyburn.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition from constituents who are opposed to the closure of the Radisson School. 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 ensure that the Radisson School fall under the two-year moratorium on school closures and allow the community and school division the opportunity to consult on alternatives to the closing of the Radisson School.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Radisson and district, I so present.

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again in the Assembly today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of west central Saskatchewan concerned with health care. And the petition reads as follows:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good folks from Kerrobert, Dodsland, and Plenty.

I so present.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order, the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions, being sessional paper no. 72, 97, 166, 167, 180, 182, 196, 197, and no. 198.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

##### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its final report.

Therefore I move, seconded by the member for Cypress Hills, that the first report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure . . . the member for Saskatoon Sutherland and seconded by the member for Cypress Hills, that the first report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

##### Standing Committee on the Economy

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 37, The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When will this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole on Bill 37, The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. When shall the Bill be read a third time?

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 37 — The Tobacco Tax Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that this Bill now be read a third time and passed under its title.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

##### Standing Committee on the Economy

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on the Economy to report Bill No. 1, The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole?

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill 1, The Financial Administration Amendment Act. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has not been granted. When shall this Bill be in Committee of the Whole?

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — The next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

The Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole at the next sitting.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, I thank you. And it's my pleasure to announce that today through Saturday, Regina will be celebrating the world's cultures at the annual Mosaic festival.

The Regina Aboriginal Kin Club is sponsoring the First Nations pavilion at the Gathering Place in my constituency. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all other members of the Assembly, the ambassadors for the First Nations pavilion. In your gallery, seated, is Lorna Standingready and Errol Kinistino, who most of you will recognize Errol as Leon from the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) hit series, *North of 60*.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to introduce both of these distinguished guests and I ask all hon. members to join me in welcoming them to the Assembly.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Swift Current.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to members of the Assembly, I'd also like to introduce some visitors that are seated in your gallery. From the Sovereign Hutterite Colony, Mr. Speaker, we have joining us today John and Rosa Wipf, along with their daughter, Katherine, and their nephew, George.

I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

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

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Chan Katzman, accompanied today by his daughter, Faye. I've known Mr. Katzman for several years. He's been very involved with me in the inner-city program of Care & Share in the schools.

What's amazed me about Mr. Katzman is his enthusiasm to work with children less fortunate than himself. What surprised me most about Mr. Katzman was when he was able to speak to young Aboriginal children in Cree.

Mr. Katzman has raised a family of volunteers. Faye is past president of the Hemophilia Society. Sons, Randy, David, and my good friend, Sid, all past and current presidents of B'Nai Brith, as well as many other local charities. Sid Katzman is also a co-founder of Care & Share and past president of the Canadian Progress Club.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chan Katzman is a World War II veteran currently living in Saskatoon. He served with valour in the Canadian army with the Royal Regina Rifles. Sixty years ago this week, he was wounded on Juno Beach. He is currently the Chair and president of the Royal Regina Rifles Regiment. Mr. Katzman also sits on the Veterans Memorial Committee for Woodlawn Cemetery. He is in Regina to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day. He'll be joining the Premier and the Princess at a dinner later in this weekend.

The people of Saskatchewan and, indeed, the people of Canada are grateful to Mr. Katzman and other D-Day veterans. Mr. Speaker, I hope all will join me in welcoming Mr. Chan Katzman to his legislature.

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

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

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of this legislature, I'd like to welcome a number of students — 45 to be exact — from Prairie View School in Dalmeny. They are grade 6 students. They are in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and they're here to watch the proceedings, and they've had part of a tour of this building and I think they have some more coming.

Dalmeny is an exciting community. They've had a new addition, I believe, to their high school. They just completed a new arena and they have some other building ideas on the go.

As I said, I met with these students earlier on in the day and they are an exceedingly polite group — also very inquisitive. And I would challenge members on both sides of the House to match their politeness today and impress them with our good behaviour. They are also accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Thiessen and Mrs. Bitner, and I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, and the other members of this House to welcome them here this afternoon.

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

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

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and to all members of this Assembly a group of 56 grade 7, 8, and 9 students sitting in the east gallery. They come to us from Ituna High School. I should mention, Mr. Speaker, that of the group I am told that 23 are exchange students from Garson, Ontario, a suburb of Sudbury. And today they are accompanied by teachers and chaperones Chris Spencer, Ken Mushka, Amy Parkinson, Terry Portelance, Pat Petruka, Louisa Biankin.

And, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to meeting with them later this afternoon and explaining to them the procedures here, and I'm sure they will have many questions for us. And I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming them.

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

(13:45)

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Swift Current.

**Action Swift Current Wins International Award**

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm proud to rise today to speak on the achievements of a local organization in Swift Current. Mr. Speaker, 2004 has been an eventful year for Action Swift Current, a group which has been working together since 2002 to promote the expansion of the business community in Swift Current and also generally the economic development issues in Swift Current.

Just recently, Action Swift Current was recognized as one of the best in the world at the sixth annual Business Retention and Expansion International, or the BREI awards ceremony in Halifax, Nova Scotia. BREI is an internationally recognized non-profit association committed to economic development strategies for communities.

Action Swift Current won the award for outstanding small-community business retention and expansion program for cities and regions under 50,000 people. And, Mr. Speaker, this isn't the first award that Action Swift Current has picked up. Just this past January it also won the Economic Development Initiative of the Year Award from SEDA, the Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association.

The Action Swift Current team, which includes hundreds of volunteers and over 300 individual local companies, is presently working on 12 key projects designed to create and maintain a positive business environment and a growing community in Swift Current. They're also focusing on business expansion and retention.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members of this Assembly to congratulate all of those volunteering to work so very hard on behalf of Action Swift Current and on behalf of the city of Swift Current. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

**Mosaic 2004**

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, many different cultures have taken root here in the city of Regina. In addition to those who have called this part of the country home for thousands of years, people have come and settled here from all over the world and all have their own unique customs and traditions. This cultural diversity is one of the strengths of this city, and we'll begin celebrating it tonight with Mosaic 2004.

Mr. Speaker . . .

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

. . . is a greeting one will hear at a German pavilion, for instance.

Mosaic is staged annually by the Regina Multicultural Council and its member groups. It began as a one-day festival in 1974, but since 1978 it has been a three-day cultural extravaganza — one of the most popular events in the city.

This year there will be 16 pavilions providing everyone an opportunity to sample delicious food, fabulous entertainment, and each culture's unique brand of hospitality. Mr. Speaker, the various cultures featured at Mosaic have not only taken root, but have thrived and are flourishing. This cultural diversity enriches us all and makes our city and our province a more interesting, vibrant, and inviting place to live and to visit.

I thank everyone involved with Mosaic, the sponsors, the volunteers, the entertainers, especially the children and youth who are continuing the traditions of their culture, and for making this event possible.

I invite all who have the opportunity to enjoy Regina's wonderfully rich cultures and tiptoe through the world at Mosaic 2004.

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

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

**Graduation from St. Angela's Academy**

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday, May 29 I had the pleasure to attend the St. Angela's Academy graduation ceremonies. St. Angela's is an all-girls academy in the community of Prelate, Saskatchewan at which three young ladies from my home community of Biggar are attending, one of which is my daughter Lacey Weekes, along with Lisa deBussac and Tanya Guran.

Sixteen young ladies from around Canada, and in fact one from Mexico, added to the graduation ceremonies a personal touch, as they all, prior to receiving the diploma, shared with those in attendance their mission statement for life. A number of the young women also took part in other aspects of the graduation exercises for the evening, and again the next day. Lisa gave the graduates' tribute to the parents, while Tanya gave the general intercessions at the morning Mass.

I must brag a bit as my daughter Lacey was selected class valedictorian and gave a moving address to the graduating class. I would like to express how very proud my wife Cindy and I are of Lacey.

I would like at this time to congratulate all 17 of those young ladies who completed their grade 12 studies at St. Angela's, and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. I would also like to thank Sister Patricia, all the sisters and staff of St. Angela's, and the community of Prelate for the education, guidance, care, and hospitality that they gave Lacey and the other students during their time in Prelate.

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

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

### D-Day Veteran Returns to Normandy

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, we're coming up on the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Among the Canadian troops that landed on the Normandy coastline on June 6, 1944 was a 19-year-old gunner operator with the Fort Garry Horse tank regiment named Gordon McInnes.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon McInnes is a constituent of mine in Saskatoon Sutherland, and it's been my very good fortune to get to know him over the last number of years, as a socially conscious man with a keen intellect and a fine sense of humour.

Mr. Speaker, every second year since his retirement, Gordon McInnes has returned to Juno Beach where he played his part in that historic event. He goes back so often, he says, because he has such a respect for those who didn't make it back.

This year, Mr. Speaker, Gordon McInnes will be accompanied by his 15-year-old grandson, Thomsen D'hont. They will be attending the 60th anniversary commemoration ceremonies and touring the beaches. When Thomsen returns home, he'll be reporting to his classmates what he has learned about war, the Canadian role in D-Day, and, I have no doubt, about his grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, Thomsen has said that, because he isn't much younger than his grandfather and his comrades were when they fought in World War II, he is better able to understand and respect the sacrifices that they made.

Mr. Speaker, from the time he was a 19-year-old boy on Juno Beach right up until today, Gordon McInnes has stood up and fought for what he believes is right. He's a man made up of equal parts strength and compassion. And we owe our thanks to those just like him, whose individual efforts are for the benefit of all.

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

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

### Economic Growth in Northeastern Saskatchewan

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the last number of days, members on both sides of the House have stood in member statements and talked about economic development in their own constituencies and in Saskatchewan. I too today, Mr. Speaker, would like to talk about economic development in northeastern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about ideas and businesses like the Nipawin ethanol plant. Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about the diamonds at Fort-à-la-Corne; talking about the growing outfitting industry that's growing in all of Saskatchewan, but certainly northeastern Saskatchewan; talking about the shale oil deposits, Mr. Speaker, that are being developed and researched at Hudson Bay. And I'm also talking about the ongoing use of our forest and forest products.

The interesting thing about all of these businesses, Mr. Speaker, is that they are going forward and going ahead and being

successful without the use of government dollars.

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Mr. Speaker, when I look at those types of businesses and compare them to things like the Heartland pig barns, like SPUDCO (Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company), like the Broe ethanol plant, or like failed dot-coms in the United States, Mr. Speaker, one can easily see what the actual hurt is from government involvement in business, Mr. Speaker. And it's easy to see that business can flourish and can expand within Saskatchewan without the use of government help.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to say that these things are happening in many of the constituencies in my part of the province, but certainly in the constituency of Carrot River Valley. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

### Saskatoon Walk for Diabetes Research

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, in 1970 the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation was started by a group of parents whose children suffered from juvenile diabetes and who felt that the way to find a cure for the disease was through significant funding of diabetes research.

Since then, JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) has contributed over \$900 million to research projects throughout the world. This year, the efforts of Canadian chapters will fund \$10 million worth.

Mr. Speaker, last Sunday I had the pleasure and opportunity to take part in the Saskatoon walk on behalf of this worthy cause. It was a great day. There were hundreds of people walking, a pipe band, fencing demonstrations, clowns, magicians, and Ukrainian dancers. Last year this event raised almost \$50,000; this year I'm sure they raised even more.

Mr. Speaker, over the last number of years I've also had the pleasure of playing in the Dads' Day Golf Tournament in Saskatoon, an annual event sponsored by the Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council to raise funds on behalf of JDRF.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I say that over the last eight years, the Dads' Golf Tournament has raised over \$120,000 for juvenile diabetes research.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the good work of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and all the people, staff, volunteers, sponsors, event participants who make their work possible. Thank you.

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

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

Kelvington-Wadena.

### Albert School Adds Cree to Curriculum

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members on this side of the House hope that the article on the front page of today's *Leader-Post* is a sign of things to come. We were both pleased and encouraged to read the headline, "Albert School drops French to add Cree." At Tuesday's Regina public school meeting a unanimous motion was passed allowing for the implementation of a mandatory Cree program this fall.

The school's student population is largely Aboriginal. This program, which will replace the core French program, will be mandatory for all students from kindergarten to grade 8. It is hoped that through the Cree language program students will be reintroduced to their cultural roots. In the words of their principal, Corrina Hayden-Fidler, "... instill in ... (them) a sense of self and a sense of belonging ..."

Through its co-operation with the Urban First Nations and Métis Education Partnership, the school is the first elementary school in the city to implement mandatory Cree in its core curriculum. That same partnership was also responsible for bringing in a Cree language program at Scott Collegiate.

In a few short years, Mr. Speaker, the Aboriginal population in our provincial school will be nearly equal to that of the non-Aboriginal. It's incumbent upon us as elected officials to realize that we play a critical role in helping to meet the needs of those students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to recognize the wisdom and foresight of Albert School, the Regina Public School Board, and the Urban First Nations and Métis Education Partnership. Thank you.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

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

#### Out-of-Province Medical Referrals

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last number of months the Saskatchewan Party's been raising the concerns of individual Saskatchewan people with respect to the health care system. Many specific concerns, as well, about the out-of-province referral system for medical treatment when the treatment is not available in a timely way in the province of Saskatchewan.

The problem does seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that there is a huge gap in information between doctors and specialists when it comes to the approval process, how it works, what needs to happen on behalf of Saskatchewan people. There are few that seem to understand whose responsibility it is even to make the request for the approval for the treatment to be sought out of province and picked up by Sask Health. This ultimately leads to frustration for patients and the physicians.

Mr. Speaker, is the minister currently reviewing the

out-of-province referral process and what is he doing to streamline the process and ensure that doctors and front-line health care workers know more about it so they can refer patients in a timely way?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of constant information and discussion that goes through the ... primarily the Saskatchewan Medical Association to all of their members. There's a very detailed process that the members of the Saskatchewan Medical Association know about, and they're continually working on refining that.

There are some times when suggestions are made and some changes are made to the system, but it's a matter of the doctors involved making the application to the people within the Department of Health, who manage the medical services fund and they, I think most of the doctors understand how the system works. But it's one that, I think probably once a month there's a missive that goes out to doctors around some aspect of this whole process.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. John and Rosa Wipf are here today with their six-year-old daughter, Katherine. They are frustrated with the system, with the out-of-province approval and referral system.

Katherine, their daughter, has a rare vascular disease that causes her to experience excessive external bleeding, pain, and infection. She's been to one specialist in Saskatoon and has seen five specialists at the Calgary Children's Hospital. According to these specialists there is no one in Canada who has the expertise to treat Katherine.

Well the family has been working with Sask Health with this out-of-province approval process for some time now — early in May, possibly back to April. They have gone ahead though, Mr. Speaker, unable to wait any longer, and they booked appointments for June 14 at the Mayo Clinic. This is where there indeed is treatment available for Katherine.

To date, to date their request has not been officially approved. All of her doctors feel, and I quote: they do not feel they have the expertise to help Katherine with her problem and there is no one else in Canada who has the expertise. They've advised the family to seek treatment at the Mayo Clinic.

So the question for the minister today is, notwithstanding the process that's here, will he do what it takes to be done to ensure that this family will know that they can go ahead with their June 14 appointment for Katherine?

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

(14:00)

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



**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, over many years in Saskatchewan people have been getting help outside the province if that's not available within the province. There's a very clear process of how to do that. Sometimes it takes a little bit of time to get all of the proper information to make sure that matters go ahead. And, Mr. Speaker, it sounds as if this matter is being reviewed and is in the process, and I know that they work as quickly as they can.

The clear point is to make sure that sufficient information goes between the doctors to make sure that the decisions can be made in a very timely fashion.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Wipfs are frustrated because they felt that the specialist in Saskatchewan was unsure or hesitant to write the letters that needed to be written to get this thing moving. They have since heard back earlier this week from the out-of-province referral people at Sask Health. They have heard that they now finally agree that this treatment is unavailable for Katherine in Canada. They have still yet to approve the trip to the Mayo.

The Wipfs are prepared to pay the travel expenses, and I would also suggest this to the minister. They've also been told by the out-of-province referral people at Sask Health when they were asked directly by Mr. Wipf, does this mean that we're going to get approval for Katherine to go down to the Mayo now that you understand this treatment's not available in Canada? And the answer was, it depends how much it costs. That was the answer they got. That's the answer I was told earlier today that they received from the out-of-province process.

So will the minister clarify that for the Wipfs as well? Assuming that things finally are now moving along in a timely way, what bearing will the cost of this treatment for this very serious condition have on the approval for Katherine to go to the Mayo to get the treatment that she needs?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, every person who works within our health system in Saskatchewan works to make sure that people get the kind of care, and it sounds like the process is working here. They are working their way to getting this resolved. But they are also always asking questions about how much does this cost, how much can we afford in the overall system, and is this the best place to go?

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to allow this process to work because that's the important way to do things. It's unfortunate the member didn't raise this one with me earlier this morning or yesterday or whenever he heard about this case so that I would be able to get some of this information.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Melfort was very clear about the role of what they suspected when they submitted a submission to Mr. Fyke saying, it's not the role of the politicians to micromanage the system and, Mr. Speaker, the role of all of the people who run our systems is to have processes in place that are fair, that provide the care that everybody needs and that process is going ahead. And, Mr. Speaker, I have confidence

that we'll solve this problem.

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

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

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Diagnostic and Treatment Centre

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have an issue with the Minister of Health that I have raised before and I do hope that I can get an answer today.

A couple of days ago I asked the minister when his government was going to honour its promise to build an FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorder) diagnostic and treatment centre here in Saskatchewan. Unfortunately the minister refused to answer the question.

Mr. Speaker, a few months ago the Saskatchewan Party held a news conference at the Regina Community Clinic. The clinic had submitted a proposal for an FASD diagnostic and intervention centre here in Regina and at that time the NDP (New Democratic Party) said, wait for the budget. Well, Mr. Speaker, the budget has come and the budget has gone and we still see no commitment from this government.

Will the minister confirm today that this NDP government will begin construction on a FASD diagnostic and treatment centre in Saskatchewan this year?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A public document called the provincial strategy for individuals with cognitive disabilities has been prepared and it's in the process of receiving final approvals. It's just out with some of the different departmental people. We anticipate that this will be released to the public by the end of June. And we've already started community discussions with people involved in this field because we have this new money this year in this budget — once we get the budget approved — to work in the whole area of cognitive disabilities.

This is not an easy task. It includes the FASD issues but it also includes a number of other things and we're doing this all together with our community partners.

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

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I agree this is a very important issue but it is also something that we've been working on for a while and it has to be dealt with quickly.

Mr. Speaker, last Monday CBC television ran yet another story on a Saskatchewan family that has been devastated as a result of accusation of sexual abuse that turned out to be false.

In 2001 social workers and police took five children from a

home with no explanation. A few weeks later the husband and two older sons were charged with sexually assaulting two adopted sisters. Eventually the father's charges were stayed and one of the boys was acquitted. The other case is still before the courts.

Mr. Speaker, four of those children were adopted from the same birth mother, an alcoholic birth mother, and all four showed symptoms of FASD. And yet nobody involved in the investigation — not the social worker, not the police and not the Crown prosecutors, nobody — took into consideration the fact that the children providing all the Crown's evidence were suffering from FASD. My question to the minister is why?

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would have to say, first of all, that I don't think that's an accurate representation of what occurs in these situations. We have a process where the police and the social workers work jointly on investigation, and there's actually three levels of scrutiny that take place before it would proceed to the level that in this particular instance it proceeded to.

Although their training is not FASD specific, they are given that kind of awareness in their training. What their training is on is recognizing the cognitive abilities of the young people they're dealing with. So for example, someone may be 18 but have a cognitive level of a three-year-old and they would be trained to recognize that. Both the police have this training and the social workers have this training as well.

The complaints have to be brought forward from a credible community source, and I would have to say that we put the best procedures in place that we can to protect children, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, early diagnosis is vital in assisting people living with FASD. According to Saskatchewan institute for the prevention of handicap, the diagnosis must be made with care using a team of specialists. The team must include a medical doctor with training and experience in FASD. It must include psychologists who are able to assess behaviours such as learning disabilities, and it may require further specialists such as pediatricians and social workers.

Mr. Speaker, early intervention and quick action is vital for the diagnosis of FASD. The need in Saskatchewan is urgent.

Can the minister explain why the NDP continues to drag its feet on the construction of a diagnostic centre so we can avoid yet another case like the one that we've had here in Saskatchewan that has destroyed a family?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money that we have in this year's budget is to be used for diagnosis but also some of the other things that are to be available in the community to build on the things we already have in this province. And we have a substantial amount of expertise at our universities and in the community and in the regional health authorities. And what we also have to recognize is that this is a problem that we're working on with our provincial and territorial partners in Western Canada.

All of these kinds of things are coming together as we learn more about how one can prevent this 100 per cent preventable problem, but also how then we deal with these people as they have costs throughout the whole of our health system, education system, criminal systems. And we'll continue to do that and we'll do it together with our community partners.

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

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, as we work on processes, people's lives are being destroyed in this province. We have children with FAS (fetal alcohol syndrome) that aren't diagnosed, and that's part of the system that has to be in place so that children's lives cannot be . . . will not be destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister of Social Services says neither social workers nor police are trained to look for FASD. She told the CBC that the main issue was whether the department was following its legislative mandate. Mr. Speaker, this is not acceptable that the . . . where these workers are having to look at just their mandate rather than the lives of the children.

Mr. Speaker, the chief of prosecutions said that he was satisfied with the outcome of his work. Mr. Speaker, no more families should have to endure what this family has been forced to endure. We cannot afford one more day of a government whose primary FASD treatment facility is the provincial jail.

Will the minister take immediate steps to ensure that the police, the justice officials, and social workers take FASD into consideration when investigating allegations made by children and adults suffering with FASD?

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to set the record straight. We deal with 4,800 reported cases of abuse and neglect every year in this province. And in relation to the magnitude of what we're looking at, it is very unfortunate when a situation happens that does not produce the results that people anticipated.

But the fact is, it's a very small — about a point four per cent — problem in relation to the number of children who are being protected. So we think that this illustrates that the training that both the police and the social workers have on cognitive disabilities can always be approved and we've proved it . . . we've improved it steadily since the first protocol in '87.

In 2002, it was substantially enhanced for children with disabilities of all kinds, whether it's autism or the whole range of cognitive disabilities children can have. So I say again, they work on recognizing the cognitive level but, in fact, we are protecting large numbers of children.

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

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

#### Awareness of Crystal Methamphetamine Problem

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the first step to dealing with the growing meth problem in Saskatchewan is to raise awareness. Parents, students, and teachers need to learn more about the dangers of this deadly drug.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I had a group of students from Bengough visit the legislature. I asked the teacher if any information on meth has been provided to their school, and he told me there was none. Mr. Speaker, why has the government not developed any information about the dangers of meth for Saskatchewan schools?

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I think what's important here, Mr. Speaker, is that students and parents and teachers have access to appropriate information. I know that after yesterday's question period my office received a number of contacts of people who had watched the proceedings, and raised concern about the approach taken by the Leader of the Opposition which did basically everything but tell kids where they could download the recipe off the Internet. And I think what we need to do is to make sure that what we have available is, in fact, appropriate information. Teachers have available to them a number of different resources that they can . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, I think what we need to recognize here is in fact that this, as I said yesterday, is not specifically about one particular drug. It was a year ago or two years ago that the members opposite said absolutely everything had to focus in on how you educate people about ecstasy use. What we need to have in place, and in fact what we do have in place, are a number of resources to help deal with teachers and students on issues about making healthy choices for healthy lifestyles on all drugs. Whether that is the designer drugs, whether that is the latest fad in terms of meth, or whether that is in fact as simple as gasoline and glue-sniffing which is a problem in many communities.

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

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

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious problem and this minister makes a mockery of us on the opposition side trying to warn children and teenagers in this province about the

danger. Mr. Speaker, students must be told how dangerous this drug is so they never are tempted to even try it. Meth is dangerous. It can cause permanent brain damage, permanent respiratory damage, from even one hit. Mr. Speaker, it makes a lot more sense to try to convince kids never to try it in the first place than to try to break their addiction later.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister assure us today that he will have information on crystal meth available for distribution to all Saskatchewan schools by the start of school this September.

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Yesterday I took the opportunity to meet with my department officials on this very subject. And not specifically with crystal meth, but in fact how we are dealing with the anti-drug strategy within the schools. And what I have asked the department to do is within the next few days to make sure on the [sasked.gov.sk.ca](http://sasked.gov.sk.ca) Web site that there will be links to appropriate pages that will help parents talk to their kids about the problems, to make sure that the resources are identified in an easily found way to deal with all of these issues, whether it is sniffing, whether it is in fact a problem with marijuana use, whether it is a problem with other types of drugs, so that parents and teachers and students can all have appropriate access to appropriate information to deal with these risks.

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

(14:15)

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

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's response and am very encouraged to hear that the government is taking this move.

Mr. Speaker, the government should also be launching a public education campaign for businesses that sell products used in the manufacture of meth. In the US (United States) Midwest the government distributes this poster, Mr. Speaker, to businesses that sell these products. The posters displays the kind of products used to make crystal meth and advises store owners and their employees that frequent or large purchases of these products may be an indication of meth manufacturing. If this is occurring, the poster also encourages businesses to contact their local police.

Mr. Speaker, will the government print and distribute similar posters to businesses in Saskatchewan?

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I have suggested to folks yesterday, to the media when we were talking about this, that we would do what is necessary to help raise awareness, whether that is a larger public service awareness campaign, whether that is in fact posters or whatever else may need to be done. What I have said though is that we do not — I believe — do not need to reinvent the wheel. Where materials are available, where resources are available, we should point people in the right direction to find those.

I do also want to say this though. That we should not get caught up on just this one particular drug. The problem and the threat of drug addiction goes much beyond simply this one drug. And I would urge the members opposite to broaden their focus and so we can take a look at how we deal with this as a strategy in Health, in Learning, through Justice, and make sure that we have in fact a complete program built around, as this government has identified.

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

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

**Ms. Bakken:** — Mr. Speaker, it's encouraging to hear the minister and his government acknowledge the issue of addictions in this province. But this has been an ongoing problem for many, many years. And there is a great lack of awareness. There is a great lack of treatment facilities in our province. This government has known about the threat of crystal meth for six years, and until yesterday the minister had not taken any specific action to put anything on the Web site. There is nothing on the government Web site.

Mr. Speaker, we are encouraging the government to not only talk about this, but to take action to ensure that parents, students, communities are aware of the crystal meth problem. Will the minister confirm today that this action he spoke about will indeed take place within the next few days?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — I made it clear to the House yesterday, as did my colleagues, that we have a strategy that is in place. This is not something that simply came up yesterday. What we have been working on is to build a strategy that deals with this, that deals with other designer drugs that were raised by the opposition a year ago as being the greatest problem facing Saskatchewan, with ongoing problems that we see in our community around sniffing issues.

These are all significant issues. The public awareness campaign is ongoing. It's built into the curriculum starting as early as grade 6 in terms of making sure that children understand how this works in terms of health and the other pieces of the curriculum. This is built in, and for the member opposite to argue and suggest that nothing has been done is simply inflammatory and incorrect.

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

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

#### Severance Package for Former Deputy Minister

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's pretty amazing to see the minister for the Public Service Commission stand in this House yesterday and defend a \$150,000 severance package for a deputy minister who worked just 17 months. Mr. Speaker, that minister sure has changed her tune from a few years ago. In fact in 1992 that same minister

said no one in Saskatchewan should make more than 80 or 90,000 a year. She said, and I quote:

Anybody who earns more than 80 or \$90,000 a year in this province, doesn't need that kind of money, and I'm not afraid to put those views on the public record.

Now she stands in this House and defends \$150,000 severance payment. Mr. Speaker, well that's certainly the consistency of a chameleon. Mr. Speaker, how can this minister possibly justify this outrageous severance payment?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister for the Public Service Commission.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are encouraging me to be nice. So I will be nice to the member from Kindersley. To reiterate what I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the person in question moved here from the Northwest Territories when she was offered a job. As part of the employment contract, Mr. Speaker, she was told and she entered into a contract that if she did not remain in her job for a three-year period, she would be entitled to moving expenses whatever they may be, Mr. Speaker.

That member . . . that deputy minister was in her job for approximately 18 months. She received a seven-month severance. If she does not receive a job by October, November and December she will receive a further three months and any moving costs she may incur, Mr. Speaker. It is not, and I repeat, \$150,000.

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

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for the answer, and it's never been my experience that she has any other disposition.

Mr. Speaker, this minister has said that no one should make more than \$90,000 for working in this province, and now she's saying that this former deputy minister of Labour deserves \$150,000 for not working in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that this is an outrageous severance payment. None of the front-line government workers that that NDP government fired on budget day are getting that kind of severance payment. No one in the private sector would get that kind of severance payment for a 17-month work contract.

How can the minister nicely justify this outrageous payment?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the minister for the Public Service Commission.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Now, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are telling me I don't have to be as nice any more.

But what I will say to the member opposite is that he is talking about 12 years ago, Mr. Speaker, and I suspect that what he is talking about is the outrageous previous Conservative severance contract for George Hill, where he was going to receive \$1.2 million, and he received as head of SaskPower over \$332,000 a year, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the president of SaskPower today receives about \$196,000, less than half of what George Hill, a good Conservative, their predecessor, received in 1991, Mr. Speaker.

**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 responses to written questions no. 476 through 483 inclusive.

**The Speaker:** — Responses to all of the questions from 476 to 483 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 Human Services and the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure, I move the House 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:** — The motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 14:24.



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Premier

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Minister of Crown Management Board  
Minister Responsible for Public Service Commission

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

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