



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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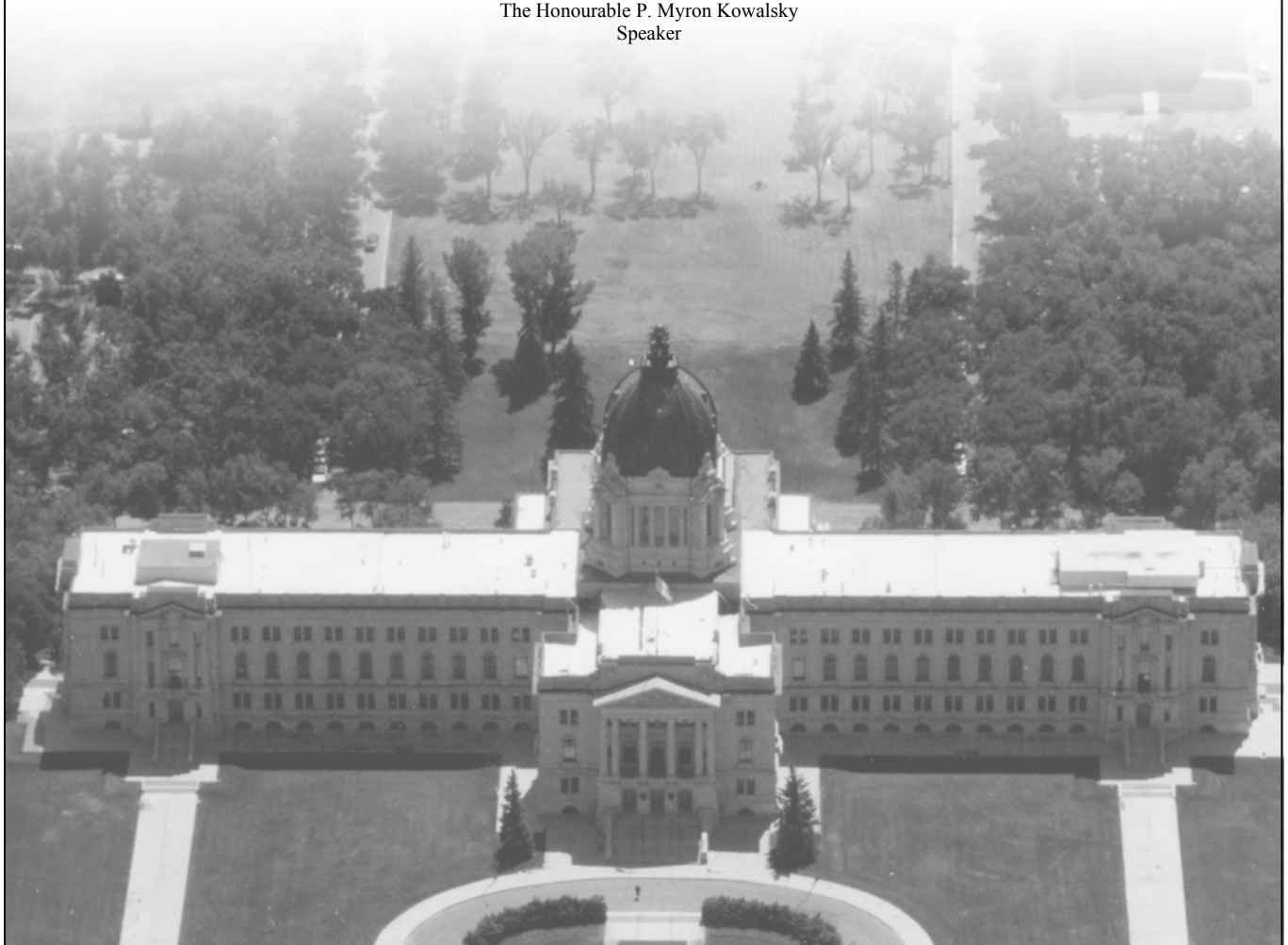
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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 10:00.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

**The Speaker:** — It's my pleasure to call upon the member for Cypress Hills.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to present a fresh batch of petitions just delivered to me this morning by the students that are in the gallery on the east side. 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 has been signed by constituents from the communities of Shaunavon, Frontier, Climax, Eastend, and points in Alberta as well, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition regarding health care, but this one is in regards to saving the Luseland and Dodsland ambulance services. Mr. Speaker, the prayer of this petition 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 Dodsland and Luseland ambulance services are not discontinued.

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

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of signatures on this petition, and they are from the communities of Dodsland and Plenty. And I'm pleased to present this petition on these people's behalf.

**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 all from the community of Craik.

I so present.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to present on behalf of citizens around the Claybank area regarding their brick plant. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reconsider the decision to reduce funding to the Claybank Brick Plant.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed from a lot of people in the Moose Jaw area, in the city of Moose Jaw, as well as people from Briercrest.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — I have a petition here for citizens that want public hearings on closures and layoffs in the Saskatchewan health care system.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government through the legislative Human Services Committee to hold public hearings in each of the communities affected by the changes recently announced by the Minister of Health prior to those bed closures, facility closures, and layoffs taking place.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from the town of Kenaston.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a petition from citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned with downsizing and closures of health facilities with little or no public consultation. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government through the legislature's Human Services Committee to hold public hearings in each of the communities affected by the changes recently announced by the Minister of Health prior to these bed closures, facility closures, and layoffs taking place.

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

This petition is signed by the very good citizens of Kenaston, Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly again to present a petition with citizens concerned with the state of health care in west central Saskatchewan. 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 the Dodsland and Luseland ambulance services are not discontinued.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by the citizens of Kerrobert, Major, and Dodsland, Saskatchewan.

I so present.

### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 107, 165, 166, 182, 197, 198.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill 25, The Adoption Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Community Resources and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you, 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 this Bill in Committee of the Whole. 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. 25 — The Adoption Amendment Act, 2004/Loi de 2004 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur l'adoption

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — I move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Community Resources and Employment that this Bill be now 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:** — The 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 Human Services.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill 26, The Adoption Consequential Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Community Resources and Employment has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 26 in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 26 — The Adoption Consequential Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — I move this Bill be now read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Community Resources and Employment that Bill No. 26 be now 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.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great privilege and pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly, a group of 45 students from the communities of Climax, Frontier, and other smaller communities possibly further east and west. And they've come to join us this morning as part of a school tour to Regina for two days. It's too far to come for just one day, Mr. Speaker.

With this group of 45 students from grades 6 to 9 are teachers Brad Gasper, June Evenson, and Gail Wilson. And we have chaperones Kay Smith, Marlene Carlson, Michelle Danskin, Ernie Coakley; and bus drivers, Norm Baker and Joel Christianson.

These students, Mr. Speaker, are here today not just to see if democracy works, but if it works for them. And I'd like all members of this Assembly to welcome them to this House.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This morning I want to introduce, in the west gallery, 35 students from one of the fine constituencies in the province, from Yorkton, and probably one of the finest schools in the province as well, I might say, from the Yorkdale School Division, along with the students from Maple Creek, of course.

I want to recognize this morning as well Kathleen Henderson, as well as Val Jeske, who are the teachers; the teacher assistants, Brenda Prodonchuk and Diane Gleason; the chaperones, Bruce Pepler, Janice Friske, Bev Dutchak, Caroline Trost, and Gail Ducharme.

In a few moments after question period I'll have an opportunity to meet with the students and their chaperones and have some refreshments. We're going to have a photo, and we always have some good discussion about the protocol of the legislature so I expect today that the students and the chaperones will witness the opposition at their best behaviour. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

### 60th Anniversary of D-Day

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sunday, June 6 marks the 60th anniversary of D-Day when allied troops landed in Normandy, beginning the final push toward the liberation of Europe and the end of the Second World War.

Mr. Speaker, from the point of view of the overall allied effort,

the D-Day invasion was without doubt the most perilous and significant action of the entire war and Canadians played a significant role in it. Mr. Speaker, 10,000 Canadians were in the armada that crossed the channel that day. An additional 14,000 Canadians landed on Juno Beach.

Mr. Speaker, as we well know, the Royal Regina Rifles was one of the first Canadian assault battalions to land on Juno Beach and was also one of the most successful allied units in terms of achieving its objectives.

Mr. Speaker, we in Saskatchewan this weekend are deeply honoured, as part of the commemoration of the activities of the 60th anniversary, to welcome this weekend The Princess Royal, who is the Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Regina Rifles.

Mr. Speaker, every June 6 has a very special meaning for our family. My dad crossed the channel in the second wave of Canadians to go into France just after D-Day and he was one of the fortunate ones who returned, but what he and many like him left behind was their youth.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today, with the member of Wood River, to ask all of our colleagues to join us in acknowledging the tremendous debt of gratitude that we owe to all of those Canadians who sacrificed in the cause of freedom on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

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

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of members to ask the House to solemnly recognize the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

There's no doubt in anyone's mind that it was a sacrifice of thousands of brave young soldiers from the relatively unknown country of Canada that helped turn the tide of the war in 1944 in favour of the Allies.

It was also, Mr. Speaker, the battle of Normandy that turned an inexperienced army into a formidable foe and earned the respect and recognition of all Allied countries. The battle of Normandy began in the early hours of June 6, 1944. Fourteen thousand Canadians landed on the beaches, and hundreds more either parachuted or landed by glider behind enemy lines, and even more were guarding the skies above the beaches.

Of those who landed on Juno Beach, Saskatchewan's presence was front and centre. Some of the troops were members of the Royal Regina Rifles, and their participation in D-Day is recognized this weekend in formal ceremonies featuring Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal.

Mr. Speaker, as thousands of veterans from across this country gather in Normandy this weekend to mark this event, we are reminded that only a handful of them are still with us today. It's expected that this will be the last trip for many of them, and we owe them a great deal of gratitude that can never be repaid. How does one put a price on freedom and peace, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, Sunday, June 6 also happens to be Armed Forces

Day in Canada and we are reminded that 60 years after one of the greatest and bloodiest battles in military history, Canadian troops remain dedicated to fighting for peace.

I ask all members to recognize the 60th anniversary of D-Day and Armed Forces Day. We must remember those who have fallen fighting for our country, and we must remember those that still do.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask you to call for a moment of silence.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted for a moment of silence?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — By leave, would members rise for a moment of silence.

**The Assembly observed a moment of silence.**

**The Speaker:** — Thank you, please be seated. I recognize the member for Cumberland.

(10:15)

### **First Nations and Métis Contributions in World War II**

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the 60th anniversary of D-Day, it is my honour to pay tribute to the contributions and sacrifice that Aboriginal people made on behalf of our country in time of war.

Canada's First Nations and Métis people have been involved in every major conflict in which Canada has been a participant. They have fought and served overseas and they have supported the cause at home.

Mr. Speaker, World War II is no exception. No one knows how many Aboriginal men and women served in Canada's Armed Forces during that war. What we do know is that they served in every major battle we fought including the ill-fated Dieppe raid, and the event we are commemorating this weekend — the D-Day invasion.

We also know that many were killed or died from wounds received during battle, and that at least 18 were decorated for bravery in action.

Mr. Speaker, Aboriginal people also contributed to the war effort here at home. Some joined the Pacific Ocean defence while others worked in factories. Some First Nations donated land that was used for airports, rifle ranges, and defence posts. Canada's Aboriginal people also donated thousands of dollars to the war effort through various charities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to have this opportunity to honour the contributions that First Nations and Métis people made to Canada in times of conflict, and to pay tribute to the Aboriginal soldiers who made so many sacrifices, some the supreme sacrifice, in the cause of freedom and of peace. Thank you.

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

### **Visit of The Princess Royal**

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will be a royal weekend in Saskatchewan with the visit by Princess Anne, Her Royal Highness. The Princess Royal, as she is known formally, arrives in the province this evening to begin what will be a very quick few days.

Princess Anne will visit Battleford, North Battleford, Saskatoon, and Regina. And the protocol office reports that the focus of the visit is the D-Day anniversary as has been mentioned by the Premier and other ministers . . . and other members, rather.

The best opportunity for the public to see the Princess Royal, according to the protocol office, will at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning in front of the Legislative Building. Of interest to note, Mr. Speaker, in Canada, Princess Anne is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Regina Rifles of Saskatchewan.

Her last visit to Saskatchewan was back in 1982, so it is with great pleasure that she is welcomed back.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan Party MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) will be taking part in activities related to the royal visit over the weekend. And with that, Mr. Speaker, the official opposition is indeed welcoming and looking forward to the visit to our province by the Princess Royal, Princess Anne. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina Wascana Plains.

### **Honouring Canadian Women's Military Service**

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether overseas or keeping the home fires burning, Canadian women are among the unsung heroes of World War II. During the war, 45,000 Canadian women volunteered for military service and of that number, one in nine was chosen to serve overseas.

Women were first assigned to the laundry service and as greater needs were organized and reorganized and recognized, women's roles expanded to drivers, clerks, cooks, messengers, and canteen helpers. In May 1942, Canadian nurses became the first in any Allied country to have official officer status with equivalent power of command. Mr. Speaker, by the end of the war, 3,000 women were overseas, comprising 1.5 per cent of the Canadian military.

Much of the female population of Canada stayed home during World War II to continue raising their families, farming the land, and filling the jobs left unoccupied by servicemen. During this time, many women were employed in factories and machine shops, manufacturing, and equipment necessary for the war.

Mr. Speaker, although women's work during the war was invaluable, their contributions were often disregarded and undervalued. Overseas, women were paid only one-third of men's salaries, and back home after the war ended many

women were forced out of their factory jobs and told to return to their duties in the home.

Mr. Speaker, on this the 60th anniversary of D-Day, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honouring the many women who filled the vital roles during World War II. Whether military or non-military, their contributions were essential and for this we owe them our gratitude.

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

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

#### 10th Anniversary of Tillage Days on Seager Wheeler Farm

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start my member's statement with a quote from the late Seager Wheeler:

The soil is ours to make or mar and we should aim to leave it, when the time comes for us to pass on — in as good or better condition than when it came under our hands.

Seager Wheeler was without a doubt the largest influence in dry-land farming in Saskatchewan, in fact the world. Seager Wheeler won the world wheat competition five times, a record that still stands. He was known as the wheat wizard of Rosthern or as the world wheat king. His innovations in plant breeding, not only in wheat but also fruit orchards, were world leaders.

Mr. Speaker, this has been the cornerstone for the people who now manage his farm, Maple Grove Farm at Rosthern.

June 2 was the 10th anniversary of Tillage Days at the Seager Wheeler Farm, and they had panel discussions on minimum till, panel discussions on corn seeding, biotech diesel demonstrations with a tractor running on canola oil and the exhaust smells like french fries, numerous displays on new tillage equipment. But of course the most important was going into the fields and seeing the equipment work side by side with the competition.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ben Heppner and myself were present for the day's event and had a wonderful time. I would suggest anyone travelling along Highway 11 past Rosthern, stop in this summer and tour the Canadian heritage site — a tribute to a great Canadian.

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

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

#### Dutch Royal Family in Canada

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, following the D-Day landings, Canadian troops who had been fighting in France, Italy, and Belgium were moved to the Netherlands. The liberation of the Netherlands by Canadian Armed Forces is one of the most significant events in the history of that country.

During the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, a key objective

of the invaders was the capture of the Dutch royal family. Fleeing to temporary safety in England, Queen Wilhelmina decided to send her daughter, the heir to the Dutch throne, to Canada. Princess Juliana and her two small children lived in Government House in Ottawa and during their stay Princess Juliana gave birth to a daughter.

Mr. Speaker, since Dutch law requires that members of the Royal family be born on Dutch soil, the Government of Canada enacted a statute that declared a wing of the Ottawa Civil Hospital a temporary Dutch protectorate, in order that the new infant could technically be born in the Netherlands.

In the fall of 1945, as a thank-you gesture for providing sanctuary for her family during the conflict, Queen Juliana presented 100,000 tulip bulbs to the people of Canada. And every year since then, the Dutch people have donated 10,000 additional tulip bulbs in recognition of the hospitality that was shown to the Dutch royal family, and for the pivotal role that Canada played in their liberation.

In 1995 a further 1,000 bulbs were donated to each provincial and territorial capital in Canada, some of which were planted and are currently blooming west of the Legislative Building here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, as a Dutch immigrant to Canada after the Second World War, I would like to add my voice of thanks and appreciation to those who gave so much to ensure our freedom and our liberty. Thank you, Canada. Thank you.

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

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

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

#### Out-of-Province Medical Referrals

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health: has the government approved funding for Kathryn Wipf to receive treatment at the Mayo Clinic?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, as indicated yesterday, the process is ongoing. The particular situation in this case is that we have a process where a Saskatchewan specialist recommends in writing that the treatment is necessary and not available in Saskatchewan or elsewhere in Canada. That has happened. They've looked, and they've discovered that the Alberta specialists recommend that this person goes on to the States.

A letter was written by the Saskatchewan specialist on June 1 — that's earlier this week — to the Mayo Clinic. We're waiting for a response from the Mayo Clinic. Since Monday they've already been contacting them, since yesterday, by telephone to get that response so this can go forward. Mr. Speaker, the normal response time when a request goes forward is within two days.

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

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, this is unbelievable. If this isn't a clear-cut case for approval of out-of-province treatment, I don't know what is. This little girl has seen specialists in Saskatchewan. She's been to specialists in Calgary, and they indicate by letter that they can't help her. They say she needs to go to the Mayo Clinic for treatment, or she's going to lose her leg.

Kathryn Wipf needs approval for this treatment now. Why doesn't the minister stand up and approve this request today.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, it's not my role as the Minister of Health to do this approval. We work with the professionals to do that. I anticipate, given all of the information that we have, that that approval will be forthcoming, but we don't make those decisions until we have all of the information. And we're waiting for the information from the Mayo Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out that there are very rare circumstances where this particular issue is involved, where a patient from Saskatchewan is required to go outside of Canada for treatment. As we all know, sending patients to the States can be very, very expensive, but we will do it, and we do it on a regular basis.

Last year, in the '02-03 year, we had 33 patients that went to the United States. We paid about \$400,000 in doctors' fees and over \$700,000 in hospital fees.

Mr. Speaker, we continue to work to make sure we get the best value for all of our dollars that we spend in the health care system, but absolutely we are going to get care for our young people and all of our people in Saskatchewan.

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

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, this minister has to decide when he gets up in the morning what his job is. Is he here to be an apologist for an inefficient, ineffective bureaucracy that takes far too long — that takes far too long — for approvals for this little girl to be made? Is he going to sit here and tell the people of Saskatchewan that we're worried that this treatment for this little girl is going to be too expensive?

Mr. Speaker, there should be a process that's transparent and happens in a timely way. The Wipfs should not have to come to this legislature, to their legislature, to seek support for their case for their child to be treated in the Mayo Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, will this minister take responsibility for his role as the Minister of Health to the people of Saskatchewan and not the ministry of Health, and stand up for this little girl and approve her treatment?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, normally when we get the information it takes less than 48 hours to get the approval. We understand that the information was requested on Monday of this week; this is Friday. We don't have the information from the Mayo Clinic, but we expect that we will have it shortly, and that will be easily in time for the June 14 deadline. I'm not going to make that decision here in that process.

Mr. Speaker, what I object to — what I strongly object to — is that member's continued attack on the civil service and all the people who work in the health care system. He continually goes after people in a way that's totally inappropriate because we end up here in this province working and trying to set up appropriate procedures so that we make the most effective use of our dollars and also make sure that we get the best patient care.

And all of the people who are working with this young girl are very concerned about her. I'm a father. I know the member opposite's a father and a grandfather. And all of these things are very important and clear . . .

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

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, what I object to is this minister's lack of leadership on behalf of the province of Saskatchewan.

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, what I object to is this minister's reliance on a lot of bureaucratic mazes and bureaucratic impediments to letting proper health care go forward in a timely manner for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, what I object to is the fact that people have to come into their legislature and seek the assistance of the official opposition to have timely treatment for themselves and for their children.

Mr. Speaker, it's not so much what I object to; it's what the people of Saskatchewan demand, and that's leadership in health care. Will the minister take that leadership and tell the Wipf family that their daughter's treatment will be approved?

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

(10:30)

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I respect and value the professionals who are working on this particular file. I know they have great concern for this patient and for all the patients that they work for. And that is appropriate for how we can proceed with this particular kind of case.



I fully expect that this procedure will take place, but it's appropriate that we get the information so that we know exactly what's going to be paid for by the taxpayers of the province. That's what we end up having to do on many of these cases, and we'll continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, it's important, it's important that we remember that we're all trying to work within the dollars that we have. And one of the challenges that we clearly have has been raised by these members every day — by petitions, by questions — is spend the dollars in my community. Well every dollars that we spend for care other places isn't spent here.

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

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

#### **Emergency Room Service at the Border Health Centre**

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Health. On November 9, 1997, Jeff Onerheim and his three children were involved in a head-on collision five miles from the village of Climax. Jeff suffered multiple fractures of the leg, arm, pelvis, ribs as well as a collapsed lung and a bruised spleen. Jeff's three-year-old daughter Brandi was knocked unconscious in that accident and suffered serious head injuries and also injuries to her shoulders and face.

Mr. Speaker, the family recently wrote to the Minister of Health to tell him about the quick response that had been provided by the emergency department at the Border Health Centre in Climax — this same health centre where the NDP (New Democratic Party) is planning to cut emergency service hours of operation.

Mr. Speaker, Jeff and Tina Onerheim want to know what the minister thinks is worth more — the lives of people in that area or the money the NDP will save by cutting back emergency health service.

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, this question is exactly the issue we have in this province. It's exactly the issue we have in this country. And people have to make choices around how to provide the best kinds of care we can.

I know that the Chair of the board and the board for the Cypress Health Region working together with their CEO (chief executive officer) and working together with the people in Climax and Frontier and other communities that are south of the Frenchman River there . . . or creek — they're all trying to sort out how do we provide these kinds of care. One of the challenges we have down in that area is getting sufficient staff to cover that area. Also we end up having to work with Shaunavon and Eastend and the facilities are there.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly the kind of questions that's there. It's one that we have to work at, and we have to work at together. I urge the members opposite to vote for our budget, \$173 million more for Health.

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

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, one of the children involved in that terrible accident in 1997 is sitting in the gallery here this morning. Dustin Onerheim was five years old at the time of the accident. And his mother wrote to the minister saying that the outcome of that particular incident could have been much worse if not for the services provided by the doctor and the nurses at the Climax health centre.

Will the minister explain to Dustin and his family why saving a few thousand dollars — and that's what we're talking about, Mr. Speaker — is more important than providing emergency medical services that likely saved the lives of Dustin's father and sister, especially in view of the isolated nature of that region?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, this once again illustrates the challenge that we have . . . is to provide good medical assistance right across the province. And frankly one of the debates comes about whether you should end up with full emergency medical services and having those people available in very short time period right across the province as opposed to having facilities.

And one of the challenges we end up having to do is we have to work with facilities. We have to work with the emergency medical services. We have to work with the overall system that we have in this province. And there's no question that there's no amount of dollars that can talk about a person's life or a person's leg or anything else that's involved.

And, Mr. Speaker, what I want and what I urge the members opposite to be part of is a discussion around how we use the dollars that we have — 173 million new in this budget — to make sure we provide care right across the province.

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

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, the community of Climax currently has a doctor. The community of Climax currently has sufficient nurses to meet their needs. The government has just introduced legislation regarding changes to The Ambulance Act that is going to put at threat the very existence of the only ambulance that serves that area down there. Mr. Speaker, this situation is not something that can be taken out of context. The context is very real in terms of the lives of people.

Mr. Speaker, just seven weeks ago Tanelle Korsberg suffered a serious choking episode at her school in Frontier. Tanelle was rushed to the Border Health Centre in Climax in a semi-conscious state, and it progressed into severe neurological shock due to lack of oxygen. She was unresponsive and had a blood pressure reading of 30 over 10. The minister will be aware of this emergency because Tanelle's parents have written

a letter to him.

In that letter, Mr. Speaker, Terry and Merlyne Korsberg said, and I'd like to quote:

It is without a doubt that this child did not have the forty-five minutes it would have taken . . . to get to Shaunavon . . . She could have been someone that society would have had to look after for the rest of her life or worse, we . . . (might) have lost our daughter.

Mr. Speaker, the question: why is the NDP gambling with the lives of people in the Frontier, Climax area by restricting emergency service hours at the Border Health Centre?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Cypress Health Region is working to provide the emergency services across that whole area. It's not going to be exactly the same as it was before. Our hope is that it will be better.

But, Mr. Speaker, the real issue here is, where are those members when it comes to supporting dollars for health care? Are you going to vote for the provincial sales tax because we need more dollars for health care? Are you going to vote for the budget which adds \$173 million for health care?

Mr. Speaker, there have been continual demands on that side for more this, more that, more this. We end up all having to work together to make sure we have the most effective use of our dollars so that we can provide for people who need out-of-country care, so that we can provide for people who need care in some of the remote areas of our province. And we will continue to do that, and we'll do it by making choices which aren't always easy.

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

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister talked about possibly providing better service to that area. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure how he hopes to achieve that by putting the practice of the current doctor at risk by cutting back hours of service at the Border Health Centre. I don't know how he plans to achieve that by putting at risk the existence of the only ambulance that serves those two communities.

Mr. Speaker, Terry and Merlyne Korsberg are thankful for the excellent and quick health service they received just seven weeks ago at Border Health Centre in their daughter's time of crisis. And the Korsberg family, along with every other family in the Frontier, Climax area believe that, and I want to quote again:

. . . my family and the residents of this vast, isolated area are entitled to lifesaving measures in a reasonable amount of time.

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister of Health agree, and, if so, why

is the NDP government cutting emergency service hours at the Border Health Centre in Climax?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I do agree with that comment that we will provide emergency services across the province. One of the challenges, though, is how you do that.

And it's clear that at some of the facilities that we have, there aren't sufficient staff. There aren't sufficient people to provide that kind of care, and it ends up being that we'll end up with some regional centres. And in this case it may be Shaunavon that'll provide that care. Or my goal is to continue to provide services in that Climax area but do it in a way that is sustainable over the long term.

And that's a real challenge because you end up having to deal with not only the health issues, you have to deal with the local economic issues and education issues — many other issues. And those are exactly the kinds of issues that I talked with the people from Climax and Frontier because they want to build in that part of the province, and we do too.

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

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

#### **Severance Package for Health Region Former Chief Executive Officer**

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the Health minister talks about funding issues and funding crisis. Mr. Speaker, the people in Saskatoon are shocked and surprised at the \$66,000 so-called severance package being paid for health region CEO Jim Ferguson. It seems strange to call this a severance package because he wasn't fired, and in fact he still has a contract with the Saskatoon Health Region.

People are asking, Mr. Speaker, how can you resign, get a large severance payment, and still continue working for the same employer? Mr. Speaker, my question is, is that not double-dipping?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the CEO positions in health care in our province, but right across the country are extremely demanding positions. And people will take these jobs and . . . but they end up with contracts that will provide certain kinds of things. In this particular instance the regional health authority in Saskatoon has negotiated a way out of the contract that was there for Mr. Ferguson, and it includes a three-month severance package, but there are also some kinds of assistance that can be provided by Mr. Ferguson as he goes into his semi-retirement.

And, Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue to work and support what happens in the regional health authorities because we know that they need to get the best people possible to run the facilities and the operations that we have.

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

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the Health minister is well aware of the concept of working notice, and he knows full well that he would be able to have Mr. Ferguson provide services during that notice period. At a time that money is so tight and the health system is facing significant cuts, people in Saskatoon are having a hard time understanding this severance payment, particularly when Mr. Ferguson is now under a new contract with the health district. What's even worse is that they are refusing to disclose the terms of this contract. We don't know what Mr. Ferguson will be doing for the health district, and we don't know how much he will be paid while he is receiving that severance payment.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide to us today the terms of reference for this 12-month consulting contract and how much Mr. Ferguson will be being paid on top of the \$66,000 severance payment?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatoon Health Authority and the board have been working to have an orderly transition in that Authority, because it's clearly the biggest health authority in the province. And they're going to do that in a way that allows for Mr. Ferguson to go with thanks for lots of work well done over many, many years, but also while making sure that he can help out in the transition.

There will be a national search for a new CEO and that will take a number of months. We have one of the vice-presidents that will be taking over to run the operation in the meantime. And we will continue to support the Saskatoon Health Authority as they provide crucial services for the whole province.

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

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, there is something seriously wrong with a health system that puts the priorities in the wrong order. Mr. Speaker, what they've done is they've said they're recognizing the value of this employee — and I have no issue with that — but what the problem is, is that they are ignoring the fact that they cannot approve the treatment to save a little girl's leg.

Mr. Speaker, why all the secrecy about this? This is taxpayers' money. Taxpayers deserve an answer, Mr. Speaker. Why is Mr. Ferguson getting severance when he is still under contract? What are the terms of this contract? How much is he getting paid? And how much money could they have used to save this little girl's leg rather than make this kind of a payment, Mr. Speaker?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that my learned colleague uses that kind of language around this particular situation. We have \$2.7 billion in the health care system to provide services right across the province, and we're working on the issue related to the little girl who needs some care.

But we also recognize that we need to have good leadership in all of our health authorities across the province. And we're going to support the board and the Chair of the board and others who are working on these particular issues, because their job is to make sure that the whole system runs for the benefit of all the people in the province. And they're going to continue to do that.

There will be a national search for a new CEO in Saskatoon, and we look forward to supporting a new person who can continue the good work done by Mr. Ferguson.

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

(10:45)

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

#### Strategic Plan for Crown Investments Corporation

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for Crown Investments Corporation. Yesterday the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) acquired a copy of CIC's (Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan) three-year strategic plan through a freedom of information request. The document states one of CIC's strategic objectives is, and I quote: "The Crown sector provides high-quality goods and services at a competitive rate."

The NDP government approved the plan in July 2003, just three months before the 2003 election and just a few weeks before the Premier claimed Saskatchewan had the lowest cost package of utilities in Canada — a fact, Mr. Speaker, that was not true — and made an election promise to continue to have the lowest.

Mr. Speaker, why would the Premier make an election promise that his . . . a promise that his own government's three-year strategic plan clearly indicates the NDP never had any intention of keeping.

**The Speaker:** — Order. I just would ask . . . caution the member about impugning intentions in his statements. Order. I recognize the Minister of the Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. John Weidlich, the CBC reporter applied for, under access to information, the strategic plan for the Crown Investment Corporation. That was released to him. That document was approved by the CIC board in early 2003; it was published in the summer of 2003.

And obviously the Premier of Saskatchewan made an announcement last fall about our vision for the Crown sector in the province, where our vision would have the lowest bundle of utility rates in the country, where we would stagger our annual reports, where we would have a third party review for external investments, and that we would report annually to the people of

Saskatchewan how our Crown sector is doing. Mr. Speaker, we're implementing all of those commitments by the Premier.

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

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier approved CIC's three-year strategic plan in July 2003, and it called for competitive utility rates. But three weeks later the Premier claimed he had the lowest rates, and then he made an election promise to have the lowest rates into the future. Mr. Speaker, the NDP's own three-year strategic plan says the objective will be competitive rates.

And the document also says the Crown should, and I quote, "advance the perception." Advance the perception of what, Mr. Speaker? That what the Premier says is true even though it's clearly not?

The Premier's campaign promise is all smoke, mirrors, and pixie dust. Why would the Premier make an election promise of the lowest utility rate package in Canada, when he knew it was absolutely no plan in place to deliver that promise?

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

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of the Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that the members opposite are running out of questions, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we see the member from Cannington getting up and trying to . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please, members. Order. Order. Order please, members. I recognize the Minister of the Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Well it's obvious that members opposite are running out of questions because they're continuing to flog this dead horse, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I have said and what we've said continuously since the election of last fall is that Saskatchewan is going to provide the lowest bundle of utility rates in the country.

We've said we're going to report annually to the public how our Crown sector is doing. We've said, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to do a third party review of external investment.

Now I know, Mr. Minister, that the members opposite still can't get over the fact that the Crown sector was a major public policy issue in the last provincial election. Their position lost; our position won. They were on the wrong side of the issue, and they continue to be on the wrong side of the issue.

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

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member for Melfort on his feet?

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — With leave, Mr. Speaker, to extend question period for 25 minutes.

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Order please, members. The member for Melfort has respectfully requested an extension of oral question period. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I interpret that to be a denial of leave. Leave has not been granted.

Order. Order, members. Order. Order. Order.

## 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. 484 and 485.

**The Speaker:** — Responses to questions 484, 485 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 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 Monday at 1:30 p.m.

The Assembly adjourned at 10:54.

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## **CABINET MINISTERS**

Hon. L. Calvert  
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  
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