



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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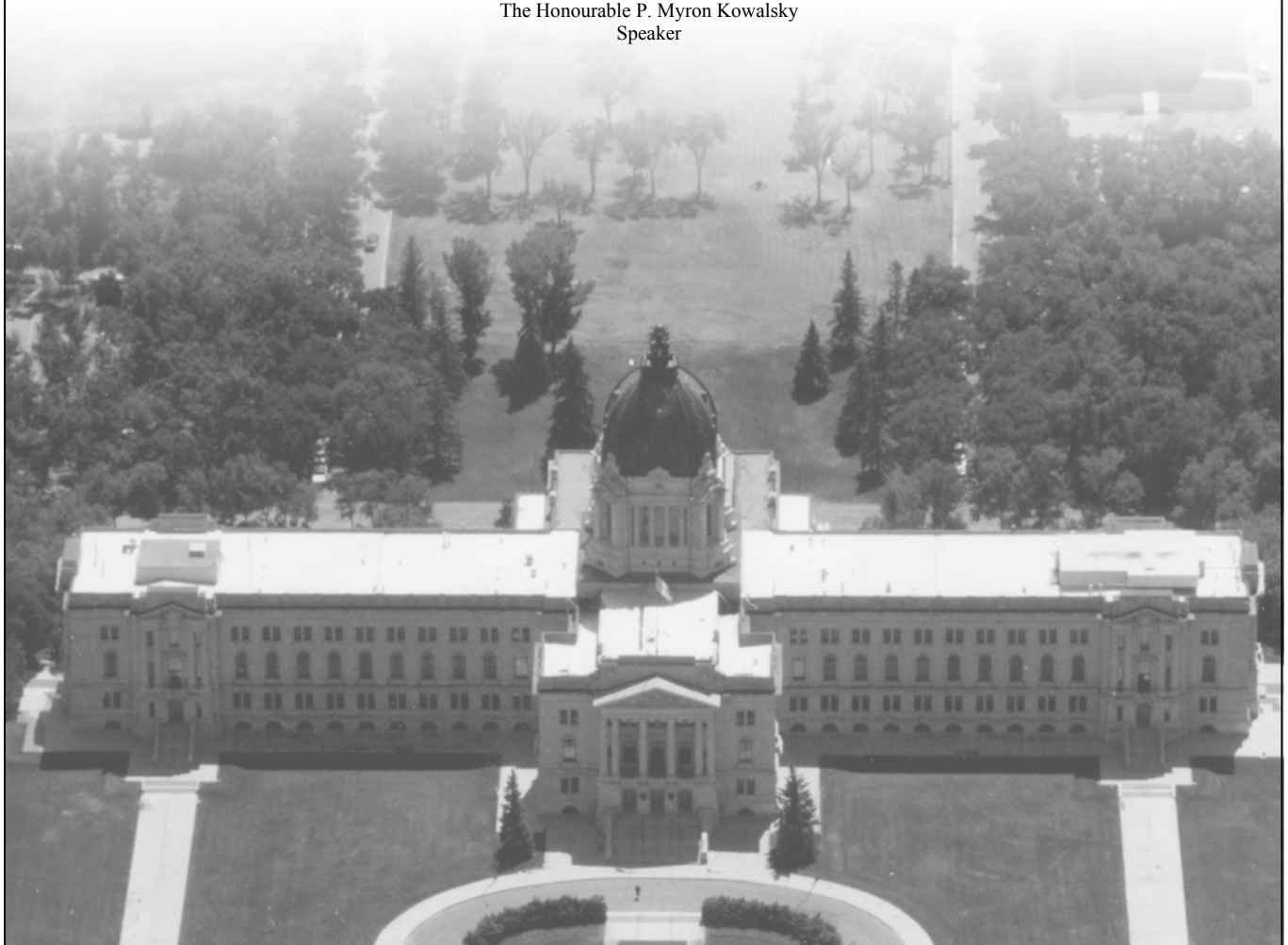
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

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

The Assembly met at 13:30.

Prayers

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In keeping with the ongoing concern expressed by hundreds and hundreds of people from the area of southwest Saskatchewan, I would be pleased to read the following prayer:

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 exclusively by people from the communities of Climax and Frontier.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a large petition here signed by people who are opposed to the closure of the Dodsland School. And 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 retain schools in rural communities such as Dodsland and supply adequate education for rural families of our province.

And there are a lot of signatures here, Mr. Speaker, but they are primarily from the community of Dodsland or neighbouring communities like Plenty and Kerrobert. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their 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 from the communities of Findlater and Moose Jaw.

I so present.

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

**Ms. Bakken:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present petitions on behalf of citizens of Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency who have signed a petition to protect citizens who alert and advocate for the public. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to introduce and support whistle-blower legislation.

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Weyburn, Lake Alma, Regina, Halbrite, Lang, Radville, Tyvan, Viceroy, Pangman, Ogema, Ceylon, and Colgate.

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 from citizens in the southwest part of the province that are extremely concerned about the reduction in health care facilities and long-term care beds. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to ensure that the Border Health Centre in Climax remains a 24-hour facility.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed again by the good citizens of Bracken, Orkney, and Val Marie.

I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here with citizens that want public hearings on closures and layoffs in Saskatchewan's 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.

And duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from Kelvington, Davidson, and Martensville, I so present.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to put an end to smoking from the Grade 7 students at St. Gabriel School in Biggar. The prayer reads:

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

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

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of Saskatchewan who are concerned with the downsizing and closure of health facilities or layoffs of health care workers without proper 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, I'm happy to present on behalf of the good citizens of Davidson.

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise in the Assembly to present a petition on behalf of citizens of west central Saskatchewan concerned with the depleting resources put into health care. 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 Eatonia ambulance services are not discontinued.

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

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by the best farmers in the province from Eatonia and Mantario, Saskatchewan.

#### 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. 106, 166, 167, 182, 201, and 203.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### 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 Bill No. 7, The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister of SGI (Saskatchewan Government Insurance) has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 7 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. 7 — The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — 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 Minister Responsible for SGI that Bill No. 7, The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2004 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.

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

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### 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 Bill 35, The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 35 be heard in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the minister for the Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — 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 Bill 35 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. 35 — The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — 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 for the Crown Management Board that Bill 35, The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004 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.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### 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 Bill No. 60, The Public Service Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 60 be heard in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the minister for the Public Service Commission.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — 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 Bill 60 in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 60 — The Public Service Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — 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 for Public Service Commission that Bill No. 60, The Public Service Amendment Act, 2004 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.

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

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Central Agencies and Crowns to report Bill No. 61, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 61 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole for Bill 61. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Later today, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Addley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report Bill 27, The Political Contributions Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004 with amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be considered in

Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 27. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. When shall the amendments be read a first and second time? I recognize the minister.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF AMENDMENTS

##### Bill No. 27 — The Political Contributions Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendments be now read a first and second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the amendments to Bill 27 be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First and second reading of the amendments.

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

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 27 — The Political Contributions Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004

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

**The Speaker:** — The minister has requested leave to have third reading at this time. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 27, The Political Contributions Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004 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.

**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 No. 41, The Contributory Negligence Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 41 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole for Bill 41. 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. 41 — The Contributory Negligence Amendment Act, 2004

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

**The Speaker:** — Moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 41, The Contributory Negligence Amendment Act, 2004 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.

**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 No. 69, The Public Inquiries Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 69 be considered in Committee of the Whole?

I recognize the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole for Bill 69. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 69 — The Public Inquiries Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — 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 Justice that Bill No. 69, The Public Inquiries Amendment Act, 2004 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.

**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 No. 21, The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 21 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Learning.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Learning has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 21 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? I recognize the minister.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 21 — The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, I now 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 Learning that The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Act, 2004 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.

**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 No. 64, The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 64 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the minister.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Learning has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole for Bill 64. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 64 — The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — 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 Learning that Bill 64, The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004 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.

(13:45)

**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 No. 56, The Public Health Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 56 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — 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 for Bill 56. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 56 — The Public Health Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — 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 Health that Bill 56, The Public Health Amendment Act, 2004 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.

**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 No. 55, The Regional Health Services Amendment Act without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 55 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The minister.

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — 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 of Bill 55. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. When shall this Bill be read a third time? I recognize the Minister of Health.

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 55 — The Regional Health Services Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — 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 Health that Bill 55, The Regional Health Services Amendment Act, 2004 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.

**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 No. 54, The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 54 be considered in Committee of the Whole?



I recognize the Minister of Health.

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

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Health has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill 54. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### THIRD READINGS

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure, on behalf of all the people of Saskatchewan, 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 Health that Bill 54, The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004 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.

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

**The Speaker:** — A standing vote has been called for. Call in the members.

The division bells rang from 13:48 until 13:49.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Health:

That Bill No. 54, The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004 be now read a third time.

Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

#### Yeas— 49

Calvert	Addley	Lautermilch
Hagel	Van Mulligen	Serby
Atkinson	Cline	Sonntag
Crofford	Prebble	Forbes
Wartman	Belanger	Higgins
Thomson	Nilson	Beatty
Hamilton	Junor	Harper
Iwanchuk	McCall	Quennell
Trew	Yates	Taylor
Morin	Borgerson	Wall
Toth	Heppner	D'Autremont
Krawetz	Hermanson	Stewart
Morgan	McMorris	Eagles

Gantfoer	Harpauer	Bakken
Cheveldayoff	Allchurch	Weekes
Merriman	Chisholm	Hart
Kirsch		

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion, please rise.

#### Nays — 5

Draude	Bjornerud	Huyghebaert
Brkich	Kerpan	

**The Speaker:** — I declare the motion is carried.

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

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

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

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

**The Speaker:** — Before I just proceed further, I do want to extend a welcome to all of the guests we have here today. But I do want to remind the guests as well that they are not to participate in the goings-on in the legislature, and that's just one of our traditions.

So now 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:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates, and to present its first report. I move, seconded by the member from Saskatoon Silver Springs:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview and seconded by the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature, a number of people who are here today to be present when we pass The Tobacco Control Amendment Act. I'd ask them to stand as I introduce them.

Lynn Greaves, Saskatchewan Coalition for Tobacco Reduction; Dr. Tania Diener, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region; Dolores Herring, volunteer president, Canadian Cancer Society, Saskatchewan division; Dr. Thakre, chairperson of the medical affairs committee of the Canadian Cancer Society, Saskatchewan division; Keith Karasin, also of the Canadian Cancer Society, executive director; Andrew Caswell, the communications director from the Canadian Cancer Society; and Donna Pasiechnik, the tobacco control coordinator, Canadian Cancer Society, Saskatchewan division.

Paul van Loon, vice-president of health education for the Lung Association of Saskatchewan; Jim and Marj Burnett — Jim is the past Chair and current board member of the Lung Association of Saskatchewan — Gwen Gordon, health promotion director, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan; Rhae Ann Bromley, communications director, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan; Jordana Ball, regional director, southern Saskatchewan, the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Stuart North, People for Smoke Free Places from Prince Albert; Dot Hicks, People for Smoke Free Places, Moose Jaw; and Tanya Mengel, health promotion consultant for Saskatchewan Health.

I'd like all members of the Assembly to welcome them here and to thank them for their work.

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

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition I would like to join with the minister in welcoming all the guests in the gallery this afternoon. I would also, in welcoming them, extend our appreciation for the very dedicated work that they've extended in regard to making the Saskatchewan environment a healthier place for all of our citizens and for future generations.

And I would also like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the thank you they extended to us on the steps of the legislature for this important legislation at 12:30 this afternoon. The balloon I've got just barely fits into my office. But thank you very much. It will be a great souvenir and it's filled with something other than hot air, which is different for this legislature. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great honour today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Chamber, 21 grade 6 students seated in the west gallery. These students are from Imperial School in the constituency of Regina Coronation Park. Their teacher, Mrs. Malley, is with them as well as chaperone, Mrs. Joanne Kennedy and her daughter, Melissa Lee.

Today feels a bit like the last day of school for us; for Mrs. Malley, it's getting closer and closer, as at the end of this year Mrs. Malley is going to retire after 24 years teaching with a 13-year break in the middle of it to raise her son and daughter. Members of the Chamber, many of you will know Erin Malley, having been a guide here in 2000, and Mrs. Malley's son, Ryan — Ryan give us a wave — Ryan Malley is a guide this year, this session. So both Mrs. Malley's daughter and son have been guides at their respective times.

I've met with this school group. We've had the picture. We've had the full meal deal. They were out on the steps when the balloons were presented to MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly). I don't know how we can top it, Mr. Speaker, but it is indeed fortuitous that this group got here when they did. I want to welcome them, and ask members to welcome them and to wish Mrs. Malley the very, very best in her retirement and travel plans in that.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Assembly, seated in your gallery, someone that's been a great help to me. Crystal Martens is helping us out in our constituency office in Swift Current on a part-time basis. She of course is from the great city of Swift Current, and she is joined today by her mother, Nancy. And I'd just ask all members to join with me in welcoming her here to her Legislative Assembly.

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

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

(14:00)

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety and I had the honour and pleasure of participating in a signing ceremony with elders from around the province of Saskatchewan. I will say more about that later, but I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly some individuals in the east gallery who participated in that ceremony.

With us today is Velma Goodfeather, who is a Dakota elder from Standing Buffalo First Nation. And Velma is very active in justice issues. She provides counselling to inmates incarcerated in the federal system, and advocates for inmates in

provincial corrections and on parole. With her are members of her family: Leanne Goodfeather and Any Goodfeather; as well as Jasmine Crant, who is related to another one of the elders who was at the ceremonies today, and Joe O'Watch, who is an elder's helper.

Joe is from the Carry the Kettle First Nation. He is the elder's helper for the south, and has been very committed . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . have they moved? They were in the east gallery. They are now in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. Mr. O'Watch is from the Carry the Kettle First Nation. He is the elder's helper for the south, and has been very committed to the process of setting up the elders' advisory committee. Joe was chief for eight years I understand, and currently a counsellor for Carry the Kettle First Nation.

And I wish that all members will join me in welcoming the guests in the west gallery to this legislature. Thank you.

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

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure once again to you and through you to introduce a delegation seated in your gallery from the United Empire Loyalists. You can see some of the members have colourful costumes on, and it's wonderful to have them here again today.

I have enjoyed receiving their correspondence on a regular basis; myself am a descendent of loyalists, and I have spent time in loyalist homes in other parts of the world, specifically in the Barbados. So it's a wonderful thing to see this celebration, and keeping the British history in our country alive. And God save the Queen, and welcome.

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

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

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, 26 grade 4 students from Jack MacKenzie School. They're seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, on the east side. And they are accompanied this afternoon by Ms. Joanne Patron. Also, many chaperons are here today, so I hope I am able to pronounce the names correctly: Shona Opdahl, Stan Harder, Tracey Turnbull, Jay Palani, Barb Gottselig, Shannon Kulbida, and Brett Delgaty.

Mr. Speaker, I've been present at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new school, Jack MacKenzie. It's a joint-use school with Gabriel School — St. Gabriel — and also there for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and was warmly welcomed by all of the students there. I had the chance to view the school and hope to be able to return some of the warm hospitality this afternoon.

I'm sure they'll understand that they've been here for some historic legislation and we'll be able to speak with them after question period.

I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming the grade 4 students and teacher and chaperones from Jack MacKenzie School.

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

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

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to all the members of the Assembly, I would like to ask you to join in welcoming 32 grade 6 students from Brunswick School in Melfort, Saskatchewan.

They're here this afternoon with their teachers, Mrs. Neher, Mrs. Martin, and Mr. Strass. And I really appreciate their dedication in coming yearly to their legislature to witness the proceedings and to have a day in their capital city. And I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming them to Regina and their Assembly.

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

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. If I catch her before she leaves the room, I also want to recognize from Jack MacKenzie School, Joanne Patron. Do you want to give us a wave? She's one of my drumming buddies from around town, and they have a drum circle at their school. And I've heard they're very good so I'm looking forward to hearing them sometime so . . .

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Yes, we could have had a drum roll for that, Mr. Speaker.

Well today I'm welcoming 27 students in grade 4 who are in the west gallery — give me a wave — from St. Josaphat School. And this is such a popular group of students that the member from Walsh Acres and myself were having an argument over who would get to introduce them because they're very close to the dividing line between our two constituencies.

So I just want to say welcome to the legislature to recognize teacher Mrs. Elaine Pack, bus driver Elvin Mandziak, and to say that I'll meet you for pictures later. And thank you very much for coming to the legislature today.

Will you join me in welcoming them?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I'd like to recognize in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, the Lodge family. They're from Doncaster, England, Mr. Speaker, and they're here for the Farm Progress Show.

And I might just ask them to give a bit of a wave as I introduce them: father, Phil, Susanna, Johnathon, and Mathew. They're

here, as I said a moment ago, at the Farm Progress Show. Susanna is going in to study agriculture in Doncaster as well as Johnathon who is currently working for the immigration department with local government. And Mathew already has his degree in agriculture.

This is their first trip here, but Phil has been here now 11 times. This is his eleventh trip to Canada. He is staying in Moose Jaw tonight, going on tomorrow to Boissevain, and back to Calgary on the 28th. And it was interesting that he did know where Yorkton, Saskatchewan was, Mr. Speaker.

And on the last trip that Phil was here he purchased a Chevy half-ton. And he had the half-ton returned to Doncaster to his farm. And he left, he said, the steering on the left-hand side as opposed to changing it to the right-hand side because his preference — as it is for us — to steer from the left, Mr. Speaker. So I want to welcome them to Saskatchewan and to enjoy farm progress and see you back in our province in the next little while. Thank you very much.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I suspect finally I would like to introduce to members of the legislature a young woman who today is providing for me a bit of a job shadow. Her name is Adriana Mercado Rocha, she is from Mexico, she has spent this last year here in the city of Regina at the University of Regina studying English. She is a graduate lawyer, and has worked with a Mexican senator.

And I'm very pleased to welcome Adriana both to our city, our province, and to the legislature. And we wish her well in her continuing experience here and her work that will continue in Mexico.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, accompanying Adriana today are three individuals, Mr. Murray Manz, Mr. Rob Cunningham, and Mr. Gordon Nystuen who have provided for myself some invaluable advice and guidance over the course of this session.

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

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### National Aboriginal Day — June 21

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. June 21 is National Aboriginal Day across Canada, a day set aside to recognize the unique heritage, rich culture, and many contributions of Canada's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people. In setting aside this day, it gives Canadians the opportunity to experience and learn more about Aboriginal history, customs, and traditions and how they've contributed to the development and progress of our country. In doing so, Mr. Speaker, it is hoped that all of us will achieve greater understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal history. We know that understanding leads to

knowledge, knowledge leads to respect, and respect leads to acceptance. Acceptance, Mr. Speaker, leads to co-operation, harmony, and insight into the needs of others.

Mr. Speaker, of all the provinces and territories that will be honouring our Aboriginal people, I'm sure I speak for all members of the House when I say that no province could be prouder of its many Aboriginal connections and contributions than Saskatchewan. Our province has a proud and honourable history with significant Aboriginal ties.

We know that before the settlement of the West, Saskatchewan was and still is home to many Aboriginal people of First Nations and Métis descent. We are grateful for their many contributions to our way of life here on the prairies, and we look forward to a future of co-operation, partnership, and success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to recognize next Monday, June 21, as National Aboriginal Day in Canada, with special recognition going out to all Aboriginal people who call Saskatchewan home. Thank you.

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

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

#### Future Bright for First Nations and Métis People

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, Monday, June 21 is National Aboriginal Day. Events will be taking place throughout Saskatchewan and Canada to recognize and honour the contributions of First Nations and Métis people.

Aboriginal people play an important role in the social, economic, cultural, and spiritual life of Saskatchewan. And given that the Aboriginal population is young and growing, they will play an even greater role in the future. Our government is working with the Aboriginal community to ensure this happens.

Mr. Speaker, through programs like School<sup>PLUS</sup>, through institutions like the First Nations University of Canada and the Gabriel Dumont Institute, more and more Aboriginal youth are graduating from post-secondary schools than ever before. The Aboriginal Employment Development Program is opening doors for employment opportunities for First Nations and Métis people.

More than 50 agreements have been signed with various companies and organizations, resulting in more than 1,700 Aboriginal people being hired. Over 900 more have completed training directly linked to jobs. Today a major partnership with the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce was signed which will result in even more jobs and business opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has a very bright future which, in significant ways, is tied to the future of the First Nations and Métis community. I invite everyone to take the opportunity to celebrate that bright future by taking part in National Aboriginal Day festivities on June 21. Thank you.

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

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

### Legislative Internship Program

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Mr. Speaker, as we come to a close of the spring sitting of the legislature, I want to take this opportunity to once again acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the four individuals who took part in the legislative internship program this year.

While they will be with us until the end of July, I want to take time to thank them for the work they have done during this very busy session. During the second term of this year's program, I've had the opportunity to work with Ryan Griffiths, while the member from Canora-Pelly worked with Joanne Harpauer-Digneau. I also want to thank once again, Fabian Contreras and Kim McKechney, who have been with the government side this term and who were with us early in the year.

Mr. Speaker, the internship program has once again shown its value. During the first three years it has been in place, it has given some of the brightest students in our province a tremendous learning experience. Thanks of course goes to Gordon Barnhart, who has been the driving force of this program.

I understand funding has been secured to allow this program to continue past this year, and it is the hope of the Saskatchewan Party caucus and I'm sure all MLAs that it continues every year thereafter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Regina-Qu'Appelle Valley.

### June 19 Designated United Empire Loyalists Day

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over 200 years ago, in the wake of the revolution that saw America gain its independence from Britain, some 70,000 American colonists loyal to the Crown fled their homes and resettled in Canada. I am thankful to say that the Wartman family was a part of that movement.

Mr. Speaker, this group of refugees, now known as the United Empire Loyalists, arrived in their new home with little in the way of worldly possessions. What they did have was a clear idea of the kind of country in which they wanted to live.

It isn't surprising therefore that they had a significant impact on the development of Eastern Canada, especially in terms of language and the types of governmental and judicial institutions that were put in place. Years later when Western Canada was open for homesteading, many of the first settlers were of United Empire Loyalist stock, and they brought with them many of the values, traditions and institutions that have helped shaped Saskatchewan and the other provinces here in the West.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the considerable social and cultural contributions that the loyalists and their descendants have made to this province, Saskatchewan has designated June 19 as United Empire Loyalist Day. And, Mr. Speaker, to honour this part of Saskatchewan's heritage, the Regina branch of the

United Empire Loyalists Association plans to erect a cairn made out of fieldstones from the homesteads of Loyalist pioneers, to be in place for Saskatchewan's centennial next year.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all members who are of that United Empire Loyalist stock to join me in standing, and I ask all others to join those of us who are standing in welcoming the members of the United Empire Loyalists and their descendants here into the legislature today. So those who are of United Empire Loyalist stock, if they would stand . . .

(14:15)

**The Speaker:** — Would the members give leave for the member's applause? Please grant . . . (inaudible) . . . Please rise.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — We have leave, if you would like to stand and join me.

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

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

### Celebrating 77 Years of Marriage

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend, a milestone anniversary will be marked in the community of Gull Lake. Norman and Elsie Beaumont and several members of their family will gather at the Kiaskus Villa to celebrate their 77th anniversary. That's right, Mr. Speaker, 77 years of marital bliss.

It's unconfirmed, but one of the Beaumont's grandsons had surfed the Internet and indicates that the Beaumonts may be in fact be the longest-married couple in Canada at this present time.

Two years ago, this amazing pair moved to a privately operated care home because it's close to their daughter's home in the community of Swift Current, and it was the one facility they could find that allows couples to share a room.

While farming in the Hanley district, the Beaumonts raised four children. Now they boast about their 12 grandchildren, and their 19 great-grandchildren. They moved into town, Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago. And Norm continued to farm until the big machines arrived.

This spring Norman fell and broke a hip, survived pneumonia, and is now in a wheelchair. But otherwise, Mr. Speaker, both he and Elsie are in wonderful health. Elsie celebrated her 99th birthday in March, and plans are in the works for Norman's 99th birthday this September.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this couple as their family gathers to celebrate 77 years of marriage for this couple.

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

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

### Regina Squids Win Senior National Championship

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regina Squids water polo has captured yet another national title.

Earlier this month in Montreal, the Squids won the 2004 Speedo Senior Men's Tier II National Club Championships. The Squids went undefeated throughout the tournament, outscoring their competitors 43 to 23. In the gold medal game, the Squids defeated the Ottawa Titans with a score of 11 to 8.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the victory, the Squids crowned the oldest national water polo champion in Canadian history as team captain Nigel Crook is 47 years old. He has played the sport since 1969, which makes for a whopping 35 years of experience and one heck of a lot of swimming. Crook also got the Squids off to a good start when he scored the team's first goal in the tournament.

The other members of the Regina Squids senior men's championship team are Robin Randall, Mark Smorong, Georges Mensink, Justin Beitel, Mike Brough, Marshall Young, Wes Godbeer, Rob Barber, Symon Honeyborne, Petros Aiginitis, and Noah Miller. Miller and Aiginitis were also named to the tournament all-star team, Mr. Speaker.

And hot on the heels of being named the Most Valuable Coach at the National Young Men's Canadian Water Polo Championship, which was won by a younger squad of Squids in May, team coach, Mike Mortin, was once again named Most Valuable Coach, an outstanding achievement.

The Squids' home pool is the Lawson Aquatic Centre located right in the heart of Regina Elphinstone-Centre. I am proud to say that yet another Water Polo Canada National Championship banner will be hanging on the eastern wall at the Lawson. And if the Squids keep racking up championships like this, Mr. Speaker, the Lawson will need a larger wall. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating The Regina Squids on yet another impressive victory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

### Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know the treaties signed more than a century ago allow for the settlement of our great province. Development was the direct result of a targeted western population increase made possible through immigration. One hundred years later, Mr. Speaker, we are once again looking to the immigrant sector for their help in securing our province's future.

We know we have a young and growing Aboriginal population, but we also know that it will not be enough to address our looming labour shortage. The province desperately needs more people, and we are encouraged by our government's recent move to increase the numbers in the Saskatchewan immigrant nominee program from 200 to 300. But this isn't enough, Mr. Speaker.

A recent Canada West Foundation study on provincial nominee programs found that Saskatchewan is lagging behind other provinces in a number of areas. For example Manitoba has formed some unique agreements that attract immigrants to certain communities. We wonder if it's possible that similar agreements might be adapted for use here in Saskatchewan. The province also needs to do more to attract immigrants with economic bases, as it is this group that can significantly contribute to our economic sector. Again, Mr. Speaker, in comparison with other provinces, Saskatchewan is behind Manitoba, Alberta, and BC (British Columbia).

By identifying the skilled labour shortages in the various sectors, removing the barriers that are limiting growth and development, and putting in place a solid plan for the future, we know that Saskatchewan can become a top destination for immigrants. Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, much more must be done. Thank you.

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

### ORAL QUESTIONS

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

### Government Spending Priorities

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well today on the last day of the session, we see another clear example, the latest example, of the Premier's priorities, of the NDP government's priorities for the province of Saskatchewan.

The same Premier who has announced that this government will be closing long-term care beds and closing hospital facilities, who claims to be unable to keep his own election promises because they have no resources, the government hasn't the resources, that same Premier and that same government, Mr. Speaker, we know today has decided that what we really need in Saskatchewan is three brand new Liquor Board stores, Mr. Speaker. In my hometown of Swift Current and in Kindersley and in Estevan, they are about to spend \$3.3 million on new Liquor Board store buildings.

Mr. Speaker, the question to the Premier is this: why is the Premier closing long-term care beds and hospitals and building Liquor Board stores?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, it has been the plan of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority to build these new stores in these communities to better serve customers.

But those communities, Mr. Speaker, are represented by the Leader of the Opposition in the case of Swift Current, and others. And I respect the views of the members opposite and if it is their position that those stores ought not to be built in those communities, I'm prepared to consult with those members and with those communities and to revise our plans in that regard. And I will be pleased to meet with the Leader of the Opposition to discuss the fact that perhaps we shouldn't be building those stores in those communities, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely positive that the people of Swift Current and of Kindersley and of Estevan could think of hundreds of things more worthwhile for public resources than a new Liquor Board store, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — I don't mind standing in this . . . I don't mind standing here or anywhere else and saying that in Swift Current the priority is the new regional hospital, whose funding is in jeopardy, Mr. Speaker, because of closures.

I don't mind standing in this legislature and saying that in Swift Current the priority is for a sewage treatment plant or maybe a performing arts centre, and that we'll hear more about the priorities of other centres.

The question, Mr. Speaker, is what is . . . what are the priorities of this Premier and will he stand on his feet today and explain to the people of the province why he hasn't the money to keep his own promises but he's prepared to spend millions on new Liquor Board stores in Saskatchewan?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, as minister in charge of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, I am prepared, subject to any contractual rights that people may have that we've entered into agreements, to cancel the construction of liquor stores in those three communities. This government is prepared to do that.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that where money goes in government is set by the budget and in this budget the Minister of Finance stood up and said that \$173 million new money was being dedicated to the health system and \$18 million more money was being dedicated to the K to 12 (kindergarten to grade 12) system. And in both of those cases, Mr. Speaker, those members did not support new funding for health and education, Mr. Speaker.

There was also \$10 million new money for municipal government, Mr. Speaker, and those members did not support that, Mr. Speaker.

But we will respect what the opposition says and if they don't want new liquor stores, Mr. Speaker, that decision will be respected.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I hope the Premier stands on his feet and explains to the people of the province his priorities for Saskatchewan.

The NDP's decision to cut back hours at the Climax health centre, Mr. Speaker, is going to put pressure on Swift Current, the hospital. Their decision to close down the Herbert hospital will put pressure on the Swift Current hospital. In fact municipalities all over southwest Saskatchewan are now considering withdrawing their financial support to the new regional hospital because of the cuts, because of the loss of services in the rural areas. That will leave the residents of Swift Current paying more than the \$100 per year levy that they're already going to have to pay for their share of the hospital.

So I say to the Premier this, through you, Mr. Speaker: if they've got \$1.2 million to spend in Swift Current — because that's the cost of a new Liquor Board store — if they've got it, we on this side of the House say, invest it in health care. Will the Premier stand and commit to that today?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, one thing that we will do on this side of the House is that we will respect the wishes of the people of this province and we will build the Cypress regional hospital in Swift Current because that's part of our Saskatchewan Action Plan for Health Care. And we're going to continue on that plan working with the people in that particular area.

Mr. Speaker, the resources to do that particular project come from the budget. They come from the \$173 million that increases the amount that we have in our health budget this year. It also goes to provide the services right across this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, we do that in an orderly, balanced way in our budgeting process. I urge the member opposite to support the budget, support what we're doing because that's what Saskatchewan people want.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, do you know what I think Saskatchewan people want? I think Saskatchewan people want a government that has their priorities right, Mr. Speaker. That's what they want.

Mr. Speaker, in the most recent local budget in Swift Current, the municipality had to budget 14.35 . . .

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

I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — In the last local budget, the municipality, the taxpayers of Swift Current had to budget about \$14 million for a new sewage treatment plant. I am sure that they would say to this government that if this government's got a million two to spend on a new Liquor Board store in the city of Swift Current, they would rather it be spent on the treatment of sewage and on infrastructure in Swift Current and across this province.

Again, to the Premier: will he explain to Saskatchewan people his priority that would put Liquor Board stores, new Liquor Board buildings, ahead of health care or ahead of keeping his promises?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to speak about the priorities of this government, and they are reflected in the current budget which is under debate in this House. A priority which says the number one funding priority for this government is health care — \$2.7 billion in health care funding; 173 million new dollars in funding for health care. That's the number one priority.

Following close behind, Mr. Speaker, following close behind in terms of the expenditures of this government — education, where we've seen again in this budget increases; where we see increases to revenue sharing; where we've seen an increase in this year to support the Department of Agriculture; where we are maintaining our budgetary commitments to the rebuilding and maintenance of the highway infrastructure program in this province.

Those are the priorities of spending, Mr. Speaker. They are plain to anyone; they are plain to the people of Saskatchewan. And they are priorities welcomed by the people of Saskatchewan because they reflect the priorities of those same citizens.

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

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. As a result of the NDP's (New Democratic Party) disastrous budget, ambulances in my constituency of Kindersley are being cut so the NDP can save money.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP has decided to cut the ambulance services in the communities of Dodsland, Luseland, and my hometown of Eatonia. And the NDP says those cuts will save a total of \$200,000 a year. And today we find out how the Premier is going to spend that money, the money cut from community ambulance services. He's going to use it to build a new liquor store in Kindersley.

Mr. Speaker, it's a matter of priorities. Why is the NDP government cutting ambulance services in the constituency of Kindersley to save \$200,000 a year and then using that money to build \$900,000 brand new liquor store in the town of Kindersley?

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

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

(14:30)

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, the Heartland Health Region has been going out to communities to talk about how to provide

emergency services across that whole area. And they have entered into discussions with different communities about what are the kinds of services that are there. But they have not made those decisions yet. They're working on that because they need to talk to those people in those particular areas.

Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we have set forward an Action Plan for Saskatchewan Health Care; we've every year now put more money into that particular plan. And we're moving forward to provide good health care for Saskatchewan people. And we're going to continue to do that. We're going to put another, a new CT (computerized tomography) scan into the Swift Current area. We're going to provide more services out into the western part of the province. We're going to provide more services in the North. We built a new hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle. Mr. Speaker, we're working on issues all over the province.

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

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Saskatchewan Party reminded the Premier about how badly his NDP government has managed health care in Saskatchewan, and all the Premier could do was respond by begging the Saskatchewan to show the NDP how to solve the problems that this Premier has created. In fact, the Premier said, and I quote, "... not once during ... this session have they spoken to a health policy initiative they would support."

Well, Mr. Speaker, here is a suggestion for the Premier to consider. Here's a policy the Saskatchewan Party would support. How about scrapping the NDP's plan to spend \$900,000 building new liquor stores in Kindersley, and use the money to maintain the ambulances in the communities of Luseland, Eatonia, and Dodsland?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I think the information now on the record is very clear. And the minister in charge of the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming will be taking the appropriate action. Mr. Speaker, I urge that member specifically to make sure that he shows up at the next vote when the budget comes, because we want all of those members opposite to vote for this budget. It's about health care, in the same way that the tobacco reduction Act and all of the work around tobacco was about health care. Mr. Speaker, we're going to continue . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House we know where we're going, we know what we need to do, and we're going to continue on that basis. We will be consistent in what we're working at. We will work hard for the people of Saskatchewan. And we'll do that for the next three or four years. And then we'll go to the people and they'll tell us, go and spend another four years serving Saskatchewan people.



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

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier told the House while speaking about health care and I quote, “. . . we do our very best to take the corrective steps. That’s what we’ve been doing.”

Mr. Speaker, here’s an example of the Premier’s best. First he cuts ambulances in the communities of Doddsland, Eatonia, and Luseland to save \$200,000. And then the Premier decides to spend \$900,000 to build a new liquor store in the town of Kindersley.

Mr. Speaker, that’s the Premier’s best and that is entirely the problem. Does the Premier really believe it’s more important to sell booze out of a fancy new liquor store than it is to ensure ambulances are maintained in our rural communities?

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Mr. Speaker, it’s time for the Premier to do the right thing. Will he cancel the NDP’s plan to spend \$900,000 on a new liquor store in Kindersley and use that money to maintain ambulance services for families in the communities of Doddsland, Luseland, and Eatonia?

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, as I’ve already indicated to the House, we’re going to be consulting with that member’s community. We will be consulting with the mayor of Kindersley, the town council of Kindersley, and the business community in Kindersley to see if they want the liquor store to be cancelled. And, Mr. Speaker, there is a very good chance that if that’s what . . . if the member speaks for the community, that the liquor store will be cancelled.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we should not forget that if those members, including the member chirping from his seat from Kindersley, had had his way in the last provincial election we wouldn’t be having this debate, because it was the policy of the then leader of the opposition — and it still apparently is their policy — to sell off the Liquor Board stores of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that we should never forget that that is the real agenda of that party — to sell off the assets of the people to their rich friends. And we’ll never let it happen, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all session the Premier has asked members on this side of the House for ideas about . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please. Member for Estevan.

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all session the Premier has asked members on this side of the House for ideas about how we would spend money. The people of Estevan have a number of priorities as far as things they would like to see this NDP government accomplish. And some of these priorities definitely rank higher than a brand new liquor store.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I find it a little odd that the government has \$1.2 million for a new Liquor Board, or a new liquor store in the city of Estevan, and yet the people of Estevan continue to wait for this government to hire staff to operate a dialysis machine. While the funding is in place for the equipment, the health region needs the province to come through to ensure there are professionals to operate the machine. Mr. Speaker, why would this government choose to invest in Estevan by building a new liquor store when the people in Estevan and surrounding areas would benefit more from additional health care professionals? To the Premier: where are his government’s priorities?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to that member and to the House that my answer to the member from Estevan is the same as my answer to the member from Kindersley, and I have a great deal of respect for both of them. And that is that we will take her up on her suggestion and consult with the city of Estevan and its officials and its business community.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that there is, each and every year in the budget of this province, \$120 million profit that comes from the Liquor Board stores which they wanted to privatize, Mr. Speaker. And the fact of the matter is that if you sell off the farm by selling off the Liquor Board stores and selling off the Crown corporations, you don’t have the same amount of money, Mr. Speaker, to pay for the health care that we cherish in this province.

So in answer to the question, Mr. Speaker, my answer is this: we can pay for public medicare because we have the Liquor Board store; we would not be able to afford those services if we followed their privatization policies, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Mr. Speaker, at a time when this province’s financial situation is less than desirable, is it really time to be investing in new liquor stores? Aren’t there other priorities this government can point to that should be addressed first? Again when it comes to health care professionals such as those needed in Estevan to run a dialysis machine, this government pleads poverty. And yet they have \$1.2 million for a brand new liquor store.

Mr. Speaker, when will this government get its priorities straight and start addressing people’s needs? To the Premier:

why does this NDP government think a new liquor store in Estevan is more of a priority than funding health care professionals?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, I want the people of this province to know that dialysis treatment for people has been a high priority for this government. When this government came to office in 1991, Mr. Speaker, there were one or two sites in Saskatchewan where dialysis for kidney patients was available. Today, Mr. Speaker, in this province there are six or seven sites where dialysis is present. And, Mr. Speaker, when . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order, please, once again. And I appreciate all the help I can get. Minister of Industry and Resources.

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, when we can find the staff to go to a dialysis centre in Estevan, it is the plan of this government to extend dialysis services to people who badly need it in all parts of the province as we have been doing, Mr. Speaker.

But I will say this also to the House: what we will never do is disable the Government of Saskatchewan from providing health services and education by following the privatization agenda of the members opposite. We will never do that, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, it is more than interesting, I would say to Saskatchewan people based on that minister's answers, that he's more than willing to go out and consult with the people of the province on their plan to spend \$3.3 million on new Liquor Board stores, but they wouldn't consult with communities before they closed beds and facilities for health care.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, we all receive . . . As MLAs, we receive from our constituents letters and correspondence and calls as to things that they would like to see happen in their constituencies and across this province. Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't receive any calls or any letters from my constituents asking for a new Liquor Board store.

I hear them asking for help on sewage treatment or the health care facility there. I don't think the people in the Kindersley area are more concerned about a Liquor Board store than they are about ambulance service. And I don't believe the people of Estevan would rather have money spent on a Liquor Board store instead of dialysis.

To the Premier: explain please, if you will, to the people of the province, his priorities that would place new Liquor Board stores ahead of health care in Saskatchewan.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that we would arrive at the close of this session and hear the Saskatchewan Party right back where we were well before the election.

What is being said here, very clearly today — what is being said very clearly today is that the province of Saskatchewan, through its government, should be out of the Liquor Board business. That's what they're saying. We said that before the election, that they would seek to privatize the Liquor Board outlets; now we're hearing it again today. Because, Mr. Speaker, the Liquor Board has to make its prudent decisions as well.

Now the minister has made it very clear about the Liquor Board stores. If it's the desire of the members opposite that these not be built in their communities, then the minister will be in fact following up on their idea.

The fact of the matter is, whether it's through our publicly owned utilities or whether it's through a government Liquor Board distribution, revenues are provided for the public services of Saskatchewan — revenues that provide for 173 million new dollars in health, a \$2.7 billion budget. Take those revenues out, Mr. Chair, take those revenues out and not only will it be the privatization of the Liquor Boards; we'll see the privatization of health.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, that answer is the reason why people across this province are so disappointed with this government, Mr. Speaker, because I think even at the beginning of the session some of them thought that while they didn't agree with the government's policies, perhaps they could trust the government, perhaps they could trust the Premier. We've seen him break his promises, Mr. Speaker, time and time again. We saw it in the budget on almost every single promise they made in the campaign.

And now today we see a Premier who . . . well he's skirting the question, frankly, a little bit. But he refuses to explain to the people of this province on what planet any government would put a higher priority on a new building for Liquor Board stores — in places where, by the way, there already are buildings for the Liquor Boards — in what planet any government would put a higher priority on that than funding for health care. Will he stand up and explain himself to the people of the province on that, Mr. Speaker?

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to stand in this legislature, to stand on any platform in the province, and talk about the accomplishments of this government in this session

— any day, any place, any time. And the fact of the matter is today, Mr. Speaker, when we came into this session, we came . . . when we went to the election, and we came into the session, and we came with a commitment: to make life even better for Saskatchewan people.

Now I am telling you today, Mr. Speaker, as a result of this session and activities of this government, life is better for Saskatchewan people. As a result of this session, people will enjoy smoke-free places across this province in public places. As a result of this session, people of Saskatchewan will have greater access to diagnostic health care services whether it's CT scanners or new MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) or expansion of our existing programs. As a result of the work of the people of Saskatchewan, as a result of partnership with this government, we have more people working in Saskatchewan today, in April and May, than in any other April or May in the history of the province. As a result of this session we have set forward a biodiversity plan; we are building a green and a prosperous economy, Mr. Speaker. And as a result of the budgeting and the work of the Saskatchewan people, at the result of this session, we have a credit rating upgrade from Standard & Poor of New York.

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

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, as a result of this session, the people of this province do not believe a word that Premier has to say.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — As a result of this session, people of this province understand with crystal clarity that this government has no vision for the great potential that we know exists here in the province of Saskatchewan.

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

(14:45)

**Mr. Wall:** — And as a result of today, as a result of what we found out today, the people of this province understand that this Premier places a higher priority on building new Liquor Board buildings rather than providing health care and infrastructure in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, would the Premier comment on one other thing? Would he comment on this, this fact — that as a result of this session, we are mercifully one more day, one day closer to the end of that government.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — What was it that Yogi Berra said? It's déjà vu all over again.

You know, you know, Mr. Speaker, there's no difference over there at all. You know, when I was first honoured to receive the

leadership of the New Democratic Party and therefore Premier of the province, you know what they said? I wouldn't last six months. They said we wouldn't last six months. Then they said, well we wouldn't last a year. We won't . . . But you know what? We lasted a year. Then they said, well for sure we won't win an election. And well we won an election. Then they came into this session saying, well they're going to defeat us; you know, they're ready to take government. Well, you know, now the leader's up again saying, well they're going to defeat us next time. Well all right. This is not, this is not new. I guess it buoys up the troops over there.

You know, the fact of the matter of this session, Mr. Chair, Mr. Speaker, we came into this session expecting a new opposition. Well there's nothing new over there. What we have found from this opposition, what we have found from this opposition is no statement of new vision, no statement of new policy.

They've got all the criticisms, Mr. Speaker. We've got the solution. We've got the plan. We're implementing the plan for a better Saskatchewan, a better future for the next generation for the Saskatchewan people.

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

**The Speaker:** — I thank all members for their participation.

I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — . . . opposite's enthusiasm upon my rising to my feet. I'm requesting leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Leave to introduce guests?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, through you and to all members of the Assembly — and I think I have the gallery correct this time, Mr. Speaker — in your gallery, I would like to introduce some other individuals involved in this morning's ceremony, officials of the Department of Justice: Maxine Hodgson, director of Aboriginal and northern justice initiatives branch; Chantal Perrault and Cora Sellers, Aboriginal policy analysts; and Rhonda Hueser, Aboriginal policing assistant director with Saskatchewan Justice, and her daughter, Jessica.

If all members would join me in welcoming them to the Assembly.

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

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

##### Establishment of Traditional Elders Ministerial Advisory Committee

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand in the House today to announce the establishment of a Traditional

Elders Ministerial Advisory Committee to the Departments of Justice and Corrections, and Public Safety.

Earlier today I joined with the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety and elders representing Aboriginal communities throughout our province in a signing ceremony at the First Nations University of Canada. Prior to the ceremony we shared in a feast and a pipe ceremony led by the elders.

Mr. Speaker, this is a significant day for Aboriginal communities throughout Saskatchewan and for the administration of justice in our province. Today we move one step closer to achieving our goal of a justice system that responds to the needs, values, and aspirations of Aboriginal people. We know that the relationship between the justice system and Aboriginal people in this province has been characterized by feelings of alienation and mistrust for many years. And, Mr. Speaker, we know that in order to change that, we must work together. The signing ceremony that we participated in today is significant for what it represents: a combination of hope, healing, and co-operation.

Elders are the traditional leaders in their communities. They impact the values, morals, ethics, attitudes, and behaviours of the people in their circle. They serve as guides and role models for others to follow in their journey through life. Mr. Speaker, all the elders who sit on this advisory committee do so because they were chosen by their communities. I am grateful to the elders for their willingness to work with us and to share their wisdom and knowledge. We have as much to learn from the ways of healing, the ways of reconciliation, and the ways of reconstructing the broken circle. The elders on this committee will help us to develop a better understanding and to walk a better path together.

Mr. Speaker, in order for the justice system to be effective and fair, it must be respectful of cultural differences. It must contribute to the strength and well-being of our communities, and it must recognize that our system is not superior to other ways of dealing with socially harmful conduct.

It has long been our view that at the heart of an effective crime prevention, crime reduction strategy is the need for communities to deliver justice programs that complement the criminal justice system. For communities to take ownership of the offending and victimization that occurs in their community, they must have the capacity to take on the challenge. We look forward to working with the Traditional Elders Ministerial Advisory Committee to build that capacity and to develop meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal communities, based on knowledge, trust, and respect.

Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to adjusting the justice system to respond to needs and values of Aboriginal people, and contribute to a more inclusive society. This is an historic step that we take today, which will no doubt provide a better tomorrow for the children of this province. Thank you.

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

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to respond today on behalf of the official opposition.

I am very honoured that the province has seen fit to recognize the importance of Aboriginal justice system and the benefits that it can bring to the people and the system. And I'm sure over the next few years there is going to be people who will be able to see their culture and their history well displayed, and maybe it will help speed the healing that is needed within our system.

I know that what's happened today in our system isn't always working, and that Aboriginal people have asked the government to look at their needs and their concerns, and show that no, there is another way. And I really respect the traditions that are going to be brought into the system, and I really think . . . and we appreciate the opportunity to listen to what you have to say. And I think the government has done a great job in working with the Aboriginal people.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — Order. I recognize the member for Regina Dewdney, 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. 505 and 506.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 505 and 506 have been submitted.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

**Deputy Clerk:** — Committee of Finance.

**The Speaker:** — I do now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go into Committee of Finance.

### COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

#### General Revenue Fund Environment Vote 26

**The Chair:** — Order. Committee of Finance. The first item before the committee is the consideration of estimates for the Department of the Environment found on page 53 of the Estimates book. I see the minister has no officials, so we'll proceed.

Administration (ER01) for the amount of \$6,559,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER01) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Accommodation and central services (ER02) for the amount of \$7,116,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (ER02) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Compliance and field services (ER08) for the amount of \$22,234,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER08) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Forest ecosystems (ER09) for the amount of \$13,269,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER09) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Fire management and forest protection (ER10) for the amount of \$64,782,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER10) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Resource stewardship (ER15) for the amount of \$6,516,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER15) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Environmental protection (ER11) for the amount \$12,481,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER11) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Water management protection (ER16) for the amount \$8,643,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER16) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (ER04) for the amount of \$12,904,000. The subvote includes statutory amounts. The amount to be voted is \$11,255,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER04) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (ER07) for the amount of \$3,702,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER07) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (ER14) for the amount of \$4,174,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER14) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Amortization of capital assets. Amortization is a non-voted, non-cash expense and is presented for information purposes, for the amount of \$2,251,000.

Therefore resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2005 the following sums for Environment for the amount of \$160,731,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Vote 26 agreed to.

**Supplementary Estimates  
General Revenue Fund  
Environment  
Vote 26**

**The Chair:** — Supplementary vote for the Environment, vote 26, fire management and forest protection (ER10) for the amount of \$65,900,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (ER10) agreed to.

(15:00)

**The Chair:** —

That therefore resolved that there be granted to her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2004 the following sums for Environment, \$65,900,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Vote 26 agreed to.

**The Chair:** — This concludes the consideration of estimates for the Department of the Environment.

The next item before the Committee of Finance is the consideration of estimates for the Department of Health found on page 77 of the Estimates book.

**General Revenue Fund  
Health  
Vote 32**

**The Chair:** — Order. The next item before the committee is the consideration of estimates for the Department of Health.

Administration (HE01) for the amount of \$6,209,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (HE01) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (HE02) for the amount of \$5,136,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (HE02) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (HE04) for the amount of \$113,098,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (HE04) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (HE06) for the amount of \$519,342,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (HE06) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (HE08) for the amount of \$219,680,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (HE08) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (HE03), the committee has received further estimates for the amount of 13,000,000. Is the revision agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried. Therefore (HE03) with the revision would be 1,829,022,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried, as revised.

Subvote (HE03) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Amortization of capital assets. Amortization is a non-voted, non-cash expenses presented for information purposes, for the amount of \$596,000.

Therefore resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2005 the following sums for Health, which includes the further estimates, the amount of \$2,700,095,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried. Thank you minister and officials. That concludes the estimates for the Department of Health.

Vote 32 agreed to.

**The Chair:** — The next item before the committee is the consideration of estimates for the Department of Agriculture and Food.

**General Revenue Fund  
Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization  
Vote 1**

**The Chair:** — The next item is the consideration of estimates for the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization found on page 30 of the Estimates book.

Administration (AG01) for the amount of \$2,053,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG01) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (AG02) for the amount of \$3,895,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG02) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (AG05) for the amount of \$6,028,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG05) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (AG06) for the amount of \$13,608,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG06) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (AG07) for the amount of \$11,283,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG07) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (AG12) for the amount of \$3,368,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried. This subvote includes statutory amounts. The amount to be voted is \$2,887,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG12) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Land management (AG04) for the amount of \$3,638,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (AG04) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (AG08) for the amount of \$101,526,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG08) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (AG03) for the amount of \$3,142,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG03) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — (AG09) for the amount of \$4,744,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (AG09) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Crop insurance (AG10) for the amount of \$111,524,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG10) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Amortization of capital assets. Amortization is a non-voted, non-cash expense and is presented for information purposes for the amount of \$110,000.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, for the 12 months ending March 31, 2005 the following sums for Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization for the amount of \$264,328,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Vote 1 agreed to.

**General Revenue Fund  
Lending and Investing Activities  
Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization  
Vote 146**

**The Chair:** — On page 146 is the lending and investing activities for Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization, vote 146.

Investment in Crown agriculture land held for resale (AG02), the amount to be voted is \$400,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG02) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — The loans under 2002 short-term hog loan program (AG07), the amount now to be voted is zero dollars. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG07) agreed to.

**The Chair:** —

Therefore resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12 months ending March 31, 2005, the following sums lending and investing activities for Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization for the amount of \$400,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Vote 146 agreed to.

**Supplementary Estimates  
General Revenue Fund  
Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization  
Vote 1**

**The Chair:** — For supplementary estimates for Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization, vote 1.

Okay, Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization, vote 1 (AG08), bovine spongiform . . . BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) recovery program for amount of \$27,200,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — CAISP (Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization) program for the amount of \$98,776,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Subvote (AG08) agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Crop Insurance interest subsidy for the amount of \$2,600,000. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Subvote (AG10) agreed to

**The Chair:** —

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty for the 12

months ending March 31, 2004, the following sums for Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization for the amount of \$128,576,000.

Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Vote 1 agreed to.

**The Chair:** — This concludes the estimates for the Department of Agriculture and Food, and Rural Revitalization. Thank you, Minister.

**The Chair:** — The next item before the committee is Bill 74, The final appropriation Act, 2004, (No. 3). Take a brief pause while the Minister of Finance gets ready.

**Motions for Supply**

**The Chair:** — Order, the next item before the committee is The Appropriation Act. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Chair, I move, number one:

Resolve that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2004, the sum of \$207,375,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance:

Resolve that towards making good the supply granting to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2004, the sum of \$207,375,000 to be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Chair:** — Is this agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Motion agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Chair, I move, number two:

Resolve that towards making good supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2005, the sum of \$4,405,608,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.



**The Chair:** — It is moved by the Minister of Finance that, number two:

Resolve that making good the supply granting to Her Majesty certain charges and expenses of the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2005, the sum of \$4,405,608,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Chair:** — Is this agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Motion agreed to.

**The Chair:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Chair, I move, number three:

Resolve that towards making good supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2005, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the fiscal year ending on March 31, 2006, the sum of \$94,174,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

(15:15)

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance, number three:

Resolve that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain charges and expenses of the Public Service for the Fiscal Year ending March 31, 2005, which to the extent that they remain unexpended for the fiscal year are also granted for the Fiscal Year ending on March 31, 2006, the sum of \$94,174,000 be granted out of the General Revenue Fund.

Is the committee ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Chair:** — Is this agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

**The Chair:** — The Government House Leader, Minister of Finance, has moved that the committee rise and that the Chair

report that the committee has agreed to certain resolutions and ask for leave to sit again. Is it agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

**The Speaker:** — Order. I recognize the Chair of committees.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READING OF RESOLUTIONS

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Finance has agreed to certain resolutions, has instructed me to report the same, and to ask for leave to sit again.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the resolutions be read the first time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that the resolutions be now read the first and second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the resolutions be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First and second reading of the resolutions.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Later this day, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### APPROPRIATION BILL

##### Bill No. 74 — The Appropriation Act, 2004 (No. 3)

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move that Bill No. 74, The Appropriation Act, 2004 (No. 3) be now introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has moved that Bill No. 74, The Appropriation Act, 2004 (No. 3) be now introduced and read for the first time. Is leave of the Assembly granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

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

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, and under rule 57(2), I move that the Bill be now read a second and third time.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave of the Assembly granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 74, The Appropriation Act, 2004 (No. 3) be now read a second and a third time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Speaker:** — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — Second and third reading of this Bill.

Motion agreed to and, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill read a second and third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — I will now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go in Committee of the Whole.

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#### Bill No. 70 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004

**The Chair:** — Order. Committee of the Whole. The first item before the committee is consideration of Bill No. 70, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

#### Clause 1

**The Chair:** — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker . . . or, Mr. Chair of Committees, we've had the opportunity in committee to thoroughly discuss this Bill with the minister and his officials. And I have stated at the committee level that we believed that the amendment proposed in the wording in clause no. 12 is not what the people of Saskatchewan want — that indeed there was a promise to the people of Saskatchewan that the indexing of the exemptions would continue.

And that was a plan that was put forward by this very government a number of years ago with a lot of fanfare, that indeed they were happy to see that the indexation of personal exemptions was going to be tied to the national consumer price index. Clause no. 12 breaks that and actually removes that automatic indexation where now it will be just at the decision of

the cabinet.

So, Mr. Chair, we oppose clause no. 12. And at the appropriate time when we go through this Bill, the official opposition will be voting against clause no. 12.

**The Chair:** — Clause 1 short title. Is clause 1 agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 11 inclusive agreed to.

#### Clause 12

**The Chair:** — Is clause 12 agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Chair:** — All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Chair:** — All those opposed say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Chair:** — I believe the ayes have it. On division.

Clause 12 agreed to on division.

Clauses 13 to 17 inclusive agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 70, an Act to amend the income tax, 2000.

The next item before the committee . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . Oh, I would ask the Minister of Finance to move that the committee report the Bill without amendment.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Chair, I move the committee report the Bill without amendment.

**The Chair:** — The Minister of Finance has moved that the committee report the Bill without amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

#### Bill No. 36 — The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2004

**The Chair:** — The next item before the committee is Bill No. 36, An Act to amend The Provincial Sales Tax Act. Clause 1 short title. Is clause 1 agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive agreed to.

#### Clause 5

**The Chair:** — Coming into force, clause 5. Is clause 5 agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Chair:** — All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Chair:** — All those opposed say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Chair:** — I believe the ayes have it. On division.

Clause 5 agreed to on division.

**The Chair:** — Therefore, Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacts as follows: Bill No. 36, An Act to amend The Provincial Sales Tax Act.

I invite the minister to move that the committee report the Bill without amendment.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Chair, I move the committee report the Bill without amendment.

**The Chair:** — The minister has moved that the committee report the Bill without amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

The committee agreed to report the Bill.

#### Bill No. 61 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004

**The Chair:** — The next item before the committee is Bill No. 61, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004.

Clause 1 short title. Is clause 1 agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.

#### Clause 4

**The Chair:** — Is clause 4 agreed? I recognize the member for Cannington.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as we have pointed . . . Too many different committees here operating under different rules. As we have pointed out previously on this particular piece of legislation, we have a great deal of concern with the changes of this particular amendment that would change the bylaw election rule from a bylaw must be called within six months of a vacancy to a bylaw must be called within six months, within the first 36 months of a 60-month mandate. And we believe that is inappropriate, Mr. Chairman.

And hopefully we'll be able to convince some of the members opposite that the decisions, that were made by themselves or their predecessors in those ridings they represent in 1991 by their political party, were the right decisions — that it is undemocratic to allow for seats to remain vacant for up to two years, which is what this amendment to the electoral Act does, Mr. Chairman.

The government has raised the issue that it's a waste of money to have a by-election followed shortly thereafter by a general election. But the Premier is the one who makes that decision, not the piece of legislation that says a bylaw should be held within six months . . . a by-election, I mean. If the Premier doesn't want to have a by-election happening within six months of the general election, all he has to do is call the general election.

The Premier says well, we always have the election at about four years, so there is no need for this. The most that a seat could remain vacant would be 12 months. Well, Mr. Chairman, let's take a look at the history. In 1999 under this current government, the elections were 51 months apart, Mr. Chairman — 51 months. So that's 15 months a seat could have been vacant from the 36-month period to the time the election happened.

Under this current . . . Oh the member from Regina Dewdney is saying that's not . . . (inaudible interjection) . . . okay. Regina Northeast, Mr. Chairman, is saying that's not the case. Well all he has to do is go back and look at the electoral records. It's very plain to see. It's very plain to see. It was 15 months from 36-month period within that mandate to the time the election was called in 1999.

In the year 2003, it was 14 months that that period occurred. So there is . . . the Premier may say oh no, I am going to call an election at four years. There is no legislation that says he has to call it within four years. We've called for that; the government isn't interested.

So, Mr. Chairman, they're reversing the democratic advancement that was made in 1991. Mr. Chairman, Bob Mitchell, in 1991 in his statements in the House, said that Kindersley, which had waited 22 months was too long. Indian Head-Wolseley, which had waited 21 months, is too long. Turtleford, which had waited 16 months, was too long. And Souris-Cannington, the riding where, Mr. Chairman, I sat and waited for an election, was 15 months. Well from 36 months to 51 months is 15 months, Mr. Chairman. And that is what Roy

Romanow did in 1999. This government supported that, Mr. Chairman.

I'd also like to read another quote from Mr. Mitchell. And to quote the Hon. Bob Mitchell. He says:

These amendments, Mr. Speaker, will make the law of Saskatchewan consistent with the law in other jurisdictions and will, as I said, protect the democratic rights of citizens to representation in this Assembly.

Well I guess the Premier and the government opposite don't believe that those rights need to be protected any longer.

(15:30)

We still need to have that protection in place, Mr. Speaker. The six-month rule from the time a seat becomes vacant to a by-election, a minimum of six . . . a maximum, excuse me, of six months is appropriate, and we continue to support that, Mr. Chairman.

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

**The Chair:** — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, let me just say at the outset, if it weren't for the abuses of the 1980s we would likely not be dealing with this legislation today because we would not have needed legislation in the first instance. The 1980s saw abuses of the electoral process. In the one instance, the government refusing to call an election until the five years were up. The government also refused to call by-elections in a timely manner.

This had not been any kind of issue in Saskatchewan previous to that because governments respected the democratic process, respected the fact that if there were vacancies, if by-elections were required, that those by-elections should be called in a timely manner . . . didn't need laws, didn't need legislation to tell them that.

Well we set out to change that in 1991, notwithstanding the fact that members were cautioning us to put into place some guidelines. And I well remember the comments of the member for Souris-Cannington who just stood in his place where he said:

A general Bill legislating by-elections is important, but certain restrictions must be implemented. This side of the House recognizes the unnecessary costs and inconvenience that will be incurred by the people of Saskatchewan if a by-election was to be held in the last months of a government's mandate.

And that's what the member said at that point. Well, Mr. Speaker, now here we are some 13 years later, many by-elections later, and we finally agree with the member opposite that there should be some restrictions.

We have faced criticisms in some instances during general elections which followed by-elections because we followed the rules of the legislation. We're criticized by people on the

doorsteps, aided undoubtedly by the members opposite encouraging them to criticize the government for that.

We think that it's time to put some restriction in place. The restriction we are offering is not an unreasonable one, but we're also prepared to move an amendment. The legislation that's before us anticipates that a government might call an election within three and a half years. We're certainly prepared to change it to anticipate the fact that a government calls an election within four years. And therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move an amendment to clause 4 of the printed Bill:

Amend subsection 40.3(2) of *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, as being enacted by Clause 4 of the printed Bill by striking out "36 months" and substituting "40 months".

I so move, Mr. Chair.

**The Chair:** — Will the members take the motion as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — The motion by the minister, is this agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Chair:** — All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Chair:** — All those opposed say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Chair:** — I believe the ayes have it. On division.

Amendment agreed to.

**The Chair:** — The clause 4 as amended, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That's carried.

Clause 4 as amended agreed to on division.

Clauses 5 to 7 inclusive agreed to.

### Clause 8

**The Chair:** — And coming into force clause 8. Is clause 8 agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Chair:** — All those in favour say aye.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Aye.

**The Chair:** — All those opposed say no.

**Some Hon. Members:** — No.

**The Chair:** — I believe the ayes have it. Call in the members.

Order. The question before the committee is clause 8, coming into force. All those in favour of clause 8, please stand now.

**Yeas — 28**

Calvert	Lautermilch	Hagel
Van Mulligen	Serby	Atkinson
Cline	Sonntag	Crofford
Prebble	Forbes	Wartman
Belanger	Higgins	Thomson
Nilson	Beatty	Hamilton
Junor	Harper	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Taylor	Morin
Borgerson		

**Nays — 27**

Wall	Toth	Elhard
Heppner	D'Autremont	Krawetz
Draude	Hermanson	Bjornerud
Stewart	Morgan	McMorris
Eagles	Gantfoer	Harpauer
Bakken	Cheveldayoff	Huyghebaert
Allchurch	Brkich	Weekes
Kerpan	Merriman	Chisholm
Dearborn	Hart	Kirsch

**Deputy Clerk:** — Mr. Chair, those in favour of the clause, 28; those opposed, 27.

**The Chair:** — I declare the motion carried. Coming into force, clause 8, is agreed.

Clause 8 agreed to.

**The Chair:** — Therefore Her Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan enacts as follows: Bill No. 61, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

And I would invite the minister to move that the committee report the Bill with amendment. I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Chair, I move the committee move the Bill with amendment.

**The Chair:** — The minister has moved that the committee report the Bill with amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

The committee agreed to report the Bill as amended.

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Chair, I move the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Chair:** — The Government House Leader has moved that the committee rise and report progress, and ask for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

(15:45)

**THIRD READINGS**

**Bill No. 70 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004**

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of committees.

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 70, The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a third time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 70, The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004 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.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of committees.

**Bill No. 36 — The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2004**

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 36, The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2004 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be read a third time? I recognize the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, 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 Finance that Bill No. 36, The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act, 2004 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.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Chair of committees.

#### FIRST AND SECOND READING OF AMENDMENTS

##### Bill No. 61 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm finally instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 61, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004 with amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the amendments be read the first and second time? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the amendments be now read the first and second time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that the amendments be now read a first and second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Deputy Clerk:** — First and second reading of the amendments.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a third time? I recognize the minister.

#### THIRD READINGS

##### Bill No. 61 — The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I move that Bill No. 61, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004 be now read the third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — Requested leave for third readings. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 61, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004 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 and, by leave of the Assembly, the Bill read a third time and passed under its title.

**The Speaker:** — When shall the committee sit again? I recognize the Government House Leader.

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

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave to move to, on the agenda, to motions for returns (debatable).

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has requested leave to move to motions for returns (debatable). Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted.

#### MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Debatable)

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave that the motions for return contained in *Supplement 8 to the Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day* be deemed to have been moved by the member in whose name they stand, seconded by myself, and that an order of the Assembly be issued for each of the said returns.

**The Speaker:** — The member has requested leave that motions for returns (debatable) contained in *Supplement 8 to the Routine Proceedings and Orders of the Day* be deemed to have been moved by the member in whose name they stand, seconded by myself . . . himself, and that an order of the Assembly be issued for each of the said returns. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. Orders of the Assembly are issued for the returns listed as items 1 through no. 294.

I wish to advise the members that Her Honour is here for Royal Assent.

#### ROYAL ASSENT

At 15:54 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills.

**The Speaker:** — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at the present session has passed several Bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour and to which Bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: —

Bill No. 71 - The City of Lloydminster Act  
 Bill No. 23 - The Regional Parks Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 33 - The Archives Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 65 - The Agri-Food Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 66 - The Cattle Marketing Deductions Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 47 - The Pension Benefits Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 50 - The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 7 - The Automobile Accident Insurance Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 35 - The Crown Corporations Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 60 - The Public Service Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 27 - The Political Contributions Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 41 - The Contributory Negligence Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 69 - The Public Inquiries Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 21 - The Saskatchewan Association of School Business Officials Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 64 - The Post-Secondary Graduate Tax Credit Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 56 - The Public Health Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 55 - The Regional Health Services Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 54 - The Tobacco Control Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 70 - The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2004  
 Bill No. 36 - The Provincial Sales Tax Amendment Act 2004  
 Bill No. 61 - The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Amendment Act, 2004.

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

**The Speaker:** — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service. In the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour:

Bill No. 74 - The Appropriations Act, 2004 (No. 3),  
 to which I respectfully request your Honour's assent.

**Her Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 15:58.

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave of the Assembly to move an adjournment motion with instructions and without notice.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has requested leave to move a motion of adjournment with instructions and without notice. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. I recognize the Government House Leader.

## MOTION

### House Adjournment

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, before I move the motion, I'd like to offer a few comments. This is my first opportunity to move this motion as a Government House Leader. It's been a very interesting session for me.

I now begin to understand the calls that I received after I was appointed House Leader from those who had previously served as House Leader, and offering their sympathies because it is, at the end of the day, as former House leaders know, a very interesting and challenging position, but I think a position that's made more enjoyable and helpful with the co-operation of colleagues.

(16:00)

But the session is rarely about individuals. I guess if there was one exception, we saw that this year. Usually the sessions are about the differences that we hold and ideas and policies and approaches for our province, and those are the things that we debate.

Sometimes though there are exceptions, and I think we saw that this particular session when we were able to welcome back a healthy member for Yorkton after a successful fight for cancer. That for me definitely was one of the highlights of the session. And we're very pleased to see that. I think all members of the House will . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — As for other highlights of the session, Mr. Speaker, I thought for a moment that one of the highlights was going to be while I was reading my budget speech, at quite a ways in I noticed that one of my feet was falling asleep. And there I was trying to read this speech, while at the same time shaking my foot to get some life back into it. That was an interesting experience for me.

But I think the real highlight of the session, Mr. Speaker, was to see the new committee system in action. I think that was quite something. For someone like myself who's been in this House since 1986, to see this new procedure — I think probably one of the more substantial, if not the most substantial change that we've seen to the workings of the House since 1905 — to see these committee systems at work, I was quite struck by not only the greater scrutiny I think that legislation and estimates seem to receive in the new policy field committees, I was also struck by the greater participation of all of the members of the House were able to serve on those committees and those who chipped in for other members in those committees. I thought that was just exceptional, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to pay tribute to those members of the Special Committee on Rules and Procedures that was chaired by yourself, Mr. Speaker; the member for Regina South, the member for Cannington, the member for Moose Jaw North, the member for Saskatoon Eastview, the member for Indian Head-Milestone, the member for Biggar, the member for Regina Dewdney.

And I read these names into the record because at the end of the day this is a huge transformation of how we do business. And those members that came up with those recommendations deserve the applause and appreciation, not just to the members of the Assembly but the people of Saskatchewan. And I thank them.

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, this session also saw an agreement between the government and the opposition as to how we might better structure the sittings of the Legislative Assembly, a first move if you will towards a legislative calendar, a more formal sitting calendar.

I very much appreciate the efforts of the Opposition House Leader, the member for Melfort, in his contributions to those discussions. I also want to thank the House Leader for always his positive co-operation and his professional manner. I very much appreciate the contribution of the Opposition House Leader, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Normally at this time of the session we come to say goodbye, and we come to say thank you to all of the members and all of those who support the members, but I think it's somewhat premature.

Because of the agreement that we have, we've agreed now that this is not the end of the session. We've agreed that the end of the session will be this fall, and that at this point we are taking a recess from the action so that we can do the things that we need to do this summer and into the fall to prepare for the fall session.

And so we do not come here today to say goodbye, Mr. Speaker. We do not come to say thank you to all of those including yourself and the Clerks who help us to move the business of the people of Saskatchewan along, but we do want to at this point I think recognize that some of those who help us may not be with us in the fall.

In particular the Pages, Donovan Ackerman, Alex Arsenault, Cali Boyle, Danielle Humble, Scott Robertson, and Julianna Hill, we want to thank them for the exemplary service that they've provided to all of the members during the course of this session. And I would ask all the members to join with me in extending a warm hand of appreciation to them. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Also not likely to be with us, Mr. Speaker, this fall are the interns who so ably assisted some of our colleagues in their duties. And the interns are Kim McKechney, Ryan Griffiths, Joanne Harpauer-Digneau, and Fabian Contreras. I would ask all members to recognize the contribution made by those interns, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — So thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all the members for their hard work during this

session and for making it a very productive session. I look forward to seeing all the members this fall. I wish all the members a very enjoyable summer, a productive fall, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And having said that, Mr. Speaker, I guess now I'm required to move the motion — and if I can find the motion, here it is. I move:

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

I move, seconded by the member for Melfort.

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Regina Douglas Park, seconded by the member from Melfort:

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

I recognize the Opposition House Leader, the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's with pleasure that I rise this afternoon and join with the Government House Leader in expressing a few remarks at the recess, if you like, of this legislative session.

And in doing that, I would like to first of all recognize the contribution of the Sergeant-at-Arms by contributing a particular rodent to the member from Kelvington's seat this afternoon. Her heart rate is now coming down from 200 or somewhere through that sphere, and I'm sure it'll be a memorable occasion for all of us who watched the panic on her face as she thought there was a rat in her seat.

Mr. Speaker, it's also true that we are going to have the services of the Pages no longer with us, and of the interns. And I would like to join with the Government House Leader in thanking each and every one of them for the outstanding service that you've contributed to the members.

It's been a very interesting session, and in so many ways. For the Government House Leader and myself, we were new to the task — and the task was also new to us in that the challenges of the Assembly were different this time as the Government House Leader has outlined.

I think that, as we have felt our way through these new standing field committees, members have expressed a great deal of support for the concept and the structure and the balance between even the Committee of Finance and the field committees. And I think we'll look forward to further developing this whole system to better serve the needs not only of the members of the Assembly but also the people of



Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's true — and certainly it is very true for my part — that it would have been impossible for me to discharge my duties without the assistance particularly of my House colleagues, the Opposition Whip, the Deputy House Leader, and the Deputy Whip. And I would like to thank them particularly for being so supportive in contributing to the efforts that we made in making sure this legislature functioned appropriately.

I also want to extend to my colleagues on the official opposition for their support and contribution and advice as we've gone along, and I think that that has contributed to us doing our job as expected.

I want to comment briefly about our efforts in making the motion and the movement towards a permanent calendar. I think as we said when we announced this, this is not only good for us as members and legislators, it's good for the people of Saskatchewan, it's good for democracy, that we meet oftener and that we meet in a predictable way so that the people can understand and count on the fact that their legislature is going to meet to consider the issues of the province on a regular basis.

But as important as all as that is, Mr. Speaker, in closing I also want to acknowledge on behalf of, I'm sure all members, the contribution and sacrifice that our families make to allow us to do this job and to conduct the affairs of the province in this calendar or in a future calendar. When we leave home in the morning on Monday or Sunday night to come to Regina in order to discharge our duties, many times we would rather be at home with our families, and many times our families are disappointed that we're not home as regularly as we should be.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, it's important to always remind ourselves of the important contribution that our families make to the democratic process in this legislature, and I know all members want to join me in applauding our families.

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

**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Mr. Speaker, having said that on behalf of the official opposition, it's my pleasure to congratulate all the members for the work that they've done in this Assembly, to wish them a very relaxing and peaceful summer with their families so that they can be rejuvenated to the task that's before us, providing the very best governance and legislative authority for the people of this province because they deserve no less.

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

**The Speaker:** — Before I put the motion, I would like to just make a couple of remarks with respect to the work given to the members by the Legislative Assembly employees.

I especially want to thank and commend the Office of the Clerk, who continue to provide non-partisan leadership to the rest of the Legislative Assembly. And things work very smoothly here and I've watched as . . . even to the detail of the parade, how they've learned to all turn in unison — one day clockwise and the next day counter-clockwise — as they watch the mace come in.

Special thank you goes out to the people working in human resources and administrative services and the information services branch who sort of keep the nuts and bolts of working here. People in Journals for their accuracy and efficiency. And of course, those in financial services who make sure that our constituency assistants and the caucuses and all the people in the Legislative Assembly and the MLAs get the payroll.

The people in broadcast services deserve thanks. They take a lot of pride in their work in keeping the system here going. Thanks to the visitor services who are our ambassadors of the legislature, to all of our guests. To the Legislative Counsel on whom I would depend on for their advice on legal matters. To our people in the Legislative Library, if it exists— if information exists — they'll find it. And special thank you goes to the people in security and also the sessional commissionaires. They serve this Assembly with distinction.

*Hansard* — all the workers in *Hansard*, of course who have to stay on a little later yet today and then this summer pack up all their equipment as they get ready to move into new quarters.

I want to thank all of the members of the Assembly in this House, particularly for the camaraderie, both in the Assembly and out. It's been a pleasure to work with both House leaders.

I would also make special mention of two MLAs who have bookended the daily proceedings. First of all the member for Cypress Hills, who has presented 69 petitions, I think. And second the member for Moose Jaw North, who has always commented with encouragement about this choice of the starting time for the next day.

And I want to express a thank you to my staff in the Speaker's office, Margaret Tulloch, Linda Spence and Rhonda Romanuk for steering me through the day.

And special thanks goes out on behalf of all members to Steve Bata and the SPMC (Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation) who keep us well-housed and even take care of the occasional flood that happens in this building.

(16:15)

I salute the Pages who work with diligence and also with some humour. We appreciate that. And the interns who have been working with us this year.

I want to conclude by saying that the people who work here in the Legislative Assembly provide exemplary, non-partisan service to the members of the Legislative Assembly. I want to thank the employees for their commitment which provides a professional continuity necessary for the operation of our legislature.

On the motion moved by the member for Regina Douglas Park, seconded by the member for Melfort, will members take it as read?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — 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 the call of the Speaker.

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

The Assembly adjourned at 16:16.



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