



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

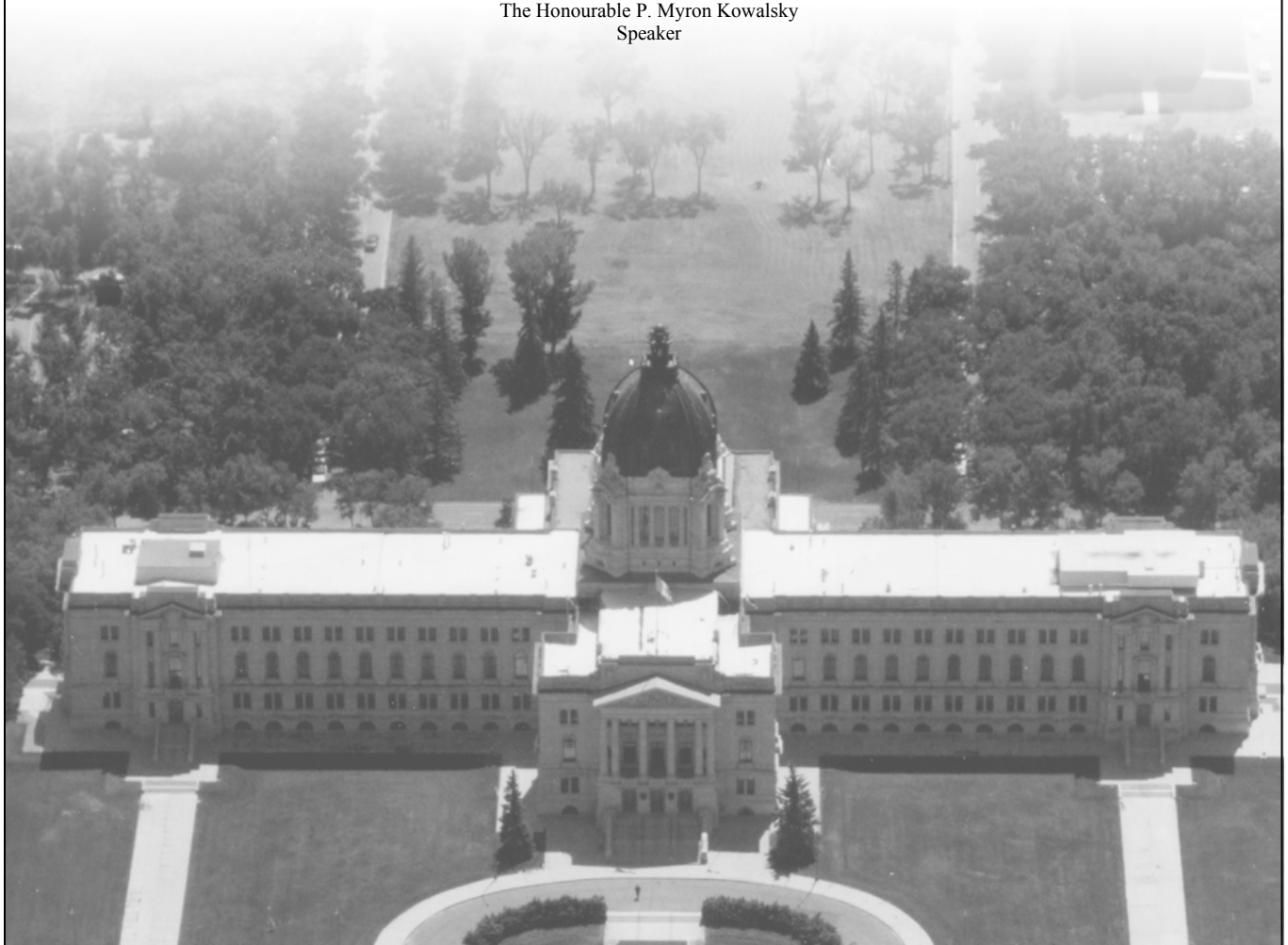
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today again on behalf of my constituents who are concerned about the issue of forced amalgamation for school districts. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by constituents from the community of Maple Creek. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions today and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the communities of Carievale and Carnduff. And one person's so opposed she signed it twice, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again on behalf of constituents of mine who are concerned with the deficiency in residential support offered to people who have long-term disabilities. The prayer of their petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to provide the funding required for additional spaces for Swift Current residents with lifelong disabilities.

And, Mr. Speaker, today's petitioners are all from the great city

of Swift Current. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been deluged with petitions from west central Saskatchewan by people who are concerned that proposed changes to amalgamate 59 school divisions by January 2006 will not prove to be cost effective. The prayer of the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

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

Mr. Speaker, I believe the signatures on this petition come from the communities of Elrose, Rosetown, and Kindersley. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to do with forced amalgamation of school divisions. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

The signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from the communities of Esterhazy and Stockholm.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as well to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the forced amalgamation of school divisions. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals all from the community of Craik. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of those constituents of mine who are very concerned about the forced amalgamation of school divisions. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by residents of Midale and Macoun. I so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Weyburn-Big Muddy.

Ms. Bakken: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents who are very concerned about the amalgamation of school boards. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

And this petition is signed by residents of Fillmore. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens desiring to halt the forced amalgamation of school divisions. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good citizens of Wymark, Vanguard, and Neville. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I present another petition to revisit the effects of the TransGas Asquith natural gas storage project. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately address the concerns of all individuals affected by this project, pay 100 per cent of the costs involved to rectify disruptions to water supplies, produce

an environment assessment study encompassing a larger area outside the scope of the project, disclose the project's long-term effects on these areas, and consider alternative sources of water for the project.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Vanscoy and Delisle, I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of citizens who are concerned with the effect that the TransGas Asquith natural gas storage project will have on the quality and quantity of their water and the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately address the concerns of all individuals affected by this project, pay 100 per cent of the costs involved to rectify disruptions to water supplies, produce an environment assessment study encompassing a larger area outside the scope of the project, disclose the project's long-term effects on these areas, and consider alternative sources of water for the project.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by residents of Delisle, Grandora, and Vanscoy, I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan citizens concerned with the forced amalgamation of school divisions. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to reverse the decision to force the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan and continue reorganization of school divisions on a strictly voluntary basis.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, come from a number of communities including Grayson, Fenwood, Melville, Killaly, and I'm particularly pleased to be able to present the petition that has been signed on behalf of citizens of Meadow Lake. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received:

A petition concerning the elementary school in Arbour

Creek, that's sessional paper no. 716.

And addendums to previously tabled sessional papers being sessional paper nos. 637, 640, and 715.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 79 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy: what was the cost of the TransGas cavern projects located at Landis and near Melville, which were sold in 1997 to Canadian Crude Separators and Plains Environmental, respectively? Why were these caverns developed by TransGas prior to the sale? Why were these caverns sold by TransGas?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for The Battlefords.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the Legislative Assembly, a delegation here today to mark Les Rendez-vous de la francophonie.

We value the contribution that the francophone citizens make to social, cultural, and economic development of our province. They're seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask that they stand as I mention their names. Our guests are here representing a variety of Fransaskois community organizations. There's also a mother and a friend or two with us today.

From the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, François Dornez; ACF elected official, representing the region of Ponteix and the economic and rural sector. From le Guichet unique and the ACF, Geneviève Lapiere, communications officer. From the Institut français at the University of Regina, Peter Dorrington, director of the new research centre. From the Conseil culturel fransaskois, Marie-Ève Bussière-Bear, president.

From the French weekly *l'Eau vive*, Maria Lepage, from the . . . who's also responsible for book fairs. From the Éditions de la nouvelle plume, Françoise Sigur-Cloutier, president, also regional manager, French communications, for Radio-Canada. From the francophone school division no. 310, Marie Paterson, public relations coordinator; from the Conseil de la coopération de la Saskatchewan, Sylvain Lejeune, project analyst. And from the provincial government, the director of our own Office of French-language Co-ordination, Monsieur Florent Bilodeau.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I would like to offer our guests a bienvenue à Saskatchewan et à votre législature.

[Translation: welcome to Saskatchewan and to your legislature.]

It's our pleasure to welcome you here today. And we have met a number of times, many of you, and we look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with pleasure that I rise today to introduce to this Assembly, a delegation of students and their teacher coming from Melfort, Saskatchewan. They're here today to spend the day as part of their educational experience studying about the provincial and national governments. And they've been here today, had a tour of the legislature, grilled me profusely for 30 minutes, Mr. Speaker. This place is easy compared to the students when they get a hold of you. And then they're going on to the Science Centre this afternoon to watch a show on NASCAR [National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing] race car driving.

So we wish them a good experience in Regina at their legislature and thank them very much for coming. And I'd ask all members to welcome them.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Elphinstone.

La Semaine nationale de la francophonie

Mr. McCall: — Merci, Monsieur le Président. Les semaines du 4 au 20 mars ont été proclamées officiellement Les Rendez-vous et la Semaine nationale de la francophonie en Saskatchewan. C'est un honneur pour moi de souligner cette occasion dans notre Assemblée législative provinciale.

La Journée internationale de la francophonie, le 20 mars, est le point culminant de ces deux semaines de fêtes, qui ont pour but de célébrer la langue et la culture française.

Cette année marque le centenaire de la Saskatchewan; c'est donc un moment propice de célébrer le rôle important que nos citoyens francophones ont joué pour aider à façonner la province. De plus, le thème des Rendez-vous cette année en Saskatchewan est «<100 ans de coeur . . . francophone.>>

La langue et la culture françaises ou fransaskoises sont une valeur ajoutée à notre province, notre pays et notre monde. J'encourage tous mes collègues à soutenir activement les Francophones tout au long de l'année et à les fêter dans leurs circonscriptions. Merci et bon Rendez-vous à tout le monde. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

[Translation: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The weeks of March 4 to 20 have officially been proclaimed Les Rendez-vous and National Francophone Week in Saskatchewan. I am honoured to observe this occasion today in our Legislative Assembly.

March 20, International Francophone Day, is the focal point for the two weeks of festivities, whose goal it is to celebrate French language and culture.

This year marks Saskatchewan's centennial; it is therefore a great time to celebrate the important role our francophone citizens have played to help shape the province. In addition, the theme for Les Rendez-vous this year is 100 years of heart . . . francophone.

The francophone language and culture are an added value to our province, to our country, and to the world. I encourage all my colleagues to actively support francophones year-round, and celebrate them in their constituencies. Thank you, and happy Rendez-vous to everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

Blaine Lake Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan centennial spirit is alive and well in Blaine Lake. The town known as the Gateway to the Lakes presented its Citizen of the Year and Lifetime Achievement awards last Friday night. Some 200 people came to the community hall to celebrate the achievements of two of Blaine Lake's finest citizens.

[13:45]

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to community volunteer extraordinaire Marlene Fiala. Marlene has served on virtually every volunteer board in the community, from the local housing authority to the figure skating club and a dozen other committees in between. Marlene and her late husband Ray, a Sask Wheat Pool agent, along with their four sons — Vaughn, Darryl, Calvin, and Wade — and daughter, Rhonda, moved from Hyas to Blaine Lake about 30 years ago. The Fiala family immediately induced vigour into this community, a trait that continues to this day.

The Citizen of the Year in Blaine Lake is Doreen Kalmakoff. Doreen is a farmer, award-winning teacher, an artist, and a skating instructor. When it's time to relax, Doreen enjoys kayaking and whitewater rafting. And she still has time for her husband John, two children — John Kalmakoff, a member of the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] and Jeff Kalmakoff, a Crown prosecutor — and six grandchildren. Doreen's immediate goal is to turn Blaine Lake into a Saskatchewan version of Chemainus, British Columbia. Anyone who has been to the community will attest to the beautiful murals that Doreen has painted on almost every community building and business in town.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in saluting Marlene Fiala and Doreen Kalmakoff — two Blaine Lake residents who have made an outstanding contribution to their community and their province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Cumberland.

Montreal Lake Cree Nation in Mourning

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, on March 3, the people of Montreal Lake Cree Nation were shocked and saddened by the news that a tragic and senseless act of violence had taken the lives of three of their young people. All three had been very active in the community, involved in their local youth centre, and working with young people in the areas of sports and recreation.

Mr. Speaker, last Monday I attended the funeral for 19-year-old Farro Bird, for 27-year-old Greg Naytowhow, and for his 19-year-old brother, Kerry Naytowhow. It was heartbreaking, Mr. Speaker, one of the saddest days of my life. But I was just one of hundreds of people who came to pay their respects. And for those who attended — including members of the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] executive, chiefs, and councillors from all over the province, representatives from the RCMP and the Regina Police Service, and so many of the youth and people of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation — what was so evident was the incredible unity of the community in the midst of the pain and sadness.

I particularly want to commend Chief Richie Bird and his father, Senator Allan Bird, whose strength and leadership were so clearly visible as they comforted families and their community.

Mr. Speaker, no one knows why these things happen. All we can do is take what lessons from these tragedies that we can, keep up our courage, gather our strength, and press on. I ask the members of the Assembly to join me in extending our sympathies to the families who lost their loved ones and to all the people of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Handel Catholic Women's League Celebrates 60 Years

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year Handel Catholic Women's League completed 60 years of service to God and Canada. What an accomplishment.

They gathered with their community and friends to celebrate the Eucharist with their spiritual director, Father W. Reschney presiding. Past president, Tillie Zimmer handed over the gavel and the symbol of authority to President Nicole Perlinger, and Father continued with the installation of officers. An informal luncheon followed at the hall where over 100 people gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion. A 60-year pin was presented to Eva Perlinger, their only founding member; a 25-year pin to Yvette Gruber; and a president's pin to Nicole Perlinger.

Their membership has dropped to 12, but the desire to serve remains strong. Several former members came to help make the occasion even more memorable. Some were Della Roesch, Sue Schommer, Catherine Graver, Katie Wandler, Joan Basler, Lorraine Beloin, Adelyne and Theresa Roth, Lucie and Rose

Rohs, and Marlene Schraeder.

Please join me in congratulating the Handel CWL [Catholic Women's League] completing 60 years of service to God and Canada.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Wascana Plains.

Rural Women's Month in Saskatchewan

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March has been proclaimed as Rural Women's Month in Saskatchewan.

This proclamation comes at the request of the Saskatchewan Women's Institutes, the women's president of the National Farmers Union, the Whitewood Women's Network of Whitewood, Saskatchewan, and the Partners for Rural Family Support of Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this month is about recognizing and celebrating the contribution of rural women to the province and to raise awareness and appreciation of the significant role that rural women have played and continue to play in Saskatchewan.

Over and above the fact that they are one-half of most of the farm operations in the province, rural women have also always served as volunteers and leaders in their communities. Rural women are major contributors to Saskatchewan's economic and social fabric and have always been. It's particularly appropriate in our centennial year, 100 years of heart, that we recognize the significant impacts rural women have made to the development of health care, education, and social services in our wonderful province.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in acknowledging the rural women of this province. Without their commitment and contribution, Saskatchewan would not be the great province that it is today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Wynyard Seniors Receive 2005 Saskatchewan Centenarian Medals

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Keeping with the theme of the centennial celebrations, I was once again honoured to preside over the awarding of the 2005 Saskatchewan centenarian medal to four residents in Wynyard. On March 11 at the Golden Acres facility I presided medals to Mrs. Sigurveig Gudmundson, born on August 1, 1905; Mrs. Mary Chudyk, born on December 10, 1902; Mrs. Gertrude Madey, born on February 2, 1898; and Mr. Mike Wasyluk, born April 5, 1905.

The awards ceremony was well attended by the families of these truly great Saskatchewan citizens, and we were also joined by the Wynyard mayor, Sharon Armstrong. It was a pleasure for me to bestow these medals on these fine people

who have contributed to the life of Saskatchewan throughout the province's first 100 years. It takes a special kind of courage and resolve to live to be 100 years old or more. In fact it is all the more remarkable when you consider that, at the age of 102, Mrs. Chudyk still lives independently in her own home. Just as remarkable is the fact that, at the age of 107, Mrs. Madey has now lived in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries — a very long and good life indeed.

I would like to personally congratulate these four outstanding Saskatchewan people for their part in building this province over the last 100 years. I would ask that all members join me in saluting them this afternoon. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Dewdney.

Saskatchewan Centennial Summit

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Centennial Summit was one of the most significant centennial events to take place this year. Participants heard from a wide variety of presenters, from business leaders to academics, youth, and First Nations. They then broke into groups to discuss such topics as labour market development, the opportunities and barriers facing First Nations and Métis people, youth attraction and retention, quality of life, and attitude.

One of the final speakers at the summit was Todd Hirsch, an economist with the Canada West Foundation, who stressed two things in his presentation on Saskatchewan's economy. One was that the unrelenting negativity that exists in some quarters of this province is hurting us. He used youth as an example. He said it was no wonder young people were leaving this province when they hear so much doom and gloom. The other thing Mr. Hirsch said was that, given our current economic performance and our future prospects, this province has no right to think small.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, given record high job numbers, Saskatchewan has been experiencing 11 consecutive months of monthly employment increases, and this February showing the highest figure ever recorded for Saskatchewan in February. Mr. Hirsch is clearly right.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in showing their appreciation for the participants of the Centennial Summit for their hard work, plain talk, and commitment to the future of our province.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Food Allowance

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I received a letter today from a constituent. I'd like to share it with members of the Assembly, share the sentiments from Barbara Taylor, who lives in Swift Current. She's having a difficult time making healthy choices using the money she gets from her basic food allowance.

Idea no. 3 of the Saskatchewan Party's 100 ideas for Saskatchewan's future calls on this government to increase the basic food allowance, something that hasn't happened in more than two decades.

Question for the minister responsible — she didn't get a chance to answer yesterday in this House, maybe she's got some good news today. Will she confirm that the government will make this change, will increase the food allowance in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Community Resources and Employment.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would have to say that there has not been a year in which our government has not improved adequacy on some front for people who are either on social assistance or working poor. It started with the recognition of actual utility costs when we were first elected, which people previously were taking that out of their housing money.

As well, as the Premier mentioned in his comments about the centennial yesterday, we were part of constructing a National Child Benefit for Canada, which for a family of four under \$18,000 gets an additional \$800 a month under the child benefit, \$800 a month on top of the basic allowance. So that money is not reflected in the basic allowance, but it's a result of a program constructed specifically to help children and families.

Now I would say that we work closely with the advocacy groups and people on assistance and I'll speak further on matters of where additional funding is going.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'm glad the minister has indicated she'll speak further on this issue. She could simply answer the question.

Barbara Taylor is a diabetic. She has a tough time making healthy food choices on \$9.40 a day. When she goes to shop, Barbara Taylor is paying 2005 prices, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Community Resources and Employment gives her a basic food allowance that's based on 1985 prices. Mr. Speaker, that's just wrong. By any reasonable measure, that's wrong.

There's a number of former Social Services ministers who sit on this front bench, including the Premier of the province. The question for the minister to answer is simple today: will she

stand up and take her place in the legislature and confirm that this government is prepared to do the right thing, that it will increase the basic food allowance for low-income families in the province of Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Community Resources.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You know, there has been many budgets in which we would have appreciated the member caring about any of these issues. But quite bluntly, he hasn't. In the last election platform they had exactly one page, which their only solution was to put people into jobs with a 25 per cent reduction in the number of people on welfare. Well through our Building Independence, which improves an employment supplement, extended health benefits, child benefits, shelter supplement, child care money, in fact we have helped 41 per cent of families be off assistance and they're all materially much better off today than they were before.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Now, Mr. Speaker, do we want to do more? Of course we want to do more. There are still people who do not have as much as they require to support the kind of standard of living we would want to see. But I can guarantee you that, working with the community, we continue to make improvements on all of those fronts.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, Barbara Taylor is being admitted to the hospital in Swift Current today. She'll be put on insulin to get her blood sugar to an acceptable level. Apparently the government is prepared . . . would rather pay for that, for that health care treatment, than simply to increase the food allowance to the point where she can make the healthy choices that Barbara wants to make in terms of her diet.

You know, it's nice to hear the history lesson from the minister. What we want today is an answer. It's a direct question that deserves a direct answer, not to the Saskatchewan Party but to those who are on assistance, to low-income families in the province of Saskatchewan. Will she take her place and confirm that this government is prepared to increase the food allowance for those families in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Community Resources and Employment.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Without knowing all the specifics of the person or persons that the member is referring to, I can say that where a doctor has provided a particular reasoning related to health for someone to have an additional food supplement, certainly that is within the possibility of the program.

There's no question that during years of scarce resources, we

targeted a lot of our resources to families with children and to people with disabilities. There are still today some individuals who are single persons who do not receive as much benefit as those people, and that's certainly a challenge that we accept as something we want to make more progress on, and I'm sure we will.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well the government does do a lot of targeting, it seems. It seems that they would rather target \$600 to have a new hand-rubbed finish put on a desk in a corporate office. It seems that they would want to target millions for dot-coms in Atlanta, Georgia. They want to target millions for dot-coms in Tennessee and other NDP [New Democratic Party] boondoggles, 3 million for Pangaea; we talked about that not long ago.

We're asking them to target the people and the issues that should be targeted today. The minister can simply take her place in the legislature and confirm for Barbara Taylor, who is now in the hospital because she can't afford to eat in the healthy way she would like, confirm for her and many others in the province of Saskatchewan that this government has heard them, has heard the opposition; they'll do the right thing; they'll increase the food allowance in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Community Resources and Employment.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of ways in which we've looked at the total amount of money that an individual has to spend — things like the project in Regina that provides a \$15 bus pass instead of \$60. The shelter supplement which will come in on April 1 will provide substantial new revenues to people which will take pressure again off the amount of money that they have to spend for food. But I will say to the member opposite is I believe that we have always had a compassionate response to people with particular problems and if he would bring that situation forward, we would certainly look at applying that compassionate response.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Nursing Resources

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 200 or more nurses leave this province every year for greener pastures and better working conditions. Once again, here we are in Saskatchewan training nurses for the benefit of other provinces. Our retention rate here in Saskatchewan is the worst in Canada. According to the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, this province could lose about a quarter of its nurses within the

next year due to early retirement.

It's so bad, Mr. Speaker, even SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] has launched an ad campaign to try and retain nurses in this province. But what is interesting, Mr. Speaker, is the Health minister sees it differently. Last November this minister, this Health minister, this NDP Health minister, told *The StarPhoenix* that he believes that Saskatchewan has enough surgeons and medical professionals, which I would assume was registered nurses in that category. Facts show otherwise. Nurses are leaving this province in droves. With the high number of nurses leaving and the potential of a huge number retiring because of early retirement, does the minister really think that we have enough nurses practising in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, the members opposite didn't vote for the budget last year that provided further funding to provide more nursing training spaces in this province. We are working to provide more nursing training spaces. We are working within the employment situation to make sure that the workplaces are conducive and complementary to what the workers need to do. And we are continuing to work to make sure that the professionals in our health system are part of a very good health system that provides the services for everybody.

The members opposite have raised this issue again and again. But when we put forward very clear plans about how to expand this, they vote against it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member is right in one part. The Saskatchewan Party through the great work of the member from Melfort has talked about this for years and years and years.

We've talked about the need for a human resources plan. We've talked about the need to hire more full-time nurses. We've talked about the need to train more nurses. We've talked about many reasons why nurses need competitive salaries and forgiveness of loans, Mr. Speaker. In fact, idea no. 11, 12, and 34 of the Saskatchewan Party's 100 ideas addresses these very issues.

Even SUN is talking about the need for a human resources plan. Last November SUN's president, Rosalee Longmoore, told the *StarPhoenix*:

We're not retaining new (nursing) graduates in this province . . . we need to retain every new graduate in this province . . . [by offering them a] full-time job . . .

When will the minister get a human resources plan for registered nurses to retain them in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, we'll continue to work with the nursing profession. We'll continue to work with SUN, and we'll continue to make sure that we have a supply of nurses.

Now the member opposite raised the issue about the age of nurses in Saskatchewan. Information for the year 2003, which is what we, the last year that we have, was that the average age of a nurse in Saskatchewan is 44.9. The average age across the country is 44.5. Mr. Speaker, this relates to a number of us in this Assembly and the fact that we're all in that category of where we're going to be retiring and needing replacement.

I think that part of what we need to do, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to nursing, as it relates to all of the different professions, is to continue to work and make sure we get our young people living and working and providing good care in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, obviously he has no plan for retaining nurses, no human resources plan, because SUN has said so itself, that the government doesn't know where it's going on this file, Mr. Speaker. In fact they are even suggesting . . . a number of people in this province are suggesting an early retirement for the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. McMorris: — Right now, the nursing shortage is being managed by overtime — overtime done by many of the nurses who are being overworked through this overtime. Nursing graduates are unable to find full-time work. So how does this square? We have nurses doing mega hours of overtime, and yet nursing graduates can't find full-time work.

Injuries in nurses are skyrocketing due to the overtime, the stress, and the burnout that this NDP government is putting them through. A human resources plan is needed to address the unsafe levels of nursing and the amount of overtime that they are having to put in. Why isn't there a human resources plan? That's not asking very much. Why isn't there a human resources plan in this province to alleviate the overtime that nurses are forced to work in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite, when he's quoting documents, might want to go back to our nursing strategy document which we released last August. And it sets out many of the questions and concerns that the member opposite has.

Now we know that there are challenges around overtime in some parts of our province; in other parts, it's not quite as much

of an issue. But we are looking at addressing that, working together with the nursing managers, with the regional health authorities. We're looking at it on a broad basis across the province. We're looking at it together with the unions because many of the issues relate to the contracts and how they're structured. And all of these kinds of issues will continue to be part of what we do to make sure that we provide good care for Saskatchewan people. Mr. Speaker, we need to be working very diligently at this, and we are.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has the worst nursing retention rate in all of the nation. And part of that is because our salaries for nurses are the lowest outside of Atlantic Canada. And Mr. Speaker, negotiations are going to be starting next week. Our question is, is the government going to go to those negotiations with the mandate of 0, 1, and 1? And can he please explain to me what that is going to do — 0, 1, and 1 — is going to do to attract nurses to stay in this province or attract nurses from other provinces? What is 0, 1, and 1 going to do to attract nurses within this province?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, in this province we are like one big family. All of us . . . and what I would say is that all of us — members on this side, members opposite — have nurses in their families. And they end up also being taxpayers. And you end up having to work and try to make sure we get the right balance between the kinds of resources that we have available through our taxation system and the right resources to make sure that we retain all of the professionals that we need in this province.

Mr. Speaker, we've done a very good job on this side of the House for quite a number of years in making sure we get that balance, and it's not a very easy task. We've had to deal with it in quite a number of areas. Mr. Speaker, we'll find a solution to this one, and we'll make sure that all of our very good nurses continue to provide care for Saskatchewan people.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Support for Agriculture

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Goodale's 2005 federal budget wiped out the farm improvement loan program. Mr. Speaker, this program was used for years by producers to purchase equipment, buildings, land, and livestock. Saskatchewan represents about 80 per cent of the loans approved under this program, and a majority of Saskatchewan credit unions are involved in these loans. In fact, in the third quarter of 2004 alone, Saskatchewan credit unions made about 500 such loans to the tune of \$15 million.

Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party raised this issue at the end of February with the Ag minister, and he said he would lobby his federal counterparts in early March. Will the minister report to the Assembly today how he has made out on those negotiations?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this whole issue around the loans was raised with the federal minister. We have pushed on this, and we were extremely disappointed when the budget did not continue to provide for these loans, Mr. Speaker. We know that they have been very important for producers in this province, and we will continue to press to try and make sure that those needs are covered.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, once again our NDP Ag minister has failed to come through for the farmers of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, another issue I'd like to ask questions to the Ag minister about. Last year the Premier, the NDP Premier, and the Ag minister dragged his feet on fully funding the CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] program — in fact didn't make the announcement until December. As a result, Mr. Speaker, producers across Saskatchewan are still waiting for the 2003 CAIS payments.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. After a year of drought, devastating frost, BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy], poor quality crops, farmers are desperate for some additional income and they're still waiting, Mr. Speaker. Spring seeding is just around the corner. Mr. Speaker, when can our Saskatchewan farmers expect these cheques?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm really appreciating the fact that the member raises this issue because when we were in the midst of a, engaged in a very, very difficult struggle to try and get a better deal for Saskatchewan, where were they? Nowhere to be seen, Mr. Speaker, nowhere to be seen. They would not stand up for the people of Saskatchewan. Instead doom and gloom, push on this particular minister, but they were nowhere there in terms of standing up for the people of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we have continued to press to get a better deal for the people and the farmers of Saskatchewan for the income stabilization program. And I can tell you that we are pressing the federal government to get these payments out in a timely manner as well. Mr. Speaker, as those forms come in and are completed, they are processed. And, Mr. Speaker, where there are questions — and they do come into our office — we press

for them to get done in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we would be the first to support that government in saying that funding is not fair. But having said that, Mr. Speaker, who does that minister think he's helping, and who does he think he's hurting by not fully funding these programs?

You know who he's helping? He's helping the federal government because they don't have to divvy up as soon with their share of the money.

Who is he hurting? He's hurting Saskatchewan farm families who haven't received any money from that program from 2003, Mr. Speaker. That's who he's hurting. And Saskatchewan farm families are going to hold him accountable come next election, Mr. Speaker. Once again they're using Saskatchewan farm families as pawns when they're trying to negotiate with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, no. 47 of the Saskatchewan Party's 100 ideas calls for full funding of Saskatchewan's share of any federal-provincial ag program to which the province is a signatory. Will the minister commit to that today? Mr. Speaker, will that government, that Premier, and that minister commit for once, finally, to help farm families in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's 47th on their agenda. It's been number one on my agenda for the whole last . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Mr. Speaker, we did fully fund the 2003 CAIS program, another \$110 million dollars, Mr. Speaker. We made sure that that funding was in place. And I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, I was ashamed of their brethren, the federal PC [Progressive Conservative], who were nowhere to be seen on this fight at all. The budget, where were they? They abstained. They were nowhere there, your brethren on the PC Party. Mr. Speaker, they did not have the courage to stand up and help Saskatchewan farmers. We did and we brought this money forward and we fully funded for '03. And, Mr. Speaker, we'll be with our farmers today and in the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Performance of Government and Opposition

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely incredible. That Minister of Agriculture just stood in his place and said CAIS funding was his number one priority, Mr. Speaker. Last year it didn't take two months or three months or four months or five or six for this NDP government to say that it would fund the share of the program it signed on to. It took 12 months, Mr. Speaker. He didn't sign on it until December. He still hasn't signed on for 2004.

Mr. Speaker, if that's what constitutes a number one priority for the NDP government, then bring on the election in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Premier of the province. Once again today we have found out the NDP have absolutely no ideas. They have no ideas with respect to agriculture. They have no ideas on health care. They still refuse to listen to the people of the province with respect to the food allowance.

Mr. Speaker, maybe the Premier could stand up and highlight for this Assembly and the people of the province why he stopped listening to Saskatchewan people. Why won't he listen to the people of the province? Why is this government devoid of any vision or any ideas for our future?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition seems to take question period and want to turn it into speech period.

Mr. Speaker, I'm telling you that the people of Saskatchewan don't look for rhetoric. They don't look for little flyers and pamphlets with 100 ideas. They look for results, Mr. Speaker. And what they get from this government is results. It's a government with a vision that brings that vision to reality, and the proof is, Mr. Speaker, the proof is you just take a look at the February job numbers in the province of Saskatchewan — 11,400 new jobs in the province of Saskatchewan in the month of February alone. That's a result.

This is a government that stands with its producers, that stands with its farmers, that fully funds CAIS while their brothers and sisters in the federal Conservative Party hide under their desks in Ottawa and will not stand up for the Saskatchewan people and the Saskatchewan farmer. Mr. Speaker, this is a government that takes vision and makes of that vision reality, not rhetoric.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier started off with an attempt at a joke or a one-liner. We think he might be using the same writer that the Minister of Health was using yesterday. We're more than willing to help him out more than just with ideas for the province; we'll also help him out with his jokes or

his one-liners if he wants to make that request.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier said the people of the province are interested in results and he is exactly correct; he is exactly correct. Because the results of this government are the worst job creation record in the last five years, the fastest growing rate of utilization of food banks in the province, the longest waits for surgical care in the country right here in the birthplace of medicare — those are the results of this Premier and this government's lack of vision and lack of leadership in Saskatchewan.

Today we talked about ideas no. 11, 12, 34, and 47. The question to the Premier is, will he implement at least one of them, at least one of those ideas, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — What was the question? What was the question? Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about results. Well let's take a look at the results of his first year of leadership; let's take a look at the results.

You know, Mr. Speaker, when the member from Elrose was leading the Saskatchewan Party, he produced, he produced a plan, a vision; they called it Grow Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Speaker, while I fundamentally disagreed with his plan, what I could see in that plan was a philosophical basis for a future, a philosophical position. I could see a relatively consistent plan even though I disagreed with the philosophy and I disagreed with many of the recommendations, Mr. Speaker. And the people of Saskatchewan equally disagreed with the philosophy and the recommendations.

In a whole year in office, what has the new Leader of the Opposition produced? Well a little pamphlet with a variety of ideas, most of which they've taken from activity of this government — some of which may be good and some of them the people of Saskatchewan and this government will not touch with a 10-foot pole. That's the result.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes . . . Order, please. Order, please. The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Oh, pardon me. Pardon me.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — I'd never see that as one of my visions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask for leave of the Assembly to deal with a motion with respect to the consideration of private Bills.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has requested

leave to proceed with private Bills. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

MOTIONS

Timetable for Consideration of Private Bills

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, I move:

That notwithstanding rule 75 this Assembly allows private Bills to be considered during the resumption of the first session of the twenty-fifth legislature on the following dates:

All petitions shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly not later than Monday, April 4; no petition shall be received by the Assembly if presented after Wednesday, April 6; and no private Bill may be introduced in the Assembly after Wednesday, April 13.

I would so move, seconded by the member for Melfort.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader, the member for Regina Douglas Park, and seconded by the member for Melfort:

That notwithstanding rule 75 this Assembly allow private Bills to be considered during the resumption of the first session of the twenty-fifth legislature on the following dates:

All petitions shall be filed with the Clerk of the Assembly not later than Monday, April 4; no petition shall be received by the Assembly if presented after Wednesday, April 6; and no Private Bill may be introduced in the Assembly after Wednesday, April 13.

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: — The motion is carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Once again I am extremely pleased to stand up on behalf of the government and table a response to written question 896.

The Speaker: — Response to question 896 has been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

MOTIONS

Saskatchewan Centennial

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the centennial Chair, the member for Moose Jaw North.

Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to enter into this debate which I think could be, could be classified somewhat as an historical debate, but perhaps more appropriately this sitting of the legislature as an historical sitting of the legislature.

I'm very, very pleased to join in the debate moved by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition. And we'll of course at the end of the day be supporting the motion which in summary commends the people of Saskatchewan for helping to be . . . for contributing in many ways over the course of our first century to provide for us the Saskatchewan we've inherited today and the Saskatchewan which has such a promising future.

Mr. Speaker, it is, as we come here together, this is the final sitting of the Legislative Assembly that Saskatchewan will have in the course of our first century as a province. Once we leave this sitting and we next return to this place, it will be in fact at that time the first sitting of the legislature of Saskatchewan in our second century.

And so it is with a sense of humility that I must say that I feel very, very proud to be one of 58 to make up the centennial legislature of the province of Saskatchewan. And I consider it an extreme honour to serve my province, Mr. Speaker, as Chair of our centennial in the course of our celebrations for 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I was not lucky enough to be born here in Saskatchewan. I grew up in Alberta, went off to the University of Manitoba, fell in love with a Saskatchewan girl, and — I would add — lived happily ever after, Mr. Speaker. But perhaps it's not so surprising that it was a Saskatchewan girl that I was attracted to, as both my grandmother and my mother were Saskatchewan girls.

I'd just like to reflect for a moment if I may on a couple of experiences that to me signify so much of what is true about basic Saskatchewan values, and in fact one of which I think was referred to in some kinds of ways in our question period here today.

My grandfather came from Britain as one of the homes children, Mr. Speaker, who came from the Barnardo's homes, came to Toronto — or to Ontario, I should say — and after having reached the age of maturity, decided to make his future and came out west. And as he was walking down the CPR

[Canadian Pacific Railway] main line, he came to meet the section foreman in Webb, Saskatchewan. He was walking with another man at the time, and asked the section foreman if he needed a man. He said yes and the other man continued to walk on, and my grandfather stayed. He ended up falling in love with the section foreman's daughter who became eventually my grandmother.

And I remember talking in our home, as I was a young lad, with my mother — who then was born in Webb, Saskatchewan, in the section house on the CPR main line — and listening to her talk about a time that was so captivating in Canadian and Saskatchewan history, the time of the dirty thirties.

And in the dirty thirties many of us will recall was a time when the men rode the rails across this country looking for work. And when you lived in a section house on the CPR main line, you were frequently a place where men would stop to see if it would be possible to find something to eat. And I remember my mother telling me, how when she was a little girl, she can remember her mother sometimes baking three batches of bread in a single day because in that household, there was a rule that when a man came to the door looking for food, he was never, ever turned away hungry. But there was also something else that was an important rule, was that before he ate, there was just a little bit of wood that needed chopping.

Mr. Speaker, when I reflect on that and I reflect on the great respect that my grandmother has for those who serve in public office and I reflect on the experience of my mother and my grandmother through that difficult part of Saskatchewan history, as I look back, it was a time when I learned one of the very, very important rules, a basic rule about Saskatchewan values. Because, Mr. Speaker, more than anything else, as we reflect on our first century as a province in this great nation, I think we see our province as a decent place with decent people who live by decent values. And, Mr. Speaker, I think in many ways that will be exemplified in our celebrations.

When I look at the Saskatchewan roots, it is very, very important that we not assume that the history of Saskatchewan began back in 1905. Surely in 1905 we became a province in the nation. But it was long before that, not just 100 years ago, but literally hundreds of years ago that Saskatchewan history began with the settlement of this land by our First Nations people and then subsequently by our Métis people, who were very much a foundation of the population and the culture of Saskatchewan before the European settlers came west to build their futures.

And to me it seems it's very, very important as we come to the celebration of our centennial year that we should ought to acknowledge in ways that are important and that provide for living legacies to commend the great contribution to First Nations peoples, to Métis peoples who were very much a part of the settlement of the West, of Saskatchewan, by those first settlers. We are all . . . It is important I think as well that we recognize the importance of the treaties that were signed and that were the source of over a hundred years of peaceful coexistence and in fact much more than that. In many ways the settlers came to our land; they were supported in dealing with the harshness of the environment that they dealt with by those who were here as our First Nations and Métis citizens of the

territories at that time.

[14:30]

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very, very clear that as we celebrate our centennial we are celebrating, we are celebrating 100 years of provincial membership in this great Confederation of Canada. And that it is also important that we acknowledge history as it went back prior to that.

Like many other members around the House, we will often find ourselves driving across this great province late at night — oftentimes later than we should ought to be driving — and we find ourselves reflecting as we look around at the patchwork of the jewels of light that we find across the prairie land.

And I've often found myself reflecting back to that time when the European settlers first started to come out west where there were no roads, there were no lights, there were no trees. But what there was, Mr. Speaker, were dreams, dreams of young men and women — some with their families, some without — coming west to build a future, to build a future because they believed that this was a land that had great promise, a promise to build a future with security and with opportunity for their families.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of admiration about the courage of those men and women who came west that I want to simply commend some of the great pioneers who began to shape the Saskatchewan that we have inherited today.

If I could just reflect back to the period of September 1905 . . . what happened back then, Mr. Speaker, in history was that there was a great debate going on prior to that over the course of the summer of 1905 in the House of Commons in Ottawa as to what should ought to happen to this vast expanse of land between the province of Manitoba and the province of British Columbia. And there were several versions, actually, of what should ought to happen with the prospects of provincehood being dedicated to this expanse of land.

One notion was that it should ought to be one large province. Another was that there should ought to be a northern province and a southern province. And the third — the one that was finally decided on by the members of the House of Commons at that time — was that there should be two provinces divided as we know them today between the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. And subsequently after debate in the July of 1905, The Saskatchewan Act and the Act for our sister province in Alberta were passed and came into force on September 1.

But as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate our centennials, we will not celebrate them on the same day with our sister province in Alberta. And it is partially for the reasons that we are here.

It is for reasons that spell out our exercise of democratic practice, our forms of democracy in which we live, within the constitutional monarchy where the head of state is the defender of the constitutional rights of all of our citizens. That spells out why it is that we celebrate our centennial anniversaries on two different dates.

The Saskatchewan Act, the Alberta Act both came into force on September 1 and gave both provinces the authority, the right to exist as provinces at that time. But we celebrate them on the first and the fourth because those were the dates of inauguration. And what happened in history, Mr. Speaker, is that on September 1, Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Governor General Earl Grey — Earl Grey, he's the one who donated the Grey Cup that the Riders are going to win in our centennial year — the two of them got on to a train, went out to Edmonton, and Lieutenant Governor Bulyea took the oath of office.

They then got on the train and came to Regina, Saskatchewan. And on the afternoon of September 4, Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Governor Amédée Forget, who at that time was serving as the lieutenant governor of the North-West Territories, took the oath of office, thus becoming Saskatchewan's first lieutenant governor and thus enabling Saskatchewan to function as a democracy. It is our inauguration date, and it is our anniversary date. It has always been thus, and it will be the day that we'll celebrate our centennial.

Just kind of interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, a quick aside. I think we learned a little bit about ourselves through an event that had nothing to do with planning that occurred on that September 4 because it was part of the plan as Saskatchewan was going to enter into active participation into the great Confederation of Canada that there would be a great parade that would occur on the streets here in Regina. And the plan was that there would be bands and floats and military men with all of their medals proudly worn, First Nations leaders with full dress on horseback, and proud politicians — city councillors from Regina, MLAs, former members of the North-West Territories — walking the streets in the parade.

And as history would have it, a circus came to town just at that time . . . was called the Floto Circus and was known at that time as having the biggest elephant in North America. Mama Mary was her name. And the Floto Circus did what circuses will do in those days. They applied for a parade permit so that they could . . . because what happened in those days, the circus would have a parade. People would come to the parade; they'd follow it down to the circus grounds; and that's the way the world worked. And they did what they would usually do. They applied to the city of Regina for a parade permit. The city of Regina in its wisdom said, no.

As I read the accounts back in the reports then, nobody will quite explain just why it is that they wouldn't grant the parade permit, but I think it was kind of obvious. They were having this distinguished parade. For heaven sakes, we were entering into the great Confederation of Canada, and we didn't want to mess it up with some stinky animals.

So, Mr. Speaker, what happened is the grand parade was held, with the bands and the floats and the military men and the First Nations and the proud politicians walking along behind. And the Floto Circus said, you know what, if they're having a parade we're coming anyhow. And when they got to the end of the parade they just tucked right in at the end of the parade with Mamma Mary and the elephants walking front to tail right out front, followed by the animals and the wagons and the clowns.

And, Mr. Speaker, it said to me two things. When we look at what we do when we come to our celebration this year, it seems to me we could take the advice of those who I . . . If we were able to talk to those who were there that day and ask them, that day that Saskatchewan had its inauguration and entered into active participation in the Confederation, what do you remember best? And I have a sneaking suspicion that nobody would have said it was the proud politicians walking down the parade route. I think they would have said it was the elephants, Mr. Speaker.

And what that said to me is that when we come to this day on September 4, 2005, it should ought to be a day of celebration, a day of fun for our people. Surely we will want to recommit ourselves to the great Confederation of Canada and those things will happen. But it should ought to be a day of celebration across the province of Saskatchewan. And that is certainly part of the plan.

The other part of reflection, Mr. Speaker, I know we are nothing in Saskatchewan if we're not flexible and we're not ingenious. Because I notice as well that when you read historic accounts about the time that Saskatchewan came into Confederation, they will often refer to a grand parade that was held, including elephants they'll say, just as if we had planned it that way.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have the ability to chuckle at ourselves and to claim responsibility when good things happen despite the fact that they may not have been planned, but we move on as a people prepared to celebrate in our centennial year.

Mr. Speaker, if you look back over the course of our first century, it was very characteristic here in Saskatchewan that we had an economy that was very much driven by the world value of wheat. We were . . . Wheat was king. We were the breadbasket of the world. In very many ways that spelled out what was the major driving force in our economy here in Saskatchewan.

Over the course of our first century and particularly as we moved into the second half of our century, our economy has changed. And we come now, as we come to the cusp of our second century, with a different kind of economic makeup as we find ourselves looking back with a sense of pride and accomplishment, but also finding ourselves looking ahead with a sense of confidence and optimism, with a much more diverse economy that is not as victim to forces beyond our control that can have significant devastating effects at times on our economy.

And so we come to a time today on the verge of our second century in which agriculture continues to be, and I think for our second century will long continue to be a very important part of the Saskatchewan economy. But added to that, a growing manufacturing industry, a tourism industry that is growing, that in fact will be celebrated with the Rendez-vous Canada gathering that will take place in Saskatoon in the month of May which will be an absolutely immense opportunity for Saskatchewan tourism operators.

Also minerals are continuing to play an increasingly important role in our economy and the future for employment and

revenues in order to provide services. In many ways our first century has been dedicated to the production of food. As we become more diverse in the world of agriculture, and in many ways I think in our second century the role of potash as an important ingredient in fertilizer to help feed those in a hungry world where the populations are growing the greatest, will continue to be strong.

Those who like to dream and to envisage what hasn't happened to a large extent, I think with some substance can see in our second century that diamonds may very well be an important commodity out of the province of Saskatchewan.

And surely it will be that in our second century this will be a province with energy. Not only the energy of our people — in many ways a province among the youngest of all the provinces in the nation as we come to our second century — but energy in terms of production of energy whether it's enhanced oil recovery or whether it's production of energy through wind energy.

Mr. Speaker, we are well positioned in this province at this point in time to respect the demands and the pressures of a clean environment, at the same time to see the potential to move forward in economic terms. To many people the concept of taking carbon dioxide, injecting it underground, and increasing your ability to extract oil seems almost magic, that you can take something you're trying to get rid of and use it to gain something that is extremely valuable to our people. And that happens because this is a province that is committed to doing the research that's necessary in order to be a part of an emerging economy.

And certainly in our second century, Mr. Speaker, it would seem that the knowledge economy would be very much a part of Saskatchewan's future. When I've talked with young people about the potential in Saskatchewan's future, they marvel at the fact that the greatest, the greatest science project in the nation is right here in our Saskatchewan, with the synchrotron, which will certainly be the source of a great deal of development related to the knowledge economy that will promise to be an important part of our second century.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as we come to celebrate and we reflect on our province, our history, and our future we find ourselves emerging with a theme and the theme that has been chosen and has resonated well with Saskatchewan people for the celebration of our centennial is this, 100 years of heart.

This is a province, Mr. Speaker, in which people see ourselves as a decent people and which we're often referred to as the heart of the nation. And so it is most appropriate that when we come together in celebration we find ourselves celebrating 100 years of heart.

And over the course of the celebration we find ourselves looking back and ahead at the same time — back with a sense of pride and accomplishment; ahead with a sense of confidence and optimism. And the confidence and optimism about the future for our young people is based on the strength of what we have inherited from those who have come before us.

Mr. Speaker, I think one of the things that is very true as we

look back is we will be able to identify clearly those who have been pioneers in the shaping of our province. And they had three things in common, no matter what field of activity it was — the ability to dream big, to plan well, and to work hard.

Mr. Speaker, that's how we got where we are today. And I suggest that those same characteristics, the ability to dream big and to plan well — we call them strategic planners these days — but to plan well and to work hard, are alive and well in the province of Saskatchewan. And as they were 100 years ago, those are characteristics of young people in this province, because the truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that it is the youth of our province today who will be the pioneers of our second century as we look back at our bicentennial celebration, which I suspect will involve people in this House, none of whom are here today.

Mr. Speaker, in order to honour those who have been the contributors of our first century, our pioneers of our first century, and those who will be the builders of our second century, the centennial celebration includes several things. One of those is the granting . . . And we've heard in the Assembly here of presentations of medallions to centenarians, those who are 100 years or more. Mr. Speaker, many are surprised to know that we have 347 centenarians in the province of Saskatchewan, people who are 100 years or older. Some would say the air, must be something good about the air or the water. I would suggest maybe there's something good about the quality of life in this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, we will also commemorate those born, our New Year's babies on January 1 and September 4, and those will be presentations made by members of the Assembly to people in their own constituencies.

It has also been the desire of the centennial celebration to create a couple of legacies that would enable the honour that is deserving of our pioneers and our youth to be, to be recognized by their own. And so, Mr. Speaker, there is a seniors legacy fund and a youth legacy fund which have been created related to the sales of licence plates, commemorative licence plates or centennial merchandise, both of which will be overseen by the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism on the one hand, the Provincial Youth Advisory Committee on the other, in the interest of seniors or youth who are wanting to make their futures here in our Saskatchewan.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, it is the great strength — not surprisingly in this province in which we are the volunteer capital of Canada — it is the great strength of our centennial celebration that they will occur largely as dreamed and planned and carried out by people in communities all across the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I met last summer with the minister responsible for centennial celebrations in Alberta, and when we told them there that here in the province of Saskatchewan we have over 150 centennial committees all around the province of Saskatchewan, their mouth fell open. It's just something that they can dream about there; in Saskatchewan it's the reality. Mr. Speaker, we will have many, many celebrations that will be locally initiated and supported in a number of ways by the centennial celebrations.

Mr. Speaker, it was kind of surprising to some when we kicked off the centennial celebrations on January 1 from the rotunda of this building. I announced at that time that there were 1,100 centennial events that are registered on the centennial website. The large, large, large, large majority of those organized locally by community groups and organizations. Mr. Speaker, last week we entered on the website event number 2,005 for 2005, and the truth of the matter is that there will be way over 2,000 centennial celebrations and events that will take place around the province over the course of our centennial year and as I say, the large, large majority of those coming through the volunteer efforts of people at the local level.

The highways are going to be busy from people travelling both within the province and expatriates coming back to Saskatchewan over the course of our centennial celebration. There will be, there are already registered over 300 homecomings and reunion events that will bring people together to celebrate their roots and to reacquaint themselves with friends and family, to visit and to share memories, and also to share dreams and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, it's going to be a busy summer. Over 600 events already planned just for the month of July alone, and that continues to grow. There will also be, with the mixture of the many, many community-based local events around the province of Saskatchewan, there will be a small collection of signature events which are important to have in your centennial year as well. One of the most outstanding I think will be the Jeux du Canada summer games, as the eyes of the nation will turn to Saskatchewan as we bring together amateur athletes from across the nation.

Mr. Speaker, this will be the first gathering of amateur athletes since we were all glued to the televisions last summer as we watched the Olympic Games in Athens. And of the young men and women across the nation who come to Saskatchewan, largely in Regina but Moose Jaw and Lumsden as well, joining us as hosts, this will be the first gathering of amateur athletes since. And among those young men and women will be many who will be the Canadian Olympians when they gather in Beijing in '08. And the Jeux du Canada Summer Games, Mr. Speaker, which will also be a celebration of culture and a celebration of our centennial comes to Saskatchewan this year largely when it was won in the bid several years ago because it's our centennial year.

It is also a time to celebrate the arts and there will be many celebrations of the arts. I won't go through the list. They're too long to list in the time I have available. But one of the signature events in the celebration of the arts, Mr. Speaker, will be the Lieutenant Governor's centennial gala which will bring together in the month of May many outstanding Saskatchewan performers who have made their careers or have their roots here in our Saskatchewan and for whose fame goes well beyond the provincial borders of Saskatchewan, in a grand celebration of the arts.

This is a province, Mr. Speaker, which is often referred to as a province with spirit and with soul and I think it's no surprise to many that it is a province which tends to produce beyond its numbers, beyond its proportion, those who are outstanding in the world of the arts.

Mr. Speaker, the National Aboriginal Awards which will occur this month held here in our Saskatchewan. These are Aboriginal award winners for across the nation but held here in our centennial year because of the recognition of the absolute importance of the wellbeing of our First Nations people and our Métis people. Mr. Speaker, in many ways when you think about it, we are all connected by common future and the future wellbeing of our First Nations and Métis people is intimately connected to the future wellbeing of our province as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the RBC Royal Bank hockey championship will be held in Weyburn in the month of May. Little did they know when they bid and won that, that it would be a year in which there was no NHL [National Hockey League] hockey and so this will be a national championship for hockey that will probably attract more attention just because of the times that we're in than was originally anticipated.

On September 4, Mr. Speaker, our actual anniversary day, there will be regional celebrations that will take place in 15 centres around the province of Saskatchewan, who will act as hosts inviting those in the area to come together in grand celebration of our centennial and there will be more details on that in the not too distant future.

The Queen will be visiting and to many in the tradition of our historical membership in the Commonwealth, Mr. Speaker, and still in our system of a constitutional monarchy, that will be an important event for many of our Saskatchewan citizens as they celebrate their centennial.

July 1, and with the appreciation I have I want to express to the federal government for support it's provided as we celebrate on Canada Day our anniversary year, our centennial year, as a province within the nation. We will find the communities in celebration across the piece.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, if I can just refer to the centennial song that was sung just next door, Mr. Speaker, yesterday by Brad Johner who was selected to be the, to sing the official version of the Saskatchewan centennial song. After 250 Saskatchewan people put heart to pencil to paper, our distinguished judges, Saskatchewan judges, selected Stan Garchinski's song, "Saskatchewan, We Love this Place!". A title and the lyrics, Mr. Speaker, most befitting of a province that chooses that as its motto for our province, "from many peoples, strength."

And so, Mr. Speaker, as I take my place I just want to acknowledge that over the course of our first century we owe so much to so many. And there will be great strengths that we will have in our province that we will identify. Some will say it is our resources and our riches that we have been blessed with, others will say it's our topography and our living skies and our beautiful sunsets, and they would all be right.

But at the end of the day, the greatest strength of this province, Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate our centennial, is our people. We have a people who are respected. I believe there is a thing called a Saskatchewan culture that defines who we are, how we see ourselves, and how others see us beyond our borders. And it is a culture, Mr. Speaker, which I believe makes us strong. In many ways, Mr. Speaker, I think we see and we are, in the finest

sense of the word, we are a humble people in Saskatchewan. This is a place where people still work hard. The work ethic is alive and well in the province of Saskatchewan.

This is a province in which people still care deeply. We are the volunteer capital of the nation. This is a province, Mr. Speaker, in which people are honest and in which people are trustworthy, trusting. This is a province, Mr. Speaker, in which we see ourselves as dedicated to our communities and we see ourselves as co-operative in reaching solutions that affect us all, and in which we see ourselves, in the broadest sense of the word, as members of the same Saskatchewan family. Mr. Speaker, I think that is the great strength.

The Saskatchewan centennial. No matter which way you look, when you look back or you look ahead, the truth of the matter is there are a million reasons to celebrate in this province, because it's all about the people.

And, Mr. Speaker, I take my place indicating that I will support this motion because I believe to the core of my being, as I think so many Saskatchewan people do, that when we stop and reflect in this very busy and often troubled world, that the world could use a little more Saskatchewan. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it too is an honour to enter into the debate this afternoon following the member from Moose Jaw North who has taken us through a bit of a history lesson. I listened very closely to the points that he was making about where Saskatchewan has moved and how we have become the province that we are. And indeed all of the remarks were very well put, I might add.

And Mr. Speaker, as I looked at the motion in the last couple of days there are absolutely no points within the motion that I or any members of our opposition caucus disagree with. But I believe that there can be an enhancement and a strengthening of that motion, and I'm going to be adding to this motion at the conclusion of my remarks, Mr. Speaker.

But Mr. Speaker, before I do that I want to talk about the new constituency of Canora-Pelly. It is a constituency that was created for the election, for the general election of 2003, and it puts together a vast array of communities. I'm sure that many rural constituencies, Mr. Speaker, are very similar to the Canora-Pelly constituency. We have in the constituency of Canora-Pelly 16 urban communities with, I'll say significant population, if in fact you can refer to 25 people as significant. But they are a registered urban community, Mr. Speaker, and there are 16 of those communities.

Included in that constituency there are also 11 rural municipalities, all or parts of 11 rural municipalities. There are three First Nations communities, Cote, Key, and Keeseekoose, all very active First Nations communities. Also in the Canora-Pelly constituency there are two provincial parks, Good

Spirit Lake and Duck Mountain. Now, Mr. Speaker, I mention these communities because as the province has grown, each one of these communities has contributed to the development of the province.

We know that many communities in rural Saskatchewan have been adversely affected by a declining population, a movement of people from rural Saskatchewan to more urban Saskatchewan, whether that be the cities or in fact moving completely outside of the province of Saskatchewan.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are still very active and viable communities. And as I travel through the constituency, it's interesting when you stop and talk to the people who have been in the community for a long time, they all have a story. They all have a story about a particular thing that happened in the dirty thirties or whether they occurred during, you know, the very prosperous times after World War II. Or they'll talk about a particular year in fact, a very specific year when maybe the crops were left out under the snow for an entire year and harvesting took place in the spring. And that has been a very common thing in the area that I come from of east central Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, three of my communities, Canora, Kamsack, and Preeceville, are the largest communities and they are obviously the most active communities in my constituency. Every one of those communities has already put together a centennial committee and have planned numerous centennial events.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Canora is celebrating on July 29. That will be their first day of their celebrations. They refer to their celebrations as the Colors 100. Now Colors has been the term that's used to describe that summer celebration for years, but now they've called it Colors 100. And it's going to be a three-day celebration. It's going to be a great time in the community of Canora.

And, Mr. Speaker, the community of Canora is also referred to as the Heart of Good Spirit Country. You'll see that phrase used often to describe the community of Canora because it is so close to Crystal Lake, to Good Spirit Lake, to Madge Lake, and Duck Mountain Provincial Park, and it is referred to as the Heart of Good Spirit Country.

One of the other things that I must mention about the community of Canora is that in the last number of years they've taken an initiative that needed to address the quality of water that actually was being supplied to the residents of Canora. And now after a very successful water development plan through many individuals in the town of Canora — and I'm not going to mention those individuals — back in an international water tasting competition in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia in 2003, the community of Canora has been deemed to be the best tasting municipal water in Canada. So that's a billboard . . . You'll see that billboard as you come in from Yorkton on Highway 9 into the community of Canora. You'll see that billboard that says that they have the best tasting water in all of Canada according to this competition in 2003.

[15:00]

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, prior to that water development

they weren't the best tasting. There was other adjectives that would have been used to describe the water in the town of Canora. But these are ideas that the people of Canora came forward with and developed it. Now the water supply is now being pumped to the community, the resort communities of Good Spirit Lake, to the communities of Rama, Mikado. They now have water pipelines that are supplying those residents as well. So a tremendous development there.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Preeceville is a little bit north of Canora and serves a vast area. And I know I've had discussions with the Minister of Health regarding the development of an expanded hospital in the town of Preeceville. And if you talk to anyone in Preeceville and surrounding communities about health care, that is number one. That is the number one priority. And it has been in the discussion stage for years. And the town and I were very pleased, were very pleased to see that the first phase was announced last year and that the potential development of that will take place.

Mr. Speaker, Musers' Rendezvous, held every year I believe now for about seven or eight years, brings the Canadian dogsled champions to Preeceville and on that date they raise dollars for this health care project. And I know, Mr. Speaker, that they have ranged from 15 to \$25,000 net profit per Musers' Rendezvous in Preeceville held every February. That has raised thousands of dollars, Mr. Speaker, for this anticipated project.

The community of Preeceville of course is also looking forward to its centennial celebrations and has initiated a history book that they . . . a second edition, the first edition having been completed in 1982. So it will be a great project for them. They have their homecoming scheduled for a July long weekend as well.

One of the other developments that doesn't just affect Preeceville, Mr. Speaker, but also most recently in fact the Cote First Nation, is that an oil and gas company out of Winnipeg, Nordic Oil and Gas Ltd., has been in the area for a couple of years and has been doing some drilling — to the point that the results from the first well have initiated the company to in fact proceed with the drilling on a second well. And the optimism is tremendous, Mr. Speaker, in that the development now may expand to drilling on the Cote First Nation. And that whole area around Rockford, Usherville, through across to Cote First Nation, may in fact be an oil and gas development area of the future, Mr. Speaker. So there's tremendous optimism in that whole area.

Mr. Speaker, the third community I mentioned, of course, is the community of Kamsack. Kamsack again is the key or the gateway to the Duck Mountain Provincial Park. And one of the interesting things when I was in the community of Kamsack on Sunday of this past week, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to visit with the board of directors of and the mayor of Kamsack about a concern of the Eaglestone personal care home. And I was intrigued to learn that Preeceville . . . sorry, that Kamsack and the town of Kamsack, along with all of the municipalities around Kamsack, are the shareholders, I guess is the best term, of the largest not-for-profit level 1 and level 2 personal care home in the province. And that is Eaglestone Lodge personal care home.

It's a facility that I think we would all want to have in our communities, because what it does is provide care; it provides to the needs for level 1 and level 2 patients. And what those residents . . . And I shouldn't call them patients because what they are really is residents of a family home, but it is just a larger family home that includes 42 residents. And within their suites, which of course are more independent individuals, there are five people in there. It's full. It operates with a waiting list. And, Mr. Speaker, it's a facility that the people of Saskatchewan and the people of east central Saskatchewan are very proud of. And we want to make sure that in fact that that facility continues.

Mr. Speaker, when I talk about the other communities in my constituency, I quickly want to mention all of them so that I don't exclude some of them that have spent a lot of time when they look at the centennial projects and start to develop. So very quickly, Mr. Speaker, when I look at the communities of Springside and Norquay and Sturgis and Buchanan and Pelly, they sort of fall into the next stage. And I noted when the member from Moose Jaw North was talking about the development of Saskatchewan, I'm going to begin with the community of Pelly.

And I had the opportunity to visit the annual celebrations of the museum guild heritage group last summer and they took me out to what used to be Fort Livingstone. Now when I say used to be, Mr. Speaker, if you look at the rocks and the grass and the trees, that's all you'll see. You'll see depressions where buildings used to be, but I was very intrigued to find out that Fort Livingstone in fact was the centre of government of the North-West Territories for two years. And in fact it actually was where the government conducted its business there. Then it became a North-West Mounted Police headquarters, and then it was determined that that would be moved out.

Now unfortunately a fire completely destroyed everything, but the Pelly and area museum guild is actively pursuing . . . not just recognizing that a cairn is there to show people, but in fact that it can become a tourism centre. And they're looking at rebuilding, and they're working with federal officials from museum Canada and others.

And I was at a public meeting there where they met with officials from Alberta and other centres, and I'll tell you if enthusiasm is going to be a critical component of whether or not they're going to be successful, this group will be successful. They're looking at doing that, and they're very active in that community.

So when we look at their celebrations . . . on May 28 they're going to have their official museum opening for the year, and that's going to be a centennial kickoff. On August 1 they're going to have their official centennial days. And of course on September 9, as they did last year, they're going to have their annual museum guild day, and I'm sure that that's going to be out again at Fort Livingstone. So I wish Pelly and area well in what they do.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Springside has already identified July 17 as their centennial days, and they have a packed weekend planned for the whole weekend even though they've only identified the 17th as their day of celebration.

The community of Buchanan has identified August 8 as their reunion days, and I know that there are hundreds of people who have already replied to the committee in Buchanan and are going to be returning to that.

Mr. Speaker, when I grew up in the community of Invermay, which was quite near to Sturgis, as I was a youngster and in my teens, when July 1 came along each and every year you were hopeful that your parents were going to take you to the Sturgis Sports Day. I mean that was the component that was just missing if you didn't have the opportunity to go. And I recall a couple of times when in fact the Sturgis Sports Day was rained out, and that was just the most, you know, bitter disappointment that I had.

And as I became older of course and returned back to the community, our fastball team that played ball for many, many a year used to enjoy going to the Sturgis Sports Day and Rodeo on July 1. And, Mr. Speaker, that event is still going to take place in the year 2005. Only this year they're referring to it as the Sturgis Rodeo and Centennial Celebrations, and I know that they have a packed day planned.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the little community of Veregin, even the little community of Veregin who experienced some rather tragic difficulties here over the past number of years with a number of fires that destroyed very critical buildings within that community, they have recognized July 17 as their National Doukhobor Heritage Day. And on that day they're going to be celebrating the centennial as well.

Norquay kicked off their celebrations by identifying an annual event called their ladies bonspiel that they had as the Centennial Ladies Bonspiel back in February. And I understand that they had not just curling teams there, but they just had a great amount of people return, former curlers that probably don't curl very much right now, but they returned to celebrate the centennial. And they have other events.

And, Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on with all of those communities, but you can see that there is tremendous interest in recognizing the efforts of people, recognizing the efforts of the many people that have come before us in building this province and in building those communities. The smaller communities, as I've indicated there are about eight other urban communities that are going to work with their rural municipal councils.

I just for a moment want to talk about my home town, which isn't in the Canora-Pelly constituency. The community of Invermay is now in Kelvington-Wadena. But I know from a member who is on that centennial committee, they have had numerous meetings. And what took place there is that the centennial committee, which is operating through the recreation board, needed some funds to get started. So they went to the village of Invermay. And the village of Invermay has granted a loan of \$750 to them, and the rural municipality of Invermay also granted them a loan of \$750. So they have \$1,500 of what I'll call seed money, the ability to plan their events. And they have designated August 5, 6, and 7 — three days of celebration in Invermay.

So when I look at my calendar and the invitations to all of the

communities that I have to go to on August 4, 5, and 6, I think I'm going to be a fairly busy individual for those days. And I hope to in fact get back into my own community of Invermay to at least celebrate a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated at the outset of my remarks and after having discussed this with the member from Swift Current, the Leader of the Official Opposition, when I look at the motion . . . and it talks about future opportunity. It talks about the foundation, and it talks about the things that have happened in the past. We have had a number of ideas that have been put forward by Saskatchewan residents. We have many ideas that we believe that the province of Saskatchewan should look at as it determines its future, that it determines the foundation.

And, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated at the very beginning, the motion that has been put forward is completely supported. But I'd like to indicate that I would move an amendment to amend the centennial motion by adding the following after "future for Saskatchewan," the last three words of the motion:

And that in order to move the province into the next century, this Assembly urge the government to adopt the following measures:

(1) reduce provincial income tax for low-income residents; (2) build a new integrated health sciences facility at the University of Saskatchewan; (3) increase the food allowance for social assistance recipients;

(4) celebrate Saskatchewan's centennial by eliminating entry fees at all provincial parks in 2005; (5) establish a single health care agency for the entire province to maximize the use of Saskatchewan's health facilities and human resources; (6) negotiate with the federal government for an eight-year exemption on Saskatchewan's oil and gas revenues and their return to the 10-province standard for equalization payments;

(7) recognize the treaties as the foundation for a partnership between First Nations and non-First Nations people in the economic and social development of Saskatchewan; (8) support a sustainable livestock industry by instituting a provincial capital tax exemption and providing a PST rebate on all capital costs associated with new or expanded beef processing capacity in Saskatchewan; (9) establish a children's hospital in Saskatoon utilizing an existing acute care facility;

(10) create Enterprise Saskatchewan as the central economic development agency of government in partnership with industry, local government, First Nations, labour, and post-secondary institutions to deliver on the promise of Saskatchewan; (11) increase training seats for medical professionals at Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions; (12) forgive a portion of student loan debt for doctors, nurses, and other health science graduates who choose to stay and work in Saskatchewan;

(13) create a provincial fetal alcohol syndrome disorder (FASD) advisory board to address FASD issues in Saskatchewan and establish dedicated provincial FASD diagnostic centres; (14) establish crystal meth addiction

treatment centres capable of providing long-term treatment options and safe house facilities for high-risk individuals waiting for treatment;

(15) coordinate a province-wide system of community-based organizations to address addictions issues and the shortage of detox and in-patient treatment facilities in the province; (16) dedicate a percentage of liquor and gaming revenues to addictions programs and facilities including dedicated facilities and programs for youth addiction services; (17) implement an aggressive public awareness campaign in all Saskatchewan schools about the dangers of crystal meth;

(18) partner with the Government of Canada to building three new all-weather roads in Northern Saskatchewan to facilitate sustainable northern communities and sustainable northern economic development; (19) increase the amount a social assistant recipient can earn from employment while on assistance; (20) consult with First Nations and Métis people in the development, and prior to the implementation, of provincial legislation that impacts on the jurisdiction of Saskatchewan's First Nations . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[15:15]

Mr. Krawetz: —

(21) establish new growth tax incentives to encourage private sector investment in new or existing Saskatchewan businesses; (22) create a community infrastructure investment fund that pays an income tax-free return to Saskatchewan residents who invest in community infrastructure projects; (23) establish a provincial youth justice board to address youth crime, rehabilitation, and restitution measures . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: —

(24) create a diabetes health centre of excellence to improve the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes; (25) establish designated provincial conservation areas and protected wild spaces within Saskatchewan provincial parks; (26) make instruction in the history and content of the treaties signed between First Nations and the Government of Canada a part of the provincial core curriculum;

(27) increase funding for K to 12 education to provide short- and long-term property tax relief; (28) create innovation schools within our publicly funded K to 12 education system to deliver enhanced educational programming; (29) implement the School^{PLUS} program in all school divisions in Saskatchewan . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: —

(30) implement a program to reduce surgical waiting lists to the national average within four years; (31) make the University of Saskatchewan a centre for health excellence in North America; (32) support the expansion of entrepreneurial training to include every high school in Saskatchewan;

(33) commit all provincial fuel tax revenue as a minimum annual investment in provincial and municipal transportation construction and renewal; (34) restore fairness to provincial public sector contract settlements by negotiating fair compensation packages that are competitive with other provincial jurisdictions in Canada; (35) establish an effective one-stop agency to facilitate the delivery of services to children, families, and individuals in need;

(36) establish annual performance and productivity targets for all government departments and agencies; (37) implement a province-wide business retention program through Enterprise Saskatchewan; (38) establish a seniors' advocate office that will function as a single-window access for seniors seeking assistance in dealing with the provincial government;

(39) increase funding to cultural agencies by reducing the fee charged by the provincial government to administer the lottery licensing agreement; (40) support healthy communities by providing an annual grant to address energy costs in community-owned recreational facilities; (41) encourage new private sector investment in Saskatchewan-based, value-added enterprises through tax-free returns on long-term investment growth and dividend payments;

(42) create an environmental centre of excellence at the University of Regina, mandated to develop environmentally friendly technology for the energy, mining, forestry, transportation, agriculture, and utilities industries; (43) support a non-partisan, professional civil service where government policy is clearly communicated by cabinet and implemented by well-trained public servants; (44) expand development of Saskatchewan's uranium industry;

(45) establish a fully independent Crown utility rate review board; (46) create a single water management agency in Saskatchewan to develop, manage, and conserve Saskatchewan's water resources; (47) fully fund Saskatchewan's share of any federal-provincial agriculture program to which the province is a signatory;

(48) create a centrally dispatched emergency medical response system, EMS, to coordinate the delivery of EMS air and ground services in Saskatchewan; (49) reorganize provincial EMS to include emergency fixed and rotary wing service in partnership with the STARS program in Alberta; (50) create a comprehensive and seamless patient referral service in the province;

(51) provide Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions with stable, long-term, multi-year funding commitments; (52) make Saskatchewan the first small business tax-free

zone in Canada; (53) aggressively expand Saskatchewan's irrigation capacity as a central component of Saskatchewan's long-term agribusiness and economic development plan;

(54) restore trust and confidence in Saskatchewan's justice system by undertaking a comprehensive justice review; (55) mandate Saskatchewan's major Crown corporations to provide high quality utility and insurance services at the lowest possible cost; (56) implement a Crown dividend policy that establishes net return levels adequate to meet Crown reinvestment requirements and directs excess Crown profits to a dedicated infrastructural renewal fund;

(57) review the mandate and dividend policy of Saskatchewan's major Crown corporations every five years; (58) review provincial government competition with existing private sector businesses; (59) expand home care services to encourage independent living for seniors;

(60) create a health care Bill of Rights and Responsibilities; (61) establish a health care commissioner to measure, monitor, and report to the people of Saskatchewan on the quality of health care; (62) establish a one-stop service for businesses and investors interested in starting or expanding a business in Saskatchewan;

(63) work with other provinces and the federal government to negotiate a long-term agriculture support and risk management program that creates greater financial stability for producers and financial institutions; (64) review the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance program with a view to expanding coverage and reducing risk;

(65) support partnerships between the Government of Saskatchewan and provincial post-secondary institutions to promote research, development, and commercialization of science and technology; (66) participate in public-private partnerships to assist in commercialization of Saskatchewan-based research and innovation including investments in the life sciences, health sciences, synchrotron science, and renewable energy;

(67) give every K to 12 student in Saskatchewan a Saskatchewan centennial tree to plant; (68) establish set provincial election dates every four years; (69) establish an enhanced business nominee program for immigrants with skills and investment capital to increase immigration and attract new investment capital;

(70) negotiate a new municipal revenue sharing agreement based in part on provincial owned sources, revenues, and the municipalities' ability to raise local property in tax revenue; (71) establish fair and balanced labour legislation that respects the collective bargaining process and removes barriers to investment, job creation, and economic growth; (72) support voluntary municipal amalgamation;

(73) complete a value-for-money audit for the provincial health care system; (74) build partnerships with other jurisdictions for patient referral; (75) complete the development of an integrated health information network

in Saskatchewan;

(76) implement a four-year plan to move to 100 per cent provincial funding of health care capital projects; (77) establish a provincial family care tax credit for renovation of existing homes or construction of new homes to accommodate care of elderly or disabled family members; (78) establish a provincial caregiver tax credit to assist in the care of elderly family members or family members with mental or physical disabilities;

(79) establish a provincial tax credit to assist parents in the cost of child care; (80) investigate the establishment of a research Chair in occupational health and safety at one of Saskatchewan's universities to improve the health and safety of all workers in Saskatchewan; (81) invest in improved online distance education programs to enhance local educational opportunities, especially in rural and remote areas;

(82) establish a partnership with First Nations to increase participation rates and improve educational outcomes for First Nations students; (83) increase provincial tax credits for research, development, and commercialization performed in Saskatchewan; (84) strengthen support for local recycling programs to preserve our environment and reduce stress on community landfills;

(85) establish a stand-alone department of forestry with the mandate to facilitate the environmentally sustainable, long-term growth of Saskatchewan's forestry industry; (86) make Saskatchewan the energy heart of North America by assessing the potential for further development of power generation from wind, clean coal, natural gas, nuclear, biomass, coal bed methane, ethanol, solar, oil sands, cogeneration, and hydrogen fuel cell technology;

(87) reduce capital gains on proceeds reinvested in Saskatchewan from the sale of a Saskatchewan business or property; (88) encourage the establishment of a Western Canadian transportation hub and a north-south transportation and trade corridor in Saskatchewan; (89) create a province-wide transportation policy to encourage population and economic growth and sustainability;

(90) review Saskatchewan's student loan program to ensure access to post-secondary education for all qualified Saskatchewan students regardless of economic circumstance; (91) review all government regulations every five years with a view to eliminating barriers to environmentally sustainable economic growth; (92) address the impending shortage of qualified public sector employees by directing the Public Service Commission to develop an aggressive strategy for recruiting and retraining qualified public servants;

(93) support an open and transparent selection process for provincial justices; (94) strengthen the ability of the provincial maintenance enforcement office to ensure compliance with maintenance orders; (95) strengthen police authority and discretion in advising the public of the presence of potentially dangerous violent or sex offenders

in communities and/or neighbourhoods;

(96) partner with other provincial governments in Western Canada to deliver services where costs can be reduced and services improved; (97) work in partnership with First Nations and Métis people to implement existing agreements and develop new agreements to build our province;

(98) streamline Saskatchewan's interprovincial trucking and transportation regulations; and (99) eliminate any government fee that costs more to collect than it raises in revenue.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move this amendment to the motion, seconded by the member for Moosomin. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — With respect, I have received a motion which is an amendment to the main motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the member for Swift Current. The amendment to the motion is moved by the member for Canora-Pelly, seconded by the member for Moosomin. Will the members take the motion as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[15:30]

The Speaker: — The debate then will continue on the substance of the amendment only.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure today to stand in this Assembly and speak to the motion as it's been amended and added to as my colleague, the member from Canora-Pelly, had indicated, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we're talking about a time of celebration in the province of Saskatchewan as this province reflects back on its past, the past 100 years.

And when the motion was brought forward by the Premier yesterday, the Premier mentioned a fair bit about the rich history of this province. The Leader of the Opposition, the member from Swift Current, talked about the history of this province. And they both mentioned the fact that each and every one of us as members, Mr. Speaker, can think back to many discussions we've heard as young, as we were growing . . . as young individuals in our communities and in our homes and listening to the debate and the discussion surrounding how our grandparents or great-grandparents arrived in this country, arrived in this province.

And they came, Mr. Speaker, because they had a vision. They had a desire to strike out something new and with a vision to build a life for themselves, for their family. And indeed, Mr. Speaker, to indeed look at how they could build a province as this province, as Saskatchewan became a province in the year of 1905.

Mr. Speaker, we all stand here today and we have different thoughts and different views as to how we perceive

Saskatchewan and how we look at how well the province has done over the past 100 years. Our accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, we think back and we look at the accomplishments.

And as we arrive at this milestone, we not only think back to the past but we begin to look to the future, Mr. Speaker. We begin to look at what this province will be down the road.

And I think about the communities in the constituency of Moosomin. Mr. Speaker, I think about the different communities and I look at a number of the communities in the constituency of Moosomin. Many of the communities along the Trans-Canada, along the CP Rail, which was the main rail line at the time, that was the railway that was used by many of pioneers when they came to this country. Mr. Speaker, people left areas in Europe and they came across the Atlantic. They arrived in Halifax, Mr. Speaker, they got on the rail and they travelled west. Some stopped in Ontario, some stopped in Manitoba. At the time, Mr. Speaker, they were stopping in an area called the North-West Territories. And many arrived in the area of Saskatchewan at that time which is part of the North-West Territories, Mr. Speaker, got off the rail in Moosomin and then found a mode of transportation which was either purchasing an ox or a horse and travelled to the . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. I just want to bring the member to order on a matter which is rather unique to this legislature at this time, because the nature of the amendment is unique and has not been . . . this type of amendment has not been heard in the legislature for some time — the nature of this amendment being that it only adds to the motion, it does not present a different proposition to the original question. Therefore, that the debate that should occur until the disposal of the amendment should be restricted to the desirability of the additions that are mentioned in the amendment rather than having the debate concurrently on the amendment and on the main motion.

The authority for this is given to us in Erskine May, 20th edition, page 395, and I will quote from a sentence about in the middle of 395:

If it is intended only to modify the question [referring to the amendment] by leaving out or adding words, debate should be restricted to the desirability of the omission or the addition of those words.

So I would just ask the member from Moosomin to bear that in mind. And I recognize the member from Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the motion before us, we talk about the amendment which adds to the motion, Mr. Speaker — I might add that — adds to the motion, and, Mr. Speaker, that amendment adds to the motion in the fact that it talks about a further vision for the province of Saskatchewan.

When I think about the vision that we look at moving forward into the new century, Mr. Speaker, I can't help but think back to the early parts of the 1900s when Saskatchewan became a province and the vision and the hopes and the dreams that our forefathers had when they came to this province. They came to this province, Mr. Speaker, with a hope, with a dream to build a province, to build a place where they would be able to pass on

to the younger generation, Mr. Speaker, opportunities too as we've seen in the amendment and as we look to the future of enhanced education for the young people back in the early days; as they looked at how they could provide better health care and opportunities for their children and the generations to follow them, Mr. Speaker, to indeed have access to the health care opportunities that would meet the needs of themselves and their children and the generations that would be following them, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as we look at the amendment before us and with a vision for the future, Mr. Speaker, we look at the fact that the amendment which adds to this motion calls on this province to look forward, to look forward with a vision as to how we build the future of the province. And we can't help but think that when you look at the number of provisions in the amendment and when it calls for additional changes needed in our health care system, we look back at where we've been; we look at where we are today, Mr. Speaker; and we can't help but think that we need to have a greater vision for the delivery of health care services.

Mr. Speaker, no matter how you cut it, why do we call for a greater vision? Why do we look forward at how we can enhance health care delivery? Because there are many concerns that the people of this province have today in regards to how health care is delivered.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the community of Moosomin has been struggling for the past number of years for a new health care facility because they want to meet the needs of, not only the residents of today, but they're looking, Mr. Speaker, to build for the future. Because they're looking at how, how can they enhance the lifestyle of the men and women and young adults and the children that would call that area, that community and that area home, if they don't have quality health care to deliver.

Mr. Speaker, I think back to our forefathers and the visions they had. I think back to the many people who left Europe, Mr. Speaker, and I think back to one of the dreams they had was coming to this country. And I think it doesn't matter where you go in the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, you see that men and women's . . . the dreams of our forefathers were centred around two things, being able to build businesses for themselves and enterprises.

But as well, Mr. Speaker, we have across this province, we have centres where people gather to worship over the years. And one of the things that I know as I think back to the Hungarian community that I'm a part of, Mr. Speaker, in the Bekevar area, whether it's the Hungarian community, whether it was the German community, or whichever community, the French community, Mr. Speaker. We're reminded of time and time and we will be reminded into the future, Mr. Speaker, that the early pioneers, one of the first things they did as they first of all established a place for them to call home, a place to live, that they immediately built themselves a place to worship. Because they came to this country, Mr. Speaker, with a vision of not only building a business and a home environment, Mr. Speaker, but also building places of worship where they could establish a community gathering place.

And, Mr. Speaker, we look forward to the future in that vein. Even as we celebrate the many centennial celebrations that will be, that we all will be participating in this upcoming year, Mr. Speaker. Most communities will be thinking back to their forefathers, why they came, why the community was established, and how they celebrated. And we're going to look forward. Now that we're celebrating our centennial celebration we look forward to the new ideas and where do we go in the future, Mr. Speaker? What are we hoping to accomplish as we move into the next centennial?

And, Mr. Speaker, one of the issues I think we need to look at very closely and is certainly brought forward in the amendment, Mr. Speaker, is recognizing the treaties with our First Nations people, building partnerships with our First Nations communities. And, Mr. Speaker, when I talk about the First Nations communities and building partnerships in the constituency of Moosomin, Mr. Speaker, we have, I believe there is six different reserves now a part of the constituency of Moosomin, that I've had the privilege of getting to meet leadership in those constituencies. And I've had the privilege of getting to meet young people in those constituencies, in those communities that have a vision for the future. They have a desire to build something better for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, whether it be the community of the Chacachas First Nation or Kahkewistahaw First Nation or Ochapowace, Sakimay, Cowessess, or Carry the Kettle, each and every one of these First Nations communities, Mr. Speaker, have a desire to build something new and forward-looking for the young people. Because they want to see their young people move forward in this community, in their community, in this province, to help build this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can't help but think that we are beginning to see many First Nations young people and leadership looking forward to the future with new ideas. What do they do to address the issue of drugs or alcohol on the reserve? How do they challenge their children to look beyond what may have been parts of the past and begin to build for the future?

And, Mr. Speaker, even in this city, we see many First Nations individuals who have moved forward and have entered into post-secondary education, who have become lawyers, who have become spokespersons, are involved in the delivery of our health care programs in the province of Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, we need to look at how we work with First Nations people, to help them enhance and build and move forward as they look forward to the future, as they look forward to becoming an integral part of continuing to build the province of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, we need to really be careful, as we look forward with a vision, that we include all peoples. And, Mr. Speaker, back in the past we may have been, we may have settled upon working with the communities and the many immigrants who came to this province. But I know the many immigrants who came to this province also learned how to work and to live with the First Nations community of that day.

Mr. Speaker, one of the very important issues we need to look at, as we look at building our future in the province, as we look at a new vision for this province, is a sustainable livestock

industry. Mr. Speaker, each and every one of us, in fact most of the members in this Assembly, have an understanding of what we're talking about when we talk about a sustainable livestock industry. Because, Mr. Speaker, we're well aware of the implications of the problems that have been created as a result of the BSE situation we are currently facing and the border that has been closed, or access to the American border for the livestock, for the cattle in the province of Saskatchewan.

We look at building, we look at building a sustainable industry in this province, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I talked to many of my constituents. I talked to individuals at SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] this past week, Mr. Speaker. And I'm beginning to come across more and more individuals who are not just talking of the fact that, yes, it's imperative that we work to get the border open so cattle can move back and forth in a free trade environment, Mr. Speaker. But Mr. Speaker, we're also talking about individuals who are now beginning to look beyond the fact that, if this border doesn't open, what do we do to address the current crisis in the livestock sector?

And so, Mr. Speaker, we talk about a sustainable livestock industry. What is part of developing a sustainable livestock industry? I believe, Mr. Speaker, part of developing a sustainable livestock industry in this province is looking ahead and saying to ourselves, maybe we shouldn't be marketing all of our livestock. We shouldn't just be sending our calves out of the province and specifically to the United States. Maybe we shouldn't be necessarily sending our slaughter animals across the border to be processed. Maybe it's time, Mr. Speaker, we established new slaughter and packaging facilities in the province of Saskatchewan.

[15:45]

Mr. Speaker, years ago we had a number of packing facilities in this province. And had they still been . . . continued to work and be up and functioning today, we may not be facing the crisis we're having today. So we look at building a sustainable livestock program in the province of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, we have in my constituency, the constituency of Moosomin for example, a number of producers who have already rallied together and they're currently remodelling a plant in Wolseley to turn it into a processing facility, Mr. Speaker, because they have already began to look beyond where we were yesterday and saying, you know, we have to do more than just marketing the live cattle.

They're in the process of building their slaughter facility so that they can begin to slaughter and process animals in the area, in the Moosomin constituency and the Wolseley area, Mr. Speaker, and indeed begin to add value to those . . . to that livestock.

Mr. Speaker, and it's imperative and I want to compliment the producers and the many producers who have got onboard by taking out shares in this Natural Valley Farms, Mr. Speaker, or who have committed animals to the facility. Because, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day that's what's going to help . . . part of what's going to help us overcome the crisis we are facing as a result of the BSE problem in the province of

Saskatchewan.

And what does this mean, Mr. Speaker? It means to communities like Wolseley and the rich heritage that they have, or the area around Wolseley — Grenfell, Montmartre, Candiac — Mr. Speaker, it means that we not only add a processing facility but we're going to add jobs in the area. We're going to bring jobs, we're going to bring economic activity into that area, Mr. Speaker, economic activity which is going to enhance the well-being of individuals, of farm families.

And certainly we are quite well aware of the difficulty farm families are facing today and the crunch they are facing as a result of — not only the livestock sector, but also the grains industry — as a result of the frost damage that many farmers experienced across the eastern side of the province last year, Mr. Speaker.

So we talk about adding value to our agricultural community, and value comes by getting into processing plants. And rather than always exporting the raw community, Mr. Speaker, we need to look at ways in which we can enhance, because as we begin to process, we add value to the carcass of that animal that we move into the food chain.

And, Mr. Speaker, I believe in the province of Saskatchewan. We have the individuals who are as good at feeding livestock and feeding quality animals, that we can, Mr. Speaker, market a quality product not only in this country but indeed, Mr. Speaker, to other parts of the world.

And so it's imperative, Mr. Speaker, that we look at it — and we've talked about this for quite a while — that we build a vision for tomorrow by looking at ways in which we can add real value to the many commodities that are produced on the farms in the province of Saskatchewan, whether it be the grain sector, whether it be pulse crops, Mr. Speaker, or the livestock industry, as I've been talking about today.

Mr. Speaker, as well we talk about industry in the province of Saskatchewan. We ask ourselves: how do we add value to the many natural resources that are part of Saskatchewan? For a good period of time, we basically have hung our hats on the potash industry. We've hung our hats on the oil sector. But, Mr. Speaker, it's time to look beyond just the potash and the oil and the natural gas in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, part of adding value and . . . Mr. Deputy Speaker, part of adding value and a vision for the future in agriculture is even at getting into the . . . adding value in the area of ethanol production. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, a fair bit of research has been done in the past, and we know that more research is going to be done into the future as to the viability of an ethanol industry. And I would suggest to you that there . . . we have reached a point where there is certainly the opportunity to add to and expand the ethanol industry in the province of Saskatchewan, adding value not only to agriculture products, but indeed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, creating job opportunities. Because, Mr. Speaker, we've heard for the longest time of the number of young people leaving the province of Saskatchewan. And what that's telling us is that we need to create real job opportunities for our young people so that gives them a reason to remain in this province, to become contributors to the

province of Saskatchewan as not only citizens contributing to their community, but also contributing to the province through their tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about building our resources and building on our resources, and the province of Saskatchewan has numerous resources, whether it be in forestry, whether it be in mining, or as I've already mentioned, in the oil and gas sector or coal.

And interestingly enough, Mr. Deputy Speaker, talking about coal, I was chatting with a couple of people at SARM last week who had recently come back from meetings in the States and they were talking about ways in which we can do more to enhance the economic activity around our coal supplies; not just using coal to fire generators to produce electricity, but indeed using coal to produce other means of economic activity through further gasification and addressing other areas where we just expand the use of coal. And indeed at the end of the day, as well, address the issues surrounding the Kyoto accord that our province has signed on to, or our country has signed on to, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about a vision for this province. We talk about enhanced development in the uranium industry. We have talked about enhanced development in mining in northern Saskatchewan. We're talking about and we're all aware of the activity and the potential for diamond mining in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we have resources beyond measure in this province and we need to find ways of how we can begin to use those resources to build a future for the province of Saskatchewan, for the young men and women who are currently in our public school system today who will be in our post-secondary school system tomorrow, whether it's university or whether it's SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology], Mr. Speaker, who are going to be moving from those areas of education and looking for job opportunities. Looking to build upon the province of Saskatchewan to build a better future for the younger generations of tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, we do have a rich heritage and we, as I've indicated, will be over the next year taking the time . . . over this year, through this year, taking the time in many communities. We'll be celebrating with great pride, taking great pride as they celebrate our centennial year.

But they will not only be celebrating what's happened in the past, they will be looking forward to the future and how do we build upon that future. How do we work to enhance health care delivery, how do we work to enhance job opportunities, how do we work to develop the resource sector. How do we build our communities so that young people will want to remain, and not just in the larger centres like Regina or Saskatoon, if you will, Moose Jaw or the Yorktons, but certainly communities like Moosomin or Kipling or Glenavon. People still have a rich pride in the communities that they've grown up in. And I can see, as the Premier has mentioned, as the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned, as members have already talked about today, communities will be looking to how they can build for the future while they celebrate the past.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's certainly . . . I want to take this time to say this to Saskatchewan residents — yes, we can take pride in our past. Yes, we can take pride as we celebrate to enhance . . . as we celebrate this year of centennial. And I know that as I think of the many communities in my constituency, I think of communities like Wolseley and Grenfell and Moosomin and even Whitewood in particular. Because of the fact that they were some of the first communities, there's a rich heritage in those communities. And for a period of time we kind of forgot about that heritage.

But I want to compliment the communities because they took the time. They started looking at some of the buildings in their communities and said, you know, we shouldn't be pushing these buildings down. There's history here. There's a heritage here. Let's refurbish some of these buildings so that people can look back at the past, but let's look beyond as we build to the future and look at the heritage that we can pass on to our young people. Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in seconding the amendment as brought forward by my colleague, the member from Canora. Thank you.

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

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak specifically to the amendment that is before the Assembly and offer a few comments. This amendment, the substance of it is derived from a pamphlet which has been put forward by the members opposite. It's their latest attempt to generate public interest in their party. I suppose their fortunes must be flagging. They see the need to stimulate public interest in their party and so is their latest vision — and they have new visions every three months or so. As their latest vision, they've come forward with a number of points here that they hope will stimulate interest in them. This is, if you like, Mr. Speaker, this is their vision du jour. This is their vision of the moment. I expect that we will see lots more visions from the members opposite.

But at the end of the day, to incorporate their pamphlet, if you will, into this motion where we seek to celebrate the contributions of the people of Saskatchewan, is — no less than, no more than — a gimmick. This amendment is a gimmick by them and they're well-known, Mr. Speaker, for their gimmickry.

Mr. Speaker, as to the substance of the amendment, when you go through the lists, there are many ideas, so-called, that the government is in the process of implementing and is working on. But there are other ideas, Mr. Speaker, that we would have grave reservations about and that the people of Saskatchewan may have reservations about. And so there are many ideas on topical matters that may have people in 100 years wondering what that was all about.

There are also on this list, Mr. Speaker, some omissions. And I note one glaring omission, and that glaring omission is to address the question of fiscal management, that how it is that you can put forward, how it is that you can put forward a list of what you think are ideas that will improve society, improve the ability of the provincial government to reach out to the people of Saskatchewan and to improve their economy or to improve

education, to improve health, to improve any number of things to do that, and to have in this list of ideas no end of ideas about how to increase spending, ideas about how to cut taxes.

And that not one of them, not one of them would have in their coffee row session when they sat down to talk about these things, not one of them would've said, you know, I think we should put something in there about the budget; we should put something in there to make sure that we have balanced budgets — we should make sure that we include that.

I would've thought that the seconder of the amendment, the member for Moosomin, who is, I think if I'm correct, the last serving member, now serving member of that previous administration — the Grant Devine administration which also had ideas but never concerned themselves about the affordability of ideas, also had proposals for tax cuts, never concerned themselves with the affordability of these tax cuts — that member, surely that member might have raised some consideration about this point or these other points, or cumulatively, all these points raises some issues about affordability. You thought you might have heard that from that member. But no, that member didn't raise that concern. You think you might have heard that from some of the other members opposite who pride themselves in being fiscal conservatives. You think that one of them might have said, you know, there's a little issue here of affordability and we should put something in this about balancing our budgets, doing this in some affordable way. But there's nothing like that.

[16:00]

So now the members opposite are saying, we recognize this is a glaring omission, a glaring omission by them. And they're now appealing to us, they're appealing to us, Mr. Speaker, to improve this pamphlet of theirs by adding this notion of fiscal management, this notion of balanced budgets because they'd forgotten about it. Well what kind of a message would that be for their supporters, that the government at the end of the day had to bail them out because of this glaring omission on their part, Mr. Speaker?

Well, Mr. Speaker, I just again point out that the ideas they put forward have a huge price tag, a huge price tag. The ideas they put forward are not accompanied by any kind of framework in terms of affordability. And, Mr. Speaker, so when we look at this amendment again, we recognize these amendments come from their latest pamphlet, their latest vision. I guess this is a new one over the one they had three months ago.

An Hon. Member: — Oh, every three months . . .

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Every three months, my colleague says, they have a new vision. Well, Mr. Speaker, this amendment, this amendment is no more, no less than a gimmick and we on this side of the House will not be supporting the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a pleasure to get up and speak to this amendment on behalf of my

constituents in Arm River-Watrous. My constituency, like many of my colleagues' constituencies, has a rich rural legacy. Our century in Saskatchewan is a colourful tapestry of pioneering, rapid development, community building, and working together. And this centennial celebration should be about ideas, about the ideas I have presented here because when I go around from community to community, constituency to other constituencies, what they want is this province to grow. They want ideas from their government, they want ways that they can make this province grow and thrive with that.

When I go to communities that will be celebrating their celebrations, Mr. Deputy Speaker . . . in Imperial, June 11. I've been asked . . . Many commitments I have to attend this coming up summer. June 11, 2005, in Imperial; June 12, Loreburn; July 1 . . . June 25, Bladworth; July 1, Jansen and Watrous.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, July 9, I'll be attending a celebration in Dundurn; July 15, Govan is having a celebration; July 30 is Davidson's celebration; and also Wynyard is planning a celebration in September. Plus many other communities in my constituency, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are in the planning stages of picking dates, of getting back to me, wanting me to come.

And what they will want at their events is ideas of how this province is going to grow, what it's going to grow, what it's going to look like, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the next 100 years. They also want to celebrate about the past too, because I mean that's part of this, of the province, of your heritage, of your past, and the future. The two, Mr. Deputy Speaker, they go hand in hand when it comes to talking about ideas and dealing with the amendment.

You know, I had a constituent that called me recently to suggest an important way that we could indeed honour those who helped build Saskatchewan. This gentleman suggested the government supply each community with a centennial flag that could be flown over the cemeteries in that community. He went on to say that this is the least we could do to thank them for the commitment and dedication through many hard times that helped build this province.

And that's an idea. And that's what this amendment is dealing with that we're talking about today, is ideas, Mr. Speaker, ideas how to grow this province.

My grandfathers had an idea. They had an idea when they were in the old country, in Croatia, to come to a new country, to build something, to come here and build something, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And when they came there from . . . And I also want to make just one note. In Brkich the "r" is a vowel, so to my colleagues here and on the other side and my constituents that have bugged me for many years that I'm missing a vowel, I just want you to know in the Croatian language, the "r" is a vowel. But my grandfathers, they came here to build something new. They came here in the early 1900s and to settle, to settle here and to build a future and to build families, Mr. Speaker, and to bring ideas and to get away maybe from some of the old ideas that were from the old country that held people back that were in the class system of monarchies that were . . . either in dictatorships. They came here and with that, Mr. Speaker, came many, many people that came here to grow this province with it, and with them they brought many ideas. And that's what

they're going to be looking forward in the future is for ideas from their government, Mr. Speaker, how to grow this province.

I mean, it's just not . . . The celebrations just won't be talking about the past, honouring them, which is good. We need to honour the people that built this great province, but we also have to look towards the future and that takes a lot of courage and some changes, Mr. Speaker.

I can remember the premier, the first premier of this province, he had a vision, Mr. Speaker, that within the next 100 years that this province would host anywhere between 3 to 5 million dollars. That's why this legislature was built this size, this big, that when he knew he would be gone, but he was thinking that when we would be celebrating 100 years that there would be between 3 to 5 million people at least in this province.

Well this province hasn't lived up to that and that, Mr. Speaker, is a shame on that end of it, and something that needs to be rectified in the next 100 years. Making statements, when people read this, I would like to be able to say that in the next 100 years there is 3 to 5 million people here, or 7 or 8 million people here to grow this province and to keep it growing, Mr. Speaker, at that end of it.

You talk about one of the ideas we mentioned in here is immigration. I think we're the worst of all the provinces for immigration. I think there was only 200 that applied last year compared to I think Manitoba, which had over 1,000, I believe. That's something we can use because that's what grew this province was immigration. That's where everybody came from. You know that's what started this province. Your First Nations were here. But they . . . It was immigration with them people that grew this province and I think that's something that we have to look forward to.

Agriculture is another way that I think this government has ignored the potential to grow this province. This present government has kind of forgot about its roots in agriculture. The minister today talked about the CAIS commitments. It took him 12 months to fully, to fully fund CAIS. Now I have constituents that got their share of money for the 2003 crop year, got it in last year of July, and they're still waiting, Mr. Speaker, for the 2003 crop payments from the province of Saskatchewan. It still hasn't come. So that's like a year and a half they haven't received their money, their share, their portion of the money of the government. And now the present Agriculture minister says he doesn't know if he's going to fund the 2004 CAIS, so he's leaving them people hanging by a thread. When they go to the bank, the bank says, well I don't know if you're going to get all your money or not; we can't lend you all the money.

Right now they're facing many difficulties out there in rural Saskatchewan when it comes to planting the crops coming in this year. As everybody knows, the commodity prices are very, very low. Banks are tightening up. Without that commitment from the provincial government, you know, a lot of farm families may look at packing it in.

I was looking at the auction sale bills which I think a lot of the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] have in their area. And there's a lot of auction sales again coming up and a lot of the people that are retiring are 50 years old. They're just

saying, we're not going to fight it any more; we're tired of it, we're going to maybe sell out while we can, Mr. Speaker, at that end of it.

You know, and agriculture was a very, very bright spot in this province, and it still should be, Mr. Speaker, dealing with agriculture and dealing with it with the amendment. There is several amendments dealing with agriculture on it. One of them is to fully fund in this . . . in the amendment is to, if you sign, if you sign an agreement with the federal government, if you signed it, if you put your signature on it, that you will fully fund that program.

Now out in rural Saskatchewan where I come from, when you sign your hand to something, it means your word is worth something. That means that you're going to fully do what you said you were going to do. Well so far this province hasn't did that, Mr. Speaker, and talking . . . This amendment on agriculture, on that particular issue right there, that is one of them, that if you're going to sign an agreement — because that's an agreement that the farmers took when the province says that they were going to . . . they signed on to CAIS — that they assumed that they would be getting their fair share of the money. And then the province, after they signed it, decided at first, no we weren't going to, which they didn't in 2002. I've still got calls from constituents that were shortchanged money.

I had one that didn't get his share from the province, his \$5,000. Like, you know, the people over here, if part of their paycheque was docked by \$5,000 . . . He said he had bills due and that \$5,000 was slated to pay the fuel bill in the fall. That \$5,000 in 2002 didn't come from the province, Mr. Speaker. Yet he had to go off the farm and get a job to pay that bill, to pay to cover the cost of that fuel so he could farm another year because the province didn't fully fund CAIS in 2002.

Now the farm families in 2004 are facing the same issue, Mr. Speaker. They are facing the same issues out there again. Is this province going to fully fund CAIS? Is it going to? Right now they don't know. So when they go to the bank, the bank says, hey, you know, we can only lend you maybe 75 or 60 per cent of the money you need, the operating loans that you need to actually start your farming operation, while this government plays games with the feds again and we don't know whether they're going to sign on that again, on that end of it.

Another dealing with the ideas in this amendment, is when I go from constituency to constituency I've got — and community to community — I've got many interest groups, groups that are interested in starting meat-packing plants. And they have asked me what the government is doing to help them at that end of it, Mr. Speaker. And so I phoned the minister's office and asked him. And then he told me I had to submit it in writing, so I submitted the thing in writing. And I thought he would submit it back but I got a phone call from one of the aides there and says, well basically that they had commissioned a study for \$55,000 on the packing industry that probably says it isn't very viable in Saskatchewan. And that's about the only thing that he told me. He says that's the only thing we're doing out there right now, he said.

Well one of the issues that deals in this amendment is maybe of reinvesting if you have a sale of Saskatchewan . . . in

Saskatchewan, of reinvesting that. If you reinvest that locally in Saskatchewan you get a tax incentive, Mr. Speaker. There's some tax issues dealing in this document that maybe will help investment in rural Saskatchewan. It needs to be looked at, Mr. Speaker, that this government I hope will look at.

And talking about this amendment, 100 ideas, today on the radio there was a fellow from Alberta who is going to celebrate his 100th anniversary in Alberta by . . . he wants to climb 100 different mountains. Well in Saskatchewan that's going to be obviously a little hard. But you know, there's different ways that you can celebrate our 100th year. I've had one person say that she plans to walk 100 miles throughout the year — you know, take a mile a day or half a mile a day or whatever. Another one that says, you know, he's going to write to 100 friends.

And something that this government can look at doing is implementing 100 ideas, Mr. Speaker, and following some of the examples of the residents of this province of doing stuff, of actually doing something. Because what I get from my constituency, what I get is we're in a stalemate. I mean, this province hasn't grown. The job growth hasn't grown. People are leaving. Towns are shrinking. Your major cities aren't growing. We're going to have to start doing something to grow this province. And if we don't, in the next 100 years I don't know what this province is going to look like if we don't start thinking outside the box and doing some ideas out there, Mr. Speaker, because we're going to have to do something to grow this province.

[16:15]

And right now what I get from the government and what I get from my people when I come around, when I go out there town to town, that there is no direction from this government. And that you know, they can talk about political rhetoric or whatever, but that . . . you come out there. That's what they're telling me, Mr. Speaker, that they're not getting that from this government. They don't know exactly what this government has in the vision to grow this province.

How is it going to do it? What's it going to focus on, Mr. Speaker? You know, they'll tell me about all the agriculture, tell me about the ag, the oil and gas sector, the uranium sector, the tourism sector that we have in this province — the potential. And they can't understand why this province isn't growing and why the government doesn't seem to have a direction in how to grow this, grow this.

So with this amendment, Mr. Speaker, we need, we need to get some of these ideas out there. We need to get people talking. We need to implement some of these things. We need to get this province growing, Mr. Speaker, because if we don't, I don't know what this province is going to look like in the next 100 years. Because just like everybody here on both sides of the House, they want this province to grow. I would imagine that they do, that they want that province to grow.

You know, I've never maybe heard them that they really like, you know, the population to grow, but I can imagine that they want this province to thrive. They talk about it in their speeches. The member for Moose Jaw, you know, talked about the rich

heritage, the future, the potential of this province. And he's right. There is a huge, huge potential in this province. And when you see, when you look at that, it's not growing. It's all . . . it is very, very shameful at that end of it for this province not to grow with the potential here.

I'll use the member from Moose Jaw. He made a very good speech. He listed the potential, the growth, the potential of this province. I think now we have to implement that, and that is one of the way is with this amendment, with these 100 ideas. This government needs, I think needs a vision, needs ideas, Mr. Speaker. So with that, I support the amendment put forth by the member for Canora-Pelly.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Carrot River Valley.

Mr. Kerpan: — Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I want to start my remarks that I'm going to make on this debate on our amendment by reading a quote. And the quote goes as follows, "Nothing that really comes to mind."

Those words, Mr. Speaker, were said by the Minister of Finance on February 25 in answer to a question from a reporter at a scrum, when the reporter asked him, does anything stand out legislatively in this spring session that we're currently in. Mr. Speaker, my point being, my point being is that, that's why we felt, and I feel, that 100 new ideas that we could offer to the province of Saskatchewan on this, our 100th anniversary, could be, should be, will be perhaps the best birthday present that we could offer this province.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance, I believe, and the government in general says that I think with some degree of sour grapes, because frankly they don't have any ideas. Frankly they're devoid of new ideas, and that's very evident by the Finance minister's very own remarks that he made mere weeks ago, when he said that there was nothing legislative of real significance in this session. Well now there is; now there is, Mr. Speaker. There's 100 new, innovative, outside the box ideas that this government and this province could implement to give this province what I think is the ultimate birthday present.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance called this gimmickry. It's a gimmick, he says, when we talk about 100 ideas that the Saskatchewan Party has for the province. He calls it gimmickry. Well let's, let's look at just a few of these ideas at this . . . what he calls gimmickry. Let's look at idea number nine, when we talk about establishing a children's hospital in Saskatoon utilizing an existing acute care facility. Mr. Speaker, how can anybody in this province be opposed to that? How could someone stand in his place and call that a gimmick, or something that we would use for political gain? Or that we, we need some new interest injected into our party, so we came up with a gimmick that would call for a children's hospital in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, I fail, I fail to understand how someone could use that kind of mean-spirited approach to our most innocent people of our society, our children. How could, how could people, how could anybody make a mean-spirited comment like that, Mr.

Speaker? I fail, I fail to understand.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at another gimmick, in number eight . . . let's go to number 18, Mr. Speaker. Let me read that. Number 18, Mr. Speaker, says, partner with the Government of Canada to build three new all-weather roads in northern Saskatchewan to facilitate sustainable northern communities, and sustainable northern economic development.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who venture outside the government centre of Regina and go into the forest fringe area of the province and go into the northern part of the province realize the huge potential that exists in that part of that province, Mr. Speaker. And I fail to see how putting money into infrastructure in these northern kinds of areas can be a gimmick.

What it is in reality is the beginning of a new century for development in the northern part of the province. And all one has to do, Mr. Speaker, is talk to those people who live in the northern part of the province. They know. And members are here, the member for Cumberland, in this House know exactly what that potential is. I fail to see how that can be perceived as a gimmick.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at gimmick number 47. Fully fund Saskatchewan's share of any federal-provincial agriculture program to which the province is a signatory.

Mr. Speaker, no one in this House, on either side of the House, would argue, would disagree that agriculture has come under some very difficult times these past number of years. I don't think you would get that argument from any member in this legislature. And to ask the government to live up to its commitment on a federal-provincial program, in my mind, is not a gimmick, Mr. Speaker.

What it is, is a good, sound, positive message that we're going to send to the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan and all across Canada that we are prepared to support farmers in Saskatchewan. That's what that is, Mr. Speaker.

Let's look at idea number 53. Talks about aggressively expanding Saskatchewan's irrigation capacity as a central component of Saskatchewan's long-term agribusiness and economic development plan.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the member from Swift Current, yesterday talked about when John Palliser came to this part of the country and had a look around and gave a report that said that agriculture was not sustainable in Saskatchewan, that it would be a waste of time for people to come here and try to engage in the business of agriculture. Well, of course we know what happened, Mr. Speaker. We know in fact that Mr. Palliser was wrong.

But idea number 53, when we talk about expanding the potential that we have for the irrigation industry . . . Truly amazed. My colleague from Arm River tells me — and he's right, of course — that only 3 per cent of the water that is used, that comes out of Lake Diefenbaker, only 3 per cent for irrigation.

Now there have been plans over the years — for many, many

years — about an irrigation project that would be on the west side of the Saskatchewan River, in the Delisle-Vanscoy-Conquest area; nothing's ever happened. There's an old plan that comes from many years back about a dam to be built in North Battleford on the Saskatchewan River, and a channel built to create irrigation all the way down from the North Saskatchewan down to the South Saskatchewan River south of Kindersley in the Eston area, would be a huge, huge economic impact not alone just for agriculture, but for tourism and many other areas of development. Nothing's ever been done about that, Mr. Speaker.

With idea no. 53 we're saying, let's aggressively look at this. For the beginning of our next century let's develop these ideas; let's put this province on the map with regards to irrigation. Again my colleague tells me that, you know, that was one of the ideas that ACRE [Action Committee on the Rural Economy] came up with. It was the government's own committee that are telling them that this is a good idea and yet the Finance minister says that number 53 is a gimmick, it's gimmickry. I don't understand — Mr. Speaker, I just fail to understand that kind of thinking.

One other of the ideas that I would like to speak about is idea number 97, Mr. Speaker, and that says that we would work in partnership with First Nations and Métis people to implement existing agreements and develop new agreements to build our province. Mr. Speaker, I have in my almost two years of being an MLA for Carrot River Valley, I have had the opportunity, the very good opportunity to meet with some Aboriginal groups. I've met with the Prince Albert Tribal Council. Of course we have the two bands in Carrot River Valley, Shoal Lake and Red Earth. I met with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council and others from Saskatchewan.

And the underlying theme, Mr. Speaker, that I hear from all of those groups is their interest and their desire to become a full partner in Saskatchewan and in the future of Saskatchewan. You know what they tell me, Mr. Speaker? They tell me . . . And they say this, they'll say this straight out and they would say it if they were here today. They tell me that they are very frustrated with this socialist government and the fact that every commitment that they have made to First Nations and Métis people has not been lived up to. And they will tell you that, Mr. Speaker. And I would invite any of you, yourself, Mr. Speaker, or any other of the members, to come to those meetings and to hear these people say that.

These folks in these councils are on the biting edge of something new and something great, Mr. Speaker. And we have a government in this province that calls an idea to do that gimmickry. I just fail, fail to understand.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about just one more of the ideas, and that is idea no. 4. And it goes as follows, it says, "celebrate Saskatchewan's centennial, by eliminating entry fees to all provincial parks in 2005."

Mr. Speaker, I don't understand why we would not want to invite and encourage every person in our province to spend some time in a provincial park this summer.

There are those, Mr. Speaker, who can't afford to go to

provincial parks. Maybe they can't afford to pay the camping fees. Now that we have got ridden of the idea of the wiener roast tax, of course it's a little easier. But having said that, having said that, it is difficult for a lot of people to maybe take their family and maybe pack them up and maybe pay their camping fees and — if they golf — the golf green fees and the entrance fees to the park. So I don't know understand why we would not invite and ask people from right across the province to come and celebrate their 100th birthday at our provincial parks. I don't understand how that could be perceived as gimmickry.

My grandfather came to this country very close to a hundred years ago, in about 1905 or 1906. And I would think that he would say to us, all of us, if he were here today — and he isn't, Mr. Speaker; he lived to the great age of 98 — he would say, I think today to us that, that this would be a great opportunity to come out and to live and be happy and be proud of the fact that we have now fulfilled many of those dreams and ideas from our forefathers that came to this country. And I probably believe yours did too, Mr. Speaker, as did most of ours, who are in this Chamber today.

So the park fee idea is truly a present that we can offer every resident of this province without a great cost to anybody and would do far more good things than bad things. But yet, the Finance minister says it's gimmickry. Well I guess, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to let the public decide if that's gimmickry or not.

Mr. Speaker, the Finance minister in his words on this amendment talked about budgets, and he talked about why is there nothing in here about balanced budgets. Well, Mr. Speaker, there is in fact lots of things in this document about fiscal responsibility. Mr. Speaker, I would say to you that I'm not an economist. Mr. Speaker, I don't pretend to be. Mr. Speaker, I don't pretend to be an economist, and that certainly goes without saying. But I would tell you that I could balance this province's budget if I did it the way the socialist government does. They borrow the money to balance the budget. Mr. Speaker, I could do that all day. I could do that all day. Now that is gimmickry. It's easy to be a Finance minister in that kind of a situation. Where it's hard to be a Finance minister is one where you are going to implement 100 ideas or 20 or 10 or 50 that are good for the province of Saskatchewan.

[16:30]

Mr. Speaker, when I talk about ideas . . . and I want to spend just a couple of minutes talking about the idea of ideas, about 100 — whether it be 1 idea or 10 or 1000, regardless. Let's go back 100 years to do that. Let's go back 100 years, and let's look at the two provinces that joined Confederation at almost exactly the same time — Alberta and Saskatchewan. We both started with very, very close to the same amount of assets: very little. We both started with about the same number of people: very few. And we both started on . . . let's call it an equal playing field, Mr. Speaker.

I want somebody from that side of the House to tell me, to stand up . . . and I mean this sincerely. I'm not asking this question in an antagonistic way. I'm asking it in . . . I want somebody from that side of the House to tell me why 100 years later we look at

the two provinces and the differences in those two provinces, I want somebody to honestly tell me why that happened.

We're looking at this year. Let's talk about budgets. Let's talk about ideas. We talked about Alberta who's going to have roughly a multi-billion dollar surplus. And we're talking about Saskatchewan who is devoid of any kind of ideas who are going to have to borrow money to balance the budget again.

Those are the ideas that I think we have to talk about. And you can't say . . . the government may say, well it was Leduc in 1947 that created the difference. That's not right, Mr. Speaker. That is absolutely not right. It can't be natural resources because we know we've got them. And I could go and list them all, but I don't think you're going to want me to do that under the rules of speaking on amendment. But we all know they've been talked about before, so I won't go into that.

You can't say the difference is human resources because we know the Premier yesterday talked about it. The Leader of the Opposition talked about it. The member from Moose Jaw North said it very well today. We have exported. We have produced some of the world's best minds right out of Saskatchewan. And they're all right. No one would argue with that. So what has been the difference? The difference is in Saskatchewan we've had almost 60 years of socialist government who is devoid of future thinking. They are devoid of ideas, as opposed to some other government next door who has had ideas. And that is why 100 ideas is the very best present we could offer the people and the future of this province, without question.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Kerpan: — Mr. Speaker, contained in the *100 Ideas*, the booklet that we do have, is talk about infrastructure, talk about rebuilding roads. The member for Moose Jaw North, in his words again — we'll talk about infrastructure for a second — mentioned that this summer the highways of Saskatchewan are going to be full of people coming back.

You know what, Mr. Speaker, he's right. He's right and I hope they are. But do you know what, Mr. Speaker? The member for Weyburn-Big Muddy talked about it yesterday or one day just this week in her member's statement about Highway No. 35. If those folks come back on Highway No. 35 from the United States, they're going to think they went through a time warp and they're back in 1905 . . . or No. 15 Highway east of Kenaston, one I'm familiar with, the member from Arm River-Watrous is certainly familiar with. We can go on and on, on infrastructure. But in this ideas, in our 100 ideas we have some valid, outside the box, innovative, new ideas that can make a huge difference to the future of this province.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say also that when you talk about the ideas or lack thereof, a lot of the good things that have happened in Saskatchewan over the last 100 years have happened in spite of the government. And I'm being really . . . honestly and fairly, in spite of all governments. They've happened because the people themselves have had ideas. They've had the innovation. They've had the courage, and they've had the desire to make this province go. They've done that in spite of all governments.

Mr. Speaker, the longer I'm in this political business, the more I truly believe that governments take far too much credit when things go well, and they probably get too much blame when things go badly. The fact of the matter is, is that governments really don't control the economy. The economic factors control the economy. What governments can do is they can be the catalyst for a good economy or they could be the wet blanket for a bad economy. And I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that that's exactly what we're seeing from this socialist government and ones before it.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how, I don't know how we could possibly not look at these ideas and say that they're good, that they're supportable. I don't know. You look at what's in the document, you look at what's not in the document and obviously there are some things that are not. They are not . . . unfortunately, they just weren't in here.

And one of those things is the idea of additional hours of work. Mr. Speaker, it's not in the document. And you know why it's not in that document, Mr. Speaker? Because almost 80 per cent of the people of the province, including the old supporters of the NDP, have said it was a bad idea. Now that's the difference between a good idea — 100 of them — and a bad idea.

It's not in there. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? As long we're the government . . . Whenever we become the government, as long as we're the government, it's never going to be in there.

Mr. Speaker, I want to finish my comments today because I know others have lots to say. But I want to say that if this NDP government, if this socialist government right there has a desire for the future, if they have a wish to give Saskatchewan a birthday present that will live well past all of us in this Chamber — that will live forever, it could in fact be a legacy for this government — if they want that, if they have that desire to do something that will be with this province for the next 100 years, then they should look seriously at supporting this motion. I don't know how they could possibly turn their backs on it. I truly don't.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud. I'm proud of the 100 ideas that we've developed. I know that some of our members are going to speak more about them; I'm very sure. And I would ask this government to think strongly before they vote against it because, in this year of our 100th anniversary — of our 100th birthday — the people of this province are going to be watching, and they're going to be remembering, Mr. Speaker, who has the ideas and who doesn't have the ideas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the time and the opportunity to be part of this debate, and I look forward to listening to members as this debate continues. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the end of my remarks, I'd like to move an amendment to the amendment to the centennial motion:

by adding after "raises in revenue" in the last line of the amendment:

(100) recognize the contributions of the voluntary sector.

Mr. Speaker, in moving an amendment to the amendment, I'm looking at the opportunity to mention that it's only a few days when these 100 ideas came from the opposition members, and I wonder where some of them came from because it looks like many of the policy documents that we have in place. But I also note that over the course of a day, they've already lost one of their 100 ideas, and are down to number 99. And I thought I could quite easily in handling backfill to make sure it's 100 and speak to the 100th addition to this amendment as a good idea to add to our discussion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the reason I'm adding the . . . recognizing the contributions of the voluntary sectors, of course, because as Legislative Secretary for the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, I'm proud and honoured to be able to enter into a debate on the amendment to the amendment that's before the Assembly. It would be moved by myself and seconded by the Minister for the Environment and the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Earlier a colleague of mine, the member from Moose Jaw North, who's been working so hard in this province to help us celebrate the centennial, stated that our centennial year ought to provide for a living legacy, and the member opposite talked about leaving a legacy. Well I know a very important legacy to leave behind. And the member from Moose Jaw North then also talked about the need to provide for a living legacy as we celebrate 100 years of membership in our great country of Canada.

The member's job I've quite envied actually over the number of months because I've seen it to be very immediately rewarding, not to mention the times I think people mentioned to him what could, should, or must happen for us to celebrate our centennial, but also because I know the people and our province are ready for this celebration.

Perhaps not as glamorous — maybe more a steadfast shadow, but equally important to the celebrating of the centennial and just as lasting I might add — is the human legacy we would be able to leave behind from the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative that will recognize and join in partnership with the voluntary sector.

In his address a few short years ago, the Premier of the province asked of us, asked of the voluntary sector to join together to help us in doing the work as set out in the document that states:

The Saskatchewan Voluntary Sector . . . will help our community of volunteers to sustain their achievements. It will establish a Framework to support the further building of relationships with government.

It will also help us to better understand how this partnership is already working, both in action and in role, and to support the voluntary sector in the development of policies and programs.

The committee's first priority is to develop a framework to guide provincial government interaction and participation with the voluntary sector, and I might add the job has been done.

The Voluntary Sector Initiative will build capacity in our voluntary sector and it will help build a stronger volunteer community. This initiative will help equip our impressive army of volunteers and their organizations to fulfill their missions. By working together with the voluntary sector, our government will help raise the profile of Saskatchewan's volunteers. We will increase the awareness of the value of the voluntary sector activities to all of our well-being and to all of our citizens.

To this date the work has been accomplished by means of getting together people from organizations across the province and representatives from each government department who have been working in partnership with the voluntary sector. And I want to take a moment to thank those men and women who have been working really hard on the initiative to make sure that the job gets done and a job well done to leave a human legacy for the centennial of our province.

Now because of the work of the voluntary sector, I think we're adding to . . . and I know the Premier and others on this side of the House believe that we will be adding a legacy to community, but also we will be enhancing further the quality of life of our province. In the months after the Premier announced the Voluntary Sector Initiative, we got together and established a framework and in the framework it outlines the values and the principles of the initiative and also the vision.

Mr. Speaker, some of the sets of principles in the document include — and have been mentioned when we talk about celebrating with people in community — shared leadership, open communication, consensus, advocacy, community, and accountability.

Now we're working together in partnership on our objectives, which is to build a formal relationship between the public sector and the voluntary sector, to build capacity within Saskatchewan's voluntary sector, and to build awareness of the value of the voluntary sector and volunteers to our society of the ways in which voluntary sector organizations structure themselves and of the structured relationship between the public and the voluntary sectors.

Saskatchewan has a history of helping. Saskatchewan people are the thread weaving through all Saskatchewan stories of achievement and accomplishment. The First Nations set foundations of caring, thriving society . . . on the caring, thriving society on the Canadian prairies centuries ago. Métis and early settlers built on that foundation of generosity. They volunteered to help one another build homes and barns as well as first schools and community centres.

For many decades, volunteer organizations have provided essential health and social services to Saskatchewan citizens. Volunteers in this period provided or raised most of the funding and were usually active in both the governance and operation of the organizations.

Well times have changed, and in some ways they've changed dramatically. In some of those areas, they remain the same. But

over the past 100 years, building on those foundations of the human condition upon which our society is based, they have remained our values. They have remained true.

Saskatchewan people share a recognition of the broader sense of community — an understanding that helping one's neighbour helps us all. This is reflected in the province's . . . the Saskatchewan motto of *Multis E Gentibus Vires* or Latin for "from many peoples, strength."

The Saskatchewan initiative in recognition of the voluntary sector speaks directly to the needs and the strengths of our province. The framework document is a blueprint that paves the way to the initiative's future development and clearly outlines the initiative's areas of priority. The Saskatchewan initiative also involves the public sector, the Government of Saskatchewan, directly as a full partner.

Another critically important feature of the Saskatchewan initiative is the application of the values and the principles that I mentioned. They are becoming an integral part of the working culture for the Government of Saskatchewan. And it's hoped the values and principles also become an integral part of the working culture for voluntary sector organizations as well.

The initiative will help define the philosophical approach to all work related to the provincial voluntary sector, helping to create an environment within which the province's voluntary sector organizations can successfully manage their work without barriers and with the respect that they have earned.

I noted a quote in the original document from Arla Gustafson, who's the executive director of the United Way of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. And I wanted to read her quote into the record because it does typify what Saskatchewan is known for. So in quoting Arla, in quote I say:

Saskatchewan is well known for business, labour, government and the voluntary sector working together. True democracy is about involving people in the decision making and the voluntary sector is democracy at its finest. People helping people is what Saskatchewan is known for. That is what true community and true citizenship are all about.

In undertaking the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, Saskatchewan is doing many things. The province is formalizing a long-standing relationship with the thousands of organizations that comprise the voluntary sector. By formally recognizing the relationship, the province is acknowledging the contribution of the voluntary sector and the individual volunteers throughout this province.

I know it has also been mentioned that . . . how important it is for all of the celebrations of centennial in every community across this province, bar none, where you hear from a society that's recognizing the past of our province, to celebrating the future of our province, holding events, holding the sporting events.

The 2005 Summer Games could not be done without the legions of volunteers that come together to help us celebrate in our centennial year. And we're all very thankful that when we

ask them to come forward and do that work, they want to do it. They want to join together in partnership and get the job done. That's the way Saskatchewan folk celebrate — come together, recognize their community, and become part of the democracy that we cherish in our province and have cherished for the last 100 years.

In that way the voluntary sector is talking about having a practical and a sustainable process that will serve as a foundation for joint initiatives, not only in the centennial year, but for many, many years to come, indeed a true human legacy. Our province is opening the door and establishing a formal two-way means of communication to the voluntary sector to identify, develop, and implement mutually advantageous initiatives and processes.

As I mentioned, the joint steering committee envisions the Premier's Voluntary Sector as a living legacy that can be realized by Saskatchewan's centennial in 2005 and that will benefit all residents of our province for decades to come.

The philosophical and practical scope of the Voluntary Sector Initiative will reflect the breadth of vision and energy of the people of Saskatchewan, and it will encompass a range of needs of the voluntary sector and the government in working with the voluntary sector to sustain and enhance the quality of life enjoyed by all people in Saskatchewan. It will continue to develop in anticipation of a growing and evolving set of needs from both partners.

The work of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative is not intended as a legal framework, rather it brings government and the voluntary sector together in a defined moral imperative that will guide the initiatives and the ongoing work of two distinct partners as their working relationship evolves to meet new and challenging initiatives. In doing that, we respect each partner's differences and the distinct ways of working, while identifying the common ways that we can work together to benefit both. The strength of the initiative lies in the collaborative efforts of both sectors and exists to serve the needs of both sectors.

The Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative respects choice. Organizations within the voluntary sector are not required to participate within the framework of the initiative or on any specific projects developed by the initiative because we believe in dependence on each other for a job well done, as I mentioned, in recreation, in culture, in health, and in protection of the environment. But we also recognize the independence of many, many groups in Saskatchewan who don't want to be in partnership with government. They stand alone to be able to advocate on behalf of people they represent or to be able to work in their own community to be independent of anything that that municipality or the province might do.

As I've been doing the work of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, I've found out many, many things about the work that happens across this province. And so one of the things the voluntary sector asked us to do was to develop an inventory of the ways we are already in relationships. And that updated inventory will be ready for all members in this Assembly very soon.

The Canadian volunteer initiative actually praises

Saskatchewan for doing such an inventory because the sector themselves don't even know the many, many ways that we interrelate with each other on a daily basis. And the first document has pages and pages and pages of ways that government departments interact with the voluntary sector and the volunteers out in community.

And I wanted to read just a few of those into the record today. An example might be in Culture, Youth and Recreation, there's a Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, where volunteers indicate at the beginning of this fiscal year that they've been working with the department to make sure that our heritage stays strong into the future.

Industry and Resources has a business and co-operative services area that they work with in the volunteer sector as well. There's a Small Business Loans Association.

In Learning, the apprentice and trades certificate commission, volunteers are sitting on those boards bringing forward issues on their own individual trades. There's planning and evaluation of children's services in the Department of Learning, early childhood developments. There's the expansion of the School^{PLUS} program that relies on helping organizations with communities that come together in an integrated way to work with the government on issues that are important to them. There are just thousands and thousands of ways. On a daily basis people don't even begin to understand the work of the voluntary sector in relationship with government to provide these services that we all value and cherish so much.

In one organization when we talked to them, the Air Cadet League of Canada, which is composed of national, provincial, and local committees who are all volunteers, these people give of themselves in the true spirit of volunteerism to make our communities a better place to live.

These volunteers in the provincial and local committees donate approximately, and this is just one organization, donates approximately 84,000 hours to that program each year. That's the equivalent of over 40 full-time jobs in every corner of our province.

You, the volunteers . . . should feel great pride in the job you are doing to help the youth in our province become the creative, confident leaders of tomorrow.

And that's a quote from Rick Fesciuc, past chairperson of the Air Cadet League of Canada.

The people of this province, the volunteers, the voluntary sector of this province, are ready to answer the challenges of the 21st century because we have a Premier who took the vision of having a Voluntary Sector Initiative, put someone responsible for the initiative in charge of that and directing it and doing the ongoing work with the volunteers in the communities. And I know members opposite, if they talk to their communities, will know of the work of the sector in so many different corners of our province. We're ready to draw on the lessons of the past to embrace the promise of the future.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Hamilton: — We all know we share generosity of spirit, tenacity, pride of accomplishment, and the pioneering spirit that led to the creation of our province almost 100 years ago.

Saskatchewan's rate of volunteerism has been admirably strong for many years. Imagine this: our voluntary sector organizations depend on the combined efforts of 400,000 volunteers.

An Hon. Member: — How many?

Ms. Hamilton: — 400,000 volunteers in our province; equivalent of more than 25,000 full-time equivalent positions. And that represents an investment in our economy of approximately \$800 million each and every year.

Mr. Speaker, no government could begin to organize or hire or replace or try and do the work of \$800 million — yes — per year of contribution to this province.

As a leader in the number of volunteers that we have per capita anywhere in this country, we need to make certain that we work in partnership with them to keep our volunteer component strong. And you find that in many, many communities. When someone volunteers for one position, you'll find them working in five or more. You'll find them doing work on their church boards, at their local rink, organizing local sporting events, keeping their history strong.

Our volunteers are everywhere and doing everything to keep our quality of life so strong in the province. And that's the kind of human legacy that we talk about when we're talking about the centennial celebrations in this province.

By working together, the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative gives its two sector partners an opportunity to give the people of Saskatchewan a legacy of substance, a legacy that reflects the rich social traditions of our province.

We will work together, the voluntary sector and the public sector, with this ambitious and worthy end in mind: that the end of the celebrating year — when the balloons are taken home by the children, when the parties have finished, when people have enjoyed and celebrated this, our centennial year — we will have a living human legacy that we can leave behind that will maintain the quality of life that we all appreciate from the foundations that have been set by the volunteers and the pioneers of the voluntary sector in all of our communities.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I would move the amendment to the amendment to the centennial motion:

by adding after "raises in revenue" in the last lines of the amendment, no. 100, a new 100 to replace the old 100 . . .

Not saying, Mr. Speaker, in doing so, that we want to support all of the 99, but we want to add another one to:

recognize the contributions of the voluntary sector to our great province.

Moved by myself and seconded by the Minister of the Environment, the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the . . . The subamendment has been moved by the member for Regina Wascana Plains, seconded by the member for Saskatoon Centre, which reads:

I move to amend the amendment to the centennial motion by adding after "raises in revenue" in the last line in this amendment, quote:

(100) recognize the contributions of the voluntary sector.

I shall refer to this as the subamendment to the main amendment and I would also advise members that the same rules of debate apply to the subamendment. That is that the discussion is restricted to the content of the subamendment. For reference people can also look to Erskine May 22nd Edition, page 344.

I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to second the amendment . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. It now being just slightly past the hour of 5 o'clock, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:01.]

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