



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

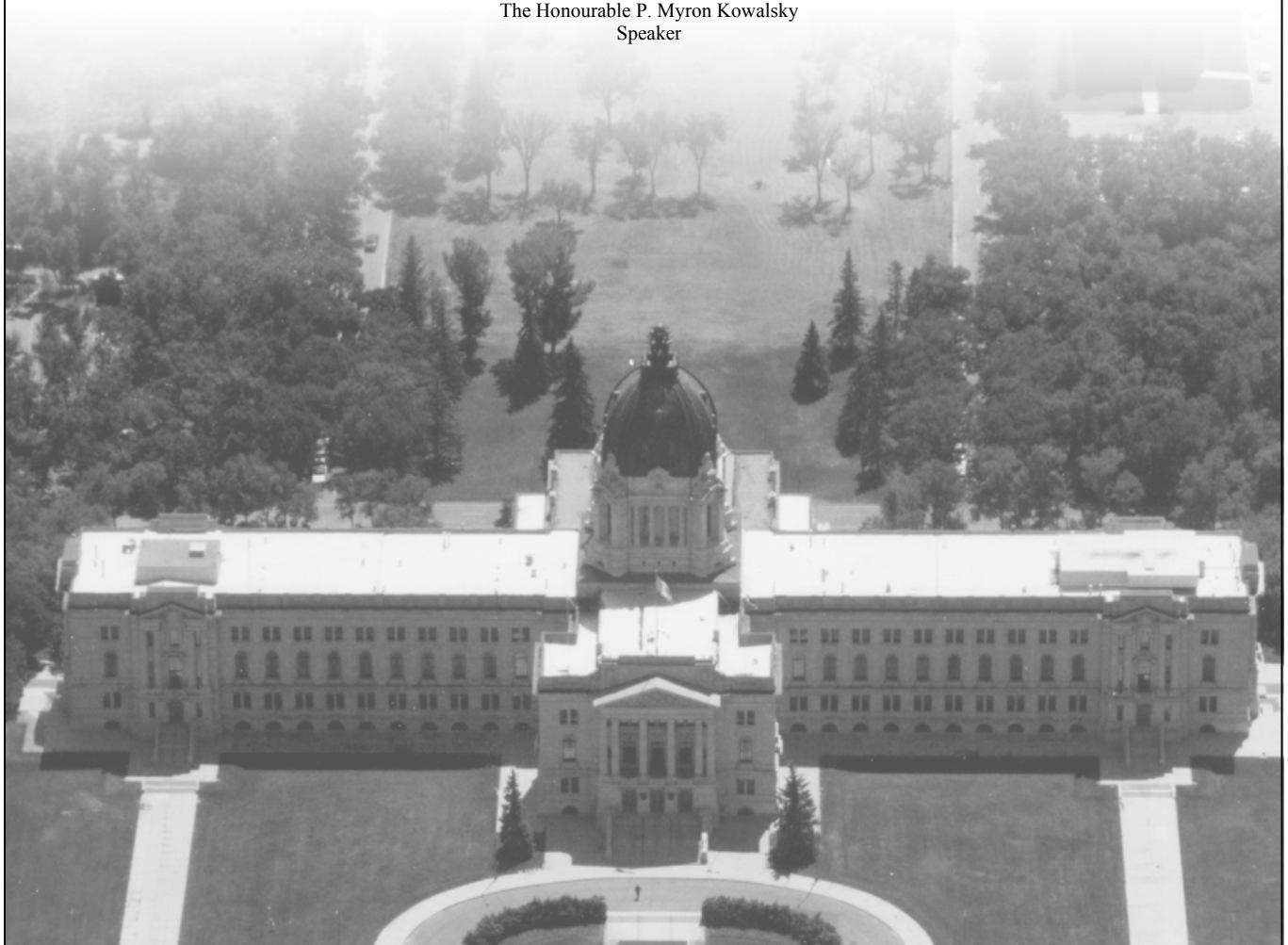
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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 Lackey, 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. Highway 32, which is the most direct route from Leader to Swift Current, also serves a number of communities on the western side of the province along the Alberta border. And the petition regarding Highway 32 today is signed by constituents from the communities of Burstall, Mendham, Leader, Liebenthal, and others in that immediate area. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 32 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again on behalf of constituents and residents of other ridings in Saskatchewan who are concerned about the level of group-home services in the community of Swift Current serving the entire region. 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 funding required for additional residential spaces for Swift Current residents with lifelong disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are from the communities of McMahon, Wymark, Rosenhof, and the city of Swift Current. I so present.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition on behalf of the staff, participants, and families of the Wheatland Regional Centre Inc. and other like centres across the province that provide services for individuals with disabilities. Mr. Speaker, they are concerned that the provincial budget response did not come close to meeting the minimum recommendations of their human resources plan. The prayer of the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners will humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly will please consider implementing the minimum compensation recommendations for staff

members who support people with disabilities as outlined in SARC's human resources plan.

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

Mr. Speaker, a number of signatures on this petition and they are from the communities of Rosetown and Mildred. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of people from the Estevan constituency who have great concerns about SaskTel's cellular service in rural Saskatchewan. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the provincial government to take all necessary actions to install the technical equipment necessary to ensure that all rural areas of Saskatchewan are protected by reliable cellular telephone coverage.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Radville and Gladmar. I so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Bakken Lackey: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents of Weyburn-Big Muddy who are very concerned about the spread of crystal meth. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement a strategy that will deal with crystal methamphetamine education, prevention, enforcement, and treatment.

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

And the petition is signed by residents of Radville and Ogema. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise to present a petition from parents in the constituency of Saskatoon Silver Springs regarding a much needed elementary school in the Arbor Creek area of Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources to build an elementary school in Arbor Creek.

The petitioners today live on Budz Court, Guenter Crescent, and Berini Drive in northeast Saskatoon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here calling on the government to resurface Highway 15 from the junction of Highway 11 east to the junction of Highway No. 2.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that this portion of 15 Highway be repaired or resurfaced immediately so as to remove the safety hazard to all motorists who rely on this vital road for transportation and economic purposes.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read a petition opposed to possible reductions of health care services in Wilkie. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Wilkie Health Centre and special care home maintain at the very least their current level of services.

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

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

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to rise on behalf of citizens of west central Saskatchewan to present a petition concerned with the rerouting of Highway 51. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that Highway 51 is rebuilt to go through the town of Kerrobert so that local businesses may be given the opportunity to promote themselves to and gain business from patrons passing through Kerrobert.

Mr. Speaker, this particular petition is signed by citizens of Kerrobert and Coleville. 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 as addendums to previously tabled petitions, being sessional paper nos. 637, 639, 640, 666, 715, 730, 798, 800, and 808.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 110 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs: what was the total value of loans given out through the Northern Development Fund in the year 2004?

And I have questions all the way back to '99. I also have another question. I give notice I shall on day no. 110 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs: what was the total value of loans in default given out through the Northern Development Fund in 2004?

And I also have questions going back to '99.

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

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 110 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Government Relations: what is the nature of the relationship between the standards for firefighting in the oil field and petroleum industry as monitored by occupational health and safety, and the Office of the Fire Commissioner with regards to these standards? And second, if a relationship does not exist, has the minister taken steps to outline the relationship?

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 110 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for Government Relations: what is the procedure for private firefighting companies employing non-unionized staff to receive accreditation for their skill and professional standards from the provincial fire commissioner?

I so present.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased today to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, 23 students from Wilfrid Walker School, and their teacher, Mr. Rick Steciuk. Now, Mr. Speaker, these are 23 of the very best students in the entire city of Regina, and they're here today to visit our legislature. And we'll have a drink and discussions a little bit later, Mr. Speaker. And I'll tell them how the Speaker operates the Assembly and they'll have a great day today, Mr. Speaker. So thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you is a lady I would like to introduce, a friend of mine, a lady behind the bar that all of us know very well, the former member from Humboldt. When we come into politics, there's many things we learn, and one of the things that we learn is that we can develop friendships that last a lifetime. So I'd like all members to help me welcome Arlene Julé back to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Anniversary of Liberation of Holland

Mr. Dearborn: — Mr. Speaker. It is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to our veterans who participated in the liberation of Holland from the Nazis 60 years ago this month. Of the 40,000 Canadians who lost their lives during World War II, 7,000 died during the liberation of Holland. It was a tremendous sacrifice and because of their efforts, the Netherlands was liberated by the First Canadian Army on May 5, 1945.

Saskatchewan veterans played a key role in that campaign. The Estevan-based South Saskatchewan Regiment was among the Canadian troops which liberated 861 inmates from Kamp Westerbork, a Nazi concentration camp, on April 12, 1945. It was, as one veteran has noted, a day that made you proud to be Canadian.

Thousands of veterans and relatives from across Canada will visit Holland this year to take part in the 60th anniversary celebrations and ceremonies. There they will meet with locals, visit former battlegrounds, and salute their comrades who were killed in action.

Mr. Speaker, I have travelled to the Netherlands, and I can tell you that their appreciation for Canadians is unparalleled anywhere in the world. There are Canadian flags everywhere and monuments everywhere. And it's very fitting that Holland has continued to be such a close friend of the Canadian government. We have 2,200 war veterans. Our largest force and largest Canadian cemetery outside of Canada is in Holland.

I would ask members of the Assembly to join me today in expressing our gratitude to our veterans for their role in the liberation of Holland, and the sacrifice made by the 7,000 Canadians who gave their lives to secure our friend Holland's country's freedom.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hepatitis C Awareness

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, May 1 was National Hepatitis C Awareness Day in Canada and the beginning of Hepatitis C Awareness Month. This is significant, Mr. Speaker, because awareness is one of the best weapons we have with which to fight the spread of this disease.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased on Sunday to have had the opportunity to say a few words at the opening of the third National Aboriginal Hepatitis C Conference that is taking place here in Regina. Mr. Speaker, the incidence of acute hepatitis C infection among the Aboriginal population is on average seven times higher than that observed in the non-Aboriginal Canadian-born population.

Conference participants from a variety of fields of expertise and experience have come from all across Canada to share ideas and find solutions to the problem of hepatitis C. The conference theme is Building Stronger Families and Communities and is about finding ways to provide holistic, culturally relevant education and support. Conference organizers stress the need to increase awareness of the key issues surrounding hepatitis C for Aboriginal people with emphasis on prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and self-management.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that real progress is being made here in Regina this week. I want to acknowledge the main conference organizer, Margaret Akan, and host organization All Nations Hope AIDS Network, the host organization of this year's conference, as well as all the individuals and organizations responsible for putting together this important event of building community and healing lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Autism Treatment Services Holds Spring Gala

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, last Saturday I had the privilege of attending the eighth annual Spring Gala held by a non-profit group, the Autism Treatment Services of Saskatchewan, Inc. As well as an interesting evening of music performed by jazz vocalist Lyne Tremblay, I sat with two families that had autistic children. The event was highly successful and no doubt raised a substantial amount of money for the organization.

This organization has existed since 1979. It was initially started as a parent support group and has now evolved into a program delivery agent to deliver specialized programs that deal with autism.

[13:45]

Autism is a lifelong neurological disorder that affects a person's development and how their brain processes information. Individuals with autism experience challenges in the areas of communication, social interaction, and maintaining relationships. While there is no cure for autism, it is highly treatable. Early diagnosis and intervention greatly increase the

functionality of the individual. Consistent individualized programming, while expensive, can produce significant benefits.

During my time on the Saskatoon public school board, there was a strong commitment to providing trained teaching assistants and developing positive programs. Autism is a huge challenge for the individuals affected and also for their families.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] to make themselves aware of autism issues in this province, and I would like to ask MLAs to congratulate the Autism Treatment Services organization for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

National Mental Health Week

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, this is National Mental Health Week, and the theme for this year is Mind and Body Fitness. It's a time to create awareness about the important connection between physical and mental health and to promote activities that stimulate an overall sense of well-being.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan division of the Canadian Mental Health Association is one of the oldest and largest community-based human service organizations in the province. Throughout the years, it has depended, and continues to depend, on a small but dedicated staff and a large number of volunteers to accomplish its goals.

Mr. Speaker, National Mental Health Week is a focal point of their efforts to raise awareness about the various issues associated with mental health and mental illness. The staff and volunteers work to erase the stigma of mental illness, educate the public about mental health issues, provide support to those living with mental illness, and help them live a better quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, having good mental health enables us to more fully enjoy and appreciate our environment and the people in it. We can often better resist stress and tackle our life's challenges in a positive frame of mind.

In recent years, there has been a shift towards a more holistic approach to mental health. The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. Given this, it is fitting that this year's theme is Mind and Body Fitness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to the staff and volunteers of the Saskatchewan division of the Canadian Mental Health Association for improving the lives of many and in turn making an impact on our entire community.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Last

Mountain-Touchwood.

A Dutch Family's Experience in World War II

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week as our veterans gather in Holland, along with our leaders, to celebrate the liberation of Holland and celebrate VE Day, I'd like to talk for a moment about a young, married Dutch couple that lived in Holland during that period of time that country was occupied, Mr. Speaker, and relate some of the conditions that they were forced to live under.

I would like to talk about a couple, Jon and Johanna Vanderloos, who were newly married and who were forced to billet German soldiers . . . Who had to horde food, Mr. Speaker, so that they could have enough to survive on. Who were forced to work for the German army at various tasks including erecting fence posts in meadows to prevent Allied planes from landing. And who had nothing . . . no firewood at night, Mr. Speaker, to keep them warm so they would go out in the middle of the night and cut some of these posts for firewood, and did that at the risk of death.

And on their way home in the darkness of night would hear someone coming down the path and hide in the ditch, Mr. Speaker, with the shovel in hand, knowing that if it was a German soldier they would be faced with a kill-or-be-killed situation. And oftentimes would be very relieved to find neighbours doing exactly the same thing, Mr. Speaker. Who had young mothers with their families come to their door and knock on their door and beg for potato peelings so they could make soup, Mr. Speaker.

Those are some of the conditions that that family had to live under, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask all members of this Assembly to acknowledge the strength and courage of the Dutch people to survive the horrors of war.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Battlefords Business Excellence Awards

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very fortunate last evening to be in attendance at the 12th annual Battlefords Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Battlefords Chamber of Commerce to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the thriving Battlefords business community.

I would ask all members to acknowledge and congratulate this year's winners, which include the Heritage Award, sponsored by BCU Financial, given to Bill and Don's Men's Wear; the Community Contribution Award, sponsored by SaskEnergy, won by Kal Tire; the Young Entrepreneur Award, sponsored by RBC Royal Bank, won by North Battleford Massage; the Marketing Award, sponsored by SaskPower, won by Scott Campbell Dodge; the New Business Award, sponsored by SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance], won by Boston Pizza; the Customer Service Award, sponsored by CIBC [Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce], won by Meckling Delivery and

Moving; and the 2005 BBEX Business of the Year Award, sponsored by SaskTel, won by BCU Financial.

I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the people that organized this outstanding event honouring the very best of our business community. This includes the organizing committee Co-Chairs, Marla Kerr and Rob Rongve, and the MC [master of ceremonies], a long-time BBEX committee member, David Dekker. And I also want to acknowledge our own award maker and master craftsman, Stan Wychopen who in honour of Saskatchewan's centennial year crafted an extraordinary miniature of Walter Scott's legislative desk, given to each of the winners.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Treatment for Drug Addicted Youth

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to update this Assembly on the young lady with the drug addiction whose family came to the legislature last week. We all know her as Mary. I was informed that late last night Mary was taken into custody and put into a youth facility. Her grandparents and mother are relieved and delighted she is out of harm's way for the time being.

Mr. Speaker, this only happened because the family had the courage and the strength to come to this legislature and demand a meeting with the minister and get the highest level of government in this province involved. My question to the minister is this: is this what other families are going to have to go through to get the same results?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And certainly after a very trying week, I'm glad that we have the report of this stage of the outcome that we have today.

What I would like to say is that our section 18 has different provisions for youth 15 and under as it does for youth 17 and under. And when I agreed to apply the rather unusual measures of section 18 to this age of youth, it was to test the ability of our provisions to have the desired effect so that we could make a final determination of how we may want to amend section 18. And so I will be following very carefully what happens in this circumstance regarding the success of this intervention.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, most families don't want to have to come to the legislature and get the minister involved. They

want to have something done immediately so they can do it in their own hometown.

The private member's Bill I introduced last week does two important things. First of all, it allows parents to get children with addictions out of dangerous situations. And the second thing is it helps parents allow their children to go into mandatory addiction treatment. I understand the minister is looking at modifying section 18 to ensure parents can apprehend children 18 and under.

Mr. Speaker, what I don't see here is where the mandatory treatment comes into play. Mr. Speaker, my question, and the question on the minds of parents whose children are involved in drugs, is simply this: does the minister support the idea of mandatory treatment?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a balance of opinion on both sides of the question regarding mandatory treatment. But I think I would fall on the side of people and parents who believe that better to err on the side of protection of youth than to have a disaster as a result of not having done that.

At the moment, we have no secure custody in the province for youth who have not committed a crime under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. So one of the things I'm looking at at the same time as we're looking at amendments to the Bill is the availability of closed custody facilities where we are not, in fact, bringing drug addicted youth who may not have a criminal record into contact with other youth who have a criminal record.

So with this kind of a question there's legal issues, there's addiction treatment issues, and there's resource issues. And I want to make sure that we've answered all of those as we move ahead.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the minister for giving us her assurance that she believes that mandatory treatment would be the right way to go. I've recently received a letter from a teacher in Saskatchewan and I'm going to call this teacher Anne as she doesn't want her name used. Twenty years ago Anne was 15 and she was addicted to drugs. Her parents put her into mandatory treatment in the United States. She writes:

If I hadn't been committed to alcohol and drug treatment when I was 15 years old, I know I wouldn't be the successful adult I am . . . [today].

Believe me, if I could have walked out of there when I got there or when things got rough, I would have. But because

I was locked in . . . [and] forced to look at my addiction and what it was doing to me and my family [I survived].

Mr. Speaker, how soon and where is the option that the minister is looking for for mandatory treatment?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the two final questions, aside from those I've already mentioned about the actual secure custody facilities with the appropriate staff to receive the youth, the other issue is both of the Bill that has been put forward by the member opposite, and our section 18, contemplate going before a court for the court to order the mandatory treatment. So you still have to meet a test of competency regarding whether the youth is competent to be making their own decisions or whether in fact there's a question of ability to make those judgments. So the other question to answer is how high the test is for competency because in either process it still contemplates a court-ordered decision.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, again I agree with the minister. These are all questions that have to be answered but they have to be answered quickly. We are right now talking about a growing epidemic in this province and across Canada. We've been knowing that there's been an issue here in the legislature for one year. We have the Minister of Health said he knew about it for six years. We don't have the right to just sit there and talk about it any more. We have to get people looking at the answers to this question.

In the paper today we have:

Lanoie, who is a member of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine, said he is really not opposed to the province mandating treatment for young people addicted to drugs.

"Studies have shown people do just as well in mandated treatment as if they step up to . . . [do it] voluntarily," . . . "The problem is we . . . don't have . . . [the] facilities, [and] we need a lot of residential treatment facilities, especially for crystal meth and . . . cocaine," . . .

Mr. Speaker, the question is, how quickly are we going to be able to help the children in our province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Again, Mr. Speaker, I will say that there is a large number of things being done, as was reported by the member from Sutherland, the special Legislative Secretary,

and the Minister of Health.

We did recently announce many prevention, treatment, education, and reduction of supplies used to make the drug initiatives. There is a public awareness campaign. There is more services to help youth withdraw from alcohol and drugs, more brief detox services for short-term stays, more community outreach, and in fact in the North, a mobile outreach. So there's been a substantial increase in services.

Where we still need to respond is on the area of closed custody services which will require the development of resources that do not currently exist in the province. This is why, Mr. Speaker, though Alberta is taking a year, we don't wish to take a year. But we do have to make sure that when we receive that youth, that in fact there is a closed custody response in those situations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Rebate Program for Energy Savings

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan's rebate for green appliances has proven to be extremely popular. Ten thousand people have received rebates after purchasing Energy Star compliant appliances. Mr. Speaker, those rebates have been worth just over \$700,000.

Mr. Speaker, will this program be expanded to include other energy-efficient home heating technologies?

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As Minister Responsible for the Office of Energy Conservation, it's a delight to stand up and talk about the good work that's been accomplished by the PST [provincial sales tax] rebate. And as we know in the budget this year, it's been established that no longer will people have to pay the PST on these Energy Star appliances at the point of sale.

So this is good news. This is great news for the people of Saskatchewan. And it's actually . . . We've had something over 20,000 appliances in this program that have been sold. So good news for Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, a geothermal system uses the earth's thermal properties and electricity to heat buildings. For every unit of electricity it uses, a geothermal system returns four times as much heat. These systems are hugely efficient and save a lot of money.

Mr. Speaker, will the government consider a rebate program for geothermal heating systems?

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're always examining options like this and we're interested in hearing about the good ideas from everyone in the province. Obviously people in Saskatchewan value wise use of energy and so we'll be happy to examine this type of thing. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, Manitoba Hydro calls geothermal one of the most comfortable, energy-efficient, and environmentally responsible home heating and cooling systems available. Manitoba is offering loans up to \$15,000 repayable on monthly utility bills. Mr. Speaker, when will Saskatchewan be offering a similar program?

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, as we examine the whole range of options out there, we want to make sure they apply in an appropriate way here to Saskatchewan. Manitoba has some unique opportunities there, but we do some really innovative things here. SaskEnergy with their high-energy-efficient furnaces is a great option for people here in Saskatchewan. So we want to make sure it's the right fit and it's the right package for people here in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Contract Negotiations with Nurses

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the next few days, teachers around the province are going to be voting on a tentative agreement that they have reached with this provincial government. Now let's remember this agreement is a great deviation from what was the Premier's wage mandate at 0, 1, and 1. In fact the teachers will be voting on 2, 2, and 2 plus.

SUN, Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, are currently at the bargaining table in Regina. Can the nurses expect the same treatment from this Minister of Health as the teachers received from the minister of Education, a deviation from 0, 1, and 1?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for CRE.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, certainly we have made the point that where the flexibility lies in the agreement is where a case can be made for issues like recruitment and retention, special issues in the workplace. And you know, Mr. Speaker, it has been the history of settlements regarding both teachers and nurses that these factors have come to bear.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. SUN has repeatedly asked SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations], and I quote, "for further clarification and disclosure around monetary issues." Yet SUN argues that SAHO is unwilling to or unable to provide any of this disclosure.

So I'll ask the Minister of Health: is it a firm 0, 1, and 1 mandate — yes or no?

If the answer is no, then I guess to the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation: if there's flexibility which she talks about, is that flexibility around the monetary issues on this upcoming contract?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the minister responsible for the public service board.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is coming dangerously close to collective bargaining on the floor of the legislature and I think we'll just leave that at the table.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the minister of Education went public saying that there is more money on the table than the 0, 1, and 1 mandate. I'm simply asking the minister, is the same agreement available for nurses?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the minister for the public service board.

Hon. Ms. Crofford: — Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite believe in collective bargaining, they will give this process room to unfold. And I can guarantee them that when the people representing those at the bargaining table come forward to discuss special issues with us, certainly that is considered as it is in every other agreement.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, monetary issues are only one issue that is being discussed at the bargaining table.

Nurses for years have been telling this government that they need more full-time, permanent jobs to ensure safe staffing levels. It appears that the government is refusing to ensure safe staffing levels after the last round of negotiations, and we quote from what SUN had to say:

... the employers' refusal to adequately staff units is the main cause of their inability to maintain appropriate levels

of RNs [and] RPNs to provide safe patient care.

Mr. Speaker, nurses have been calling for greater staffing levels for years. Is he willing to jeopardize patient safety for a lack of nursing jobs in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Mr. Speaker, in October we had a national meeting of the provinces, the territories, and the federal government, and there was a 10-year plan around health care which included a plan around health human resources. And one aspect of that, it does include safety of the workplace and all of the related issues. And I'm pleased to say that when we got our first allocation of dollars, we committed a substantial portion of that to deal with safety issues.

We'll continue to work with the employees and with management to make sure that we have safe workplaces and that they can provide good care for our Saskatchewan citizens.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Powers of Labour Relations Board

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Bill No. 87, An Act to amend The Trade Union Act, has a lot of people concerned. I would like the minister to clarify something for this Assembly about the powers this Bill gives to the Labour Relations Board. My question is: will an individual representing the Labour Relations Board have the power to seize evidence or information from a workplace?

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, here's another example of the opposition ignoring the facts. All you have to do, Mr. Speaker, when we're talking about the amendments to The Trade Union Act, I would recommend that the members opposite review section 18 of the Act, and it currently provides the Labour Relations Board with broad general powers. And Mr. Speaker, what these amendments are meant to do, and what they will do, is clarify those powers for the board which, Mr. Speaker, will provide more timely decisions. And the people on this side of the House believe that's a good way to work.

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, yesterday the Minister of Labour was asked a very specific question in her scum about Bill 87 and the powers of the Labour Relations Board. A reporter asked the following, quote, "And with this Bill the board will be able to seize and access some information." To which the minister replied, and I quote, "Yes, if it is relative to the case, yes, they will."

Mr. Speaker, I have the Bill in my hand. I would like this minister to stand and point out the clause that grants an individual the right to seize property.

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite wish to get into the detailed answers on Bill 87, we could do that in committee where we would have more detailed answers and more time.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the members opposite that these are powers that the board currently has. And what it would allow for is gathering information for conducting certification or decertification votes, determining how many employees there are and who is an employee and, Mr. Speaker, determining which employees might be management employees and therefore excluded from the bargaining units. Mr. Speaker, these are all very relevant and important to many of the cases brought before the Labour Relations Board.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, very clearly the section that the minister has referred to, section 18 of this Bill, indicates that in sections (f) and (g) there is the ability to enter any premises and to inspect and view — inspect and view, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the minister in her scum in the rotunda said, if they decide will there have . . . Will the person or the individual representing the Labour Relations Board have the ability to seize any information from that workplace? The minister responded, yes, they will.

Will the minister clarify whether or not the individual representing the Labour Relations Board, will that individual have the power to seize any records, any material from that workplace?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — What I will say is, no, not any material, any . . . I mean that is pretty broad scope, broad scale. The member opposite is distorting the facts and not being accurate in the facts that are presented in this Bill or these amendments.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to these amendments and to the powers of the Labour Relations Board and access to workplaces, this is not a radical move and it is prevalent in other jurisdictions across Canada.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — The minister suggests that there be some material that might be necessary. This Bill is granting an individual the right to enter premises. The minister said

yesterday in her scrum, it also will allow them to seize, seize information — information that this individual may deem necessary. Judges have to grant that information to police officers, that ability to enter and confiscate material. This minister is indicating that a Labour Relations Board representative will have the right to seize information. I want her to stand in this Assembly and clarify what information she will decide on as being relevant to the ability of that information to be confiscated.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, with regards to these amendments proposed for the Labour Relations Board, clarifying their powers and also clarifying access to workplaces to gather information that may be relevant to the cases before them, Mr. Speaker, this power is in six other jurisdictions across this country and it is not unusual.

But what is unusual, Mr. Speaker, is those members opposite who hop from one side of the issue to the other. One member gets up and supports workers, supports free collective bargaining, proposes to be the kinder, softer Saskatchewan Party. But, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan aren't fooled. They're the same as they were four years ago, same as they were six months ago. They disagree with labour legislation, they disagree with supporting working people in this province; and this government will continue the work it's doing.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Consultation Regarding Labour Legislation

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, what the opposition disagrees with is labour legislation that hurts both employers and employees because it casts a chill over the provincial economy and turns away investment into the province of Saskatchewan. That's what the opposition has a concern . . .

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order, please. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The election of fall '03 the Premier was asked by the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce what major labour changes he had planned. And here's what he said in a letter back to the chamber of commerce. This is what the Premier of the province said — no legislation changes would occur without extensive consultations with all stakeholders.

The question today is simple to this Premier or his designate: what constitutes, in their mind and the mind of this government, extensive consultations? Are extensive consultations introducing those major changes in legislation and then waiting for the phone to ring or for meetings to be requested by the business community or any other stakeholder?

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the *Leader-Post* dated June 9, 2004 the Leader of the Opposition said:

“Saskatchewan could be a ‘have’ province if it cut taxes, stopped competing with the private sector and reformed its restrictive labour laws” [says Saskatchewan Party leader].

Mr. Speaker, I will tell the member opposite we are a have province, have been for a couple of years. And the access to workplace portion in the amendments to The Trade Union Act are also in the Alberta Labour Relations Board Act. And, Mr. Speaker, it's not restrictive, it's common practice, and it's needed for the board to do its work.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, the minister better be careful in what she's saying to this Assembly because powers of seizure are not common across this province when it comes to Labour Relations Board. They are not. The question to the minister though is simple and direct if she cares to answer: does she view extensive consultation with stakeholders, is it her opinion that those kinds of consultations are represented by introducing legislation and then waiting for her phone to ring?

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, when we look at some of the comments that the members opposite have made . . . And he talked about our restricting investment in this province. And in a scrum in the legislature he said, and I quote:

We do not need anything unique here, but what we need is competitive . . . we need to be competitive in terms of our labour legislation.

[14:15]

This is not unique, Mr. Speaker. This is in other jurisdictions. Both of our neighbouring provinces have the access to workplaces. He also made the comment that it would be restrictive to investment in the province of Saskatchewan. And I know the Minister of Industry and Resources has said it many times, but I'll repeat it for the members opposite, investment in Saskatchewan was \$7.5 billion and it's projected by Stats Can [Statistics Canada] to be 8.5 this coming year, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Is it any wonder that this government, this NDP [New Democratic Party] government, and that minister, lose credibility with the people of the province every single day when they hear answers like that? We know that powers of seizure are not common across the country. They are simply not

common across this country. Mr. Speaker, you don't have to take the word of the official opposition when it comes to whether or not this government has any credibility when it commits to consultation. Here is what the Saskatchewan Construction Association executive director said in the *Leader-Post* today. He said, quote:

"They've learned nothing from the available hours," . . .
 "They introduce the Bill in the legislature and they assume that's consultation. [He goes on to say] That's not consultation."

I want the minister to stand in her place today and explain to the stakeholders of the economy of this province on both the labour side and the management side, if her view of extensive consultation she thinks is shared by them — that being, introducing a Bill, writing, drafting a Bill, introducing it in the House, and then waiting for her phone to ring or for a meeting to be requested.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, over the period of time of the last number of months there has been a great deal of consultation that has gone on, on the whole package of labour legislation that is currently tabled in the House, and also the additional hours piece, Mr. Speaker. It was quite public. I had many presentations from a variety of groups. And, Mr. Speaker, when anyone has contacted me for a meeting, or they have sent . . . we have accommodated them. Now if they have cancelled the meeting, Mr. Speaker, that's entirely their business. Mr. Speaker, we have also . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order, please. The Minister of Labour.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, we have also received a number of written comments from various business representatives across the province. Mr. Speaker, while the member opposite says he does not think we need anything unique in this province, I would ask him then, does that mean he would do away with three weeks of holidays, which is unique to Saskatchewan? Does that mean that he would get rid of our parental leave, which is better than Alberta, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order, please.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — Order, please. The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and table responses to written questions 1,033 through 1,062 inclusive.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The responses for questions 1,033 through to 1,062 have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

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

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, to enable the Economy Committee and the Human Services Committee to do their work, I move the House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:21.]

Corrigendum

On page 2831 of *Hansard* No. 104A Tuesday, May 3, 2005, the title “Low Water Levels at Crooked Lake and Long Lake” should read “Low Water Levels at Crooked Lake and Round Lake.”

We apologize for this error.

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