



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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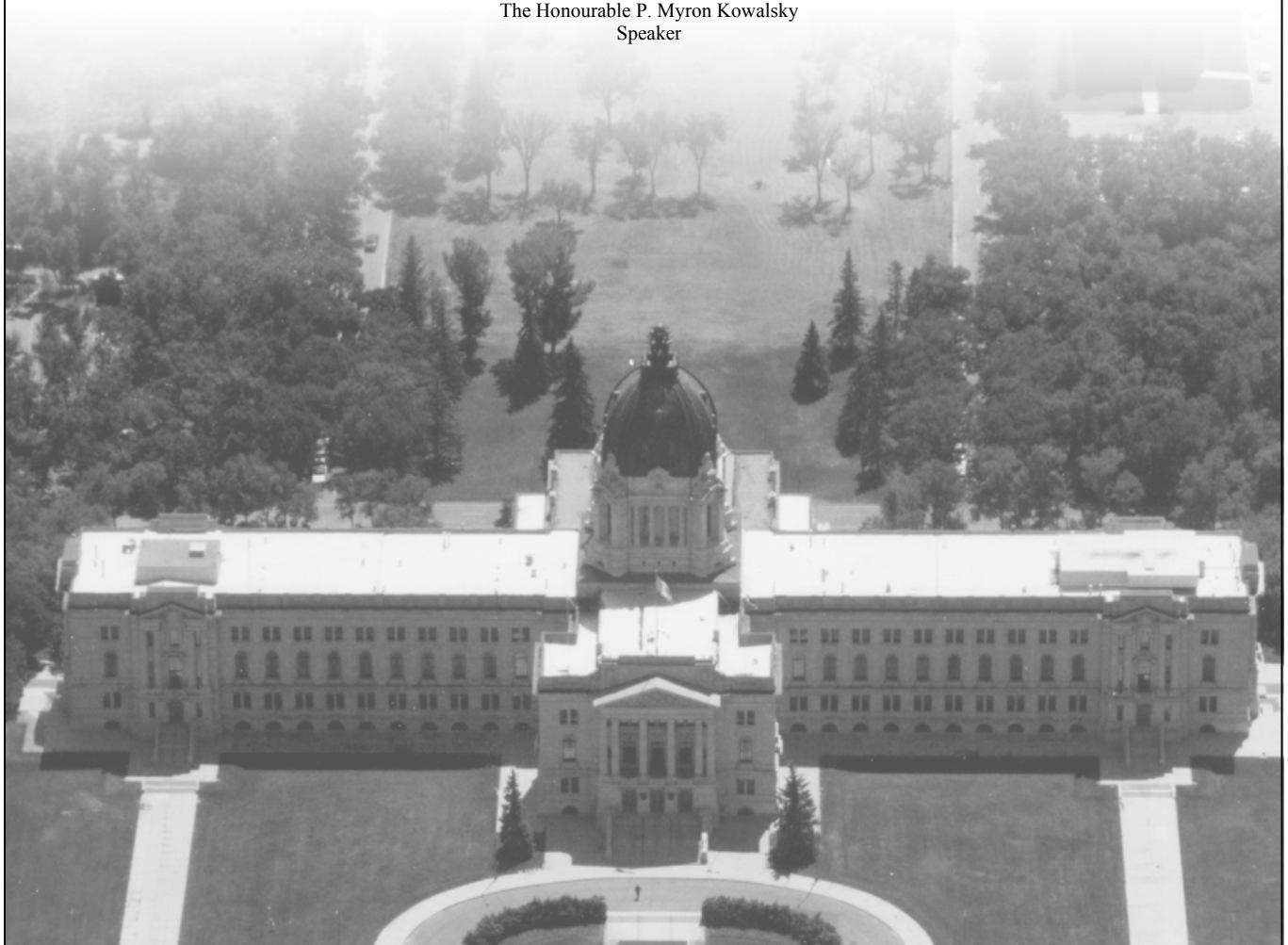
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Addley, Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Bakken 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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, the condition of Highway 32 has deteriorated significantly in the last year, especially the stretch from Leader to Cabri. I present a petition on behalf of constituents from the community of Sceptre:

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.

Mr. Speaker, these two or three pages of petitions are signed by students who ride the school bus over that treacherous road.

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure again to rise on behalf of residents of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, and the Southwest who are concerned about the lack of residential spaces for citizens with lifelong disabilities. And 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 residential spaces for Swift Current residents with lifelong disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, today's petitioners come from the community of Wymark, just south of Swift Current, and the city of Swift Current. I so present.

**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 Weyburn, Radville,

and Gladmar. I so present.

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to rise today to present a petition on behalf of concerned 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 the 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.

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

The petitioners today live on Guenter, Wright, and Lashyn Crescent, and Bourgonje Drive in northeast Saskatoon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here that citizens want to improve SaskTel cellular service in rural Saskatchewan:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by good citizens from Saskatoon, Jansen, Lanigan, and Wynyard. I so present.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present another petition from constituents opposed to the possible reduction of health care services in Biggar. 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 Biggar Hospital, long-term care home, and ambulance services maintain at the very least their current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

## READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions

have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14 are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions, being sessional paper nos. 666, 715, and 730.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Meadow Lake.

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning on behalf of government but also as the Minister of SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance].

This morning, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I had the pleasure of welcoming the safety patrollers to the legislature here in Regina. This weekend they are celebrating the 15th jamboree safety patrollers, and SGI is a proud sponsor of that.

You will notice obviously the very many young people in our galleries, mostly with the lime-green shirts. And I assure folks they have not joined the green team In Motion in the legislature building. Those are safety patrollers.

I think what we'll do, Mr. Speaker, first of all is I'd like to welcome from the Canadian Automobile Association, first of all, Maureen Murray. I believe she's in one of the galleries. Maureen, if you could just give us a wave. She may be out organizing yet. Oh she's in the Speaker's gallery. Okay Maureen, I can't see you. And also with her is Louise Houldsworth. And thank you very much to the two of you who have organized this wonderful event. So let's welcome the two of them first.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Now I would like to if I could ask the indulgence of colleagues in the legislature here and ask each one of . . . when I introduce the safety patrollers, would you please stand or give a little wave. And then the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for the area, if they would also wave back so those safety patrollers would know who their MLA is.

First of all from The Battlefords we have five safety patrollers. If you'd give us a little wave from The Battlefords. Where are we? There we are. Okay and your MLA down here.

From Big River we have three safety patrollers and two chaperones. The Big River MLA.

And from Creighton we have two patrollers and one chaperone. Okay. Your MLA. There we are.

From Estevan we have six safety patrollers and one chaperone. And the Estevan MLA, there we are.

From Gravelbourg two safety patrollers. There we are.

From Hudson Bay six safety patrollers and one chaperone. Okay.

From Kindersley two patrollers and one chaperone. All right. Enthusiastic.

From Lanigan two patrollers and one chaperone.

From Maidstone four patrollers and one chaperone. There we are.

From Maple Creek seven safety patrollers and one chaperone.

From Martensville two safety patrollers and one chaperone. Okay.

From Moose Jaw four safety patrollers and one chaperone.

From Nipawin two safety patrollers and one chaperone.

From Nokomis two safety patrollers and one chaperone.

From North Battleford four safety patrollers and one chaperone. Okay.

Get ready. From Prince Albert 24 safety patrollers and two chaperones. Okay. They must be good kids because every other community has two or three safety patrollers and one chaperone. These 24 have only 2 chaperones, so they must be very good kids.

And from Regina we have 19 patrollers and 1 chaperone. Wow. Okay. Regina MLAs get up and wave.

From Rosetown four safety patrollers and one chaperone.

From Rouleau two safety patrollers and one chaperone. All right.

And from Saskatoon 23 safety patrollers and 5 chaperones. Saskatoon MLAs, get up.

Okay. From Spiritwood four safety patrollers and one chaperone. Welcome.

And from Turtleford eight safety patrollers and one chaperone.

From Unity three safety patrollers and one chaperone.

From Warman two safety patrollers and one chaperone.

From Watrous four safety patrollers, period. Those are really good kids.

And from Weyburn — finally from Weyburn, I should say — four safety patrollers and one chaperone.

Once again please join with me in welcoming all these young folks who are role models in their community, leaders in their community who help serve the communities and sure . . . and ensure, I should say, the safe delivery of kids, young children to and from our schools. So thank you very much for the good work you do and welcome to our legislature.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the minister. Through you and to you to the rest of the Assembly, I join with the minister in welcoming the school patrol workers from around the province.

Certainly I won't go through the procedure that the minister did; we all had our exercise standing and waving. But I will admit that you add a lot of colour to the building which is nice to see.

I also would like to introduce in the Speaker's gallery Maureen Murray and Louise Houldsworth from CAA [Canadian Automobile Association]. I believe both of them are — I know Maureen is for sure — and helping put this together. Maureen and I had worked many years ago in the safety area, so I know she does great work in that area.

But I would like to especially thank the school patrollers for the work that they do through the school year helping your colleagues get to and from school safely. That is a huge job, and you know the one thing that we always say about safety is that you never know how good of a job you do because when you do a good job there are no incidents. And that's certainly the job that you've been doing for the province of Saskatchewan, for the kids in our school system. So thank you on behalf of official opposition for the work you do in some very inclement conditions at times. 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 to the members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce two very special people. Behind our bar is the MLA from Red Deer-North, Mary Anne Jablonski. Mary Anne has the distinct honour of introducing Bill No. 207, the Protection of Children Abusing Drugs which was passed unanimously in the Alberta legislature. In fact the Speaker of the House in Alberta said of her Bill when it passed in one day:

[It] has never ... [before happened] in the history of Alberta in 99 years ... it's a wonderful example of parliamentary cooperation, [and] the highest form of democracy.

Also in your gallery is her husband, Bob Jablonski. Mr. Speaker, politics does make good friends, and I ask everyone to welcome these two people into the Saskatchewan Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Rosemont.

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome Mrs. Mary Anne Jablonski and her husband to the legislature today. She has such a fascinating resumé that a person could really enjoy introducing her. You could have a lot of fun with this resumé. But I'm not surprised that she achieved the work she did in the House, having won an international speech competition in Kobe, Japan. So welcome to the member today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

### Celebrating VE Day

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, May 8, is the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. All across Canada and overseas there will be parades and celebrations to commemorate both the VE day and liberation of the Netherlands.

And, Mr. Speaker, there will be ceremonies of remembrance to honour the Canadian men and women of all races and walks of life who took part in the great and terrible struggle against fascism. We recognize the extraordinary challenges and hardships they faced on our behalf, and we acknowledge their valour and the high price they willingly paid to ensure that we could live in peace and security.

Mr. Speaker, during the war years, Canada was a nation of just 11 million people. But between 1939 and 1945, Canada enlisted more than 1 million men and women in its Armed Forces. Mr. Speaker, whether it was training Allied air crews, producing war material, protecting Atlantic convoys, or fighting in Italy, the Netherlands or the Rhineland, Canadians both home and abroad were a vital part of the Allied war effort and contributed in no small measure to the final victory. But that contribution came at no small cost — 45,000 Canadian dead, 55,000 wounded, and many others changed forever.

Mr. Speaker, on the 60th anniversary of D-Day, both the valour and the cost must be remembered. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to join my colleagues in the Assembly today in recognizing the 60th anniversary of VE day. On May 5, 1945, German forces surrendered in northwest Europe. Victory in Europe or VE day was celebrated three days later.

The war in Europe was fought hard, claiming the lives of 45,000 Canadian soldiers. It was their sacrifice and the efforts of more than 1 million Canadians who served during World War II that will be commemorated this weekend with public ceremonies and celebrations including parades and events to be held in cities across the world.

While this weekend's events cannot hope to match the celebration that took place 60 years ago when thousands took to the streets to celebrate the victory, it will be a fitting tribute to the Canadian veterans. My dad was a veteran and was in Holland for over a year, and we always wondered about the Christmas cards that came to our home for a number of years

after that.

In this national Year of the Veteran, it is fitting that we pay tribute to the accomplishments of the women and men who helped to liberate Europe and build the country we love today.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Humboldt.

#### Regina YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure last night of attending the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Women of Distinction Awards dinner held at the Centre of the Arts.

It was indeed an honour to be in a room with such accomplished and distinguished women who have unselfishly demonstrated their leadership and dedication to various life skill areas toward the betterment of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, all of the nominees were winners, and all should be commended for their contribution to our province. But the chosen winners were: for the young woman of distinction category, Phoebe DeCiman; for the arts, Robin Poitras; for business and trades, Valerie Overend; for community leadership and enhancement, Marion McBride; for education, Ruth Robillard; for health and wellness, Velda Clark; for lifetime achievement, Laura Balas; for science, technology and environment, Dr. Mhairi Maeers; and for sports, recreation and active living, Shari Mostaf.

I congratulate all of the winners and the nominees and thank the YWCA for not only this important event but for all of the great work that they do for the women and children of our province. We truly appreciate it.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatchewan Rivers.

#### Recognition of Mother's Day

**Mr. Borgerson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday is Mother's Day. One day is not enough to properly thank our mothers for all they do for us in the course of our lifetime, but the day does provide us with an opportunity to reflect on how they guide and nurture us and how they create the foundation of our society one individual at a time.

It's a weighty responsibility, one we too often take for granted. Mothers are the ones who, when they aren't at work, are driving their children to sporting events or arts activities. When they aren't paying bills, they are doing beadwork or sewing for traditional costumes. When they aren't keeping our homes safe and predictable, they are helping with homework. A mother is the ultimate multi-task worker.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth remembering that for the first years of our lives our mothers are the centre of our universe. And truth

be told, no matter where we go or who we become, they are never far from the centre of our universe. We always carry their lessons with us. They guide us, nurture us, and love us. We may make decisions they don't agree with, but they will still support us. They can be our greatest critics and our greatest confidantes. They can be our strongest ally, our most formidable adversary, and our best friend all at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to honour my mother and all mothers for their gifts and unconditional love. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there will always be someone in everyone's life that is your softest place to land and yet is the strongest person you know, someone who knows your shortfalls but will defend you because of your strengths. They are our firmest hand of discipline yet our strongest pillar of support. Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about the unconditional love of a mother.

Mothers are those that we often take for granted because we know that no matter what, they will be there for us. I'm sure we do not truly realize the sacrifices and dedication our parents have made until we ourselves became parents. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday is Mother's Day, a day set aside to show our appreciation to our mothers, which by the way we should be doing every day.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, my mom lives in her own home in Estevan. And I know she's watching this now, as she watches us every day. So Mom, thank you for everything you have done and still do for me. And I love you.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing moms — all moms — a happy Mother's Day.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Regina YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I and several of my colleagues had the pleasure of attending the Regina YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. Since 1911 the YWCA of Regina has been encouraging and supporting women through the programs and services they offer and by inspiring women to set goals and pursue their dreams. All the women who were nominated are among south Saskatchewan's most dynamic, talented, and dedicated leaders.

This year's awards recipients are, for the arts, Robin Poitras. The winner in the business trades category was Valerie Overend. For community leadership and enhancement, the winner was Marion McBride. The recipient of the Education Award was Ruth Robillard. And in the category of health and wellness, the winner was Velda Clark. Laura Balas won the

Lifetime Achievement Award, and Dr. Mhairi Maers was the recipient of the Science, Technology and Environment Award. And Shari Mostaf won for sports, recreation and active living. And, Mr. Speaker, this year's recipient of the Young Woman of Distinction Award is Phoebe DeCiman.

Mr. Speaker, our congratulations to all of the nominees and award winners. Their commitment, dedication, and accomplishments have contributed to the well-being of our communities, and each one is deserving of our admiration and utmost respect.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Saskatoon Silver Springs Constituent Receives Principal Appreciation Award

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when going to school we all learned about the three R's — reading, writing, and arithmetic. But a principal in the constituency of Saskatoon Silver Springs has been honoured with the Saskatchewan Principal Appreciation Award for following the three C's — commitment, collaboration, and celebration.

Donnalee Weinmaster is the energetic and enthusiastic principal at Silverspring School. The award was presented by the Saskatchewan Association of School Councils and recognizes a principal who creates a learning environment that supports children and their families. The Saskatoon *The StarPhoenix* quotes Donnalee as saying, and I quote:

“ . . . I was certainly very surprised, honoured and at the same time humbled because certainly I share this award with the entire Silverspring school and community because we are a team . . . it's not about me, it's about us.”

Donnalee Weinmaster has been an educator for 21 years. She became principal two years ago and works on the principle that any type of parent involvement in our schools is critical. At Silverspring School, parents, staff, and students are committed to work together as a team and set goals to increase learning. Collaboration involves developing good communication between staff and students. The students' growth, teamwork, and achievement of goals for student learning are celebrated often.

Silverspring School is a shining example of a culture of trust because of the relationships that have been built between parents, students, staff, and the community. Parents volunteer through advisory councils, in the classroom, by distributing the weekly newspaper, hosting coffee times, and an annual pancake breakfast that recognizes parents. The school has a welcoming environment, and parents are encouraged to be supportive.

Mr. Speaker, if I may just for a couple of extra seconds with the safety patrollers in the audience, Donnalee, in January when it was minus 40 degrees, she went out there and took their job, sent the kids inside, and urged her staff to do the same thing.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask you and all my colleagues to congratulate Donnalee Weinmaster on receiving the Saskatchewan Principal Appreciation Award at Silverspring School.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

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

#### Legislation for Treatment of Drug-Addicted Youth

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, joining us in our Assembly today is Mary Anne Jablonski. She is the member of the Alberta Legislative Assembly for Red Deer North. Mrs. Jablonski's sponsored legislation protecting young children from drug addiction. Mrs. Jablonski is living proof that politicians can work together and give parents the tools they need for the protection and safety of their drug-addicted children.

Mr. Speaker, my private member's Bill is modelled on the Alberta legislation that passed unanimously. This morning the national stats on drug addiction shows that Saskatchewan has the highest increase in meth seizures of the drug meth. That increase is 857 per cent between the years 2001 and 2003.

Mr. Speaker, will this government support my Bill?

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, I wanted to do two things. One was to test the provisions of section 18, which already exists, of The Child and Family Services Act to see if we had fuller powers under that Act than we've exercised. We have done that, Mr. Speaker, and we've determined that we do have that additional ability to apprehend youth who are 16 and 17 years old and we have proceeded to use those powers.

The second question of secure custody is a larger question because it involves both having secure custody and then committing resources to fund the treatment programs and whatnot at those secure custody facilities.

So it's still going to take some time to go further on this. But I think we have the provisions under section 18 of The Child and Family Services Act.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, Mary is a 17-year-old whose case was highlighted in our Assembly last week. She is in detox right now. But the only reason she's in detox is because she volunteered to go in.

Can the minister tell us what would have happened to Mary if she had not voluntarily agreed to go into treatment?

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, it has been the practice for many years that for youth 16 and 17 that you still meet with them, you assess their situation, you offer them help. But certainly in the past they've been able to refuse that help.

One of the things that I've got on my schedule to do, I want to meet both with the Children's Advocate office and her youth advisory panel. I want to meet with the Aboriginal groups who expressed serious concern during the child prostitution discussions regarding the incarceration aspects, the forced treatment aspects of this Bill.

But I assure the Assembly and the member opposite who has been very steadfast on this issue that I'm working as quickly as we're able to move all the various parties, and we'll come to a resolution soon on this matter.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, for parents of children with drug addiction, moving quickly right now, this isn't quick enough. We need something right now. We need something today.

The government says it's currently testing to see whether the short-term apprehension by police is actually a successful intervention strategy. The parents of these children who have drug addictions don't need more testing. They need a law that will help them protect their children from drug abuse.

If we pass the Bill, we're sending a signal. We can even delay the proclamation like Alberta did so that the treatment facilities and resources for parents and courts can be prepared.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Anne Jablonski and all members of the Alberta legislature know what politicians should do. The parents of drug-addicted children in Saskatchewan know what politicians should do. Does this government know what politicians should do?

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, I believe we're moving in the same direction. I have used the powers under section 18 to apprehend. I will use them again if the need arises.

We're talking specifically here about the issue of compulsory closed custody. I think that's a very serious step. I think that certainly in my discussion with parents, every time I meet with someone, Mr. Speaker, I ask them what do you think about this. And I think the opinion is weighing in fairly heavily that parents do need more tools in a modern society to intervene. And so certainly I'm working as quickly as I can to put those in place, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian

Head-Milestone.

### Celebrating Community Centennial Grant Program

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand here the application guide for Celebrating Community centennial grant program. This program is for projects providing legacies of collaboration and understanding between diverse people in communities. Projects are to increase awareness and applications to this should also move towards diverse cultural heritage, respect that. Mr. Speaker, it also talks about bringing an . . . Aboriginal people and youth are especially encouraged.

The Indian Head centennial flag project met all of this criteria and more. My question to the minister is, why was it rejected?

[10:30]

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question. The purpose of the Celebrating Community centennial project like you say is to promote cross-cultural understanding amongst communities — between Aboriginal, between youth, elders, and so on.

This particular question that you raise, the application from Indian Head was a capital application. It was based on capital, and in the form it clearly states that this is not for capital projects. And based on that criteria, the project was rejected. But there's also room for appeal.

I also want to say that this is an arm's-length organization that determines the rejection and approvals of these projects. And I want to say that these board of trustees continue to do good work based on the criteria that they have to deal with.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, when the project was rejected, the people of Indian Head asked me what they should do next. I did say that perhaps if they had a picture of Tommy Douglas and could get Kevin DeWalt to make a film on that, maybe they would be approved. Because it seems like this government has \$600,000 to glorify Tommy Douglas out of the centennial fund but it doesn't have money . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order please. Order please. Member for Indian Head-Milestone.

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has more than \$600,000 to put towards the Tommy Douglas movie, but it can't cover the projects that are put forward by communities around this province that want to celebrate the centennial. Mr. Speaker, the minister was correct when she said that the committee rejected it because it was a capital project. It



does not build any buildings. It doesn't cover any of the areas that the application form said it would reject on, and capital projects.

This project is not a capital project. In fact the people that reviewed this project missed the whole intent. It brought together Métis, First Nations, and the community of Indian Head on one project that would have created a lasting legacy, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't a capital project. It was a lasting legacy for the community, bringing forth all the diverse cultures in that area. Mr. Speaker, will this committee review and change its decision if it has to take a mere pittance away from its Tommy Douglas movie?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Community Resources, pardon me, for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to say once again that I appreciate the good work that the board of trustees continue to do in allocating these dollars for our centennial. There is tremendous projects out there that are going out all over the province. And like I've said before, there is a basis, there is a process where they can appeal the grant and that process is available for them. And like I've said before, the board of trustees, you know, continue to do good work and they're arm's length from government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, this Indian Head project uses a teepee as a symbol. It would celebrate the centennial in a very unique and creative way and create a lasting legacy, Mr. Speaker. It bridges the gap between peoples in that area. It does everything that this grant project was set up to do. But for some reason, because they're short of money, they don't have money to fund this, probably, and many other programs.

We do now see the priorities of this government. It isn't creating a legacy in communities about the centennial, it's creating a NDP [New Democratic Party] legacy of Tommy Douglas. Will the minister reconsider the budget items that they have in front of her and put money, some of the money that they've put towards Tommy Douglas towards centennial projects around the province?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge and I appreciate the work that goes out in the communities, that goes around the communities. And I also appreciate the work that is done by the board of trustees. And sometimes it's not an easy job to do when you're working with limited dollars. And I urge the member opposite and this group from Indian Head to file an appeal . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order please, members. Order. The Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, I just want to urge the community from Indian Head to follow the process. Like I said, there's clear criteria in the application of the grant and there's also a process for an appeal. And I've urged the member opposite to recommend — and we've done the same thing for this community — to appeal the application because there is a process in place. And like I say, this is an arm's-length organization that determines whether a community is approved or not approved for a project. And I applaud the good work that goes out there in the communities.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, there are many faults with this project and one of them is the whole appeal process. It will be at least another six weeks before they have any sort of an answer. When you're trying to put a project together for this summer — which this project is, would be for attracting tourists to the community, they can't wait until August before they start on the program, Mr. Speaker.

But my question to the minister is: is \$600,000 towards a Tommy Douglas movie — a movie — not a capital project?

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, like I've said before, there is criteria and there's a process in place and it's arm's length from government. There's only so much dollars that we have to work with and I thank the board of trustees for the continued good work that they are doing. And sometimes it's not any easy decision but there is clear criteria and it's transparent, Mr. Speaker. And I urge the members from, or the group from Indian Head to go through the process that's there for them to use.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Legislation Regarding the Labour Relations Board

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let's review what the Minister of Labour said this week about Bill No. 87. First the minister told us that Bill 87 would give the Labour Relations Board the power to seize information from a workplace. Then a day later the minister told us that no, the board could not seize information. Then yesterday the minister says the legislation will allow for documents to be copied and removed from the premises.

So, Mr. Speaker, seizure or copying and removing documents — really, what's the difference?

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, when anyone does business in a regulatory environment or an industry that is regulated, you need to abide by the regulations. If an inspector or an investigator went in on behalf of the Labour Relations Board to view relevant documents to an application before the board, there would need to be a copy of those documents or the information referred back to the Labour Relations Board.

Mr. Speaker, there is a big difference between access and seizure, and the member opposite should know that and stick to the facts.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the facts of Bill No. 87 is that they give the Labour Relations Board the same powers as a Court of Queen's Bench justice. Earlier this week on numerous occasions the Minister of Labour told this Assembly that Bill 87 was no different from the legislation in six other provinces. To my knowledge, giving the Labour Relations Board the same powers as a Court of Queen's Bench justice is not common practice.

Can the minister tell this Assembly why the LRB [Labour Relations Board] in Saskatchewan needs such powers?

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, when you look at many pieces of legislation, tribunals, and other boards, there is protection for the people on those boards — personal protection. It depends on the good intent of decisions, the information that is there, but that protection is afforded to other boards. And also, Mr. Speaker, I believe it was within the last year that we afforded this protection also to voluntary boards.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask the minister to clarify. Let's say the Labour Relations Board request documents from a business owner and that business owner refuses to give up those documents. Because the LRB will have the same powers as a Court of Queen's Bench justice, does that mean the LRB will not have to get a court order and can do whatever it wants in this respect?

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, in this instance the party that was . . . if the board was refused access to information that was requested on behalf of the board, the other party would have to proceed through the court process.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, prior to the introduction of Bills 86 and 87, which occurred on November 19, 2004, I want to read from yesterday's *Hansard* the comment made by the minister, and I quote:

. . . when we look at bringing forward any legislation, we take into consideration the views of all stakeholders right across the province.

Mr. Speaker, question to the minister, prior to November 19, 2004, can the minister indicate the number of meetings that she had with businesses, individual business owners, or associations of business representing this province, before the draft legislation was prepared?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, I know there's very few of us in this House who hasn't received a call at our constituency offices, and I know as Minister of Labour responsible for The Trade Union Act and the Labour Relations Board that I have received a number of inquiries into my office — letters, emails, phone calls — people that are distressed at the time it takes to receive a decision on their application before the Labour Relations Board. Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing here is section 18 being defined. The broad powers that the Board currently enjoys and has the power to deal with the cases that are before it, we are defining those powers. Mr. Speaker, these are similar powers that are held across the country. And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to deal with issues that are brought forward by constituents, and we will continue to deal with stakeholders and have consultations with them.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Workers' Compensation Board Claimant**

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Gerald Prokopetz is a 46-year-old man from White City who used to run his own excavation business and was injured on the job. The Workers' Compensation Board is refusing to provide further therapy and benefits to Mr. Prokopetz because he refused to attend what is a work-hardening program. And according to his doctor the treatment could be dangerous, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is: why has Mr. Prokopetz been cut off from WCB [Workers' Compensation Board] benefits?

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite raised this situation with me and what I'm working on is what we can do in this environment. And certainly in this kind of a

circumstance if the person qualifies for assistance, which may well be the case, there is a potential of 250 travel and I've also gotten the information from an organization called Hope Air that provides flights for people in these kinds of medical situations.

So although I can't speak to the WCB part of this question, I'm certainly working on getting a quick response to the other problem.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Hart:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prokopetz's wife has terminal cancer and is undergoing an experimental procedure in Calgary as a last-ditch effort to prolong her life for a couple of months. He cannot afford to be there, Mr. Speaker, and he cannot afford to take his 10-year-old son. This man is in a desperate situation and although the Minister of Community Resources and Employment is trying to do something for Mr. Prokopetz, Mr. Speaker, I was told that the earliest that they can deal with this situation is Monday at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker, his 10-year-old son, this may be the last day, the last Mother's Day that his son has to spend with his mother. I would urge this government to do whatever they can to help Mr. Prokopetz in his situation.

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Mr. Speaker, again without getting into any personal details, I would just say that even in the quickest of circumstances one day's notice is not a huge amount of time to work through a fairly complicated situation. But I promise that in the interests of compassion, certainly in any case that the members opposite bring forward to us, I'll do anything I can to respond as quickly as possible.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[10:45]

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

#### Nurses at the Cypress Regional Hospital

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan Union of Nurses reports that over the last four years it has received numerous calls from nurses at the Cypress Regional Hospital in Swift Current asking for help on nursing practice issues. This in itself isn't necessarily uncommon, but in a letter I received dated April 29, '05 SUN [Saskatchewan Union of Nurses] reports, and I quote that:

In recent months the number and urgency of these calls has escalated, especially in regards to RNs' concerns about their ability to maintain their professional practice standards and code of ethics.

Nurses are concerned about being able to deliver the kind of

quality care they want to. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister of Health aware of the situation at the Cypress Regional Hospital, and if so, what's he doing about it?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, I am aware of some of these issues. And as the member knows, I was in Swift Current a couple of weeks ago with him when we had the groundbreaking for the new facility. And I did talk to some of the people at that particular point.

There are some issues around the old facility and how some of the work areas are redone. It's one of the reasons frankly that we're going ahead with a new building, but it also relates to how the work has been structured there. And I know that senior management and the board have been working very diligently around this I know. And they've assured me that there are some very strong difficulties but that they are clearly working on them and have them on the top of their agenda.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, there are concerns. The minister is right about the level of management versus the level of nurses, front-line people helping people in Swift Current.

Mr. Speaker, of particular concern to SUN is the fact that the number of work situation reports which of course are incidents that would involve patients, the people of this province and of this Swift Current area, that detail any nursing practice concern related to patient care have increased significantly in the last few years. SUN's executive director, Karl Austman, writes, quote:

It is the opinion of SUN staff as well as the [opinion] . . . of SUN Local 69 that the nursing practice environment of the Cypress Hills Regional Health is at a crisis point. If interventions are not instituted quickly several RNs are considering leaving the hospital as they do not wish to risk their professional license.

That sounds pretty serious. That should have more attention from the minister than a passing conversation with officials in Swift Current. What is he doing about this situation in Swift Current?

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, there are processes to deal with these particular kinds of concerns around employee concerns that are raised by the union with management. And those processes are in place and people are working very diligently about this. And I am kept informed as to the overall situation. But, Mr. Speaker, it's not a very good practice to get involved into these management decisions even though the members opposite seem to want us to do that on a regular basis.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, when the health of Saskatchewan people, of our constituents, is at risk, yes we want the Minister of Health and this NDP government to get involved with that, Mr. Speaker. That's his job. That is their job. Mr. Speaker, article 58.04 of the current SUN/SAHO [Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations] collective agreements says this, and I quote:

*"If a nursing professional association wishes to audit the nursing practice environment at the operations of an Employer, the Employer shall disclose the information relevant to the nursing issues to be reviewed."*

Mr. Speaker, this kind of audit, the nursing audit that SUN has requested would be facilitated with the approval of the employer and certainly Sask Health and the Minister of Health could make that happen. Will he do that? Will he co-operate with the nurses of Swift Current and facilitate a nursing audit in the Cypress Hills Regional Hospital in Swift Current?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Appropriate procedures are being followed. But I would like to point out in this House that we have had consistently, yesterday and today, talks about how politicians should interfere with processes that have been set up in appropriate fashions.

We have questions yesterday about the Chief Electoral Officer. Today we had questions about an independent, arm's-length committee on centennial projects. And, Mr. Speaker, here they're asking the Minister of Health to intervene in management-labour issues. And Mr. Speaker our job is to make sure we have the appropriate processes to solve these so that citizens of Saskatchewan can get very good health care.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member from Prince Albert Northcote on his feet?

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member for P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House three gentlemen who hail from Prince Albert. They're down here today attending to a conference, and I understand that they're heading back to the conference right after viewing

question period this afternoon. And I also understand that today is somewhat a par for the course day for them, and so I'm assuming they'll be enjoying that.

I'd like to introduce to you Dion Furber, Don Goertz, and Clint Risling, and ask you all to give them a warm welcome to the legislature this afternoon.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the Assembly to move to private members' public Bills and orders, second reading of item no. 6, Bill No. 207, The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act.

**The Speaker:** — Members of the Assembly, it has been requested by the member for Kelvington-Wadena that leave be granted to proceed directly to second reading of Bill 207, The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS

##### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 207 — The Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the members of the House for allowing me to stand and talk about this Bill today, give second reading for the Act for the protection and assessment of children who are abusing drugs.

I'd like to start this morning by first of all thanking my colleagues to allow me work on this issue, something that's very important not just to me but to every member of this House and to the families whose children are abusing drugs. I'd also like to thank the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy who has worked very hard with me on this issue.

And today in our Assembly we have a very important guest that came to us from Alberta, the member from Red Deer North, Mary Anne Jablonski. Mary Anne worked very hard this year to involve every member of the Legislative Assembly in Alberta to support the Bill that would allow parents the right to help children overcome their dangerous drug addiction. This Bill introduced gave parents and provincial authorities the power to place their children that were under the age of 18 into mandatory drug treatment.

Mr. Speaker, in the past year since we've been speaking about this drug in the House — I guess it's been nearly a year when we first brought the issue up — it was disheartening at first to hear the members opposite think that the drug that we discussed most frequently, the drug crystal methamphetamine, was something that wasn't a big issue.

Personally I got involved in this when a family member just about a year ago called me to their home and asked me to come and talk to them about their son who had a problem. In fact he was incarcerated at the time. When I went to that home that evening, I had no idea how much my life was going to change when I saw what could happen to a family that's an ordinary family like mine and every member of this House.

They have a son who was nearly 20 years old. He was a good-looking young man with a good education, a good job, a nice car. He was engaged. And he had his whole life ahead of him. And then the family missed him. For two weeks they couldn't find him. And when they did find him, they found that he had lost not only his job and his car and some of his good looks, but he'd lost hope for the future because he was involved in the drug known as crystal meth.

I found him . . . The next time I spoke to him he was actually incarcerated. I went to the correctional centre in Saskatoon and talked to him. And he told me how that drug had taken over his life; how after the very first time he used it, he had no desire to go home. He had no desire to go back to the life he knew and the family he knew. He had no control over his life. He didn't even know that he was down to actually trafficking the drug to support his habit.

We're not talking about some child of a family that doesn't love him. We're not talking about some child who is economically deprived. We're not talking about a child who had no hope. We're talking about ordinary kids.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's what we in this legislature are supposed to be doing. We're supposed to be helping the children who are our future, the ones that are our hope for the future. The reason why all of us are in this House today, the reason why every one of us got elected is so that we could make this province a better place for our children.

So we started bringing this out in the House. And I was disappointed — as was all of my colleagues — to find that the government didn't think this drug was anything more than a flash in the pan. But I guess I'm given some hope when in today's newspaper I see that our Premier is actually bringing this up on the Western provinces' agenda. In fact the word crystal meth is in the headline. And nobody wants to take credit for anything — well except for maybe doing the right thing for our children.

We introduced this Bill based on the Bill that the member from Red Deer-North brought forward. She was at a conference that the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy and I were at last year in Red Deer when we heard these stories from many, many families whose lives are being destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, when I was at the correctional centre, I learned from my relative . . . from the young man that over 80 per cent

of the young people that were in jail at that time, that were incarcerated, were there because of an addiction — 80 per cent. And the addiction, many of them were to drugs, and that addiction to drugs was mostly crystal meth.

And I learned at that time that there was no treatment for him in the jail. He didn't come in at the right time to actually get into the treatment. By the time that process would have been in place for him, he would have been ready to be discharged so he couldn't do it.

Many of the families that come to talk to us right now say, you know what, the only hope we have for our children at this moment is to get them incarcerated, to have the police pick them up for possession or for trafficking so they can get into a place where they can actually get treatment. The very last thing that any parent wants is to have their child part of the criminal justice system. Not only does it affect them for their whole life because of the record they'll have, but it affects them emotionally because they're not getting the help that they need.

I think as we stand in the legislature every day, we've got to question why we're here. Every one of us have that responsibility and we have . . . and the parents out there have the right to expect that of us.

Mr. Speaker, parents and elected people have an obligation and a duty to help our young people by whatever manner we can. I was encouraged when I read the government's crystal meth strategy last year and when they made the statement they were open to exploring new and innovative approaches.

When I read the Bill that the member from Red Deer-North brought forward that was passed unanimously in one day, April 14 of this year, I was very excited because I really believed the members opposite would see this is an open, as a new and innovative approach. When it was passed, the Speaker congratulated all members of their House and said, "let me . . . tell you how proud I am of all of you for being true parliamentarians." Everybody in that legislature knew that this Bill was brought forward for the parents, parents that needed help, parents that knew that their drug addicted children needed help.

And we — every one of us — have a responsibility to our children. Saskatchewan, the province of Saskatchewan, the province of Alberta, the country of Canada signed on to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. And I'm going to read you some of the articles in this convention because I think they mean something to every one of us.

Article 33 says you have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs. Article 36 says you have the right to be protected from any form of exploitation. Article no. 24, you have the right to be the best . . . to have the best health possible, and medical care and information that will help you to stay well. Article 19 says you have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated. And article no. 5 says you have the right to be given guidance by your parents and your family.

Mr. Speaker, that's what the people of the province of Alberta said to their legislature, and that's what the people of Saskatchewan are saying to us. They're also saying that there is

a difference between voluntary and involuntary treatment, and as parents they have a right to make that decision.

[11:00]

We give parents in our society a lot of responsibility. We expect them to know what's best for their children when they're living under their roof till they're 18 years old. We have laws that protect our children to make sure that the parents do as they're supposed to do. And yet there is some times when the child doesn't . . . can make a decision that they're . . . our laws are saying, well the child is smarter than the parent. The child knows better than the parent at this time.

A child whose mind is being taken over by drugs doesn't know that. In fact it wouldn't matter if you were 18 or 25 years old when you have . . . when your mind is clouded by a substance. It is abused. It cannot function in a way that we would expect someone to make the right decision.

Mr. Speaker, voluntary treatment is . . . or compulsory treatment is better than no treatment. We have doctors in the UCLA [University of California at Los Angeles] said that. We've had some of our people on our addictions council here in Saskatchewan say that. We know that involuntary treatment isn't always going to work. But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, neither does voluntary treatment always work; in fact less than 50 per cent of the time does it work.

But we have to have the child . . . give them the opportunity to have that treatment. Sometimes he might have to go in two or three or four times. But every time they go in, it is one step closer to the chance that they'll never do that again. And then those kids that come out of it are the, they'll be the role models.

Those of us sitting in this room can go and speak to children all we like. We can have the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] go speak to them. We can have their church counsellors go speak to them. But you know who makes the biggest impact on them? The recovering addicts. The ones who have recovered from an addiction. They can say to their peers, this is what happens to you and this is what can happen to you, and this is how you can avoid it.

Mr. Speaker, we have to take that responsibility. We're asking the government to work with us. We're proposing a 30-day period of mandatory treatment. And every parent that has a child involved in drug addiction — and especially crystal meth addiction — knows that 30 days isn't long enough, but it's a start.

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that limits on rights is acceptable if a limit deals with a pressing and substantial social problem and that the government's response to the problem is reasonable and justifiable.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan we do have adult detox centres. But I think that every one of us should be ashamed to admit that we don't have a youth detox system here in Saskatchewan. In fact there are not enough beds anywhere in Western Canada. But we should take a leadership. We are supposed to be the birthplace of medicare. We have a opportunity here to take a lead and say, in Saskatchewan our children are our most

precious resource and we're going to give them every facility we can. We're not going to worry about . . . We're going to worry right now about putting the child first. If we pass a Bill like this we are saying we are putting our children before anything else because that is what our future is all about.

On a ruling concerning a child's Charter of Rights, a Supreme Court justice said:

Children, especially young children, are unable to assert their rights to health and life. These rights are to be balanced in a child protection context of parental liberty. By abusing drugs, a child is already giving up their rights.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in 1997 Colin Powell launched America's Promise by making this speech, and I'd like to quote to this Assembly. He said:

"Every child should have a Little Red Wagon . . . A Little Red Wagon to pull around the heavy load of life . . . A Little Red Wagon to pull around your dream . . . and a Little Red Wagon has a long black handle so that an adult can come along and help when [that] road is particularly difficult or rocky. So please put in your heart the image of the Little Red Wagon. Remember that every child has [a right] to have one."

Mr. Speaker, while our Premier was in opposition he called for action on youth addiction but rather than studying the problem he said, let's do something right now. He said, and I quote:

The time for delay is long past. The time for action is now. We cannot rest while a whole generation is lost.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill I'm talking about would allow a parent to apply to a court for an apprehension and confinement order. The child would need to be assessed by the director responsible for the judicial interim release program. And the child could be confined for up to 30 days. We know that more days would be important, but let's start there. This Bill sets out provisions for review of the order, for hearing procedures, for public bans, for witnesses, for confidentiality, for treatment options, and for safe houses.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill is a start. I know that more needs to be done. We have to have an education system. We have to change some of the laws that govern not only our province but our country. We have to have youth facilities. But I ask this government to work with us to ensure that parents have the tools necessary to protect their children.

Mr. Speaker, the member from Red Deer spoke to her Assembly just less than a month ago when she brought forward this Bill. And the day that she came to the House, she was given a book from a parent who gave her pictures of her child from the time the child was born to two weeks before when that child left home and hadn't been seen from since. And I'm sorry to tell this Assembly, but that child has still not been seen. But Mary Anne was given this book and she was given this letter from the mother, and I'd like to read it.

This is my daughter Sara, my love. She is my heart. I want to thank you with all . . . [my heart] for helping us with

[this] Bill . . .

Along with the petitions, I would like you to have this little album. It shows my daughter's progression with crystal meth. If you were here in front of me [right] now, I would get on my knees and I would beg you: please don't give up. Please help us. I miss her so [very] much [and] I love her so much. What would I do without my Sara, my love? Please don't give up.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot give up on our children. We can have all kinds of excuses why Bills shouldn't be passed or why we should delay. By passing this Bill right now, we're sending a very clear signal, not just to everyone in this Assembly but to every parent in Saskatchewan that, although we may not have everything in place right now, we have the burning desire to make the change that we know is necessary. We're sending the message to everybody in Canada that Saskatchewan is standing beside Alberta, and in this area of the country we are doing what we can. As our centennial gift to our children that we're going to put forward every method we can to help our children.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, at this moment I ask this whole Assembly to join with me, with the parents of Saskatchewan in doing what we can to help our children.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

**Mr. Addley:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Chair. It is my great pleasure and my great privilege to . . .

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

**Ms. Draude:** — I stand to move second reading of this Bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

**Mr. Addley:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Chair. It is my great privilege and honour to participate in the debate surrounding Bill No. 207, moved by the member. And I have a number of points to make briefly as the Legislative Secretary on substance abuse to the Premier.

I think everyone in this House can agree that our intent is to protect children in Saskatchewan. That is our number one priority as a province, and I don't think anyone in this House disagrees that. I don't think anyone in this House disagrees that children should be our number one priority.

We have to make sure however . . . In my tour of Saskatchewan, I've started in January and I've toured North Battleford, Prince Albert, La Ronge, Yorkton, a week in Saskatoon, a week in Regina, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, toured a drop-in centre in Alberta, conference calls in Alberta, in

Manitoba . . . and surrounding people around Saskatchewan.

And in my consultations with parents and children and teachers and principals, the police, addiction workers, recovering people, doctors, nurses, politicians, mayors, councillors, MLAs, as well as workers in drop-in centres and treatment centres, what I have learned in the four months that I've been doing this is there's no easy answers. There's no silver bullets that we can just implement one thing and the problem will go away.

We have to also make sure that there's no unintended results when we pass legislation, that we may intend to protect a certain segment of society but we have to be sure that that does not have unintended negative consequences.

I do note that the Bill in Alberta covers five days. The one that we're contemplating today is 30 days which is six times as long. We need to know why that is. We also know that the Bill in Alberta won't be coming into effect for another 14 months or so, July 2006. That does give us an opportunity to make sure that our Bill or our way of dealing with this issue can be operationalized in a way that is successful and that actually achieves the intended goal.

Mr. Speaker, in my consultations with the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse, he did advise to be very careful that we don't just do something for the sake of doing something — that what we're advocating is what's called evidence-based best practice, that it's shown to work, and that it actually does work. We all agree we want to protect kids. We all agree that children are our number one resource. But we have to make sure that there are no unintended results.

I have spoken to some recovering young people, and one of them was 17. One of them actually is 19. And they both left home at the age of 15, 16, and they did what's called couch surfing, where they crash at a friend's place, stay there for a few weeks, move on to another friend's place. And then they progressed on to actually living in an apartment with people that are in their 20s and in some cases later 20s.

And the question I had is, if this legislation were there, would that have helped you? And their, both of them, their response was absolutely not. What they would have done is that . . . In the small community where they were living and where they were couch surfing, there were neighbours that were keeping an eye on them. The parents generally knew where they were. But they said that if this legislation were in place, they would have left Saskatchewan. They would have gone to Calgary. They would have gone to Vancouver. And I guess we as legislators want to make sure that when we do pass or when we do bring in measures in this area, that in a year or two from now we're not hearing from parents that says, because we had this legislation, my daughter or my son fled Saskatchewan, and now I don't know where they are and that they're dying on the streets in Vancouver.

So I think everybody in this House and everybody in this province knows that children are our number one resource. We have to make sure that as we make laws that those laws have the intended results.

The other aspect, Mr. Speaker, we do have time. We do have

time to look at this issue seriously. We can consult with the Children's Advocate office. We can consult with the human rights office. We can consult widely with community leaders and with children. We can also watch to see what Alberta is doing between now and July '06 when it becomes operational, the number of treatment centres that we would need to increase, those sorts of things.

Mr. Deputy Chair, to do all of those things — to ensure that we protect children and we protect children in the way that actually does have the most positive impact for all kids — I believe that the legislature and politicians and society does require that time to achieve those results. We still have time in this session. We have a legislative calendar which allows us to meet in the fall, and there's plans to do that. And we also have a spring session coming up next year.

And I think we can take the pregnant pause. We can take the time to do this right, to protect our kids in a meaningful way. We can still have this implemented before Alberta implements it.

And, Mr. Speaker, that's my goal, is to make sure that we do achieve the results that we intend. Alberta's the first province in Canada to do this. There's a few states in the US [United States], but it's not widespread. This is something new. This is something that deserves our respect, that deserves the proper review. And, Mr. Speaker, to do that I would move that we adjourn debate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — Carried. I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the Assembly to move to item no. 7, Bill No. 208, The Tommy Douglas Day Act, followed by item no. 2, Bill No. 203, The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act, under second readings of private members' public Bills and orders. I ask for leave.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — Carried.

[11:15]

### Bill No. 208 — The Tommy Douglas Day Act

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Iwanchuk):** — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone.

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real honour to rise today to speak to this Bill and to speak to the person that it focuses on, the person of Thomas Clement Douglas. And in setting the context for this, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just quickly refer to the preamble in the Bill. It really lays out the case for such a Bill.

WHEREAS Thomas Clement ("Tommy") Douglas served as Premier of Saskatchewan from 1944 to 1961;

AND WHEREAS, while Premier, Tommy Douglas was instrumental in the creation of Crown corporations to benefit the people of Saskatchewan, including Canada's first publicly owned automobile insurance agency;

AND WHEREAS Tommy Douglas sought to improve the living standards and working conditions of rural Saskatchewan through rural electrification, building a modern highway system and support for the rural economy;

AND WHEREAS the government under Tommy Douglas used careful financial management to pay down the huge public debt and left a legacy of prudent financial management;

AND WHEREAS Canada's first provincial Bill of Rights was enacted in 1947 to protect against discrimination and to ensure that each person had the right to fair treatment;

AND WHEREAS the government under Tommy Douglas created the Saskatchewan Arts Board in 1948, the first arts support agency of its kind in North America;

AND WHEREAS the government under Tommy Douglas introduced measures to modernize the rights of working people, including the introduction of a labour relations board and the creation of a professional, independent civil service;

AND WHEREAS the government under Tommy Douglas diversified Saskatchewan's economy through support for new enterprises, the development of a steel industry and the growth of mineral exploration and extraction;

AND WHEREAS Tommy Douglas was instrumental in establishing Canada's first public hospitalization program in 1947 and the creation of Canada's first Medicare program;

AND WHEREAS Tommy Douglas sought to serve all people with compassion and fairness, displayed humour and honesty and conducted his government with principle, boldness, optimism and vision;

AND WHEREAS Tommy Douglas has been recognized as one of Canada's greatest citizens [in fact the greatest Canadian, Mr. Deputy Speaker];

AND WHEREAS October 20 is the anniversary of Tommy Douglas' birth;

The motion that I'll be moving at the conclusion of these remarks is:

Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, enacts as follows:  
The Tommy Douglas Day Act.

Mr. Speaker, I was asked to do this, to sponsor this Bill, by the



Premier. And I believe he asked me for two main reasons. One is that I'm the youngest, I'm the youngest MLA in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and I'm a student of history. As well, Mr. Speaker, my constituency, we're very proud have in it Tommy Douglas House. So in that regard I like to think that Tommy Douglas House is a part of the constituency I represent in this Assembly.

And certainly you know, Mr. Speaker, I can think back to the day when I signed the roll when I took my place in this Chamber. And certainly no small part of the thrill I felt on that day was the fact that I was signing the roll that Tommy Douglas had signed, that I was entering into a Chamber as an elected representative in a place where Tommy Douglas had served as premier from 1944 to 1961.

And you know, Mr. Speaker, as a student of history, I think it . . . to know where you're . . . to know your past is to better inform where you're going to go in the future. To know what has happened in the case of Saskatchewan I think gives us some good insights as to where we should be taking this province in the future.

And I guess you know as we've made the case in the preamble, Douglas was party to doing so much for this province, Mr. Speaker. And you know not just Saskatchewan of course, but his contribution to public life and to improving the quality of life for all Canadians has been recognized from one coast of this country to the other and to the other.

When Canadians think about what makes them uniquely Canadian, medicare comes up time and time again as something that Canadians prize as being a uniquely Canadian institution. And of course Tommy Douglas was hugely instrumental to the implementation of medicare here in Saskatchewan but also in the '60s in the Pearson minority governments, in making sure that it came in as a national program.

Douglas was many things, Mr. Speaker. He was a printer, a preacher, a politician. In fact Douglas used to describe his career trajectory as the descent of man, moving from the illuminated profession of printer through to preacher and then into politician.

He was wickedly funny and a very compelling speaker. Certainly the "Mouselands" and "The Cream Separator" are two political parables that have entered into the common usage in Canada and still thrill crowds to this day.

He had a great mind. He had a command of the poetry of Robert Burns; he was a proud son of Scotland. He had a great command of the scripture, and he had a great command of poetry from all different stripes at well. So he had this great information stored in his mind and a great way of delivering it and thrilling crowds.

And I guess it's one of my regrets, Mr. Speaker, that I was too young to really, to see him in his prime. I've certainly seen depictions or I've seen video tapes of different speeches that Douglas has given. I've heard audio recordings of different speeches he's given. He was a heck of a speaker. He had the ability to break down complex issues in a way that all sorts of different people could understand and to make people think

they wanted to do something about it, to bring them on-board.

And I guess it's another thing that was remarkable about Douglas was, he was a small fellow. He was slight of stature but of course he was very strong. He was a Golden Gloves boxing champion out of Manitoba. And even into his senior years, there's the story of the fellow that tried to steal his wife Irma's purse and got a thumping from Douglas for his troubles. He was pretty feisty. He was a fiery person.

And he brought that passion, he brought that intelligence, he brought that commitment into the public arena and advanced the social and economic well-being of the people of Saskatchewan and all of Saskatchewan people. He was a real pioneer in terms of working to bring First Nations to a rightful place within the mainstream of Saskatchewan society.

He was a great defender of civil liberties and in the FLQ [Front de Libération du Québec] crisis of 1970 took a very hard position in the House of Commons for which he was roundly condemned. But as history I think has borne out it was the right thing to do. And he stood with the courage of his convictions with his colleagues in the federal NDP caucus, and they made that stance. And I think, you know, as politicians and people that pay attention to where we're at with our principles, the example of Douglas is tremendous.

He was also very practical, Mr. Speaker, and I wouldn't want to deny that for a second. But he was that rare dynamic tension between principle and practice — putting his ideals into reality.

Now Tommy had his enemies to be sure, Mr. Speaker. And you know from time to time in this Assembly we have . . . certain of the members opposite like to refer to the master's thesis that Douglas wrote in the early '30s that was based on eugenics. And again you know, I bring this up, Mr. Speaker, because Douglas wasn't perfect. He wasn't perfect, Mr. Speaker.

But I think in the case of this, this exact example, I think something that has to be taken into account was what he wrote in the early '30s he had every opportunity to implement when he became premier and minister of Health in 1944. Eugenics thought was fairly prevalent in that day. Our neighbours to the west of us, Alberta, had eugenic law on their books from 1928 to 1972. But when the Sigerist commission reported on the state of health care in Saskatchewan, Douglas had a chance to move forward with some eugenic proposals, and he didn't, Mr. Speaker, because he had had more time to think about the issue.

And I think that's also a mark of the man's greatness in that he wasn't dogmatic. He wasn't so concerned with . . . He was more concerned with being right and doing the right thing than he was with carrying through with something that would have been wrong. So I think that has to be taken into account by those that would like to use that for some kind of partisan debating point.

And I guess you know just to say, Mr. Speaker, Douglas wasn't perfect, but he did so much for the people of Saskatchewan and the people of Canada that . . . when I hear people criticize Tommy Douglas, it's like that old story about the doubter who saw Jesus walking on the water, and then went away complaining about how Jesus couldn't swim. You know, he did

so much and yet there are people that will attack him and try to tear him down. And I guess that is as it should be. Douglas always had his enemies, his opponents. I think he certainly treated them with respect and with a fair measure of compassion, but the enemies will treat him as they will, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway it's an honour to raise this in the Assembly, Mr. Speaker, to speak to this motion. And I guess I wanted to close off my remarks with the recitation of a poem from Blake that was read at Douglas's funeral in '86 and at different memorials for him. And I have a copy of the program from that from my grandmother, from her papers, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly when I think of the people that were there with Douglas, that saw him go through his struggles and fight on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan and of Canada, I think very much of my grandmother and people of modest incomes and, you know, pretty modest life circumstances — the little people Mr. Speaker. And I think Douglas was there. He was . . . that's who he was fighting for. They knew he was on their side. So anyway, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to reference this poem:

And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem . . . [built] here  
Among these dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold:  
Bring me my arrows of desire:  
Bring me my spear: O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire  
I will not cease from mental fight  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.

Douglas always counselled that the new Jerusalem was just beyond the horizon, that it was our lot to keep pushing it forward, to keeping making that progress, to keep bettering the lives of ordinary people. And I think in this, the hundredth year since Douglas was born in Falkirk, Scotland, I think Douglas would be looking on saying, you know the new Jerusalem lies ever beyond the horizon and keep struggling onward to make it there.

And so, Mr. Speaker, with that I will move the second reading . . . or I will conclude my remarks on this, the second reading debate, and will move that Bill 208, The Tommy Douglas Day Act, be now read a second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Regina Elphinstone that Bill No. 208, The Tommy Douglas Day Act, be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**The Deputy Chair:** — Second reading of this Bill.

[11:30]

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred?

**Mr. McCall:** — I move that Bill No. 208, The Tommy Douglas Day Act be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

**The Speaker:** — Moved by the member for Regina Elphinstone that Bill No. 208, The Tommy Douglas Day Act be referred to Committee of the Whole. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

#### **Bill No. 203 — The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act**

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a honour and a privilege today to speak today about a great man in the history of Canadian politics, the Rt. Hon. John George Diefenbaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brkich:** — As we all know, the Saskatchewan son was a prime minister of Canada from '57 to '63. During his . . . [inaudible] . . . as Canada's top leader, many firsts were accomplished. Indeed Dief the Chief, as he became to be known to the average Canadian out there . . . [inaudible] . . . what the average Canadian was about.

Before I get into talking about the many firsts that John George Diefenbaker did at that, I'd like to talk a little bit about the personal . . . his life. He was born in 1895, and there his family shortly after moved to Saskatchewan which he called home with that end of it, Mr. Speaker. That's where he got his pioneer and his humble roots that he carried through as prime minister.

And with that at the beginning of his political career, he was . . . I can remember a couple of personal connections, one that he came through the town of Bladworth when he was campaigning on the train then. That's how they campaigned back then. And naturally all the local farmers, they shut down. The local people came to meet and see this new man that was running for the prime minister at that time. It was in the '50s. And I know that my dad had went and met him, and he was very impressed with him.

But a friend of my dad's, his father had met John I think in the

'30s. And John was known for an excellent memory, at that end of it, and he remembered this person. If you shook John's hand and said your name, he would remember where he met you 10, 20 years later. He was well known for that. I remember it being mentioned a couple times. And I remember a friend of my dad's was very, very impressed, and he still talked about that late . . . even up to a few years ago, that a person could remember somebody's name, for that end of it.

Another personal connection is John Diefenbaker also ran in the constituency of Arm River, of which I hold now. He ran at the provincial end at that time. Although he wasn't quite successful in it, it was his first taste of politics. And I also know the member from Rosthern-Shellbrook, his father, Gilbert Allchurch, was a very, very close friend of Mr. Diefenbaker. I didn't realize that until I introduced the Bill and the member from Rosthern came and we talked a little bit about that, and said that John used to come and visit his dad quite regularly when they were young.

And that's just part of the personal history of this man, that he always had the humility and that he never forgot where he came from. He never forgot his roots, at that end of it, Mr. Speaker. And he was a very determined man. He was a very, very good lawyer. I can remember cases that they still talk about in . . . that he was well respected in the P.A. area, and ran. But always his heart I think was always in politics, with Mr. Diefenbaker. He was also very fond of the Canadian-British parliamentary system. He defended that rigorously. And also a great defender of the monarchy and the Queen. He always respected that institution and that system of it.

In 1940, Mr. Speaker, he finally . . . he won a seat. He was successful in winning a seat in 1940. And there he was a champion of the cause, the average Canadian, and numerous minority causes. He stood strongly for the rights of the Canadian workers and farmers. I know in 1942 he criticized the federal government on their treatment of Japanese-Canadians during World War II, and later had great success in putting down the governing Liberals in 1956 throughout the great pipeline debate. He was also known as a great debater of that.

And that was also the same year he was elected as leader as the federal Conservative Party. And there he attained many, many goals. One of the most important, by allowing, when he became elected in 1957, he allowed Canada's First Nations people the right to vote federally for the first time in Canadian history. In addition, Dief would appoint Senator James Gladstone as the first Native ever to attain such a high office.

Another first was the appointment of Ellen Fairclough, Ellen Fairclough as Canada's first woman to the federal cabinet in Ottawa. Most importantly though, John always remained loyal to the province. His foundation and hard work and caring for others remain part of our Saskatchewan heritage today.

Some of the other firsts he did during his six years — he passed the Agriculture Rehabilitation and Development Act, and also was very instrumental in bringing China into the wheat sales end of it. I can remember in '72 that that was very good. He'd opened the borders, which opened up a huge, huge market to the western grains, of it, and really helped things back then. I know back in the late '60s grain movement was very, very slow

and bringing in China as a market, as a new market really, really helped the West out here.

He strongly supported human rights abroad by supporting the independence movement of the non-white countries throughout the British Commonwealth. He even supported the then small anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, at that end of it.

One of the things that John will always be remembered for was the way he fought for the West. And that's partly remembered in the way they honoured him with the Lake Diefenbaker dam. Mr. Diefenbaker also pushed for that, at that end of it. He had the foresight to know that a huge dam, the potential on the South Saskatchewan River, and so it's aptly named afterwards, Lake Diefenbaker.

Another first that he had pushed through was the Hall Commission on expanding medicare across Canada. He was very instrumental in doing that. He was very, very conscious, in that end of it.

So today when we're recognizing John George Diefenbaker Day, I would like to make September 18 of each year declared as John George Diefenbaker in Saskatchewan. And I would like to read the Bill into the record, that we're presenting today.

WHEREAS John George Diefenbaker served as the Prime Minister of Canada from 1957 to 1963;

WHEREAS John George Diefenbaker's family homesteaded in Saskatchewan and he made Saskatchewan his home;

WHEREAS John George Diefenbaker was instrumental in passing the *Agriculture Stabilization Act* . . . in 1958;

WHEREAS the First Canadian Bill of Rights was introduced in Parliament by John George Diefenbaker and subsequently passed in 1960;

WHEREAS in 1960, during John George Diefenbaker's Administration, the *Canada Election Act* was amended to enfranchise First Nations people; and

WHEREAS September 18 marks the anniversary of the birth date of John George Diefenbaker;

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice of consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows:

September 18 of each year is . . . declared as "John George Diefenbaker Day" in Saskatchewan.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I would also — contrary to a popular poll that was out there — I would have to say that John George Diefenbaker is the greatest Canadian out there, Mr. Speaker.

When he passed on in 1979, a special train was ordered to bring his body home. And thousands and thousands of people lined the tracks. Farmers shut down for harvest. And I can remember that wherever that train went there was thousands of people

lined the tracks of it, in towns people would come. But as it passed through the countryside, people would, the farmers would line the tracks. And that was very impressive. That shows what the people of Saskatchewan thought of the first prime minister that ever came out of Saskatchewan.

And Mr. Diefenbaker never ever forgot where his roots were. They were always here in Saskatchewan and they were for Western Canada. Even though he was elected as prime minister and he looked after the whole country which, I mean, shows when he expanded medicare across Canada. He was very instrumental in doing that, Mr. Speaker.

So with that I would like to move, I would like to move second reading, that the John George Diefenbaker Act be now read a second time.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Arm River-Watrous that Bill 203, The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act, be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — The motion is carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

**Mr. Brkich:** — I move that Bill 203, The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act, be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

**The Speaker:** — It is moved by the member for Arm River-Watrous that Bill No. 203, The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act, be referred to Committee of the Whole. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — This Bill stands referred to Committee of the Whole. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the Assembly to move to Committee of the Whole to consider Bill 208, The Tommy Douglas Day Act, followed by Bill 203, The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act.

**The Chair:** — The Government House Leader has requested leave of the Assembly to convene into Committee of the Whole to consider Bills 208 and 203. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. I do now leave the Chair for this Assembly to convene into Committee of the Whole.

### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

#### Bill No. 208 — The Tommy Douglas Day Act

[Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.]

**The Chair:** — Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 208, An Act to acknowledge the contributions of Thomas Clement Douglas.

Preamble, is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

[Preamble agreed to.]

**The Chair:** — I would invite the member to move that the committee report the Bill without amendment. I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

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

**The Chair:** — It has been moved by the member that this Bill be reported without amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried. Just for clarification's sake, if the member could move that the committee report the Bill without amendment.

**Mr. McCall:** — I so move, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

**The Chair:** — Thank you very much. The member has moved that the committee report the Bill without amendment. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

#### Bill No. 203 — The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Day Act

**The Chair:** — The next item before the committee is Bill No. 203, An Act to recognize the contributions of John George Diefenbaker.

[11:45]

[Preamble agreed to.]

[Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive agreed to.]

**The Chair:** — Therefore Her Majesty, by and with the advice

and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, enacts as follows: Bill No. 203, An Act to recognize the contributions of John George Diefenbaker.

And I would invite the member for Arm River to move that the committee report the Bill without amendment.

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 203 move without amendment, be now read a third time and passed under its title . . . Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I report to this Bill without amendment.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried. I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the committee rise, report progress, and ask for leave to sit again.

**The Chair:** — The member for Regina Dewdney has moved that the committee rise, report progress, and asked for leave to sit again. Is that agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Chair:** — That is carried.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair of committees is recognized.

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 208, The Tommy Douglas Day Act, without amendment.

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

### THIRD READINGS

#### Bill No. 208 — The Tommy Douglas Day Act

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

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Regina Elphinstone that Bill No. 208, The Tommy Douglas Day Act, be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Clerk Assistant (Committees):** — Third reading of this Bill.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair of committees is recognized.

**Mr. Addley:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed again by the

committee to report Bill No. 203, The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Act, without amendment and to ask for leave to sit again.

**The Speaker:** — When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the member for Arm River-Watrous.

#### Bill No. 203 — The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Act

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Arm River-Watrous that Bill 203, The Recognition of John George Diefenbaker Act, be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

**Clerk Assistant (Committees):** — Third reading of this Bill.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I ask leave of the Assembly to move to Government Orders.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has requested leave to move to Government Orders. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### TABLING OF FURTHER ESTIMATES

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

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to submit further estimates accompanied by a message from Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

**The Speaker:** — Would the Assembly please rise for a message from the Lieutenant Governor. The message is dated May 5, the year 2005:

The Lieutenant Governor transmits the further estimates of certain sums required for the service of the province for the twelve months ending March 31, 2006, and recommends the same to the Legislative Assembly. [Signed] Hon. Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock, Lieutenant Governor, province of Saskatchewan.

Please be seated. The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, today I am tabling a further estimate to increase the Department of Agriculture and Food's budget, and the Department of Learning's budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

We are increasing the Department of Agriculture and Food's budget by \$732,000. This increase is to fund the administration of the Canadian agricultural skills services program, CASS. The federal government will reimburse this cost. CASS will help eligible farmers and their spouses increase family income by improving farm practices or to gain access to training for alternate sources of income. CASS is a national program completely funded by the federal government. The administration funds will be paid out of the General Revenue Fund with the federal government repaying the GRF.

The Department of Learning is requesting an additional \$29.5 million dollars for 2005-06 to provide for cost of the collective agreement with teachers. A contract agreement was reached on May 4, 2005, between the government trustee bargaining committee and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation. The plan is to offset the expenditure with a drawdown of the Fiscal Stabilization Fund. This would result in no change to the surplus in 2005-06 but would reflect a \$29.5 million increase to the GRF debt.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Regina Dewdney:

That Her Honour's message and the further estimates be referred to the Committee of Finance.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance, seconded by the member for Regina Dewdney:

That Her Honour's message and the further estimates be referred to Committee of Finance.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 86

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 86 — The Labour Standards Amendment Act, 2004 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak briefly on Bill No. 86 and speak to some of the issues surrounding this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be two main components to this piece of legislation. The first component which we are in favour of . . . in fact it is modelled on legislation or a private member's Bill that was introduced by the member from the official opposition and was moved to second reading on April 16, 2004. And it had to do with The Whistleblower Protection Act which was moved and provided a framework of protection for individuals in the workplace who were protected if they brought forward, to the proper authorities, individuals who were breaking the law, and that there could be no circumstances where there could be retaliation taken against that individual for bringing to light this sort of information.

Mr. Speaker, I recall that some time ago, I believe it was in SIGA [Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority], where there was an employee dismissed for bringing this kind of information forward. And they were dismissed because, it was stated, that they hadn't followed the proper lines of command and authority in order to report this kind of an issue.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this legislation, Bill No. 86, provides a framework of protection to workers so that they do not have to fear retaliation in the event that they bring forward information that might be a indication of wrongdoing by other persons in the workplace or management or any other individuals involved with this legislation. And I think that component of the legislation is extremely useful and important to make sure that in addition to the whistleblower protection legislation that there already is, is that in this province we send a clear message that wrongdoing and inappropriate actions are not going to be tolerated and accepted. And that we have to send the message that workers who indeed bring forward this information are going to be looked after in an appropriate way.

Mr. Speaker, the other component of this legislation though that does create a fair bit of concern and difficulty is under the complaints section that can be brought forward. Mr. Speaker, workplaces are always interesting places that have a dynamic of their own in many instances. In some cases, there is not the harmonious kind of workplace situation that you would like to have as an employer and suggest that that would be ideal. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, there are rivalries and jealousies between employees and things of this nature that have nothing particularly to do with the workplace but have an agenda outside of the actual workplace.

And in this legislation, there is the ability for individuals to lodge complaints against an employer and against a workplace, and they don't have to disclose who they are. They can be anonymous, Mr. Speaker. They are also envisaged in this legislation that it isn't just a worker that's affected in the workplace that can bring forward this complaint, but a third party can bring forward this complaint.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that these complaints can be brought forward both by third parties and anonymously create a great deal of possibility for abuse, Mr. Speaker. And that abuse may take a dimension that has nothing at all due or related to the situation in the workplace but could be as a result of rivalries, jealousies, and hard feelings that have no relationship to the workplace at all.

And, Mr. Speaker, I think that that is a problematic situation

that certainly is creating a great deal of concern by employers and employees in the workplace, that this legislation potentially could be taken beyond what is I believe intended, and actually become an opportunity for abuse and misuse of this legislation. And that the people that are going to be damaged by this are the employers but also the workers in the workplace who have a loyalty and a desire to make sure that their workplace is performing to its best potential.

Mr. Speaker, these are the kinds of concerns that we're hearing from workers and employers in this province. They have been pointing out the concerns that they have, and we need to have time to make sure that we listen to these issues that are raised by the people involved in the workplaces. And to that end and allow this consultation to occur, I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill 86 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

#### Bill No. 87

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Higgins that **Bill No. 87 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to rise today and talk on Bill No. 87, An Act to amend The Trade Union Act. This Bill was introduced back in November 19, and there wasn't a lot of talk on the Bill at that point. But certainly over these last couple of weeks or months, month and a half since we've been in session, we've been hearing more and more feedback on this Bill. And it certainly hasn't been positive. There's been a lot of feedback coming regarding Bill No. 87, and some of the ramifications of Bill No. 87 that it will have in the business community and for workers around this province, Mr. Speaker.

And I would submit that it isn't just the business community that has some questions regarding this Bill No. 87. I would also say that there are a number of employees that would have question regarding Bill No. 87 and some of the changes that Bill No. 87 purports to make.

Some of the issues regarding Bill No. 87, I guess the main issue that . . . and we have been asking the minister over and over, over the number of days, is how much consultation has been done regarding this Bill? Has the minister met with the different organizations, whether it's business organizations or employee organizations, and gone over the Bill prior to it being introduced?

When we asked the minister, I know she mentioned that they had met once on December 4. That's hardly consultation when the Bill was introduced on November 19. The Bill was

introduced for a month prior to having any consultation with business stakeholders or perhaps even employees. We asked the minister numerous times, who asked for this legislation? Who asked for this legislation to come forward? And to this date we haven't heard a word from the minister. She has refused to answer the question, who asked for this particular piece of legislation. Because we don't believe that it had been business, and I do question even that it was some employee groups that would have asked for this piece of legislation.

[12:00]

It seems like it's a bit of a piece of legislation that will make up for some of the issues that her department has been facing over the last number of months — this past winter, fall and winter. Of course we all know the hours of work issue, whether they were going to proclaim that legislation, and the groundswell that rose up against that piece of legislation.

And it almost seems like . . . because you know the minister had lost that battle that perhaps she would introduce some other legislation to make up for that. And certainly if that's the reason for the legislation, it's all been driven by the wrong reasons. This legislation, if it is been reviewed by business and employees . . . think that it's a good idea and has some good merit, I can see it moving forward. But to this date, we haven't heard from the minister who asked for this Bill and the consultation that had been done prior to the Bill being introduced because there was none. So, Mr. Speaker, the whole issue around consultation causes us some great concern.

But also this past week, as we've asked questions regarding Bill No. 87 and some of the issues around what the powers that are granted to the Labour Relations Board — whether they can go into businesses and simply just inspect; whether they can go into businesses and seize; whether they can go into businesses, inspect, photocopy, and then take the photocopies — there just seems to be a lot of grey area around this whole issue.

It shouldn't be grey. I mean the minister should be able to stand in her place and answer it the first day — this is what the Bill means — and we go forward from that point. We can debate whether that answer is just or not and whether that should be the policy of the government.

But what really causes grave concern is when we ask the question and the media asks the question one day, we get an answer one day. We get a separate, a different answer the next day. And for two days since then, we haven't got one clear answer that this is exactly what this piece of legislation means.

And so, Mr. Speaker, there is no opposition and no government frankly that should move forward on a piece of legislation until you know the exact ramifications that it will have in the business community and with employees across the province, Mr. Speaker.

There's a number of other areas in this Bill, there are a number of clauses in this Bill that cause grave concern. And I just want to highlight one because I have a number of . . . a few constituents that are in this situation. They're employees of a company that has asked to decertify to the Labour Relations Board. I think they've been in front of the Labour Relations

Board four or five, six times I believe. And every time, the Labour Relations Board has said, has denied the decertification. And talking to the employees, it was truly driven by the employees.

Now the argument by the Labour Relations Board is, is that somehow the employer is having an influence on the employees, having talked to a number of the employees. And I think they're voting at 85 per cent to decertify, but the Labour Relations Board won't allow them to decertify. They've been in front of the Labour Relations Board, and they've been in front of the Labour Relations Board and they're trying to get through to the Labour Relations Board that they want to decertify.

This Bill talks about that whole process and how often they can go in front of the Labour Relations Board. They're denying access of employees to voice their opinion regarding certification or decertification in their job site.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I say, there are grave concerns from the business community with this Bill. There are grave concerns by employees and employee groups with this piece of legislation. Employee groups that have been in front of the Labour Relations Board that have asked for decertification and been denied will no longer have the opportunity to resubmit their decertification wishes to the Labour Relations Board without waiting a certain period of time.

I mean, the window to apply for decertification is very narrow as it is. And then when you look at this piece of legislation that denies them an extra year, it could be up to three years before a employee organization has the right or ability to go in front of the Labour Relations Board to decertify. So, Mr. Speaker, as I said, it's not just business that we're hearing concerns from. We're hearing concerns from employee groups as well, Mr. Speaker.

I think the biggest issue though, on this piece of legislation, is the fact that we don't know who's calling for it. The minister won't stand in her place and tell us who's wishing for this Bill to go forward.

We talked to labour groups and we talked to businesses, and neither have said that they had any consultation with this government prior to this Bill being introduced in November, Mr. Speaker. And I don't believe that this Bill should go any further until proper consultation has taken place.

And until the employers and employees of this province know the impact that this Bill will have on their work sites, Mr. Speaker, I would, pursuant to rule no. 74, I hereby request that proceeding on Bill No. 87, An Act to Amend The Trade Union Act be suspended for three sitting days.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Order please. At the request of the official opposition under rule 74, proceedings on Bill 87, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2004, are hereby suspended for three sitting days.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move the House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:07.]





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