



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

---

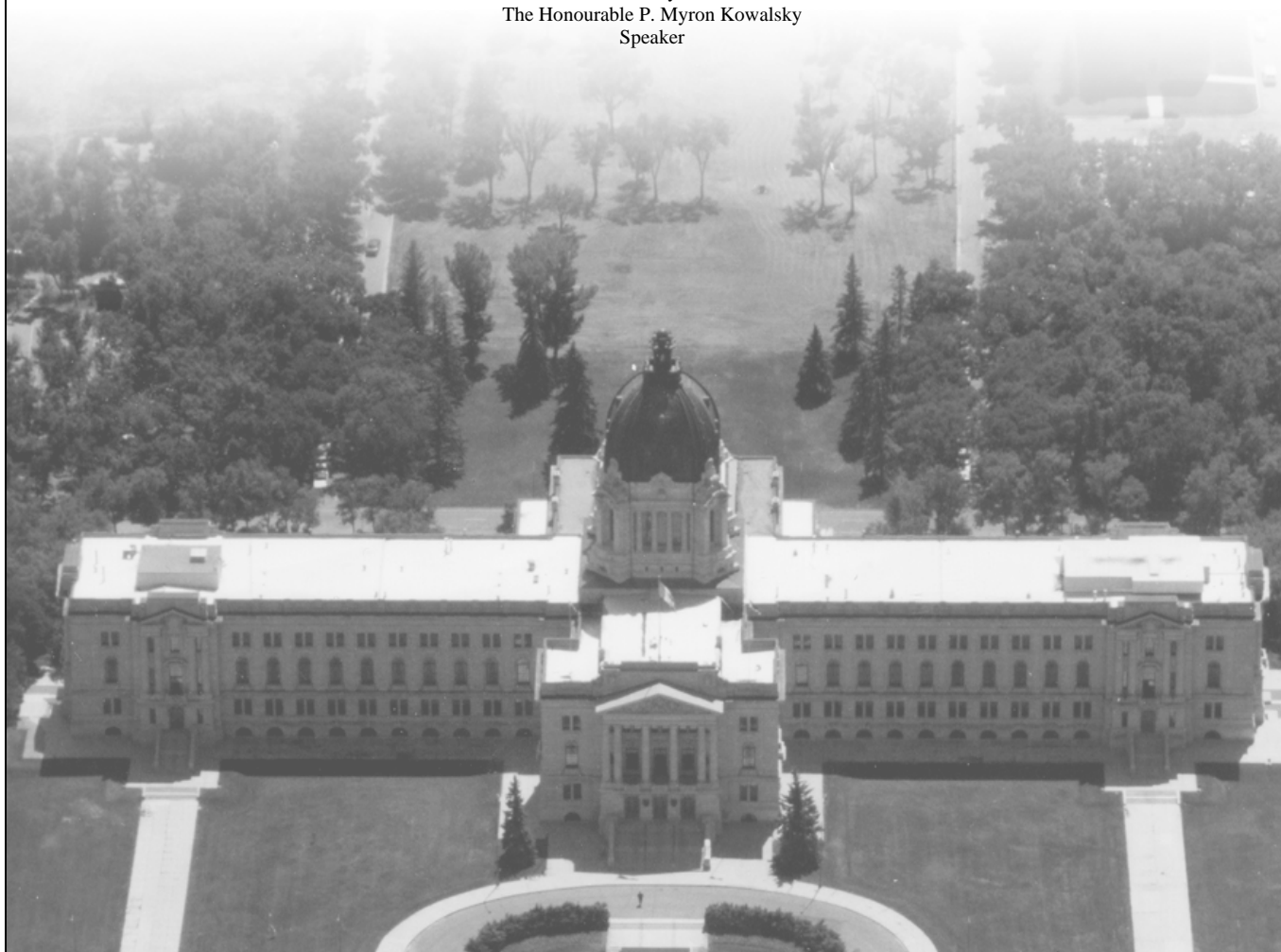
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

---

(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Addley, Hon. 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, Hon. Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Ted	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Morgan, Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Prebble, Hon. Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the condition of highways in the Cypress Hills area continued to be an issue for many of my constituents, in particular the Highway 21 from the Cypress Park turnoff south to the junction of Highways 13 and 21. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 21 in order to address safety and economic concerns.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these four full pages of petitions are signed by people primarily from the community of Eastend but also from the city of Swift Current, the community of Robsart, Shaunavon, Consul, Gull Lake; North Portal, Saskatchewan; Tompkins as well as Ravenscrag and communities from outside the province in addition to those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about the resort of Barrier Lake.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to develop a long-term lease to Revoy's Marina to include a turnabout for access to the marina, a place for boat trailers to be stored, and the seven seasonal camping spots be maintained to ensure the safety of this area.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

People who have signed this petition are from Edmonton, from Naicam, from Wadena, and Fosston. I so present.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition with citizens concerned about the safety of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take

the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Pilger, Humboldt, Lake Lenore, Fulda, Middle Lake, Colonsay, Warman, and Elrose, Wadena, Watson, Prud'homme, Kamsack; and Bowsman, Manitoba. I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to improve SaskTel's 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 residents along Highway 19 and the Outlook area in Saskatchewan are protected by reliable cellular phone coverage.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from Loreburn, Saskatoon, and Elbow. I so present.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition from citizens of Handel that are concerned about having their SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] licensing office reinstated. 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 reinstate the Saskatchewan Government Insurance licensing agency in Handel.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition regarding drug and alcohol testing for motor vehicle operators involved in fatal accidents or accidents where serious injuries are involved. I will read from the petition, Mr. Speaker:

Whereas a citizen of the province of Saskatchewan was killed in a motor vehicle accident in September 2005 in Saskatoon while stopped at a red light;

Whereas the citizen was struck from behind by another vehicle and drug and alcohol level testing was not administered;

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that the public is protected from operators of motor vehicles who are involved in an

accident causing injury or fatality, and that those operators be required to undergo mandatory drug and alcohol level testing.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is some 16 pages long with citizens from Saskatoon and area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again rise to present a petition on the deplorable condition of Highway 368. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take immediate action and make necessary repairs to Highway 368 in order to address the safety and economic concerns.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of Humboldt and Anaheim. 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 sessional paper nos. 31 and 32 and addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 7, 18, 26, and 27.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Dearborn:** — Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 19 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Agriculture: what measures has the department taken in recent years to monitor and control Mycobacterium avium and subspecies paratuberculosis amongst dairy herds? Has the department obtained any information on the prevalence of Johne's disease in Saskatchewan cattle and if so what is the rate?

I so present.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — Hon. members, earlier today at Government House a tribute was paid to Saskatchewan recipients of national and international honours. We want to recognize them in the Legislative Chamber here today. They are all seated in the Speaker's gallery.

I will invite the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to make brief remarks. MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] will then have the opportunity to introduce their constituents individually. The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We are privileged to welcome to the House, to your gallery today, Mr. Speaker, some very distinguished Saskatchewan residents. These are Saskatchewan residents who have been recipient of national and international honours.

This morning the Leader of the Opposition, myself, and other members had the privilege of participating in an event at Government House to recognize their extraordinary contributions. As I indicated this morning, Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of these individuals vary but they have much in common. They each share a deep devotion to something which is larger than themselves. They are excellent role models in their own communities and in our province. And together they have made life better for others; they have made our world a better place in which to live. And in doing so, Mr. Speaker, they've brought honour not only unto themselves but onto the province of Saskatchewan, their own communities, their own families and friends.

They honour us today with their presence here and I would invite all members to welcome our distinguished guests.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to join with the Premier today in welcoming these very distinguished guests to their Legislative Assembly. Too often, Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan we are modest of our accomplishments. Our citizens are modest of the great achievements that they have undertaken on behalf of not only themselves but obviously on organizations that they serve and on behalf of the province.

And too often I think, Mr. Speaker, we wait until some other jurisdiction honours them for all of us to have a moment such as we did this morning and that we're having even now in their Legislative Assembly. In the case of the group with us today, the governments of France and the Philippines and Poland have recognized three individuals there. And our national government has recognized many of the others here.

Mr. Speaker, there are those who have been recognized for bravery and for meritorious service to their organizations. And so it truly was a pleasure to hear each of the citations for these individuals and I would just invite the members to find out a bit about each of these recipients and specifically about the amazing act of bravery of Lori Abbott here of the city of Regina, in addition to all of the accomplishments of our guests today.

So on behalf of the official opposition I want to join with the Premier in welcoming these distinguished people to their Legislative Assembly to congratulate them on their honours and to thank them for the deeds that earned them.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I now invite the MLAs to make their introductions and the recipients to rise during their introduction. The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Eastview.

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Dr. Lorne Babiuk, Officer of the Order of Canada and his wife Betty.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a special honour for me to introduce to the members of the Assembly Mr. Gary Hyland, Member of the Order of Canada.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina South, the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed my pleasure today to introduce to this Assembly Mr. Gordon Staseson, who is a Member of the Order of Canada.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour and privilege to introduce to you Chief Calvin Johnston, Officer of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Ms. Hamilton:** — I'm also very proud to introduce to you and through you to members of the Assembly Mr. Russell Marchuk, recipient of the Royal Victorian Medal.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Staff Sergeant John Leitch, Member of the Order of Merit of Police Forces.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the MLA for Regina Lakeview, the Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the legislature Dr. Michael Jackson, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, it's also my pleasure to introduce to you Ms. Debbie Saum, who is a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure and my privilege to introduce to you Ms. Lori Abbott, Medal of Bravery.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour to introduce to you and all members of the Assembly, recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, Ms. Suellen Beatty.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Douglas Park, the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged to be able to introduce to the Assembly Monsieur Albert Dubé, Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite, France.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is my honour and privilege this afternoon to introduce Mr. Henry Lebioda, recipient of the Order of Poland and the Order of Merit of Poland.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Further introduction of guests. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour, the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask all members of the House, through you, to welcome a group of Saskatchewan professional firefighters that have joined us in the west gallery.

Just glancing over the group, I see representatives from Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, and there may be others. I hope I haven't forgot anyone.

These gentlemen are here because they have an interest in one of the Bills that is moving through the House. It's a pleasure and a privilege to have them here with us today so they can join with us in the process of this Bill.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet I just wanted to express a thank you to each and every one of these folks that protect each and every one of our communities throughout the province and do a great service to all of its citizens. So please join me in

welcoming the firefighters.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to join with the Minister of Labour this afternoon in welcoming all of the professional firefighters from across Saskatchewan.

We know that in all of our communities we have many protective services, and the firefighters are one of the many groups that we just could not be without them. They just do a tremendous job in all of our communities right across the province. And I want to join on behalf of the official opposition in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly this afternoon. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure where to start today other than we've got 24 grade 5 and 6 students from the Harvest City Christian Academy, accompanied by teachers Justin Harrison and Grace Hilsden, and two chaperones in the names of Sandy Ryerson and Joel Corpuz.

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, these are the future exemplary citizens of Saskatchewan. And indeed we look forward to some or all of them being gathered and being honoured as our guests here. And perhaps some of them will be firefighters as well. Anyway, I'm delighted to have them here on this red-letter day to the Assembly. I'm looking forward to meeting them at 2:30 for pictures and then sharing some orange juice with them and answering some questions.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming the Regina Harvest City Christian Academy students and teachers.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Saskatchewan Health Research Week

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is Saskatchewan Health Research Week. This week we take the opportunity to recognize achievements of Saskatchewan's health researchers and showcase the important work they do in developing new knowledge for improving health and health care in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, their contributions come in many forms. They conduct laboratory studies into the cause, prevention, and treatment of disease. They also develop health program and policy research that examines the most effective ways of

organizing and delivering health care services.

Mr. Speaker, although the end products may vary — they look very different — their research shares a common characteristic. It provides the evidence and the tools that our citizens, our health care providers, and our policy-makers need to create a healthier population and a stronger health care system.

Saskatchewan Health is committed to building and sustaining a vibrant and growing research sector in the province. Every year the province provides millions of dollars in direct and indirect support of health research. In consultation with the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, we've created a health research strategy for Saskatchewan aimed at ensuring that we can generate and use the knowledge that is necessary to improve the health of our people.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation's award dinner this Thursday is a big part of this week's celebrations and will recognize the many contributions of Saskatchewan's health researchers.

Mr. Speaker, I too would like to celebrate the achievements of health researchers in the province and invite all members to join me in recognizing Saskatchewan's Health Research Week.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Estevan Fundraiser for Salvation Army

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday Sobey's in Estevan held their first annual Hook n' Book a CROOK — CROOK being the acronym for citizens relying on our kindness. For the fee of \$30 you could have members of the Estevan community arrested, booked, and appearing before judge Rick Chapman in the court of Sally Ann's bench. Cellphones and phone books were provided in the cells for the guilty parties to raise bail money.

Mr. Speaker, I was found guilty of trying to get rid of the Premier and this NDP [New Democratic Party] government. I was fined \$300, but through the generosity of colleagues and the Estevan citizens, I raised over \$400.

Many thanks to Sobey's, Tina Bird, and Joanne Shulte for organizing this fundraiser. Thanks also to arresting officers Barry Shulte and Craig Bird and judge Rick Chapman, as well as everyone for their support in helping us pay our fines. Through the generosity of colleagues, friends, relatives, and sympathetic citizens over \$14,000 was raised for the Estevan Salvation Army Food Bank which serves southeast Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Saskatoon Special Olympians to Compete in Summer Games

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had the privilege of presenting centennial medallions to Imogene Watt of Melfort and Alex Harnum of Regina who are involved with Special Olympics. The presentations were held in my Saskatoon Fairview constituency. It gave me the opportunity to meet with many athletes, parents, and volunteers from across the province.

Mr. Speaker, next July the national Special Olympics Summer Games are being held in Brandon, Manitoba, and I'm very pleased to be able to say that more Saskatoon Special Olympic athletes have qualified to participate in these games than ever before.

For the first time Saskatoon has a soccer team, a softball team, bowlers, swimmers, and track and field athletes going to the national games. From Fairview constituency we have four athletes on the softball team: Dwight Safroniuk, Jessie Pihach, Stewart Dombowsky, and Kyle Grummett.

Mr. Speaker, it's going to cost about \$30,000 to send our Special Olympians to Brandon and they've been fundraising like mad. In October they held a fall supper, auction, and dance. There's a bowlathon coming up, and in January there's a winter getaway featuring a walkathon and a miniature golf tournament.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all the Special Olympians on their selection to the national team and on their fundraising efforts. I also want to recognize all those who work so hard to make these things possible, in particular Pat Safroniuk, who is fundraising Chair for Saskatoon Special Olympics. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Saskatchewan Book Awards

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Friday evening I had the pleasure of attending the Saskatchewan Book Awards and I must say, Mr. Speaker, since it was my first time attending the award ceremony, I thoroughly enjoyed myself on Friday evening.

The big winner of the evening, Mr. Speaker, was *The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* which won the awards for all three categories that it was nominated for. It won the Scholarly Writing Award, the Award for Publishing, and the Publishing in Education Award.

The Book of the Year Award was won by Steven Ross Smith for his book of poetry, *Fluttertongue 3: disarray*. The First Peoples Publishing Award was won by the Allen Sapp Gallery for its book *Through the Eyes of the Cree and Beyond, The Art of Allen Sapp: The Story of a People*.

Other awards, Mr. Speaker, were the Non-Fiction Award was won by well-known author Sharon Butala for her book, *Lilac Moon: Dreaming of a Real West*. The Fiction Award went to Sandra Birdsell for her novel, *Children of the Day*.

And there's 12 categories in all, Mr. Speaker, and it was certainly pleasant to see the outstanding authors that we have here in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, we were all encouraged after the award ceremony to go to the tables and help support our authors and I must say, Mr. Speaker, that my wife, Marlene, certainly did support the authors on Friday night. Thank you.

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

### Saskatchewan Seniors Honoured During Centennial Year

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Mr. Speaker, throughout Saskatchewan's centennial year we are celebrating our people and all of the great things we've achieved together as a province. With that in mind we are honouring the many people who built Saskatchewan's first century and whose accomplishments and achievements are a big part of the inspiration for our centennial slogan, 100 years of heart.

In the coming weeks, Saskatchewan people 65 years of age and older will be receiving a special edition pin along with a message of thanks. The pins acknowledge the contribution these residents have played in Saskatchewan's rich past and the role they continue to play as we move ahead into the future. Over 150,000 commemorative pins will be distributed to seniors across the province.

Saskatchewan Centennial 2005 has introduced several programs to pay tribute to Saskatchewan residents who are as old as or older than the province. Earlier in the year, 347 centenarians received commemorative medallions and certificates in appreciation of their many contributions.

Mr. Speaker, our centennial year provides us with a chance to celebrate those who've had a significant influence on our province. Our provincial motto, "from many peoples, strength," explains that we are who we are as a province because of the incredible citizens who live here.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Straw Track Expands Manufacturing Facility

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Straw Track Manufacturing recently opened a \$1 million expansion of its production facility located in Emerald Park just east of Regina. The expansion features a 15,000 square foot addition furnished with fully automated manufacturing technology that triples the floor space of the existing plant and boosts production capacity by 600 per cent.

Straw Track, which manufactures the Seed Master air drill, has also doubled the size of its workforce over the last year from 9 to 18 employees and plans to hire an additional six welders and assembly staff in the coming months.

Owner and president of Straw Track Manufacturing, Norbert Beaujot, says, "We've experienced rapid growth since starting

the company three years ago due to rising demand of our seeding technology and an ever-increasing number of farmers converting their operations to direct seeding each year.”

Mr. Speaker, he says despite record low grain prices and rising farm input costs, Seed Master sales have doubled over the last year and they expect similar results in 2006. “Farmers are interested in the shallow, uniform seed placement and fast, even emergence that our drills provide.” He says also the release of the Smart Hitch earlier this year intensified demand for the Seed Master.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Norbert Beaujot, his wife Deloris, their sons, and their employees on the recent opening of their plant in Emerald Park. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Mike Maurer Named Outstanding Canadian

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to Saskatchewan native Mike Maurer. The Eskimos’ fullback was named the Outstanding Canadian in Edmonton’s 31-28 victory over Montreal in yesterday’s Grey Cup game.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Maurer was born in Saskatoon and played high school football here in Regina for F.W. Johnson Collegiate, and went on to play for the Regina Rams before beginning his CFL [Canadian Football League] career.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Maurer ran the ball, caught four passes out of the backfield for over 40 yards with two of those receptions on scoring drives, and was also a critical part of Edmonton’s pass blocking.

Mr. Speaker, other players with Saskatchewan connections include Roger Reinson, Kevin Lefrude, Joe McGrath, Rhett McLane with the Eskimos; Scott Flory and Jeff Piercy of the Alouettes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members to join in congratulating all these individuals for their contributions to their respective teams, and in particular to Mike Maurer on his being named Outstanding Canadian in yesterday’s game and for dedicating his efforts to his home province, Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### Federal-Provincial Energy Accord Negotiations

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier seems to have pretty good timing. He launched the Raise a Flag campaign for a new Saskatchewan energy accord

just before the Prime Minister of the country went on about a \$13 billion spending spree. And then he had a meeting booked with the Prime Minister.

So the question is pretty obvious I guess this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier, will he tell this House how he did? Did he get an energy accord for the province of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I can report to this House I was pleased to have an opportunity to discuss a Saskatchewan energy accord with the Prime Minister in Kelowna, further opportunity to spend time in a longer discussion on Saturday of last week. The Prime Minister indicated to me that he would be speaking with his Minister of Finance. I have not heard back from either the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance since Saturday.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is really something. The Premier may be the only person in the country that has been unable to get any money at all from this federal Liberal government in the advance of the next election.

They’ve been on a \$13 billion spending spree this fall, has the federal Liberal government — not one dime for a Saskatchewan energy accord. I don’t even . . . Well I’m pretty sure then the Premier didn’t get enough money so that he could finish building his security fence around the Raise a Flag website, Mr. Speaker.

And now we understand this morning that he’s cancelling the Raise a Flag for Fairness campaign, Mr. Speaker — a campaign that he budgeted \$300,000 for and promised would help, would get us a new energy accord. But he’s now cancelling the whole thing with nothing to show for it except for perhaps, Mr. Speaker, a rigged poll and a bunch of flags that nobody in the province seems to want. Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: will he now admit that the things that he has tried to date — the quiet diplomacy and that sharp website and the window sticker campaign — have failed miserably on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I can tell you this. The campaign, the Raise a Flag for Fairness campaign, I can guarantee you has caught the attention — national attention — it has caught the attention of the federal Liberal government. Now, Mr. Speaker, the opposition laugh, and the opposition has laughed at this campaign since it started but, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition seems to have a very, very short



memory. It was only several months ago that he proposed a plan to deal with this issue. Point no. 7 of his plan to deal with the fairness for Saskatchewan was, quote:

Provide the people of Saskatchewan with a forum to lobby Finance Minister Ralph Goodale and Prime Minister Paul Martin through e-mails and on line petitions . . .

Exactly what we have done, Mr. Speaker, is to give that opportunity to Saskatchewan people as recommended by the Leader of the Opposition. Now all they do is, day after day after day, strike at the credibility of the case of Saskatchewan. That's what they do, Mr. Speaker. We're working on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier references one point of a 10-point plan that the opposition presented back in February, Mr. Speaker, back in February. This opposition presented to that Premier 10 points. What have we got from the government since then? Well we've got just that one point, and frankly it was a very weak attempt. What we didn't advocate though, Mr. Speaker, is that the government would be so foolish as to try to rig the poll, Mr. Speaker, that was online, which has brought even more scorn on this government's program.

Now the Premier has admitted it's not working, and he's going to cancel it. Here are the facts of the matter. This federal government is throwing money as if it were off the back of a truck almost to anyone that would ask for it. That's the environment we're in. We're just in advance of a federal election. This Premier just met with the Prime Minister. He admits he continues to fail to get us an energy accord, a better equalization deal, Mr. Speaker. Why is that? Why is this Premier the only one in Canada that seems unable to get money from the federal Liberal government?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition proposed a plan, a 10-point plan on what we ought to do. He recommended, Mr. Speaker, that we go to other provinces and get other provinces onside. Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the Leader of the Opposition, there's not a great deal of support for Saskatchewan's case among other provinces who would likely see some of their entitlements diminished to bring fairness to Saskatchewan. Now that would be a brilliant plan to go and get other provinces' support. Then he says, put up a website. Put up a website. Allow people to email. Allow people to contact the Prime Minister and the federal Minister of Finance. Soon as we do that, they belittle the effort, Mr. Speaker.

Do you know what his last point is? The last point in his plan was we should seek a constitutional reference, a constitutional reference, Mr. Speaker. That could take us, I suppose, years and years with little likelihood of success.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to succeed in getting an energy accord for the people of Saskatchewan by persistence and the voice of Saskatchewan people.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier rules out the possibility that any other province in the Dominion might support the case. Mr. Speaker, he rules it out without having first checked.

I remember when the Premier for Newfoundland, when Premier Williams and Premier Hamm got their deal. Do you know what Premier said? The Premier said well we're not going to begrudge them their deal because that means maybe we can get a better deal. Has he called Premier Williams? Has he called Premier Hamm, who may have been aware of the Premier's comment at that time? Has he done that? No. Has he called Premier Klein, who may also be supportive of Saskatchewan's position if, for once, this province would join with Alberta in leading on the energy file in this country, Mr. Speaker.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is like the only kid on the block that comes home after Halloween without any candy, the Premier has been unable to get even a thin dime from a federal government throwing money off the back of a truck.

Will he admit that his program, his plan is a failure and outline what's next? What will this government do next to get Saskatchewan a fair equalization deal?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't know when the Leader of the Opposition has spoken to the Premier of Newfoundland or Premier of Nova Scotia, the Premier of Alberta. I spoke to those three gentlemen just two days ago at some length about this issue. Perhaps he'd like to report when he has spoken to those Canadians and just what he would report from those conversations.

Mr. Speaker, this is very peculiar. Across Saskatchewan we have people supporting us in this effort. We have federal Conservatives supporting us in this effort. We have the daily newspapers and the weekly newspapers supporting us in this effort.

And look at this, Mr. Speaker, there's a candidate here for the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada right here in Regina, his name, Brad Farquhar. I think the Leader of the Opposition has some passing acquaintance with this individual. Well he says on his website, he says quote:

I agree with Calvert. Now, I'm not normally the kind of guy who goes around agreeing with Saskatchewan's NDP Premier Lorne Calvert. But here's an issue [that] we can agree on . . .

Everybody, Mr. Speaker, is together on this with one exception, the Leader of the Opposition of the Sask Party opposite.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Premier's getting something mixed up. The people of the province agree with him and with the opposition that Saskatchewan deserves a better equalization deal.

What they do not agree with though is the pathetic way that this government has gone about trying to get that deal for the province of Saskatchewan. That's what they don't agree with.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### Food Bank Usage

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, if I may change the subject of questions, in his response to the government's first Throne Speech in 1991, the Premier said he dreamed, and I quote:

... of a province where at the turn of the 21st century, like the soup kitchens of the 1930s, the food banks of the 1980s and the 1990s will be a thing of the past.

His Throne Speech pledged that no one would be left behind. But according to the 2005 *HungerCount*, Saskatchewan has the highest percentage of children using food banks — 50 per cent or 11,000 kids. That is a 4 per cent increase in a year. Mr. Speaker, why is the Premier, why are his policies failing children in the province of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First I would have to say that we work closely with the community on a wide range of responses to family poverty but also to other community issues that undermine the work of families in trying to survive and to work and to educate their children.

Now this last year has seen improvements in three key areas of adequacy. The last budget saw 14 million in increased improvement income support programs. We've recently seen increases to the minimum wage that will bring the wage to 7.95 at the end of the process. And just today the Premier and myself announced 30 million in funding to some of the lowest-paid workers in Saskatchewan in the community-based organization sector.

As well there's been other programs like the cognitive disability strategy. But all of these come together to provide that support for families, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, that's all very special except that according to the *HungerCount 2005*, food bank usage in Saskatchewan jumped nearly 7 per cent over the last year. Bill Hall, the director of the Battlefords food bank, said this last week, and I quote:

Saskatchewan has much to be proud of in its Centennial Year, but 24,600 people forced to rely on local food banks each month is not one of them [Mr. Speaker].

This very Premier back in March 1990 said, and I quote:

... it is well known in this House and across the province that the growth industry in Saskatchewan in this decade has been the food banks.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that is the growth industry in this province under that Premier's watch. There's no indication that they will act on the issue of indexing the basic allowance, Mr. Speaker. There's no indication that they'll act in terms of the highest tax rates for low-income people in the province. When will they do something meaningful about poverty in the province and about the increased usage of food banks in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, there was also a campaign 2000... year 2005 report that came out in the last week. They did acknowledge the work that Saskatchewan is doing to supplement the incomes of low-income working families. They did acknowledge the housing supplement. They both agreed on the need for the federal government to return to the pre-1995 levels for the Canada Social Transfer which the members opposite should understand is a very important part of how governments fund these programs.

But you know what, Mr. Speaker? By any standard — whether it's taxation, income support, child care, or the Energy Share program — low-income people are better off any day of the week with the initiatives our government put forward than those put forward by the Saskatchewan conservatives...

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, that minister's seatmate on the other side of the House said not too long ago, the member for Greystone said, I want to see, quote:

... I want to see a celebration at the end of our first term ... in which the food banks announce that there is no longer a need for them to exist in the province of Saskatchewan...

But the manager, the executive director, and a former NDP

minister of the one of the province's largest food banks in Saskatoon said, and I quote, "No matter how it might be 'sugar-coated', this is an embarrassment . . ."

Speaking of the record confirmed by *HungerCount 2005*: ". . . this is an embarrassment and a big blemish on Saskatchewan after all the celebration about being a 'have' province."

Mr. Speaker, the government could take a step. It could commit to indexing the basic food allowance in this next budget, and it could commit to changing the fact that in our province, low-income people pay higher taxes here than anywhere else in the country. Will the government give us an indication that they're prepared to move in those regards, Mr. Speaker?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Mr. Speaker, as you know we've been working on a Building Independence campaign. And in a study that was done of the people that become employed, after a few years experience with the program, 40 per cent of the recipients were still employed, with 62 per cent working full-time with an average wage of 18,600. And, Mr. Speaker, any of us would know that's not a huge wage. It is 4,000 a month . . . or I mean 4,000 a year more than people would receive by being on assistance.

Saskatchewan has the third lowest after-tax poverty rate in Canada at 9.5 per cent. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? In my response to the Speech to the Throne, I compared their low-income tax policies with ours. Under theirs, the indexation for low-income would go from 10 per cent to 13 per cent, and it does not have the feature of the equivalent spousal deduction which is very good for low-income working people.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Appointments to Crowns

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, apparently, apparently the NDP have run out of room for their patronage appointments here in this building of the legislature, so they're starting to ship them over to the Crowns. Now the NDP are making patronage appointments to government relation positions over at the Crowns. Once again the NDP are showing their true colours. They kill 6,200 jobs for Saskatchewan people, but they invent all sorts of new jobs within the Crowns.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for NDP patronage. The government owns the Crowns. Why on earth do they need to hire NDP hacks for government relations positions?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Next question.

**Ms. Harpauer:** — To the minister responsible for the Crowns. Why on earth are they inventing government relation positions?

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order please. The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Just to quote the House Leader for the Saskatchewan conservative party, I'd just like to say this:

And if I may, Mr. Speaker, I would like to particularly thank the assistant to the Government House Leader, Darwin Burgess, who has conducted himself very professionally and I understand is leaving the role that he has played. And from our side, I want to acknowledge that we will certainly miss his involvement and the very professional way that he discharged his duties.

The assumption in the question asked by the member opposite is that if you work in this building, if you are competent and professional, you're not entitled to go to any other job in the public service.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I think the people over in the Crowns do a very good job on their own. They don't need some sort of NDP party commissar keeping an eye on them.

The NDP say that their job is to liaise with the government. Mr. Speaker, I've seen what happens after question period when a minister can't answer a question. All of a sudden every senior official is over here at the building, meeting them in the crying room in the back.

I don't think the government has any trouble liaising with the Crowns. The fact is these are nothing more than made-up jobs for NDP operatives. Can the minister of NDP patronage appointments to the Crowns please explain: why is the NDP filling the Crowns with these kind of patronage appointments?

[14:15]

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much. Well, Mr. Speaker, I know that the members regularly travel to Calgary to fund raise for the conservative party opposite. I know that they regularly sit down with a number of companies in Calgary at these dinners to fund raise for their party. I also know that all of these companies, most of these companies have government relations people and, Mr. Speaker . . . because I've met them. And where do they come from? Where do they come from, Mr. Speaker? They come from the Alberta legislature.

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order. I'd like the minister to complete her statement.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And where do

the people that they regularly dine with. . . They come from the Alberta legislature. And why do they come from the Alberta legislature? Because many companies in this country have government relations personnel that have had some experience in legislatures, and that's where they tend to hire these type of people, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read a quote from the Premier when he was in opposition, and I quote:

. . . have they cut funding to their own political staffs? Have they cut anything from their self-serving advertising budgets? Have they cut from their lavish personal expenditures and trips on government aircraft?

That's what the Premier said back in 1987.

Let's take a look at what he's doing today. Ministerial travel is up. Government advertising is up. He invents two new jobs for cabinet ministers with a full complement of political staff. And every NDP MLA has — but one — is getting extra pay. And he's building himself a new million-dollar airport, and now he's inventing phony-baloney jobs to fill the Crowns with patronage appointments.

Mr. Speaker, how can the Premier and his government justify filling the Crowns with patronage appointment jobs?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I find it really quite interesting that the members opposite, that do everything in their power to try and disassociate themselves from the former Grant Devine government, spends time defending the Grant Devine government when the Premier was making his remarks, Mr. Speaker. I mean that was the government that racked up a billion dollar deficit. In fact I think it was \$1.2 billion before the . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order please. The minister ought to be heard. I want to be able to hear everything that's said. Minister for the Crown Management Board.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the context of the Premier's remarks were prior to the 1991 election when Grant Devine was running up a \$1.2 billion deficit.

What I can say to the member again is that her own House Leader, on May 27, 2005, *Hansard* pages 3260 to 3261, said and I quote:

And from our side, I want to acknowledge that we will certainly miss his involvement and the very professional way that he discharged his duties.

Mr. Speaker, I think that speaks for itself.

**The Speaker:** — The member's time has elapsed.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Recruiting and Retaining Doctors

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health.

This minister has the dubious distinction of being number one across Canada — number one with the longest waiting lists of anywhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker. But we learned recently that now he has the dubious distinction of being number two in another category. According to the Health Council of Canada, the Health Council of Canada says this minister and the NDP come second when it comes to losing doctors to other provinces, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, time and time again we bring up the long waiting list, and it's a direct relationship to the amount of doctors that we are unable to retain in this province.

Will the minister address the health Canada of council's report on the fact that we're second in Canada in losing doctors?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We in this province are very proud to be encouraging doctors to come to our province from many places outside of the country. And in fact, we are a community that welcomes internationally trained doctors and includes them in our province.

I think if the member would have looked more closely at the report that he's referring to, he would have noticed that one of the challenges for all Canadians is the fact that some of our provinces that have a little more money than others have been basically taking doctors from other parts of the country to encourage them to come to their communities. That includes Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that we raise at the national table. It's part of our health human resource strategy that all provinces are bringing forward in this next month. And, Mr. Speaker, it's something that we need to address together.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, to the minister in charge of losing doctors, the Health Council of Canada, according to the Health Council of Canada, it shows that Saskatchewan lost 263 doctors from 1999 to the year 2003. That's the second highest of any province in Canada.

He talked about foreign doctors. Historically Canada relies on foreign doctors to fill about a quarter of the demand, but not here in Saskatchewan. In Saskatchewan we rely on foreign doctors to fill over half of the demand in our province. That's the highest of anywhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister start addressing the issue of recruitment and, more importantly, retention of the physicians that we train here, in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, we're very pleased that in this province that over the last four years, since March '01 we've increased the total number of practising doctors in the province from 1,622 to 1,735. Mr. Speaker, we are increasing the number of doctors that are here.

Unfortunately many doctors hear the comments of the members opposite and the other critics and realize that there are a number of people in this province that don't appreciate good medical doctors. And the negativity and all of the attitude that come from those members makes it difficult for all people within our health system in Saskatchewan to work well.

And, Mr. Speaker, I invite those members to vote with our supplementary estimates this week, vote with our budget in the spring because we will continue to make sure we have the resources so that we have doctors and all other medical and health staff in our system.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I didn't think it would take too long before the minister started playing the blame game. It's everybody else's fault but his own. The last time I checked, he was the Minister of Health in this province, and he was in charge of retaining and recruiting doctors, Mr. Speaker. And he keeps losing them.

Here's another example, of Deneen Kozoriz. She was educated in Saskatchewan and was employed by Saskatchewan Health. She operated a specialized unit that was centralized. When it was centralized, Deneen was told that she was no longer qualified to operate this centralized unit.

So what did she do? Like so many other doctors she looked out of province, and she got a bigger and better job somewhere else. Guess where that somewhere else was? It happened to be the Harvard Medical School in Boston running a much larger unit than what she could have been running here. Mr. Speaker, Deneen was not good enough for this province but happens to fit quite nicely into the Harvard school of medicine in Boston.

How can this minister stand and blame everyone else instead of taking responsibility for the loss of doctors in this province? When will he stand and take the responsibility himself?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Nilson:** — Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House are proud of all of our medical doctors whether they're providing service here or in Alberta or in British Columbia or at Harvard Medical School because, Mr. Speaker, we have very good training and very good programs for training people in this province.

We also, for physicians alone, in this year's budget have \$42.7 million around retention and recruitment of physicians. Mr. Speaker, we are working together with the doctors to make sure that we can provide some of the specialist recruitment requirements, some of the requirements for recruiting in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, it really makes me sad and disappointed when I hear that member opposite and the Leader of the Opposition and others who attack our people who are providing care in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, I ask them to rethink what they're doing.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

#### Funding for Community-based Organizations

**Hon. Ms. Crofford:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think all members of this House would agree that as government we rely heavily upon thousands of human service community-based organizations to deliver vital programs and services on our behalf.

In fact the Department of Community Resources and Employment alone depends on hundreds of these organizations to deliver programs and services for children and families and people with disabilities, along with the income support services, employment, career, and child care. And they deliver these services, Mr. Speaker, in all parts of the province, northern Saskatchewan, rural Saskatchewan, urban Saskatchewan. The fact is that without the partnerships we enjoy with the CBO [community-based organization] sector, many of these programs and services would simply not exist.

Now over the years, as we're all aware, CBOs have pressed government for increased funding, primarily to deal with issues of recruitment and retention of staff and quality care for their clients. Through 10 successive budgets our government provided annual increases in funding. Nevertheless for some CBOs these annual increases, while welcome, were not sufficient to effectively address the problem. That's why, Mr. Speaker, we announced in the Throne Speech that we would be providing more than \$30 million in new funding to this sector.

One of the largest and most well-known human service community-based organizations is of course the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres or SARC, as it is

commonly called.

When it was formed in 1968, SARC was made up of just eight members. Today more than 70 human service member agencies make up the SARC family, providing a wide range of services in communities across the province from our biggest cities to more than 30 rural areas. As a group which had fallen considerably behind, SARC and its members had much to gain by putting forward a request for fair and reasonable compensation. Together they set about developing a detailed and well-researched human resource plan. They worked with people in my department in their work. This impressive piece of work brought about the issues and the importance of staff recruitment and retention, and created a focus for some important issues.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am just more than pleased to inform the House that this morning the Premier announced over 21 million of the 30 million in increased funding will be directed to the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres. This funding will be provided over the next three years beginning November 1 of this year to increase their capacity to retain front-line staff by increasing their levels of compensation. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, to retain staff because quite often those staff become the close friends of quite vulnerable people.

SARC shares our government's vision of a society where people with disabilities enjoy all the benefits and opportunities that full citizenship entails. People with disabilities have goals and dreams as we do, want to be part of the community, want to work and contribute and to be accepted, and like anyone else to enjoy the feeling of pride and acceptance that comes with a job and a paycheque, the feeling of satisfaction in taking care of themselves, and also having a place to call their own.

Certainly the disability community has come a long way over the past several decades. We always have work left to do, but we do increasingly recognize the potential of people with disabilities because they have a lot of employability and are just as eager as any employee can be to join our workplaces. And what a welcome addition they are to our communities, our workplaces. I think the new phrase is think ability.

And as I've said, we've provided funding of over 30 million for human service community-based organizations — 21 million of which will go to SARC and its member agencies. The remaining 9 million will be allocated to human service community-based organizations that are not affiliated with SARC and not part of the early learning and child care sector.

We will be making an announcement hopefully before Christmas, Mr. Speaker, about the funding for wages and program adjustments in the early learning and child care sector. Like SARC they will receive increased funding effective November 1 of this year and again on April 1, 2006 and April 1, 2007.

While we do not view this in any way as a permanent solution, today, Mr. Speaker, we took a significant step in closing the wage gap for these low-income workers in the province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

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

**Ms. Bakken Lackey:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the minister's announcement regarding additional funding for SARC and the some other 500 CBOs across the province. This is news that is very welcome but certainly long overdue. As the minister notes in her report or in her announcement, community-based organizations do play a very vital role in our province. They provide services to children, to parents, and grandparents, and to some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Mr. Speaker, it's been many years of hard work by SARC and other organizations trying to impress upon this government the necessity for an adjustment in wages for their workers because these people are invaluable to the clients that they provide services to — where they become a family, where they need continual access to these same people.

And they have had several years of problems of trying to retain their staff because of low wages and had come to the point where people that were in the SARC organization did not even want to train new people because they were afraid they'd train them and then these people would move on to a higher-paying job.

Mr. Speaker, the SARC organization are to be commended for the work that they have done and the tireless effort that they have made on behalf of disabled people that they serve in the province. They wrote countless letters, both the SARC members as well as families of people that are served by the SARC organization, every day. They wrote letters to the Premier and to the Treasury Board. They had a public demonstration at the legislature. They also had petitions across the province. And they put together a human resource plan at the request of the government which took over one and a half years for the government to finally respond to.

All that time, Mr. Speaker, they were losing people. As they were losing their staff, people with disabilities in our province were suffering and their families were suffering needlessly. They were worried about what was going to happen to their family members and their loved ones.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party took on their cause and spoke to this on many occasions and asked questions of the minister in the House and supported the SARC organization as well as other CBOs in pushing this issue forward. And we're very, very happy today to know that this government is finally going to act for the members of SARC. And we are going to look forward to seeing how much money and where the money is going to go — the remaining money — and who is going to benefit from it.

And, Mr. Speaker, the minister also made mention of the money that's coming for early learning and childhood education. And we'll also be watching very closely to ensure that this money indeed does go to CBOs in the province that are providing services the same as SARC is to people that are of the most needy in our province and who are struggling every day to have

enough resources and able to make that happen.

And, Mr. Speaker, so today we would like to say thank you to SARC for their willingness to carry this issue forward. And we look forward to the help that will now be provided to those with disabilities in our province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Government Insurance.

### Changes to Safe Driver Recognition Program

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to congratulate SGI for again recognizing and rewarding the province's safest drivers.

Saskatchewan drivers pay the lowest auto insurance rates in Canada and under the Safe Driver Recognition program, safe drivers will pay even less. Now SGI is enhancing the Safe Driver Recognition program to provide an additional benefit to the province's safest drivers. Under the Safe Driver Recognition program, drivers earn a safety point for every year they drive without causing a collision or getting a specific traffic conviction.

Effective January 1, 2006, Mr. Speaker, SGI is increasing the maximum number of safety points a driver can earn to plus 11. The drivers who earn a safety rating of plus 11 have maintained safe driving records for 11 years and they deserve a special recognition. They will now be known as platinum customers.

The maximum discount available under Safe Driver Recognition will remain at 20 per cent. Drivers who have a safety rating of plus 10 or plus 11 are eligible for the maximum discount.

In addition, drivers who earn a safety rating higher than plus 10, the platinum customers, will build a cushion that will lessen the impact of future traffic incidents on their discount. For example, if a driver has a rating of plus 11 and receives a traffic violation for not signalling properly, he would lose three safety points and would move to plus 8 and lose 4 per cent of his discount. If the driver didn't have the one-point cushion, he would move to plus 7 and lose 6 per cent of his discount.

SGI plans to continue to increase the number of safety points available, one per year to a maximum of plus 16. Eventually, SGI's platinum customers will be completely cushioned from the effects of an incident with no loss of a discount. This change is in direct response to SGI customers who are concerned that the province's safest drivers receive a financial penalty through their loss of discount after many years of safe driving.

Mr. Speaker, the Safe Driver Recognition program continues to be a success. In 2005, approximately \$65 million will be put back into the pockets of safe drivers through discounts on their vehicle insurance. About three out of four vehicle owners qualify for some level of discount and about 40 per cent of vehicle owners are eligible for the maximum discount available. That's over 200,000 vehicle owners in Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, again I'd like to commend SGI for responding to the needs of its customers and rewarding the motorists who have kept Saskatchewan's roads safe. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was very reminiscent of my home yesterday afternoon. I had a couple of birthdays that we celebrated as a family and one of the gifts was a game.

And so sitting around my kitchen table was my wife, my daughter, and my two granddaughters. And they were all trying to figure out what the rules were and what numbers would get you a left turn and a right turn and where you could go across and where you could go someplace else and collect some extra funds. And I said, you know, when I read through this whole thing, it just sounds a whole lot more like that particular game that was being played than a particular program.

The information I was given from the minister says very specifically that our auto insurance is so low. Well it depends where you pick, Mr. Speaker. It's like a bunch of chickens out in the yard. Some of them are pecking away and getting not much and others are pecking away and getting a whole lot. It just depends where you peck and pick, and I guess it's the same way over here.

You look at the right place, at the right age, and the right this and the right that, and yes you can find places where our auto insurance rates are the lowest in Canada — I wouldn't deny that for a minute. You can also find other ones. Like I said, Mr. Speaker, it depends where you peck and where you pick.

This is strange. You read through this thing and there's recognition given of this and the other thing. If a driver doesn't have a one-point cushion, he'd move to plus 7 and lose 6 per cent of his discount. If you just posted that on a sign and asked people to walk by and enter a contest what that was from, they would never in their whole life, Mr. Speaker, ever guess this has something to do with SGI. But they've done it.

I think recognizing safe drivers is a worthwhile thing to do. No one would refute that. I think the more safe drivers we have on the road, the better it is. And they should get some form of reward for it. It's too bad that by the time they finish shuffling with all the numbers, it looks more like a game than it does something that's very serious and very real.

So we look forward to seeing all of this in its glorious detail and we'll go with it from there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We'll order question 554.

**The Speaker:** — 554 has been ordered.

Why is the member from Melfort on his feet?

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Mr. Speaker, with leave to introduce a motion of substitution on committees.

**The Speaker:** — The Opposition House Leader has requested leave to move a motion with respect to changes of personnel on committee. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member from Melfort.

## MOTIONS

### Substitution on Committee

**Mr. Gantefer:** — Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member from Estevan:

That the name of Milt Wakefield be substituted for the name of Ted Merriman on the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Opposition House Leader, the member from Melfort, seconded by the member for Estevan:

That the name of Milt Wakefield be substituted for the name of Ted Merriman on the Standing Committee on Human Services.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 28 — The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Hon. Mr. Wartman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of my remarks, I will move second reading of The Veterinarians Amendment Act.

Mr. Speaker, amendments to The Veterinarians Act, 1987 are required to bring it up to date and to support self-regulation by veterinarians. Amendments include clarification of procedures regarding the professional conduct committee and discipline committee, revisions to the veterinary scope of practice which recognize growing public concerns over animal welfare,

changes to make the Act consistent with current industry terminology and related legislation and regulation, increased fines under the Act to make them consistent with other legislation, and adjustments to the language in the Act to make it gender neutral.

Veterinary medicine in Saskatchewan as in other provinces is a self-regulated profession. The Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, SVMA, provides this regulation through licensing of veterinarians, approval of practices, and disciplining of members. This organization is dedicated to protection of the public by ensuring that its members are competent, proficient, and exhibit ethical behaviour. The majority of changes to The Veterinarians Act, 1987 are related to the ability of the SVMA to carry out its role in investigating complaints against its members, laying charges before the discipline committee where necessary, deciding whether a member is guilty of misconduct or breaching the Act, and applying where necessary penalties described by the Act. The proposed amendments clarify and support these abilities and reflect similar governance policies for other professions in the province.

Mr. Speaker, also included in the proposed amendments are changes to the veterinary scope of practice. These include specifying dentistry on animals as within veterinary scope of practice, removing the exemption for castration of horses, and clarifying that all procedures for the diagnosis of pregnancy, sterility, or infertility in animals are included in the veterinary scope of practice.

These amendments facilitate the regulation of the veterinary profession and bring the 1987 legislation up to date and clarify the veterinary scope of practice. These amendments are being presented to the Legislative Assembly following extensive consultation with stakeholder groups including the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, the Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan, Sask Pork, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Saskatchewan Horse Federation, the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association.

The amendments were generally met with support based on a need to update the Act to better reflect the realities of a self-regulating body in the 21st century. While we heard some differing points of view with respect to the scope of practice amendments brought forward, specifically related to horse dentistry and castration, we ultimately chose to include them in the scope of practice for the Saskatchewan veterinarians. Only Alberta exempts the castration of horses.

Mr. Speaker, therefore I move that The Veterinarians Amendment Act be read a second time. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Agriculture and Food that Bill No. 28, The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

[14:45]



**Mr. Gantfoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today and speak briefly on the second reading of Bill No. 28, An Act to amend The Veterinarians Act, 1987.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important update of the veterinarians' scope of practice and indeed the veterinary association for self-regulating legislation. Mr. Speaker, in speaking to this Bill I think it's important to note the important work and service that veterinarians have performed in the development of the livestock industry in Saskatchewan over the years. Many, many times as our livestock owners have experienced difficulties with their livestock, they've counted on professional veterinarians to come to their farms and to assist them with various conditions that their animals exhibited, many times saving very valuable animals in the net result.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important that we keep The Veterinarians Act and the legislation respecting their professional association up to date. It's my understanding in the notes that are provided to me with this legislation that, in the words of the minister, that there has been reasonably and fairly widespread consultation on this legislation with the various interested parties that have a stake in the veterinarians' practice. And I think that this is important to make sure that legislation is properly reviewed and properly structured.

Mr. Speaker, I know that our members and particularly our opposition critic for Agriculture are going to be most interested in speaking to the minister and to the affected parties in regard to this legislation to make sure that all of the issues that were raised by these associations are properly dealt with in the legislation, and that nothing has been overlooked. And in order to allow that to happen, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move to adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill No. 28 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### **Bill No. 25 — The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005**

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005, and I will formally move second reading of the legislation at the end of my remarks.

This government has the utmost regard for the critical services provided daily by firefighters to save lives and protect our communities. But studies have shown that by providing these valuable services, firefighters are often exposed to hazardous job-related conditions that over time can have serious effects on their health.

In May 2003 this government passed The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2003 which established the rebuttable presumption that certain cancers in firefighters were

the result of their work unless there was evidence to the contrary. As a result of that amendment, protection for firefighters under the Act was extended to include primary site brain cancer, primary site bladder cancer, primary site kidney cancer, primary non-Hodgkins lymphoma, and primary leukemia.

At the same time this government also made a commitment to continue to review and update legislation on a timely basis to ensure coverage for certain diseases associated with the profession of firefighting. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, we are committed to fulfilling that promise and as such this Bill is being introduced to expand the established list of occupational diseases for workers employed as firefighters to include primary site ureter cancer, primary site colorectal cancer, primary site testicular cancer, primary site lung cancer in non-smokers, and heart injury that occurs within 24 hours of an emergency response.

These changes reflect new medical research that has convinced us to extend the list of occupational diseases covered by rebuttable presumption for approximately 700 full-time professional firefighters currently working in our province. This new legislation does not prevent firefighters, their families, or volunteer firefighters from filing a workers' compensation claim if they do not meet the specific requirements outlined. As with all injury claims, these too will be investigated and adjudicated on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to the type of injury and the available scientific evidence.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to all members that there is a non-incremental cost to employers as a result of this amendment because claims for these diseases are already considered under existing legislation and policies. Rather, the amendments simply mean that we recognize the risk firefighters take in order to protect our lives, our homes, and our communities, and want to respond more readily if they find themselves in time of need.

This province's workers' compensation system has brought stability to the Saskatchewan workplace for over 70 years by providing coverage at a competitive cost and protecting workers and employers against the risks and uncertainties of litigation and costly court battles. Mr. Speaker, through the provision of The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005, this government and the Workers' Compensation Board have demonstrated their commitment to ensuring a fair, accountable, and responsive workers' compensation system.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, these amendments are based on the most current scientific research available and will ensure that The Workers' Compensation Act adequately addresses the link between these specific occupational diseases and the occupation of firefighting. I invite all hon. members to support the passing of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to move second reading of Bill No. 25, The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Labour

that Bill No. 25, The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's indeed a pleasure this afternoon to rise and speak briefly on Bill No. 25, An Act to amend The Workers' Compensation Act.

Mr. Speaker, I think today is a fitting time that we recognize the absolute incredible sacrifices and dedication that our professional and volunteer firefighters make to the province of Saskatchewan and the safety of our families and homes and properties.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, the professional firefighters have met with us in this provincial legislature and raised the issues of concern about specialized cancers that have been demonstrated, and the research has documented, as a result of exposure to various hazards that professional firefighters experience in the conduct of their line of duty.

And, Mr. Speaker, in 2003, the government, with certainly everyone's support, recognized that there were a number of primary site cancers that indeed were the kinds of listed diseases that would be included from coverage under the Workers' Compensation Board in recognition of the special hazards that our professional firefighters experience in the conduct of their duty. Mr. Speaker, at that time it was an important first step in recognizing that indeed there were these special hazards.

And, Mr. Speaker, the official opposition is very pleased that the government has seen fit to watch and to observe the latest information that is available and extend those primary site cancers to another four levels of cancer. In addition, the government has also added a clause that specifies that an injury to the heart that manifests itself within 24 hours after attendance at emergency response is also listed as a special listed disease, if you like, under the protection that this legislation provides for our professional firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, since 2003 from information that's been provided from the government, there have been 12 accepted cancer claims by firefighters, but there were 14 that were rejected. And, Mr. Speaker, it is our hope that by improving and expanding and broadening the listed diseases under this legislation, that more of these very serious and legitimate claims will be covered under the Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I'm advised that our official opposition Labour critic, the member from Canora-Pelly, is very desirous to meet with the professional firefighters to make sure that this adequately meets their needs and suffices and that there's nothing been left out. And in order to allow him to have that time to have those consultations that are so important, I would like at this time to move that we adjourn debate.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member from Melfort that debate on Bill 25 be adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 1

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 1 — The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to make comments on this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition will always support any initiative that will have the desired effect of reducing crime and making our communities safer. We will, during the course of that, Mr. Speaker — and we make no apology for it — offer criticisms and suggestions where we think that the Bill is not serving its desired purpose or has flaws or may be difficult to apply.

Mr. Speaker, we find it somewhat troubling when the NDP government refuses to accept some of those criticisms and refuses to accept some of the changes that have been put forward. Mr. Speaker, the problem with that is it tends to politicize the process and tends to detract from having any commonality and purpose.

Mr. Speaker, earlier we raised the issue with this particular Bill about the onus it will put on bar owners. The minister indicated that it would be the responsibility of police officers to deal with that, not the responsibility of bar owners to deal with that. So now we have the potential problem that a bar owner doesn't know whether to call a police officer or deal with the problem themselves. And we've unfortunately foisted a problem on the police officers when maybe it's something we were trying to give a tool to a bar owner.

We also have the issue of human rights complaints from First Nations groups that are wearing a bandana, and we haven't directed any consideration to how we might address those type of concerns or issues as they arise. We're certainly supportive of what the Bill is trying to do.

Mr. Speaker, we also note that, as part of the implementation of this Bill, the department is going to increase the number of police officers. And we certainly support the increase in the number of police officers. The opposition has, Mr. Speaker, supported the increase of police officers since before 1999 when the government made a commitment to do that. We feel that having more front-line police officers will go a long ways to a significant reduction in crime.

We disagree significantly with the minister responsible for miscounting police officers in that we seem to have no understanding or ability to be able to count up to 200. We have, through a series of successive Justice ministers, been unable to fulfill that promise. And we're now at a standoff between the

minister for miscounting and the federation of police officers as to the actual number that have been included. Mr. Speaker, that is a troubling aspect, and we will look forward to this government being able to address its counting deficiencies. And we look forward to that being a promise that was not just made, but one that is actually fulfilled.

We note as well, Mr. Speaker, with some concern that these new employees will not in fact be police officers accountable to a police chief in the ordinary course, but these instead will be employees of the Department of Justice. As such there will not be the usual checks and balances of The Police Act dealing with disciplinary proceedings. They would be, as the minister indicated in estimates last week, subject to his internal disciplinary process in his department.

I don't think that's going to give the public a great deal of comfort. And those officers will not be able to avail themselves of the protections and rights that are in The Police Act as far as disciplinary proceedings. And, Mr. Speaker, those current protections are not adequate in their present form, and these particular police officers will have even less form.

Another even more troubling aspect of this particular process is that we had Bills passed last year, The Criminal Enterprise Suppression Act to the proceeds of crime Act which allowed applications to be brought by the chiefs of police dealing with municipal issues. And these particular police officers will not have a chief, will not be able to avail themselves of that unless they go either to the Minister of Justice or to a companion agency elsewhere. So we've added another level of bureaucracy or another communication.

We have concerns over the ability to develop a good rapport and a good working relationship. We know that our police officers — and we're certainly proud of many of the police officers in this province — have worked hard and continue to form alliances and partnerships with other police agencies. But we have concerns when the government deliberately does things that creates gaps or doesn't create an easy system to try and do this.

[15:00]

I think unfortunately the minister of miscounting has not, not been able to address the fact that he's dealing with a comprehensive scheme to try and reduce crime in the province. What he's done is done a patchwork of legislation that he's borrowed from other jurisdictions.

And certainly we support and support in the strongest sense, Mr. Speaker, the purpose and intent of this Bill. However having said that, we have a great deal of concern with how the Bill might be administered, and we'll likely be seeing amendments in the near future to try and address some of those concerns.

Mr. Speaker, before I sit down, I feel it's appropriate just to comment very briefly that whatever we do with regard to reduction of crime in this province — and we're certainly supportive of doing that — we must never forget that we also have a strong responsibility to deal with the root causes of crime, that we have to have an education system that is

appropriate for all of the young people in this province including those with special needs, Aboriginal, First Nations, and people that have recently moved into our cities that are having difficulty adapting to it. We also have to deal with job creation and job transition from people that have been on long-term social services benefits to ensure that those people can avail themselves of the growth that we have in our province.

We also have to address some of the long-term issues with regard to poverty. We know that low-income people are some of the ones that are having the most difficulty in becoming active and full participants in our province, and a lot of those people are the ones that are becoming statistics within the justice system. Those people, we have failed. We have not served our role as elected members of the legislature when we do not address their problems.

We also have a number of young people, and unfortunately a growing number of people, that suffer with addictions and problems with life skills. If those problems are not addressed at a much earlier age or we head off those problems, we know that those people will end up being involved with the justice system unfortunately. So, Mr. Speaker, it's only appropriate that we always note and always reflect that we have to deal with those issues, those problems as well.

And, Mr. Speaker, in concluding I would like to raise again the issue of the broken and unkept promise made in 1999 for 200 new police officers. By anyone's numbers, including the minister's own numbers, it is a promise that remains as yet broken, unfulfilled. And the police officers and the citizens of this province are betrayed and have a right to expect better from the minister of miscounting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 1, The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005 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:** — The motion is carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that Bill No. 1, The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 1 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried. This Bill stands referred.

### Bill No. 3

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 3 — The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation deals with an interesting tempest that occurred in the province in the last year or so. We debated vigorously on open-line talk shows and throughout the media, the debate of unpaid parking costs by municipalities. And it came to a head when citizens were actually arrested and put in jail for failing to feed a parking meter on a repeated and long-term basis.

The issue in simple terms comes down to a debate whether you treat parking costs as merely renting space and a collection issue or alternatively a criminal or penal sanction for not plugging a meter and whether it's appropriate to actually put someone in jail. We have received lobbying and had consultation with the municipalities, and what has emerged is that they would like to treat this as something in between a mere collection of debt and part of a regulatory scheme.

Overall this is part of a traffic regulatory scheme in our cities that deals with traffic flows, traffic patterns, not to mention parking in our downtown cores. It is essential, Mr. Speaker, that we take steps to maintain control and compliance. It is more than merely a debt because it's a debt for a very small sum, and we cannot leave our municipalities in a position of having to deal with that kind of thing. And we also have to have respect for the law, and we have to ensure that there is ongoing compliance. We cannot allow people to park at will, and we have to allow appropriate sanctions for the municipalities so that they can control parking.

What has come forward out of these discussions is that we will allow a lien to be placed on the vehicle. The lien would allow for the seizure and sale of a vehicle owned by an offending person. The issues that we have heard that will come from this, and will probably be raised on an ongoing basis, is the priority that that lien will have.

The lien will not have priority over what is defined as a purchase money security interest. That means that if the municipality seizes a vehicle for unpaid parking tickets, and it has a lien on it from somebody that financed the purchase or acquisition of that vehicle — a motor company, finance company, or something of that nature — the municipal lien would be second in line. If it's a refinance or a lien granted back to a lender for something, for some other purpose, that the municipal lien would take priority over that.

So it will be interesting to see, Mr. Speaker, over the next while how things work and whether we have municipalities that feel

shortchanged or whether we have lenders that feel shortchanged. We've heard issues of concern both ways and, Mr. Speaker, it will be a balancing act, and hopefully this is something that's going to address concerns of the municipalities.

In addition, this piece of legislation updates other procedures. It allows for the mailing of summons. It allows for default convictions for those that don't appear. It allows for payments by credit card. One of the things that our citizens should be made aware of — and would want to encourage media, law society and other people — is if you do not keep your address current on your driver's licence or your vehicle registration, and you fail to receive these summons or these information as they come to you, you may very well find yourself in a position where your vehicle is seized or you're dealt with otherwise by the courts if you fail to keep your address. And it may be appropriate for the Minister Responsible for SGI to engage in some form of informational program with licence renewal so people become aware of that.

Hopefully this becomes something that is workable for both citizens of our province and the municipalities. We'd certainly invite feedback from everyone over the next year or so as the law is implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 3, The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2005 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.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that Bill No. 3, The Summary Offences Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 3 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. This Bill stands referred to the Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 9

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 9 — The**

**University of Regina Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, it's a privilege to speak to a piece of legislation this afternoon. In fact this is the first piece of legislation I've had an opportunity to address in this fall session. And not because of lack of interest but simply because we've had some echoing going on in here and most of it's been in my sinus cavities for the last three weeks. And I hear my speeches twice before I actually deliver them so, Mr. Speaker, please bear with me this afternoon.

**An Hon. Member:** — A chance to improve them.

**Mr. Elhard:** — Well that's a possibility. They'll be greatly improved by the time I'm finished delivering the speech this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I stood here once in previous years and thought at that time I was addressing the shortest piece of legislation that had ever been presented to this House. But I think the piece of legislation in front of us this afternoon, Bill 9 and the subsequent piece of legislation Bill 10, actually will take that record away from any earlier legislation. This is quite possibly the most brief piece of legislation we will ever see in this particular legislature.

Madam Speaker, I see that this particular legislation actually only changes one word in The University of Regina Act. And it's clause 56(2)(c) of The University of Regina Act which is amended by striking out the word "six" and substituting the word "five." Now, Madam Speaker, I think it might be advantageous to take just a few minutes to talk about what this particular one-word change will accomplish as it relates to The University of Regina Act and The University of Saskatchewan Act.

The University of Regina Act, 2005 talks about the number of members that will now be eligible to sit on the Board of Governors. Prior to this change, as it exists now, the Board of Governors for the University of Regina is comprised of 12 people including the chancellor, the president, six members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, two members elected by the senate, one student who shall be the president of the students' union, and then one member of the faculty who is a lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, or someone who holds a full-time academic appointment in the university and who is elected by the members of the council. And of course the secretary of the university shall be the secretary of the board.

So what we have in this particular description is an itemization of the number of people who serve on the board of governors for the respective universities and how that will change. What we have at the present time is six members appointed by the government that comprise one-half of the existing board of governors, and that will now change to five individuals. So the board numbers will drop from 12 to 11 with this particular change in the legislation.

Now I noticed in the explanatory notes that this particular change was recommended by the Department of Learning, and that cabinet has decided to reduce the number of government appointees by one. That makes the decision sound almost unanimous.

But in fact, Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe the decision to do this was prompted by the auditor's report in which he said the universities in this province are institutions that operate at arm's length from the provincial government, are not creatures of and/or governed directly by the government. Therefore to have an equal number of representatives from the government and the core that are sought and appointed by the university itself would be inappropriate.

And recognizing the fact that universities do operate at arm's length from the government and are, quite frankly, independent agencies operating within our society, it would only be appropriate that the board of governors be comprised of a majority of people who are put in place from the university sector and not by the government itself.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think the change that is being advocated here or being put forward by the provincial government is an appropriate change under the circumstances. I think this particular recommendation and change in legislation reflects the autonomy, the very clear principle of autonomy that we all regard as very important when it comes to post-secondary institutions of the stature that both of our provincial universities represent.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the boards of governors of universities are very important agencies, very important institutions as part of the university community because they ultimately are responsible for the significant decisions that have to be taken to direct the day-to-day activities and the general philosophical directions that universities want to take. And they're responsible for making critical decisions in areas that affect every level of the university.

[15:15]

One of the areas that universities is finding most challenging at this particular juncture in time — and it's not unique to this time as a matter of fact; it's been kind of an ongoing debate over many, many years — but one of the most critical issues that boards of governors have to attend to is the issue of tuition fees. And I couldn't help but notice that in some newspaper articles just about 10 days ago, in the provincial dailies, both the *Leader-Post* and *The StarPhoenix*, that the issue of tuition fees and the attention that will have to be given to those by the boards of governors of the two universities, is sort of pre-eminent in the discussion going into the pre-budget period that we're into right now in terms of provincial resources.

The article that caught my attention, Madam Deputy Speaker, was from the *Leader-Post*, and I'll just quote a little bit of it as it relates to the role of the board of governors. And in this particular article . . . I'll skip quite a bit of the information, but go directly to this specific point. It says here:

If the provincial budget doesn't cover off the University of Regina's increased operating costs, tuition fees could go

up next year.

The only question is by how much.

And I'd like to quote this sentence from Barb Pollock, the U of R [University of Regina] vice-president of external relations. She says:

"We figure out what our expenses are first and then we see how the government grant comes up to meet it. Then the board has to decide what it is prepared to require the students to pay in tuition" . . .

"Certainly in forecasting our expenses just purely by everything from the usual standard ones, in which we have no control, such as collective bargaining to increased IT licensing and insurance, we are going to need somewhere between a four- to a five-per-cent increase in funding," Pollock said.

"How that ends up playing out with tuition . . . is going to be up to the board (of governors)" . . .

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, that issue, the tuition issue, is probably the most pressing issue for students certainly, but it's also critical in terms of the long-term economic viability of universities. And it's certainly critical to the provincial resources because that question is really dependent on how much money the provincial government provides for the universities as they go forward and determine their budgets.

I'd also like to note, Madam Deputy Speaker, that in the November 18, 2004 Human Services Committee, when this issue of long-term funding and adequate funding to universities was being discussed by committee members with the minister responsible for post-secondary education, when he was asked about his opinion on the funding question, the minister responded, and I read from *Hansard* his response:

I think it's important that the universities have stable funding increases to deal with their pressures. I think we need to have a more predictable mechanism for planning tuition and we need to make sure that . . . relates back to the affordability for students to be able to borrow and repay those loans.

I go on to quote from the minister.

The problem with a tuition freeze as a mechanism to fix the accessibility issue is that it is a uniform mechanism . . . Provinces that have tried tuition freezes in the past have not found them to be particularly successful.

So, Madam Minister, while this particular piece of legislation recognizes the autonomy and the arm's-length relationship of universities from the public purse, I think it's incumbent on this government to be sure that universities are adequately funded so that boards of governors can make decisions appropriate to the needs of the institutions they serve and to the needs of the students who attend.

And so, Madam Minister, I think that we can say on behalf of the official opposition that while this is an appropriate move,

this piece of legislation is desirous from our perspective and we believe fully supported by the universities in this province, we think that there are serious issues that the government needs to address as it relates to the economic predictability for the universities that operate in this province. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 9, The University of Regina Amendment Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I move that Bill No. 9, The University of Regina Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for Learning that Bill No. 9, The University of Regina Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

### Bill No. 10

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 10 — The University of Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. And once again I am pleased to talk briefly on this particular piece of legislation.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Bill is virtually identical to the piece of legislation we just talked regarding the University of Regina. This Bill No. 10 addresses the composition of the board

of the University of Saskatchewan. And it once again changes the number of governors from 12 to 11, giving the majority of members on the board to appointment made by the University of Saskatchewan and a lesser number made up of appointees by the provincial government.

And many of the comments I made as regarding the University of Regina are applicable in this particular instance as well. I just want to point out that once again, you know, the governors at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] are faced with the same challenges — financing, long-term commitment to stable funding from the provincial government, the difficulty of balancing the needs of students, the costs of tuition with the viability and the financial pressures that face the universities.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, we're all aware of how rapidly costs are escalating in many areas of our economy. And universities certainly aren't immune to those costs and in fact bear a fairly heavy obligation, especially when it comes to the cost of utilities and information technology improvements and those types of things. Of course salaries, wages make up the largest part of the budget of the post-secondary institutions in our province, which is not unusual. But nevertheless there are inflationary pressures that universities have to absorb and as a consequence they have to know what their funding is.

I think that one of the areas that our universities are finding considerable ... or developing, maybe I should say, considerable skill in undertaking is the fundraising that they've lately pursued through their alumni associations. The ability to raise money from graduates who have benefited significantly from the education they received at our post-secondary institutions is a source that we haven't, as a society, looked to with too much aggressiveness or familiarity in the past.

But we've seen that approach used very effectively in universities elsewhere around the world, notably in the United States where alumni are often tapped and asked to contribute back to the institution from which they benefited most. And I think the universities here in Saskatchewan, both the U of R and the U of S, have recognized the potential that exists there to raise additional funding.

But no matter how successful those efforts might be, there is still a growing need.

A very important element to our success in this province will be the effective role that our universities and other post-secondary institutions play in providing education to our own young people. And if we starve them for funds, if they are in some way inadequately supplied with the resources they need to do the best job possible, the losers will be all of us — our society as a whole; our province as a whole. And so it's incumbent on provincial governments to adequately provide the resources necessary to make sure that these institutions can play the role that they have been asked to play in this economy.

You know, it's occurred to me that in many instances Saskatchewan doesn't have the sort of head office culture that some other larger centres might have. And oftentimes economic decisions can be made in head offices that have significant impact that ripples right through the entire economy of the community and of the province in which they're located.

In Saskatchewan we have two very effective and active — and maybe even aggressive would be an appropriate adjective — institutions. We have seen research capability expanded significantly at both universities. We've seen a significant change in faculty, and updating sort of the courses and the programs that these universities are offering. We've seen tremendous strides forward at our universities in a very significant and serious attempt to provide the very best post-secondary educational alternatives to Saskatchewan students and to students that recognize the quality of education provided here, from other jurisdictions. And in that capacity our universities have played an increasingly important role in our economic success.

And even though we may not have the head office culture here we have a higher, I would say, higher representation of university-driven initiatives in our economy than many other jurisdictions. And in order for them to be as successful as they want to be, in order for us as a society, as a province, to benefit from the activities of these universities as broadly as we would hope to, we need to make sure that their financial resources are completely endowed.

And so, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would suggest that this particular piece of legislation, as it affects the University of Saskatchewan, is an appropriate piece of legislation here. It will accomplish the recognition of the role of government versus the role of the institution as an autonomous body. And for that reason, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would recommend that this legislation move forward to committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 10, The University of Saskatchewan Amendment Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill referred? I recognize the Minister of Learning.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I move the Bill No. 10, The University of Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Learning that Bill No. 10, The University of Saskatchewan Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

### Bill No. 11

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Prebble that **Bill No. 11 — The Youth Justice Administration Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Madam Deputy Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise and participate in the discussion regarding this Bill. The Bill is a relatively short piece of legislation that gives certain youth corrections workers the status of a peace officer. This will enable the officers to arrest on reasonable grounds or reasonable probable grounds. Rather than actually becoming directly involved or seeing a crime become committed, they can act on information belief.

It does, Madam Deputy Speaker, impose a higher level of accountability on them as police officers. The courts will expect and anticipate a higher level of accountability, and I'm confident that those particular workers will be well aware of that and will be working through their professional associations to ensure that they are able to handle and deal appropriately with this additional degree of responsibility.

It will allow charges to be laid without the necessity of calling a police officer. So it should streamline the process where it becomes necessary for charges to be laid while a young offender is in custody for a detention or while serving a sentence. And hopefully those situations don't arise, but when they do, it is only appropriate that it is able to be dealt with in this fashion.

[15:30]

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is significant that at this time we recognize and support the difficult and challenging work that these people do. These workers often incur a significant element of risk in the course of their employment. They also have the added challenge of dealing with young people who are often going through crisis in their life, and these people will sometimes assume — and frequently will assume — the role of a parent or guardian and offer some significant guidance to these young people . . . and want to, at this time, recognize and thank them for the work and their significant contribution that they make.

It is the position of the opposition that we want to give these workers all of the necessary and appropriate tools so that they can fulfill their mandate and operate as effectively and as efficiently as possible, Madam Deputy Speaker. It would be appropriate, Madam Deputy Speaker, that this Bill be referred to committee at this time.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 11, The Youth Justice Administration Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

**Hon. Mr. Prebble:** — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I move that Bill No. 11, The Youth Justice Administration Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 11, The Youth Justice Administration Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 13

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Beatty that **Bill No. 13 — The Archives Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 13, The Archives Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.



**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — I move that Bill No. 13, An Act to amend The Archives Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 13, The Archives Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

### Bill No. 14

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Beatty that **Bill No. 14 — The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm delighted to rise today to speak to Bill No. 14, the provincial emblems Act.

Often the Bills that come into legislatures don't have a lot of colour, a lot of interest to the general public, but this Bill actually is addressing a number of issues that maybe many of our citizens will actually see as part of their everyday life.

One of the main issues is the flag. The Fransaskois flag is recognized now as a provincial emblem. And we now have a provincial fish, the walleye. I know that there was a large debate in the province earlier this year about which fish was going to be considered our provincial fish, and we now have the walleye. And the saskatoon berry is now our provincial fruit emblem. And I'm sure that there'll be school kids that will be asked this question in an exam yet this year.

There was a change to the Order of Merit description — just to make some household changes to it — to include the provincial motto and to add the word royal. And we also have similar changes to the Volunteer Medal. But this year we also have a description of the Protective Services Medal and the Centennial Medal.

As an MLA one of the great honours we had this year, in our centennial year, was to present these medals to constituents that are well-thought-of in our area and have gone about their lives in the last number of years just usually not asking for credit but making a difference to many people's lives. We have mayors. We have people that are in culture and youth. We have people that are enjoying sports, people that are in music, people that have been on school boards. People just go about their business and everyday life and make our world a better place.

Saskatchewan has very many people that should have been honoured this year, and as MLAs we had a difficult time

choosing who should be receiving the medal in our constituencies.

One of the things that was a bit of a concern earlier this year was the fact that many of us believed that our mayors were going to be given the Centennial Medal directly from the province and we found out that it was only the mayors of the cities, so it did cause some concerns. We had people who maybe should have been notified earlier that they would have received the medal. So I guess there was some misunderstanding about who was actually going to be receiving it from the province. But all in all I think we had to make decisions about who should be recognized.

And I was amazed after the presentations in our area how many people came up afterwards and said, how did they get to choose us? They all made the statement that I don't think I'm worthy of it; I'm sure there's somebody who deserves it more than I do. But I know that each one of us, after listening to their resumes and the work they'd done in their communities, felt that they had all added to our province, and in our centennial year it was great to recognize it.

So on behalf of the official opposition, I'm pleased to move this Bill on to Committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Provincial Secretary that Bill No. 14, The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Provincial Secretary.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — I move that Bill No. 14, The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Provincial Secretary that Bill No. 14, The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

### Bill No. 16

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 16 — The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Madam Deputy Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise in the House today.

This Bill is a housekeeping Bill that was introduced at the request of the Law Society. It deals with the role of the benchers and the disciplinary committee within the Law Society. It deals with a number of other administrative issues.

Particularly noteworthy is how cost might be applied where a member of the Law Society has died. And it also changes the provisions that are necessary to tax a lawyer's bill, which is an old-language term to allow a bill by a lawyer to be challenged or reviewed by the court. And there used to be a 30-day time limit on that process, and often by the time somebody was dissatisfied with the bill, the 30 days had come and gone and they were unable to avail themselves of that process or that opportunity. And it certainly created some ill will towards the legal profession. So that is being addressed.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I'm pleased that these things came forward at the request of the Law Society and not at the request of consumers' groups or other advocates. The Law Society has become a model for other self-regulatory bodies in the province. It's one of the oldest self-regulating bodies, and I think the Law Society should be rightly proud of the reputation that it's developed over the years.

In fairness, Madam Deputy Speaker, no entity and no person has lost money as a result of defalcation of a lawyer. There is a self-maintained defalcation fund. There is a self-maintained insurance fund dealing with lawyers errors and omissions, and this process has served not only the legal profession but the public very well. They have in recent years added a civilian complaints officer to deal with complaints so that a person doesn't have to feel when they make a complaint that it is a profession that is guarding its own.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is appropriate that this Bill be referred now to committee.

The final comment that I would like to make is we should, as Legislative Assembly, develop an easier method when agencies such as the Law Society or other groups require routine updating of their legislative framework or groups that need legislative changes made to bring laws into compliance with other jurisdictions, we should have a method that these Bills could be brought to the House without all of the procedural process that's there.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it would be appropriate for us to have

the Bill referred now to committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 16, The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

**Clerk Assistant** — Second reading of this Bill.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that Bill No. 16, The Legal Professions Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 16, The Legal Professions Amendment Act, 2005 be now referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 17

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Quennell that **Bill No. 17 — The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Madam Deputy Speaker, I am once again pleased to rise to make comments on this Bill. This Bill is another Bill where the changes were brought upon by request from the associations behind it, in this case the Real Estate Commission. They have come forward with a number of what would usually be regarded as housekeeping requests.

They want to formalize a name change to the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission. They wish to be recognized as a corporate entity. And they want to allow the commission to borrow money for corporate purposes. They want to be able to invest funds in investments in the ordinary fashion while they are holding funds on behalf of other entities or their own funds.

Most significantly, and the triggering reason for this coming forward, is the Real Estate Commission very simply wanted to purchase an office building for their own use and found out that

they were unable to acquire property because their land title system only allows certain entities to acquire or have real property registered in their name, and the Real Estate Commission was not one of those entities. But it would have been necessary for them to either incorporate a holding company or go through some other process.

It is the desire of the Real Estate Commission to have this Bill passed and brought into place virtually immediately so that they can conclude the transaction that they are working on, and, Madam Deputy Speaker, we certainly don't want to hold up that process.

We recognize the work that's done by the Real Estate Commission in regulating a large industry in which large amounts of money are transacted on a daily basis and feel that these changes are appropriate for them to meet their needs. And, Madam Deputy Speaker, it would be appropriate for the Bill to be referred to committee at this time.

[15:45]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 17, The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — I move that Bill No. 17, The Real Estate Amendment Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for Justice that Bill No. 17, The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Committee on Human Services. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 27

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed

motion by the Hon. Mr. Addley that **Bill No. 27 — The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm absolutely delighted to stand in the House today and to speak to this Bill — Bill No. 27, the youth drug detoxification Act. It's only been about eight months, Madam Deputy Speaker, since a Bill similar to this one was brought to this House, and we tried with all the effort we could muster to make this government look at the advantages of this Bill.

And just last week I had the opportunity to sit in a news conference and listen to the minister make exactly the same arguments that we had made eight months before in the House. In fact some of them could have been taken directly out of *Hansard*. It just absolutely amazed me that something that made so much sense to us last year, and made no sense to the government, could all of a sudden make total sense to the government.

In the meantime we have children, young people who have an addiction, and addiction is a disease, Madam Deputy Speaker. We have children who had no help for eight months. The question that had to be asked, is this time delay, this eight-month time delay, got anything to do with really talking to the people, or is it got everything to do with politics?

When we are talking about children that are in need, children that need our help, children that we're responsible for, there is no time for politics. And yet this seems to be the real basis for everything that has been done, not just in this session and for the last 10 and a half years, but when it comes to this Bill and the work that could be done for children, this seems to be the only logical answer that we could come up with.

Madam Deputy Speaker, one of the things that I was amazed at, at the news release last week, was instead of having a clear, precise answer and system in process for parents and people who are concerned about the best interests of children, exactly what they could do for the child, we have a flow chart. The minister gave us a flow chart.

Now parents who have children that are in need can have a phone number; they can have somebody to talk to. But to go through a flow chart is an insult to somebody who thinks that they . . . that knows that they need help from this government. This world is not about process when you have children in need. It's about action. And to have this kind of information put in front of parents, put in front of authorities, put in front of professionals who are trying to work against time with young people who have an addiction . . . And I know that we're talking about all addictions, drug addictions and alcohol addictions. But the one that we've been talking about specifically, Madam Deputy Speaker, is the drug crystal meth.

We've been listening to the concerns of parents and children for two years now and every one of those people that . . . the ones who are involved with the children who have addictions — the professionals that we've spoken to not just in Saskatchewan,

not just in Alberta, not just in BC [British Columbia], but from the United States as well — tell us about the concerns that are rising around this new synthetic drug that is changing the lives not just of children but of the family and communities.

And when I looked at the Bill that I had been waiting for with breathless anticipation for the last eight months, there was two concerns that jumped out at me immediately. The first one was the number of days that a child could be held involuntarily. The discussion that Dr. Rawson, who is in Saskatoon today coincidentally on a crystal meth conference and is a leading expert on crystal meth in the world, talked on the CJME radio this morning about the number of days it took for someone to be detoxified.

Anyone who knows about the drug crystal meth knows that after you've been up for anywhere from 3 to 20 days . . . And I hope nobody thinks that I'm misquoting but young people, people using this drug can be up, up, awake, for 20 days. In that time they haven't . . . usually haven't eaten and haven't drank anything. They have not slept. They haven't done anything to keep their body in shape at all for 20 days. And now we have this chance to take this child and involuntarily put them into a detoxification centre. And you know what they're given? Five days.

Dr. Rawson says — and that's not something I'm making up; I'm talking about the leading expert in the world — said this morning that it takes a minimum of seven days to even start getting the body in some type of repair so they can start working on a treatment centre. And this government has put forward legislation, complete with a flow chart, that says, in order to do this, we're going to put them in for five days, and then you can go back to the court for an additional five days, two more times. So let's see, we . . . I'm being corrected — just one more time, they can go back to the court.

But let's ask ourselves, we are going to go see a . . . we're going to see two doctors. We're going to see two doctors, and we're going to get the parents who have been absolutely worried sick about their family . . . It takes time. It takes energy. It takes money, and it takes effort that is beyond human belief in order to deal with a young person who's had a drug problem. And they finally work with whatever system it is and get the internal strength it would take to say, I'm going to go to court to have my child receive the treatment they deserve. And within five days they might have to do it again. They have to go back to the doctor within five days.

Somebody's paying for that. The doctors aren't doing it for the goodness of their hearts. So again they're going to go back in front of two doctors and get an extension or another allowance for this child to stay under treatment again. We can go up through a community order. We can go up to 30 days.

But everybody that has talked to myself or to anyone . . . And I know the Minister of Healthy Living has spoken to many of these young people. He's talked many times about it. He, they know, everyone knows that even the 28 days that's for normal treatment for someone that has an addiction doesn't even begin to touch the problem of crystal meth addiction.

So to say that two different visits to a doctor to try and get this

child detoxified is going to be a step, to me is just adding . . . it's a concern. It's a huge concern. It's causing more problems for families. We need to make the road less rutty for them. We have to make a smooth road. We have to make it possible for these parents to get their children into treatment. We can't say that okay, that five days is up; you've got to go back again.

I don't know if you've ever seen a young person coming down from a crystal meth high. If you haven't, it's an experience you should have to do. You should have to see what happens to a young person whose body has been ravaged by a synthetic drug until there's no dopamine left in their brain, until they cannot function, where the repetitive motions their body is doing is beyond what they are mentally conscious of doing.

And we're going to take them from this, wherever they are, probably a drug house and put them into a stable condition for five days. And then we're going to try and do it again.

The only thing, if we can't make it all work in sync, the only thing that's going to happen is they're going to get out and perhaps use again before we get them back in. It costs money. It costs time. And it can cost lives.

The only reason, the only reason why we would do that is because we wouldn't want to do what somebody else has done. Well sometimes you might as well just use the round wheel. There's no sense reinventing the wheel. If they're saying 30 days works, use it. If it's 29, if it's 47, it's 236 — I don't care — whatever the time is that works, use it. But we cannot continue to say we're going to make a process. Children aren't a process. Anyone that's raised a child knows that you can't make them work in that way.

The other part that really concerns me about this Bill, Madam Deputy Speaker, is at the very end of it we have the date of coming into effect, I believe is the word . . . into force on proclamation. Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, again in the news conference last week the Minister of Healthy Living was under intense scrutiny by the media and they kept saying, what does that mean? When is that? And he explained that he's moved everything up six months, and everything's working a lot faster. And it's going to be quicker than the two to three years that Project Hope talks about.

So again under intense scrutiny they kept saying, well how much quicker is quicker? So the minister finally said, on tape, that there would be the treatment bed in place by the end of March. Wonderful. Even if it's only for five days, it's going to be in place by the end of March.

And what I would like to see the minister do — and I'm hoping that he will agree to the amendment that I'll be putting forward — is that the date comes into effect no later than April 1. That will allow you the three months, or actually four months, to get the . . . It will allow the minister to get these treatment beds in place that he's promised the people of the province.

And it's not that we have to start building beds, Madam Deputy Speaker. We all know that under this government we closed at least 56 hospitals. We know that there are facilities. There are bricks and mortar all around this province that are ready. We have to be able to use what's there. We cannot spend money

and spend time waiting for something to be built.

We are building the professional personnel right now to make sure that the chemical workers can have the training that they need to work with young people with addiction. That, I understand, we're working on. I know the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies is working on some of that.

We know that the province of Alberta have an education program that they're giving out to their schools right now.

So I do believe that the minister is sincere when he says that he's working hard to make it happen. So we're working hard to make it happen and the promise has already been made in public that there'll be beds available for April 1. Then let's do it. Let's do exactly what the government says. I've been listening for a number of years now to the government talk about what they're going to do; what they hope they're going to do — like Project Hope — but there's sometimes you've got to stop hoping and start doing.

On April 1 there is going to be beds for the treatment, treatment beds for children with addictions. That was said to the people of this province. So in order to ensure that the government is actually doing what they say they're going to do, this Act has to be amended to ensure that the date says April 1, 2006. That gives them six weeks more than he'd initially planned on, and I'm sure that the minister, being very sincere about his concern for the young people, will have no problem accepting this amendment.

Madam Deputy Speaker, there's a couple of other issues that we probably can't address right now, but I'm hoping that the minister and the government will start looking at it. And that's the young people that will leave the province and go outside the province — maybe not even voluntarily. Maybe some of the drug dealers will take them just over the border. Do we have anything that will allow us to have inter-jurisdictional work co-operation between provinces to say, you have a young person of mine living in your province that needs some treatment. Can you work out some kind of details so that this child can either get into treatment within your province or within our province? We don't care when, where — we just want it to be done.

And when the parents have gone to the work or the person that has the best interests of the child at heart has done the work to ensure that this child can go into a treatment centre, then let's hope that it can actually happen; that there isn't some kind of a small loophole that will mean that child can go across the border and be away from the people who actually care about them.

That's something that I'm sure the minister has thought about. In fact, I believe there was a small changing in the wording of the Act from the original draft to the last one, so it does make me believe that it's something that they're worried about. So I'm hoping that that's something on the table for looking at in the near future.

[16:00]

Madam Minister, this issue is something that is gripping the

province. Everyone knows somebody who has an addiction to the drug crystal meth, or who has a family member, who knows a community member that's had their life changed because of an addiction. The drug is not going away. It is too easy to attain. It is too cheap to use. It can be given to someone even if they don't know what's been happening to them. It's laced into other drugs. The drug isn't going to go away. We know that we have an epidemic of sort coming to this province. We have to be ready. We have to be ready on the front of education, we have to be ready with our laws, and we have to be ready with our treatment centre. This drug is one chance, one opportunity to show the world that we are ready and that we've got everything we can do in place for our children.

I'm hoping that when this Bill moves into committee and we have the discussion that I'd like to have about the costs for the courts, the costs for the physicians, the costs for the travel to get the child from wherever they may be . . . Because we know in lots of cases people that are under the influence of a drug don't have the financial wherewithal to pay for the travel to a centre. And maybe the parents don't have the money to bring them to a centre.

And we also know that this centre right now is proposed to be in Saskatoon. Dr. Rawson said again as many times that these treatment centres shouldn't even be in the cities. They should be outside of the cities where the people that . . . the users, where the people who they're friends with, the ones that were . . . the pimps actually are bringing the drugs into the cities. They should be away from all those people. Let them start again. Keep them away from their so-called friends that have had an influence on them.

In order to get this centre ready, if we're looking to build new beds in the city we're wasting our time, we're wasting children's lives. And we have to look at this in a big picture, not a political picture, the picture of saving children's lives.

So in the interest of ensuring that this side of the House does nothing to impede the progress of this Bill and that we can address the concerns and make this Bill as friendly as possible to the people who will use it, I move that we move this Bill into committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 27, The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Healthy Living Services.

**Hon. Mr. Addley:** — Thank you very much. I move that Bill No. 27, The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 27, The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act be now referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Human Services.

### Bill No. 8

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Beatty that **Bill No. 8 — The Western Development Museum Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to speak to Bill No. 8 on the Western Development Museum. My colleague from Cypress Hills mentioned earlier that this was . . . He had spoke to a Bill that was short and had very little, very little discussion points in it. And I think this Bill is probably similar to the Bill he was discussing because basically what we're doing is amending the Bill to allow a board member to serve a term of three consecutive years from one year.

It is something that has been accepted by and discussed by the people on the museum board and they feel it would be beneficial because it would add continuity and allow the members to have some history and to base some of their decisions on.

I know that many of us are proud of the museums that we have right around our province, not just the ones in the major centres but right in most of the small towns. And we take our children from school classes into the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon, especially this time of the year just to enjoy it. We know that there's a lot of people who spend endless volunteer hours to make sure that our history is preserved.

In this centennial year, it's an important part of our projects to ensure that we have something that we can pass down to our young people — some of our history that will not only be entertaining but help them understand how much work and how much dedication people had when it came to building our province.

I'm delighted to follow the wishes of the board and work with the government to ensure that the time frame can be expanded

and I'd move this Bill into committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 8, The Western Development Museum Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — I move that Bill No. 8, An Act to amend The Western Development Museum Act be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister for Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill No. 8, The Western Development Museum Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

### Bill No. 23

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 23 — The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to enter the debate on Bill 23, The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act.

And, Madam Speaker, may I begin by saying that it's a step in the right direction. We are the first to say that if this government moves in the right direction, we will be the first to congratulate them. And again this is a move in the right direction.

Just to review the contents of the Bill, the threshold for the corporate capital tax will be raised from 400 million, Madam Speaker, to \$1 billion, again a move in the right direction. This will ensure that small financial institutions are eligible for a lower corporate capital tax rate.

And, Madam Speaker, I'd like to quote the minister when he introduced this legislation into this House. He said this will finally "put Saskatchewan on a level playing field with the other western provinces." Well, Madam Speaker, it's a move in that direction, but it certainly doesn't put us on a level playing field with other western provinces. Eliminating the corporate capital tax would put us on a level playing field, Madam Speaker, and that's what I suggest that this government does.

Again they move in small steps. And when they move at all, we do congratulate them, Madam Speaker.

Last week — and I think all of us in this House will agree — last week was a terrific week for businesses in Saskatchewan. It was a terrific week for members of this side of the House who have been advocating tax reductions for our corporate citizens in Saskatchewan as well as tax relief for individuals as well.

It was nice to see that the Vicq report did their work, that Jack Vicq and his committee worked hard to make sure that they got it right. And they were able to articulate that in a direct fashion. They didn't pull any punches, Madam Speaker, and that's exactly what we wanted them to do because in the Saskatchewan Party this is what we've been advocating since 1999, in the 1999 election, in the 2001 Vicq report, and certainly in the 2003 election.

Let's make Saskatchewan competitive whether it's small institutions, large institutions. Whatever it is, Madam Speaker, that is what we want to do, is make sure that they are competitive.

Now again we want to eliminate the corporate capital tax on all businesses in Saskatchewan because again — and we've heard time and time again — a capital tax is a tax on capital. It's a tax on buildings. It's a tax on infrastructure. It's not a tax on profits. And Mr. Vicq said it himself that it's a tax that had its genesis in the 1970s and '80s, and it's about time that we moved in Saskatchewan into 2010 tax regime. That's the direction that we need to be going, Madam Speaker.

We can't continue to have the highest corporate capital tax in the country and expect businesses just to come here because we are nice people. Well we are nice people, Madam Speaker, and I think everyone would agree with that, but that doesn't entice people to move to Saskatchewan. The last thing they want when they come here and decide to spend their money to invest in Saskatchewan and invest in Saskatchewan people is a tax bill. That's the last thing that they need, Madam Speaker.

Again it's a good move. It's designed to help small financial institutions in this province. But what's wrong with eliminating it all and helping large financial institutions as well? They all create jobs. A job is a job is a job. I think I've heard that in this Assembly before, Madam Speaker, and certainly we need more jobs in Saskatchewan. When we look at the job-creation rate of this government over the last one year, the last five years —

you choose any time period that you want — and they're last or near-last in the country. It's an embarrassment, Madam Speaker, especially in a so-called oil boom.

But again I'll refer to my opening comments that when the government does the right thing, we will be co-operative. And this is a move in the right direction. This opposition will co-operate, but I invite the government to go further. If the government chose to bring forward legislation that would deal with the corporate tax element of the Vicq commission, we would support it, Madam Speaker. We would be there and saying let's move that legislation along as quick as possible so Saskatchewan people won't have to pay the highest taxes in the country for one day longer than they have, Madam Speaker.

Again if the government chose to introduce legislation that would raise the small business exemption from 300,000 to 400,000 ... Now we've heard that story before, Madam Speaker. Yes indeed, it came from the last election. That Premier, that Finance minister, that government made the promise to do that. Have they acted on it? No they haven't, Madam Speaker, not at all.

They have acted on one promise though. They broke that one. They said no new taxes, no tax increases. Within very months of the election ... the election writs weren't even dry. We didn't even receive our returns yet, and they broke the fundamental promise of no new taxes by increasing the PST [provincial sales tax]. Now I know members opposite are embarrassed by that. I can tell that on their faces at this very moment.

Now if they were to introduce legislation to reverse that decision, this opposition would be supportive. This opposition would allow them to say that they've made a mistake, that they've moved in the wrong direction, and allow them to back off of that. So I invite the Finance minister and any other ministers who are listening to move in that direction, and this opposition would certainly help them to do that, as we would, Madam Speaker, if legislation was actually brought in to provide for long-term property tax relief.

We haven't seen anything in this legislature — certainly since I've been a member here, Madam Speaker — to address the concern about long-term property tax relief. We all know Saskatchewan residents, Saskatchewan businesses — urban and rural — pay the highest property taxes in the country in the education portion, and it's high time that that's changed. So if anybody's listening who does create legislation for this government or puts alternatives in front of this government, I ask them to go ahead and create that legislation, and they will get the same co-operation that they're getting from the opposition today in moving this Bill forward.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for your time. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to this Bill, and I feel that it's appropriate to move it to committee at this present time. Thank you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 23, The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall the Bill be referred? I recognize the minister responsible for Crown Investments Corporation.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Right. As Government Deputy House Leader, I move that Bill No. 23 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Crown Management Board that the Bill No. 23, The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 be now referred to the Committee on the Economy. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

[16:15]

### Bill No. 26

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Sonntag that **Bill No. 26 — The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Martensville.

**Mr. Heppner:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Bill No. 26, basically referred to as a traffic safety Bill, has a lot of information in it, and it's taken us some time to go through that to verify what it all means. There's change of terms; agriculture equipment has changed to farm equipment. And knowing how the NDP work, there's got to be something strange going on there when they start changing words. So we've been fairly concerned over what could all be in there possibly. It deals with everything from motorcycles, like I said, to farm equipment.

Having gone through that though in detail, it does have a couple of new areas in it that are unique and I think probably fairly supportive of what's there.

The issue that's there that I think we can support quite strongly is some of the methods that are set up to verify sobriety in the drivers and the people operating equipment. And we have,

throughout our province, many and sundry groups that have been putting pressure on all politicians to go ahead and ensure that those rules and regulations are as tough and effective as possible.

Then when we got to the end of the whole argument, we found that the time that the thing was supposed to come into effect was rather interesting as well because what's happened over the years, the other Bills that have preceded this one, the NDP have never fully put those into action.

So looking at the content of the Bill, some of the key points that are in the Bill, there is no doubt in our mind that we're prepared to let this Bill move on to committee.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister Responsible for SGI that Bill No. 26, The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried.

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

**The Deputy Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? I recognize the Minister Responsible for SGI.

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Thank you. I move that Bill No. 26, The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for SGI that Bill No. 26, The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — This Bill stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

### Bill No. 7

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Wartman that **Bill No. 7 — The Farm Financial Stability Amendment Act, 2005** be now read a second time.]

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



**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, a pleasure to speak on The Farm Financial Stability Act. This is a very important Act concerning the feeding industry in Saskatchewan.

The feeder loan guarantee program has been really helpful and a mainstay in Saskatchewan, not only during the hard times with the BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] situation but before — to help grow the province, to increase the numbers of cow-calf operators and numbers in this province — but as well as to increase the number of cattle to be fed in the province, and if we had more packing space in the province, have more cattle slaughtered in the province.

The feeder loan guarantee program has really three aspects to it. The breeder plan which is directed towards breeding stock where the member of a feeder association will put in 10 per cent into an assurance fund, in the feeder program, the member of the association will put in 5 per cent into the assurance fund.

The assurance fund is there as a added protection to a default. If a producer defaults for any particular reason on the cattle that the producer owns through the feeder association the first, basically . . . Well the first money that would be drawn upon is the individual himself. The bank would naturally go after that individual to recoup any losses.

But if there weren't enough money through that process, they would go and tap into the assurance fund. And if there wasn't enough money in the assurance fund to pay off the debt, the feeder association would have some options about other members kicking in the money to pay off the debt and keep the feeder association going or else wind the feeder association up. And that's when the feeder loan guarantee would come in, and the government of the day would be responsible for 25 per cent of the loss incurred.

Now there's a third option with the feeder loan guarantee, and that's basically a feedlot program, which I don't believe there's been much of an uptake. But hopefully, that will increase over the years. It came into being actually kind of just before the BSE situation, so it's bad timing, but it's certainly another avenue that feedlots and producers have to borrow money to feed cattle and purchase cattle.

Now this Bill, Madam Deputy Speaker, speaks to delinquent members. Now as I pointed out, there is various avenues that the loans can be paid off from a delinquent member or bad loan or a bad management or whatever the case may be.

Now this Bill speaks to a provincial supervisor obtaining a warrant to enter a premises where an association . . . [inaudible] . . . livestock are kept, after being unable to make contact with the person in charge of the premise. It's interesting. I never realized that there was a problem. From my experience with feeder associations, the supervisor, I understood always had full legal right to enter a premise to inspect the cattle that were through a feeder loan association. So it's interesting to see that the government is looking for more powers in order to enter a premise to either look at the cattle or seize the cattle, whichever may need to happen.

So it's interesting to see why the government's looking at

obtaining a warrant to enter the premise. I guess the point is that the person cannot be . . . that the feeder association or the supervisor can't make contact with the individual producer. And so it's interesting that there's an added degree of protection being asked — or power I would say was the proper word — of power given to a supervisor in order to get onto a producer's farm to look at or seize cattle.

The interesting thing about the feeder association is the kind of the collective responsibility of all the members towards an individual member. And that's where the assurance fund comes in, where that assurance fund would be taking if the loan is delinquent. So I know the feeder association that I'm involved with, certainly the board and other members are certainly interested in who new members are and the financial health and the physical health of other members, because they know that if there's a default that it could cost them money and really affect the health and welfare of their association which, I believe without an exception, producers find very valuable and important in their decision making as far as obtaining loans.

I think the banking institute is very encouraged and supportive of the feeder loan guarantee program as well because of the added protection of the insurance fund and the potential loan guarantee that the government could incur if there was a huge loss. And so it's certainly incumbent on everyone to make sure that all the loans are paid and the members look after their cattle.

Which brings up a situation. During the last two years with the BSE situation where the value of breeding stock virtually collapsed and so the question came up whether there was value in the inventory to pay off a loan if the loan was called on. And so there was certainly some very dicey months and years concerning the BSE situation around the value of breeding stock. And I've heard that there are cases when the individual producers just walked away from their cattle because there was no value in the inventory of the cattle that they held. Which was very unfortunate because now with the border being opened there is a very bright future in the livestock industry and the feeder associations are going to be and have been in the past a very important part of that industry.

There is some amendments in section 5 with respect to the guarantee loan. It brings up some thoughts about fees and the cost of running and the cost to the individual producer when fees are charged that individual when loans are taken out. And if there is one downside to the associations is the cost of the fees. Now naturally a supervisor has to be paid, the bookkeeper has to be paid in order to manage the association. But at times that the fees get too high it puts in jeopardy the attractiveness of the feeder association to individuals when they can go to another lending institution and obtain these loans. And when you add up the cost of servicing the loan and the service charges and the fees may come in less than it would cost . . . or come in more than it would cost if you went to a local credit union or a bank. So there has to be a balance between those two options.

Now, Madam Deputy Speaker, there's other areas we have to be concerned about and the connection between the feeder association and the breeder association and the new feedlot association, and the amount of loan guarantee that there is.

And it's the feeder associations at various times . . . before BSE the breeder association was very active and built of a higher clientele. And so sometimes there's the relationship between feeder and breeder part of the association which would affect the amount of loans that can be given out. So that's certainly something that has to be kept up on and included in any decisions that a government might have as far as decreasing the amount of loan guarantees in a particular association if it's not being used for a period of years as much as it used to be. Because of the BSE is the most obvious example, but because of the marketing conditions, producers' decisions as far as what to purchase and when to purchase certainly change over time.

This Bill is certainly something that we need to look at. We'll certainly talk to all the stakeholders and I assume the government has talked to the feeder association committee that is affiliated with the Saskatchewan cattle feeders. Again going back to the need to obtain a warrant is on one hand, if there is that need, well it's certainly for the health of the association to allow the provincial supervisor and the local supervisor to do their job. But I just would like to look into this matter further.

I was under the understanding that the supervisor already had those powers and the authority to do what is necessary to look after the health and welfare of those cattle that are in the feeder loan guarantee program.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, we will certainly be looking at this Bill more closely, talking to the stakeholders and with respect to improving the feeder loan guarantee in the future. So at this time I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The member from Biggar has moved to adjourn debate. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Is the Assembly agreed with the motion? Agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Carried. Why is the Minister of Finance on his feet?

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Madam Deputy Speaker, I would ask for leave to introduce a guest.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — The Minister of Finance has asked for leave to introduce a guest. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to grant leave?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Agreed.

[16:30]

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Madam Deputy Speaker, first of all let me thank the members. Seated in your gallery is a person who has an interest in Saskatchewan, although he's from

Halifax, Nova Scotia. He's a member of the financing syndicate that sells Saskatchewan securities in markets across Canada. He is Lonsdale Holland, and he is the president of Beacon Securities Limited. And I would ask the members to join with me in extending a warm welcome to Mr. Holland today. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

##### Bill No. 22

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Forbes that **Bill No. 22 — The Forestry Professions Act** be now read a second time.]

**The Deputy Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I'm certainly pleased that I've been able to enter into the debate on Bill No. 22, The Forestry Professions Act.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this Bill is a fairly extensive Bill. What it does is it sets in motion the formation of a forestry profession and deals with all the various aspects of an association — the council and the various responsibilities of council in terms of office bylaws and all those sorts of issues — that a newly formed professional association would require as far as legislation so that they could operate in a proper manner, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And I noted with interest the minister, in his second reading speech, he had indicated that a number of other provinces have legislation that is somewhat similar dealing with the forest professions and so on. I believe there are seven other provinces that have some sort of legislation.

And what this legislation would do once it comes into force would allow professional designations for those individuals that are involved in the forestry industry, whether it be professional foresters or technologists or foresters-in-training and so on.

And you know, I don't see anything at this point in time, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we would object to, although I think we need to take our time and do due diligence and talk to the various industry interests that may be affected by the Bill, Madam Deputy Speaker, and so on.

But I notice in the second reading, the minister's second reading speech, when he talked about this piece of legislation, he made this statement, and I'm quoting:

Mr. Speaker, this legislation demonstrates the government's commitment to build a green and prosperous economy by further protecting the environment while enhancing sustainable forest . . . opportunities.

And it's the last part of the statement that caught my attention, Madam Deputy Speaker. In fact when I looked at it and thought

about it a bit more, the term greenwashing came to mind, Madam Deputy Speaker. And if you're not familiar with that term — I must admit it's a term that came to my attention fairly recently — I understand the term to mean . . . greenwashing, if one is referred to a topic as greenwashing, it means that an individual or organization talks about a green environment, being environmentally friendly, and that whole green sustainability — but that's all they really do is talk, and they really don't take any action. And hence there's this term has sprung forward, greenwashing.

And when I look at this government's initiatives in the environment, I see some initiatives that I can certainly give them credit for. But I see more initiatives that are more talk and little action, Madam Deputy Speaker. And when it comes to forestry, I think we have some of that. We see what's happening with the Weyerhaeuser issue up in Prince Albert.

But there's another, in my mind an even greater issue that this government, where they fumbled the ball. And I'm not so sure whether they fumbled the ball, or I think they perhaps deliberately dropped it. And that has to do with that whole area of agroforestry.

I asked some questions of the minister and his officials last spring around this whole area of agroforestry. And the answers I got, Madam Deputy Speaker, were that the whole agroforestry is a very new initiative. There was some conceptualizing between the federal government and the provinces back in the late '90s and early 2000, 2001. But it was basically just a . . . blue sky.

But, Madam Deputy Speaker, doing a little more research and looking into the issue a bit more and reading some of the recent articles by one of the reporters for the *Leader-Post*, it seems to me that there was this whole issue of agroforestry was much more than just a conceptual idea and blue sky on parts of both levels of government.

I think as a matter of fact that there was a plan in place by the federal government to make this happen across the country, with Saskatchewan being the lead province in that whole issue and that members of this government dropped the ball. In fact they may have taken that whole opportunity and punted it. They didn't just mishandle it. They actually worked to see that that initiative would not happen in this province. They gambled, and they lost, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And then we see in this Speech from the Throne — it sort of jumped right out, at least to myself, because it really didn't fit anywhere — that whole initiative of agroforestry, where they're going to put in place a plan to put 10 per cent of the arable land in this province and seed it down to trees.

Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, if you look at what Murray Mandryk wrote in a couple of articles, that seems to be exactly the plan that he said Ralph Goodale, who was minister of Natural Resources in the federal government a number of years back, back in the late '90s and early 2000s, that's exactly the plan that he had. And according to the articles, the federal government was willing to put significant dollars on the table to see that happen.

And they had very good reasons to see that happen. The Liberal government was actively considering and has since signed the Kyoto Protocol which calls for Canada to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, the CO<sub>2</sub>, by 6 per cent below the 1990 levels. And that is a major, major undertaking for Canada, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And our forests and particularly agroforestry plays a major role in the national plan. So then when you look back, Madam Deputy Speaker, you could see why then Minister Goodale, minister of Natural Resources Canada, pushed so hard to see this plan actually get off the ground. And he could see the benefits of it being a major opportunity for the province of Saskatchewan.

And yet when I asked questions about it in estimates back in spring and asked the Minister of Environment and his officials, I was told that it was merely a conceptual idea. And I think, Madam Deputy Speaker, I think that that was in fact not the case because I think there's . . . Information has come to light since that time where there was a plan where this province could have benefited hugely to the tunes of billions of dollars, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Now we see in the Speech from the Throne that this provincial government is going to go ahead with a plan to seed four to five million acres of marginal farmland down to trees. There's nothing wrong with that idea, Madam Deputy Speaker, particularly if you look in the forest fringe areas of this province, those marginal acres who, looking back, should have probably never been broken up and sowed to wheat and cereal grains. They were probably more suited to grasses or perhaps back to trees. But that's a major undertaking to accomplish something like that, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I don't think this government has the resources to pull something like that off. I think they needed the federal government to come on board. And they had an opportunity, Madam Deputy Speaker, and they bungled it. They not only bungled it; they blew it.

And I'll outline the process as I understand it, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I hope that the member from P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote is listening because I understand that perhaps that member, when he was in cabinet at that time and is now returned to cabinet, played a major role in derailing this process where they rolled the dice and lost this huge megaproject for Saskatchewan. I understand that the federal Minister of Natural Resources through the council of forestry ministers put the idea forward that in Canada we should look at seeding marginal farmland acres down to hardwood trees, primarily fast-growing poplars, but there was a lot of research that needed to be done, Madam Deputy Speaker, a lot of science that needed to be looked at to make that happen.

And the federal Minister Goodale had a plan to create a centre of excellence of agroforestry at the University of Saskatchewan. And why would he want to have it in Saskatchewan? Well as I said earlier, he visioned that Saskatchewan would lead the country in this whole area. We have the most arable acres in this country, and we have a large number of marginal cultivated acres along the forest fringe — and not only along the forest fringe but in other areas. There are marginal acres that would be very well suited in probably the whole northeast and all across the North part of this province. And it could have been a huge

benefit, not only to the people that own the land but to develop a whole new industry.

And so therefore Minister Goodale at that time decided and the federal officials they felt that the best place for this centre of excellence would be attached to the University of Saskatchewan where you have the research capacity, where you have the academics, where you can expand on that whole science and research effort and — and as an aside, Madam Deputy Speaker — where people from across the country and perhaps across the world who wanted to consult and do research and visit with the people at this centre of excellence could actually get to. They could fly into Saskatoon.

But what did this government do led by the minister of SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company]? They decided that perhaps we're going to move this . . . try and get this centre located in Prince Albert. And they rolled the dice and they thought, well perhaps we'll build this there, or we'll promote Prince Albert. In downtown Prince Albert we're going to put a research building down in downtown Prince Albert, and we're going to call it the Saskatchewan Forest Centre. And so that's what they did.

And they felt, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the federal government would still go along with this mega-plan, and they didn't. They rolled the dice and they lost. And we're talking, as I said, billions of dollars — 2 or 3 or \$4 billion to get this going because this is a long-term plan, and I don't know how a provincial government on its own is going to accomplish this.

Trees, from the time they're planted until they're ready for harvest . . .

**The Deputy Speaker:** — Order. I'm assuming that the member is going to relate this now to The Forestry Professions Act before the Assembly.

**Mr. Hart:** — Absolutely, Madam Deputy Speaker. Because you're setting up an association of foresters that would not only deal with the commercial forest in northern Saskatchewan but I can envision that this association and the professional foresters and technologists would also deal with agroforestry.

We're growing trees, whether they grow in the North or they grow in arable land, Madam Deputy Speaker, and that's why I can certainly support the Bill that we are discussing, but I would like to put it in context of the opportunity lost, Madam Deputy Speaker.

And as I said, Madam Deputy Speaker, from the time you see these seedling trees, these poplar trees, to the time that you actually have a tree that you can harvest, under the very best conditions and under the very best management practices, I'm told it's somewhere between 15 and 20 years. Well that's a long time to take land out of production and with no income and expenses . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well you need to. A member mentions about protection of the trees from the beavers. Well that's a whole area that he might want to take up and research, Madam Speaker. And this is where we perhaps need these professional foresters to provide some very practical advice with some of these issues.

So as I said, the 15 to 20 years that the land is out of production, the landowner needs to have at least some income off of that land to help with the costs of maintaining the tree stand and replacing some of the lost income from that land. And I believe the federal plan had provisions within it to compensate producers for that loss of income and those additional expenses.

[16:45]

And now I would like to know how this government is going to accomplish something, how they're going to — over 10 years I believe they said in their Speech from the Throne — they're going to have farmers seed 4 to 5 million acres down to trees without any compensation, where previous estimates in terms of '99-2001 dollars, they're talking 3 to \$4 billion. Now if we add some inflation on to that, we're probably up to 5 or \$6 billion. That's almost our entire budget in one year. There isn't a whole lot left if you were going to use that amount of money. So I'd be very interesting to see how they will accomplish that.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that whole reference in the Speech from the Throne to agroforestry, I think the term greenwashing would apply very well to that whole reference in the Speech from the Throne.

So why would this government take that gamble and lose? Well what I think . . . This was a whole situation here where there was some outside influences outside the cabinet that put pressure on certain members of cabinet to see if this research facility could be moved to Prince Albert.

As I said earlier, the federal officials when they looked at that proposal said no, it's not going to happen. Because first of all, you're not attached to a university where you have research labs; you don't have the scientists there. You don't have the research professionals, the masters' students, and so on to conduct research.

And the other thing is if it's a national centre of excellence, this is a centre for all of Canada. And if you want people from across Canada to come and use the centre and interact with that centre, they need to be able to get to it in a fairly convenient way. And, Mr. Speaker, it's difficult enough to get to our two major cities in this province, mainly Regina and Saskatoon, who have airports that commercial airlines fly out on a daily basis to connect to other parts of the country. But to get to Prince Albert, you'd have to fly into Saskatoon, and then you would have to jump into a car and drive another hour or more. And I don't have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, you certainly have probably travelled, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, so as I said, there was this plan that the then Minister Goodale had on the table for a couple of reasons — the economic benefit to Saskatchewan plus it would play a major, major role . . . it would have played a major, major role in helping Canada meet its Kyoto commitments because of the carbon that those fast-growing poplar trees would have stored, sequestered in our soil.

But they gambled and they lost. They thought that they would get some federal dollars to help to put up this building, and Minister Goodale at the time said no, we don't build buildings; we do programs.

And therefore this government and those people that were heading up this scheme, Mr. Speaker, needed to find additional money to build the Forest Centre building and secondly, they needed to cut costs. And so obviously they were successful in finding money to get it built when they cut some costs and downscaled and drew back from their first plan.

But I think the public, Mr. Speaker, and I think members of this Assembly would be very interested in knowing that what is supposed to be a research building in downtown Prince Albert isn't even wired for the Internet. Can you believe that, Mr. Speaker? That building is not wired for Internet. When the occupants moved into that building and they wanted to set up an Internet network, they found they couldn't because the wiring wasn't put in place.

Well tell me what other building in this province or in this country or in all of North America that's built in this new century, in 2000 or 2002, and it's not wired for the Internet. I mean that's unheard of. And the only reason I believe that that building wasn't wired for the Internet is because when the building was being built, the federal dollars that were expected weren't there, and the costs had to be cut everywhere they could, Mr. Speaker. And therefore that was one of the options that was thrown out. So, Mr. Speaker, we had that opportunity; we blew it. I think there's good evidence there.

I listened carefully earlier, a couple of weeks ago, when the Leader of the Opposition asked the question as to why this government blew it. And the Minister of Industry and resources stood up and said, well the federal government didn't put any money on the table. And he said that . . . I believe he even used the actions, we would have taken it like that if they'd have put some money on the table.

Well it's no mystery why the federal government didn't put any money on the table. They didn't put any money on the table because they wanted to have an agroforestry industry and project and initiative in this province that would lead the country, and these people wanted the building. And that was the choice. It was either a building in Prince Albert or a major 4 or \$5 billion program of agroforestry in this province. And when these people rolled the dice and opted for the building, they lost the whole thing. And now they're going to try and replace it, Mr. Speaker.

Well I think they're going to have a great deal of difficulty because as I said, of all the cost, there's a lot of research that needs to be done, a lot of science that needs to be done. And under the federal plan, the university was part of the discussions. I've been told that they were eager to get involved in this. I believe they were even contemplating renaming the College of Agriculture to the college of agriculture, food, and agroforestry. That was the extent of where those discussions took place back in 2000-2001.

And that whole opportunity was blown. And I think those facts will come out and that government and those ministers responsible for bungling — and not only bungling but deliberately dropping the ball — will be held to account one day soon, Mr. Speaker. And the public will see what kind of inefficient and incapable people we have on that side of the House, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are developing the forest profession, the foresters, the technologists, and so on, but they only have half the job they could have had, Mr. Speaker, if that plan would have gone forward. And I will sit back and see if they have any way and any hope of actually accomplishing what they said they were going to do in the Speech from the Throne with regards to agroforestry. Because, Mr. Speaker, I do not see any way a provincial government on its own could undertake such a massive project without help from the federal government. And the federal government came to the table once, and I would say they would be very reluctant to come to the table a second time, Mr. Speaker.

So until we have some answers to some of the questions, Mr. Speaker, I would now move to adjourn debate on this Bill.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood that debate on second reading of Bill 22 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Seeing the clock and knowing that the committees would like to meet this evening, I would move that 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 tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:53.]

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

#### PRESENTING PETITIONS

Elhard .....	425
Draude .....	425
Harpauer .....	425
Brkich .....	425
Weekes .....	425
Morgan .....	425
Kirsch .....	426

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk .....	426
--------------------	-----

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Dearborn .....	426
----------------	-----

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker .....	426
Calvert .....	426
Wall .....	426
Junor .....	427
Hagel .....	427
Thomson .....	427
Hamilton .....	427
Harper .....	427
Nilson .....	427
McCall .....	427
Cheveldayoff .....	427
Van Mulligen .....	427, 456
Yates .....	427
Higgins .....	427
Krawetz .....	428
Trew .....	428

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

##### Saskatchewan Health Research Week

Junor .....	428
-------------	-----

##### Estevan Fundraiser for Salvation Army

Eagles .....	428
--------------	-----

##### Saskatoon Special Olympians to Compete in Summer Games

Iwanchuk .....	429
----------------	-----

##### Saskatchewan Book Awards

Hart .....	429
------------	-----

##### Saskatchewan Seniors Honoured During Centennial Year

Hamilton .....	429
----------------	-----

##### Straw Track Expands Manufacturing Facility

Toth .....	429
------------	-----

##### Mike Maurer Named Outstanding Canadian

Yates .....	430
-------------	-----

#### ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Federal-Provincial Energy Accord Negotiations

Wall .....	430
------------	-----

Calvert .....	430
---------------	-----

##### Food Bank Usage

Wall .....	432
------------	-----

Crofford .....	432
----------------	-----

##### Appointments to Crowns

Harpauer .....	433
----------------	-----

Atkinson .....	433
----------------	-----

##### Recruiting and Retaining Doctors

McMorris .....	434
----------------	-----

Nilson .....	434
--------------	-----

#### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

##### Funding for Community-based Organizations

Crofford .....	435
----------------	-----

Bakken Lackey .....	436
---------------------	-----

<b>Changes to Safe Driver Recognition Program</b>	
Sonntag .....	437
Heppner .....	437
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b>	
Yates .....	438
The Speaker .....	438
<b>MOTIONS</b>	
Substitution on Committee	
Gantefoer .....	438
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
Bill No. 28 — The Veterinarians Amendment Act, 2005	
Wartman .....	438
Gantefoer .....	439
Bill No. 25 — The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2005	
Higgins .....	439
Gantefoer .....	440
<b>ADJOURNED DEBATES</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
Bill No. 1 — The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005	
Morgan .....	440
Quennell (referral to committee) .....	441
Bill No. 3 — The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act	
Morgan .....	442
Quennell (referral to committee) .....	442
Bill No. 9 — The University of Regina Amendment Act, 2005	
Elhard .....	443
Thomson (referral to committee) .....	444
Bill No. 10 — The University of Saskatchewan Amendment Act, 2005	
Elhard .....	444
Thomson (referral to committee) .....	445
Bill No. 11 — The Youth Justice Administration Amendment Act, 2005	
Morgan .....	446
Prebble (referral to committee) .....	446
Bill No. 13 — The Archives Amendment Act, 2005	
Beatty (referral to committee) .....	447
Bill No. 14 — The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2005	
Draude .....	447
Beatty (referral to committee) .....	447
Bill No. 16 — The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2005	
Morgan .....	448
Quennell (referral to committee) .....	448
Bill No. 17 — The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)	
Morgan .....	448
Quennell (referral to committee) .....	449
Bill No. 27 — The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act	
Draude .....	449
Addley (referral to committee) .....	452
Bill No. 8 — The Western Development Museum Amendment Act, 2005	
Draude .....	452
Beatty (referral to committee) .....	452
Bill No. 23 — The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)	
Cheveldayoff .....	452
Atkinson (referral to committee) .....	454
Bill No. 26 — The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005	
Heppner .....	454
Sonntag (referral to committee) .....	454
Bill No. 7 — The Farm Financial Stability Amendment Act, 2005	
Weekes .....	455
Bill No. 22 — The Forestry Professions Act	
Hart .....	456

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

**Hon. Lorne Calvert**  
Premier

**Hon. Graham Addley**  
Minister of Healthy Living Services

**Hon. Pat Atkinson**  
Minister of Crown Management Board  
Minister Responsible for Public Service  
Commission  
Minister Responsible for Immigration

**Hon. Joan Beatty**  
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation  
Provincial Secretary

**Hon. Buckley Belanger**  
Minister of Northern Affairs

**Hon. Eric Cline**  
Minister of Industry and Resources  
Minister Responsible for Investment  
Saskatchewan Inc.

**Hon. Joanne Crofford**  
Minister of Community Resources and  
Employment  
Minister Responsible for Disability Issues  
Minister Responsible for Gaming

**Hon. David Forbes**  
Minister of Environment  
Minister Responsible for the Office of  
Energy Conservation

**Hon. Deb Higgins**  
Minister of Labour  
Minister Responsible for the Status of  
Women  
Minister of Property Management

**Hon. Eldon Lautermilch**  
Minister of Highways and Transportation

**Hon. John Nilson**  
Minister of Health  
Minister Responsible for Seniors

**Hon. Peter Prebble**  
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety

**Hon. Frank Quennell**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

**Hon. Clay Serby**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Rural Development

**Hon. Maynard Sonntag**  
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations

**Hon. Len Taylor**  
Minister of Government Relations

**Hon. Andrew Thomson**  
Minister of Learning  
Minister Responsible for Information  
Technology  
Minister Responsible for Literacy

**Hon. Harry Van Mulligen**  
Minister of Finance

**Hon. Mark Wartman**  
Minister of Agriculture and Food