



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

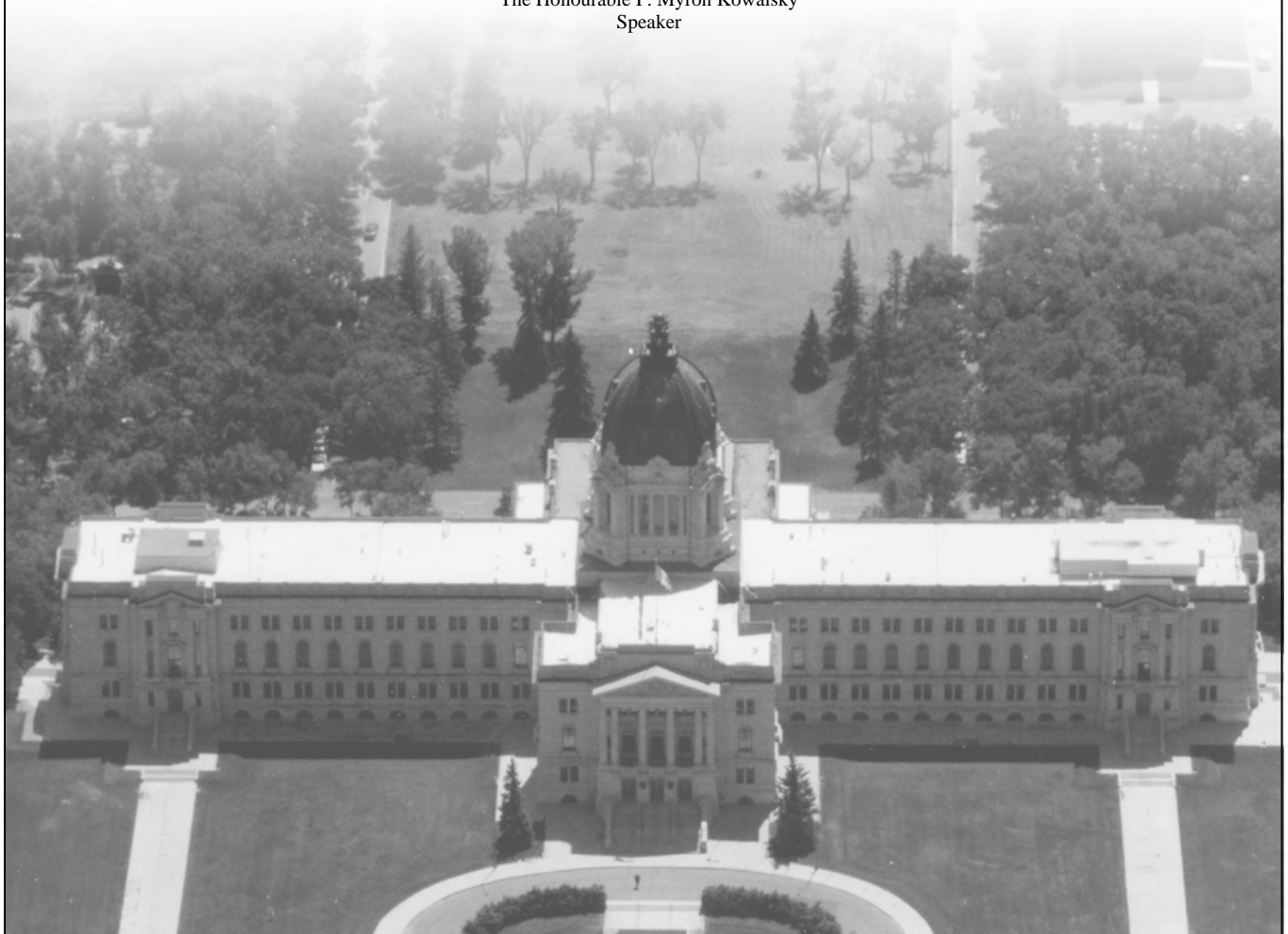
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
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]

The Speaker: — Before routine proceedings I wish to inform the Assembly that Margaret Tulloch, the assistant to the Speaker's office will be assisting with Page duties today. Margaret was the winner of the Page for the day prize that was offered as . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It was offered as part of the Assembly's 2005 United Way campaign, and this will give her a good opportunity to find out exactly how hard the Pages work. So please join me once again in welcoming Margaret as a legislative Page.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last number of weeks I've presented a petition relating to the condition of Highway 21 from Cypress Park to the junctions of 13 and 21. Today I present a petition coming to the highway from the opposite direction. This one relates to Highway 18 in the extreme southwest part of Cypress Hills. The prayer reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to ensure that Highway 18 from Claydon to Robsart is repaved at the earliest possible time to ensure the safety of drivers in the area and so that economic development opportunities are not lost.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I have three pages of petition here, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have petitions to present today. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, obviously come from people who have interest between Saskatoon and Humboldt as they all come from the small town of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Swift Current, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise today on behalf of people in the province of Saskatchewan concerned with the state of Highway 5. And their prayer of relief is 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 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners today are from Meacham, Saskatoon, Humboldt, and Archerwill, Invermay, Kelvington, as well as Humboldt, Saskatchewan. I so present.

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 their cottage at Barrier Lake:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to finally 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 seven seasonal camping spots to be maintained to ensure the safety of this area.

The people that have signed this petition are from Tisdale, from Lac-Vert, from Regina, from Wynyard, from Rose Valley, from Archerwill, from Langham, from Naicam, and from LeRoy. I so present.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition signed by citizens of the province of Saskatchewan regarding Highway 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon. They're concerned that the narrowness of this stretch of highway prevents defensive driving. The prayer of the petition reads:

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 as in duty bound, we will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of signatures here. I believe most of them are from the city of Saskatoon, although I did notice that St. Denis and Bruno are also represented. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I have a

number of pages of a petition of citizens concerned with 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 if you'll be patient with me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read where these signatures are from because this is a very well-travelled highway. And the signatures are from Elstow, Prud'homme, Watson, Lloydminster, Regina, Young, Rose Valley, Kindersley, Spiritwood, P.A. [Prince Albert], Margo, Dalmeny, Muenster, Dana, Aberdeen, Kamsack, St. Gregor, Quill Lake, Regina, Unity, Meacham, Peterson, Viscount, Canora, Bruno, St. Denis, LeRoy, Saskatoon, Humboldt, Maymont, and Englefeld. I so present.

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

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with my colleagues concerned about the width of Highway 5 and the dangerous conditions that exist because of its narrowness. 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.

Signatures on this petition this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, are from Churchbridge, Meacham, Humboldt, and Saskatoon. And I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province who are very concerned about the condition of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by folks from Middle Lake, Viscount, Saskatoon, Lake Lenore, Cudworth, Meacham, Colonsay, and many other places in the province. I so present. Thank you.

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

Ms. Bakken Lackey: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition on behalf of constituents of the province of Saskatchewan who are very concerned about the unacceptable condition of Highway 310. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon.

Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 310 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth and tourism in Foam Lake, Fishing Lake, Kuroki, and surrounding areas.

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

And these petitions are signed by residents of Saskatoon, Kelliher, Elfros, Foam Lake, Regina; Lethbridge, Alberta; Porcupine Plain, Gravelbourg, and Weyburn. I so present.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of 600 children under six years of age and their parents in the Saskatoon Silver Springs constituency regarding a much-needed elementary school in the Arbor Creek neighbourhood of Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

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

The petitioners today, Mr. Speaker, live on Wright Terrace, Wright Crescent, Wright Way, and Buckwold Cove in northeast Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise with a petition from citizens of Cadillac and area who are quite displeased that their SGI [Saskatchewan Government Insurance] motor vehicle licensing service in Cadillac has been discontinued. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to reinstate motor vehicle licensing in the community of Cadillac.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good citizens of Cadillac and Admiral. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition here for citizens that want Highway No. 5 widened:

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 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by good citizens from Humboldt and Watson and Tway, Lanigan, Englefeld, Burr, and Guernsey. I so present.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have number of petitions from citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the deplorable states of highways in the province. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Lake Lenore, St. Denis, Humboldt, and the good citizens of Saskatoon and district. I so present.

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

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned with the narrowness of Highway No. 5 between Humboldt and Saskatoon, given that the highway is a main ambulance corridor. 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 as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon, Carrot River, Buchanan, St. Denis, Tisdale, and Yellow Creek. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition that is an addition to a petition that I had presented earlier regarding mandatory drug and alcohol testing where a fatal motor vehicle accident has occurred. I will read from the prayer:

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 runs many pages long, signed by citizens from Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition on the citizens of Saskatchewan about the condition of Highway 5 which they would like widened. 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 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

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

And it's signed by the good people of Muenster and St. Gregor. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) and are hereby read and received as sessional paper nos. 38 and 37 as well as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 7, 8, 18, 26, 31, 32, and 33.

Clerk Assistant: — According to order the following petition for a private Bill has been reviewed and found to be in order and accordingly is read and received of the Faith Alive Ministries World Outreach Centre Inc. in the province of Saskatchewan praying for an Act to confer religious and theological degrees at Faith Alive Bible College.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 11 without amendment.

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

The Chair recognizes the Minister for Healthy Living Services.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Healthy Living Services has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill No. 11 for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

When shall this Bill be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 11 — The Youth Justice Administration
Amendment Act, 2005**

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Healthy Living Services that Bill No. 11 be now read a third time and passed under its title. 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.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND
SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 1 without amendment.

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

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of whole of this Bill. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

[13:45]

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

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 1 — The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods
Amendment Act, 2005**

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

The Speaker: — Moved that Bill No. 1 be now read a third

time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND
SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Resources to report Bill No. 3 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill No. 3 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill 3. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 3 — The Summary Offences Procedure
Amendment Act, 2005**

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 3 be read a third time and passed under its title. 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's carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND
SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 16 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill No. 16 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

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

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 16 — The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2005

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 16 be now read a third time and passed under its title. 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's carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND
SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — I've been instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 17 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 17 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration of the whole on Bill 17. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 17 — The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 17 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND
SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 27 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 27 be considered in Committee of the Whole?

I recognize the Minister for Healthy Living Services.

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

The Speaker: — The minister of human living services has requested leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bill 27. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 27 — The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act**

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister of human living services that Bill No. 27 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure to report Bill No. 13 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 13 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 13 in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 13 — The Archives Amendment Act, 2005**

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill 13 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure Committee to report Bill No. 14 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole for Bill 14. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS**Bill No. 14 — The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2005**

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill 14 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND
SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and
Infrastructure**

Mr. Harper: — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the Standing Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure to report Bill No. 8 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill No. 8 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation.

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — I request leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation has requested leave to waive consideration of Bill 8 in Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

THIRD READINGS

**Bill No. 8 — The Western Development Museum
Amendment Act, 2005**

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation that Bill 8 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

**PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND
SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Speaker: — Any further reports by standing and special committees? The Chair recognizes the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure on behalf of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to

present the committee's first report of the twenty-fifth legislature.

And while this is our first report since we were established as a committee back on April 21, 2004, we have been very active. I'd like to say our committee likes to work rather than brag.

And when we assumed responsibilities from the previous committee, we were faced with a backlog of work going back to the 2001 fall report of the Provincial Auditor. I'm pleased to report that the committee as of today is current in reviewing the extensive work of the Provincial Auditor. And we await the soon-to-be released 2005 fall report.

We have accomplished this work by scheduling meetings both during and out of sitting days in the legislature. We are a scrutiny committee, and as such we have reviewed most if not all departments of the government. With valued advice from the auditor, we have passed dozens of motions calling on the various arms of government to comply with recommendations contained in the auditor's reports. Our track record indicates that ministers and their officials would be wise to heed the direction that the committee provides.

As well we are a watchdog for the people of Saskatchewan, keeping a close eye on government spending and the value received for our tax dollars. Why just this last meeting, Mr. Speaker, the auditor clearly stated that in three of the last four years the government has run up a deficit. We believe this kind of information is useful to put on the record for the people of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to present this report on our work. And I want to thank my colleagues on the committee for their diligence and their co-operation over the past year and a half.

It is with pleasure, Mr. Speaker, that I move, seconded by the member from Saskatchewan Rivers, who serves as the Vice-Chair of the committee:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

I so move.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, the member for Rosetown-Elrose, and seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, the member for Saskatchewan Rivers:

That the first report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we look into the galleries here today, we'll recognize that there are several students who are here today, together with their parents and guests. These students, Mr. Speaker, are among the 100 students who were here in the building earlier this morning. And they come from all corners of the province; in fact the total group that was here this morning came from 20 different communities.

And they're here today because they participated in the centennial peace project. And it was their designs on peace, which was their own artwork and poetry, that was selected from a competition involving nearly 2,000 entries. They are among the 100 entrants whose pieces were presented to their province this morning and will be kept as a permanent legacy from our centennial year as their commitment to peace and their expressions of peace in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, this morning they had an opportunity to have their photo taken with their Member of the Legislative Assembly and I would ask that — they're with us here this afternoon — that those students whose winning designs are part of our Saskatchewan legacy of peace please stand and be acknowledged by all of the members of the Legislative Assembly. Would the students please stand.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current.

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to join with the Chair of the centennial celebrations in welcoming and congratulating these artists and these Saskatchewan kids to their Legislative Assembly.

Before I get to an introduction of my own, Mr. Speaker, I do want to settle a friendly wager if I may while I'm on my feet. So let me just say this in settling it: the Pages were right and I was wrong.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure for me to introduce some very special guests in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to current MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] some future MLAs. We have a number of Saskatchewan Party candidates who have joined us and, if I may, I'll just quickly introduce them.

First I guess the rose amongst the thorns, let me introduce our candidate for Saskatchewan Rivers, Nadine Wilson. Nadine could just give us a wave or stand up. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — She was one of the first women, Mr. Speaker, to work as a corrections worker in a men's provincial correction centre. Currently Nadine and her husband Doug own and operate a registered Hereford cow-calf operation and feedlot. She has strong roots in her community — elected reeve of the Paddockwood in 2001 and president of the North Central Rural Municipality Association in '04. Currently she chairs the P.A. 4-H regional finished beef show and sale, and has 12 years of experience working with 4-H clubs, Mr. Speaker. So we're grateful she's here.

I would also like to introduce our candidate for Carrot River Valley. Fred Bradshaw is here. Welcome here, Fred.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Fred is a community leader. He has experience in agriculture. He is a business person. He served as a town councillor for Carrot River, on the Carrot River fire department, the Carrot River United Church choir, and was a founding member of the northeast early childhood intervention program. He's also a past president of the Saskatchewan Aerial Applicators Association.

And also Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you our candidate for Saskatoon Riversdale, which is currently represented by someone on the government side of the House. His name is Fred Ozirney.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — He has been 31 years in education. He has been a teacher in both rural and urban Saskatchewan. He's been the work education counsellor, coordinator for the Saskatoon Public School Division, executive director of the Saskatoon and District Industry-Education Council which he founded, Mr. Speaker.

And finally it's a great pleasure to introduce someone that's no stranger to this Assembly. Sitting in your gallery from Eston, Canada is the future MLA for Kindersley, Bill Boyd. Bill . . .

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Now, Mr. Speaker, when people talk to me about Bill recently and news surrounding Eston, they don't ask me about his return to politics. Rather they ask me if he's in the Eston nude men calendar. I'm pleased to report that he is not, Mr. Speaker. And when I tell people that, they seem to be more interested both in the calendar and his candidacy, Mr. Speaker.

He has also noted the member from Yorkton saying, Mr. Speaker, that he represents . . . I think he said words to the effect that he was tired and old. And I've had Mr. Boyd ask me to pass along to this House and to that member that with respect to being tired, well, he's had a bit of a break, so he's fully rested from his duties in this Assembly. And in terms of being old, Mr. Speaker, he also pointed out that, save maybe two, he's younger than the entire cabinet on the other side of the House.

Will the members welcome these candidates to their Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice, the member for Saskatoon Meewasin.

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce through you to the entire legislature, two individuals sitting in your gallery. And I'd like them to stand up when I mention their names. These are individuals who provide valuable and, perhaps better said, invaluable service to the people of Saskatchewan. And I will be speaking more about their roles in my ministerial statement later on in the afternoon.

But I would like to introduce now to the House, briefly, Mr. Kent Stewart who is Saskatchewan's first full-time chief coroner, and Dr. Shaun Ladham, who is Saskatchewan's first chief forensic pathologist, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I too will have more comments about these gentlemen later on but would like to welcome them to their Assembly. It's a pleasure to see them here today, and I'm very pleased to be meeting them in the Assembly rather than in the course of their professional work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly someone seated in your gallery, and perhaps she can stand when I call her name. She's a dear friend and a former committee member with me on the SFL [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour] pension and benefits committee. Her name is Marg Romanow. She is with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, and I'd like to welcome her here today.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker . . .

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Morin: — I'd also like to introduce to you in the west gallery, seated in the last pew, and perhaps he can stand as I mention his name, my brother-in-law, Norm Jakubowski. He retired last month after 31 years as an educator and administrator and took on a position with the Red Cross. I have a great deal of respect for Norm, both with respect to his career and as a family member, and it's a privilege for me to be able to introduce him to you today, welcome him to the legislature, and wish him all the best success in his future endeavours. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Assembly, I would like to introduce three people seated in your gallery. And one is my constituency assistant, Leanne Fox. Leanne, if you'd just give a wave. We all know the wonderful jobs our constituency assistants do for us and I'm very grateful for the professional and courteous manner in which Leanne treats the people that come into our office. Accompanying Leanne are her sons, Brayden and Connor Fox. So I ask all members to join me in welcoming them.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In your gallery I'd like to have folks recognize a friend of ours that has worked in my office for the last month, just an incredible worker and incredible asset to this government and certainly to this minister. I'd like all members of the Assembly to recognize Mr. Trevor Morin, accompanied with my other assistant, Lynn, and to point out that Trevor is one heck of a worker. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Awareness and Action in the Fight Against AIDS

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is World AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome] Day and Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day. Across the world we lose 8,000 lives to AIDS every day. World AIDS Day is an opportunity to support the survivors of AIDS and raise awareness. That's particularly important here in Saskatchewan, where we know the number of cases of AIDS continues to grow.

On CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] this morning, it was reported that more women than men are now testing positive for HIV [human immunodeficiency virus]. In fact 46 per cent of the new HIV cases in Saskatchewan are women. What is most disturbing is that women between the ages of 15 and 29 account for 68 per cent of female HIV cases, which means that the message about the danger of AIDS isn't getting through to our young people.

Given that this is also Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day, we need to remember that the majority of Saskatchewan women who test positive for HIV are Aboriginal, and they are poor. On CBC a woman who has been living with AIDS for the last five years said poverty, addiction, and abuse go hand in hand with the disease.

Mr. Speaker, the legislators here in this room can make a

difference in the fight against AIDS. We can raise awareness, and we can act to reduce poverty and addictions. It's time to make those commitments a priority.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to rise on the occasion of World AIDS Day and, here in Saskatchewan and in Canada, Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day.

Mr. Speaker, we know that AIDS and HIV is a growing health issue for our province, especially and increasingly within the Aboriginal community, particularly for younger Aboriginal women.

This government is working to improve the delivery of primary health services to those infected and affected and to those who at risk of contracting HIV to ensure they receive the care they need to protect their health. We are funding community-based AIDS organizations and regional health authorities to provide prevention and support services for those affected by HIV and AIDS. Saskatchewan Health allocated more than \$327,000 for this fiscal year on community-based organizations that take on HIV and AIDS.

Saskatchewan Health also provides funding for a number of other initiatives such as anonymous HIV testing programs, the staffing of HIV/AIDS nurse specialists, and community outreach. Mr. Speaker, there is much being done, but there is much more to do.

I had the honour of participating in a luncheon this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, that was put on by the All Nations Hope AIDS Network and the AIDS Programs South Saskatchewan. Their theme, Mr. Speaker, is, "Knowledge is power. Be a leader. Take a stand." And so I certainly saw a lot of leaders in that room, Mr. Speaker, and a lot of great people doing some very important work.

So I want the House to acknowledge this World AIDS Day. And thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Celebration of An Influential Life

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night I attended the celebration of life for a man who had a great impact not only on my life but the lives of many others.

Mr. Speaker, the Rev. Dr. Roy K. Holm passed away last Friday, November 25, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Rev. Holm was ordained at Estevan in 1961. He served St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Estevan, St. Luke's Lutheran in Midale, and St. John's at Outram until 1978, then he moved to Regina.

Mr. Speaker, I can remember when I was a young teenager and it was Rev. Holm who would pick me up every Saturday in his little Volkswagen Beetle and drive me to confirmation classes. That went on for two years.

Years later he officiated at our wedding, and he also baptized our children. And I can remember speaking with Rev. Holm in this very Chamber shortly before his official retirement. And when I asked him what he was going to do after his retirement he said, I will continue to serve Jesus until the day I die. I really like this guy.

He got his wish, Mr. Speaker. He preached his last sermon at the Celebration Lutheran Church just two weeks ago. His sermon was titled, "Farewell to the Elders."

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Holm touched the hearts and the lives of all who knew him. He will be missed but never forgotten. On behalf of all the people of the Estevan constituency, and all who knew him, I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife, Maxine, his children, and his grandchildren. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Centennial Peace Project

Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Saskatchewan centennial peace project was a very special initiative that's been going on here in Saskatchewan throughout the centennial year. It's an initiative of the Canadian Red Cross and SaskEnergy, and while centennials provide us many opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of the past, the peace project is all about Saskatchewan's future.

Mr. Speaker, the peace project has actively engaged Saskatchewan students, inviting them to celebrate our centennial by sharing their views on how they, as the leaders of tomorrow, can create a culture of peace, caring, and respect in their own schools, communities and abroad.

The peace project has three elements. In September almost 2,500 students took part in the Hear the Children Peace Day events in Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and Regina. And throughout the years students have been planting peace poles, the international symbol of peace in communities across the province. Mr. Speaker, our centennial goal was 100 peace poles and yesterday we reached 101.

Today in the rotunda, Mr. Speaker, the work of 100 students, chosen from almost 2,000 entries in the Designs on Peace contest, were unveiled. This artwork carrying messages of peace, whether drawn or through the written word, will go on permanent display and provide a lasting message of peace from Saskatchewan youth.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Canadian Red Cross and SaskEnergy for providing this opportunity to Saskatchewan's young people. And I want to acknowledge the effort of every student across our great province who took the opportunity to give voice to a legacy of peace. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

2006 Saskatchewan Order of Merit

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise in the Assembly today and honour Dr. Aruna Lakdawala Thakur. Dr. Thakur has been selected to receive the Saskatchewan Order of Merit for 2006.

Dr. Thakur, a clinical professional and consultant psychiatrist has served mentally ill people here in Saskatchewan for over 30 years. She has served on the board as well as chairperson for Larson House Detox Centre for 20 years and provided administrative stability to this institution which has established programs for patients suffering from chemical addictions. Using her fundraising skills, she invited community leaders to establish a \$300,000 fund to acquire, renovate and operate this facility.

Founder and professional director of the Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Foundation of Saskatchewan Inc. and co-founder of the Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Foundation of Canada, she was successful in establishing awareness of the epidemic nature of eating disorder problems provincially as well as nationally. She has personally established a trust fund, donating \$30,000 to the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] and the department of psychiatry to educate professionals in the field of eating disorders.

In 1984 YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Saskatoon awarded her Woman of Distinction Award. She has served as president of the Federation of Medical Women of Saskatchewan and Canada and participated in various capacities with the United Way of Saskatoon and Canada.

Therefore I ask other members of the Assembly to join me in congratulating Dr. Thakur on her unique achievements.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Family Doctor Week

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. December 5 to 11 is Family Doctor Week in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, each and every day in this country, family doctors diagnose and treat illness and injury, promote disease prevention and good health, coordinate care and advocate on behalf of their patients. Family doctors not only provide primary health care, but also a substantial portion of secondary and tertiary care in many communities; working from their offices, as well as hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other community facilities.

Public surveys repeatedly show that Canadians hold family doctors in high regard for the quality of care they provide. And, Mr. Speaker, in addition to patient care, family doctors are

involved in teaching students and residents in our 17 Canadian medical schools and in conducting research.

Canada owes a debt of gratitude to its family doctors, and I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge the work they do each and every day on behalf of their patients and for their ongoing contributions to our health care system here in Canada. I ask all members to join me thanking Canada's family doctors and supporting Family Doctor Week in Canada. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Fee for the Century Family Farm Award

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I received this letter from the Saltcoats Ag Society and for the members that didn't receive it I'd like to read it into the record. I quote:

Dear Mr. Wartman:

The Annual Meeting of the Saltcoats . . . [Ag] Society (founded 1888) was held Saturday November 19, 2005. At that meeting, we, Phyllis McCallum, Secretary and Walter Farquharson, Vice-President, were instructed to write to . . . express our Association's extreme disappointment in your Department's decision to charge farm families for the Century Family Farm . . . Gate Sign.

Farmers have experience setback after setback in recent years. It should not be necessary to catalogue issues of extreme weather, scandalously low commodity prices, inadequate support systems, increasing costs around fuel and almost all agriculture inputs, disease and closed markets, etc.

To have maintained a family farm operation . . . for [some] 100 years is indeed worthy of celebration. These families have given much to their communities and to the province, and many of their sons and daughters and grandchildren have taken to other parts of Canada and the world the abilities, values and characteristics forged in their farming experiences and community involvements.

When the honouring of Century Farm Families began it was indeed a worthy expression of our province's gratitude for the innovation and perseverance embodied in these often exemplary leaders in agriculture and in community. In celebrating Century Farm Families individuals and . . .

Family farm award . . . we honour these people. And, Mr. Speaker, it goes on. And in the shortage of time, they are asking the government to reconsider charging farm families for that gate sign. I believe the fee is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$300.

Mr. Speaker, when we have spent hundreds of thousands on a 100th anniversary celebration, I think it only fitting that that

government would reconsider and pay for these signs.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Financial Status of Navigata

Mr. Wall: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, four years ago the NDP [New Democratic Party] government decided to spend millions of taxpayers' dollars to buy a BC [British Columbia] telecommunications company called Navigata. Mr. Speaker, the NDP has now sunk \$60 million into Navigata and in the first 40 months of operation, Navigata — the NDP government through Navigata — have lost 42 million taxpayers' dollars.

Mr. Speaker, when the Saskatchewan Party raised this issue last spring the minister responsible stood up and assured this House and promised the people of the province of Saskatchewan that Navigata would turn a profit by the third quarter of 2005. Well, Mr. Speaker, SaskTel has now tabled its third quarter report. Would the minister please report as to the level of profits posted by Navigata?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well as I look across the way at the conservative party opposite, Mr. Speaker, I sense an extreme amount of discomfort because I don't know how you can sit on the fence with both feet firmly planted on both sides on the issue of Crown corporations, Mr. Speaker, as obviously that member and the opposition members do.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the question, Navigata . . . The third quarter report clearly indicates that Navigata has experienced some downturn from what was originally anticipated. However, having said that, Mr. Speaker, it is far too early, far too early to project where Navigata might end at the end of the year.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister should maybe read his own . . . the third quarter report for SaskTel for this year. Here's what SaskTel . . . here's what the NDP is saying now:

During the fourth quarter . . . [SaskTel] will complete a comprehensive review of the Navigata business plan . . . [SaskTel] will be testing whether the cash flows generated by the plan are sufficient to support the book value of Navigata's

assets . . . if the projected cash flows do not prove sufficient an asset write-down might be warranted.

Mr. Speaker, that doesn't sound to me like they made money in the third quarter of '05. That's what the minister promised. It doesn't sound like it's happening. And further it sounds like SaskTel, the NDP government, is considering writing off the asset. Will the minister report to the House exactly what is at stake in taxpayers' dollars with this potential writedown?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well as I've answered the question to this degree, it is far too early — while we're certainly concerned, Mr. Speaker, it's far too early to project what the year-end numbers might be.

Mr. Speaker, however let me say this, Mr. Speaker. The industry remains very, very competitive in this area of voice over Internet, Mr. Speaker — very, very competitive. And I do note — I read the *National Post* of November 2 — MTS [Manitoba Telecom Services Inc.], third quarter disappoints, Mr. Speaker. And it's directly related to a similar acquisition that they made with respect to Allstream, Mr. Speaker — exactly the same.

So why those members opposite in Saskatchewan's conservative party, Mr. Speaker, would choose to select and pick out SaskTel and its investment in Navigata, suggesting that somehow they made a bad decision while the private sector and SaskTel continue to be of the view, Mr. Speaker — continue to be of the view — that these investments are essential in developing modern technology in today's global economy, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, voice over Internet protocol I think has been widely discussed by telecommunications across the company — across the country, Mr. Speaker. And I think it's understood that telecommunications companies are looking at this option.

And what we have here though, Mr. Speaker, is a situation where under the NDP government their option for this, which was to make an out-of-province investment in BC, is threatening SaskTel, Mr. Speaker. What are they doing to SaskTel? What is the NDP government doing to that company?

The third quarter report says that they will be testing whether cash flows generated by the plan are sufficient to support the book value of Navigata assets. An asset writedown may be warranted. It is worth repeating.

I want the minister to stand in his place today, Mr. Speaker, and explain to the shareholders of SaskTel, the taxpayers of the province, how much money is on the hook here for taxpayers in

a writedown. And more importantly, how in the world will SaskTel succeed as long as it's being mismanaged by the NDP opposite, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister Responsible for SaskTel.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Well if the member opposite would have read the entire third quarter report, he would understand. When he makes a statement that it's threatening SaskTel, SaskTel, Mr. Speaker, has a debt/equity ratio of 27.7 per cent, probably the best debt/equity ratio of any telephone company not only in Canada but in North America, Mr. Speaker — North America.

Mr. Speaker, let me go on to say the following. Mr. Speaker, every other telephone company in North America looks to . . . has looked to making investments like this because they realize this is the modern way, Mr. Speaker. SaskTel is doing the same thing, Mr. Speaker. It is far too early to project, Mr. . . .

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order. Once again the Minister for SaskTel.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'll clarify one more point for that member if he doesn't understand. If there is a writedown on the asset — and I emphasize if there is — it will be a non-cash writedown. It will not affect the dividends for SaskTel or to the Crown investments, Mr. Speaker. Not affect them.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it won't affect the NDP government, that's the minister's comfort. Sixty million taxpayers' dollars that could be used for addictions treatment, that could be used to shorten waiting lists, that could be used to pay down debt or property tax relief — \$60 million. But the minister's not worried because it won't affect the dividend that that Minister of Finance might get from SaskTel.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, it's time for this government to go, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, in 2002 they told us it would make money in 2004. In 2003 they said it would make money in 2004. They lost money — 16 million — in 2004. And then the minister said, don't worry; we'll make money in 2005. That hasn't happened. Sixty million dollars hangs in the balance. Will he confirm that that's the amount that's at risk? And what are his plans for the future of SaskTel and the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister for

SaskTel.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well let me again provide the broad picture for the member in case the Saskatchewan conservatives don't understand this, Mr. Speaker.

The investments that SaskTel have made overall — SaskTel International — continue to be, Mr. Speaker, overall profitable and they continue to be. For the last 12 years have made a profit, Mr. Speaker.

Yet those members who purport, Mr. Speaker, to be supportive of our Crown corporations now — those new New Democrat lites, Mr. Speaker — those members purport to be supportive of the Crowns. They stand here in the Assembly and outside the Assembly regularly criticizing the Crowns and the investments that those Crowns — SaskTel — have made, not unlike the private sector who believes that this is the way that you need to go. SaskTel agrees with the private sector on this. They both are making investments in things like Navigata, where you need to take advantage of vehicles to expand the business in voice over Internet. Mr. Speaker, SaskTel is doing nothing different than the private sector.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Extension of Cameco Licence for Uranium Production at McArthur River

Ms. Bakken Lackey: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Industry and Resources spoke about the pride he felt for the uranium mining industry and his desire to see that industry expand.

Last week I asked the minister if he would undertake to lobby on behalf of Cameco and their McArthur River mine. Mr. Speaker, because of federal regulations the mine's production is now capped well below what they are capable of producing. This means that the McArthur River is shut down for about one month a year. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they are shut down as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: has the minister asked his officials to communicate with Cameco as he promised last week?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Yes of course I have, Mr. Speaker. I undertook to the committee that I would ask my officials to communicate with Cameco. That was in the evening last week. The very next morning at approximately 9 a.m. I met with my deputy minister to ask him to do just that.

Because, Mr. Speaker, as I have pointed out in this House before and I will point out again, that party opposite pretends that they are somehow the developers of the uranium sector in Saskatchewan. And I repeat again, Mr. Speaker, our party under

the leadership of T.C. Douglas invited the uranium companies into Saskatchewan, and the biggest expansion of the uranium industry, Mr. Speaker, occurred under our former premier, Allan Blakeney. And I say this, Mr. Speaker. There is an exploration boom going on in the province of Saskatchewan that is unprecedented, Mr. Speaker, under the policies of this government. No thanks to those people over there, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Bakken Lackey: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I found it quite alarming last week when I questioned the Minister of Industry and Resources about Cameco needing to extend their licence and he said he'd never heard of this concern. And yesterday in the House, Mr. Speaker, the minister said that his government would take action.

Mr. Speaker, could the minister then tell the Assembly if and when he has contacted Cameco about this issue and what action he is taking to ensure that the lobby goes to the federal government to extend the licence for Cameco?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, as I explained to that member in committee, I have met with the president of Cameco on several occasions. I have met with officials from Cameco regularly and as recently as the last few weeks. And it just so happens that the issue that the member is concerned about has never been raised with me by Cameco. Many other issues have been raised, Mr. Speaker, and we have followed up on those issues. Cameco has never raised that as a problem they wanted my intervention on. However, the member mentioned the issue; I asked my deputy the next day to contact Cameco to see if they wanted us to do anything in that regard, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if there ever was a phony non-issue, it is this. But I repeat this, Mr. Speaker. This government has been co-operating in building the uranium mining sector. There is unprecedented exploration and we'll continue to build it over the objections of those people over there, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Bakken Lackey: — The Minister of Industry and Resources stands in this House and says this is a phony issue. It means . . . [inaudible] . . . in possible extra revenue from Cameco every year. That is money that goes directly into the . . . providing of employment and opportunity for northern Saskatchewan. It provides revenue and it provides royalties for all the people in Saskatchewan, and this minister says it is a phony, made-up issue.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: when did he contact Cameco, and

what action is he going to take in order to get this licence extended?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Industry and Resources. Order please. Order. The Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, the phony issue here is the suggestion by the member from Weyburn that I should have taken up with the federal government an issue on behalf of Cameco that has never been raised with me. That's the phony issue.

The phony issue, Mr. Speaker, is the refusal of the member from Weyburn to accept my answer that the very next day after she raised it with me, I asked my officials to commence communications with Cameco. And, Mr. Speaker, I will find out what Cameco has to say, and I will report that to the House.

But I would add this, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, this member from Weyburn stood up and told the House that there was no oil and gas activity in Saskatchewan. Well, Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out to her, if she would ever visit her constituency of Weyburn, she would know, Mr. Speaker, that oil and gas activity has increased in her area. But that was another phony issue . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Condition of Saskatchewan Highways

Mr. Weekes: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read you a quote from when the current Premier was in opposition. Quote:

If they want to encourage tourists in our province, then restore the roads so that driving in Saskatchewan is a pleasure again . . . not a challenge.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this NDP government has done nothing to improve or restore our roads. Under this NDP government, driving is not a pleasure — it is a pain.

And you know what else the people of Saskatchewan find painful, Mr. Speaker? The minister of crumbling highways is also the minister who brought us SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] and lost \$35 million. The minister of giant potholes belongs to a government that lost \$42 million in Navigata. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine how many kilometres of road that could have been built with that lost money? Wouldn't it have been a better idea than losing it in government SPUDCOs?

Mr. Speaker, can the minister explain why this government chooses to lose money on bad investments instead of ensuring the highways are safe?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can tell that member what we could have done if we had the billions of dollars that were squandered by the Saskatchewan Conservatives, the right-wing government of the 1980s that they hope to succeed some day.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I can tell you what we could have done with \$1.2 billion of annual debt that they incurred.

We are spending, sir, over \$300 million on the roads and on the transportation system in this province. We have just announced a commitment to northerners of \$65.5 million to build an infrastructure that . . .

[14:30]

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, as I have said, we've just committed \$65.5 million to our northern communities to a all-weather road into the North. Is there enough money in the Department of Highways budget, Mr. Speaker? I wish there were more, but we have to have a balance. We're paying down the debt that was incurred by that member there and his colleagues, some of them sitting upstairs, Mr. Speaker.

But we're going to continue to do what is in the interest of this province. We're going to continue to pay down debt. We're going to continue to build on our infrastructure . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I would remind the member that — order please — that he knows full well not to engage any members of the public into the debate. The member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce the NDP government has won an award. The Canadian Automobile Association calls Highway 51 one of the worst highways in Canada, and I quote:

Highway 51 in Saskatchewan is a network of potholes and patchwork repairs, a very outdated . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please, members. Order. The member may continue.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read the quote again.

Highway 51 in Saskatchewan is a network of potholes and patchwork repairs, a very outdated design of that road, very dangerous in the winter [Mr. Speaker].

Mr. Speaker, every day young people board buses and go to and from school on Highway 51, Mr. Speaker. And this minister of potholes and this government put those students at risk when they board those buses and drive up and down deplorable highways, Mr. Speaker. And also, Mr. Speaker, the oil and gas industry also rely on these deplorable highways as well, Mr. Speaker.

Question to the minister of crumbling highways. Is he proud of having one of the worst highways in Canada?

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, let me respond to that member by saying this. I am very proud about being part of an administration that's been able to get a hold of the fiscal situation in this province and start balancing budgets, start paying down debt so that we could allocate some of the money that we are servicing on debt to repairing our highway system.

Is every highway in this province in the condition that we would like to see it, Mr. Speaker? The answer is no, it's not. Are we going to continue to strive towards a better and a safer highway system? The answer is yes. Mr. Speaker, but I'll tell you, in terms of the long-term future of our highway network, we're going to ensure that John Gerich's right-hand man never sits in the premier's chair.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the minister of crumbling highways. Last May I raised concerns about safety and negative economic impact that result from the poor state of Highway 368. Since then nothing has been done. The highway leads to St. Brieux as well as a number of tourist sites like the regional park. St. Brieux industry has combined sales revenue of more than — more than — 100 million.

This summer Scott Lessmeister of Bourgault Tillage Tools wrote me a letter about Highway 368. He writes:

The safety of people traveling on this highway is our greatest concern, but beyond that, there's also the wear and tear on vehicles that are driven over this road on a daily basis and the negative impact that this sort of infrastructure failure has on the local and provincial economy.

Mr. Speaker, why is this highway not even part of the department's current capital plan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate, I must say, the interest in members of the opposition that they

have on particular highways. And this was an issue that was raised just a few nights ago as we did estimates. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the short time that I've had this portfolio, I can't say that we have accomplished all that we would intend to achieve.

But I can tell you that with respect to this highway, the Minister of Industry and Resources has met with people in that area. I committed to that member that the deputy minister and his officials were looking at ways where we might be able to help with respect to that particular section of road in terms of making it more economic to transport the goods to their market. And we intend to do that.

But I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the fact that this government has put a \$1.2 billion commitment to highways — now just ending — leads me to think that we need a new program. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, we're working very hard towards that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, this government talks about tourism, but it's hard to believe that they understand there's a connection between tourism and the infrastructure.

Highway No. 310 north of Foam Lake is leading to the tourist destination of Foam Lake. But it's not so lovingly known in that area as the prairie road to the lake. I recently received a letter from Northome Comfort Windows. And it's one of the largest businesses along that highway. And he wrote there was three separate incidences this summer where semis rolled over on that road trying to get to their business. The last incident could have been fatal to the driver.

Larsen's Auto Body owner has told me he goes out at least once a day during the summer to get some vehicle that has been in disrepair because of that road. He is an independent tow truck driver and he's very concerned about injuries to himself, to vehicles, and to the many residents.

Mr. Speaker, when is this government going to fix Highway No. 310 and ensure that not only the tow truck drivers but the residents in the area are safe?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite and her colleagues will know that we have the most extensive road system anywhere in Canada, Mr. Speaker, much of it built to support passenger transportation in the 1960s, a lot of it. The thin membrane roads can't withstand the pressure that's been put on it for moving our commodities, grain, onto that system.

The economic development that's been taking place in this province has created pressure on some of the road systems, and we'll admit that. And is it a challenge, Mr. Speaker? Of course

it's a challenge. And as I've said, we haven't fixed all of the roads that we would like to fix in the manner that . . . which we would, but we have to deal with fiscal reality.

Mr. Speaker, that conservative opposition is every day in this legislature spending hundreds of millions of dollars on health care, reducing taxes by hundreds of millions of dollars, Mr. Speaker, spending hundreds of millions of dollars on every expenditure you can imagine . . .

The Speaker: — Member's time has elapsed. The Chair recognizes the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, this government has earned hundreds of millions of dollars in royalties from oil and gas production in the Southwest. They are about to earn hundreds of millions of dollars more because the anticipated 500 new oil and gas and CO₂ wells that are expected to be developed down in that part of the province. Mr. Speaker, this government has earned substantial wealth from the Southwest, yet they refuse to invest money in the road infrastructure in our area.

Mr. Speaker, within 48 hours of the administrator for the town of Consul having predicted that someone would be killed on Highway 21 at the regional SUMA [Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association] meeting, her prediction came true.

Mr. Speaker, I spent many days in September and October visiting that community and talking to people in that area about their concerns regarding Highway 21. One lady who said, I have worked in Mozambique and Haiti as a volunteer and have found their roads aren't as bad as ours. Mr. Speaker, it begs the question, when will this government take its responsibility seriously to the citizens of southwest Saskatchewan and fix Highway 21?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Highways and Transportation.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, the question raised by the member opposite is a valid question. I can tell you that there has been some work done on a number of highways in the south part of the province. And for the member to stand in this House to suggest that we aren't doing work in the southwest corner of the province, I think he knows that not to be accurate, sir.

Mr. Speaker, he stands in this House and talks about the pressure that's been put on the road system by the ever-increasing number of oil wells that have been drilled in this province and the increased activity in the oil and gas sector, Mr. Speaker, and at the same time the member from Weyburn says there's nothing happening.

You see, Mr. Speaker, this is a problem with credibility. It's the problem with the inconsistency of the conservatives who sit over on that side of the House and, Mr. Speaker, that's why John Gerich's chief of staff will never be the premier of this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. Why is the member for Moose Jaw North on his feet?

Mr. Hagel: — With leave to introduce a guest, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member for Moose Jaw North has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member from Moose Jaw North.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, since the proceedings began, a special guest of the Assembly has come to the west gallery who I wanted to recognize. She wasn't here earlier when I introduced the students and the designs of the peace contest, but as we all know, the designs of the peace contest was intended to give voice to young people in Saskatchewan. She was the young woman this morning whose voice we heard speak for all of Saskatchewan, and her name is Amber Boychuk. She's a grade 9 student at Canora comprehensive school and I would ask all members to join in congratulating her, not only in having one of her designs selected but being the spokesperson for all of the young people in Saskatchewan this morning.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for leave to also introduce the guest.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to join with the member opposite in recognizing Amber Boychuk.

Amber just did such a terrific job this morning representing those 100 individuals and in fact representing, I understand, over 1,800 individuals who sent in their artwork. And she did just a terrific job.

So I'd like to thank her on behalf of the official opposition and her parents, who are really strong people in the community of Canora. Good luck, Amber, in the rest of your studies over the next four years.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

Chief Forensic Pathologist for Saskatchewan

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to formally introduce our province's first-ever chief forensic pathologist, Dr. Shaun Latham.

The position of chief forensic pathologist is very important to the safety and well-being of the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. The chief forensic pathologist is responsible for overseeing forensic services in our province including autopsy services. This highly specialized position is a valuable resource in the investigation of unexpected, unexplained, or unnatural deaths. As well, the chief forensic pathologist will conduct autopsies in the northern part of our province.

Dr. Latham comes to Saskatchewan from Allegheny County coroners office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he worked for the past seven years. He is a Canadian citizen who received his medical training at Dalhousie University in Halifax. He undertook post-graduate training in anatomic pathology at McGill University in Montreal and his fellowship in forensic pathology from the Allegheny County coroners office.

As you see, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Latham is highly qualified for this important position, and we are very pleased that he has joined Saskatchewan public service in this capacity.

The chief forensic pathologist is based at City Hospital in Saskatoon, in partnership with Saskatoon Health Region.

Mr. Speaker, in 2004, my department conducted a comprehensive review and consultation focusing on the field of death investigation in Saskatchewan. This was, in part, a result of one of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry Into Matters Relating to the Death of Neil Stonechild which called for a review of The Coroners Act.

In response to this review, we have developed a three-year plan, Mr. Speaker. And I am pleased to report that we are moving forward in a number of areas to ensure the office of the chief coroner is fully up-to-date and adequately resourced.

As well as adding Dr. Latham as chief forensic pathologist, we earlier appointed Kent Stewart as the first full-time chief coroner in Saskatchewan. Mr. Stewart also brings extensive experience, skill, and knowledge to the field of death investigation.

We will soon be recruiting for the position of deputy chief coroner. As well we intend to add a forensic pathologist in Regina, and two regional offices will be established in Saskatoon and Regina staffed by a regional coroner and two full-time professional coroners.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, these professionals will complement the existing team of more than 150 coroners throughout the province who investigate approximately 1,600 deaths per year. The improvements we have made in this area reflect our commitment to respond to the recommendations of the Stonechild inquiry, and the intent of the recommendations of the Commission on First Nations and Métis people and Justice

Reform.

We recognize the need to provide support and expertise to the administration of justice and the work of the office of the chief coroner, Mr. Speaker. The efforts of the office of the chief coroner also have a positive impact on the health, safety, and quality of life in Saskatchewan.

I invite all members to again join me in welcoming Dr. Shaun Ladham, Saskatchewan's chief forensic pathologist, and Mr. Kent Stewart, chief coroner of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the opposition Justice critic, the member for Saskatoon Southeast.

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to join with the minister in welcoming Dr. Ladham to this position.

I, like many people in this province, were surprised when the Stonechild report was made public, and it became apparent from that the surprising gap in the services provided by our coroners in this province. It was apparent there was problems with the legislation which have now been addressed, and it's imperative that this type of issue be addressed in a timely manner.

It's our hope and expectation, Mr. Speaker, that the minister will ensure that there are adequate resources for these professionals to do their job in an adequate, competent, and professional manner. It's absolutely essential that this process take place and that this office be treated with the appropriate professional respect that it deserves.

It's going to be part of the process that we hope to work with the government on, to try and restore public confidence in the administration of justice in this province. To often, because of neglect on the part of the NDP, the public perception of justice has slipped to an unacceptably low level, and this is something that we welcome as a step in the right direction.

There are some 1,600 people every year in this province that die an unnatural or unexpected death. And it's essential and imperative that we provide a service that will remove the cloud from those suspicious or unnatural deaths. It's not just for the sake of maintaining confidence in the justice system; it's also to provide comfort and closure to grieving families and to avoid suspicion and aspersions that may be cast towards police officers and other individuals. It's part of an overall comprehensive scheme of dealing with justice, justice issues, and part of a what a competent government should deliver.

So we look forward to more information updates from this office as it goes on. Welcome and good luck in your roles. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

2007 Juno Awards

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was thrilled this morning to be part of the announcement that Saskatchewan has won the bid to host the 2007 Juno Awards.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — This prominent awards show will take place on March 30 to April 1, 2007, in the great city of Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, what an exciting way to promote our vast culture and talent in this province on televisions across the country. The Junos are Canada's largest annual celebration of music, and the 2007 celebrations will mark the 36th year of these awards. We are very pleased that the beautiful city of Saskatoon will play host to the nation's top musical talent.

Hosting major music events like the Juno Awards give great profile to Saskatchewan and are incredible for the economy. The awards are televised nationally and will draw considerable media interest during the event and also in the weeks leading up to it. Studies done on past Juno Awards show that this event helps stimulate the economy, provides a good return on investment, and does wonders for the promotion of the area. Added to all of this is the great cultural benefit that results from hosting such an exciting event.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences is a not-for-profit organization that exists to preserve and boost the Canadian music and recording industries. They contribute immensely to higher artistic and industry standards. Since 1975 they have been handling this event and have been working with each segment of the music industry all over Canada. I applaud their efforts in exploring and developing opportunities to showcase Canadian artists through events such as the Junos.

I also want to recognize the hard work of another not-for-profit organization called Saskatchewan Creative Music 2007 Incorporated. This organization was formed by representatives and key tourism groups across the province. They helped work alongside the Saskatchewan Recording Industry Association to put together the bid to host this awards show.

The Government of Saskatchewan supports the concept of celebrating the arts in 2007 through hosting major music events. Mr. Speaker, as a wonderful complement to the 2005 Throne Speech, this will enhance the growing recognition of Saskatchewan as a world-class venue for major cultural events. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the opportunity to respond to today's announcement that Saskatchewan has won the bid to host the 2007 Juno Awards.

The opportunity to play host to one of Canada's premier music events is a great chance for our province and the city of Saskatoon to highlight the best that we have to offer to the rest of the country. The opportunity to host the Junos will not only highlight the great musical and artistic talent we have in the province; it will provide a great economic spinoff and cement our growing reputation as a cultural hotbed in this country.

Mr. Speaker, putting together a successful bid takes a lot of teamwork. I want to thank the Saskatchewan Creative Music 2007 and the Saskatchewan Recording Industry for their work in putting together the bid for this show. And I would like to particularly thank Mayor Don Atchison and the city of Saskatoon for their financial support for the bid, whose hosting the Junos is a great opportunity for Saskatchewan. I join with the city of Saskatoon and the people from right across the province in looking forward to the year 2007.

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. I'm extremely pleased today to stand on behalf of the government and order question no. 564.

The Speaker: — 564 has been ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

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 (No. 2)** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a few words today to talk about The Farm Financial Stability Amendment Act.

We have contacted a number of producers in the province, producer association members, farmers and ranchers, and really haven't received back any negative responses to what is being done in this Bill. And we'll have a number of questions to ask in committee later on just to verify that what we feel is happening here is actually happening.

We believe that what we're dealing with here is conditions of participation in producer associations with the guaranteed loans. And if I'm reading this right, Mr. Speaker, it talks about giving lenders and provincial inspectors greater powers to inspect

animals owned by feeder associations.

And I think, as we've talked in the past number of years in here, I think these changes are probably needed, and I'm hoping that they will help improve the situation out here that happened in my area a few years ago, where a feeder association had problems where a number of producers — members in good standing — members of that association were really burnt by the number of animals that were being supposedly being held in a feedlot and ended up were not there. And we were talking a large number of animals at that time and come very close to putting a number of producers under in the east side of the province.

And I'm hoping that that will never happen again, and members in good standing will never have to have themselves put in that situation. So what we're hoping that this Bill will deal with is some of those loopholes that we had at the time, Mr. Speaker.

And at this point I would like to let this Bill go to committee, and we will have some questions to ask of the minister at that point.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Agriculture and Food that Bill No. 7, The Farm Financial Stability Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2) 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.

Deputy Clerk: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Ag and Food.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 7, An Act to amend The Farm Financial Stability Act be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

The Speaker: — Moved by the Minister of Ag and Food that Bill No. 7 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This Bill stands to be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In order to facilitate the work of the policy field committees, 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 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:55.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Elhard	499
D'Autremont	499
Wall	499
Draude	499
Hermanson	499
Harpauer	499
Gantefoer	500
Eagles	500
Bakken Lackey	500
Cheveldayoff	500
Huyghebaert	500
Brkich	500
Weekes	501
Kerpan	501
Morgan	501
Kirsch	501

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk	501
Clerk Assistant	501

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Human Services	
Junor	501
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure	
Harper	504
Standing Committee on Public Accounts	
Hermanson	505

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 11 — The Youth Justice Administration Amendment Act, 2005	
Addley	502
Bill No. 1 — The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Amendment Act, 2005	
Quennell	502
Bill No. 3 — The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2005	
Quennell	502
Bill No. 16 — The Legal Profession Amendment Act, 2005	
Quennell	503
Bill No. 17 — The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)	
Quennell	503
Bill No. 27 — The Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act	
Addley	504
Bill No. 13 — The Archives Amendment Act, 2005	
Beatty	504
Bill No. 14 — The Provincial Emblems and Honours Amendment Act, 2005	
Beatty	504
Bill No. 8 — The Western Development Museum Amendment Act, 2005	
Beatty	505

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hagel	506, 515
Wall	506
Quennell	507
Morgan	507
Morin	507
Eagles	507
Belanger	507
Krawetz	515

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Awareness and Action in the Fight Against AIDS	
Draude	507
McCall	508
Celebration of An Influential Life	
Eagles	508

Centennial Peace Project	
Hagel	508
2006 Saskatchewan Order of Merit	
Merriman	509
Family Doctor Week	
Junor	509
Fee for the Century Family Farm Award	
Bjornerud	509
ORAL QUESTIONS	
Financial Status of Navigata	
Wall	510
Sonntag	510
Extension of Cameco Licence for Uranium Production at McArthur River	
Bakken Lackey	511
Cline	511
Condition of Saskatchewan Highways	
Weekes	512
Lautermilch	513
Kirsch	513
Draude	514
Elhard	514
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	
Chief Forensic Pathologist for Saskatchewan	
Quennell	515
Morgan	516
2007 Juno Awards	
Beatty	516
Draude	516
ORDERS OF THE DAY	
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	
Yates	517
The Speaker	517
GOVERNMENT ORDERS	
ADJOURNED DEBATES	
SECOND READINGS	
Bill No. 7 — The Farm Financial Stability Amendment Act, 2005 (No. 2)	
Bjornerud	517
Wartman (referral to committee)	517

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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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
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