



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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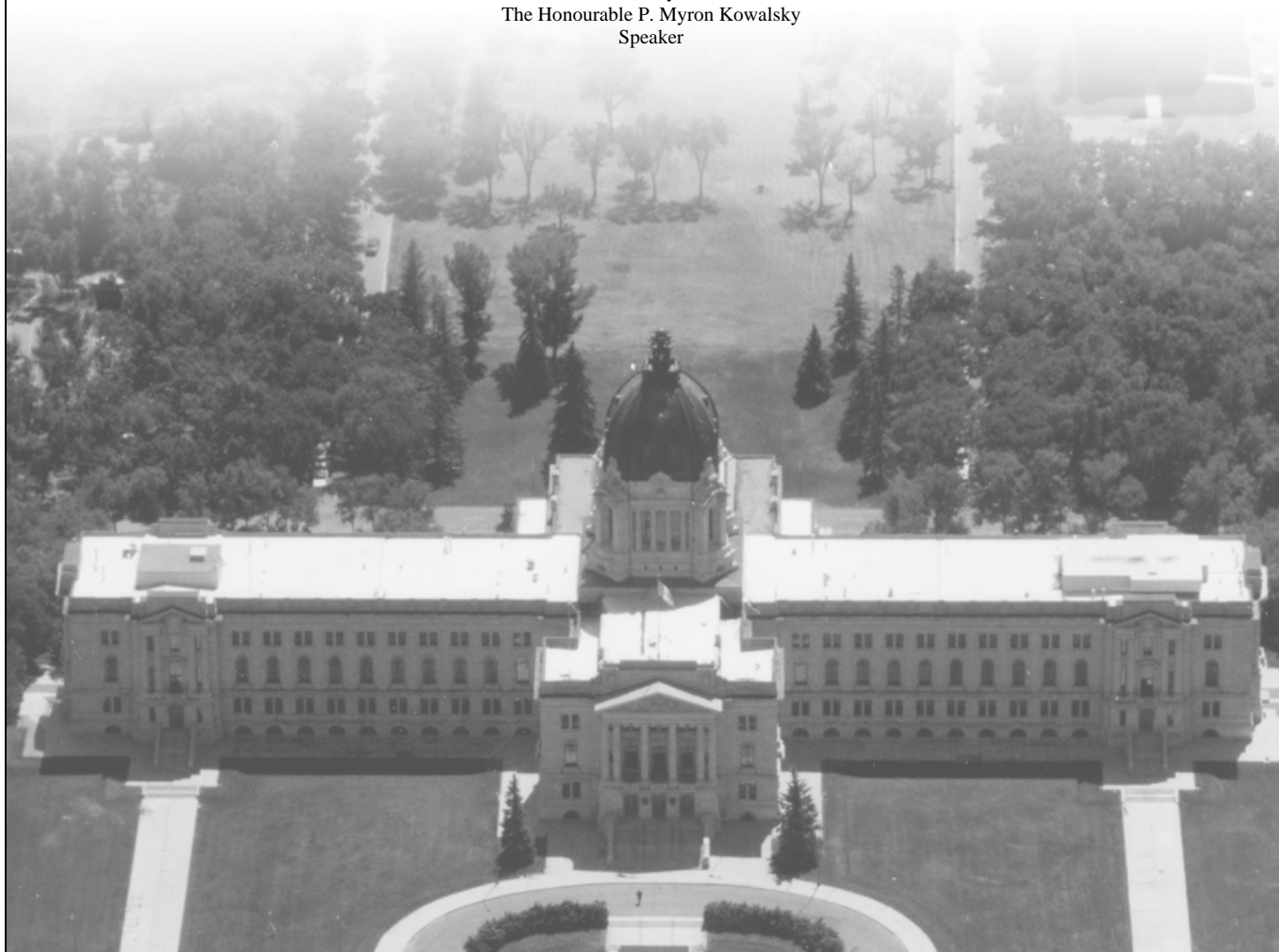
**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornrud, 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, 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, Hon. 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, 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, Hon. Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Weyburn-Big Muddy

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

**PRESENTING PETITIONS**

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have in front of me today a petition regarding the drug Avastin, and I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, the petition I have is signed by people from the community, actually the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I return to the topic of crumbling highways in southwest Saskatchewan. The prayer reads as follows:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these two pages of petitions are signed by individuals largely from the community of Prelate but also from the city of Regina. I so present.

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition regarding the drug Avastin, 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by many people from Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I

too have a petition to present today.

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the Estevan area. I so present.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to rise today on behalf of some of my constituents who are concerned about the lack of a pay phone at Whitesand Regional Park, and the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause SaskTel to reinstall the pay phone at Whitesand Regional Park to ensure emergency service can be contacted in a timely manner during emergency situations.

The people that have signed this petition are from Theodore and Elfros. I so present.

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

**Mr. Hermanson:** — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition to fund Avastin signed by people who are concerned that forcing patients to pay for this drug is an example of two tiered health care. Mr. Speaker, 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of signatures on this petition, and I believe they all come from the city of Saskatoon. I am pleased to present it on their behalf.

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

**Mr. Stewart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as well to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with cancer relief. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

**Mr. Chisholm:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise this afternoon to request our government to consider its decision to not fund the drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures are from the areas of Vanscoy, Pike Lake, and Saskatoon.

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

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this petition come from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

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

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Humboldt, Guernsey, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Muenster, and Lake Lenore. I so present.

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

**Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on behalf of citizens concerned about the government's refusal to fund Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

Signatures on the petition this afternoon are from Saskatoon, Langham, Tisdale, Yellow Quill Reserve, and right throughout the province.

I so present on their behalf.

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

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today also to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province concerned about the government's refusal to fund the drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Saskatoon. I so present. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to present a petition from constituents who are concerned about the NDP [New Democratic Party] government not funding the cancer drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

Signed by the good people from Saskatoon, Vanscoy, Perdue, and Asquith. I so present.

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from citizens that are very concerned about the NDP's two tiered health system. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed in total by the good citizens of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this petition are from Saskatoon and Leask. I so present.

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

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too arise to present a petition, and the petition is on the cancer drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I also join my colleagues in calling on the government to do the right thing to fully fund the drug Avastin:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

This particular petition is signed by the good citizens from Davidson and Bladworth. I so present.

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

**Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's both a privilege and an honour today to rise and present a petition on behalf of the citizens of Saskatchewan regarding the non-funding of the drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

And, Mr. Speaker, this petition is from the citizens of Saskatoon and Wadena. I so present.

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again today with a petition regarding the funding of the drug Avastin and citizens that are trying to tailor a solution for the funding of that. I will read the prayer for relief:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kerpan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned with the government's decision not to fund the cancer drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by the good people from Martensville, Tisdale, Dalmeny, and Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order a petition reviewed yesterday has been reviewed and pursuant to Rule 14(7) is hereby read and received as an addition to the previously tabled petition being sessional paper no. 639.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on Friday, day 32, move first reading of An Act to recognize First Nations and Métis Children in Saskatchewan.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — Members of the Assembly, today we had a very significant ceremony in this Assembly and several of the people who attended that ceremony are here today. And it's my pleasure at this time to introduce, first of all, two Speakers, the Speaker from Manitoba, George Hickey; and the Speaker from the Northwest Territories, Paul Delorey.

Also accompanying them are his Deputy Clerk, Bev Bosiak from Manitoba, and Clerk John Quirke from Nunavut.

So I ask the members to welcome them to our meetings here today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Also in the Speaker's gallery I would like to introduce at this time Judge David Arnot, who is here. He's from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, and his partner Linda Arnot is here. Also with them are Colleen Cameron and Ken Horsman from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. And seated right behind them . . .

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Seated right behind them is a member of our judiciary, Judge Gerald Morin, and with him is Sherri Robinson. Welcome to the Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — And seated behind them is Chief Helen Bear from the Meadow Lake Tribal Council. Helen Ben, thank you. Just for the record Helen Ben, Chief Helen Ben. Thank you very much.

I also notice a former intern of ours, Kevin Chernoff, in the Speaker's gallery.

And I think we have a couple of school groups who are here. Over on the east gallery is I believe the students from Carry the Kettle First Nation, along with Bob Loewen and some of their drivers and chaperones. Welcome to the Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — And in the west gallery we've got students from Thunderchild First Nation, and I believe this is . . . am I right there, first of all? Is that the group? All right. I think they're here with their assembly. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

**The Speaker:** — Any further introduction of guests? The Chair recognizes the member for Meadow Lake.

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join with you in welcoming the Thunderchild First Nation students here today as well. Mr. Speaker, after the last boundary redistribution of constituencies, Thunderchild came into the riding of Meadow Lake. It's on the very, very edge of it but it's now part of the Meadow Lake riding. So this is the very first time that I've had the honour of having visitors from Thunderchild in this Assembly as constituents of mine.

In the west gallery, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if they're all there but there were 18 students in total when we started. Some may still be wandering around the building eating stew, I'm not sure. It was very good by the way, Mr. Speaker. They are with the adult learning centre visiting from Thunderchild, as I said. Along with them is their instructor, Glenn Sklaruk, and chaperone, Pam Milliken, and they made the long trip down here today and I'm so pleased at that, to join in the special ceremony today with the new mace runner.

And I want all of my colleagues to please join me in welcoming them to the Assembly here today, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Sonntag:** — Mr. Speaker, if I could as well, there is one other person seated with the delegation up there. She might be a bit embarrassed if I introduce her because she works in my office, but Angela Merasty . . . many won't know this, but was very, very helpful in arranging all of the events around today as well. And I know you will know that, Mr. Speaker. She worked with the department and she worked with your office and with many people in the building, along with organizing many of the attendees here today. So I want to particularly acknowledge

Angie and thank her, and introduce her to the Assembly, probably for the first time even though she's been in my office for quite a while. So, Angie Merasty.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well I'd like to join you, Mr. Speaker, in welcoming the 14 students from the Nakoda Oyade Education Center on Carry the Kettle First Nation. They're accompanied by their teachers, Bob Loewen and Bill Cheers, and I certainly want to extend a warm welcome to this group of students.

As I was chatting with Mr. Loewen earlier this afternoon, in the last redistribution Carry the Kettle became part of the Moosomin constituency and, you know, when boundaries change sometimes it's hard for people just to keep up as to where they are. But it's a pleasure to welcome the students and I look forward to meeting with them in the future as well. Please join me in welcoming the students and the staff to the Legislative Assembly today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Addley:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join others in welcoming Tribal Chief Helen Ben to the Assembly. Helen and I attended Ernie Studer high school, very small town in northwestern Saskatchewan, in Loon Lake, and neither of us has changed. She looks exactly the same and I have the same amount of hair.

And I have a lot of fond memories of Helen, particularly a trip in grade 6 to Jasper and Elk Island National Park, and she can fill in all the other details. There was 60 other kids with us, but I'd just like to say how very proud I am of her and the leadership that she's providing her people in that area and to welcome you to the Assembly today. Thank you very much.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Symbols Honour Treaties and Shared History

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker, today, the 100th anniversary of the first sitting of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, we want to commemorate the treaty signed with First Nations in this great province. As we saw this morning, Mr. Speaker, the Assembly has been presented with a remarkable gift. The beaded moosehide runner and beaver pelt cushion made by Cree artist Florence Highway will now support the gilded mace during sittings of the legislature. The traditional beadwork on the moosehide runner depicts the sun, grass, and a river — gifts given to human beings by the Creator for nourishment and

sustenance. The sun, grass, and river also represent the commitment between the Creator, the First Nations, and the Crown that the treaties will last forever.

Mr. Speaker, the runner, mace, and cushion lying together serve as an important tribute to the agreement made years ago between First Nations and those who travelled to this land. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind everyone in the Chamber here today that we all enjoy treaty rights such as access to land and the promise of peace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite the members to join me in thanking Chief Alphonse Bird for representing all First Nations here today and for joining the Assembly in honouring the treaty agreements of Saskatchewan. May the mace runner and beaver pelt cushion rest here for as long as the sun shines, the waters flow, and the grass grows. *Ēkosi tēniki*.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to acknowledge Mrs. Florence Highway and her beautiful crafted, beaded moosehide mace runner and the beaver pelt cushion. It's truly a wonderful piece of art. I know that all members of the Assembly feel very fortunate to have this treasured piece as a permanent part of the legislature when the House is sitting.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the sun and the grass and the river on the mace runner symbolize a commitment between the Creator and the First Nations as well as a commitment between First Nations and the Crown and that the treaties will last forever as long as the grass grows and as long as the river flows. The images on the mace runner bring the province's past and the future together.

Mr. Speaker, we can learn so much about other cultures through their art work, through their literature, and through their traditions. And we have very many, many talented First Nations artists in Saskatchewan. So I urge everyone in this legislature and all members in the galleries, if they haven't already done so, to read a book by a First Nations author, to go to a First Nations art show, to support First Nations artists because art can lead to a better understanding of people and of their culture. And when we have a better understanding of each other, we can live together in harmony and we can learn from each other as we continue our journey through life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Borgerson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have had the honour of working with Métis and First Nations people as a teacher in Northern Saskatchewan, as a teacher-educator in Prince Albert's SUNTEP [Saskatchewan urban native teacher education program] centre, and now as the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatchewan Rivers. For these reasons and along with all members, I am

extremely pleased to see the addition of the mace runner and cushion as permanent additions to the furnishings of this Assembly.

As has already been mentioned, Mr. Speaker, these gifts serve as a tribute to our shared history based on the treaty relationship and the important role that Aboriginal people have played in the history of this province. And, Mr. Speaker, they will also serve as a reminder that although some Aboriginal voices are presently heard in this Chamber, we still have a long way to go.

Mr. Speaker, it took close to 100 years before the Saskatchewan legislature saw its first Aboriginal cabinet minister, Keith Goulet. There have now been three, including the current ministers of Northern Affairs and Community Resources. It took nearly 100 years for a First Nations woman to be elected to this legislature, the member from Cumberland.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's a new day, and I have every hope and every confidence that the beginnings made in this legislature's first century will come to fruition in the next as more and more Métis and First Nations people take their seats in this Assembly.

These gifts celebrate our past, our present, and give us great hope for the future. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Saskatchewan's First Premier

**Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure today, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first sitting of the Saskatchewan legislature, to pay tribute to Saskatchewan's first premier, Walter Scott.

From a career in journalism that included ownership of the *Moose Jaw Times*, the *Regina Journal*, and the *Regina Leader* newspapers to the premiership of the new province of Saskatchewan, Walter Scott left an important legacy for those of us here today who are fortunate to participate in the public life of this great province.

As an MP [Member of Parliament] in the Laurier government in Ottawa, Scott was influential in the development of the government Bills that created the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Walter Scott was named as the province's first premier in September 1905, then elected in the first general election on December 13, 1905. The Scott government was re-elected in 1908 and 1912 by the people of Saskatchewan.

As the premier, Scott laid the foundation for our new province through his efforts to build the infrastructure and public administration necessary to capitalize on Saskatchewan's potential, in addition to supervising construction of this Legislative Building and creating the University of Saskatchewan.

It is a significant legacy. And I would ask the members to join me in paying tribute to Walter Scott and his accomplishments as Saskatchewan's first premier. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Women in Government

**Ms. Hamilton:** — Mr. Speaker, since the first sitting of the Saskatchewan legislature 100 years ago, it is good to recognize the role of women in government has progressed.

The earliest days of the 20th century saw absolutely no participation of women in the Government of Saskatchewan. It was not until 1916, 10 years after the inauguration of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, that women were permitted to run in provincial and municipal elections.

It was not until 1919, three years later, that Sarah Katherine Ramsland became the first woman to become a member. Slowly, Mr. Speaker, the participation rate of women in government increased.

In 1982, 76 years after the founding of Saskatchewan, the province saw the appointment of its first women cabinet ministers. Saskatchewan appointed Sylvia Fedoruk its first female lieutenant governor in 1988, after 83 years as a province. And I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to serve with you as the first woman presiding officer of the Assembly. In the commemorative brochure before us, one woman is included — our Clerk, Gwenn Ronyk.

Interestingly, Mr. Speaker, the longest serving woman in the history of the Saskatchewan legislature is none other than my colleague, the member from Saskatoon Nutana. And as mentioned in this morning's historical occasion, our member from Cumberland is the first First Nation woman cabinet minister.

There are currently 10 women members representing approximately 18 per cent of the total members. And though 18 per cent is a significantly larger percentage than zero of 100 years ago, there are fewer female members today than there were in the early 1990s. Mr. Speaker, we have a long way to go to reflect our 52 per cent of the population. As we celebrate this first 100 years, let us commit to achieving equality in all our governing bodies.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### 100th Anniversary Marked by Recurrent Themes

**Mr. Toth:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in speaking about our great province on this the 100th anniversary of the first legislative sitting.

Mr. Speaker, 100 years ago Saskatchewan was a land of hope and promise where thousands upon thousands flocked to this province to seek a better life for themselves and their families. History shows that the government of the day was an ambitious one, a result of the needs of provincehood and the inflowing

population. Some of the issues facing this first government were those of education, the provision of medical care, and municipal government. Mr. Speaker, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

One of the issues debated that first session was the location and design of the provincial capital. It was a hotly contested battle between Regina and Saskatoon, and also Prince Albert and Moose Jaw. In fact, Mr. Speaker, newspaper clippings from the day recorded back and forth debate between boosters of each city and the newspaper editors. They spoke of their strengths in terms of location and natural advantages, and even how they had better weather than the other. Some things never change. And neither does the hope and optimism of the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan's second century we need a government just as ambitious to fulfill the promise of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Territorial Administration Building

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, as members will know, today is the 100th anniversary of the first sitting of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. However many may not know where the inaugural sitting of the legislature actually took place. It took place at the Territorial Administration Building on the west end of Dewdney which was home to the first sitting of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan on March 29, 1906.

The administration building was completed in 1883 on the same site as the Indian office and another government office building. Mr. Speaker, the North-West Territorial Council first met in the Territorial Administration Building in 1883, the same year Regina was declared a town and became the capital of the massive land mass of the North-West Territories.

In accordance with the Saskatchewan Act, Saskatchewan became a province in September 1905. Regina was named the temporary capital of the new province, Mr. Speaker, but was decreed and affirmed as capital on May 23, 1906. The Territorial Administration Building was home to the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan until the opening of the Legislative Building on October 12, 1912.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a historic occasion for the province of Saskatchewan. May it be the first of many centennial commemorations to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

### ORAL QUESTIONS

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



### Plans for Population Growth

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under this NDP government Saskatchewan is now suffering its worst population loss in years. In fact Saskatchewan's population has now fallen to its lowest level since 1982 — interesting date, that, Mr. Speaker — thanks to the failed policies of this NDP government.

And what did the Industry minister yesterday say in response to this? He said he hopes things will turn around, and if they don't, he'll be disappointed, Mr. Speaker. What a government of action, what a plan of action that is. The house is on fire. He hopes that the fire will go out, and he's disappointed, Mr. Speaker, if it doesn't, apparently.

Mr. Speaker, what the province needs now is an enterprise-friendly plan. It needs a growth agenda. And so we ask again, to the Premier of this province, to stand, take to his feet and address the most pressing issue — the out-migration of people from this province — and answer the question: why is his government, why is the NDP driving out people from this province?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, when the Leader of the Opposition says that he hasn't seen a population drop like this in years, I think the years he must be referring to are the late '80s, early '90s when they were in power, which was the largest population drop, Mr. Speaker.

And yes, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition wants to mock me for saying I hope that the situation will improve. And what we share with the people of Saskatchewan, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, is hope and faith in the future of this province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — And we're going to continue to instill hope in the people in the province, Mr. Speaker, but not just that. The Leader of the Opposition says to take action. We have been taking action, Mr. Speaker. We have a plan. He has no plan. He has no credibility, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of the province also have hope and faith. They have hope that soon — and very soon — there will be a provincial election because they have faith that when that happens, there will be a brand new government in the province of Saskatchewan . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Wall:** — Because, because in no small part, due in no

small part to these numbers, Mr. Speaker. According to the government's own information, the net interprovincial loss of 8,218 is more than double the net loss experienced in 2004. It's the largest since 2001. That is this Premier's record, Mr. Speaker. 2005 was our centennial year, and in that year the Premier has managed to post this population out-migration record.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: how is that possible? How could we be losing so many people in the middle of an oil boom?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Mr. Speaker, we will not build the economy of Saskatchewan with empty rhetoric. We will not. We will not build the economy of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, with endless complaining, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're taking action. We're taking action in the area of taxation, oil and gas, mining, and will be taking action when my colleague, the Minister of Finance, introduces the budget, Mr. Speaker.

And then we will see, Mr. Speaker, because if the Minister of Finance introduces a plan to grow the economy of Saskatchewan, the question I want the Leader of the Opposition to answer, Mr. Speaker, is, will he support such a plan, yes or no?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister's getting a little impatient. Very soon, in a number of months he will soon be able to ask questions from this very chair, Mr. Speaker, when he replaces the current Premier as the leader of that party and after the next election.

Mr. Speaker, here are the actions that they have taken. We have the highest taxes on investment on the continent, Mr. Speaker. In the last provincial budget, they actually increased the capital tax owed by the oil and gas sector. No wonder production is flat in the middle of a boom. That's also the action of this government.

We have a labour legislative environment that's not competitive with the rest of the country. And here are the results, Mr. Speaker — the lowest population since 1982; 8,800 young people between the ages of 15 and 29 we have lost in one year. How is that possible?

To the Premier, Mr. Speaker, will he please explain to the people of this province how he is managing to squander all the potential of this province?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, before the Leader of the Opposition finishes counting his chickens before they're hatched, he could explain to the House how it is he says production is flat in the middle of an oil boom. You know, the only thing flat here, Mr. Speaker, is the question being put by the Leader of the Opposition.

Because I want to say this to . . . Everybody should know, Mr. Speaker, that when that leader has been pressed about his plan, what has he said? He's said two things. Number one, I'm going to appoint a committee if I'm elected premier — which is never going to happen — to advise me what to do. That's his first plan. His second plan, Mr. Speaker, he says, I'm a different brand. That's what he says. That's his plan. We don't know whether it's Bacardi or Seagrams, but that's not a good enough plan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker. He might want to look just to his right, just to his . . .

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the minister who just answered might want to look to his right to see who captain Bacardi actually is. Remember that, Mr. Speaker? A number of years ago, who took the free trip with the liquor company up north on their fishing boat? Why it was that member's seatmate right over there. Maybe he wants to talk to him about his favourite brand of libation.

What we want to talk about today, Mr. Speaker, is the future of this province.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, we've lost 8,800 young people under the NDP government between the ages of 15 and 29. We've posted the worst out-migration record in the country. Manitoba is beating this NDP government if you can believe it, Mr. Speaker. And the minister goes out yesterday and says, well he hopes things will get better, and if they don't, he'll be disappointed. Then he comes in here, Mr. Speaker, with no real answers, just politics and rhetoric — no real plan.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the Premier to get up and respond on the most important question facing this province right now — the loss of our people. Will he do that? Will he explain to the people how this NDP government is managing to drive people from this province in the middle of a boom?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Cline:** — Well if anyone would understand rhetoric

and recognize it, it would be that Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. Because I want to repeat for the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition, we have hope. And we'll be disappointed if we don't turn these numbers around — yes, Mr. Speaker — but we're taking action, Mr. Speaker.

We're taking action in oil and gas. We're taking action in mining. We're taking action in personal taxation. And I say to that Leader of the Opposition — because, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to have the opportunity to ask questions from that side of the House — and so I say to the Leader of the Opposition once again, if the Minister of Finance produces a plan of more action in the budget for growth and opportunity and the young people of this province, is he going to support that plan when he has a chance to do so, yes or no?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Waiting Lists for Training

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment. The minister was recently forwarded a message concerning the wait time for the electrician program at the SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] Palliser Campus. The message told the story of a young man who paid his \$30 application fee and received the following reply, quote, "Your projected start date is more than five years."

Mr. Speaker, why is this government so seriously underfunding SIAST, thereby preventing Saskatchewan young people from getting the timely training that they need?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I want to say to the members opposite is that SIAST delivers 192 educational programs in the province to over 7,300 full-time students, Mr. Speaker.

As well, Mr. Speaker, in addition to SIAST, which has a number of pre-employment support programs for electricians in the province, there are also a number of programs at our regional colleges. And in fact there are four regional colleges that do have openings in the pre-employment program for electricians in our province.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, the message that was sent to the minister goes on to say that there is absolutely no wait time at the college in Medicine Hat. Now if you want to become an electrician, you can get right into their program.

Mr. Speaker, the author of the message believes that if her son goes to Alberta for this training, he'll never come back. Mr. Speaker, based on the population numbers we've been hearing lately, I think that woman's absolutely right.

Mr. Speaker, the message concludes by asking what steps this government is taking to keep our Saskatchewan youth right here in this province. I think that's a great question, Mr. Speaker. So I ask this of the minister: what is her government prepared to do to help SIAST eliminate its waiting list?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier in my answer, there are a number of training positions in our regional college system. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, if the member wants to, he can advise his constituent that there are openings at Watrous through the Carlton Trail Regional College, Weyburn through the Southeast Regional College, Moosomin through the Southeast Regional College, and also Meadow Lake. They actually have openings, Mr. Speaker, and the young person could apply to those programs.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, people in Saskatchewan should not have to wait five years to gain admission to a SIAST program. If there's openings elsewhere, maybe somebody could offer them the courtesy of that particular information. By making people or suggesting to people that they wait five years, this government is actually encouraging young people to leave our province. Nowhere is this more evident than in southwest Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister set a target for reducing the wait times in the electricians program and all other SIAST programs, or is she prepared to just watch and wait as young people continue to leave the province?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you. What I wanted to say to the member opposite, and maybe he didn't hear the answer to his question, there are four programs in the province through the regional college system. There are pre-employment programs, and they are available for young people if they wanted to go into the pre-employment program.

As well, Mr. Speaker, if you want to become an apprentice electrician, if an employer is prepared to hire you, you can go directly as an indentured apprentice and then get into the journeyman's program, Mr. Speaker. And I can tell the member opposite, there is absolutely no wait-list for anyone who is an indentured apprentice that is doing their coursework in the area

of electronics, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Treaty Education in Schools

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, today we celebrated the first 100 years of the legislature with the acknowledgement that we've taken some small steps with First Nations people, but with the understanding we have a long way to go in building relationships. Today as we celebrated the treatise documents signed by two sovereign nations, these documents define the relationship that we have as two peoples. They are fundamental to the creation of this province and the future of our province.

Mr. Speaker, with the exception of one optional course in grade 12, there is little in our schools that directly relate to treaties. Mr. Speaker, when will this government make treaty education mandatory in schools so that all children can learn first-hand about the important documents that are the foundation on which Saskatchewan was built?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite really needs to get her facts straight. The member from Saskatoon Eastview began the treaty-in-the-schools program a number of years ago. It's very successful. The Office of the Treaty Commissioner, whom I just met with recently, spoke about the improvements that have been made, the training that is continuing with teachers so that they have the resources and the capability to teach these classes in the schools in Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

### School Attendance Registry

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, the key word that I used was mandatory. It is not a course that everybody can take, that they have to take. It is something that you can if you want to take. But we're saying that you have to have it in Saskatchewan if you're going to know about the province and what it was built on. Not every schoolchild has that option.

Mr. Speaker, this morning Chief Bird spoke eloquently about the disparities that exist between our peoples. To quote the chief: poverty cannot be masked by a runner and a pillow.

Chief Bird urged us to look and see what we could do to eliminate these disparities. In that vein, Mr. Speaker, we now see a huge disparity between First Nations children and other children in terms of schooling. Right now there are more than

1,000 school-aged children in Saskatoon alone, many of whom are First Nations, not attending school.

In September there was supposed to be a registry that would ensure that schools would know both on- and off-reserve if children are in school. So my question to the minister is, how's that tracking system working? What is the outcome to date? And does this minister actually have a plan to ensure that children attend school so they can have skills to succeed in the future?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite actually jumped over a number of topics. To give her a quick response, I will say again that the teaching of treaties in the schools is progressing along very well. There was information kits that were provided by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner that were provided to all the schools, and training will continue in the education field.

Mr. Speaker, the teachers need to have the expertise and the resource behind them and the understanding of the materials they're teaching before you can jump in and begin teaching children in your classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, the next portion that the member asked about was the tracking system. It is moving ahead as we had projected it would be and is in place in Saskatoon.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Housing Concerns

**Ms. Draude:** — Mr. Speaker, we still have to see a real will to make a difference here. Everything that this minister talks about is something that they plan on doing and hope it will happen, just like they plan on having 35,000 fewer students in the school system over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, housing is also a crucial issue for Aboriginal people living on- and off-reserve in Saskatchewan. In a recent column, Doug Cuthand notes off-reserve First Nations people are subject to slum landlords and poor housing. And it involves the provincial government.

Mr. Speaker, the total amount allowable for housing in Saskatchewan cities right now for a family of two is \$415. Where can anybody live for \$415, Mr. Speaker? And in the North, only single moms are eligible for social housing. So what does that encourage someone who's living in a crowded home to do? Mr. Speaker, people are being left behind.

And the Kelowna accord acknowledges there is provincial responsibility for First Nations people. Why does this government allow poor housing conditions to continue in our province and what is their plan to improve the conditions?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I take the question as the Minister Responsible for Sask Housing and to point out that this government has done more to help families build independence, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue that work, Mr. Speaker. And I can point out that many of our efforts is going to be working closely with the federal government to make sure that First Nations and Métis people in the province have a voice and make sure that people out there know that there is a struggle to get housing issues addressed.

Mr. Speaker, we are part of a framework agreement with the federal government to make sure that the people of Saskatchewan — all people of Saskatchewan — have access to good, affordable, decent housing. We'll continue working away, unlike that opposition, Mr. Speaker, that has no credibility on this issue. And the first time in ten years I've sat here, we've had a question on Aboriginal people in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Condition of Highway 55

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, Highway 55 is a major economic link from Prince Albert through the Carrot River area and on to the Manitoba border. It then travels on to The Pas. Mr. Speaker, this highway is the only access road for the residents of Shoal Lake and Red Earth. For anyone who has travelled this road east from Battle Heights, they know what a horrible state of disrepair it is in. A recent article in the *Nipawin Journal* describes it like this, quote, "In springtime, potholes cause the road to deteriorate into gravel soup."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us if his department will ever get around to fixing this road?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member opposite for the question, and I want to say to him that this government is well aware of the condition of Highway 55. I can tell you that I have met with the chiefs from Red Earth and Shoal Lake, and they've made me directly aware of this issue some time back.

I would want to say to that member that we have allocated some money for northern roads. We have allocated and will allocate some money in the new budget. And we will be putting forth a capital project list. I can tell the member opposite that we are well aware of the circumstance of that road, and we'll act in due course.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, Shoal Lake Chief Marcel Head has been lobbying the NDP government to pave Highway 55 from the treeline east to the Manitoba border for some time. Chief Head made a presentation to the Premier in Shoal Lake last summer and then met with the NDP caucus in September. He has received very little response from this government. He recently told the *Nipawin Journal*, quote:

“They did mention that Highway 55 was a priority but it turns out, in terms of the priority list . . . it’s way, way, way low at the bottom.”

Mr. Speaker, again, will this minister commit today to fixing Highway 55 so that the people of Red Earth and Shoal Lake can have a high-quality road linking them to the rest of the province, the services they require, and the services they want to provide?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the chiefs of both Red Earth and Shoal Lake have made the condition of their road available and knowledgeable to this government. We understand the conditions of the road. I would want to say that the Premier has met with them. And I would want to say that that member will in all likelihood have a chance to support a budget. So I would ask that member: if it’s part of our budget this spring, will he support the budget?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, this winter the Highways minister told the *Nipawin Journal*, quote, “. . . I am very interested in Highway 55.”

Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you interest is all well and good, but I’m sure the residents of Red Earth and Shoal Lake want a bit more than interest. In fact here’s what Chief Marcel Head had to say about the government’s inaction on Highway 55, quote:

“I’ve been patient and my patience is running out . . . We are tired of being ignored.”

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell this Assembly when he will stop ignoring the people of Shoal Lake and Red Earth? Can Chief Head and all the people of these communities expect an announcement on Highway 55 in the upcoming budget?

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Let me say to that member the comments I made were, I believe, around November. Now the Department of Highways hasn’t built many roads this winter. They normally don’t during the winter. So I want to say to that member if he’ll be just a little bit patient, this Finance minister will bring down the budget which will deal with taxation. It’ll deal with roads. And it’ll deal with schools. And it’ll deal with

all of the things that budgets do.

So if the member is so truly concerned with Highway 55, will he give this House today his commitment that he will support the budget if in fact Highway 55 is part of our expenditure plan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Weekes:** — Mr. Speaker, I’d like to ask the question. When the Premier was on his bus tour did he not see the condition of the roads in the northeast part of the province? Mr. Speaker, the Northeast wants to be part of the new west. They want to be part of the North that needs to be opened up for the economic development of the province. And Chief Head has said he’s been very patient, but his patience is running out.

Again to the minister, will the people of this area expect an announcement on Highway 55 in the upcoming budget?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, the members opposite are looking for yes or no answers. And I guess . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order please, members. Order. The minister.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — My question is, if Highway 55 is part of the budget, will he support it, yes or no?

You know, Mr. Speaker, these members travel from far and wide, from north to south across this province making promises, making commitments. And, Mr. Speaker, when this government puts in place a plan that deals with debt reduction and it deals with tax reduction and it deals with more money for schools and more money for hospitals and more money for roads, Mr. Speaker, what does the Saskatchewan Party opposition do? Mr. Speaker, they do exactly what they will do again this year: they’ll stand up and vote against all of the good initiatives that the people of Saskatchewan put forward in their annual budget. They’ll vote against it every time, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### Bill No. 46 — The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006

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

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 46, The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006 now be introduced and read the first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Deputy Premier that Bill No. 46, The Snowmobile Amendment Act, 2006 be now introduced and read for the first time.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time?

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**Bill No. 47 — The Business Names Registration  
Amendment Act, 2006**

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 47, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006 be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 47, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006 . . . Order please.

It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 47, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — When shall the Bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Next sitting of the House.

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I'll be tabling responses to questions no. 597 and 598.

**The Speaker:** — Responses to questions 597 and 598 have been submitted.

**GOVERNMENT MOTIONS**

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Symbolic Gifts Presented on Occasion  
of 100th Anniversary**

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the close of my remarks today, I will move a formal motion, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, to recognize the historical significance of this day — the 100th anniversary of the first sitting of the legislature of Saskatchewan — and to recognizing, by motion, the importance of First Nations peoples and of treaty to the creation and endurance of our province by acceptance of the generous gifts that were received in this very special ceremony that were held this morning in the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, when 100 years ago the first session of the Legislative Assembly convened in this magnificent building which we call home today — for the legislature was not even under construction; in fact the blueprints hadn't even been drawn up and this area of the capital city we now know as Wascana Park was known at that time as the old Sinton property and Wascana Lake was simply a reservoir used I am told as much for anything else as for watering livestock — clearly, Mr. Speaker, much has changed in the past 100 years but much endures as well.

For example whether the first sitting of the first session of this legislature had occurred here on this property or as it did a few blocks north on Dewdney Avenue in the old territorial building, that first sitting would have taken place on Treaty Four land. Mr. Speaker, this is indicative. We are all heirs to the treaties. We are all beneficiaries of the treaties and of the treaty relationships established over 100 years ago.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, the treaties allowed for peaceful settlement and development of this country through the promise of land and rights to First Nations people. They were agreements entered into in good faith between nations, between peoples, in order that a new nation might emerge. They have therefore been justly called the first instruments of Confederation. Mr. Speaker, the treaties are vital, living, and sacred undertakings that define relationships between proud nations and proud peoples.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, it was our privilege . . . Most members of the legislature were able to take part in two very special ceremonies honouring those relationships. A smaller number of us were able to take part this morning in a ceremony, a pipe ceremony, with First Nations chiefs, with elders, and with veterans. It was then our privilege to take part in one of the most historic ceremonies that this venerable Chamber has ever witnessed. Never before, Mr. Speaker, in the 100-year history of this legislature has such a group of people come together united in a common understanding of and belief in the importance of the First Nations foundations of this province and our enduring treaty relationship. Mr. Speaker, it was an honour for all of us to be a part of that celebration this morning and we, as elected members of this legislature, are moved by the gifts which are now prominently displayed on the table.

Mr. Speaker, as identified in members' statements today and earlier this day, Florence Highway of the Pelican Narrows Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation has fashioned these beautiful gifts —

the distinctive runner and the beaver pelt cushion. They stand, Mr. Speaker, now as part of this Chamber, an enduring symbol of the treaty relationship between the First Nations people of this province and those who are the sons and the daughters of immigrants who have come from across the globe.

These gifts, Mr. Speaker, will forever serve as a reminder to all of us who should work in this Assembly, have the privilege of being elected to this Assembly, and should stand for the thousands of people who visit this Chamber each year, they should serve as reminder of the historic and significant role of First Nations peoples and the treaties in the creation of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, in the course of this legislature over its 100 years, there have been many historic debates take place in the territorial building first and then in this Chamber and in the corridors and hallways of this building. Historical debates, Mr. Speaker. We have debated in times of Depression and drought. We have debated in times of war and peace. We have debated issues of medicare and hospitalization. We have debated the role of the Crown and public enterprise. We've debated privatization. There have been many, many historic moments, Mr. Speaker, in the 100 years of this legislature.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, today another historic moment took place. First Nation peoples, we the descendants of immigrant peoples have stood together to recognize that we are all treaty people. We are all descendants of those who were signator to the treaties who established first of all this province, now named for the Cree word fast running water or swift moving waters, the great province of Saskatchewan.

Today, Mr. Speaker, there is history. We celebrate 100 years of history, but we make a little history that we hope and pray will carry this province into its second century and far beyond.

And so, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, I move:

That this Assembly recognize and celebrate the accomplishments made and the historical significance of this day, that being the 100th anniversary of the first Legislative Assembly sitting; and further,

that this Assembly recognize the importance, contributions, and relationship between the treaties and the creation of Saskatchewan as a province, by the acceptance of the gift of a beaver pelt cushion and beaded runner made by Ms. Florence Highway, Pelican Narrows, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current:

That this Assembly recognize and celebrate the accomplishments made and the historical significance of this day, being the 100th anniversary of the first

Legislative Assembly sitting; and further,

that this Assembly recognize the importance, contributions, and relationship between the treaties and the creation of Saskatchewan as a province, by the acceptance of the gift of a beaver pelt cushion and beaded runner made by Ms. Florence Highway, Pelican Narrows, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to second the motion presented just now by the Premier of Saskatchewan on this . . . It was a very historic morning.

And at the risk of being repetitive, because we did have a chance to make a few brief remarks this morning, I do want to reiterate the fact that, you know, there are occasions in this House where I have marked quietly that I may or may not want to remember this long into the future or share it with grandkids, one particular event or another. This event this morning was not one of those. It's one that we'll want to share with our kids and our grandkids.

And you know, I think of the picture that was took on the stairs just after this ceremony and even the photos taken in here and the words recorded for posterity by *Hansard*. And it's something that each and every member can be proud of for having participated in a real and direct way.

I have not had the chance yet to extend a formal congratulations and thanks to the member for Cumberland for her role in ensuring that this happened today, and I want to do that on behalf of the official opposition. It was an excellent idea. There's no other way to put it. And its fruition, I think, is a testament to the entire Assembly, to the First Nations who participated, and it'll last for many, many years to come.

I would also be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I did not acknowledge at this time my colleague, the member for Kelvington-Wadena, the opposition critic for First Nations and Métis affairs. Her work has been certainly unprecedented in our party in the area of First Nations and Métis affairs, and you know, I think that public policy has benefited from her zeal, her desire. But more importantly her colleagues have benefited from that in terms of education and awareness and our own commitment to support her and her endeavours to further the cause of First Nations and Métis people in our province. So I would like to thank her as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are celebrating two pretty important things today — the Assembly itself 100 years old, the Throne Speech 100 years ago today. That first session wasn't a long one, there on Dewdney Avenue. It was a nine-week session. Members debated and passed about 26 Bills. Although actually they'd been, maybe have been more busy than we've been so far this spring from what we've seen so far, but I'm sure that'll change. I'm sure there'll be many more Bills to come.

Most of the Bills were administrative in nature as you can imagine, Mr. Speaker. They laid the groundwork for the future of the province. They laid the groundwork for the operations of the government itself. Saskatchewan's first decade, those first

few years would have been . . . I can't imagine the excitement. Even though this building was not yet used, even though they were meeting over in the territorial buildings in Dewdney Avenue. Can you imagine the excitement?

The province had been allowed into Confederation by the federal government along with our neighbour to the west of us. And there must have been a lot of excitement in this room from those first members as they debated and they talked with excitement about the future of Saskatchewan. There was pride in finally becoming a province. The headline of the Regina *Leader-Post* screamed: "Hail Province of Saskatchewan."

Our first premier, Walter Scott, who represented the constituency that includes Swift Current, was a visionary; he was a leader. And we benefit from his vision and his leadership as we just look around this Assembly and as we all know, the direct hand he had in the design of this building even choosing the carpet that some members wish maybe he would have chose differently, for example the member for Cannington. But certainly we benefit from his vision and his drive.

Walter Scott felt Saskatchewan would be home to millions of residents. He said, quote:

This province has as yet less than one million souls and there is plenty of room for at least ten millions. Just as sure as the sun shines there will be within this Province alone some day a population running into the tens of millions.

He said that in 1910. And you know, Mr. Speaker, as we gather in this Legislative Assembly to mark the first session 100 years ago, we should share in that optimism. We should share in that vision for the province because truly, truly the potential of Saskatchewan relative to any other place on earth — never mind other provinces, never mind Alberta — is limitless.

Mr. Speaker, some would argue that today 100 years later, it's prudent to mark that our potential has not yet been reached for whatever reason. And that's the subject of political debate perhaps in this House as to why that's happened and how that could change. In fact we heard maybe a little bit of it earlier today. And I think we're going to hear a whole lot more of it in the coming weeks and months. But as we remember 100 years ago in that session I think we ought to redouble . . . We ought to confirm, affirm our determination to live out the sentiments of Walter Scott and his vision that the potential of this province is immense and yet unrealized.

As I mentioned this morning, the first Throne Speech talked about 26 million bushels of wheat produced. The first legislature was as proud of agriculture as it is today, Mr. Speaker. MLAs complained about a lack of federal support for agriculture in that Throne Speech, if you can imagine. Mr. Speaker, they spoke of a massive proposed expansion of the rail line network that would develop rural areas of the province. Rural transportation was the subject that was discussed in that Throne Speech. There were thousands of immigrants flooding into our province, part of the world's largest human migration. These hard-working people settled the harsh terrain and staked out a future.

Today, Mr. Speaker, today quite by contrast, we see thousands

of people leaving Saskatchewan. And they're not leaving a province that doesn't have anything to offer. They're leaving a place that has much to offer, but for various reasons — we would argue because of 60 years of the kind of leadership we've seen — we see people leaving today. One hundred years ago they were coming into the province of Saskatchewan.

The Premier's right. This legislature has seen many debates and many great achievements. Although John G. Diefenbaker introduced the first federal Bill of Rights, Saskatchewan debated the first provincial bill of rights regarding citizens against discrimination.

And yes it's true I think in large measure because of the work of volunteers in health care region no. 1 in southwest Saskatchewan — where many would argue, many would argue medicare was pioneered — because of that effort, the debate eventually came to the Legislative Assembly here in Saskatchewan, and the then CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] government indeed brought it forward for the province of Saskatchewan. And then what followed was medicare for the entire country. And that should be noted by any fair-minded member of this House, that that is an important date in the history of Saskatchewan, in the history of Canada, in the history of medicare, those countries and jurisdictions that have medicare around the world.

I would add though, Mr. Speaker, this: it's important to mark the contribution of amazing social programs — that part is true. It's important for us to say, look this government gave to us important social programs. But so too is it important then to note that that same government and that same philosophy took away the ability of our province and our economy to afford those very social programs 60 years later. And that's an important matter for debate as well, Mr. Speaker. As we mark, as we mark 100 years of history in the Legislative Assembly, that's an important part of the debate.

Well the member for Regina South doesn't think that's worthy of this motion. The Premier just got up and said, we've had many great debates in this Assembly; we agree to disagree; we respectfully disagree — that's one of the debates we've had. That's one of the debates we've had — that medicare was a gift to the country that came from this province but, Mr. Speaker, that the cost might have been economic policy for the province. Mr. Speaker, I think that's very reasonable.

**The Speaker:** — Members will come to order. Order. The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is a place where we honour debate. And we honour today 100 years of debate. There are some members maybe in the House that don't want to have that debate. We do. For the record, we do. And when the debate's over, we'll probably meet and shake hands outside in the rotunda — at least I will. And I know maybe the member for Regina South is a little grumpy these days, but I hope he'll shake my hand too, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, so we mark, we mark here the debates of this Assembly and the achievements of this Assembly. We honour those who went before us from all different parties, who worked hard on behalf of their constituents, who fought hard for their



ideas. And we honour them over the first 100 years.

[14:45]

And as the Premier has pointed out, today is also about treaties. Today is also about recognizing the covenant that the treaties are for our province and for all the peoples of Canada.

I can say to this Assembly that not too many years ago if I would have been in a room and asked a question that anyone who is a signator to the treaty should raise their hand, I'm not sure I would have put up my hand. I didn't think of it in those terms, Mr. Speaker. And I was at a meeting like that actually. And there was a question like that asked, and I didn't. And the presenter made it pretty clear and laid out the history of the treaties and made it easy for anyone in that room to understand that it takes two nations to sign a treaty. It takes two governments, two peoples to sign a treaty.

In this case we honour the First Nations who for their part signed the treaties and the Queen, the Crown, all of us, all of the descendants of those people who signed on behalf of the Crown. We're all signators to the treaties, Mr. Speaker.

I found the words of Chief Bird particularly compelling in that he reminded all of us that this beautiful beaded piece of art that lays now on the table of this Assembly and the cushion that the mace rests on, they're wonderful pieces of art and they're good symbols. They're reminders of these treaties. They remind us all that these are living things, that they need to be honoured.

Mr. Speaker, it's very important that we all recognize that they're not just symbols. As Chief Bird said today, they have to remind us to act. We all have to resolve that they are going to force us to, cause us to act maybe on the issue of treaty education, Mr. Speaker, maybe on some of the issues that were talked about today in question period. And I think that's the most important legacy of today's ceremony, even more important than the pictures and the *Hansard* that will record what happened — the actual symbols and what the symbols will remind us to do, what they will remind us of, these treaties.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the members of the official opposition, I want to say this. I've talked to a number of the members, not all of them because there wasn't a lot of time between the end of the ceremonies and when we had to come in here for question period, for orders of the day. But I will say this that every member I talked to on either side and those who participated in the program, they all said the same thing. It was one of the best days they've had since they were elected. Everyone felt good about what we did here all this morning — all of us.

And I think that's quite something because getting everyone to say the same thing in this Assembly isn't always the easiest thing to do. So we appreciate the chance on our side of the House to not only participate this morning, but also to participate in this debate. And it's my honour to second the motion of the Premier.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

Cumberland, the Minister of Northern Affairs.

**Hon. Ms. Beatty:** — Mr. Speaker . . .

[The hon. member spoke for a time in Cree.]

I am privileged and deeply moved to stand today to speak in support of this motion. Mr. Speaker, not only does this motion recognize the noble history of this Assembly, but it also recognizes the role of First Nations and the treaties in building Saskatchewan. Our leader spoke eloquently this morning about the relationship amongst our peoples and our governments. We should take those words to heart.

Young children sang our national anthem to us in not one, not two, but in three languages representing our many Canadian cultures. I will remember their voices fondly.

And it seems to me I can still hear the drums from this morning ringing in this chamber, drums that sang of honour and respect. It seems to me that they sang not only for our proud past, but also of our bright future together in this province. I hope that song echoes here for generations to come. I will carry that song in my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I was also moved this morning at the presentation of a mace runner and cushion designed by Florence Highway of Pelican Narrows, member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation which is very near my home community. Through her choices of materials and shape and colour, Ms. Highway reminds us of the economic history of the relationship between our governments. She reminds us of the gifts of the Creator and that we must share these gifts for the benefit and wellness of all peoples.

This mace runner and cushion are a physical reminder of the ties that bind our governments. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we also have living reminders of those ties. It is a matter of great pride for me that I stand not only as an elected member of this Assembly, but as a First Nations person. As Aboriginal people progress in our economy I look forward to seeing them also progress in our government. I anticipate seeing more of them as members in this House.

Mr. Speaker, it is very appropriate that we remember the treaties as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this Assembly. This government has accomplished much in 100 years but we know that there is more to do. Yesterday in this Assembly several members spoke about the gaps faced by First Nations and Métis people — gaps in education, in economic opportunity, in quality of life. We do not take this challenge lightly, Mr. Speaker. This is why I am proud to say that our government will continue to work with Aboriginal people to improve their lives.

Saskatchewan supports the Kelowna accord which opens a new era of service delivery for First Nations. This government has offered to host a national economic summit on First Nations issues for which planning is already under way. Our province has shown leadership in furthering economic development, not just for but in partnership with First Nations and Métis people.

Indeed our province's northern strategy emphasizes this

co-operative attitude. The northern strategy was developed with the help of First Nations, Métis, and municipal leaders. And our shared vision is that the people of northern Saskatchewan will possess the means to address their own aspirations. With respect for northern people and their cultures, our government works actively with communities, Aboriginal authorities, businesses, and industry to promote the social and economic development of the North.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, this government highly values the contributions of First Nations, not only in the past but as we work together for a better future — a future where everyone benefits. We will not agree all of the time, that is true, but if we remember the spirit of the treaties we will move past those disagreements. Together we will build another proud century for Saskatchewan.

As my colleagues have noted, the treaties are about honour, respect, and trust. Though the drums are now silent, those values must sing in this Assembly and in all of our work. I humbly ask you all to remember that song. I ask that you support this motion. Thank you. Tēniki.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to join in the debate today. Today is an interesting and wonderful day in our legislature. It's the 100th anniversary of the first legislature.

In 1906 the MLAs met for the first time and shared eternal optimism and took great pride in our new province. Saskatchewan still needs that hope and optimism today. There was a promise for our province that is still as yet unfulfilled. Saskatchewan must tap into its unlimited potential to secure its greatness in the future. First Nations people and economy, resources, agriculture, and knowledge-based economy — all must become part of our new Saskatchewan as we move into our second century. Premier Walter Scott had a great vision for our province that would grow the province into tens of millions of people. That as yet has not happened.

The first great debate in this legislature was where to place the capital. It started the friendly rivalry between Saskatoon and Regina. And speaking as one of the road warriors that travels often between Saskatoon and Regina I wish it was a debate that would have been won the other way, but unfortunately we are not in a position to rewrite history, Mr. Speaker. We have a heavy legislative agenda, we all enjoy working in the House, and the travel is something that goes with it.

Mr. Speaker, we have had many great debates in this Chamber. We have debated many things. We have debated health care, Crown corporations, and economic policies. In recent times I have not always been happy with the outcome of those debates but I have always had respect for the process that has taken place and respect for the members that participate in the process.

Mr. Speaker, we also have today celebrated a significant role in our relationship with First Nations People. We had the

presentation of the mace runner and we met with First Nations people and had a sweetgrass ceremony — pipe ceremony — in this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, the treaties are the base on which Saskatchewan was built and on what it will grow from. The treaties had two founding principles: one, the harmony on how our two diverse cultures are going to share the land and live together; the second one is the education of First Nations people. This is something that we have not done adequately and, Mr. Speaker, is something that we can at best regard as a work-in-progress. We have to develop and work for respect and understanding between our two nations.

The First Nations chiefs and elders knew that the old economy of buffalo hunting was drawing to a close. They knew that education would be a key for the future of the First Nations people. The Crown and new settlers were supposed to aid in that education. The promises of the treaties has not been accomplished. For Saskatchewan to reach its full potential, the First Nations people have to be involved in our economy. There has to be consultation and relation building with First Nations. This would be a start in fulfilling the sacred treaty agreement.

Mr. Speaker, we also heard today one of the most impassioned speeches from the Treaty Commissioner that I've heard. I have enormous respect for the Treaty Commissioner and the work that his office undertakes, and I want to take this opportunity to recognize the excellent work that's done by Judge David Arnot and his office. That office has made immeasurable progress in building bridges between our two peoples and developing an understanding where there wasn't one before. He has done a commendable job in raising the awareness of the treaties and their importance in our daily lives. He has been an ardent supporter of the treaties and the relationship which they embody.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, treaty education in our schools should be mandatory. They are part of the foundation that built this province. Mr. Speaker, I said in the House yesterday and I'll repeat it again today: I am like many people of my race. I spent the first 30 or 40 years of my life without knowing that I am governed by treaties, without having been taught or learned the treaties. I went through the Saskatoon public school education system. I went through the University of Saskatchewan, practised law in the city for over a decade before I had any understanding of treaties.

And unfortunately my experience is all too typical. And it's something that we should undertake, as we go into our second century, as something that we have to change. We want to see that our children at the earliest age learn treaties and learn to understand treaties and respect and develop an appreciation for how our two peoples must live together and share the province.

Mr. Speaker, First Nations view the treaties as a covenant. They are viewed as the highest moral level. They are covenants between the Crown, First Nations, and the Creator. The treaties are of mutual benefit to both signatories of the treaties. They are the basis for all relations between First Nations and non-First Nations people. The treaties are as much for the First Nations as they are for the non-First Nations people.

The mace runner that was presented today provides a new beginning for relations between First Nations and legislators in Regina. Mr. Speaker, that ceremony that we enjoyed today and the pipe ceremony that was held earlier today should be regarded not just as something that happened, but should be regarded as a wonderful start to what can happen and what must happen in this province. There must be real action to move on real social issues that affect all citizens of this province, and in particular First Nations people. We have to reinvigorate the relationship by closing the economic gap between our peoples. The treaties task us as legislators with both duties and responsibilities to respect and recognize the importance of treaties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

[15:00]

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is for me a special honour to enter into what I consider as an historic debate in these very, very special chambers.

Mr. Speaker, I think, like so many others of us here, it is a day that causes me to feel extremely humble. And as we have participated this morning in ceremony, before the legislature convened this afternoon and in the events of this day, like others here, this is a day that I will long remember and cherish. As has been said by others already, for me as well, this is a day that I will want to share not only with my children, but I hope some day with grandchildren and with great-grandchildren, as we mark on this day the 100th anniversary of a time exactly 100 years ago this day that members came together for the first time in the newly created province of Saskatchewan to be assembled in their legislature.

When they came together 100 years ago, Mr. Speaker, they came together to represent dreams of the people of Saskatchewan. And over the course of the past century, much has been done out of these chambers, Mr. Speaker, which has made a difference, which has reflected the dreams and the aspirations of the people of this great province who sent our ancestors to these chambers to represent them and the best interests of our province.

From the debates of the floors of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, I remind us, have come some things that have changed not only the quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan, but literally not only for the country but for the continent. It was from debate in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, that the first comprehensive human rights Act in all of North America was born. It was, Mr. Speaker, from the chambers of this Assembly that the first comprehensive workers' compensation Act in all of Canada was born. It was, Mr. Speaker, from debate in this Assembly, and by rule and by decision of this Assembly, that the first arts board like the Saskatchewan Arts Board — the first arts board of its kind in all of North America, protecting the interests of the creative spirit of our people — was born.

And it was, Mr. Speaker, it was from these chambers that many would argue the greatest gift of the people of Saskatchewan to

the people of the nation was created. It was after much intense debate and vision and the spirit of belief in the future and the goodwill of people acting together with their government as an instrument, that medicare for our nation was born.

Mr. Speaker, we will recognize, as has been acknowledged earlier in debate, that out of that came a defining characteristic, not only for Saskatchewan people, but a defining characteristic of Canadian citizenship in the birth of medicare from here.

And I would say, Mr. Speaker, that in an important and maybe kind of oblique sort of a way, something else was born. It was from this Chamber that the decision was made to adopt the motto of this great province which binds us together in such an insightful way that we celebrate today. It is from this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, that the motto of our great province, "from many peoples, strength" was born.

And as 100 years ago today, Mr. Speaker, as it was 100 years ago, it is not that we come here to look back because the relevance of this place is always about this place, is looking in one direction and in one direction only, and that is to the future. The people of Saskatchewan always have and always will send us not to look back, but to understand and then to look ahead and decide in the building in the future of this great province.

Mr. Speaker, many of us had the opportunity over lunchtime with our buffalo stew and bannock to reflect on a number of things. And the table I was at, one of the people who was here and appreciated so deeply the ceremony that was here this morning, and said to me, so how is tomorrow going to be different? How is tomorrow going to be different?

And I shared with her a conversation that some colleagues and I had yesterday in this Chamber when we looked over at the table and saw the mace placed on top of that red velvet cushion and we said yesterday, this is the last time. At the end of the first century of the sitting of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, this is the last time that the mace, the symbol of the authority of the Legislative Assembly in our democratic province, will be placed on that red velvet cushion. And what is different about tomorrow, because tomorrow begins today.

What is different about tomorrow is that from now in perpetuity as we come to take our place in this Chamber, no matter where our desk is located, when we come in, the first thing that we will see is that beautiful beaded runner and that beaver pelt cushion and the golden mace together. And it will symbolize for us in perpetuity, Mr. Speaker, that on the foundation of the First Nations people of this place we now know as Saskatchewan is built our democracy.

The mace, which symbolizes the authority of the legislature and all that democracy can do is there, connected together with the foundation and the recognition that for centuries, for centuries before Saskatchewan entered into Confederation this place, Saskatchewan, was inhabited and nurtured and cared for, this land was cared for by First Nations people who welcomed, who welcomed those who were new — and many from the European countries — to this land and aided them in settling the plan that we called the settlement of the West in those days, and eventually became the birth of the province of Saskatchewan in the great nation of Canada.

And so as others have said today, so conscious we all are it is a reminder that all of us, all of us are and always will be treaty people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, today is really about the future. It's about tomorrow. And I'd like to think of myself as a practical person. I think we all would like to do that. And as we reflect on one of the great challenges that faces us in this province and in other provinces across the nation today, we recognize that there is across the nation a labour shortage, a skill shortage. It affects our province, and it is of concern for us on both sides of this House as it is in every other House within the nation. It is largely affected, Mr. Speaker, by the social phenomenon of the early retirement of the baby boomers. And so we say, so where to from here?

Mr. Speaker, in the context of today I am an optimist because I understand that in this province, in this province we have a special opportunity that is unique to us. It is a fantastic strategic advantage for us to take advantage of as we build our future and our economy for our people together. And, Mr. Speaker, that great advantage for the province of Saskatchewan is the First Nations, the Aboriginal, the First Nations and Métis young people of Saskatchewan today because the truth of the matter is we have been blessed with a baby boom of our own that is experienced by the Aboriginal young people of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, it is in their dreams and it is in their hearts and it is in their minds and their brains and their labours that we will build the second century of Saskatchewan as a province.

I believe to the core of my being that the future well-being of the people of the province of Saskatchewan is intimately connected to the future well-being of the Aboriginal peoples of our great province. And it is, Mr. Speaker, something that gives me a great deal of optimism and confidence about the future.

Before I take my place, Mr. Speaker, I want to say how conscious I am and how proud that, in participating in this debate, I've been able to share the floor in this debate with the first First Nations woman to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan — the Minister of Northern Affairs, the hon. member for Cumberland.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — But let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker — the first First Nations woman. She's the first. But she's just the first. And I think this province, as we move forward to our second century, one of the characteristics of our future is that this Assembly will come to be served in many constituencies by many First Nations peoples who will be part of directing the future of our province as we build it together.

And so I look forward to a second century as a province in Saskatchewan where we are bound together by common purpose and with a sense of optimism, and recognizing that we live in a land that has been blessed abundantly by the Creator. We have been blessed with abundance in natural wealth in our natural resources, in the wonderful resource of clean air, of clean and abundant water, and of our forests — all of which were cared for for thousands of years by First Nations people before we were born as a province in the great Confederation of

Canada.

And I recognize as we move forward it will be because we will continue to be blessed by the greatest resource of all — our people — working together in the symbol of this runner and this beaver pelt cushion and the mace together, symbolized by the great motto of our great province, “from many peoples, strength.”

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I proudly say that I will be voting in favour of the motion that is before this House today. Ēkosi.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm also honoured to stand in this House with the many people who have made remarks about our first century as a legislature and as our first opportunity to look forward to tomorrow.

I'd like to start by thanking those who are responsible for today. I know there are very many of them but the one who . . . Every good issue starts with a good idea and so I would like to also thank the Minister of Northern Affairs, the member from Cumberland, for her idea. I know that along with that, there's a lot of people who've done work to make sure that today happened. But I really commend you for doing this. And I think it's made a difference not only to us as legislators but to our children and to the many who are watching today to realize that we do have a common desire to make things different.

It's impossible not to be moved by the realization that today we are making history and the kind of history that we can be proud of. And I think that that's not often happening in this House. And so I'm honoured to be part of today's celebrations.

When I look at the mace runner with the intricate beaded work, I wonder how many hundreds of hours that piece of work involved, how many hours Ms. Highway spent on that, and what she was thinking of when she was doing it. And then I have to ask myself, did the legislature spend that many hours discussing the issues that Florence dealt with in her life, that her and her family and her neighbours are dealing with?

And I'm afraid that maybe the answer isn't yes. Have we really thought about what people like Ms. Highway was doing and what she had to deal with in her life? I'm hoping that we do, but I guess I can't be certain that in the last 100 years we've done that work. If we haven't, then I guess I'm not proud of what we've been doing.

Today we spoke in the House . . . or I asked the question about mandatory treaty education because I think it's very important. It's important not just to me and my children and my grandchildren, but it's important to every child in Saskatchewan — First Nations or non-First Nations — and every adult. I know that we don't change things overnight, and we always have to start with our children. But perhaps if our kids are learning it in school, they'll help dispel some of the notions that they hear at home — that fact that 57 per cent of the people think that we can get rid of treaties. That number was

astounding and disappointing to many of us who understand that the treaties is the foundation of what we built our province on. And I think it's important that we do step up to the plate and ensure that through the school system, there is an education to enlighten everyone — First Nations and non-First Nations.

My colleague talked about Judge Arnot and the work that he's done in raising the awareness of the treaties and the importance of the treaties. I've had an opportunity to speak with him many times, and I know how very committed and dedicated he is to this work. He's got lots of people with him who are doing the same job. And when you go into the office that he has in Saskatoon, it's going into another world where you have the feeling that he's looking at the big picture. And too often when we come into the legislature, we're worried about the issues of today and we aren't looking at the big picture. So I really would like to thank him for his work as well.

[15:15]

Today I was honoured to be in the Assembly when the chief of the First Nations spoke. I think that was the probably the first time that's happened in this Assembly, and that's something that's also going to go down in history. I listened to his words when he spoke about the disparities between First Nations and non-First Nations, and I know he spoke with heartfelt words. I know that that is from the basics of his being, the reason why he does what he does as an elected person, the same as all of us do. There is no reason to do it for pay. There is no reason to do it for any other hope than that tomorrow can be different.

In the travels that I and many of my colleagues have had, we've seen the disparities between First Nations and non-First Nations people. And we are . . . people try and put us in a box saying that it doesn't matter, that we don't care.

Everybody who is a parent, everybody who has family members, everybody who is doing this job cares. And we can't go forward as a province until we are equal and we're walking side by side with every one of our citizens in this province.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House, and again today, members mentioned the economic summit of First Nations leaders that's going to come from the Kelowna accord that I understand this Premier is talking about. Whenever you have people talking about making a difference in First Nations people's lives, I commend it.

But I dare suggest that today in this Assembly we had a number of chiefs, a number of leaders in the First Nations nation who could give a lot of advice. It doesn't have to take a lot of time. It doesn't have to be a great big summit. Some of the things we can start moving at with today by talking to the people who live the life every day that we're trying to fix. We don't have to start another bureaucracy.

And the member opposite talked a minute ago about the wonderful opportunity we have, because in Saskatchewan we have a whole lot of First Nations people — the largest percentage in Canada — that are ready to fill the skills shortages that we have in Saskatchewan. I agree. My only concern is we have to ensure that they are educated and skilled so they're ready to take on those challenges. Saskatchewan has

lost over 8,000 of their young people in the last while. We can't afford to lose any more. We have to be working with all of our young people to ensure that there is a future for all of them.

Mr. Speaker, today we talked about treaties, and we talked about the past 100 years, and we celebrated our past. Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, is a new day and I hope we talk about — in the first day of the new century — about new hopes and about new dreams and about how everyone is going to make a difference in this province. For some of our people, they are hoping that the next 100 years is better than the last 100 years for them.

Today we're acknowledging that there is a promise for tomorrow. As legislators I believe we have a duty to ensure that the mace runner and the beaver pelt that is on the Table will influence every one of our decisions. I'll look forward to the following days and weeks and months and years when all of us work together to ensure that the promise of Saskatchewan is finally filled.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current:

That this Assembly recognize and celebrate the accomplishments made and the historical significance of this day, that being the 100th anniversary of the first Legislative Assembly sitting; and further,

that this Assembly recognize the importance, contributions, and relationship between the treaties and the creation of Saskatchewan as a province, by the acceptance of the gift of a beaver pelt cushion and beaded runner made by Ms. Florence Highway, Pelican Narrows, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

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. Call in the members for a recorded vote.

[The division bells rang from 15:19 until 15:28.]

**The Speaker:** — Order. The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Premier, the member for Saskatoon Riversdale, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Swift Current:

That this Assembly recognize and celebrate the accomplishments made and the historical significance of this day, that being the 100th anniversary of the first Legislative Assembly sitting; and further,

that this Assembly recognize the importance, contributions, and relationship between the treaties and the creation of Saskatchewan as a province by the acceptance of the gift of a beaver pelt cushion and beaded runner made by Ms. Florence Highway, Pelican Narrows, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Those in favour of the motion, please rise.

[Yeas — 50]

Calvert	Hamilton	Lautermilch
Van Mulligen	Hagel	Serby
Atkinson	Cline	Sonntag
Wartman	Forbes	Prebble
Crofford	Belanger	Higgins
Thomson	Nilson	Beatty
Taylor	Junor	Iwanchuk
McCall	Quennell	Trew
Yates	Addley	Morin
Borgerson	Wall	Toth
Elhard	McMorris	D'Autremont
Krawetz	Draude	Hermanson
Stewart	Chisholm	Hart
Harpauer	Gantfoer	Eagles
Weekes	Huyghebaert	Allchurch
Kirsch	Brkich	Merriman
Morgan	Kerpan	

**The Speaker:** — Those opposed to the motion please rise.

[Nays — nil]

**Deputy Clerk:** — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 50; those opposed, nil.

**The Speaker:** — I declare the motion carried unanimously.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave of the Assembly for a brief introduction of a guest.

**The Speaker:** — The Leader of the Opposition has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The member may proceed.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and to the members. In your gallery, we've just been joined by constituent of mine, a fairly famous constituent of mine, certainly in our community and across the province. Joining us today is our mayor for Swift Current, Her Worship Sandy Larson.

Sandy is obviously a leader in our community. But in her career with SaskTel, in her vocation and in her avocation, she has been

a leader. And her leadership has been recently nationally recognized. She was recently in Ottawa to receive the Canadian Women in Communications Award, among her other achievements. And I just wanted to take the chance, Mr. Speaker, to introduce her to the Assembly.

I'd ask all members to welcome her here, to her Legislative Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I would also welcome Her Worship here.

And recognizing the spirit of harmony that exists in the chambers, we should probably leave before it all breaks down. And I therefore move this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:33.]



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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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Premier

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Minister Responsible for Seniors

**Hon. Pat Atkinson**  
Minister of Advanced Education and Employment  
Minister Responsible for Immigration  
Minister Responsible for the Public  
Service Commission

**Hon. Joan Beatty**  
Minister of Northern Affairs  
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

**Hon. Buckley Belanger**  
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Minister Responsible for Disability Issues

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

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
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