



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

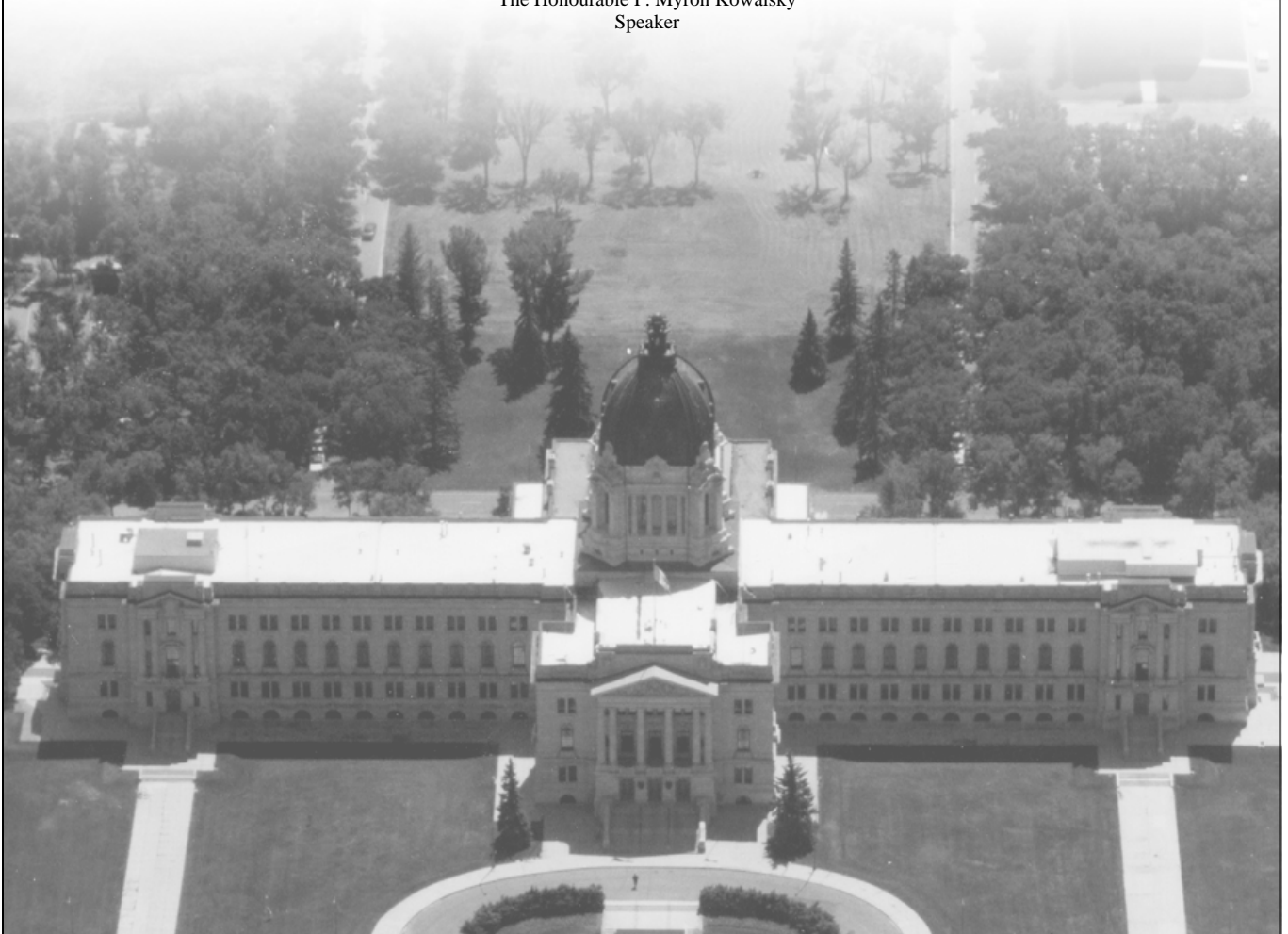
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
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 am pleased to stand in this Assembly today and present a petition to the Assembly from individuals concerned regarding the cancer drug Avastin, and I read the prayer into the record:

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 petitions I present today are signed by the number of folks from the community of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the petition I present today relates to the condition of Highway 32 from Cabri to Leader. 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, the concerns of the people of that area are growing because these three pages of petitions are signed by individuals from the communities of Sceptre, Lancer, Prelate, Leader, Liebenthal, Swift Current, Maple Creek, and as far away as Yorkton, Saskatoon, and Medicine Hat. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of people who are concerned about one of the very many highways in this province that are in terrible disrepair. This is Highway No. 55:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to invest the needed money to repair and maintain Highway No. 55 so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Saskatchewan families and businesses.

The people that have signed this petition are from Arborfield, Tisdale, Carrot River, and Weekes. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition also to fund Avastin. And the signatures on this petition are concerned that this is the first time in the province's history that the government has denied coverage of a cancer drug recommended by the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. 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, a number of signatures on this petition come from the communities of Saskatoon, Humboldt, and also Yorkton. And I'm pleased to present this petition on their behalf.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

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

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Humboldt, Lake Lenore, LeRoy, Yellow Quill, Sturgis, Middle Lake, Battleford, and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province who are very 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 folks from Saskatoon, Melfort, and Prince Albert. I so present. Thank you.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I present another petition from citizens of Biggar constituency who are opposed to the closure of Biggar's rural service centre and Environment

office. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to reverse the decision to close the rural service centre and Environment office in Biggar.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of families across Saskatchewan concerned that Saskatchewan is the only province besides PEI [Prince Edward Island] that does not have a children's hospital. The prayer of the petition reads as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a children's hospital in Saskatoon.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the petitioners live in northeast 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 in this petition are from Saskatoon and Meadow Lake. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a petition from our people concerned with the deplorable condition 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 is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good people of Humboldt, Lake Lenore, Watson, and Lloydminster. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here calling the government to maintain Department of Highways section shop:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Saskatchewan Highways employees who would be affected by such possible closures.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This is signed by the good citizens from Watrous and Simpson. I so present.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition regarding autism spectrum disorder. I will read a small portion of it:

Wherefore your petitioner humbly prays that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to act upon the recommendations made to the Government of Saskatchewan caucus committee on human services. One of those recommendations is coordinate among the departments of Health, Learning, and Community Resources and Employment, with input from stakeholders, to formulate a provincial comprehensive autism spectrum disorder treatment program.

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 today on behalf of citizens who are concerned with the condition of Highway 55, especially the citizens of Red Earth and Shoal Lake. 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 invest the needed money to repair and maintain Highway 55 so it can return to being a safe and economical route for Saskatchewan families and business.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by citizens from Tisdale, Porcupine Plain, Bjorkdale, and Carrot River.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed, and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read

and received:

A petition concerning children's hospital in Saskatoon, sessional paper 644;

A petition concerning repair and maintenance of Highway 55, sessional paper 645;

And addendums to a number of previously tabled petitions being sessional papers nos. 7, 64, 67, 638, 639.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 39 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Immigration: is the management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000-2001 such as information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? And also if so, what is the nature of the activity?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Immigration: what did the management of the department find as a result of his monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Also to the Minister of Immigration: does the management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000-2001? If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Immigration: how did the management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Immigration: did the management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Immigration: is the management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2001-2002 such as information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Also to the Minister of Immigration: what did the management of the department find as a result of his monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Immigration: does the management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2001-2002? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Also to the Minister of Immigration: how did the management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Also to the Minister of Immigration: did the management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Also to the Minister of Immigration: is the management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Also to the Minister of Immigration: what did the management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Also to the Minister of Immigration: does the management of the department have any knowledge of any actual, suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002-2003? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Immigration: how did the management of the department monitor established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Immigration: did management of the department have any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I would also like to give notice I shall on day no. 39 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: did management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or

detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Also to the Minister of Highways and Transportation: how did management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Also to the Minister of Highways and Transportation: does management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2000-2001? If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Also to the Minister of Highways and Transportation: what did management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risk or detect fraud in the year 2000-2001?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: is management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or any other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2000-2001, such as information received from employees, former employees, clients, customers, suppliers, or others? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Also to the Minister of Highways and Transportation: did the management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Also to the Minister of Highways and Transportation: how did the management of the department monitor any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

[13:45]

And, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: does the management of the department have any knowledge of any actual or suspected fraud or illegal activity within the department during the year 2002-2003? If so, what is the nature of this activity?

Also to the Minister of Highways and Transportation: is the management of the department aware of any allegations of fraud or any other illegal activity within the department or its agencies in the year 2002-2003, such as information received from employees, former employees, customers, clients, suppliers, or others? If so, what is the nature of the activity?

Mr. Speaker:

Also to the Minister of Highways and Transportation: what did the management of the department find as a result of its monitoring of any established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or detect fraud in the year 2002-2003?

Also to the Minister of Highways and Transportation: did the management of the department have established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in the year 2001-2002?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister of Highways and Transportation: how did management of the department monitor established programs and controls to mitigate fraud risks or to help prevent or detect fraud in 2001-2002?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I will try to be somewhat less wordy than my colleague. I give notice that I shall on day no. 39 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Justice and Attorney General: how many applications have been made to the Court of Queen's Bench under The Mandatory Testing and Disclosure (Bodily Substances) Act by emergency service workers or their representatives, and what have been the outcomes of each of those applications?

Thank you.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 39 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of the Environment: what are the names of the two ski hills that applied for funding in the year 2005-06, and what criteria does the department have for approving an application for funding from a ski hill?

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Association for Community Living Holds Spring Fling Fundraiser

Mr. Trew: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Regina and District Association for Community Living held its annual spring fling fundraising event on Saturday. About 300 people attended — actually, Mr. Speaker, about 308, counting the table that my colleagues and I shared.

For 54 years the association has provided support, advocacy, and education that continues to improve our society, the lives of families, and persons with intellectual disabilities. Funds raised help support services and programs. The association is all about making dreams of people with intellectual disabilities come true and ensuring all can participate fully as valued citizens in the

community.

One such participant is a young, incredibly talented singer, Colby Nargang, who wowed us through two sets of songs. Watch for him, Mr. Speaker, and hear him when you get the chance.

The fundraising live auction was conducted by my zany friend, CC, of Z99. With his usual enthusiasm, CC provided much good humour, and he coaxed more money and more money out of the giggling bidders.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations go to the spring fling 2006, chaired by Voula Danakas; committee members Lill Lareau, Ken McDougall — who also was the MC [master of ceremonies] of the evening — Susan Zwarych, Sue Myers, AnnaMae McCashin who is also president of the Regina and District Association for Community Living. Congratulations to them for a job well done.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Melfort Midget Mustangs Win Provincial Hockey Championship

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. I am proud to announce that the 2005-2006 Midget A Tier II provincial hockey champions are from the Melfort constituency. The Melfort Midget Mustangs made their victory lap with the provincial championship banner on their home ice, Sunday, March 26.

The Mustangs' first opponents for the provincial title were the Martensville Marauders and the Kindersley Elks. The Melfort team successfully met these teams and went on to outscore Weyburn 6 to 4 in a two-game final series.

Wally Garchinski, the head coach of the Melfort Mustangs is quoted to say:

The kids gave about 110 per cent. You couldn't ask any more from the older players, the 17-year-olds are in their last year and they all performed like we needed them to.

Mr. Speaker, and members of the legislature, an extraordinary team effort is required from the entire hockey organization in order to achieve this level of success. For this reason I ask you to join me in congratulating the players, coaches, staff, family, volunteers, and fans of the Melfort Midget Mustang organization. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Equipment Donated to Cochrane's Practical and Applied Arts Program

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently visited Cochrane High School in my constituency. I was pleased to

announce a very special donation on behalf of SaskEnergy and the energy share program.

Mr. Speaker, the energy share program has met an increased demand for skilled trades people in the area of plumbing and heating in this province. A shortage of skilled labour highlights the importance of Cochrane High School's practical and applied arts program, the only one of its kind in Saskatchewan. The program offers training in as many as 14 different trades and is crucial in meeting the needs of our growing economy.

It gave me great pleasure to announce that SaskEnergy and Lennox Industries have presented Cochrane High School with 10 Energy Star-qualified programmable thermostats, one high-efficiency Lennox furnace, and 42 industrial hard hats. Mr. Speaker, the donation ensures that students at the practical and applied arts program will be trained to work with the very latest equipment in the industry.

I'd like to thank the students of Cochrane High School — Russell Belliveau, Mike Fink, Jason Clemmensen, Leon Manhaf, Tiffany Martens, Dakota Nofield, Kristin Sinch, and Jonathan Tallowin — for taking the time to demonstrate for me and other guests at Cochrane that day some of the intricacies of plumbing and heating.

I would also like to invite the members to join me in thanking SaskEnergy and Lennox for their donations to the future skills of these young people and to join me in congratulating the students and staff at the Cochrane High School for the good work they have done and are continuing to do for the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Eatonia Student Wins Provincial Poster Contest

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Kirsten Theaker, a grade 10 student at Eatonia's Eaton High, who is the provincial winner of the Royal Canadian Legion's essay, poem, and poster contest for the senior black and white poster. Kirsten Theaker's poster will go up against the top poster in each province for the national competition.

It was a very proud day for Eatonia and Eaton School to have a very small school of 137 students represented nationally. It also makes us very proud of a town of only 500 citizens. President of the Royal Canadian Legion branch — Eatonia branch — Larry Richie, said Kirsten's win is a bittersweet victory for the branch which will dismantle this spring due to lack of members.

Mr. Speaker, I've known Kirsten Theaker for a good many years of my life, and she's a lover of animals and a very talented young woman. And I happened to be over at her farm yesterday, and I know that her mother, Lori, and her father, Ron, are also very proud of her. And I would just ask the entire Assembly to please join me in congratulating Kirsten Theaker and wish her the best of luck at our national competition.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Campaign to Raise Public Awareness of Current Farm Crisis

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan, or APAS, will be here at the legislature as part of a national campaign to raise public awareness about the current farm crisis.

The campaign has three themes, Mr. Speaker: (1) that the primary producers are not receiving a fair price for what they produce; (2) that the campaign will draw particular attention to the levels of support of their national government to provide to their producers; and (3), Mr. Speaker, APAS will reaffirm the need to transform the industry so that producers receive a fair and equitable return for their investment of time, capital, and labour.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP [New Democratic Party] government has continuously made the point that our farmers receive far less support from the federal government than the farmers in the US [United States] and the EU [European Union]. And until this subsidy imbalance is addressed by Ottawa, our farmers will continue to struggle to compete.

Mr. Speaker, we will work with the farmers to not only make the strongest case to the federal government that additional assistance is necessary, but also to identify and to take actions needed to transform agriculture and ensure that it becomes once again an economically viable and profitable industry.

Mr. Speaker, we can have the greatest impact on the federal government and the most positive impact for the agriculture industry if we work together. We support the efforts of APAS in its national awareness campaign, and we will continue to work for and with farmers in this province. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology's Waiting List Management Fees

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, two days in a row we've had the NDP ministers give inaccurate statements to the Legislative Assembly. On Friday the member from Yorkton went on a diversionary tirade, flinging allegations against the member from Saskatoon Northwest which of course were unfounded. In fact the Foster Families Association had to set the record straight.

Then we had the Minister of Advanced Education and Employment state, and I quote, “. . . I understand that SIAST is reconsidering their fee for wait-lists in the province.”

The Speaker: — Order. The member will carry on.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — I'll quote, “. . . I understand that SIAST is reconsidering their fee for wait-lists in the province.”

Mr. Speaker, an official from SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] is quoted in today's *Leader Post*, and this is what she has to say, quote:

. . . the \$20 annual waitlist management fee will be charged to those on waiting lists hoping to enrol in SIAST programs for combined lab/X-ray technologist, cytotechnology, dental hygiene, medical laboratory technology or medical radiological technology . . .

That's what the communications director for SIAST said. The plan right now is to go with the fee for those on waiting lists for five programs where SIAST is no longer taking applications.

So once again we have two statements that are incongruent. The minister says the wait fees are being reconsidered; SIAST says they are not being reconsidered. The NDP government says it has a plan to keep young people in this province. How do policies like this help keep young people here? Saskatchewan people are not fooled by this government's angry tirades and unfounded allegations to try to divert attention from the real issues of the day.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Community and Corporate Initiative Raises \$10,000 for the Northwest Health Facility

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On December 15 of last year, the staff of the Esso agent, Marsollier Petroleum, presented a cheque for \$10,000 to the Northwest Health Facility for the purchase of ophthalmology equipment.

In a community initiative, customers and staff raised funds from April to November of 2005. Esso contributed up to a cent per litre of fuel sold to the Esso farm community growth fund. To the farming community that Marsollier Petroleum services, Mr. Speaker, ophthalmology equipment will be of great use and the \$10,000 donation will directly assist that purchase.

The communities of Meadow Lake, Goodsoil, Makwa, and Loon Lake will benefit most noticeably. It is expected, Mr. Speaker, that patients will be saved 20 to 30 trips collectively per month to equipped centres representing some 80 to 120 hours of travel time alone. Debbie Carey, the director of acute care at the Northwest Health Facility, expresses her gratitude to Marsollier Petroleum and especially to their patrons. After all, as John Marsollier has said, the program really depends on the goodwill of the customers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite the members of this Assembly to join with Debbie Carey and to join with me in commending Esso and its patrons for their generosity. I would also like to invite the members to join in congratulating the communities surrounding the Northwest Health Facility for their efforts in achieving a \$10,000 goal. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Support For Agriculture

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

... perhaps they never knew what it's like to farm with old machinery, and just to go from repair to repair to repair. Perhaps they've forgotten, perhaps they've never known what it's like to have to find work off [the] farm, any kind of work, just to hold the farm together.

Those words were spoken in April 1988. Mr. Speaker, I hope the Premier remembers saying this because today we have people with us who are living those words. The people I am talking about are the victims of the ag crisis, and they're not just farmers. They are the wives who see first-hand what the crisis is doing to their families, the women who answer the phone from the bill collectors. They defend their family's business decisions and cry as they hold their kids who are really baffled because mom and dad's lives are falling apart.

Well, Mr. Speaker, my question is to this Premier. Why has he not lived up to the words that he spoke 18 years ago and do something to stop the ag crisis in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, Mr. Speaker, that question really raises again the credibility of the opposition. Clearly this government has significantly funded agriculture over the last few years, Mr. Speaker, in unprecedented amounts — \$1.32 billion towards agriculture from the provincial treasury in the last couple of years, Mr. Speaker.

We recognize that there is an incredible problem, crisis, on the farm today in Saskatchewan. We know that people are hurting. We have met with many people — farmers, farm families — and we know that there is a great deal of pain out there, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, we have come to the table; we will come to the table with the resources that we're able to as a province; but we need a federal government to take account of the reality out here and to come to the table with a proportional share, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, what farmers need in this

province is for this government to stop passing the blame to somebody else. The ag crisis has gone from the commodity prices and net returns and now we've reached the point where it's just a social crisis as well.

Today in rural Saskatchewan exists a blanket of despair, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to read a quote from the *Leader-Post* article that says the wheat board "... has started training frontline staff in crisis counselling given an 'unprecedented' number of calls from desperate farmers ...". The story goes on to say that the wheat board logs between 12,000 and 14,000 calls a week from farmers.

Mr. Speaker, the women in the gallery here today are at the top of my list of people I respect, and they've earned the respect of every one of my colleagues and their communities because they're fighting hard to keep their families' lives together. These wives have seen what government policies have done, including this NDP government. They've seen their families suffer and they can't take any more, Mr. Speaker, and they're here today to tell the Premier their story.

Will the Premier meet with this group of farm wives today and tell them what he is personally going to do to stop the despair in rural Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's so important when people in this province are facing a crisis that we deal with the issues on a very factual base. And the revisionist history that is coming from the other side of the House, Mr. Speaker, though I recognize it has partisan impact, though I recognize the Sask Party is trying to position themselves to put a wedge between farmers and this government, Mr. Speaker, they are not facing the reality that this province has had to face.

Mr. Speaker, for 20 years there have been problems in agriculture in this province — problems, Mr. Speaker, that are not the fault of farmers. Mr. Speaker, there are structural problems. We have been pressing our federal governments for years to provide support, Mr. Speaker.

And I want to say that over the last decade, Mr. Speaker, they have taken rather than given in to this situation. They have taken out resources, Mr. Speaker, \$1 billion on trade injury — we sought that in '99; it was never put back in — 500 million, a minimum average for what they took out of this province annually when they removed the Crow rate, Mr. Speaker. That's where the problem lies.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, many of the women that are here today come from the RM [rural municipality] of Porcupine which was declared a disaster area last fall and again this

spring. Last year they suffered through horrific rain — 17 inches of rain during combining time, 40 inches during the year. It was almost biblical, Mr. Speaker.

This spring the fields are filled with 3-foot ruts from combines that used dual wheels last fall. The land is drenched. There's still 2 feet of snow in the fields and there's no way there can be a seedbed prepared for spring. Crop insurance deadline passed on Friday.

These women are requesting a specific disaster fund because CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization program] isn't working and neither is crop insurance, because it isn't designed for disaster areas.

Agriculture needs a specific disaster fund, and they're here today to ask the Premier for his commitment to implement such a fund for the province. Mr. Speaker, they want to assure him that their plight will be recognized and that it's recognized right across the province at different times.

Mr. Speaker, will the Premier commit today to a meeting with this group of women and listen to their concerns? Will he give these farmers today some sign that he understands and cares about the agricultural crisis in Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the member and all members that in each and every of my most recent conversations with the Prime Minister of Canada and the newly elected Government of Canada, I have been talking to them about the issues that are facing the producers of Saskatchewan this spring. And this comes, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, after four years of drought, a year of frost, a year of crop decimation last year that we saw the rain in harvest period.

I want to assure that member that in speaking to my own family members who are today producers and farming, I've heard their concerns. But I look forward to the opportunity this afternoon to meet with the group who are here. We'll find an opportunity. I may have some other obligations we're going to have to mix around. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to meet with these women, these farm families, these producers, because this is known to Saskatchewan people.

But, Mr. Speaker, let's understand this: we need solutions from the national government. We need solutions from the national government and we need the support of this opposition in getting those solutions just as we look to build that coalition of farm groups and producers so that we have a unified voice in the nation's capital, Mr. Speaker. You cannot expect these producers to solve the problems without the support of the nation.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr.

Speaker, the Ag minister said he wants to deal with facts. Well let's deal with the facts. In 1991 that government cancelled the GRIP [gross revenue insurance program] program. And if they hadn't done that, probably these ladies wouldn't have to be here today because it would have dealt with the crisis going on in rural Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, the premier of the day said that he would replace it. Well here we are. We've got the CAIS program, a program that this government wouldn't come to the table and help design because they didn't want to put any money in. And again ladies like this have to come to the legislature to bring their issues to the forefront because they're going broke out there in rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, if the minister wants to deal with fact . . . He said, we will come to the table. What does he mean by that? Does that mean that he'll come to the table and help these ladies, and help these farm families in the Porcupine area with disaster relief?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well again we're getting a reality check here, Mr. Speaker, because the problem, the problem is not again just found here. It is a problem that spreads across the nation, where farmers all across the nation are facing a difficult period.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of the GRIP program, yes in fact it was cancelled here. But you know what? It was cancelled all across the country. Why? Because it was unaffordable, Mr. Speaker, all across the country. That's the fact. You know it. You take a look at the history and you'll understand, Mr. Speaker, that it was completely unaffordable.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we can say clearly that this province has come to the table far more than any other province. The people of this province, the people of this province have supported — at \$700 million last year, Mr. Speaker, 1.32 billion over the last two years, Mr. Speaker — far more than any province on a per capita basis, and we'll be there again.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, let's deal with a few more facts. These ladies are the bookkeepers. They have to try and balance the books on the farm to try and get that farm from this point till this fall, and it's almost an impossibility. They're also homemakers; they have to look after the family. They're equal partners in the farm, and they're here today asking for your help. And so far I haven't heard one positive word for them.

Mr. Speaker, what has this government done to help these

farmers? Well they cut spot loss hail. They cut fuel rebates. And crop insurance — what have they done in the last few years? Well they've raised premiums about 70-some per cent, and they cut coverage at the same time. Mr. Speaker, harvesting the crops out there was something that Crop Insurance made them do and cause the ruts that are in the field and maybe prevent them from actually seeding a crop this spring.

So, Mr. Speaker, this government has a number of things that they could help these people with, and so far we haven't saw any sign of that. Mr. Speaker, these people are here today calling out for help. Will this government look at them and show some compassion and give them something to be optimistic about this spring?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to speak about the facts and what this government has done and will continue to do, Mr. Speaker. This year we put an additional \$52.8 million in to provide relief for farmers and farm families. Why? Because we knew, Mr. Speaker, that they needed that relief.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the situation with crop insurance and the people in the northeast of this province. Mr. Speaker, do you know some of the helpful MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from the other side and the helpful MP [Member of Parliament] from the Conservative government were out there telling people — believe this or not — that they had to use their 450,000 or \$300,000 combines or whatever their particular combines cost to go and harvest a crop? You have to do it or you won't get crop insurance, they said. Guess what, Mr. Speaker? That's not the fact. That's not the fact. And so, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, they can look to themselves, they can look to themselves . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Members, members, order. Order. The Chair recognizes the member for Humboldt.

Funding for Hospital Construction

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, because of the NDP mismanagement and bungling, the people of Humboldt have been waiting nearly 20 years for their new hospital. They put the last number of years to good use and they've raised \$8 million. But now, because nothing has been done by the NDP to start the project, the cost has increased from 19 million to an astounding 33 million. Absurdly the NDP are giving the people of my constituency 40 days to raise an extra \$5 million.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Health: why are the people of Humboldt being put on the spot because of the NDP's delays and total incompetence?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The

Humboldt project is, as announced, proceeding on schedule, Mr. Speaker. The Humboldt project is one of several capital projects that have been approved and funded recently. And in fact a number of capital projects will be supported in the budget later this week, Mr. Speaker, for planning and for completion of the capital requirements.

Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt costs have increased across this province — capital projects, whether it's health or education or highways or putting a garage in your own backyard, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan's share of the costs of the Humboldt hospital have increased as well, Mr. Speaker. This project will proceed and, Mr. Speaker, if those final dollars are in this budget, I ask the member opposite to support . . .

The Speaker: — Time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the government's taken year after year after year to get this project on the go and it still isn't, but they're giving the community 40 days to come up with \$5 million. The new Humboldt hospital will serve people from a wide area, yet the current NDP funding formula makes the false assumption that the local people will be the only ones using it, so they should pay 35 per cent of the costs. People in major cities don't have to pay because the province picks up 100 per cent of the cost of major facilities.

The only way the city of Humboldt and the towns and villages surrounding it and the rural municipalities have to raise this kind of money is to raise the taxes. This is nothing short of a rural health tax. Mr. Speaker, why is the funding formula set up to penalize the community of Humboldt?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The capital share cost of community projects has been in place since the early 1990s, Mr. Speaker. Many projects across this province have been supported by the 65/35 share, Mr. Speaker.

In addition to that, the province, working with communities, have developed a planning process that ensures that the community involvement in the planning process is significant. Mr. Speaker, the planning process in Humboldt has followed the planning process for many projects across the province, Mr. Speaker.

I ask the member opposite, of course, if the project's final dollars are included in this budget, will she support the budget, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, Humboldt community came up with their \$8 million that was agreed upon, and it's because of this government's bungling and delays that they're required to come up with an additional 5 million in 40 days.

Recently the Deputy Premier urged the people of Weyburn to elect a government member because, according to the member of Yorkton, government MLAs get things done more quickly. So the question to the Health minister is this: are the people of Humboldt being penalized? Are they having to wait for their new hospital because of an NDP vendetta because they did not elect an NDP member?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Of course the province is picking up its increased share of the costs of the Humboldt project. And, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing I'd like better than to see a New Democratic Party member in the constituency of Humboldt. But, Mr. Speaker, we have to work with what the people give us. And, Mr. Speaker, the community of Humboldt is still very much respected by this government. And, Mr. Speaker, we will complete that project with the input of the good people of Humboldt.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the member opposite to look closely at the budget on Thursday, and support it when the time comes to vote on it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NDP's first news release announcing improvements to the Preeceville Hospital came out on August 16, 1999. Over the last seven years, Mr. Speaker, there have been other news releases, all confirming the government support of the expansion of the Preeceville Hospital.

The original cost of the hospital was pegged at 4.5 million and the community's share was 1.6 million. Now the NDP government is telling the people of this community that they have to come up with a total of 3.5 million because the cost of the hospital has doubled to 9.9 million.

Mr. Speaker, why is the NDP government now asking the community to come up with more than double what they were originally asked for, and what time frame will they have to produce this money?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again the Preeceville project is proceeding according to the plan for the project, Mr. Speaker, and we're very encouraged by the development of this project.

Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite is very much aware that over the last couple of years we've seen significant increases in the cost of capital projects — everything from highways and schools, Mr. Speaker, to a garage in the member's own backyard.

Mr. Speaker, these costs have increased, the policy has been 65/35 and, Mr. Speaker, the province is making up its increased share according to the policy.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, under the current cost-sharing formula, smaller communities are responsible for 35 per cent of the cost of a new health care facility. From a press release dated August 16, '99, the then minister of Health, member for Saskatoon Nutana, was pleased to announce the \$4.5 million project. From a press release on September 19, 2003, the government says, "Facilities of this type typically cost \$6 million." I read from a press release of this government of October 6, 2005 that says, "Projects of this nature generally cost between 8 and \$10 million."

Mr. Speaker, do you see what procrastination has done? It has meant that the people of Preeceville and area have to come up with \$1.9 million more than they would have, than what they have sitting in the bank right now ready to do this project.

Mr. Speaker, will the Health minister consider amending the cost-sharing formula so that the people in rural Saskatchewan aren't left behind?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the member opposite realizes, of course, that the more dollars that are put forward for any one particular project may mean fewer dollars for other projects not yet approved, Mr. Speaker. And rural Saskatchewan has indicated to us very clearly that there is a great need for projects throughout the province. And since 1994, Mr. Speaker, communities have funded 35 per cent of the costs, the capital costs of these projects.

Mr. Speaker, the Preeceville project is a very good project for the community and a very good project for the province. Mr. Speaker, the community planning process with the members of the community has helped to reduce the costs of that project, Mr. Speaker, and we believe that that project is going to come in at a cost that is reasonable for the people of the Preeceville area.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Population Statistics and Policies

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is still more evidence today of how the NDP is squandering this province's future. Statistics Canada has released a further breakdown of our population figures in Saskatchewan. They show that the NDP is driving young people out of this province at an alarming rate.

Last year Saskatchewan lost nearly 4,600 people to out-migration. Well over half of that number, Mr. Speaker, over 2,500 were between the ages of 15 and 29 years old. That of course is the province's future that this NDP government is squandering with its backwards economic policies.

The question to the Premier is this: will he stand in his place and justify how his NDP government is driving young people from the province 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: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I was at a luncheon meeting sponsored by the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority at noon, and so were several of the members of the opposition.

And I'm surprised that they did not take the time to inform the Leader of the Opposition that in fact what was stated at that meeting by Mr. Mario Lefebvre of the Conference Board of Canada was this, Mr. Speaker. He said that in the last several years the rate of out-migration — albeit still negative, and we're working on that, Mr. Speaker — was not as bad as it had been in years previous and that . . .

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order. Order. Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I'll repeat what I was saying because the opposition was yelling so loudly. They never want to hear the answer or the truth, Mr. Speaker. They only want to yell and scream.

But I want to say this, Mr. Speaker. What Mr. Lefebvre said was that the rate of out-migration had been improving in Saskatchewan. He said that we had had good economic growth in the city of Regina for the last eight years. He also said that these things did not happen by accident. We are moving in the right direction, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder why the

business community, the co-operative and the private sector in this province has no confidence in that government? Did you hear what the minister just said? He just got up and justified the worst out-migration record in the Dominion of Canada by saying, well we're not doing as bad as we used to do, Mr. Speaker. That was the justification.

Mr. Speaker, imagine the Roughriders saying at an annual general meeting, well we're not losing as badly as we used to lose, Mr. Speaker. It wouldn't be acceptable from the Saskatchewan Roughriders. It most assuredly is not acceptable from a tired, old NDP government, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, we are losing the working age people of this province. Our demographics are such that we have a number of seniors in Saskatchewan — that's a welcome thing — we have a number of people under 20. But there's a big hole in the middle. It's a demographic doughnut and this government offers nothing but well I guess it could be worse.

Does the Premier have something more of a plan than that? What is his plan to attract and keep young people here in the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well, Mr. Speaker, most fair-minded people in this province know that this government has a plan. We released the economic action plan last year, Mr. Speaker, with 81 specific points.

We have reformed the oil and gas royalties. We have reformed the mining taxation system. We have reformed the personal income taxes. And I have every confidence that two days from now, my colleague, the Minister of Finance, will bring forth a plan for even more growth and opportunity in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And I would contrast our record with this, Mr. Speaker. What is his plan? He says he has two ideas. One, if he became Premier — which he won't — he would appoint a committee to advise him what . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Minister of Industry and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, they do not want to hear the answer. They want to shout me down, Mr. Speaker, because they do not want the people of the province to know that the Leader of the Opposition has no plan and no credibility, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — On behalf of the government, I'll be tabling responses to written questions 673 to 703.

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 673 to 703 have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**SECOND READINGS****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 rise today to move second reading of The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006. Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments will improve the business names registration system in a manner that will benefit the public and business and agricultural communities in Saskatchewan. The amendments will expand the scope of the Act to include Indian bands and limited partnerships as entities that can register business names under the Act.

In addition the amendments will enable Saskatchewan agricultural producers to protect the goodwill associated with a business name. The amendments will also assist professionals who wish to obtain exclusive use of a business name that does not contain the name of a professional.

Mr. Speaker, The Business Names Registration Act serves two primary objectives. One is to enable the public to know who it is that they are dealing with when they conduct business. The other is to enable businesses to maintain exclusive use of a business name through registration under the Act.

The provisions of the Act are currently not broad enough to accommodate all those who reasonably wish to register a business name. This has created frustration for entities such as limited partnerships and Indian bands who wish to register business names under the Act. The amendments include a new definition of the term person which will expand the scope of the Act to accommodate registration by Indian bands and limited partnerships.

The amendment's parallel provisions contained in The Partnership Act, 2006 currently before the legislature then enable Indian bands and limited partnerships to become partners within the meaning of that Act. As a result of these amendments, Indian bands and limited partnerships will be able to register a business name under the Act and protect the goodwill associated with that name.

Mr. Speaker, in a further change made by this Bill, two categories of exemptions are impacted. The first is the exemption for entities whose sole business is the primary

production of agricultural products. This exemption was enacted in 1987 with a view to saving agricultural producers the cost of registration under the Act. However since that time, there have been developments that would suggest this exemption is no longer appropriate. Mr. Speaker, it should be remembered that there is no prohibition against such registration, just an exemption from mandatory registration.

Accordingly agricultural producers who do register a business name under the Act have found that they are powerless to prevent others from using identical or similar names, thereby causing confusion and potential business losses.

The amendments will repeal the exemption for agricultural producers, allowing them to protect the exclusive use of their business name. This will put agricultural businesses on an equal footing with other businesses in the province, when modest filing requirements will allow those producers who choose to operate under a business name to protect the exclusive use of that name in the same manner as other businesses in the province.

[14:30]

Mr. Speaker, it should also be noted that there is nothing in this legislation that will require the vast majority of our agricultural producers to register under the Act. However where a producer decides to use a business name, the Act will now enable the producer to protect the goodwill associated with the business name.

The other exemption that has created difficulties in the recent past is the exemption of professionals. The vast majority of professionals in the province practise their professions under their own family or surnames or the names of others who are or were associated with the practice. Most of these professionals have not registered under the Act. However problems have arisen where professionals use generic or geographical names under which to carry on business. The exemption has meant that professionals who do register such business names have not been able to safeguard exclusive use of the name. As a result, it has been possible for others to create confusion in the marketplace and potential loss of business through the use of identical or similar names.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments will leave the exemption in place for professionals who practise under their own surname or the surnames of others who are or have been associated with the firm. No problems have arisen with respect to such businesses, and the public's interest in knowing who they are dealing with will not be compromised by continuing the partial exemption, as it will only apply where the right to practise a profession is regulated by Saskatchewan legislation.

Anyone with concerns regarding a professional business can contact the professional association for information regarding the identity and standing of the professionals involved in the business.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments also contain some provisions of housekeeping nature. The registration of business names will not expire until the end of the month in which the third anniversary of the registration occurs. Applications made

by individuals who are not residents in the province will be required of a power of attorney in Saskatchewan. In addition there are new notice and service provisions regarding the cancellation of registrations under the Act.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments respond to concerns expressed to us by the agricultural and business communities in Saskatchewan. I believe they respond to these concerns in the manner that will allow Saskatchewan businesses to protect the goodwill associated with the exclusive use of their business names. In addition they will protect the public interest in knowing who it is that they are dealing with when conducting business in the province.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 47, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? The Chair recognizes the member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to speak to Bill No. 47, An Act to amend The Business Names Registration Act. Mr. Speaker, as I understand the Bill introduces a number of amendments on how business names are registered and makes changes to the definition of a business name.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister pointed out, some of the major points are changes affecting Indian bands and limited partnerships. And, Mr. Speaker, it amends the definition of a business name to include Indian bands as a sole proprietor. Currently Indian bands do not fit within the category of entities which are entitled to register a business name. Also, Mr. Speaker, subsequent clauses of the Act are amended to reflect this change and also define the term persons to included limited partnerships.

Also, Mr. Speaker, changes to the business name registration which states new subsections in the Act will mean that professions regulated by a governing body under an Act of the legislature will only be able to carry on a business name which incorporates the family name of a professional who is or once was associated with business.

Also, new amendments, Mr. Speaker, also means that the agriculture producers will be allowed the same rights as other business to protect the exclusive use of their business name. Currently agriculture producers are exempt for this protection.

Mr. Speaker, it also speaks to . . . business name registrations will now expire at the end of a month after three years rather than on the three-year anniversary from the date of registration. Cancellation of business registrations also are included in a new section of the Act, outlines when a registration may be cancelled by the register. It also specifies mailing requirements for notices to be sent to registrants.

And also, Mr. Speaker, offences and penalties, the provision requiring consent or a direction of the Minister of Justice prior

to instituting enforcement proceedings is repealed, and this brings the Act into the line with other legislation in the province.

Mr. Speaker, it brings up a number of areas of how these changes affect in particular Indian bands and agriculture producers. There's a number of areas around that concern Indian bands as far as taking out mortgages, doing commercial ventures, putting land or property up for collateral. And we're going to have to look into this and speak to all the stakeholders concerned to see if this Bill has any effect on that, or hopefully a positive effect on that to allow business ventures, and really a smoother transaction or a smoother way of working with financial institutions so that Indian bands and individual First Nations people are able to take out loans for items as far as buying, purchasing personal homes or vehicles or also going into business themselves and able to put up pieces of property as collateral in order to get a loan from a banking institution.

Also the other, the point that this Act may also include is concerning agriculture producers in areas around the homestead rights, and also, as with First Nations people, the ability to put pieces of property up — land and chattels up — for collateral in order to obtain loans to help with their ongoing business and to help out far as operating loans and mortgages and those types of things, Mr. Speaker.

So we'll certainly be looking at this Bill with interest. We'll be speaking to the stakeholders, Mr. Speaker. And at this time, I'd like to move to adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Biggar that debate on second reading of Bill No. 47 be now adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate the work of the policy field committees on Human Services, as well as on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure, I move that 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: — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:37.]

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