



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

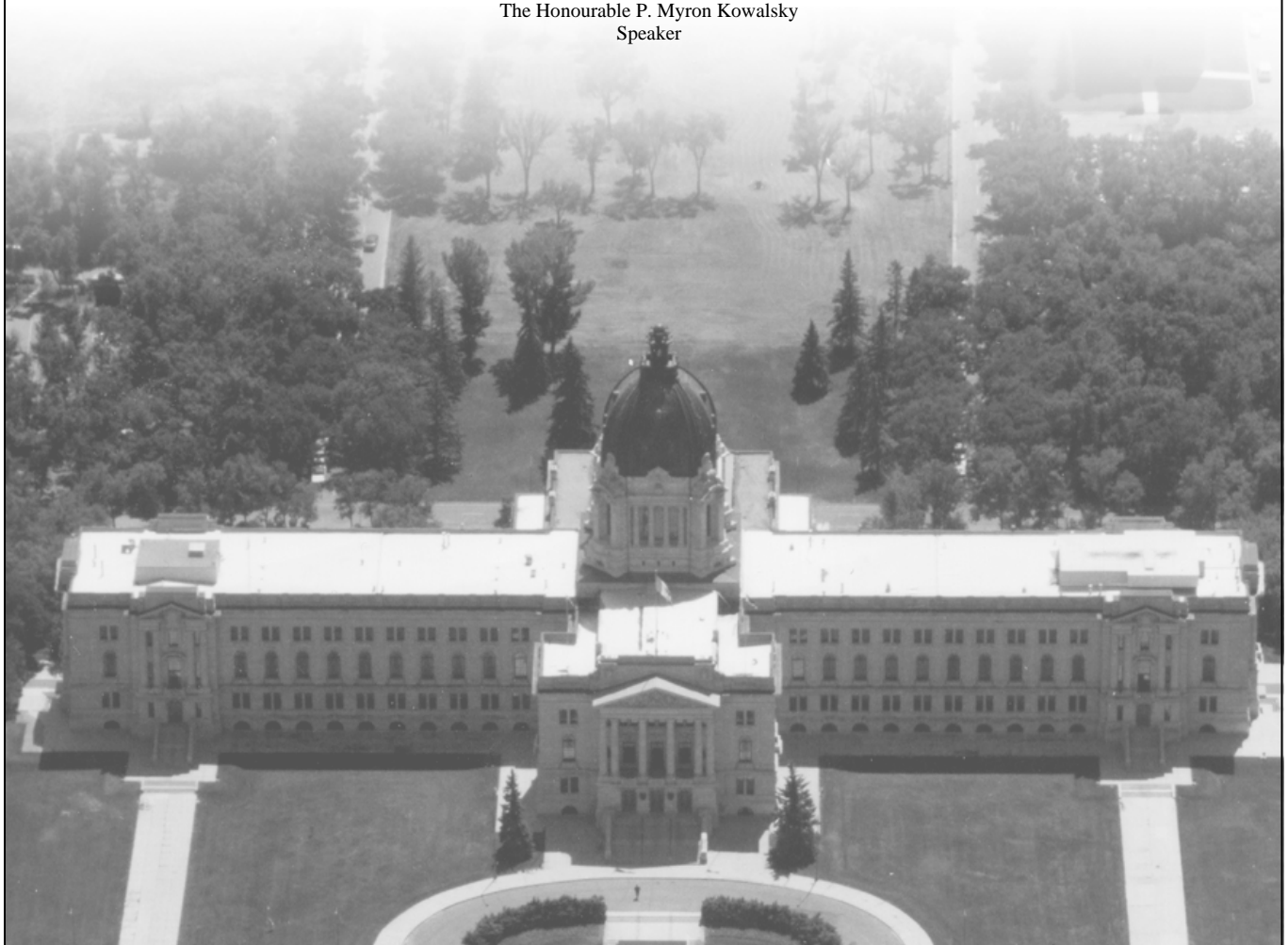
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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 |
| Bjornerud, Bob | SP | Melville-Saltcoats |
| Borgerson, Lon | NDP | Saskatchewan Rivers |
| Brkich, Greg | SP | Arm River-Watrous |
| Calvert, Hon. Lorne | NDP | Saskatoon Riversdale |
| Cheveldayoff, Ken | SP | Saskatoon Silver Springs |
| Chisholm, Michael | SP | Cut Knife-Turtleford |
| Cline, Hon. Eric | NDP | Saskatoon Massey Place |
| Crofford, 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 |
| Gantefoer, 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, it's my privilege again today to present a petition to this Assembly in regards to a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. And I 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in next year's budget to build a provincial children's care hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition I present today is signed by a number of individuals from the community of Saskatoon and Warman. I so present.

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to present a petition on behalf of individuals from the communities of Warman and Saskatoon respecting their concerns about the availability of a provincial children's hospital. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in next year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a petition to present regarding the children's hospital in Saskatoon. 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 actions to implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by people in the Saskatoon area. I so present.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition to present today in support of a children's hospital in Saskatoon. The prayer reads:

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

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from the good people of Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the petition I present today is as follows:

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

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

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

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased today to rise with my colleagues to discuss the lack of a children's hospital in our province:

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

The people that have signed this petition are from Hepburn and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition requesting allocation of funding for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. This is signed by residents of Saskatchewan who believe the children in this province deserve the finest 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Speaker, all of the signatures on this petition come from the fine city of Saskatoon, and I am pleased to present it on their behalf.

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

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition supporting a provincial children's hospital. The prayer reads:

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

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

And all the signatures on this petition come from 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'm pleased to present a petition on behalf of the signators from the city of Saskatoon. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 this province who are very concerned that we do not have a children's hospital in Saskatchewan. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, I believe most of if not all signatures to this petition come from the city of Regina. I so present.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to join my colleagues in reading a petition of citizens who would like to see a children's hospital in our province. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Saskatoon, Warman, and Borden. I so present.

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

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with my colleagues on behalf of citizens concerned about the lack of a children's hospital in 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, signatures on this petition today come from the community of Cudworth and Saskatoon, and I am pleased to present on their behalf.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure again to rise today to present a petition from citizens that would like a children's hospital in Saskatoon. The prayer reads:

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

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

Signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today on behalf of concerned citizens across Saskatchewan who are disappointed that Saskatchewan and PEI [Prince Edward Island] are the only provincial jurisdictions that do not

have a dedicated children's hospital. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

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

The petitioners today live in Silverspring, Forest Grove, and Erindale in northeast Saskatoon. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition from citizens that would like to see some action from this NDP government on a lot of their hospital announcements but there's been no action — and this specifically on the children's hospital. And, Mr. Speaker, the petition reads as follows:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by 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 today to bring forward the petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

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

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise to read a petition on the request for a children's hospital. 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 implement an allocation of financial resources before the next election to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

And is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is signed by the good people of Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also join my colleagues in presenting a petition on a children's hospital in Saskatoon:

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 provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This particular petition is signed by the good citizens from Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to rise in the House today to present a petition regarding allocation of funding for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. And 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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by troubled and concerned voters in Saskatoon Meewasin. I so present.

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

Mr. Kerpan: — Mr. Speaker, I too rise today on behalf of citizens of the province who believe that children deserve the finest health care at that end of it, Mr. Speaker.

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 implement an allocation of financial resources in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order an addition to a previously tabled petition has been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) is hereby read and received as addendum to sessional paper no. 644.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice of a motion for a return. I give notice that I shall on day no. 52 move:

That an order of the Assembly do issue for a return showing the consultant's phase 1 report on the review of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

I also give notice that I shall on day no. 52 move:

That an order of the Assembly do issue for a return showing copies of all stakeholders' submissions for the review of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 52 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: how many stakeholders submitted reports for the review of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency?

As well as, I give notice on day no. 52 I shall ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: will the phase 1 report of the review of the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency be tabled in this legislature? And if so, when can the Assembly expect this report to be tabled?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my great privilege to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly, 51 students present here today from Henry Janzen School in the awesome constituency of Regina Walsh Acres. They are here today with two teachers, and perhaps the teachers can wave or stand as I call their name. There's Shelley Desrosiers — hi Shelley — and Jean Juno. Thank you, Jean.

[13:45]

There are some other adults in the group that I assume that are not in the grade 4 and 5 class of Henry Janzen School, so I will assume that these are the chaperones accompanying the students today. And I wish to thank the teachers and the chaperones for taking the time out of their busy schedules to do so and hope the students will enjoy their day here at the legislature and being in the Assembly.

So I would ask all my colleagues to welcome them to the Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Snowbirds Acceptance Show

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the distinct pleasure of attending the formal acceptance show for the 2006 Snowbirds along with the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow. This show was performed for the approval of Lieutenant-General Lucas who is the chief of the air staff in Ottawa and air traffic regulators from Canada and the United States.

431 air demonstration squadron, which is better known as the Snowbirds, represent a tradition of excellence as ambassadors demonstrating the skill, professionalism, and teamwork of the men and women of the Canadian Forces. While not a combat unit, the Snowbirds exhibit the skills and courage Canada's combat forces count on to contribute to world peace and security.

The Snowbirds are a Canadian national institution. Flying Tutor jet aircraft adorned with the colours of the Canadian flag, the team represents the vibrant spirit of this nation, thrilling audiences across the continent with precision formation flying and crisp solo aerobatics. Now in their 36th season, the Snowbirds have flown in over 2,000 shows for over 117 million spectators. The 2006 team will perform 64 shows at 41 locations across North America.

I'd like to congratulate Major Ian McLean, the team leader and commanding officer of the Snowbirds, and his 2006 teammates for an excellent acceptance show demonstration yesterday. I would ask all members to join me in congratulating the Snowbirds and wish them a very successful 2006 season.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Administrative Professionals' Day

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important day to the hard-working office professionals around the world. Today is Administrative Professionals' Day. Today we recognize the administrative workers whose invaluable services assist businesses and governments across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, there are more than 475 administrative professionals employed in Canada. In the United States there are more than 4.1 million secretaries and administrative assistants and some 8.9 million people working in various administrative support roles. Millions more administrative professionals work in offices all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, today is also part of Administrative Professionals' Week which has become one of the world's largest workplace observances. The event is celebrated globally, bringing together millions of people for community events, educational seminars, and individual workplace activities.

In appreciation of office professionals, Mr. Speaker, it is common to provide training, lunches, or gifts of appreciation, as I'm sure that all members have done for their support staffs.

At this time I would like to offer my appreciation to my constituency assistant, Sharon Lindgren, as well as the staff of the NDP [New Democratic Party] caucus offices. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite the Assembly to join me in recognizing administrative professionals on the Administrative Professionals' Day.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the members opposite to recognize Administrative Professionals' Day. It is a day to recognize the terrific work of all of our administrative professionals.

Behind every well-functioning office there is a dedicated staff of administrative professionals that file papers, conduct research, produce reports, and get us to our appointments. But they do much more than that. They are often the glue that holds our offices together. Without them our offices cannot function.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes they are underappreciated, but their work is invaluable. They are the first person that you see when you walk in an office, and they are always there with a smile, professional attitude, and great work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I want to thank and commend our two very capable professionals in our caucus office for their tireless work and dedication: Sylvie Toffan and Amanda Duncan. Amanda Duncan also serves the dual role of being a candidate's spouse in the extremely successful campaign that is going on in the Weyburn constituency.

I would also like to thank my own constituency assistant, Rita Flaman Jarrett, and my other staff member, Janice Metcalf, for their extremely hard work and the challenges that they face on a daily basis, putting up with me which is no easy task, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to ask all members to join in recognizing administrative professionals and those specific individuals. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Educating Students and Parents About Anti-Bullying

Hon. Ms. Beatty: — Mr. Speaker, for La Ronge schools, this is Anti-Bullying Week. The schools in the community are working together to educate students and parents about

anti-bullying.

Kevin Crosby, principal of Gordon Denny Community School, spearheaded the plan and collaboration of the Northern Lights School Division and Lac La Ronge Indian Band schools in the week of high-profile, anti-bullying workshops and help centres.

Mr. Speaker, five schools — including Pre-Cam Community School, Churchill Composite High School, Senator Myles Venne School, and Bell's Point Elementary School, from kindergarten to 12 — are participating. Students prepared posters and banners for a march that took place on Monday as a part of the campaign. The march saw students walk through the communities of La Ronge, Air Ronge, and Nemeiben River.

Mr. Speaker, bullying is a concern for both students and parents. Anti-Bullying Week is an effort to show the scope of the problem and to educate communities about causes and possible solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I will like to invite all members to join with me in congratulating the community of La Ronge and the five schools involved in their efforts with anti-bullying. Thank you very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Wishing Baby Paige and Family Well

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, after a month-long, painful ordeal, baby Paige is now back in Saskatchewan, and her treatment will start today. Baby Paige's doctors in Edmonton are very optimistic that her type of leukemia is treatable. Everyone in this Assembly and I'm sure all of the people of Saskatchewan that have gotten to know baby Paige wish her well.

I know from my past medical background that for serious progressive diseases, every day is critical and even more so for small children. I believe the fact that baby Paige's treatment was delayed for three weeks emphasizes the dire need for a children's hospital in Saskatchewan. A children's hospital in Saskatoon would be a resource for all of our children. It would be the magnet for research, and it would help our province to retain the specialists that we so desperately need.

It is my understanding that in addition to having to pay for travel and accommodation and expenses, it has been recommended that baby Paige's parents, Mike and Michelle, both take up to a two-month leave of absence from their work to be with Paige throughout the course of her treatment. If anyone wishes to help the family out in this regard, the Children's Health & Hospital Foundation has graciously offered to collect and pass on donations to the family. Anyone who's interested should visit the foundation's website at www.chhf.sk.ca or call 931-4887. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

A Vision for First Nations Youth

Mr. McCall: — Mr. Speaker, Tony Cote is the remarkable past chief of the Cote First Nation and a former vice-chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

More than 30 years ago, Tony Cote had a vision for the youth of his community — to establish a sporting event available to every First Nations youth in the province. In an effort to provide positive, healthy alternatives to the First Nations young people, Tony founded the Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games in 1974.

Mr. Cote wished to see First Nations people represented strongly in national sporting events and at the Olympic Games. To do so, Mr. Speaker, he encouraged training and competition in the summer games which were eventually expanded to include winter events.

Mr. Speaker, the first summer competition saw 500 athletes compete without the aid of experienced coaches or adequate facilities. As a measure of how much progress has been made, the recent First Nations Winter Games saw the participation of over 3,200 athletes — remarkable, Mr. Speaker.

Tony Cote has instilled pride in First Nations youth across this province, and he has provided them with a platform on which to celebrate their athletic achievements and on which to shine. Mr. Cote has attended almost every event of the summer and winter games since they first began, and as a measure of the man's character he prefers to avoid being praised for his work.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all members to join with me in congratulating Tony Cote on his successful involvement with Saskatchewan First Nations winter and summer games. May his vision continue in its success for long into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Budget Advertising Expenses

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of many hard-working taxpayers who are upset with the way this government is spending their money. These same taxpayers are now seeing the TV ads and numerous commercial spots and posters promoting the Finance minister and his new budget. These ads are now costing taxpayers over half a million dollars. This amount is almost 10 times what this government spent promoting last year's budget.

Taxpayers are outraged that this money could have been better spent to more urgent issues, issues such as the deteriorating health care system where in my constituency alone, communities like Watrous are still waiting on an urgently needed new hospital building and communities like Davidson who have a long-term care waiting list who urgently need

repairs to re-open an entire wing for long-term care.

And what about our farmers? This new budget has nothing in it for farmers. Worse, the Finance minister cut 166 million from the Agriculture budget. At the very least couldn't half a million dollars that's being spent promoting this government's Finance minister's commercials could have been better spent topping up the CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] program or giving farmers a break in crop insurance costs?

So I'm asking all the taxpayers of this province to keep calling about their anger over this outrageous advertising expense.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Health Care Review Commissioned by Minister

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Minister of Health announced that his deputy minister and the province's chief medical officer will be conducting an investigation into the dreadful circumstances surrounding baby Paige's inability to get timely care in Saskatchewan. As we all know, the family fled to the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton after being told their screaming child would have to wait another three weeks for tests to determine exactly what was wrong with her. Within 24 hours of being admitted into the hospital in Edmonton the family had a preliminary diagnosis of leukemia.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister outline for this Assembly what the goals of his review are?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite has outlined the description of the request that I made quite accurately in that I did ask my deputy minister to do a review of the circumstances. Also as the member knows the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority is also conducting their own review in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, the terms are very wide-ranging and general so to not exclude any of the circumstances that may have surrounded this case. Mr. Speaker, the ultimate goal of the review, both in Saskatoon and by the deputy minister for myself, is to ensure that proper care is delivered to the people of Saskatchewan who expect it and who deserve it.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, since Monday I've expressed concern about the fact that this will be an internal review. We believe the situation is serious enough and broad ranged enough to warrant an outside set of eyes but the minister disagrees. If the minister won't agree to an external review can he at least table for this Assembly the terms of reference for the

investigation that he has ordered?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the member will know, as all members of the House likely will remember, yesterday in this Chamber I indicated that the individual who is a considerable part of the review that I've asked from my deputy minister is the chief medical officer for the Five Hills Regional Health Authority. He brings to the table considerable expertise and is greatly respected. I had indicated to the Chamber that I expect a report from him and my deputy minister before the end of the week. And, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to allow them to do the work that they need to do and report to me as soon as they possibly can.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Public Awareness of Health Care Options

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the opposition believes that in addition to finding out what went wrong in the case of baby Paige, there also needs a commitment to improve the system so that a tragic incident like this never happens again.

And what has become crystal clear in this particular case is that the people of Saskatchewan are not being made aware of all the options that they have when it comes to accessing health care. Many people were surprised yesterday to learn that in only a few select circumstances does a patient require pre-approval for out-of-province treatment. No matter the result of the review, will the minister commit today to improving the information available to Saskatchewan people as they try to make the most informed decision about their health care?

[14:00]

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite made some comments in this regard yesterday as did the opposition Health critic, the member from Indian Head-Milestone. Mr. Speaker, they indicated that this could be one of Saskatchewan's best kept secrets.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think it should be known that on average in any given year approximately 71,000 people — Saskatchewan residents — receive medical or hospital service in another Canadian province. Mr. Speaker, 71,000 Saskatchewan residents that are provided service by Saskatchewan medical services branch.

And, Mr. Speaker, this year alone, this year alone in this budget which the members opposite opposed, we increased the dollar value available to support those who require services outside our province by \$16 million for a total of \$85 million in out-of-province services. I ask the members opposite to reconsider their vote on the budget and support that which they are now asking for.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party has advocated a seamless referral system to improve Saskatchewan people's access to timely health care.

We believe there must be a standardized protocol for all professionals in the health care system who help people make decisions about their treatment. Mr. Speaker, if timely treatment isn't available in one health region then the availability of that treatment other . . . then the availability of that treatment in other health regions in the province needs to be explained. If timely treatment isn't available in this province then the health system must look at what's available in other provinces. Finally if a person can't get the care they need in this country, we need to look at that option such as the Mayo Clinic. Will the minister commit today to examining and implementing a seamless referral system such as this?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite will already know that the province of Saskatchewan and this government has made considerable commitments to electronic health records and maintaining a relationship between individuals and the care that they get inside this province, outside this province, and outside the country.

The member from Cannington is spouting off at the moment, Mr. Speaker. The member from Cannington will probably remember that earlier in the month, sitting next to the member who is the Health critic for the Saskatchewan Party, the member from Cannington said very clearly when we were applying additional money, \$2 million, Mr. Speaker, to the software circumstances that would assist in reducing waiting lists, the member opposite said, it's a waste of money, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite should get their story straight.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, if a patient has an abnormally long wait time they should be able to discuss this with their physicians. In order to make a well-informed decision about their own health care and to take responsibility for their well-being, patients need to know all of their options, and that includes knowing what options are available in another health district or in another province if they're facing abnormally long wait lists.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit today to launching a public awareness campaign so that people can make informed decisions about their treatment?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is interesting that on one hand they asked us not to spend money on advertising and on the other hand they asked us to spend more.

Mr. Speaker, we have a very strong commitment to reducing waiting lists both for diagnostics and for surgical care in this province. Mr. Speaker, we have a waiting list and surgical registry that other provinces envy and are looking to emulate in Saskatchewan. And, Mr. Speaker, when we sit down with the federal government and the other provincial ministers of Health, we'll be talking about waiting lists and additional federal support to ensure that Saskatchewan continue to do the good work that we're already providing to the citizens of Saskatchewan and leading the nation.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, it's not a surprise that communication within the Health department is so confused when we have a minister that doesn't know the difference between advertising and providing information. When asked by reporters about this policy yesterday the minister said, and I quote:

I simply assumed the Quality of Care Coordinators understand the policy and when it is appropriate to do so, they will advise patients of what their options are.

But, Mr. Speaker, we've seen a number of cases where this has not happened. We believe that assuming people know about out-of-province treatment policy is not good enough.

Yesterday I asked the Minister of Health to review the work of the quality care coordinators to find out what can be done to improve the services they provide. The minister refused, but he's now had a whole day to think about it. Will he commit to such a review today as it is in the best interests of all Saskatchewan people who may find themselves in need of health care, and they need all of the information?

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 might do well to do a little bit of reading, even the Regina media. I quoted from a Regina *Leader-Post* editorial yesterday. And, Mr. Speaker, there's another *Leader-Post* editorial today, Mr. Speaker, that talks about not blaming anyone, not finger pointing but to ensure that the system works for the benefit of Saskatchewan people.

And, Mr. Speaker, I take that commitment very, very seriously. Mr. Speaker, the work that I do, that my office does, and the department does is ultimately designed to ensure that the health care, the quality of the system, is the best for the people of Saskatchewan.

And, Mr. Speaker, as was indicated the other day, I think it should be stated for the record as far as waiting lists are concerned, Mr. Speaker, we can proudly say 93 per cent of all surgeries done in Saskatchewan are done within 12 months, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Resources for Rural Schools

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to tell you about a column that was written in one of my weekly newspapers, the Moosomin *World-Spectator*. It's a column, Mr. Speaker, written by one Kevin Weedmark, and it's an open letter to the Premier. And I'd like to quote:

Dear Premier Calvert:

I just wanted to drop you a note to let you know how things are going in rural Saskatchewan. I sometimes wonder if you know much about what's going on out here.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Weedmark goes on to talk about the South East Cornerstone School Division and how every school in the area is losing teachers. He goes on to ask the Premier to come and visit our neck of the woods to see first-hand what is happening to rural Saskatchewan and the education system.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is this: will the Premier take Mr. Weedmark up on his invitation and go and tell him about his plan for cutting teachers?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, there is a reason that school boards are elected locally so they understand their division, they understand the communities that they represent. And that's why they have the responsibility and the autonomy to make decisions that affect that division.

Mr. Speaker, it's really a little bit early to see what the staffing levels and how that will adjust with the new budgeting. But, Mr. Speaker, these are difficult decisions made by the school boards.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, another question to the Premier, and I'd like to again quote from Mr. Weedmark's column. And he says:

I would love to take you to McNaughton High School. You can help the teachers understand why when they have a high student-to-teacher ratio already, they have to lose

some teaching positions. Then we could go to Maryfield School and help figure out how to cut almost two full positions from a skeleton staff.

Mr. Speaker, again my question to the Premier is this: when does he plan to go to Moosomin and meet with Mr. Weedmark? When will he go out to rural Saskatchewan and explain how he is going to cut teachers from an already understaffed school?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Mr. Speaker, again I will say to those opposite that there is a very strong reason that local boards have the autonomy and the responsibility for what happens within their division. Mr. Speaker, they represent the communities that elect them and put them on those boards. They know the communities, they know what's needed within their communities, they know what their student needs are in their areas. And, Mr. Speaker, they will make difficult decisions to address that.

It's interesting, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite always like to refer that it's our decisions, it's the decisions that we're making. Would they prefer to see all decisions made in Regina? Mr. Speaker, we would not. We believe that these decisions have to be made locally within the divisions and by the boards.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well it's quite obvious, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier's more interested in sitting in his place than offering anything to the people of rural Saskatchewan. We have here, Mr. Speaker, an open invitation for the Premier to leave the marble palace and see first-hand what the NDP policies are doing to rural Saskatchewan. And again I quote from Mr. Weedmark's letter.

I would love to take you to the Wapella oilfield (where you've probably never been) and the Rocanville potash mine (where I know you have been before) so you can see where the royalties come from to pay your salary.

And, Mr. Speaker, I could read more. But I'd like to hear from the Premier. Again, Mr. Speaker, when does the Premier plan on going with Mr. Weedmark to see these important sites and to learn about how the royalties they pay, pay for his salary?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite kind of leaves open a lot of options when he asks his kind of global question. You know when he's referring to areas in the province that are rich in resources, does he think that those resources belong solely to that area? They don't, Mr. Speaker.

They belong to the province and they belong to all people in the province of Saskatchewan. It's one of the reasons why there was the restructuring to address the zero-grant boards for better regional pooling, for better distribution of resources, so that the education system was equitable and provided equal opportunity for students right across the province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question is actually quite simple. The people in southeast Saskatchewan and Mr. Weedmark would like to see some of those resources used to actually cover the expenses of . . . and schools and pay for teaching positions that they're losing.

Mr. Speaker, this is an open invitation to the Premier from someone in rural Saskatchewan asking the Premier to come and explain himself. And I'd like to read one more quote from this invitation. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Weedmark says, and I quote:

This is a serious . . . [situation]. I would love to see you out here. If I do, I'll assume your government has some interest in rural Saskatchewan. If I don't I'll come to the same conclusion as everyone else in rural Saskatchewan, that you have written us off.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier. Mr. Premier, have you written off rural Saskatchewan? If you have, are you ready to go and explain this to Mr. Weedmark?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The member is an experienced member and I would just like to remind him that he should stick with the protocol to direct all of his remarks through the Chair.

The Minister of Learning.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member relaying Mr. Weedmark's remarks. But I must say to the member opposite, we don't need an invitation from the member opposite to visit rural Saskatchewan. We do so on a regular basis individually. We also do throughout the summer on the school bus.

And, Mr. Speaker, I know that my schedule is dedicated from . . . in June and in September to be out in the schools in the province of Saskatchewan and visiting students where they do their learning and where they have so much provided to them by the school divisions across Saskatchewan — to see how it works, where they are in their communities. Mr. Speaker, that's something that I look forward to and my schedule is already committed to.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Deputy Premier's Comments About Radio Show

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, it's sure good to see that the NDP has their priorities straight. Instead of fixing up their messed-up health care system, they run around attacking talk show hosts.

Yesterday the NDP Deputy Premier accused John Gormley of inciting civil disobedience. And how exactly did he do that? By playing a clip of the Premier from question period. By playing the Premier's own words, according to the NDP, that's civil disobedience.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP is totally incapable of fixing the health care system so instead they decided to just censor the media.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: when is he going to stop shooting the messenger and start fixing the health care system?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Chair, I wanted to say to the members opposite that when in fact we have an occasion as we had yesterday or the last couple of days where we believe that there has been some information that's been provided by the media, Mr. Speaker, that we think that it should be examined, Mr. Speaker. And so we've simply asked that the individual who practises under a code of ethics, under a standard — and, Mr. Speaker, that the radio station, Mr. Speaker, is also a member of that particular code of ethics — we're just simply asking, Mr. Speaker, that that be examined.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that that's not an unusual practice for those of us who serve as professionals in various different disciplines. We expect that we would honour the code of ethics, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to those practices. And so that's exactly the question that we're . . .

The Speaker: — Member's time has elapsed. The member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, by any fair assessment the NDP health care system failed baby Paige. And what was this NDP's reaction? Attack the media for having the gall to criticize the Premier.

And, Mr. Speaker, this is a typical NDP bully tactic straight from the Deputy Premier. He went after Chief Bird for attending the Saskatchewan Party convention. And he told people from Weyburn-Big Muddy they had better vote for the NDP if they expect to get anything from this government. And now he's attacking John Gormley for criticizing the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, does the Premier support the NDP bully tactics, or is he going to rein in his Deputy Premier, or does he support this NDP bully tactic?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the member opposite and I listened very carefully to the radio talk show on my way home a couple of nights ago. And I want to just ask the members opposite because . . . and provide this information. When the Department of Health said, we'd like to be on the radio talk show so we can provide information, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the reciprocal agreements, Mr. Speaker, the radio host show said, I don't think that it's my prerogative to do this because I just don't believe this should happen. But then he said, I guess I'll be forced to do this.

For two days, Mr. Speaker, and to the member opposite, the radio host show provided information to the people of Saskatchewan that was inaccurate about reciprocal agreements — inaccurate. Inaccurate. And you're standing up in your place today and supporting the fact that information was inaccurate, Mr. Speaker. And I say to the member opposite, I say to the member opposite . . .

The Speaker: — Member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — And I wish to . . . Order. Order please. I wish to remind the Deputy Premier as well that he should direct all of his remarks to the Chair. The member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier said, and I quote:

I have never seen . . . a piece of work that has created so much anxiety for people as what I've seen the last two days being reported by Mr. Gormley . . .

He's never seen so much anxiety, Mr. Speaker. Well how about the anxiety of baby Paige's parents as they listened to their child scream day after day in agony?. And how about the anxiety of a health care system that was telling them they had to wait for three weeks, and was not telling them they could go to Edmonton and get the help they needed immediately? Mr. Speaker, I think that's a whole lot more anxiety than the talk show host criticizing the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, if the NDP's failing health care system creates anxiety right across this province, instead of trying to censor the media will this Premier call off his enforcers and focus on the real problem of health care in this province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I view it as our responsibility to provide information to Saskatchewan people in an active fashion, Mr. Speaker, on a regular basis. And I want to say that I can't believe, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite are standing up today and supporting the information that was coming from a radio host show which I expect, Mr. Speaker, that they're supporting. And when you have a radio host show, Mr. Speaker, who says this:

I will restructure [the] unions, I will kick ass, I will pay some nurses a whole bunch more than they are making [today and] I will bring in certain treatment protocols . . . done in Europe [right down to here, Mr. Speaker and I will make doctors happier and the health care system will work better, Mr. Speaker].

And then he goes on to say this. He said:

. . . but I have been around hospitals where we see nurses kinda waddlin' around, and they don't look like they . . . [don't] really doin' anything for anybody. You kinda wanna say, hey, sharpen up.

And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that as long as I'm the representative on the government side in this House, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be standing up for people of Saskatchewan and making sure that they get the appropriate right . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, if our Deputy Premier wants to stand in the House and stand up for people, well why didn't he stand up for the baby? And why didn't he stand up for the health care system?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier is accusing John Gormley . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. The member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier is accusing John Gormley of creating anxiety and fear. Well look where that's coming from. The NDP wrote the book on fear tactics. The only difference is most of the NDP fear tactics are totally made up. The fear that baby Paige's parents felt was real, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP government is so mixed up it can't fix the health care system. It can't fix the population loss. It can't fix agriculture. And all they do is lash out at anybody who criticizes their Premier. They criticize . . . They lashed out at Chief . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. Order. Order please. Order please. Order please. I invite the member for Kelvington-Wadena to complete her question.

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister first of all bullied Chief Bird and John Gormley. And I'm asking the Premier if he actually agrees with these bully tactics. Does he support bullying anybody who dares to criticize his government?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to, I want to say this, Mr. Speaker. My sense, Mr. Speaker, is that we are very concerned exactly about what happened to the story around baby Paige, very concerned about that piece, Mr. Speaker.

And when you have, Mr. Speaker, a radio host show today, Mr. Speaker, that goes on for two days that says to the people of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, that says to the people of Saskatchewan that there is no reciprocal agreement to look after the child, Mr. Speaker, that there is no reciprocal agreement, where that kind of language entices people to say, had they come to the legislature, Mr. Speaker, that they today would be in jail, Mr. Speaker — that kind of behaviour, Mr. Speaker, is intolerable from any professional. Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible] . . . behaviour, in my view, ethical behaviour is not acceptable in any profession, Mr. Speaker.

And so we're asking the owners of the radio station, Mr. Speaker, to tell us whether or not they in fact support this kind of ethical conduct, Mr. Speaker. Because at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, this is about ensuring that this . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order please. Order please. Order. Order. Order. On a point of order . . . Order. I would request order of members of the Assembly.

On a point of order, I wish to advise the Deputy Premier that during his remarks he did use a phrase indirectly that he ought not to have used if it was . . . I consider it to be unparliamentary. And I advise the Deputy Premier to refrain from doing indirectly what you cannot do incorrectly. And I believe he understands the remark I'm referring to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Speaker: — Order. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Healthy Living Services.

Enhancements to Child and Youth Mental Health Services

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the privilege of visiting child and youth services here in Regina to announce the details of enhancements to child and youth mental health services in the province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Addley: — I appreciate the opportunity to visit organizations where vital front-line work happens and to meet people who dedicate their energy to our province's most vulnerable children. Every child in our province, Mr. Speaker, deserves the opportunity to grow, to develop, to unlock their potential, to explore their dreams, and to have hope for the future.

When the former children's advocate raised several concerns in her 2004 report entitled, *It's Time for a Plan for Children's Mental Health*, we knew we needed to make some changes to our services, Mr. Speaker. We consulted with a vast number of stakeholders to better understand what worked and what changes needed to be made.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, we committed an additional \$1 million in this year's budget to better support children and youth with mental health issues, and we'll double that support to \$2 million annually. These new initiatives will expand early identification and intervention, treatment, outreach, residential, and respite services.

For example, Mr. Speaker, five mental health specialists will be hired in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert to provide expert consultations to service providers in rural, remote, and urban areas. Also 11, new, parent therapist residential spaces will be added to the major urban centres for children and youth with primary mental health disorders who cannot live at home. We also add, three mental health professionals will join the new early psychosis intervention program in Regina to serve youth at the first onset of psychosis.

The number of clients waiting for intervention services at the Autism Resource Centre in Regina will be reduced, and mental health outreach and respite services will be provided to an additional 440 children and youth across the province.

Mr. Speaker, this announcement will help address the needs, gaps, and barriers in mental health services for children, youth, and families in Saskatchewan. It also is a part of a much larger children's health agenda that will better support all of our children in Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the statement or the note sent forward by the minister prior to coming into the Assembly today regarding the child and youth mental health services and the announcement that he made today.

I do want to respond and in particular talk about how overdue, how long overdue this is and some of these positions are. We have been hearing on a regular basis for a past number of years some of the deficiencies in the . . . especially youth mental health services in this province.

There are huge gaps in the mental health services, and we certainly hope that this will start to bridge those gaps or cover in those gaps because we know there are issues out there.

I was interested to see the minister talk about the positions that they are going to be filling: five mental health specialists; 11, new, patient therapists residential spaces, and three mental health professionals. Mr. Speaker, we know, again on a daily basis, that we are lacking health care professionals in this province, whether it's oncologists, whether it's nurses, and in this field.

[14:30]

I remember a number of months ago just prior to the fall session the government announcing a new ward opening up. They're opening up a number of beds in one of the hospitals. But they made the announcement not knowing whether they could fill the nursing positions that were needed to cover off those beds. And what has happened since that time is that people have moved from other wards to fill the new beds that the government has announced. Now they're leaving other wards, where these nurses have come from, short.

So I would applaud the fact that they're going to open up some new positions. But once again, I am questioning the government if they have done the homework to know whether they can fill those positions and not rob from Peter to pay Paul because that's what we've seen far too often in the health care system. We certainly know that there is a need, a huge need. And, Mr. Speaker, I would applaud the government for going in this direction, but only applaud the government if they are able to fill the positions like they've announced here today.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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 written questions no. 1,015 to 1,035.

The Speaker: — The Government Whip has tabled responses to questions 1,015 through to 1,035 inclusive.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 64 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006

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

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Let's cut some taxes. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to move second reading of Bill No. 64, An Act to amend The Income Tax Act of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, in the provincial budget I announced this government's plans to carry forward on major reforms to Saskatchewan's business tax system. These business tax cuts will allow Saskatchewan to achieve a competitive tax system for business that will stimulate growth and strengthen the Saskatchewan economy. We believe that these changes will assist in creating more jobs for Saskatchewan young people. Mr. Speaker, these initiatives are set to deliver meaningful tax relief to Saskatchewan businesses that will rival neighbouring jurisdictions and attract investment from beyond our borders.

Mr. Speaker, this government has announced that it will reduce the general corporate income tax rate from 17 per cent to 12 per cent over the next three years. The general tax rate will decrease as of July 1 of this year to 14 per cent, drop to 13 per cent on

July 1 of next year, and finally drop to 12 per cent on July 1 of 2008.

We are also making changes to increase the amount of income eligible for small businesses to qualify for the small-business tax rate. And the ceiling will rise from 300,000 to 500,000 over the next three years.

Mr. Speaker, this budget also improves the tax incentives for manufacturing and processing. The existing non-refundable investment tax credit for manufacturing and processing will be refundable as of budget date as a result of this Act. The carry-forward period for unused unexpired credits earned in respect to previous acquisitions will be extended from 7 years to 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, this Act and the budget also introduce a number of personal income tax credits beginning in 2006 taxation year. Perhaps one of the most important of those is the employee tool tax credit that will take into account the cost of tools required to be purchased by employee tradespersons as a condition of their employment.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Mr. Speaker, as a result of our revamped corporate tax structure, we will now have one of the most competitive and business friendly environments in Canada. Mr. Speaker, these initiatives will boost capital investment, enhance business opportunities, and will ultimately create jobs for Saskatchewan youth. And, Mr. Speaker, they will help make sure Saskatchewan remains the best place in Canada to live, to work, and to raise a family. And as such I move second reading of an Act to amend The Income Tax Act of 2000.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 64, The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

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

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to rise and speak briefly on the Bill to amend The Income Tax, 2000 in second reading.

Mr. Speaker, you have to wonder how much it takes in order for the NDP government to finally catch on. We come over the last decade and more of NDP governance, where we moved from a relatively competitive province to one that's almost dead last in every competitive indicator.

Mr. Speaker, even in the midst of an oil boom, we see an out-migration of jobs and people making sure that our province is almost a laughing stock of Canada under this NDP mismanagement. Mr. Speaker, the official opposition asked the government a long time ago to have Professor Vicq do a program and an evaluation of our competitiveness, and finally at long last they did. And after that report, finally at long last, the government has introduced some measures that indeed are

going to make our province more competitive. And to that end we are certainly grateful that finally they caught on.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that the member from Prince Albert who is responsible for the atrocious loss in SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] actually get the message and understand what's going on, but hopefully the left wing of the party instead of the extreme left wing had the common sense to listen to some good advice in this province.

Mr. Speaker, we know that we have a lot of work to do to make sure that this government takes further steps to improve the competitive environment in this province. We doubt if they're ever going to fully catch on, and that's why nothing less than an election and a change of government is really going to get this province on track.

Mr. Speaker, there is consultation that needs to occur in order for us to discuss the details of these measures to see if indeed they go far enough to achieve the kind of results we want. And in order to facilitate that, at this time I'd move to adjourn debate.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Melfort that debate on second reading of Bill No. 64 be adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion's 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 Crown and Central Agencies as well as the Economy Committee, 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 14:38.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Toth | 1381 |
| Elhard | 1381 |
| McMorris | 1381 |
| D'Autremont | 1381 |
| Krawetz | 1381 |
| Draude | 1381 |
| Hermanson | 1381 |
| Wakefield | 1382 |
| Chisholm | 1382 |
| Hart | 1382 |
| Harpauer | 1382 |
| Gantfoer | 1382 |
| Weekes | 1382 |
| Cheveldayoff | 1382 |
| Huyghebaert | 1383 |
| Allchurch | 1383 |
| Kirsch | 1383 |
| Brkich | 1383 |
| Morgan | 1383 |
| Kerpan | 1383 |

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Deputy Clerk | 1384 |
|--------------------|------|

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

| | |
|----------------|------|
| McMorris | 1384 |
|----------------|------|

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Morin | 1384 |
|-------------|------|

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Snowbirds Acceptance Show

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Huyghebaert | 1384 |
|-------------------|------|

Administrative Professionals' Day

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Morin | 1384 |
|-------------|------|

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Morgan | 1385 |
|--------------|------|

Educating Students and Parents About Anti-Bullying

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Beatty | 1385 |
|--------------|------|

Wishing Baby Paige and Family Well

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Harpauer | 1385 |
|----------------|------|

A Vision for First Nations Youth

| | |
|--------------|------|
| McCall | 1386 |
|--------------|------|

Budget Advertising Expenses

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Brkich | 1386 |
|--------------|------|

ORAL QUESTIONS

Health Care Review Commissioned by Minister

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Harpauer | 1386 |
|----------------|------|

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Taylor | 1386 |
|--------------|------|

Public Awareness of Health Care Options

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Harpauer | 1387 |
|----------------|------|

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Taylor | 1387 |
|--------------|------|

Resources for Rural Schools

| | |
|------------|------|
| Toth | 1388 |
|------------|------|

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Higgins | 1388 |
|---------------|------|

Deputy Premier's Comments About Radio Show

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Draude | 1390 |
|--------------|------|

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Serby | 1390 |
|-------------|------|

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Enhancements to Child and Youth Mental Health Services

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Addley | 1391 |
|--------------|------|

| | |
|----------------|------|
| McMorris | 1392 |
|----------------|------|

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Iwanchuk | 1392 |
|----------------|------|

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| The Speaker | 1392 |
|-------------------|------|

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 64 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Thomson | 1392 |
| Gantfoer | 1393 |

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

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Premier

Hon. Graham Addley
Minister of Healthy Living Services
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
Minister of Community Resources
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

Hon. David Forbes
Minister of Labour
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Glenn Hagel
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation
Provincial Secretary
Minister Responsible for Gaming
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance

Hon. Deb Higgins
Minister of Learning
Minister Responsible for Literacy
Minister Responsible for Liquor and
Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

Hon. Eldon Lautermilch
Minister of Highways and Transportation
Minister of Property Management
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company
Minister Responsible for the
Forestry Secretariat

Hon. John Nilson
Minister of Environment
Minister Responsible for the Office of
Energy Conservation
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

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Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

Hon. Clay Serby
Deputy Premier
Minister of Regional Economic and
Co-operative Development

Hon. Maynard Sonntag
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister of Crown Investments Corporation
of Saskatchewan

Hon. Len Taylor
Minister of Health

Hon. Andrew Thomson
Minister of Finance
Minister Responsible for Information Technology
Minister Responsible for
SaskEnergy Incorporated

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen
Minister of Government Relations

Hon. Mark Wartman
Minister of Agriculture and Food

Hon. Kevin Yates
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety