



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

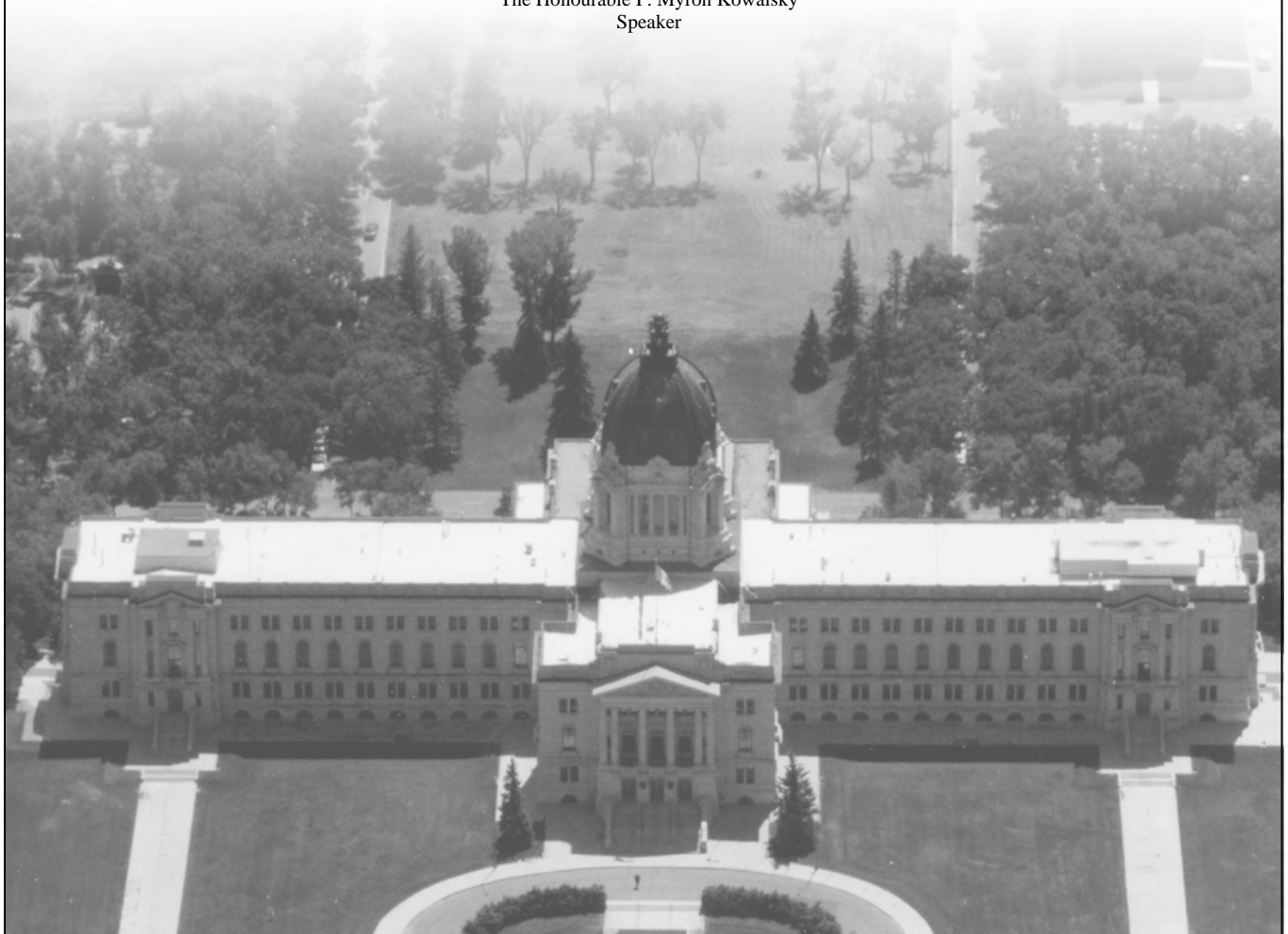
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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
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 Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my privilege to rise again today to present a petition on behalf of individuals from the community of Saskatoon that are concerned about the availability or the non-availability, possibly, of a 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 this coming year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present.

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise on behalf of residents of the province concerned with the need for pediatric patient care on an improved basis in the province. The prayer of their petition 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, all the petitioners today for whom I have the honour to rise are from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about Highway No. 310:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to repair Highway 310 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth and tourism in Foam Lake, Fishing Lake, Kuroki, and surrounding areas.

The people who have signed this petition are from Invermay, Kuroki, Wadena, and Margo.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for

Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another petition requesting allocation of funding for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. These people believe that children are the heart of our communities and 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 ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from the city of Saskatoon. I'm pleased to present it on their behalf.

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

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the lack of adequate health care facilities for our children. 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 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 individuals all from the community of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Wakefield: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition regarding funding for 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 I'm presenting this on behalf of . . . the signatures are all from Saskatoon.

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition that deals with the lack of a children's hospital here 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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I am pleased to be able to present this on behalf of the citizens of Saskatoon who have signed this petition, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will join my seatmate in presenting a petition of citizens that would like to see a children's hospital in Saskatoon. 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 Outlook and Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this afternoon on behalf of citizens of Saskatoon who are concerned about the lack of a provincial children's hospital in their city. 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.

I'm pleased to present on their behalf.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today also to present a petition on behalf of citizens of this province requesting allocation of funding for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. 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 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.

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

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to again rise and present a petition from citizens who would like a provincial 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.

Signed by the good citizens of Saskatoon. 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 residents from across Saskatchewan that are concerned that Saskatchewan and PEI [Prince Edward Island] are the only provinces 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 in this year's budget to build a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon.

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

Today the petitioners live in Erindale, Arbor Creek, and Sutherland 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 are concerned that there is a very distinct lack of action from the NDP [New Democratic Party] government on some of their hospital commitments, specifically the 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 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 is signed by good citizens from 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 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 of this petition are from Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too rise to read a petition pertaining to the desire for 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.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of Saskatoon. And I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have a petition:

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.

Signed by the good citizens of 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 again today to present a petition requesting funding allocation for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon. 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by concerned and troubled voters from Saskatoon Nutana and Saskatoon Massey Place.

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

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, finally I won't be the last person to present a petition from this side today. And I am happy to present a petition on behalf of citizens who are 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by citizens from Dundurn and Saskatoon.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this petition finds its defence in two ice-blue eyes on the front page of yesterday's *Star-Phoenix*. And I read the petition:

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

And this is signed by people from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am instructed by the committee to report Bills No. 33 without amendment and Bill No. 34 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 33 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the minister.

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — It should be considered in committee . . . I want to have this leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — The minister wishes to request leave to waive consideration of Committee of the Whole. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 33 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 33 be now moved a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — Once again I recognize the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Standing Committee on the Economy

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got a little bit ahead of myself there, but I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 34 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 34 be considered in Committee of the Whole?

The Chair recognizes the minister.

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

The Speaker: — The minister has requested leave to waive consideration of the . . . Whole of Bill 34. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

The Chair recognizes the Minister of the Environment.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 34 — The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of the Environment that Bill No. 34 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried.

Deputy Clerk: — Third reading of this Bill.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Environment: what is the time frame for cancellation of a forest management agreement, FMA, if it is unused or the company awarded the FMA ceases operation?

While I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day no. 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Environment: what is the process for a company to receive a forest management agreement from the province of Saskatchewan?

I give notice that I shall on day 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Environment: does Beauval Forest Industries hold a Saskatchewan forest management agreement? And if so, how long have they had it?

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I shall on day 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Environment: does Northwest Communities Wood Products hold a forest management agreement? And if so, how long have they had it?

[13:45]

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

Mr. Brkich: — I give notice that I shall on day no. 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: is there any money in this year's budget allocated to construction for a new hospital

in Watrous? And if not, when will this government commit to fully fund the Watrous hospital?

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that I shall on day no. 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how many alarm and security service dealers were operating in Saskatchewan in 2002?

I have the same question, Mr. Speaker, for 2003, 2004, and 2005.

I give notice that I shall on day no. 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how many direct seller's licences were issued to alarm and security service dealers province-wide in 2002?

And again, Mr. Speaker, I have the same question for 2003, 2004, 2005.

In addition, I give notice that I shall on day no. 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how much does it cost to purchase a direct seller's licence for selling alarm and security services?

In addition, I give notice that I shall on day no. 53 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how many security companies operating in Saskatchewan are required to purchase a direct seller's licence, and what companies are they?

In addition, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how many independent SaskTel SecurTek dealers have purchased a direct seller's licence?

Also, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how many independent SaskTel SecurTek dealers are required to purchase a direct seller's licence?

And finally, Mr. Speaker:

To the Minister Responsible for SaskTel: how many Saskatchewan security dealers are exempt from purchasing a direct seller's licence, and which ones are they?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to the House delegates to the Conference on Commonwealth Honours and Awards who, Mr. Speaker, are seated this afternoon in your gallery.

This conference is the first of its kind ever to be held anywhere. It is co-sponsored by the honours and awards secretariats of the provinces of Ontario and Saskatchewan. The program began last night with a reception offered by the province of Ontario, and it was my privilege to officially open the conference this morning at Government House. There were two sessions there this morning and then a luncheon offered by yourself, Mr. Speaker. There are two more sessions this afternoon here in the Legislative Building, and the conference continues until noon on Saturday.

Some of the topics being discussed are the current status of Canada's national honours; the honours of the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Antigua and Barbuda, and South Africa; and the issues of honours in federal states; and procedures for the selection and presentation of honours.

The conference has attracted 45 delegates from 10 different jurisdictions. And while there are too many to be introduced individually, I would like to acknowledge some, and I would ask them to simply give us a wave as I introduce them.

The conference's Co-Chairs are Rachele Dabraio, director of the citizenship branch in the Ontario Ministry of Citizen and Immigration; and a familiar face to us all, Dr. Michael Jackson, secretary to the Saskatchewan Honours Advisory Council. From the United Kingdom, Mr. Stanley Martin, who is a former diplomat, now chairman of the Royal Over-Seas League in London and commander of the Royal Victorian Order; and Mr. Rafal Heydel-Mankoo, who is deputy editor of *Burke's Peerage* in London.

From the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Mandla Feni, secretary of national orders in the Office of the President of South Africa. From Antigua and Barbuda, Mrs. Valerie Smith who is secretary-general of honours and Mrs. Jean-Marie Grant who is assistant secretary of honours in the office of the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda. And pleased that we have with us as well, from Ottawa, representatives of the office of the Governor General of Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Department of National Defence, and the Order of St. John.

Five provincial honours programs are also represented here as well that of Saskatchewan — those of the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. I'd like to say that all the delegates are very pleased to have come to the capital of our province for the conference. And we're very pleased to have you here. They've said to you, Mr. Speaker, myself earlier, their pleasure in being here.

Here in Saskatchewan we have a long history of support for the institution of the Commonwealth, and it is good to see the start of a network of Commonwealth honours and awards and beginning here in the province of Saskatchewan.

This topic is of great interest to us. Saskatchewan now has four honours of the provincial Crown: the Saskatchewan Order of

Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal which we all know will be presented in these chambers on Monday of next week, the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. And we also strongly support Canada's national honours in our province.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour for Saskatchewan to host this unique conference, and we wish the delegates good discussions, a pleasant stay in our province. And I will ask all my honourable colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and yourself to extend all of them a very, very warm welcome to the province of Saskatchewan.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I want to join the minister in welcoming the delegates from the first ever conference on Commonwealth awards and honours to this Assembly. I understand that they do have a very aggressive agenda, and I am sure it will be a very productive conference. And I hope they all enjoy their stay in our Queen city, and I hope all their travels on their return home are safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Prince Albert Northcote.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly two guests who are seated in your gallery today, Mr. Chad Nilson and his wife, Amy. I had the pleasure of working with Chad last summer, and I want to welcome him back to Saskatchewan and to Regina. Amy, you as well.

Chad is a Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] candidate and instructor of public policy at the University of New Orleans. Amy is a social worker in Prince Albert. His current area of research deals with the effect of political institutions on drug policies in Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, and the United States.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, it has been an interesting time for Chad. He was introduced to some southern hospitality in New Orleans when mother nature or father nature came calling on that community, and he had to leave in a rather sudden hurry. He left behind much of his work and some of his books and his library that he'd amassed, but we're glad to see that Chad made it back to Saskatchewan. We're glad to see he's working here in Saskatchewan, and we welcome him to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature two constituents of mine who are in the front row of the east gallery.

The first is Joceline Schreimer who is a Saskatoon city police officer. She has been very active in doing drug prevention work in our schools and elsewhere in Saskatoon. Some time ago she took me on an all-night ride along in the police car, and it was an interesting and educational experience and would urge all members to avail themselves of that type of opportunity.

With her today is her husband, Gerry Schreimer. Gerry is the director of operations for MD Ambulance, and he also took me for a ride along in the ambulance which was once again another educational, interesting opportunity. And I would like to congratulate Gerry because he is down today to receive a provincial Exemplary Service Medal which will be presented later on today at Government House. And I'd like to welcome both of them to their legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Regina Qu'Appelle Valley.

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two introductions that I would like to make while I'm on my feet. I would like to begin by introducing to you and to members of the legislature 25 grade 10 students from Winston Knoll Collegiate. These students live in Regina Qu'Appelle Valley constituency, and a few of them live in the Walsh Acres constituency. And so we welcome them to the legislature along with their teacher, Ms. Lock, and I appreciated that I had opportunity to meet with them briefly before the session. And I would ask all members to join me in welcoming them to this Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — And the second welcome that I would like all to join me in is to the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Council.

Mr. Speaker, we have in the west gallery today — and I would ask them just to wave as I introduce them, please — Dr. John Ayres who is the president, and John has a mixed-animal practice in Rosthern; Dr. Larry Hanson, and Larry has a mixed practice in the Regina area; Dr. Kenn Wood, a large-animal practice in Ebenezer, east central Saskatchewan; Lorelei Petreny from the Moosomin area; Curt Hagele, and Curt is the registrar for the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association; and Ms. Sharon Murray who is with the SVMA [Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association] as well. And they are accompanied here today by Dr. Rob Kerr who is our provincial veterinarian, and they are here for their regular meeting.

I had the privilege of having lunch with them today and have been working with them on a number of items as we seek to move forward The Veterinarians Act. And we're pleased to welcome them here to the House today. I ask others to join me in welcoming them, please.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to join

the Minister of Agriculture in welcoming the vet medicine council here to their legislature.

We certainly have been very active speaking to this group and other groups about the vet medicine Bill, and we'd just like to say that we value the veterinary association and the practising members in the province. They're a fundamental part of our livestock industry and a very important part of our livestock industry that we certainly appreciate the work they've done. And certainly with the whole BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy] issue, they've proven very valuable and ever-increasing need for veterinarians in Saskatchewan to assist in the cross-border trade of beef.

Please join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour and the pleasure on this occasion of introducing a constituent of mine, David Karwacki, who's sitting in the east gallery. If he chose to sit in the west gallery more often, I might introduce him more often, but I often don't know that he's here till after he's already arrived.

Mr. Karwacki continues to make a contribution to the province of Saskatchewan in both business and in politics. I actively look forward to his pronouncements in either area. He is a man of considerable intelligence and integrity and only a few mistaken notions, Mr. Speaker, and I hope all members of the legislature will welcome him here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to the rest of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce 15 grade 5 and 6 students from the Yellow Grass School sitting in the east gallery. Accompanying them are their teacher, Jane Peters, as well as Eric Dorsch who is the bus driver and gets them here safe and sound and I'm sure back home safe and sound.

Yellow Grass used to be in my constituency for the first four years that I was a member, and then through redistribution I unfortunately lost the great community of Yellow Grass. But it's certainly real close to where I was born and raised, and I've spent many an hour in Yellow Grass, whether it was in the rink or in the school. I'd like to welcome them here to their Assembly and ask all members to join me in welcoming them here.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It

gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you and to all members of the legislature two of my constituents that have travelled from Saskatoon to Regina to observe the proceedings. I'd like to welcome George and Jackie Christiansen who have recently moved to Saskatchewan from Alberta. They were former Albertans, lifelong Albertans. They're making a tremendous contribution in the city of Saskatoon through their church at Bethel United Church and also at the Saskatoon Food Bank.

I hope that they enjoy the proceedings this afternoon, and I do indeed, on behalf of all members, want to welcome you both to Saskatchewan and to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Saskatoon's On Stage Players

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, last night I had the pleasure of attending Wednesday Night Live, an evening of theatre created and performed by Saskatoon's On Stage Players.

This talented group of young writers and actors are taking part in the Performing Arts Program for Youth, a partnership between the provincial government, Family Service Saskatoon, Calder Centre, and Nutana Collegiate. Since 1998, this program has provided over 200 young people the opportunity to experience the challenges and rewards that are part of the theatrical performing experience.

The evening got off to an excellent beginning with a guitar-drum piece written and performed by Charles Henderson and Shane Taypotat and accompanied by Richard Dube.

The dramatic sketches were written by Cy Gerard, Desiree Samuals, and a constituent of mine, Mr. Speaker, Kristen Bennet, who I particularly want to thank for her very kind and funny introduction.

Mr. Speaker, On Stage Players also include Alana Quewezance, Laura Kudluk, Tyler Johnston, Jessica Taypotat, Jodi Kaye, Matt Marinelli and Nicole Jones.

Saskatoon actor Tim Hildebrand edited and directed the sketches, and Danny Rousseau of La Troupe du Jour has been working with the players on drumming and other percussion instruments.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to thank Zoe Teed of Family Service Saskatoon for her ongoing support of this program and all the volunteers and business partners who have contributed so much to providing these young people this valuable opportunity to learn both performing skills and life skills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

National Medical Laboratory Week

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Medical Laboratory Week. Medical laboratory professionals comprise the third largest group of health care professionals. They are crucial in early diagnosis and treatment. They are responsible for tests that diagnose patients and identify outbreaks. As new strains of viruses develop, these health care professionals play a very important role in the delivery of health care for detection and prevention.

Oftentimes they operate under extreme pressure to turn around tests on a timely manner. But unfortunately, like many of the health care professionals, they are short of human resources, yet they know how accurate the analysis must be in these crucial tests.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party acknowledges the work these health care professionals do and the contribution to health care in this province. We applaud their effort, and we recognize that in their line of work at times they are exposed to biohazards which may jeopardize their own health and well-being.

I ask all members of this Assembly to join me in congratulating the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science, the certifying body for medical laboratory technologists, and the medical laboratory assistants, for creating a high professional standard, and also to recognize the important work that medical laboratory technologists do as a key member of the health care team. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Campbell Collegiate Hosts Charity Concert Fundraiser

Hon. Mr. Thomson: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Tonight the students at Campbell Collegiate in Regina are organizing their second annual charity concert. The tradition began last year with the very successful Campbell ceilidh.

This year, Mr. Speaker, the concert is expected to be even bigger. The event will feature even more young Saskatchewan artists, namely the rock band Chemical Horizon, the folk singer Kyrie Kristmanson, and the Marshall Burns Band, who I am told are all quite popular.

All the proceeds from this concert will in fact go to Free the Children. Free the Children of course is a rather important charity. It was founded by 12-year-old Craig Kielburger back in 1995. Young Craig gathered 11 school friends together and began lobbying against child labour. Mr. Speaker, Free the Children has grown to become a large network dedicated to protesting child labour, supporting the building of elementary schools, and providing clean water and basic health care to children in communities in more than 45 different countries. Recently Mr. Kielburger was awarded the Children's Nobel Prize for his outstanding humanitarian efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members of the Assembly to join with me in congratulating Campbell Collegiate for their organizing this charitable event on behalf of Free the Children. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Estevan Celebrates Women of Today

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure of attending the eighth annual Women of Today Awards in Estevan sponsored by SaskPower and Quota International of Estevan.

Funds raised through this luncheon, attended by over 300 people at the Beefeater Plaza, will support the violence intervention program and also the placement of sound field FM [frequency modulation] systems within Estevan's schools. And, Mr. Speaker, these systems allow students to hear more clearly and consistently.

Recipients of the awards were as follows. For the Ida Peterson Memorial Award for Outstanding Entrepreneur, Mary Le Blanc; for the SaskPower Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Workplace was Jane McMurtry. The Shirley Orsted Memorial Award for Young Woman of Today went to Samara Bush. And the SaskTel Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community went to Gail Shirley.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to congratulate and thank all the recipients and nominees for their commitment to our community, and they are all winners. Appreciation is extended to MC [master of ceremonies] Roxy Blackmore, guest speaker, Judy White from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, and to all the sponsors, Mr. Speaker. And finally and on a personal note, I would also like to thank Loving Touch Florist. The girls there supplied me with a corsage, so I thank them.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Hockey Team

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a few short days the Saskatchewan Aboriginal hockey team will be travelling to Kahnawá:ke, Quebec where they'll be competing in the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships from April 30 to May 6. Mr. Speaker, this tournament is hosted by the Mohawk First Nations of Kahnawá:ke, just 10 kilometres south of Montreal, on the banks of the St. Lawrence River.

The hockey championships will see players predominantly between the ages of 14 to 18 from across the country. The Saskatchewan team was chosen during various talent identification camps held throughout the province in the fall. Both the male and female Saskatchewan teams won bronze medal at last year's national hockey tournament, an event sanctioned by Hockey Canada.

The National Aboriginal Hockey Championship provides a forum for young First Nations, Inuit, and Métis hockey players from within each of the 13 provinces and territories in Canada to compete at an elite level. Mr. Speaker, the event will help foster cultural unity and pride and celebrate the athletic abilities of Aboriginal athletes from across the country.

There's a pep rally planned for the Saskatchewan team to be held at the Ramada Hotel in Saskatoon today, April 27. Mr. Speaker, I would invite all members of the Assembly to join with me in congratulating the players of the Saskatchewan Aboriginal hockey team for earning the right to represent Saskatchewan and in wishing them the very best of luck at this year's hockey championships in Quebec. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Funding for Soil Conservation Association

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise with concern today about the future of the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association. This excellent organization provides our farm community with valuable soil conservation programs and current scientific data that is a valuable resource for Saskatchewan. The past three years the SSCA [Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association] has received funding from a number of sources including the federal and provincial governments.

Now this government used to fully fund this but the past three years have consistently cut back to less than \$50,000 a year, a mere pittance compared to the Finance minister's campaign leadership that he's doing on the back of Saskatchewan taxpayers. Now this program which runs in various province already receives the lowest amount of provincial support in Canada.

But now guess what? In a year with a \$1 billion surplus, they've completely cut the soil conservation group off effective April 1, 2006. Why? Because this government could care less about the needs of our struggling farmers. They don't care whether our soil is conserved. They don't care about their green and prosperous economy which they talk about. It's just another cut to rural Saskatchewan while even the federal government has extended its funding well into 2006. This is just another example of how the NDP government treats Saskatchewan and the rural communities.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Saskatchewan Transportation Company Celebrates 60 Years

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, this month marks the Saskatchewan Transportation Company's 60th year of service. And over the course of the last six decades Saskatchewan has seen many changes and STC [Saskatchewan Transportation

Company] has changed and evolved right along with it, playing a vital role in our development and becoming an integral part of the province's social fabric along the way.

Every year STC travels millions of miles to provide Saskatchewan residents with commuter and passenger services, charters, and express parcel delivery. The company provides a vital link between the north and south, Mr. Speaker, and between urban and rural areas.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, STC carried over 267,000 passengers over 3 million miles to and from 275 communities in the province. The company also carried about 2 million pieces of freight over the course of the year, mostly to rural communities. During the month of July alone, STC carried 50,000 pieces of farm machinery to rural Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, STC provides a necessary, quality service to Saskatchewan people, helping to meet the needs of those who otherwise may be limited in their ability to travel. About one-quarter of STC riders are made up of seniors and another quarter are students. More than 50 per cent of STC riders have incomes below \$20,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of STC. Over the years it has played a positive role in Saskatchewan socially, economically, and now with the latest testing of biodiesel fuel additives, environmentally. And I ask all members to join me in congratulating STC for 60 years of great service to the people of this province. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Development of Biofuels Industry

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two very significant challenges in Canada and in our province right now that actually may present quite an opportunity for our province and our country. Those two factors of course are increasing concern, rightfully so, over environmental issues in our country and our province; and the second one is the agriculture crisis currently facing Saskatchewan and the country.

Now is the time then, Mr. Speaker, for this province to lead in terms of a national biofuels strategy. Today the Saskatchewan Party is proposing such a biofuels strategy both for the national government and here in the province of Saskatchewan. It includes things like a national biofuels strategy and mandate that puts a priority on direct producer participation in the industry. It includes provincial new growth tax incentives the likes of which we proposed in our economic plan a year ago that would apply as well to this industry. It includes reducing barriers to growth like cogeneration in the province of Saskatchewan, a commitment to work with local governments to invest in the infrastructure required, investment and labour force development, and the government leading by example in its own fuel consumption.

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier today: will he support in principle the biofuels strategy put forward by the official opposition Saskatchewan Party?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to answer the question on behalf of the government this afternoon. And I'm very pleased also, Mr. Speaker, to hear the Leader of the Opposition state that he's just returned, I expect, from a visit with our federal friends in Ottawa which is an important piece.

In order to say, Mr. Speaker, that this government — the Minister of Agriculture, I have, the Minister of Industry and Resources — have had numerous conversations with the federal government for months now, Mr. Speaker. In the next couple of days, Mr. Speaker, I am travelling to Ottawa. I'm travelling to Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, with a group of proponents who want to put together in Saskatchewan a plan, a strategy about how we build out the biodiesel fuel or how we build out the renewable fuels in this province, Mr. Speaker.

And we think that there is a tremendous opportunity here. And there are four areas of which we're expecting that we're going to get some result with the federal government on. And we'll be making that presentation and can speak more to it in the next question, Mr. Speaker, if the leader so wishes.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. The leader does wish, actually. The Saskatchewan Party would like to talk about this, the potential of this industry, the bridge that we know it can build between rural and urban Canada in terms of environmental concerns and a brand new generation of farm programs, farm initiatives in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we think it's important for this province to lead on this issue. We think we can lead the country. We think that our standards, Mr. Speaker, our standards for the mandated blend should even be higher than what the federal parties currently — the federal Conservatives and the federal Liberals — are talking about.

The Saskatchewan Party is calling for a national mandate of 10 per cent ethanol blend by 2010 and 5 per cent biodiesel blend by 2010. On those two counts, with respect to our work with the federal government, does the Premier support that blend rate, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I am really pleased that the Leader of the Opposition is reading our material that we've been putting out with the producer groups across the province, Mr. Speaker.

And I'm really pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite who are responsible for this file, we've been able to keep them fully informed and abreast of what it is that we're doing, and the leader is simply articulating that today.

Mr. Speaker, we lead the country, Mr. Speaker, on biofuels. Mr. Speaker, we lead the country. We have today a mandate in this province which exceeds the 5 per cent that the federal government's talking about, both on the ethanol piece. And we have production in this province today, Mr. Speaker, that is greater than most other parts of the country, Mr. Speaker. We're leading the nation.

And so today for the Leader of the Opposition to be standing up and suggesting for a minute that somehow we should be developing a strategy, what the Leader of the Opposition should be doing is reviewing the policies that we have in Saskatchewan today, the industry that's working in Saskatchewan today, and also assisting where he can, when he can, the need for a broader Saskatchewan policy and a Western Canadian policy which we're a proponent of today, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, a couple of points. One, with respect to the current provincial ethanol mandate, I think the public record will show that it was the Saskatchewan Party again that led on the issue and the government implemented this particular measure.

The second point I would say is that in the Deputy Premier's first answer he admitted that they're still at the discussion stage — and I guess fair enough. We'd like to talk very specifically about some ideas. Part of our biodiesel strategy that we're proposing today are new growth tax incentives. The ethanol, the biodiesel industry will be very capital intensive. And right now, notwithstanding the implementation of Vicq, well down the road we have capital taxes currently as high as anywhere on the continent — higher, some would say.

And so, Mr. Speaker, the question is this. Our strategy sees the immediate elimination of the corporate capital tax for ethanol and biodiesel, the immediate elimination. In addition to that, new growth tax incentives with respect to PST [provincial sales tax] application to these industries. Will the government adopt that element of our strategy, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it looks like the opposition leader is looking for yet another opportunity to vote on the budget. Because we know, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite have already voted against the \$18 million incentive that we've provided additionally for ethanol development in this province. They voted against it.

And so for the Leader of the Opposition today to be standing up and talking to us about tax changes, Mr. Speaker, he is already on record about voting against that. And I'm hoping, Mr. Speaker, that when he visited his political friends in Ottawa that he said to them that he voted against it, Mr. Speaker. And that in fact the tax packages of which we're working on today with the proponents is exactly where we want to be, Mr. Speaker.

And beyond that, Mr. Speaker, we want to also have within our policy in Saskatchewan a suggestion that there will be a Saskatchewan fuel . . . producer supply and also public ownership, Mr. Speaker, by the producers. Those will be two key pieces, Mr. Speaker, in our work with the federal government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I hope the Deputy Premier knows while he's playing politics with this — I hope he knows, I hope he understands — that what was passed in the NDP budget does not address the capital tax issue that would be faced by current facilities or greenfield projects that we need to start up right now. We're talking about a new growth tax incentive immediately in the province of Saskatchewan for the industry.

The other measure this government could take that's in our plan is to reduce the barriers to growth that affect this industry and others — for example, the willingness on the part of the government to allow cogeneration. They wouldn't do it for Weyerhaeuser until there was a dire problem in Prince Albert.

Will they now proactively say to this industry that a part of their plan is to allow for cogeneration by biofuel facilities in the province of Saskatchewan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I say to the member opposite, he just needs to review the *Hansard* in terms of how their opposition party voted as it relates to the issues in the budget, Mr. Speaker, because they voted against the \$18 million. Also the member opposite should know that there is . . . The capital corporate tax has already been removed on all new development as of July 1. And the member should know that, Mr. Speaker. And I'm hoping he says that.

Mr. Speaker, we already have in this province 13.5 million litres that's being provided out of Lanigan. We already have 25 million litres of ethanol that's being provided out of Weyburn. We have a major project, Mr. Speaker, of which the Minister of Industry and Resources has been working very closely with the Lloydminster folks. And we expect to have, Mr. Speaker, this year, the full commitment of ethanol required for this province.

And so for the Leader of the Opposition to wake up today and say, you know what, we should be doing ethanol in the province in a more significant way — he should spend a little more time looking at the policies of Saskatchewan as opposed to trying to

take credit for them, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, some of the other elements of our plan include a government, a provincial government, that would partner with local municipalities. Because when this industry develops like we believe it can in our province, there are going to be significant infrastructure demands in rural Saskatchewan where these plants will be located in addition to other places in the province.

We are proposing interest-free bridge financing for municipalities who need to provide that infrastructure to those plants to work with municipalities who want to see these developments happen in their area. I'd like the Deputy Premier's comment on that.

We're proposing a research Chair at our universities on the issue of research and development in biofuels. We're proposing an investment in labour skills development for this specific industry, Mr. Speaker. We're advocating that this government . . . We're going to be doing it soon in an actual trip to Ottawa, where we're advocating for the government to support — the federal government to support as the US [United States] government has — equity loan guarantees for producers to invest in the industry so they are integrated.

On these elements — municipal partnership, labour skills development, R&D [research and development] — is the government there yet? We'll send across our plan and we'll be happy if they adopt it. Will they do that, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I wouldn't have expected to hear from the Leader of the Opposition. I wouldn't have expected to hear from the Leader of the Opposition that there needs to be some consideration for equity participation, Mr. Speaker, because you see, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly, that's exactly what proponents are asking for today in the development of the ethanol industry and the biodiesel industry. That's exactly what they're asking for today, Mr. Speaker.

And that's exactly what the proponents were asking for, Mr. Speaker, in previous work that was done in developing ethanol in Saskatchewan, of which those members, Mr. Speaker, led by the member from Thunder Creek, Mr. Speaker . . . And yesterday listen to some of the stuff he was talking about in committee, where he too was talking about equity, Mr. Speaker. So you've got a flip-flop on the opposition that says one day we should be investing and the next day we shouldn't be investing.

Why don't you pull out that old policy of yours, Enterprise Saskatchewan, and let's really see what Enterprise Saskatchewan says about public investment in building and industry in Saskatchewan. And why don't you get on board on

the right page on this . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Assistance for Farmers in the Porcupine Plain Area

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, this month a dozen farm women travelled to their legislature from the RM [rural municipality] of Porcupine to tell the Premier and the Ag minister the seriousness of the disaster in their area.

Last fall they received a downpour of 17 inches of rain, and this spring there was huge flooding. It washed out over a dozen bridges and culverts and lots of roads. And there was four farm families could only get to their house by boat. According to local producers, less than half the acres in the area will be seeded because fields are simply a mess.

Mr. Speaker, the province is providing some disaster relief for infrastructure, but there's no commitment to a special disaster relief program for farm land. We know there's been one letter sent to the federal minister this week from the Ag minister, but, Mr. Speaker, time is running out fast for the farmers in that area. Decisions have to be made so farmers know where they stand. What is this minister's commitment to these farmers?

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

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not only have I written to the federal minister urging quick action on this because of the timeliness, but we also travelled to Ottawa where Wes Black, representative, lead representative on this issue from the Porcupine Plain area, accompanied me and put forward the case very clearly to the federal minister. And we do provide through crop insurance for unseeded acreage, \$50 an acre payment to help deal with disasters such as this.

Towards the end of this coming month, Mr. Speaker, I will be travelling to Porcupine Plain with the deputy, with Crop Insurance folks, and we will be looking very, very closely at what the situation is. And once we've seen the situation there, we will be looking at — as we advised the farmers from Porcupine — we'll be looking at what kind of extended plans might be possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — I know that Wes Black and many of the other people he travelled told him that time is of the essence. We don't have until the end of May.

Sharon Stegemann and her husband have a 7,500-acre family farm. She was the spokesperson for the group that came to the legislature, and she met with the Premier and the Ag minister. At the time the Minister of Agriculture expressed his concern about the problem and he said he'd come to the area. But he

didn't say he was going to wait until the end of May.

If this is such a priority, why isn't the minister going now rather than just seeing the pictures that were taken from the air two weeks ago when everything was under water? Will the minister commit to meeting face to face with the producers this week and discuss exactly what can be done to help them secure as much relief as possible, and then send this message to Ottawa so that they know this NDP government really does care about farmers?

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 is important to know that cabinet ministers from this government have been to Porcupine Plain. The members have seen first-hand what the situation is. I was there in the fall to that area and again saw the flooding that was taking place then.

We have also carefully looked at the pictures that have been provided by the group and we know that today the water is drained significantly. And we will be inspecting this land to see what the situation is once the drying has happened. To go there in the midst of flooding conditions, which we have already seen and are aware of, provides little more support. What we are doing is pressing the federal government, and we as a provincial government are looking at what optional plans might be possible that would be outside of crop insurance, perhaps using crop insurance data. But we will be trying to find ways of providing support. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, if the minister was there last fall, then there should be some kind of a plan formulated by now. We received a copy of an email that Sharon Stegemann sent to the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture yesterday and she describes her frustration in dealing with the minister's office. She writes and I quote:

. . . Mr. Rusnak stated on Monday morning in our conversation, the farmers in our province cannot burden the taxpayers of the province expecting disaster funding

She goes on to quote:

. . . farmers are not a burden to Saskatchewan or to Canada
. . . and if he eats food he is part of agriculture whether he likes it or not.

I find it strange that someone who had a personal audience with the minister just a few weeks ago is being treated this way. Mr. Speaker, is this what the minister thinks of our producers? Is that the message that this minister is sending to his staff, that farmers are a burden to this province? Does he condone what his staff is saying to the producers of 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, my office has been in virtually daily communication with Ms. Stegemann. That includes, Mr. Speaker, on the weekends for some of us. And we have been working with the group.

But the spokesperson and the lead person as designated by that group is Wes Black. And certainly the correspondence that we have had with the group has been important, but it is also important — because we have many calls coming in — it is important to have a focus person, to work with that person as we try and develop this. And Wesley Black is that person and we will continue to have contact with him.

And we will be meeting with others when we go out there. So we're very . . . I can say clearly that my staff has been acting compassionately, has been working with the people, working in a reasonable manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Public Awareness of Health Care Options

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, we all know that the Minister of Health has ordered a review into the circumstances surrounding the lack of available treatment for baby Paige. The results of that review are set to be released tomorrow.

Yesterday I asked the minister that no matter what the result of the review would be, if he would commit to improving the information available to Saskatchewan people as they try to make the most informed decision about their health care. The minister was less than clear on what he intends to do. All he said was that the province could probably do more. Can the minister tell us today exactly what that means?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think that in prefacing my answer to the opposition Health critic's question, that Saskatchewan was one of the first provinces in Canada to institute a critical incident reporting mechanism. Mr. Speaker, we in this province are considered by other provinces in Canada to be leaders in information gathering and information sharing. And compared to private sector health care in the United States, Mr. Speaker, where information is not released by insurance companies, we in Saskatchewan believe that we learn from gathering information and sharing that information, Mr. Speaker, to improve the situations in front of us.

Mr. Speaker, our critical incident reporting mechanism involves quite a number of people. The work that's being done in Saskatoon is a multidisciplinary review and, Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to the reports that are coming to me when the work is completed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And again there seems to be some communication problem, difficulty with the minister. Critical incident reporting is not what we're talking about here. We're talking about giving information to patients. We understand that the department does make information available in its website and that there are also brochures available in some doctors' offices. But it's evidenced by the cases raised in the legislature this is clearly not enough.

As I said yesterday, in order to make well-informed decisions about their own health and to take responsibility for their well-being, patients must know all of their options. Yesterday the minister said, and I quote, ". . . perhaps we should review and maybe highlight a little more . . ."

Mr. Speaker, that doesn't sound like much of a strong commitment. Again, will the minister commit today to improving the information that is given to Saskatchewan people when it comes to making the important decisions about their own health?

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 I reiterate that Saskatchewan is a leader in the country when it comes to information gathering, distribution, and analysis. Mr. Speaker, in the case that we're dealing with in the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority, Mr. Speaker, in this case we have a multidisciplinary approach. The family is very much considered an important part of that approach. Mr. Speaker, data is collected, including family data. And, Mr. Speaker, it's very important that when data is collected, that data will be shared with the family in addition to shared with the minister.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are very much committed to ensuring that what we learn from incidences, whether they're considered formally critical or not, what we learn from incidences are used to ensure that the health care for others in the system is much improved.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Health minister wants to find out how to pay for a public awareness campaign for patients, he need look no further than the Premier's own words. And I quote from September 22, 1987 when the Premier in this very Chamber said, and I quote:

But have they cut funding to their own political staffs? Have they cut anything from their self-serving . . . budgets? Have they cut from their lavish personal

expenditures and trips on government aircraft?

Mr. Speaker, to the Premier: is he going to take his own advice from 1987 and cut spending in these areas? And will he make that money available to the Minister of Health so he can better inform patients about what their options are?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health communicates greatly across the province through the use of our website, through the use of brochures in physicians' offices. We communicate with the Saskatchewan Medical Association in terms of educational preparation for individual physicians across the province.

Mr. Speaker, this government just put 300 million extra dollars into health care this year, 300 extra million dollars that will assist in improving the health care for Saskatchewan people. The members opposite choose to vote against all of this commitment to Saskatchewan people, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage the members opposite to rethink their commitment to the budget, to the health care of Saskatchewan people, and vote again for the Saskatchewan budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our position is to find a solution for the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Krawetz: — Yesterday, yesterday, we heard in this . . . that no one, no one in Paige Hansen's family was told they could travel out of province without prior approval for a quicker diagnosis. Not the doctor, not the quality of care coordinator, not the hospital. In October 1987, the Premier said and I quote:

. . . if you want to transfer some money into home care from somewhere else . . . [why don't you look for it] in the cabinet ministers' travel allowances and air flights part of . . . [their] budget . . .

Mr. Speaker, that's good advice. Will the Premier transfer some money out of cabinet travel so that patients get more information on their options regarding out-of-province treatment? Will this government actually do something to minimize suffering and actually help thousands of people that are on waiting lists?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I'd be more than pleased to answer that question on behalf of the government.

And I want to speak, Mr. Speaker, to executive air travel to which that member is referring. And I want to say to you and everybody in this province, Mr. Speaker, one of his colleagues, the member from Biggar, took more flights on executive air last year than six cabinet ministers of this government and, Mr. Speaker, he even took more trips than you yourself did.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — Order please. For written questions, the Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I'll be tabling responses to written questions nos. 1,036 to 1,047 inclusive, inclusive.

The Speaker: — The responses to questions 136 to 147 inclusive have been submitted.

Why is the member for Saskatoon Southeast on his feet?

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

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Morgan: — I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, in the west gallery, Don Funk, a constituent of mine. Mr. Funk is a well-known Saskatoon businessman and has been a great sports advocate and promoted softball teams over the years, and most recently has been very active in promoting the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. I am pleased to see that he's here today and would like to welcome him to the Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — For introductions? The member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I also would like to seek leave to introduce a guest.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the member from Saskatoon Southeast in welcoming Don Funk.

I've had the pleasure of attending the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

which is getting bigger and bigger every year thanks to the good work of Mr. Funk. I've also had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Funk and sharing fellowship with him. And I must admit I would have introduced him myself, but I can't tell from down here that it is Mr. Funk, so I'm afraid I'm going to have to get my eyes examined, Mr. Speaker. But I also want members to welcome Mr. Funk. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I wish to inform the Assembly that Her Honour is here for Royal Assent.

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 14:42 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills.]

Her Honour: — Pray be seated.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly at the present session has passed several Bills which, in the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour to which Bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk: — The Bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 24 - The Cost of Credit Disclosure Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 18 - The Securities Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 19 - The Trustee Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 26 - The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 22 - The Forestry Professions Act
- Bill No. 21 - The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 4 - The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 5 - The Cities Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 6 - The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 15 - The Highways and Transportation Amendment Act, 2005
- Bill No. 301 - The Faith Alive Ministries World Outreach Centre Inc. Act
- Bill No. 302 - The Orange Benevolent Society Amendment Act
- Bill No. 303 - The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Repeal Act
- Bill No. 33 - The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 34 - The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these Bills.

The Speaker: — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies required to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour:

- Bill No. 65 - The Appropriation Act, 2006 (No. 1)

to which I respectfully request Your Honour's consent.

Her Honour: — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 14:46.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate the good works of the Human Services Committee, as well as the policy field Committee 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: — The motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:47.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

Elhard	1395
Wall	1395
Draude	1395
Hermanson	1395
Stewart	1395
Wakefield	1395
Hart	1395
Harpauer	1396
Gantefoer	1396
Eagles	1396
Weekes	1396
Cheveldayoff	1396
Huyghebaert	1396
Allchurch	1396
Kirsch	1397
Brkich	1397
Morgan	1397
Kerpan	1397
Heppner	1397

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk	1397
--------------------	------

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on the Economy

McCall	1397
--------------	------

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 33 — The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006

Nilson	1398
--------------	------

Bill No. 34 — The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune

Nilson	1398
--------------	------

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

Allchurch	1398
Brkich	1398
Harpauer	1399

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hagel	1399
Eagles	1400
Lautermilch	1400
Morgan	1400, 1408
Wartman	1400
Weekes	1400
Quennell	1401
McMorris	1401
Atkinson	1401
Cline	1408

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Saskatoon's On Stage Players

Iwanchuk	1401
----------------	------

National Medical Laboratory Week

McMorris	1402
----------------	------

Campbell Collegiate Hosts Charity Concert Fundraiser

Thomson	1402
---------------	------

Estevan Celebrates Women of Today

Eagles	1402
--------------	------

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Hockey Team

Belanger	1402
----------------	------

Funding for Soil Conservation Association

Brkich	1403
--------------	------

Saskatchewan Transportation Company Celebrates 60 Years

Junor	1403
-------------	------

ORAL QUESTIONS

Development of Biofuels Industry

Wall1403
Serby1404

Assistance for Farmers in the Porcupine Plain Area

Draude1406
Wartman.....1406

Public Awareness of Health Care Options

Harpauer1407
Taylor.....1407
Krawetz.....1407
Lautermilch.....1408

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Iwanchuk1408
The Speaker.....1408

ROYAL ASSENT1409

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Lorne Calvert
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

Hon. Frank Quennell
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