



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

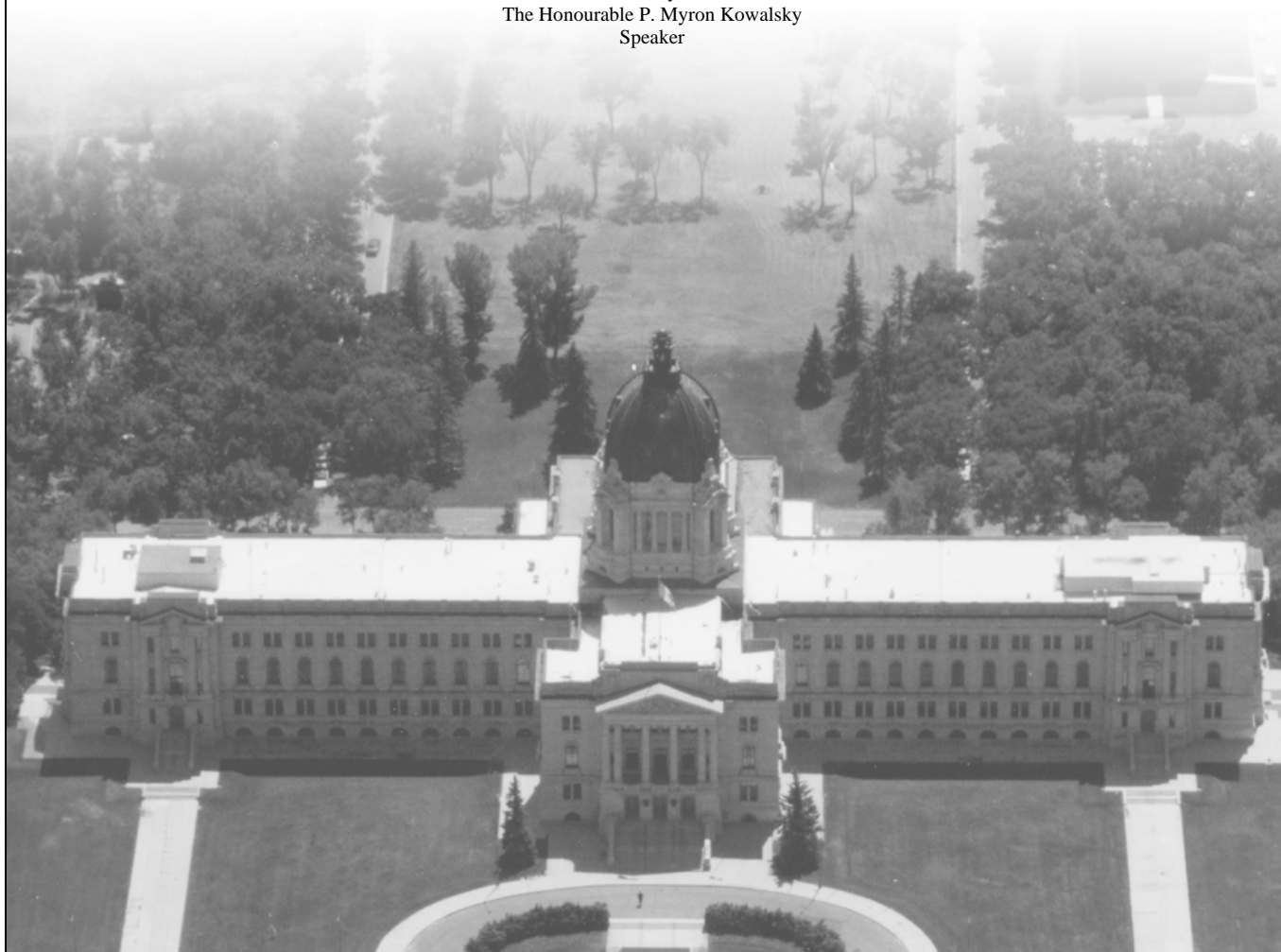
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### TABLING OF REPORTS

**The Speaker:** — Members, at this time I wish to table the annual report for the year 2005 from the Office of the Ombudsman, Kevin Fenwick.

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to present a petition that returns to a subject that's not only been consistent in the days past but is of very significant importance to the people of the Leader to Cabri stretch of Highway 32. The prayer reads as follows:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by individuals from Alberta as well as the community of Cabri. I so present.

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

**Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about Highway No. 310. The prayer reads:

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 Kuroki and Wadena. I so present.

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

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

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

And the signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from Colonsay, Meacham,

Saskatoon, Watson, St. Denis, Kamsack, Preeceville, Humboldt, Muenster, and Aberdeen. I so present.

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents 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 before the next election to build a children's hospital in Saskatoon.

And as in 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 Rosthern-Shellbrook.

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

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

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

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

**Mr. Brkich:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here calling the Government of Saskatchewan to maintain the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous:

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

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

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

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

**Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise again in the legislature today to present a petition regarding the funding of the cancer drug Avastin. I will read from the prayer for relief:

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens concerned about their health system from the constituencies of Saskatoon Meewasin, Saskatoon Eastview, and Saskatoon Greystone. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

#### READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

**Deputy Clerk:** — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 8 and 644.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

##### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill 32, The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 32 be heard in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — 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. 32 — The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les victimes d'actes criminels

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 32 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.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

##### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 37, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 37 be considered in the Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — 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. 37 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 37 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.

#### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

##### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 36, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2) without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 36 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — 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. 36 — The Miscellaneous Statutes  
(Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance)  
Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)/Loi corrective (indemnisation  
et assurance au profit des administrateurs et dirigeants)  
de 2006 (n° 2)**

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that this Bill 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.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 31, The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 31 be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — 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. 31 — The Miscellaneous Statutes  
(Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006**

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 31 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.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed to report Bill No. 41, The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 41 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — 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. 41 — The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006**

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 41 be 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.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I've been instructed by the committee to report Bill No. 35, The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006 without amendment.

**The Speaker:** — When shall Bill 35 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

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

**The Speaker:** — 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. 35 — The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi d'interprétation de 1995

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

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 35, The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006 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.

### PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

#### Standing Committee on Human Services

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered Bill No. 12, The Consumer Protection Amendment Act and to recommend to the Assembly that this Bill be ordered for second reading.

This report is of historical significance as it marks the first report from a standing committee of the legislature to hold public hearings on a Bill following first reading. Your committee agreed to meet on February 20 and 22, 2006 to obtain views on Bill No. 12, The Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2005. Stakeholders and members of the public were invited to make their views known to the committee either orally, in writing, or both.

Your committee held its hearings on February 20 and 22, 2006 in Regina in the Legislative Building. Your committee wishes to thank the Minister of Justice and his officials for their co-operation and the individuals and organizations who appeared before your committee.

This new committee process is an important step in ensuring

that there is an increased public input into the legislative process and development of public policy. Committees can hear the view of stakeholders and the public about the subject matter contained in the legislation. Your committee received positive feedback from those involved in this process.

In fact Mr. David Hardy, president of Fitness Industry Canada, stated, and I quote, "As an industry association, we appreciate the new-found openness of the committee process."

Your committee looks forward to continuing to use this new process in obtaining public input. I now move, seconded by the member from Cypress Hills, and table the report. I move, seconded by the member from Cypress Hills:

That the report of the Standing Committee on Human Services on Bill No. 12, The Consumer Protection Amendment Act, 2005 be now concurred in.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview, seconded by the member for Cypress Hills, that the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Human Services has just made legislative history in this province. Over the past several months we have participated in a process that has given elected members the opportunity to consider proposed legislation, to hold public hearings on that legislation, and to respond to that public input with what the committee members deem to be appropriate recommendations for changes to the legislation.

The success of this precedent-setting process has required considerable hard work and good faith on the part of the committee that has had a clear partisan divide. But the recommendations that came out of this process were clearly of a bipartisan nature. This conclusion bodes well for the future of legislative performance and has the potential to democratize the process to the benefit of all citizens of the province of Saskatchewan.

As Deputy Chair, I am hopeful that the precedent established by this standing committee will be repeated by other committees of this legislature in the days to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the member for Saskatoon Eastview, seconded by the member for Cypress Hills, that the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried, and I congratulate the members of the committee on the historical precedent they have

set here today.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all members of the Assembly today, I am pleased and honoured to introduce a group of grade 7 students from the Shellbrook High School from Shellbrook. They've come a long way to their Assembly and I'm pleased to see them here today. There are 37 students. There's two teachers, Wade Reddekopp and Diane Popovitch. They're also assisted by two chaperone, teachers' aides, Brenda LeComte and Stephanie Kennedy.

And, Mr. Speaker, I don't often have a lot of school groups coming down to their Legislative Assembly because of the distance, but I'm glad to see Shellbrook has come down. And I would ask all members to help me welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

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

**Hon. Mr. Quennell:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly someone who of course requires no introduction to members of the Assembly and that is our Ombudsman, Kevin Fenwick, who is here on the occasion of the tabling I think of his first report since being appointed a legislative officer. I believe — and I've known Mr. Fenwick for many, many years before he was in this position — that the legislature is very fortunate in this legislative officer and very wise to have selected him. And I hope that all members will welcome him here today.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Minister of Justice in welcoming our Ombudsman, Mr. Fenwick. He is a constituent of mine. And I would certainly on behalf of the opposition like to welcome him and thank him for all his good works, and we look forward to reading his report. And I'd ask all members to join with me in welcoming him.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce two young people who have joined us in the west gallery. Mr. Speaker, these two young people both work for BP. One, Dan Tomczak — maybe he'll give a bit of a wave — Dan

is an employee of BP from Estevan. He's currently in Estevan. He's originally from Regina and is a graduate of the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] chemical engineering program. And so we're grateful that he's not only here in the Assembly but here in the province of Saskatchewan.

Maybe that same fate awaits Kristen Klenzendorf who's also here. She's also a BP employee right now in Houston, Texas. Maybe one day soon she'll also be here in Saskatchewan and we would welcome that fact. But we want to ask all members to help us welcome them to this Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure as well to introduce to you today two people who have arrived in Regina here from Vegreville, Alberta. They're seated in the Speaker's gallery. These people are Natalie Cyba and her partner, Randy Cyba. Now Natalie is my first cousin once removed. And she is here to attend the wedding of AnnaMarie who is also my first cousin once removed. Now not to create any confusion, but Natalie's mother, Carol, is a sister to AnnaMarie's father which makes AnnaMarie and Carol first cousins, nothing being removed.

Please welcome Natalie and Randy to the Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

**Ms. Morin:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 18 years ago Saskatchewan became the first jurisdiction in all of Canada to declare April 28 a statutory Day of Mourning for those killed or injured on the job. Eighteen years ago the member from Moose Jaw North introduced a Bill at the request of former Saskatchewan Federation of Labour president, Nadine Hunt, proposing the observance of this day. The Bill passed unanimously. The Day of Mourning is now recognized across the nation and across the globe.

April marks an anniversary very special to the working people of this province, Mr. Speaker. In April 1972 Saskatchewan introduced the most comprehensive health and safety legislation in North America, the occupational health Act, to protect the safety of workers. April 28 is a day both to recognize those who have suffered at work and to renew our commitment to workers' safety.

Mr. Speaker, in the last year 33 Saskatchewan people died as a result of their work. Thirty-one of these deaths occurred within our province. More than 10,000 were injured. These workers are Saskatchewan's sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. Workers, Mr. Speaker, set out every day for their jobs to provide for their families, not to suffer debilitating injury and not to die.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to pledge their commitment to keeping occupational health and safety legislation strong and to maintain a process of continual renewal to address changing needs. In the name of those workers who have been killed or injured, Mr. Speaker, and in the name of the thousands of men and women who go to work each day, we must do no less.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the member opposite in recognizing this day. It's a day when all Canadians commemorate workers who have been injured, suffered an illness, or lost their lives due to hazards and accidents in the workplace. Officially recognized with the passing of the Workers Mourning Day Act in 1990, this day has been commemorated by various events across the country to pay respect to those victims of workplace accidents.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many improvements in occupational health and safety regulations since that first National Mourning Day, but we realize that there is much work left to be done. On the average, four Canadians lose their lives on the job every day. Mr. Speaker, that is four Canadians that do not come home at the end of the day to their loved ones.

Our National Day of Mourning gives all Canadians the opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives in the course of their employment. And we offer our support and prayers to the family, friends, and co-workers of those who have lost their loved ones in the workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Estevan School Wins Award for Green Schoolyard**

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Wednesday I attended the presentation of the John Phillip Fisher Memorial Award to Sacred Heart School in Estevan. This national award recognizes the greening of school grounds to the benefit of our health and environment.

Mr. Speaker, the staff and students of Sacred Heart School, along with the parents and local contractors, have worked extremely hard to bring their dream of a Garden of the Heart to reality. Areas of the schoolyard that were once asphalt have been made into perennial flower beds, and many trees have been planted along with two peace poles. Mr. Speaker, this creates an atmosphere of serenity which is perfect for their outdoor classroom, which they use quite often.

Mr. Speaker, the award ceremony was wonderful. The children gave exceptional performances, and it was a beautiful, warm day. Congratulations to the Sacred Heart School, and thank you to Hanna Keating for including me in their celebrations. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Yorkton Terriers Win Anavet Cup**

**Hon. Mr. Serby:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the terriers are a remarkable type of dog, known to be agile, intelligent, athletic, hard-working, and — most of all — very determined. And I'd like to tell you today about the most determined type of terrier of all, Mr. Speaker: the Yorkton Terrier, Mr. Speaker.

And they are a focused team, Mr. Speaker. Just ask the members from North Battleford and the member from Indian Head and the fans of Weyburn, Mr. Speaker.

The final series opened a week ago today and the Terriers defeating the Winnipeg South Blues in Yorkton. Over 3,000 fans, Mr. Speaker; standing room only. They won the next two games and it looked like they had their eye on the sweep over the Winnipeg team, only to be scored in the final moments. And last night the Terriers claimed the trophy, the Anavet Cup, by defeating the home-ice Winnipeg South Blues 5-3 in game five of a seven-game series.

And it comes as no surprise, Mr. Speaker, because 25 of the last 32 Anavet Cups have been won by Saskatchewan teams.

And those who watched last night's game and listened were treated to an outstanding performance by Chris Korchinski, named the most valuable player. And the Terriers are now on their way to the Royal Bank, Brampton, Ontario to face the Streetsville Derbys.

And I want to remind the colleague from Battleford and Indian Head and the fans of Weyburn, it's no shame to be on the side of the Yorkton Terriers and the side of champions. And I'd like the members of this Assembly to join me in a few moments in congratulating the Terriers.

And for the past month the city of Yorkton has been buzzing, Mr. Speaker, with excitement. The entire city is covered with Terrier signs and logos, and the tiger of the East is experiencing Terrier fever. And I want, Mr. Speaker, today to say and ask all members of the legislature to join me and wish them well and say: go, Terriers, go, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Royal Care Fundraising Goal Surpassed**

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was a celebration in Saskatoon on Wednesday when the Royal Care campaign fundraising goal was met and surpassed. A \$400,000 donation from Tim Gitzel, executive vice-president of the company AREVA, pushed the campaign over the top. The \$15 million raised for the Royal University Hospital Foundation makes it the most money ever raised by a



Saskatchewan hospital foundation.

Tim Gitzel and the fellow Royal Care campaign coordinators Doug Hodson and Jerry Grandey have committed their time and expertise to delivering a new vision for health care in Saskatchewan. Together they envisioned raising enough money to provide patients with better access to health care, to support research, and to attract and keep health care professionals in the province. Some of the money raised has already been used to create seven new fellowship positions.

The wish fund will grant wishes for patients' care and comfort and some of the important extras that aren't always provided in a hospital budget. Royal University Hospital Foundation Chair, Tom McClocklin, noted that the \$15 million may just be a stepping stone because hospitals will always need more money to provide patients with the best possible care.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to see the Royal Care campaign reach this important milestone and ask you and all my colleagues to acknowledge the businesses and individuals who donated, and the hard work done by the campaign coordinators and the entire Royal University Hospital Foundation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **National Water Polo Championships in Regina**

**Mr. McCall:** — Mr. Speaker, beginning yesterday and over the course of the next few days the Speedo 2006 Cadet Boys National Water Polo Championships will be going on here in Regina at the Lawson Aquatic Centre.

The cadet national championships are for players under the age of 16 and are one of the premier events on the Canadian water polo calendar. The event is being co-hosted by Water Polo Canada and the Regina Water Polo Association.

This event will see 13 of Canada's top cadet boys' teams coming from Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan to compete for the right to call themselves national team champions.

In addition to the tournament, this weekend will also see two Canadian National Water Polo League men's games between the Regina Squids and the Calgary Torpedoes. All in all it promises to be four days filled with sportsmanship, hospitality, fun, and high-performance water polo.

Later today it will be my privilege to say a few words at the opening ceremonies for the national championships. And of course I will be encouraging the visiting players, coaches, and fans to take the opportunity to see the sights and enjoy Regina's fine hospitality.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge all those involved in the Regina Water Polo Association in organizing the event. Tournament Co-Chairs Jim Graham and Carole Hutchinson, together with their big, talented team of staff and volunteers have done a tremendous job of putting on a top-notch national event. And while I wish all the teams every success over the

course of the weekend, I am sure people will understand if I wish the Regina Squids just a lot more success than all the rest. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### **Deputy Premier's Role**

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, it seems that the Deputy Premier has taken on a new cabinet responsibility — the minister of NDP [New Democratic Party] enforcement. Mr. Speaker, it seems that every time someone in the province criticizes that government or that Premier, they're bound to get a call in some form from the Deputy Premier — whether it was the verbal berating he gave Chief Bird for attending the Saskatchewan Party convention or telling Weyburn voters they would be ignored if they were to vote for someone other than the NDP. And now we see the enforcer setting his sights on members of the radio media.

Mr. Speaker, I think Saskatchewan residents would be much better off if the Deputy Premier would devote all of his energy that he has spent trying to be the commissar of public expression, and start working to fix even one of the problems that Saskatchewan people are being burdened with by this NDP government.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### **ORAL QUESTIONS**

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

#### **Review of Medical Services Delivery**

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Minister of Health promised a review into the unfortunate circumstances surrounding baby Paige's inability to get timely treatment in Saskatchewan. Baby Paige had already spent three weeks in the Saskatoon health care system when her family was told that it would be another three weeks before diagnosis could be made. As we know, out of sheer frustration, Mike and Michelle Hansen took their daughter to Edmonton where she was diagnosed with leukemia within 24 hours of being admitted into the Stollery Children's Hospital.

Can the minister tell this Assembly today what the review has found in terms of why Paige couldn't get timely treatment here in Saskatchewan?

[10:30]

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to answer questions on this at the beginning of question period today. The last 72 hours have been very intensive within the Saskatoon Health Region and within the Department of Health. A large number of interviews have

been conducted. There's been a tremendous amount of co-operation from a large number of people with regards to this case.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health, the Saskatoon Health Region are very much concerned and interested in the long-term health of baby Paige. And we are very pleased to know that she is doing well and has a continuum of care now put in place.

Mr. Speaker, the preliminary report of the provincial coordinator will be provided to me before the end of this day. I have had a briefing this morning and am in a position to discuss a couple of things with members of the opposition and the media today.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, we know that Paige's family had been told that they would need to wait up to three weeks for a bone scan at the Royal University Hospital. But surely the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority is not the only region that can conduct a bone scan. We believe that if timely treatment isn't available in one health region, then it's up to the region to see what's available in the other health regions in the province. This case notwithstanding, Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us if there will be significant improvements of communication within the health regions so that people can receive timely health care?

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that the review that has taken place so far has indicated to us is that there are three areas that do require additional work, both with efforts focused on this particular case but province-wide, Mr. Speaker. Those areas include communication, coordination, and access. And we will, in the coming days and weeks, Mr. Speaker, be putting more effort and more time into those areas: communication, coordination, and access.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Mr. Speaker, in addition, in this case Michelle Hansen was told that baby Paige would require an MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] but that the MRI was out of service. Did the review show that the MRI was indeed out of service? And if that was the case, can the minister tell the Assembly what kind of contingency plan is now in place when an essential diagnostic equipment fails? And will we see improvements to that plan in the future?

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I could indicate that the multi-disciplinary approach that has been taken in the review so far has taken a look at a root cause,

analysis of contributing factors, and is working on identifying corrective measures for those things that may have been found not to have been absolutely correct within the system.

I do not have an answer for the member today with regards to the MRI. But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the MRIs do have specific schedules in which they are working. Just like your car at home, Mr. Speaker, sometimes they're taken out of service for servicing to ensure that they are working at optimum capacity. Mr. Speaker, there are always backup plans in every case when you pull one MRI out of the system.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed part of the review but the review goes beyond specifics. It goes to the provincial system.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the first question, the minister indicated that there will be a preliminary report before the end of the day. The opposition party has been asking for that report to be public, and so my question is this: will that report in its entirety be made public, and will it be available before Monday?

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Mr. Speaker, what will be provided to me before the end of today is a clinical report done internally with the Saskatchewan health region. The preliminary report as it stands right now is not part of the public disclosure process. Mr. Speaker, I will respect the privacy of those who have contributed information to the internal clinical report process.

Mr. Speaker, there are still parts of this investigation that have not been completed. Number one, we have not had a formal interview with the family, and we will not release information until the family's interests have been respected. Secondly, we have not yet had a formal investigation of any of the advice that was provided from anyone outside the health system. And thirdly, Mr. Speaker, we have not concluded the investigation into the care and service and information provided from outside the province. That's a part of the process.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Waiting Time for Cancer Care

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a couple weeks ago I was asking the Minister of Health about some of the longest waiting lists in Canada. But in particular, what I was asking about was the length of time the patient have to wait after a physician's referral to see an oncologist — first visit to oncologist.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the national average for the first visit to an oncologist is four to five weeks. A couple of weeks ago on April 19 the minister responded though. He said "The

optimum wait time from physician referral to oncologist seeing was about 9.5 weeks.” If it was 9.5 weeks a couple of weeks ago or months ago, can he tell us what the optimum wait time in the province is now?

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the member opposite knows, wait times are the subject of every provincial and federal Minister of Health in Canada. In fact, Mr. Speaker, wait times are the priority of the federal Minister of Health and will be subject of considerable continued discussion at the ministers of Health table. Mr. Speaker, we know that because of recruitment and retention issues, particularly in Saskatoon, that the wait times with regards to referrals for oncology work are longer today than optimum and that . . . compared to what’s going on in other provinces.

That having been said, Mr. Speaker, we have provided additional resources to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency this year. They have established a internal taskforce to be working on this very issue. And, Mr. Speaker, we intend to, as we have been doing prior to this question, working on the wait times for referral to oncologist . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a *Leader-Post* article yesterday, a representative from the Saskatoon Cancer Centre said no patients had been referred outside this province in the last month. That begs the question, why not? She goes on to say that despite the goal of seeing everyone as soon as possible, they simply cannot meet the targets set out by the national standard.

Mr. Speaker, we’ve just learned about 62-year-old Margaret Sundquist from Watrous. Her case file was sent to the Saskatoon cancer clinic on April 7. She was told that there would be a minimum of a 12-week wait for her first visit to an oncologist. The family wants to know where they should go or what they should do. Can the minister tell them? Should they have to wait 12 weeks for first visit to an oncologist in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Mr. Speaker, again thank you very much. I appreciate the question. Certainly the individual referred to in this question . . . I’m not aware of this particular case, but I would certainly urge the member opposite to do what he should be doing in cases like that. And it’s referring the case to the quality of care coordinator at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency or within the health region.

Mr. Speaker, I think the member should know that the new patient office with the Saskatchewan cancer care agency is currently seeing 19 new patients every day on consultations. The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is reviewing appointments;

137 patients are reviewed every day.

In terms of treatment, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency is doing radiation treatments on 154 patients every day and chemotherapy treatments on 66 patients every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, the reality is people for first visits to oncologists in this province, for the last couple of weeks that we’re learning from, is 12 weeks. That’s three times the national average. Is that acceptable in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. By implication, the member opposite is saying that the people, the good people working at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency are not doing their job in trying to recruit and retain oncologists to be able to help reduce the waiting list.

Mr. Speaker, those people are doing a tremendous job. The new patient office is functioning. The recruitment and retention efforts are having some success, Mr. Speaker. And that waiting list will drop as the good people at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency do the job that they’ve been asked to do.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we raised the case of Emily Morley, the Canadian Cancer Society’s cancer advocate has been absolutely flooded with phone calls. She used to receive a total of one to maybe four phone calls a day. Last week or this week, we met with representatives of the society, and they were telling us before they left the office she had received 36 phone calls that morning.

Mr. Speaker, cancer patients are wanting to know how they can access this treatment quicker. Mr. Speaker, waiting 12 weeks is unacceptable. When will the minister start notifying patients to start looking out of province as an option early in the process?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member opposite also questions the commitment of this government to cancer patients in this province. And, Mr. Speaker, no one is more committed to reducing those waiting lists and getting people seen by the professionals sooner than myself, Mr. Speaker. We are absolutely committed.

That’s why, Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, earlier this month,

we presented a budget that provides an additional \$17 million to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, a 10.2 per cent increase in its budget, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite voted against that increase. They voted against the allocation to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency.

And, Mr. Speaker, I ask the member opposite, how much funding would the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency have got had they been elected and implemented their freeze, the health funding promise?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Saskatchewan Public Service Employee Survey

**Mr. Elhard:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to bring to your attention today a workplace situation that is occurring at the Department of Community Resources. Yesterday in the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix*, there was an article with the following headline, "Gov't workers protest conditions." The article goes on to talk about 70 workers who are protesting what they see as harassment from management. I'd like to quote from the article, Mr. Speaker:

... management has made the workplace a "toxic" environment. "It's beyond dysfunctional."

To the minister, what has the government done to solve this problem and address the concerns of their own department employees?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. These are always very difficult issues. And as we've indicated, from time and time again, that we value our employees and there are processes that employees and management work their way through. These are very sensitive matters that we allow management and their teams to go through as we want to respect the employees as well.

Mr. Speaker, DCR [Department of Community Resources] has some great and very dedicated employees. We value all the employees, but we again assure folks that these sensitive issues are handled through proper procedures and processes and will continue to admire that and certainly respect that process. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to quote from *The StarPhoenix* article once again. It went on to say:

"If you . . . stand up and challenge this employer, you're

black-balled, black-listed," . . . "You will not get any future opportunities or promotions."

Mr. Speaker, this is just one symptom of a larger problem. In the 2005 Saskatchewan public service employee survey, less than half of those surveyed responded favourably to the following statement: "All in all, my Department is effectively managed and well-run."

Mr. Speaker, what is the minister doing to ensure government workers are being treated fairly and with respect? What is this minister doing to ensure worker concerns are heard and acted upon?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[10:45]

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

**Hon. Mr. Belanger:** — Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated we sincerely value all of our employees. Mr. Speaker, we also sincerely value all our managers. And there are processes that have been negotiated and processes that have been renegotiated. And these will continue being thought at in terms of looking for some solutions and resolutions to all the employees' issues in concert with some of the challenges that management has.

Again I will point out that we value all the employees, but we respect the process in which an employee has a grievance. And we certainly encourage management to work with them. And those processes certainly, again as I mentioned before, will be fair, and it'll be thorough, and they'll be not subjected to political interference. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Elhard:** — Mr. Speaker, according to press reports, the government workers are less impressed with this government's activities in behalf of their process than the minister would indicate.

Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of government workers provide exemplary service and deserve support and respect. Now this survey that I just referred to a moment ago, goes on to say that every department . . . it goes to every department rather, and represents the opinions of workers as a whole in the public service. Mr. Speaker, the results of this employee survey need to be taken seriously because some of them are really quite disturbing.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Speaker. Only one-third of those surveyed agreed with the statement, "Your Department is informing employees about reasons behind decisions which affect them."

Mr. Speaker, less than a third of the employees agreed with this statement: "Your present job provides a chance to have your ideas . . . [accepted] and put into use."

And finally, Mr. Speaker, 60 per cent of employees responded unfavourably or had a neutral reaction to this statement: "When things go well in your job, your contributions are usually recognized."

Now, Mr. Speaker, what has the minister done to address the glaring problems revealed in this public service survey?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

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

**The Speaker:** — Order please. Order. Once again the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

**Hon. Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As the members will know, this is the second employees' survey that's been conducted by the Public Service Commission in the province of Saskatchewan. There are a number of strengths that have been noted in that survey, particularly — particularly — the government's approach to balancing work and family life, which is usually appreciated by the public service in this province. And in fact that has been acknowledged across the country that we are a key employer in terms of promoting the balance of work life and family.

Mr. Speaker, there are some challenges that have become evident in the survey, and there are some things that the province needs to work on. The deputy ministers of each government department are aware of the results within each department. And they have been charged with ensuring that two years from now, when the survey is conducted again, that there will be some significant increase in employee satisfaction, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Government Spending

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to remind the Premier again of what he said about wasteful government spending when he was in opposition. Have they cut funding to their own political staffs? Have they cut anything from their self-serving advertising budgets? Have they cut from their lavish personal expenditures and trips on government aircraft?

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the Premier's own record in these areas, he's 0 for 3. He increased his own political staff. He just ran a half-a-million-dollar, self-serving advertising campaign. And we just learned the cost of flights by NDP ministers jumped by 13 per cent to over a half a million dollars. Mr. Speaker, these are areas the Premier promised to cut. Why is he breaking his word and increasing spending in all three areas?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — The Chair recognizes the Minister for Sask Property Management.

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Well . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order please. The Minister for SPM [Saskatchewan Property Management].

**Hon. Mr. Lautermilch:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the members opposite that the flight service that is provided to MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] is provided to all MLAs — not just cabinet ministers, but private members as well, in an attempt to allow them to do their jobs and to be able to return, when the session is on, to their ridings to serve their constituents. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, I think that it's a reasonable service that is provided. What that member doesn't say is the number of miles has gone down, air miles that have flown has in fact gone down. Mr. Speaker, I want that member to understand that.

But what I also want the people of Saskatchewan to understand is what this is all about. This is about that member and the Leader of the Opposition who plan to privatize the air service, put it out to private air carriers. And that's fine. And if that's their policy, they should say so.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Well I'd like to thank the new premier for that non-answer. But, Mr. Speaker, when the real Premier was in opposition, the Premier said the government should look at saving money by cutting its own political staff.

Well last year what happened? He hired six new staff in his own office. He increased his own communications budget by a half a million dollars. This year he increased his own communications budget nearly \$300,000 more. Mr. Speaker, that's an increase of nearly \$800,000 or 73 per cent in just two years. Mr. Speaker, how can the Premier justify this massive increase in his own office? And how does this square with the commitment to cut political staffs?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I want to tell that member and all members opposite what's increased in the last year. The gross domestic product in the province of Saskatchewan is increased 3.2 per cent, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — That's what's increased in the last year, Mr. Speaker. That confused and cranky caucus over there, Mr. Speaker, should just pick up today's newspaper. It's of some interest, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to talk about today's newspaper. They want to talk about the 1980s when their own leader was at work upstairs here. They don't want to talk about today's newspaper because, Mr. Speaker, what does today's

newspaper say in banner headlines? “Life is very good here” in the province of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, the quality of life, that’s what’s going up in Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Huyghebaert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, like to talk a little bit about integrity and credibility. Here we have the Premier said his government should cut political staff. Then he increased political staff. Where’s the credibility in that? That’s strike one against that Premier.

The Premier said government should cut its own self-serving advertising budget. What happened? He increased the NDP self-serving advertising budget. Where is the credibility and the integrity of that Premier in that aspect?

Then he said, then he said the ministers should cut down on trips on government aircraft — strike three, Mr. Speaker. Last year the cost of flights by ministers was up over a half a million dollars, an increase of 13 per cent. How does this Premier justify the increase, these increases? How does he justify saying one thing and then doing the exact opposite? Where is the credibility and where is the integrity of that Premier?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Hon. Mr. Calvert:** — It’s interesting. The members opposite, today they’d like to talk about the 1980s.

Well we’d like to talk about the 1980s too because the Leader of the Opposition, he’s erased the 1980s right off his website, right off his website, Mr. Speaker, right off his website, seven missing years. He doesn’t want to talk about the 1980s when he was at work upstairs here.

But the member over there from Wood River wants to talk about the 1980s. Well, Mr. Speaker, he wants to talk about expenditures. He wants to talk about expenditures in advertising, Mr. Speaker. Well let me tell you this, and I’ll tell the people of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan today is a great news story, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is a great news story.

“Life is very good here” in the province of Saskatchewan. GDP [gross domestic product] growth up 3.2 per cent, Mr. Speaker, and we are going to tell that story. We’re going to tell it to the young people of Saskatchewan. We’re going to tell it to the citizens of Saskatchewan. We’re going to tell it to the nation, and we’re going to tell it to the world, Mr. Speaker.

We are going to tell the good news story of Saskatchewan because that cranky, confused operation over there is casting a pall on the province. We are going to tell the world about the good news of the province of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

**Hon. Mr. Forbes:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise and ask leave of the Assembly to make a statement of importance to Saskatchewan workers.

**The Speaker:** — Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Minister of Labour.

### Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

**Hon. Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is the National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. In Canada an average of two or three people are killed on the job every day of the year, and nearly 900,000 Canadian workers are injured each year, many of them permanently. The magnitude of the suffering and grief of these deaths and injuries leave in their wake cannot be measured.

Mr. Speaker, today we mourn all those who have lost their lives or suffered injury as part of the effort to build our province and our country. Every worker killed is someone’s son or daughter, mother or father, brother or sister. Today our thoughts and prayers are with the grieving families left behind, with all those who every day must bear the pain of knowing their loved one is never coming home again.

We cannot undo the terrible damage that has been done. And we can’t make grieving families whole again, but we can spare other families that same anguish by doing everything we can to prevent such workplace tragedies.

So as well as a day of mourning, today is also a day of renewed commitment — a renewed commitment to safety in the workplace; a renewed commitment to further reducing workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities. Since the last day of mourning, the Workers’ Compensation Board has recognized the death of more than 30 people in our province from illnesses or injuries sustained on the job. More than 10,000 others were injured.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all hon. members to rise as I read into the record the names of those 33 men and women. I also ask to observe a moment of silence to honour their memory when I have finished.

Ricky Billette  
Garth Goddard  
Keith Hagen  
Garth Ivey  
Hadden Garrett Kid  
Cynthia Lemire  
Marvin Loff  
Kevin Lucas

Calvin Folwark  
Kenneth Graham  
Anthony Hager  
James Jones  
John Knihniski  
Joseph Lett  
Lloyd Love  
Christopher Mosterd

Carman Reetz	Stephen Reidy
Edward Schmidt	Daniel Schultz
Devon Whitehead	Harlan Williams
Jochen Wolf	Emerson Zuck
Chris Peter	Vernon Bakke
Saverio Coppola	Kenneth Baber
Jason Maurer	Lyle Hoggarth
Cameron Hunter	Manfred Nigge
Emil Schug	

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

[11:00]

**The Speaker:** — I thank all members. Please be seated. The Chair recognizes the member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Hart:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, I would like to join with the Minister of Labour in offering our support and prayers to those families who have lost a loved one due to workplace accidents, Mr. Speaker.

When a family loses a loved one due to an unexpected death, it is a tragic thing, Mr. Speaker. And if it's in the workplace and particularly if it could have been prevented, that makes that person's death even more tragic, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon all of us in this Legislative Assembly to make sure that we do everything we can to protect the working men and women in our province to make sure that they have safe working conditions, Mr. Speaker. And even though we do everything we can, accidents will happen. Sometimes they're unpreventable, as they are when we sit in our vehicles and drive down the roads and sometimes something happens that cannot be prevented. But oftentimes there is room for improvement, and we must make sure that that progress of making a safer workplace for all people . . . that work continues, Mr. Speaker.

As I said, on behalf of the opposition, we offer our prayers and our support to all those families who have lost a loved one in this past year.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — On behalf of the government I'll be tabling responses to written questions nos. 1,048 to 1,053.

**The Speaker:** — Responses to questions 1,048 to 1,053 have been submitted.

#### MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Not Debatable)

#### Return Nos. 575 and 576

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Government Whip.

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Mr. Speaker, we would like to order return nos. 575 and 576.

**The Speaker:** — Motion 575 and return 576 have been ordered.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Speaker, I request leave of the House to go to government orders.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has requested leave of the Assembly to go to government orders. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted.

#### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 64

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 64 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to speak to Bill 64, The Income Tax Act of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, corporate income taxes in Saskatchewan contribute some \$361 million of revenue or approximately 22 per cent of all taxes in the province. As we have known and heard time and time again in this Assembly, Saskatchewan has had the highest corporate income tax rates in the country, that rate being 17 per cent. This rate is levied on income that's not eligible for the small-business or the manufacturer and processing rate reductions. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has also had the distinction of having the highest small-business taxes in the country.

And I just want to go into this one a little bit, Mr. Speaker. The exemption in Saskatchewan was \$300,000. Above that number, companies had to pay 17 per cent. Jack Vicq and his committee has told us that Saskatchewan tax rates were not competitive and nowhere is that more evident than in this situation.

Companies paying above \$300,000 in income and paying their taxes had to compete with rates as low as 4 per cent in Manitoba, 3 per cent in Alberta, at the 17 per cent rate. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, it's not surprising to notice why Saskatchewan is in the position that it is of having the highest rates of job loss, the highest rates of out-migration of young people, with business taxes like that. Certainly, certainly this legislation is

long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending most of the committee hearings that Jack Vicq and the business tax review committee held across Saskatchewan and I heard from many, many business people. And what they said time and time again was that Saskatchewan's tax rates are just not competitive. Yes, businesses had ways of getting around it. You know, they would create extra companies to make sure that the income was below \$300,000. But it wasn't efficient, Mr. Speaker. It's not the way that business should be done. It's not the way that a province's taxation system should be done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we've known for a long period of time that taxes in Saskatchewan were way out of whack. We've known certainly since I've been in this legislature in November 2003, that Saskatchewan could no longer continue with the tax rates that were put forward. What, Mr. Speaker, did this NDP government do?

For the first two years that I was a member of this legislature — nothing. They have done nothing to reduce taxes. They have done nothing to make taxes competitive in Saskatchewan. In fact the only real financial measure that this government has undertaken is an increase to the PST [provincial sales tax] — \$150 million tax grab that still stands today, Mr. Speaker. It's a shame.

When we look at this Bill and we look at what's been happening, we have to realize that other jurisdictions do not stand still as this NDP government dithers and waits for some direction on what to do. The Government of British Columbia has moved to reduce the corporate income tax rate to 12 per cent and even the Government of Manitoba, Mr. Speaker, without even having a commission, is reducing their corporate income taxes. And as we all know, prior to the Finance minister announcing his adoption of the Vicq commission, the Government of Alberta has once again hopped over Saskatchewan in reducing their corporate income tax rates to 10 per cent.

Madam Speaker, this Bill is a move in the right direction. It's something that had to be done. It's something that's long overdue. I've talked to many tax lawyers in Saskatchewan who have told me about the concern that they've had, the concern between their professional responsibility to their clients and that they feel as a taxpayer of the Saskatchewan treasury. Due to their professional responsibilities they had to advise the people that they're working for, their clients, to move their funds out of Saskatchewan. To move their head offices in many cases, Mr. Speaker, out of Saskatchewan to ensure that they don't incur the wrath of the high tax rates that Saskatchewan has had here for the last 15 years, Mr. Speaker.

It's something that's long overdue. The income shifting that has taken place over the last 15 years has not benefited our province as the NDP had campaigned in the last election and said that tax decreases would be a detriment to our province. They have now realized that is indeed not the case. We need a thriving business sector to turn around the economy in this province, to send a message to businesses that you can hire young people here, to send a message to those young people to stay in Saskatchewan and have their future here.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the high corporate tax rates, the high tax rates in general — you name a tax, it's near or at the top; the highest taxes in the country — it has not worked in this province. It has been a detriment, this NDP policy, for the last 15 years. And I'm glad that they've finally seen the light and have chosen to actually reduce taxes.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is long overdue. It's something members on this side of the House have been speaking about for many, many years. And with that I'd refer this to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The motion before the Assembly is the one 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?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Mr. Speaker, I would move that this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 64 be referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried. This Bill No. 64 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Yes. Mr. Speaker, can we just reconsider the previous question? It was referred incorrectly to the wrong committee. I'd ask for leave to reconsider the previous question.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has requested leave to reconsider the previous question in order that it may be referred to another committee. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. To which committee shall this Bill really be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Well maybe we should just waive consideration in the committee; there seems to be such



agreement in the House on it. I don't see the opposition excited about that. So instead I will move that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 64, The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried. This Bill then stands properly referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

### Bill No. 63

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Thomson that **Bill No. 63 — The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to enter into the debate on Bill 63, The Corporate Capital Tax Act. Mr. Speaker, this is something that I do take great pleasure in responding to. It's something that members on this side of the House have been talking about for many, many years, certainly since the inception of the Saskatchewan Party. This is something that has been important — making Saskatchewan a competitive place to do business.

Mr. Speaker, I've been very pleased when the Saskatchewan tax review committee was established to be able to present the first presentation to those hearings in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. And I just want to quote from that presentation today. And I know members opposite would be very pleased. We've had many debates about this presentation, but indeed for the record here I just want to review it for members opposite and for all those concerned.

On Tuesday my colleague from Indian Head-Milestone said that he would like to hear the whole presentation. I'm sorry I can't do that at the present time, in interests of time, but I will undertake to personally go through it with him in the future.

Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 2005, almost one year ago, the Sask Party made the first presentation to the Saskatchewan business tax review committee in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Party told the business tax review committee in Yorkton that it wants to:

... provide its young people with opportunities to maintain the high quality of health, education, and social services [in Saskatchewan that] ... people expect, the government must embark on a mix of tax reductions and new growth ... incentives to [ensure] ... new investment and [to] create jobs.

And I'm quoting, Mr. Speaker.

“There are [many] good reasons to make Saskatchewan a

more attractive place to invest and do business . . . These include our young people, the high quality of health care and social services we value, and a growing and competitive economy” [which is very much needed].

“If we are going to provide our young people with career opportunities and continue to afford valued social services into the future, we need to expand our tax base. And to do that we need to make Saskatchewan's business environment as competitive as possible.”

The Calvert government has given Saskatchewan the most aggressive capital tax investment taxes in North America and the highest general corporate income taxes in Canada.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is indeed important. This presentation speaks to the very role of opposition in this legislature. The role of opposition is not only to criticize — although the government has given us ample opportunity to do that, especially in the last couple of weeks — but it's also to propose ideas, Mr. Speaker. And that's why I take great pride in presenting this presentation on behalf of the official opposition, on behalf of the Saskatchewan Party. Indeed I was the only member of any political party to represent their party and to make such a presentation.

But not only did we make the presentation, Mr. Speaker, we went into the specifics — each and every area. We outlined the specifics. We costed them out. We demonstrated that they were indeed affordable within the context of the present financial situation of the province.

[11:15]

We talked about reducing the small-business tax to eleven and a half per cent. What did Jack Vicq and his committee come up with? They moved it to 12 per cent. And we agreed with that, and we thank them for that. Obviously the government didn't want to listen to us, but they have listened to the Vicq commission. And we certainly appreciate them at least doing that and following a road map that was given to them. They neglected to create one of their own. They neglected to show leadership in this regard, but at least they listened to the Vicq commission and indeed, through our submission, to the Saskatchewan Party.

Another thing that we recommended is making small-business tax rates competitive in Saskatchewan. The 5 per cent business rate is still amongst the highest in the country, and there's further movement that can be done in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, in interest of time I want to just touch on the highlights of that presentation that was made on May 10, 2005. And I quote:

Now is not the time for mixed messages from the Calvert government like praising the oil and gas industry one day and [then] hitting the same industry with tax hikes . . . [the next] day . . . Now is the time for a strategic plan to ensure opportunities for our young people, the continuation of high quality public services, and a growing economy.

There is no better time to make a commitment like this

than right now in Saskatchewan's Centennial Year . . .

That was the advice we gave the government through the Vic commission. That was the advice that the Saskatchewan Party, as the official opposition, took the time to research, took the time to cost out, and took the time to put forward in a responsible manner. And I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what an opposition should be doing. And, Mr. Speaker, further to that, that is exactly what a Saskatchewan Party government will do. We will not divvy. We will work, we will work in that regard.

When we talk about the corporate capital tax in Saskatchewan, it's important to look at the history of the CCT [corporation capital tax]. It was introduced in 1980 by the Blakeney government. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Blakeney government did some good things, but certainly introducing the corporate capital tax in our province was not one of them. And of course we know nationalizing the potash mines was certainly not a good idea by that Blakeney government. There were some ideologues though in that government that convinced the members of the day, convinced the government of the day to put this tax on capital — not on profits, just on capital.

Come to Saskatchewan they said. Invest your money. Invest your money in our province, and what's the first thing we'll do? We'll send you a bill for the corporate capital tax. That was instituted in 1980, and look what has happened to our province in the last 25 years, Mr. Speaker.

We haven't grown. Our population has dwindled, especially in the last few years, and we take no pleasure in enunciating those numbers, Mr. Speaker. They're numbers that trouble all of us. And we know exactly why that businesses weren't able to create jobs as they were in other provinces, because of the situation on the taxes here in Saskatchewan.

When we look across the country and we look across the world, corporate capital tax has been something that has been decreasing wherever you look. Certainly across North America, they've phased them out, so much so in fact that Jack Vicq said we had the highest corporate capital tax, not only in Canada, not only in North America, he wasn't for sure, but he said probably in the free world — the highest corporate capital tax in the free world, Mr. Speaker.

Other provinces have moved. Ontario is moving to get rid of their general corporate capital tax. Quebec has been moving to reduce that tax, and BC [British Columbia] of course has moved very quickly to eliminate that tax altogether, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan was indeed unique in its substantial reliance on this revenue both provincially and nationally.

Private investment in Saskatchewan is one of the key factors for wealth creation. By investing, companies are able to modernize, be more competitive, create jobs, and grow in the short and long term, Mr. Speaker.

In terms of our competitiveness with other provinces in Canada, Saskatchewan again didn't make the short list. Those are words of Jack Vicq and what he told us. And I think it troubled all members, many members on the government side that were there when he said those words, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I know in the interest of time that it's important that we move along, but at this time . . .

**The Speaker:** — I just want to request leave of the Assembly to make an introduction. It's a moment that I just don't want to miss. Leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I thank all members. Members, in the Speaker's gallery today is our granddaughter of my wife and I, Anisha Zolty who is here for her first visit to the legislature. I see she's already got the wave of royalty perfected. Anisha is two years and four months old. She's here with her mother, Lara Kowalsky, our daughter, and with them of course is my wife, Olesia. I'd like you to welcome three of the most important women in my life. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### ADJOURNED DEBATES

#### SECOND READINGS

#### Bill No. 63 — The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2006 (continued)

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to continue on by talking about the input that organizations across Saskatchewan have had into the Vicq commission and continue to have to guide this province on how to make it more competitive.

The Saskatchewan Institute of Chartered Accountants in 2004, their checkup said, and I quote:

Indirect corporate taxes are extremely unpopular with company owners, managers and investors owing to their lack . . . [on] relation to profitability. A company in difficult financial circumstances must pay indirect taxes, even in the absence of profits . . . The corporate capital tax . . . in particular is seen as a substantial barrier to investment. Some provincial governments have reduced or eliminated their corporate . . . tax as a consequence.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to thank the Saskatchewan Institute of Chartered Accountants for their work in this area; the Canadian Federation of Independent Business; the Canadian taxpayers association; chambers of commerce across Saskatchewan; in my home city, the North Saskatoon Business Association took this very seriously; and to all those groups that both the minister and myself have written to and met with and have had substantial contributions to this.

Mr. Speaker, this too is legislation that is long overdue. It's something that Saskatchewan has waited for, and I know that it's something that really will speak to the growth that's needed

in Saskatchewan.

When the federal government has done studies on what has happened to jurisdictions that have had high capital taxes, the most distortionary tax has been the capital tax, followed by taxes on wages and taxes on consumption. Furthermore, measures targeted toward reducing taxes on new investment only are found to be highly effective. Mr. Speaker, that's new growth tax cuts.

And again we were very pleased to see that the government has finally seen the light. They must have read the Leader of the Opposition's Enterprise Saskatchewan model, because they have adopted some points from it. It's much like the Saskatchewan Party plan of *100 Ideas*. They've adopted many of them, but, Mr. Speaker, they have not gone the full way, and we will be here to remind them of that certainly into the future.

So, Mr. Speaker, without further ado, I would like to tell you that the members of the opposition here will do all we can to ensure speedy passage of this Bill to ensure that Saskatchewan's economy, for the first time in probably 15 years, has a real chance to start growing; that young people have a chance to stay here, to make their careers here. This sends a signal. It won't happen overnight. Again it's not something that'll be done in isolation. We have to ensure that we have competitive labour laws. We have to ensure that we have a full growth agenda in this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to refer this Bill to committee.

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 63, The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Mr. Thomson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would move that this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Finance that Bill No. 63 be referred to the Standing Committee on the Economy. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — The motion is carried. Bill 63 stands referred

to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

### Bill No. 62

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen that **Bill No. 62 — The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

**Mr. Cheveldayoff:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I enter into the debate on Bill 62, The Municipal Revenue Sharing Act. This Bill sets into legislation the amounts listed in the budget for municipal revenue sharing. There's a total of \$97 million for all municipalities in this budget year.

This Act moves the rural revenue-sharing section concerning hamlets into regulations allowing for greater fluidity in the content. It also paves the way for greater consultation with SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] if a new revenue-sharing formula is ever implemented.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important when we talk about this legislation to review the revenue-sharing ideas that we hear from both sides of this House. The members on this side of the House want to ensure that true revenue sharing happens in this province for the benefits of all municipalities.

The government likes to talk about revenue sharing, but Saskatchewan has not had real revenue sharing in place since the 1970s, Mr. Speaker. Real revenue sharing means that a portion of provincial revenue is indeed shared with municipalities, that that is put into legislation, and they can count on that benefit. Real revenue sharing allows municipalities to plan for the long term, Mr. Speaker.

The NDP today — and I think members opposite will agree with this — does not have real revenue sharing in place. Any funding to municipalities — and it seems to be a habit with this government — is done on an ad hoc basis. Municipalities cannot plan for anything that involves just one year or more of funding. They can't plan for anything that involves more than a year of funding. If the grants from the government for example, Mr. Speaker, are low in one year, what happens? It's similar to what's happening with this budget. Taxes go up, Mr. Speaker. That's what happens when you don't have real revenue sharing in place that municipalities can count on.

And what is the result? That is the important question here today. Communities cannot build recreation complexes, improve their roads, or enhance the quality of water they have in their communities if they do not receive stable and adequate money from this government. This leaves cities and communities holding the financial bag. Because this government is on some kind of a power trip it seems where they want to control the purse strings, they leave communities and municipalities holding the financial bag, Mr. Speaker.

That means that communities often have no choice when they're downloaded upon to raise property taxes. Higher property taxes means Saskatchewan communities will fall

further behind other jurisdictions in the province and other jurisdictions outside the province, across this country, falling further behind. Higher property taxes means that revenue will have to come from other sources, or it means cutting services to these very communities that have been hit so hard by this government already.

Even with all the new farm property tax money, revenue sharing for municipalities is still only \$97 million. Revenue sharing today is still millions of dollars less than it was 15 years ago, Mr. Speaker — 15 years ago. And this government is the first one to pat themselves on the back whenever they feel that they've done something over the last 15 years. But indeed in this case they haven't done anything. And with inflation we've been falling farther and farther behind.

The amount of money allocated to cities in this budget is \$35 million. This is a far cry from what it was in 1990, Mr. Speaker. In 1990 the revenue-sharing allocation in the Urban Affairs budget was approximately — and I know members opposite will want to hear this — in 1990 it was \$67 million, Mr. Speaker; \$35 million this year, \$67 million in 1990. Fifteen years ago before this operation took over. Mr. Speaker, this is indeed shameful. And I know members opposite are realizing this, that it's indeed shameful. I hope that they can do better. I hope that they can do better.

Mr. Speaker, that's not even talking in real dollars. And I know the Finance minister or one of his colleagues could do that calculation and tell us exactly what that is in real dollars. But it would be less than half, Mr. Speaker, of what the funding was in 1990 and that's shameful.

[11:30]

The NDP government continues to starve our communities at the time when they should be centres of growth in our province, Mr. Speaker. That's what they should be. Small communities in this province should be thriving. They should have their own enterprises. They should be attracting young people back to this province and they're not, and I suggest it's because of this government and the members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, it does not change tax rates, tax uses, or tax assessments by any other factor. This legislation doesn't put more money into the old system. Mr. Speaker, the same issues that led to today's crisis are still there and they will produce another crisis in the future unless something is done by this government to ensure that the funding is at least put back to where it was before they took over, before 1991 in October when they took over. Let's go back to the 1990 budget as a start with this government.

The Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker, believes that funding to municipalities should be linked directly to the funding that the provincial government is taking in. And wouldn't that be a good situation today for each and every municipality across the province if they had a share in the new-found oil wealth that this province is experiencing? Not because of any credit really to this government, but at least they should have the audacity to pass that on to communities, municipalities that need it very much.

Mr. Speaker, what have we heard from the NDP government? Well it's clear, we've heard little for the last 15 years. But now the NDP government — and I'm glad that the minister is listening attentively — now the NDP government says that it'll have a formula ready. When, Mr. Speaker? When will their formula be ready? In 2007. Well where have we heard that before, Mr. Speaker — 2007. Everything that we've heard for the last 3 years is going to happen in 2007.

And indeed you know — I don't want to be a cynic — but that may be an election year. They think they may get an advantage but, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people are smarter than that. They've seen this happen time and time again with NDP governments, where the only time anything happens is an election year. So we'll wait and see what they come up with in 2007. But I would suggest that Saskatchewan municipalities, Saskatchewan communities, Saskatchewan community leaders have a long memory and will punish this government for 15 years, punish them politically for 15 years of inaction.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP have starved rural communities because of politics. They play politics with Saskatchewan people. The time is now, Mr. Speaker, to rise above that, to give municipalities a fair revenue-sharing agreement, what they need to ensure that they can share in the wealth that is being generated from our natural resources. Natural resources that come from rural Saskatchewan, that belong to everybody in Saskatchewan, but this government seems to be sitting on a mountain of money and not sharing that revenue with municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to move this Bill to committee. It goes a small step in the way that needs to be done, but certainly we'd encourage the government to see their way to come up with a formula before election year in 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Why is the member from Estevan on her feet?

**Ms. Eagles:** — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The member for Estevan has requested leave for introductions. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the member for Estevan.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in the east gallery, I have guests from St. Olivier School in Radville. There's 18 grade 5 students along with their teacher, Lorrie Bolton. Chaperones are Kendra Hansen, Toni Reedy, Anita Gust, Juliette Ferguson, and Mary Jane Fradette. I would ask all members to join me in welcoming them to their Assembly. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

## ADJOURNED DEBATES

## SECOND READINGS

**Bill No. 62 — The Municipal Revenue Sharing  
Amendment Act, 2006  
(continued)**

**The Speaker:** — The question before the Assembly is the motion proposed by the Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 62, The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2006 be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Question.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried.

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

**The Speaker:** — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 62, The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by Minister of Government Relations that Bill No. 62 be referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Motion is carried. Bill 62 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Hagel:** — Mr. Chair, in order to accommodate the work of the Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure Committee as well as the policy field Committee on Human Services, 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 Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:36.]

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS</b>	
<b>TABLING OF REPORTS</b>	
The Speaker.....	1411
<b>PRESENTING PETITIONS</b>	
Elhard .....	1411
Draude .....	1411
Harpauer .....	1411
Cheveldayoff.....	1411
Allchurch.....	1411
Brkich .....	1411
Morgan .....	1412
<b>READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS</b>	
Deputy Clerk .....	1412
<b>PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES</b>	
<b>Standing Committee on Human Services</b>	
Junor .....	1412, 1414
Elhard .....	1414
<b>THIRD READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 32 — The Victims of Crime Amendment Act, 2006</b>	
<b>Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur les victimes d'actes criminels</b>	
Quennell.....	1412
<b>Bill No. 37 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006</b>	
Quennell.....	1412
<b>Bill No. 36 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Directors' and Officers' Indemnification and Insurance) Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)/Loi corrective (indemnisation et assurance au profit des administrateurs et dirigeants) de 2006 (n° 2)</b>	
Quennell.....	1413
<b>Bill No. 31 — The Miscellaneous Statutes (Accounting Professions) Amendment Act, 2006</b>	
Quennell.....	1413
<b>Bill No. 41 — The Partnership Amendment Act, 2006</b>	
Quennell.....	1413
<b>Bill No. 35 — The Interpretation Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi d'interprétation de 1995</b>	
Quennell.....	1414
<b>INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS</b>	
Allchurch.....	1415
Quennell.....	1415
Hart.....	1415
Wall.....	1415
The Speaker.....	1415, 1426
Eagles.....	1428
<b>STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS</b>	
<b>National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job</b>	
Morin .....	1415
Hart .....	1416
<b>Estevan School Wins Award for Green Schoolyard</b>	
Eagles.....	1416
<b>Yorkton Terriers Win Anavet Cup</b>	
Serby .....	1416
<b>Royal Care Fundraising Goal Surpassed</b>	
Cheveldayoff.....	1416
<b>National Water Polo Championships in Regina</b>	
McCall .....	1417
<b>Deputy Premier's Role</b>	
Huyghebaert.....	1417
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b>	
<b>Review of Medical Services Delivery</b>	
Harpauer .....	1417
Taylor.....	1417
<b>Waiting Time for Cancer Care</b>	
McMorris.....	1418
Taylor.....	1418

<b>Saskatchewan Public Service Employee Survey</b>	
Elhard .....	1420
Belanger .....	1420
Atkinson .....	1421
<b>Government Spending</b>	
Huyghebaert .....	1421
Lautermilch .....	1421
Calvert .....	1421
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b>	
<b>Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job</b>	
Forbes .....	1422
Hart .....	1423
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b>	
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS</b>	
Iwanchuk .....	1423
The Speaker .....	1423
<b>MOTIONS FOR RETURNS (Not Debatable)</b>	
<b>Return Nos. 575 and 576</b>	
Iwanchuk .....	1423
The Speaker .....	1423
<b>GOVERNMENT ORDERS</b>	
<b>ADJOURNED DEBATES</b>	
<b>SECOND READINGS</b>	
<b>Bill No. 64 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2006</b>	
Cheveldayoff .....	1423
Thomson (referral to committee) .....	1424
<b>Bill No. 63 — The Corporation Capital Tax Amendment Act, 2006</b>	
Cheveldayoff .....	1425
Thomson (referral to committee) .....	1427
<b>Bill No. 62 — The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2006</b>	
Cheveldayoff .....	1427
Van Mulligen (referral to committee) .....	1429

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

## CABINET MINISTERS

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**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

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