



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

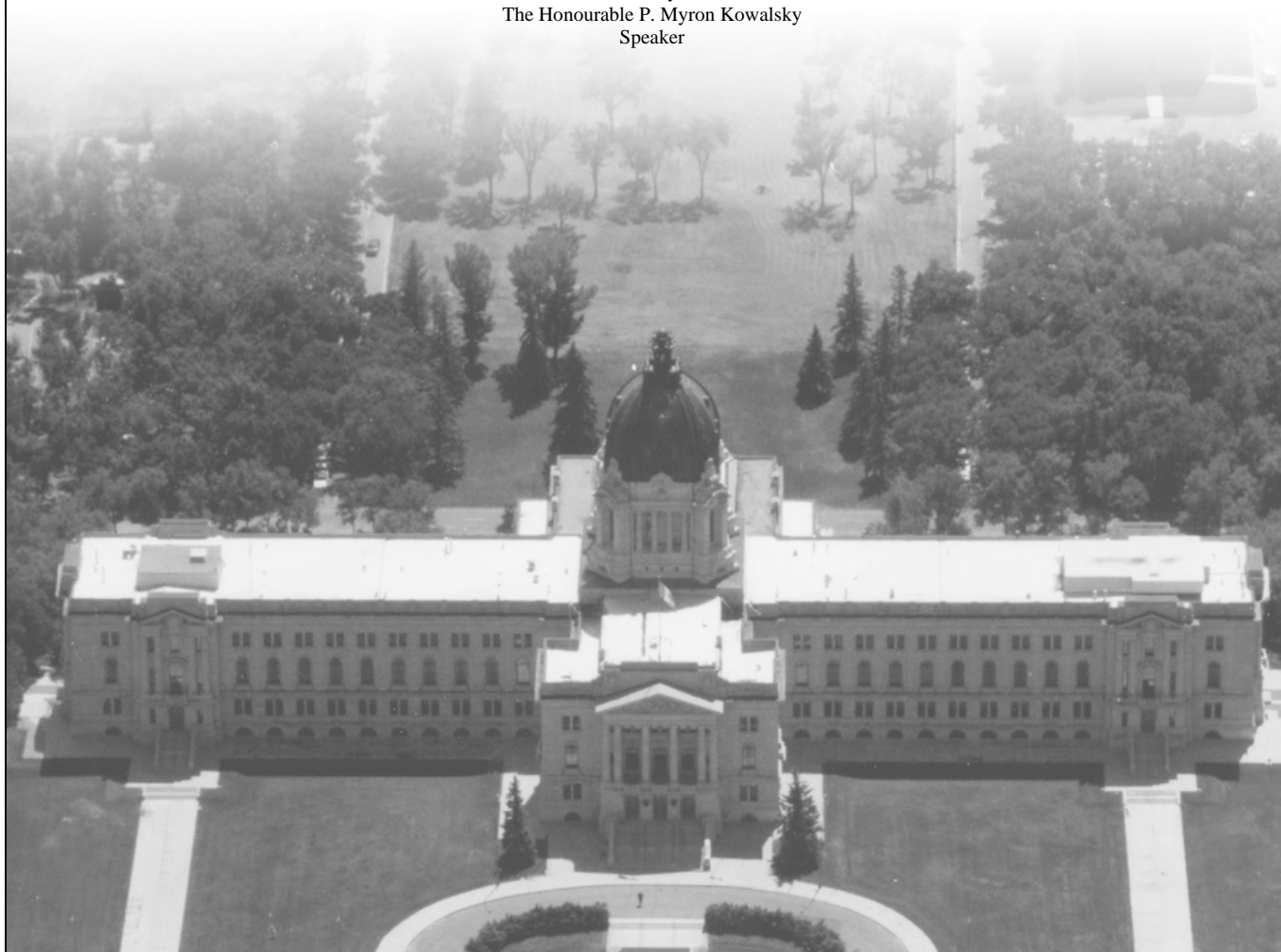
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Addley, Hon. Graham	NDP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Borgerson, Lon	NDP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Calvert, Hon. Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
Cline, Hon. Eric	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Crofford, Joanne	NDP	Regina Rosemont
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Dearborn, Jason	SP	Kindersley
Draude, June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, Hon. Glenn	NDP	Moose Jaw North
Hamilton, Doreen	NDP	Regina Wascana Plains
Harpauer, Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Ben	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Higgins, Hon. Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Kowalsky, Hon. P. Myron	NDP	Prince Albert Carlton
Krawetz, Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
Lautermilch, Hon. Eldon	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Merriman, Ted	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
Morgan, Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, Hon. John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Prebble, Peter	NDP	Saskatoon Greystone
Quennell, Hon. Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Serby, Hon. Clay	NDP	Yorkton
Sonntag, Hon. Maynard	NDP	Meadow Lake
Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Hon. Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Weyburn-Big Muddy

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of constituents in the Cypress Hills region concerned about the condition of Highway 32, especially the stretch between the communities of Leader and Cabri. 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 today is signed by constituents of Cypress Hills as well as other communities around the province including Saskatoon, Assiniboia, and Swift Current. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of people who are really concerned about the price of gas. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause this government to take the necessary action to ensure that a portion of provincial windfall of oil and gas revenue be used to reduce the provincial gas tax.

The people who have signed this petition are from Foam Lake, Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present another petition from constituents of Meadow Lake who are worried about the safe driving conditions on Highway No. 3:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause government to resurface and properly maintain Highway No. 3 from Fairholme to Turtleford and the Livelong access road.

Signed by the good citizens of Mervin and Livelong. I so present.

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

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly today to bring forth a petition signed by citizens of Saskatchewan that are concerned with conditions of Highway No. 3. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to resurface and properly maintain Highway No. 3 from Fairholme to Turtleford and the Livelong access road.

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

Mr. Speaker, the signatures of this petition are from Turtle Lake, Spruce Lake, and Livelong. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to read a petition from my neighbouring constituency. And the petition reads as follows:

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of Watrous, Manitou Beach, and Young. I so present.

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also join my colleague on calling on the government 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 that the Department of Highways section shop in Watrous remain open so as to ensure the safety of all motorists and Saskatchewan Highways employees who would be affected by such possible closure.

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

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

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on a petition on autism spectrum disorder which are some of the most vulnerable citizens in our province. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to act upon the following recommendation made February 2005 by the Government of Saskatchewan caucus committee on human services to the Saskatchewan minister of Health, the Hon. John Nilson.

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

From the good people of Saskatoon, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise in the House today to present yet another petition regarding autism spectrum disorder. I will read a small portion:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to act upon the recommendation made by the Government of Saskatchewan caucus committee on human services to the Minister of Health. And those recommendations include: continue to provide intensive behavioural intervention and other therapies for as long as an individual's lead medical professional deems it to be required; to increase the early diagnosis of children with autism spectrum disorder; and to provide respite and family support, accessible based on need.

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

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Saskatoon. I so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

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

A petition concerning Davidson and Imperial health centres, that's sessional paper 741;

And addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 7, 638, 639, 669, and 738.

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 am instructed by the Human Services Committee to report Bill 49, The Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day Act without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 49 be considered in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I

request a leave to waive consideration in the Committee of the Whole on this Bill.

The Speaker: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall the Bill be read a third time? I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 49 — The Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Corrections and Public Safety that Bill No. 49, The Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day Act 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 am instructed by the Human Services Committee to report Bill No. 60, The Evidence Act without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 60 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 Bill 60 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 60 — The Evidence Act/Loi sur la preuve

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. 60, The Evidence Act 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 am instructed by the Human Services Committee to report Bill No. 61, The Evidence Consequential Amendments Act, 2006 without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall Bill 61 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 of Justice.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 61 — The Evidence Consequential Amendments 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 61, The Evidence Consequential Amendments 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.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, it is my pleasure to bring to your attention that today we have 16 Saskatchewan

Olympians and Paralympians from the 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy who are seated in the Speaker's gallery and on the floor of the House. By leave of the Assembly, I will call upon the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for remarks, and then I will recognize the members of the Assembly as they introduce their constituents.

The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This is a very significant day in the life of our legislature, indeed in the life of our province, when we can welcome to the provincial legislature those men and women who represented our nation — and in this case very particularly our province — at the Winter Olympics and the Paralympics in Torino, Italy this year. We will have much more to say, Mr. Speaker, as you know, as we move post-session this afternoon to a reception and a ceremony in the rotunda. And I'm certain that all members will want to be there to share in that reception.

I want to just, at this point, to very formally on behalf of the government welcome these citizens of our province, of whom we are so proud, to this Chamber, to this legislature for the purpose that we want to honour, recognize, and thank you.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of those who, from Saskatchewan, participated in the Winter and Paralympics in Torino who could not be here today. At the conclusion of the MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] introductions, I will ask your leave to take my place again and speak to those who could not be here today. We want their names to be recorded and recognized as well. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to join with the Premier today on behalf of the official opposition in welcoming this very, very special group to their Legislative Assembly, the 16 Olympians and Paralympians, members of the mission staff. Obviously as the Premier has pointed out, when we watch the Olympics on TV we're cheering for Canada, looking for where the Canadian teams might be. And then when we see it's someone from our own province, there's that much more pride.

Mr. Speaker, their efforts in Torino were often measured in centimetres and seconds. But you couldn't possibly measure the pride that we all feel for what they did there and their representation of our province. On behalf of the members of this side of the House, we want to join with the Premier in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Mr. Morgan Alexander, member of the

four-man bobsleigh team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly today Ms. Jamie Cruickshank, member of the two-man bobsled team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Addley: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Mr. Chris Dornan, member of the mission staff for Team Canada.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Kelvington-Wadena and myself, it is my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Mr. Ken Kotyk, member of the four-man bobsleigh team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce in the House today Ms. Regan Lauscher, a competitor in the women's luge single event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Mr. Reid Morrison, member of the mission staff for Team Canada.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to the House Mr. Daryl Nixon, coach of the women's Bronze Medal curling team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce

to the Assembly today Mr. Jason Parker, silver medallist in men's speed skating, long track pursuit.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Van Mulligen: — Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Meaghan Simister, competitor in the women's luge singles event.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair once again recognizes the member for Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, it's also my privilege to introduce to the Assembly this afternoon Ms. Kerry Simpson, competitor in the women's 500-metre speed skating long track event.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Colleen Sostorics, gold medallist in women's hockey

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Mr. Max Thompson, competitor in the individual men's Nordic combined event.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege today to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Mavis Wahl, massage therapist for the Gold Medal women's hockey team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Ms. Kim Weger, competitor for the women's speed skating long track event.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Indian

Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the member from Rosetown-Elrose it's my privilege to introduce to the Assembly Kaspar Wirz, coach of the Nordic ski team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I would at this time recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have 11 more winter Olympians who were not able to join us here this afternoon, whom I would like to introduce in their absence. And at the conclusion I'll ask members, after I've introduced these 11, to show our appreciation I hope in a loud enough fashion that they might hear us wherever they may be today.

Mr. Speaker, those not able to be with us today are: Mr. Roger Archambault, team leader for Biathlon Canada; Mr. Mark Habscheid, assistant coach for the men's hockey team; Ms. Shannon Kleibrink, skip of the Bronze Medal women's curling team; Ms. Amy Nixon, third on the Bronze Medal women's curling team; Mr. Wade Redden, played defence for the men's hockey team; Mr. Robyn Regehr, played defence for the men's hockey team; Ms. Jennifer Spencer, who served as video technician for the Gold Medal women's hockey team; Mr. Denis Sproxton, goaltender coach for the Gold Medal women's hockey team; Mr. Justin Warsylewicz, silver medallist in men's speed skating long track pursuit; Dr. Marni Wesner, one of the physicians for Team Canada's health care support team; Ms. Hayley Wickenheiser, a member of the Gold Medal women's hockey team. And also not able to be with us today, Ms. Colette Bourgonje, bronze medallist in Nordic skiing 5-kilometre freestyle.

Mr. Speaker, these could not be here. In their absence and in the presence of the athletes and support, people who are here, let us together show our appreciation.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, I thank you. And through you to all members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce 22 guests seated in the west gallery. These are grade 12 students from O'Neill High in Regina Coronation Park.

It will be my pleasure to meet with the 21 grade 12 students and their teacher, Brian Marin, after some time, about the time that question period ends. And we'll be having pictures and then a little meeting. And I think I've even arranged a boxed orange juice for us all at that time. It's just astounding all of the great things that can happen in here.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all colleagues, all members to welcome the grade 12 students from O'Neill.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly and on behalf of our good friend and colleague, the member from Martensville, I'd like to introduce a group of 34 students from grades 8 and 9 at Osler School, Osler, Saskatchewan. I believe the group is sitting in the east gallery. I haven't had a chance to meet with them yet but I expect to do so momentarily. But we'd like to welcome them here today. They're in the accompaniment of Glen Osmond and Grant Elke, the teachers for those two grades. And they're chaperoned by Tammy Guenther and Dawn Samuel. And we'd like to welcome them here to the legislature today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you, through you, and to all members of the Assembly someone seated in the west gallery, and perhaps he could stand and wave as I mention his name. His name is Rod Ashfield. He's the secretary of the Saskatchewan Employment Equity and Diversity Association. He is also with the Neil Squire Foundation, who was the community host for the first annual EDDY Awards that were recently held in Regina, and were a very integral part of the EDDY Awards. So I want to welcome him to the Assembly here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Morin: — And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I also want to take the moment, the opportunity to welcome the students from O'Neill High School. It is the most awesome high school in Regina. It's the one that I attended. And I hope you have an enjoyable day here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in your gallery as well, while we've already recognized Colleen, there's two very special people in her life, Lanny and Jean Sostorics from Kennedy who have come in to join us this afternoon. Actually Lanny was Colleen's coach for a number of years, coached my son as well as they played together. And, Mr. Speaker, just a little secret. While Colleen was a good skater and played with the fellows, one thing she thoroughly enjoyed and was really looking forward to when we got to midget hockey was really being able to flatten those guys. She never quite got there. Welcome, Jeanie and Lanny to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and to all members of the legislature, in the west gallery, the grade 3 and 4 students from École St. Pius school. And these students, accompanied by their music teacher, Madame Holly Flude; and their accompanist, Mr. Chris

Hamilton; and their conductor, Madame Joan Pratchler, who is also the principal of the school, are here to help celebrate today. And they will be singing some songs in the rotunda and they'll be singing the national anthem for us in English and French.

And I ask all members to welcome them here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you to all members of the legislature a group of nine students and two teachers from the wonderful Scott Collegiate — possibly an even better looking group of students than the ones from O'Neill. That could be. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, they're here today to observe the events with the Paralympians and the Olympians and to perhaps draw some inspiration as they themselves are aspiring athletes participating in basketball, volleyball, softball, and even in dance, Mr. Speaker.

They're accompanied by their teachers, Jennie Davies who coaches basketball, and Deanna Pelletier who coaches dance and softball. Please welcome them to their legislature, hon. members.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Hamilton: — Well following in the vein of my colleague from Regina Elphinstone-Centre, I am proud to introduce an extremely good-looking constituent from the constituency of Regina Wascana Plains who is seated behind the bar, Mr. Speaker. Clayton Gerein is with us. Pilot Butte is very proud of Clayton and has a sign up outside the community. And most times when I'm driving in, Clayton's passing me at a remarkable speed as he's practising up for the next medal he could possibly contend for.

My colleague from North Battleford, the Minister of Health, also has mentioned that he was recently inducted into the North Battleford wall of fame for his contribution to sport. And it's a pleasure for me to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly, Clayton Gerein.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I had the honour of attending the fifth annual MJBEX [Moose Jaw Business Excellence] Awards banquet put on by the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce and several business sponsors

MJBEX Awards were presented to Moose Jaw businesses in ten categories, including a community involvement category which went to Independent Medical Rehabilitation; customer service category to Yvette Moore Gallery; young entrepreneur category to Sterling Fitness Centre; business innovation category to Wells Camera and Sound; marketing category to Wrapture Spa and Salon; exports category to Raider Industries; new ventures category to CJAY Trailers; job creation category to Tim Horton's; pioneer award to the Moose Jaw Co-op Association; and finally, business of the year to Triple 4 Advertising Limited.

Mr. Speaker, the event was attended by over 350 people, an encouraging signal to the Moose Jaw business community. Congratulations to all of the nominees, the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce, and thanks to the sponsors of this great event.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

IPSCO Celebrates 50 Years

Hon. Mr. Wartman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night I along with the Premier, a number of our colleagues from this side of the Assembly, and a huge crowd of well-wishers including former premiers Blakeney and Romanow gathered at the Turvey Centre in the constituency of Regina Qu'Appelle Valley to attend IPSCO's 50th anniversary gala.

We were there to celebrate the history and accomplishments of a company that is not only one of Saskatchewan's great corporate citizens but also one of Saskatchewan's great economic success stories.

Fifty years ago this province was introducing natural gas, and Premier Tommy Douglas wanted the pipe to be produced here at home.

The combination of Premier Douglas's desire to encourage industrial development in the province, the vision and business acumen of Bill Sharp, the company's first president, and the expertise and resources of Jack Turvey, the first secretary-treasurer, resulted in the Prairie Pipe Manufacturing Company — the enterprise that would grow into IPSCO, one of the world's leading producers of steel plate and pipe.

Mr. Speaker, over the years IPSCO has expanded its operations into five provinces and seven states and directly or through its subsidiary companies employs 2,700 people. Last year the company earned over \$500 million on sales of over \$3 billion. IPSCO and IPSCO employees are generous supporters of local charities, and the company is a responsible environmental citizen as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating IPSCO's management and staff on a great first 50 years and wishing them every success in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Stepping Stones Career Fair

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my colleague, the member from Kelvington-Wadena, and I had the privilege of attending the Stepping Stones Career Fair held in the exhibition grounds here Regina.

The purpose of this fair is to create a career gathering for Aboriginal youth. The organizers of this event spent a tremendous amount of time contacting businesses and professional organizations, inviting them to come and set up booths where they could display employment opportunities available in the business and professional community to the young people who attended the fair.

As a result of their effort, more than 1,200 youth who came to the fair from across the province had the first-hand experience of speaking directly to potential employers or career groups about their future.

Mr. Speaker, there were more than 90 exhibitors giving the young people gathered the ability to talk about careers in police work, the Armed Forces, tourism, the health field, construction, along with many other fields of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, the organizers of the fair hope that events of this nature may open the doors for young people to choose meaningful full-time employment rather than continuing down the road of dependency or a life of drug addiction and crime.

Mr. Speaker, we extend a special thank you to the organizers and the many sponsors for supporting and hosting such a tremendous event.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[14:00]

EDDY Awards

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to attend the inaugural Saskatchewan Employment Equity and Diversity Association Diversity at Work Awards here in Regina. The EDDY Awards recognize individuals and organizations that have shown a commitment to advance and support a diverse workplace.

Over 50 individuals and businesses, Mr. Speaker, were nominated in four categories for 12 awards. The categories for nomination included business interests, voluntary sector, government, and youth-oriented activity. I am proud to say that one of the fine constituents of Regina Walsh Acres, Ms. Barb Dedi was awarded an EDDY award for her work with Spring Free From Racism.

Mr. Speaker, the food was wonderful, and the atmosphere was tremendous. Along with my colleague, the member from Regina Rosemont, I had the pleasure of a group of people

absolutely committed to employment equity. Mr. Speaker, equity and diversity are such important issues to our society, and this cannot be stressed enough.

Mr. Speaker, SEEDA [Saskatchewan Employment Equity and Diversity Association], the organizer of the awards, is a provincial, non-profit organization established in 1986 to promote employment equity and diversity across Saskatchewan. Membership includes individuals of background ranging from equity practitioners, human resource personnel, managers, employers, union representatives, job seekers, corporations, and government agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all members to join with me in congratulating SEEDA for organizing the first annual EDDY Awards, Barb Dedi for her award-winning work with Spring Free From Racism, and all of the other winners and nominees. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Provincial Mental Health Services

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Mental Health Association's National Mental Health Week is this week, May 1 to 7. This year the country-wide awareness and education campaign will build on last year's theme, practising mind and body fitness.

With Canadians becoming increasingly aware of the importance of good mental health, the CMHA's [Canadian Mental Health Association] goal this year is to motivate people from across Canada to improve their mental fitness.

Mr. Speaker, in Saskatchewan the mental health sector is similar to many other sectors in health care — it's short of professionals. An article in the paper this week goes on to say:

A long-term plan is needed to address the province's patchy mental health services, says the executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association in Saskatchewan.

"Mental health has a patchwork quilt of services," Dave Nelson said . . .

He goes on to say that outside of Regina and Saskatoon, the workload for psychiatrists is horrendous. Mr. Speaker, I call on this government to deal with the issue of the shortage of professionals in our province, not only in the mental health field but in so many other health sectors in our province. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

United Way Tribute Luncheon

Ms. Hamilton: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few days ago I

had the pleasure of attending the United Way of Regina's 2006 Tribute Luncheon to honour those who significantly support the United Way's goal to improve lives and build community. As Chair of the Premier's Voluntary Sector Initiative, I'm continually impressed by the commitment of organizations, businesses, labour, and individuals who give so much on behalf of those in need.

Mr. Speaker, the Distinguished Corporate Philanthropy Awards recognize corporate partners for their exceptional contributions to the United Way and the community. This year's winners are CUETS [CU Electronic Transaction Services] and PCL Construction. Winners of the United Way of Regina's President's Awards given to individuals or groups for their outstanding contributions to the organization and the community are Gordon Rawlinson and Robert Haynes.

The Investor Group Volunteer Awards recognized two people for their sustained and ongoing commitment as volunteers. This year's winners are Deborah Regan and Brenda Mercer. The Regina and District Labour Council, through its partnership with United Way Regina, presented the 2nd annual United Way Labour Community Service Award to George Britton of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Vic Huard, Tracey Mann, Dan McMurtry, and all the staff and volunteers of United Way Regina for their commitment and hard work. And I ask all members to join me in congratulating the recipients of this year's United Way Tribute Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Dogs' Breakfast Raises Funds for Huskies

Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I had the occasion to enjoy breakfast with the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs and the member for Saskatoon Southeast. And I can say that I did enjoy the breakfast — that wouldn't normally necessarily be the case with these gentlemen — because I was at the Sixth Annual U of S [University of Saskatchewan] Huskies Football Dogs' Breakfast in Saskatoon.

Mr. Speaker, that Dogs' Breakfast began six years ago. This fundraiser put on by the Huskies Football Foundation began six years ago with about 600 in attendance. I happened to be at that one. And at this particular event this morning in Saskatoon at the Prairieland Exhibition, 1,670 people enjoyed themselves at the breakfast, Mr. Speaker.

The breakfast included some opening remarks by Chair Hugh Vassos who has done an excellent job and has been involved for some time; Todd Peterson, chairman of the foundation and also participated with an auction; Glen Suitor was on hand; as was Saskatchewan Roughrider great, Bobby Jurasin who also were part of the program.

Mr. Speaker, Brian Towriss then introduced new recruits from this year, the head coach of arguably the finest college football program in the country.

We want to pay special tribute to the work of the foundation in raising money, scholarship money for the program. We want to especially pay tribute today to Ron Graham, a former quarterback from 1959 who was on hand for the breakfast as well. He was there to donate \$1.2 million which will go towards a new Huskie clubhouse, Mr. Speaker.

It was a great event that will lead to, at the Potash Vanier Cup later on this year, it'll lead to the Huskies on a brand new field hoisting that Vanier Cup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Provision of Oxygen for Cancer Patients

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is short and simple. Can the minister tell this Assembly, Minister of Health tell this Assembly how his government and Sask Health defines palliative care?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Mr. Speaker, I think the member opposite has a dictionary and whatever the definition in the dictionary would probably fit Sask Health.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 55-year-old Linda Stonehouse lives in Arborfield. Last August, she was given 9 to 12 months to live. She has lung cancer. Linda has frequent episodes of extreme shortness of breath and difficulty breathing. Her family physician and the oncologist said she requires oxygen to avoid these episodes, yet Sask Health will not allow the cancer clinic to provide oxygen free of charge because Linda is not considered in the end stage of palliative care.

Mr. Speaker, why is this system denying terminal cancer patients comfort in their last few months?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The regions and the agencies have responsibility for the day-to-day administration of care. Mr. Speaker, each of the regions and the agencies have quality of care coordinators who deal directly with patients and families on matters like this.

Mr. Speaker, I have confidence in the quality of care coordinators within the cancer agency and within the regions and I would ask the member opposite to ensure that the family and the patient take this matter up with those who are best qualified to deal with it at the local level.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Well, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what the family has done. Linda's daughter, who's in the gallery today, has called both the quality care coordinator and the patient advocate at the Canadian Cancer Society. Both said that giving oxygen would be the suitable and compassionate thing to do. But they could not help in this situation so they referred the family to Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living, or SAIL. Linda's physician wrote SAIL requesting oxygen. The organization denied the doctor's request. Linda only has a few months to live and cannot afford the oxygen that both her physician and the oncologist have recommended.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister again: can the minister tell us why terminal cancer patients who are considered at the end stage of palliative care are being denied oxygen by Sask Health as requested by their physician and oncologist?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The program that the member opposite talks about, SAIL, has been serving Saskatchewan residents for a number of years. It has very specific guidelines that it works with, Mr. Speaker. I urge the member opposite in his consultation with the family and I urge the family to continue working through the processes that are in place to see that assessments are done properly and that whatever guidelines are in place are followed as requested.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, it's that minister's guidelines that has brought their family, Linda's family, to the Assembly today. When Linda Stonehouse has an episode, she must be rushed to the nearest hospital to get oxygen in the emergency room. That means, in Linda's case, a frantic 45-minute drive to Nipawin, which is stressful for Linda and her family. Not only does that result in increased cost to the system because Linda is now in the emergency room, it's not a very good environment when her immune system is depressed.

Mr. Speaker, Linda's doctors say that having oxygen at home would allow her quality of life for the time that she has left. At only \$250 a month, that's minimal cost to the health care system. Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit today to reviewing his own department's policies when it comes to oxygen for cancer patients when they're in the end stage of palliative care?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the member opposite knows that we are constantly and continually reviewing policies and guidelines. We do so during the course of the year when cases are brought to our attention that may require some changes in guidelines, and we do it every year in the budget building process.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the member opposite to ensure that when he has matters like this come to his attention, that he ensure that my office is aware of matters like this when he finds out about them, so that we might take action if we're in a position to do so as quickly as possible.

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, we're asking the minister today to review his policy and change the guidelines that are set out for SAIL because they're just not acceptable.

Linda's family is frustrated. They believe that if the doctor has ordered oxygen for a patient that the system shouldn't be able to deny that request, especially when it's a patient with terminal cancer. Linda's family is saying denying her of oxygen is taking away her ability to function as best as she can these last few months, to spend quality time with her family and grandchildren, again during these last few months.

Will the minister do the right thing, the sensible and compassionate thing, and provide oxygen to terminal cancer patients who require it?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And again I indicate to the member opposite that when matters are brought to our attention we, whether it's internal to the Department of Health or whether it's to the minister's office, when matters are brought to our attention we review them with the intention of looking at guidelines and processes.

I also indicate to the member opposite that there are guidelines and processes that have been in place, have served to provide services to Saskatchewan people for quite a number of years, and that continue in their state of evolution, and get changed when matters allow them to be changed or when resources permit.

Again I suggest to the member opposite that when he heard about this case he should have brought it to our attention immediately, and we would have begun review on the case earlier than he's suggesting today.

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

Condition of Highway 368

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's spring now in Saskatchewan which means one thing. We see the crumbling roads of this province, the demolished and unsafe highway that this NDP [New Democratic Party] government presides over, Mr. Speaker.

One of my constituents has come to me with huge concerns over Highway 368 from St. Brieux to Muenster. His name is Don Folden and he is with Tillage Tools. He says the road is impassable which causes a problem, Mr. Speaker, since Bourgault Industries, Ag Solutions, Dry Air, Tillage Tools, and Assie Industries ship millions of dollars worth of equipment from this town and employ hundreds of people.

[14:15]

Mr. Speaker, the minister even promised last year that he would go and visit to see for himself how bad this highway is. I quote

from *Hansard*, November 29, 2005:

... my commitment is that we'll attempt to be out there shortly ... I'm hoping we can do it before Christmas.

But he still hasn't gone, Mr. Speaker. My question: when does the minister expect to have Highway 368 fixed so all the industries and all their employees do not have to risk their own personal safety?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to that member and to members of the legislature that he is correct. It is spring. And with spring brings thaw, and with the thawing of roads brings heaves and potholes. It's an annual event, Mr. Speaker. And the member from Cannington obviously has some thoughts on this regard and if he wants to get up and ask me a question he can do so after I've done my response, but I'd appreciate his attention while I'm attempting to answer.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Highways this year has a record amount within its budget — \$345 million which is a 15 per cent increase. But I want to say to all members of the House, in northern Saskatchewan we've got particular conditions caused by high moisture levels, high water levels, and it is raising havoc with our highways. Highway 969 is one example and I can give him others besides the one he raised. The department is working on these.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the story of economic development in St. Brieux is a David versus Goliath story; one small town fighting against a monolithic, old NDP government. And this small town prevails by building some of the most successful businesses in the province that employ hundreds and pour thousands of tax dollars into provincial coffers. You'd think the government could fix their road. But this minister refuses because Highway 368 is not on the department's 2006 or 2007 highway construction schedule.

Mr. Speaker, this NDP government has a mountain of extra cash and they give nothing back to those who create jobs and pay taxes. Mr. Speaker, when will the minister commit to giving the citizens of St. Brieux a decent, safe highway?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Kirsch: — Why has this NDP government not given this area a decent road?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, it's obvious that that member has taken rhetoric lessons from the Leader of the Opposition. He's learning quite quickly.

Mr. Speaker, as the members will know, Department of Highways and contractors will get to the roads as they can when moisture conditions will allow.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Highways officials, I think, do a very good job on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan. Weather conditions sometimes disallow the work to be done when that member may want to have it done or when we would want to have it done.

I can say, Mr. Speaker, that with respect to this particular road, I will check with the department to see what kind of attention it's going to receive and when it will, and I promise that member I'll report to him directly.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to bring to the minister's attention, as well as the Premier, that their offices are about to be flooded with letters from angry residents of St. Brieux and Lake Lenore.

Scott Lessmeister told the *Humboldt Journal* this morning, and I quote:

[I'm] asking everyone to write a letter to government officials, including [the] Minister of Highways Eldon Lautermilch and Premier Lorne Calvert ...

Mr. Speaker, the people are fed up with this government, are demanding action be taken. But this NDP government has turned their back on the citizens of St. Brieux. Mr. Lessmeister says, "The more letters we can send, the more ammunition the Opposition has to pressure the government on this issue. Let's help them help us."

Mr. Speaker, can the minister — or better yet the Premier — explain to Mr. Lessmeister why he won't fix Highway 368? Can the Premier tell him and all the other residents why they must risk personal injury in order to leave their home? What ...

The Speaker: — Member's time has elapsed.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say to that member that I certainly do appreciate his questions, because it does create awareness. And I want to say that this is an annual event in the spring. The roads will deteriorate and we will wait for the right conditions to get the reconstruction crews out to be able to do the work. And, Mr. Speaker, this spring is no different.

But what I would want to create is a little awareness from members of the opposition. They now are so closely tied to their federal counterparts in Ottawa. There was a budget put down by the federal government just a couple of days ago. And I'd like to ask that member if he has bothered to sit and write a letter to his federal counterparts in Ottawa to see what they might want to do about a national highways program that this country very much needs that would allow us to focus on other areas of need as well, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Terms of Appointment at Labour Relations Board

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. It's been 24 hours since I drew to his attention allegations of political interference raised by the former Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board.

Working men and women in our province must know their rights are being protected by an independent board. Men and women willing to invest in our province and create jobs must also know that there is a level playing field. Mr. Speaker, in the last 24 hours what has the Minister of Labour done to investigate these very serious allegations of political interference in the Labour Relations Board?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Let me be clear. There is no political interference in the workings of the Labour Relations Board. I want to also remind and inform the members of this House and the people of Saskatchewan, the former Vice-Chair of the Labour Relations Board finished his term, his appointment. On February 28, 2006, he completed it.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the allegations that were made in this House and not made outside the House. This is very troubling about the kind of way the members opposite, the Sask Party, operates. They work within the protection of this House, but yet refuse to make the same allegations outside.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Matkowski makes serious allegations. The former Vice-Chair, Mr. Speaker, the former Vice-Chair of Labour Relations Board alleges he was removed from his job because rulings angered unions. Mr. Matkowski states, and I quote:

On June 24, 2005, Craik [that is deputy minister of Labour, William Craik] telephoned me and advised me that I would not be reappointed on March 1, 2006, and that he thought I should resign . . . Craik advised me that some

of the unions had been complaining about my decisions. I asked Mr. Craik what were the Unions saying about me, and he would not say, advising me that this was "hearsay". I stated to him that it was obviously effective hearsay, to which he agreed.

Mr. Speaker, what has the minister done to investigate these serious allegations of political interference?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we are on the same fishing trip we were on yesterday. I have some serious concerns about the allegations that are raised inside this House but won't be raised outside this House. The Vice-Chair's term expired on February 28, 2006. He completed his term. Mr. Speaker, I have some real serious concerns about the credibility of the members opposite.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Speaker, this matter can be cleared up in a few minutes. All the minister has to do is talk to his deputy minister — in fact the very gentleman that was here last night. All the minister has to do is ask Mr. Craik if he told the Vice-Chair of the Labour Relations Board that Mr. Matkowski would not be reappointed as he requested because the unions didn't like his rulings.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, I have been assured, and I believe there has been no political interference. But yet again I will say, the Vice-Chair's term expired on February 28, 2006. He completed his work. And that is a fact, Mr. Speaker.

I am deeply concerned about the way the members operate, making allegations inside this House but not willing to make the same allegations and quote the same document outside this House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, the affidavit of Mr. Matkowski was clearly outside of this House and we read from it yesterday, Mr. Speaker. I can't believe that the Minister of Labour won't take a very simple step. He won't ask the deputy minister of Labour what happened.

Mr. Speaker, is this minister completely uninterested in the political independence of the Labour Relations Board? Or does he not want to hear the answer? Mr. Speaker, when will this minister give these allegations of political interference the

serious attention that they deserve?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, we of course take this very seriously, these questions of allegations. And of course the member opposite uses the word affidavit. I find that very interesting. Will he call it outside the House an affidavit? Outside the House he calls it a document. Here is a document that . . . unsigned. We need to have more details here. Why won't he quote from the document outside, Mr. Speaker?

Here we have folks like that working from a document like that, calling into question the work of Legal Aid Commission, the prosecutions branch. This is the way these folks operate over here. And I'm very concerned about credibility, Mr. Speaker. Who has any credibility when they operate like that?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister of Labour doesn't want to confront the deputy minister of Labour because this minister is still relatively new to his portfolio. Perhaps he should ask his cabinet colleague, the former minister of Labour for her assistance in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, it is alleged this interference took place in June 2005. Mr. Speaker, will the current Minister of Labour undertake to ask the former minister of Labour if the Vice-Chair of the Labour Relations Board was asked to resign and was not to be reappointed because, quote, “. . . some of the unions had been complaining . . .”?

What will he say about his decision?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I find this passing strange. We were in estimates last night. We could have had this question in estimates here.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the members there has been no political interference. But really the question is, why is the member here operating from a position of political protection and won't go outside and make these same allegations, Mr. Speaker? If there's ever a question of credibility, that member suffers from that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I quoted from the affidavit of Mr. Walter Matkowski, I stated very clearly that that was his affidavit.

These were concerns that he raised. And in fact, Mr. Speaker, when I presented that document to the press, members of the press, two of the members phoned Mr. Matkowski and Mr. Matkowski's lawyer to verify that in fact this was his affidavit. So these are his words, Mr. Speaker. They're not my words. They're Mr. Matkowski's words who alleges that there was interference.

Can the minister stand in this Assembly and say that Mr. Matkowski's allegations of political interference are wrong?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think I've answered that question in terms of political interference. I've answered it several times. But the member opposite, the critic, continues to dodge the question about, will he take these allegations and be specific in here, out there?

I am very concerned about the kind of attacks that these folks undertake against the people in Saskatchewan that make sure labour laws are followed. This is a very important board that we have and the credibility and the nature of the board must be protected. And here we have a member attacking it. This concerns me very much.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:30]

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister in an earlier response indicated that the member of the board, Mr. Matkowski, had finished his term. And I want to read from The Trade Union Act, section 1.2 of clause 4, that says:

If the term of a member of the board expires after the member has begun hearing a matter before the board but before the proceeding is completed, the member may continue as if his or her term had not expired for the purpose of completing this proceeding.

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. The member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the minister after having read Mr. Matkowski's affidavit in which Mr. Matkowski says, and I quote from page no. 4, that “. . . Mr. Craik had instructed that I no longer be scheduled as Vice Chair.”

That is a statement made on July 12, 2005. Can the minister state that there was no political interference by the deputy minister of his department?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, let's review the facts. The person in question completed his term the end of February — February 28, 2006. It was a complete term. And as the member opposite read out the quote, the operative word was may. As I stated yesterday that's the operative word, may.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has on several occasions now taken fishing expeditions attacking several different people. And we're concerned about that. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite, and frankly the whole opposition, suffers from a real lack of credibility.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I'll be tabling responses to written questions no. 1,068 to 1,085 inclusive.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Responses to questions 1,068 to 1,085 inclusive have been submitted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

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

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, in order to accommodate the recognition of Saskatchewan Olympians and Paralympians as well as to enable the policy field committees on Human Services as well as Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:35.]

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CABINET MINISTERS

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Premier

Hon. Graham Addley
Minister of Healthy Living Services
Minister Responsible for Seniors

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

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

Hon. Buckley Belanger
Minister of Community Resources
Minister Responsible for Disability Issues

Hon. Eric Cline
Minister of Industry and Resources
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Hon. David Forbes
Minister of Labour
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

Hon. Glenn Hagel
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation
Provincial Secretary
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Hon. Deb Higgins
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Hon. Eldon Lautermilch
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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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Minister Responsible for the
Forestry Secretariat

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