



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

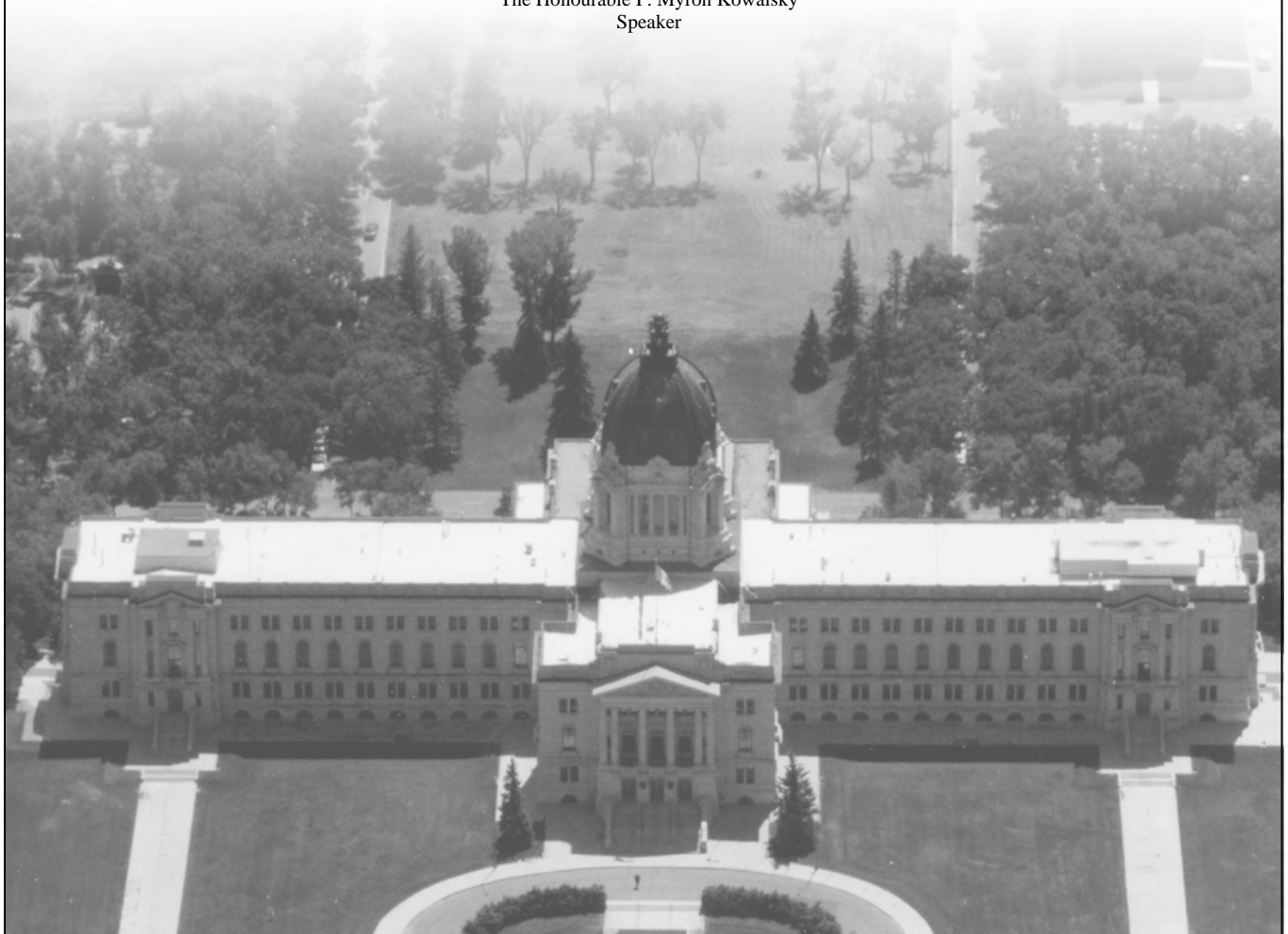
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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

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

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I rise to present a petition on behalf of individuals throughout the constituency of Cypress Hills as well as individuals from communities around the province very concerned about the condition of Highway 32, especially the stretch between 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, today's petitioners are from the communities of Cabri, Swift Current, Pennant, and Prince Albert. I so present.

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

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present today on health services in the great community of Tisdale. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that surgical services are reinstated in the Tisdale Hospital.

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

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, come from Tisdale, Zenon Park, Archerwill, Sylvania, Prairie River, Nipawin, Biggar, Ratcliffe, Mistatim, and a number of communities across the province. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to rise again today on behalf of people who are concerned about the government not covering the funding for the cancer drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

The people that have signed this petition are from Crooked River, Archerwill, and Weekes. I so present.

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

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of citizens concerned about the government's refusal to fund the cancer-fighting drug Avastin. 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.

The signatures on this petition this morning, Mr. Speaker, are all from the city of Saskatoon and I am proud to present on their behalf.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition regarding the government's refusal to fund the drug Avastin. And the prayer reads:

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

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

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

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present another petition from citizens of Biggar who are opposed to possible reductions of the health care services. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Biggar Hospital, long-term care home, and ambulance service is maintained at the very least their current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

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

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present another petition on behalf of 600 children under six years old and their parents in the Saskatoon Silver Springs constituency regarding a much needed elementary school in the Arbor Creek area of Saskatoon. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

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

elementary school in Arbor Creek.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Today the petitioners live in Northeast Saskatoon on Sears Cove, White Crescent, and Highlands Place. 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 citizens of Saskatchewan that are concerned with the 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 this government to resurface and properly maintain Highway No. 3 from Fairholme to Turtleford and the Livelong access road.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, the signatures to this petition are from Livelong, St. Walburg, Turtle Lake, and Saskatoon, 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 for the people concerned with the government's failure to implement the drug Avastin. 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 is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the good people of 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 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.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens from Watrous, Young, and Imperial. I so present.

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

Mr. Dearborn: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour to rise in the Assembly today and present a petition to reinstate surgical services at the Tisdale Hospital. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to ensure that surgical services are reinstated in the Tisdale Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens of White Fox, Rose Valley, Tisdale, Mistatim, and Melfort. I so present.

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

Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today for a petition on the cancer drug Avastin. This is the first time in the province's history that the government has denied coverage of a cancer drug recommended by the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency. And the prayer reads:

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

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

From the good people of Saskatoon and Wakaw, Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to rise in the House today to present another in a series of petitions regarding autism spectrum disorder:

This petition is presented on behalf of citizens that are supportive of the Government of Saskatchewan caucus committee's recommendations. These citizens are seeking continued provision of intensive behavioural intervention and other therapies for so long as an individual's lead medical professionals deems such services to be required, to provide respite and family support to individuals as required, and to make access to specialized equipment and supplies based on need and to encourage and support autism-related research in Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to present this on behalf of citizens from Saskatoon. Thank you.

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 as addendums to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper nos. 13, 64, 67, 638, 669.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of Learning, the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome a number of students that we have in the House with us today.

Mr. Speaker, May 1 to May 6 is School Safety Patrol Week here in the province of Saskatchewan. And it really gives us an opportunity, a wonderful opportunity to say thank you and pay tribute to all the work that's done by the 6,000 safety patrollers right across the province of Saskatchewan. They give very conscientious service and ensure the safety of their fellow students day in and day out, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, today in the House we're joined by 150 safety patrollers from right across the province along with 29 chaperones that have come to help the safety patrollers enjoy the weekend. Part of the highlight of this week, Safety Patrol Week, is a jamboree. And this is the 16th annual jamboree that is really coordinated and sponsored by CAA [Canadian Automobile Association] Saskatchewan. And there's also support from the Saskatchewan Transportation Company, IPSCO, FirstBus Canada, Saskatchewan Government Insurance, the Bank of Nova Scotia, SaskEnergy, SaskPower, and SaskTel, that help put on this jamboree and show our appreciation for the patrollers.

Mr. Speaker, I'll name the communities where the safety patrollers are from and I would ask them just to give a wave when we announce your community. And what we'll do is have your MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] actually give a wave also, so you'll know who in the House represents your community.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we have five safety patrollers and one chaperone from Battleford. And where are they? Oh there they are. And from Estevan we have six safety patrollers and one chaperone. And you're . . . Oh. And Gravelbourg, we have two safety patrollers and a chaperone. And Kindersley. Kindersley we have two safety patrollers and one chaperone.

And Maidstone, from Maidstone we have two safety patrollers — oh, they're up in the east gallery. Maple Creek. Maple Creek, we have eight safety patrollers and one chaperone, and they look like they're spread around here. Martensville, two safety patrollers and a chaperone. And from Moose Jaw. Moose Jaw we have eight safety patrollers and one chaperone. Nipawin, two safety patrollers and a chaperone. Nokomis, we have two patrollers.

North Battleford, we have four safety patrollers. And Prince Albert, we have 12 and two chaperones. Oh it's a whole crowd. From Regina we have 23 safety patrollers and two chaperones from Regina. This Regina group must be pretty well behaved. There's only two chaperones for 23. That's pretty good.

Rosetown, from Rosetown — where are they? — and we have four patrollers and one chaperone. Rouleau. Rouleau we have two patrollers from Rouleau . . . oh three by the looks of it. I think three from Rouleau. Saskatoon. We have 40 from

Saskatoon and five chaperones. Spiritwood, we've got four patrollers from Spiritwood — oh there they are — and one chaperone. Turtleford, we have eight safety patrollers in the west gallery there from Turtleford and two chaperones.

Unity, there is two patrollers and one chaperone. Oh there they are, west gallery. And Warman, we have two patrollers and two chaperones from Warman. There they are. And Watrous, there's four safety patrollers and a chaperone from Watrous. And Weyburn, we have four patrollers and one chaperone from Weyburn in the east gallery. And Wynyard, we have two patrollers and one chaperone.

Mr. Speaker, also in your gallery we have the organizers from CAA, Louise Houldsworth and Maureen Murray, who have done a great, great job in organizing the jamboree and supporting the patrollers. And I have to say on behalf of all of us, it's greatly appreciated that you give time to give back to patrollers that give so much to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that all of our colleagues would say congratulations to the patrollers and offer them a very warm welcome to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition I would like to join with the Minister of Learning in welcoming the 150 safety patrollers and 29 chaperones to their legislature. It's a pleasure once a year to host all of you very quality young people in our legislature. You provide a tremendous service to the people of Saskatchewan and to your fellow students. And we would like to acknowledge you and thank you very much for your fine work. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a number of women sitting in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker, who are providing inspiration, dedication, and commitment to improving the quality of life in Saskatchewan. They belong to two organizations: the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan, and Friends of the Midwives. And perhaps I could ask them to stand and wave when I call out their names.

Today we have with us Jeni Minion, Sylvi Wa, Joanne Havelock, Sonja Duffee, Carolin Peterson, Joanna South, and Marie and sixteen-month-old Julie Berwald.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank them for their energy and guidance both in the past and in the future, and ask all members to welcome them to the legislature on this special day.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition I'm very pleased to also welcome the midwives here to this Assembly. We've had the opportunity to meet with you over the number of years, and it's nice to see you here today with a big smile on your faces. And welcome to your legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to the legislature through you, a person who controls the traffic going through my constituency office. My constituency assistant, Kent Macaulay, is seated in the Speaker's gallery.

Mr. Macaulay is a former executive director of Community First, a Saskatoon community-based charitable organization which manages a local investment fund. He's a former adult educator with the Government of British Columbia, and he has been a constituency assistant in the offices of former members Bob Pringle and Herman Rolfes.

And Mr. Macaulay's abilities and experience have helped me serve the people of Saskatoon Meewasin very effectively. And I would like to thank him, first on my own behalf, but also on behalf of the constituents of Saskatoon Meewasin for his service. And I hope all members join me in welcoming him here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to the Assembly a number of folks that are here in your gallery, Speaker, from my home community of Ile-a-la-Crosse.

And last night the Minister of Northern Affairs, myself, and the minister for Indian and Aboriginal affairs attended the Voices of the North concert at the casino. And it was a tremendous evening, displaying a lot of Aboriginal talent. And one of the performers that evening was Dakota Caisse who is originally from Ile-a-la-Crosse and is now living in Prince Albert because that is where the show is based out of.

So with Dakota is his mother, Georgina Caisse and his grandmother, Pauline Favel and his uncle, Geordie Favel. And they all travelled here to support Dakota in his effort to be part of the Voices of the North.

And it was a tremendous show. And Dakota done Ile-a-la-Crosse proud. He done many Métis people proud. And he put on a tremendous show. And he has a tremendous voice, Mr. Speaker.

So I'll ask all members of the Assembly to join me in not only recognizing the family that's supporting Mr. Caisse but to also point out that he gets his voice from his grandfather, Geordie Favel, who's in Ile-a-la-Crosse. That's where the voice comes from, Mr. Speaker.

So I'd ask all members to give us a very special, warm welcome to the Caisse and Favel family who are here for Voices of the North and thank them for making a tremendous trip here.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

International Day of Midwives

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is International Day of Midwives. Mr. Speaker, midwives play an important role in providing a positive environment for women who are expecting and delivering babies. They work collaboratively with other health professionals to ensure effective, comprehensive services for women and their newborns.

Our government recognizes the significant potential benefits of integrating these professionals into Saskatchewan's health system. We are introducing a provincially funded midwifery program with the advice and support from regional health authorities and organizations representing midwives, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and the public.

I would like to recognize members of two very important groups, the Midwives Association of Saskatchewan and the Friends of the Midwives, some of whom, I'm happy to say, are present in the gallery today.

Through extensive consultation we have made excellent progress preparing to make midwifery services available in Saskatchewan. We will continue to rely on our partners to assist with implementation and provision of these services. A midwifery implementation committee will be named shortly, and we expect midwifery services to be available once their work is complete.

Mr. Speaker, we support health care services that address not only our society's collective goals but also individual patient needs. Midwifery services are a good example of how we can encourage increased flexibility and freedom of choice in the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of the Assembly and all Saskatchewan residents to recognize this occasion and to join in celebrating this very special day. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

2006 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night I had the honour of joining the Leader of the Opposition at the 2006 YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Women of Distinction Silver Anniversary Awards Banquet.

As members are aware, the YWCA's annual dinner recognizes the outstanding accomplishments and contributions made by women in Regina to their communities and the province. This year's banquet attracted more than 600 people and raised more than \$30,000 which will be used to support community services for women and children in need.

Women in Regina make a significant contribution to their community in business, community development, education and health, technology, culture, and sports and recreation.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Party I want to offer our congratulations to all of last night's nominees and recognize the 10 winners in the categories: Carol Gay Bell for performing arts, communication, and broadcasting; Darlene Olsen, business and trades; Pat Hanley, community leadership; Gloria Rivero, cultural heritage; Mary Delanghe, education; Bonnie Blakley, health and wellness; CIPS [Canadian Information Processing Society] Regina, women in IT [information technology] committee, for science, technology, and the environment; Mary Anderson for sports and active living; and Heather Abbey for young women of distinction.

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Party, congratulations to all of the winners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards

Hon. Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Wednesday I had the honour, along with my colleague from Moose Jaw North, to attend the fifth annual Moose Jaw Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Moose Jaw and District Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, the MC [master of ceremonies] for the evening was Moose Jaw's own Rob Carnie from 800 CHAB who got the evening off to a great start with his usual repertoire of jokes.

But the Moose Jaw Business Awards acknowledged the achievements of our own businesses that enhance the Moose Jaw community. Twenty-five nominees in 10 categories were chosen from over 40 businesses put forward.

And, Mr. Speaker, the winners were: for community involvement, the Independent Medical Rehabilitation; for customer service, the Yvette Moore Gallery; for young entrepreneur, the Sterling Fitness Centre; for business innovation, Wells Camera and Sound; for marketing, Wraiture Spa and Salon; for exports, Raider Industries; for business ventures, CJAY Trailers; for job creation, Tim Hortons. And the Pioneer Award went to the Moose Jaw Co-op Association;

and the Business of the Year was Triple 4 Advertising Limited. And, Mr. Speaker, a chamber of commerce program that's been running all year, the Service with a Smile Award recipient went to Cheryl Chase from the Heritage Inn.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating these businesses and all businesses in Moose Jaw for the contributions to Moose Jaw and the surrounding area.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

School Safety Patrol Week

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week is School Safety Patrol Week in the province of Saskatchewan. During this week we recognize the more than 6,000 patrollers in our province for their service to their schools and communities ensuring the safety of their schoolmates.

At this time one should also note the tremendous contribution made by CAA Saskatchewan in assisting with the operation of school patrols across our province. For 55 years CAA has been helping schools around Saskatchewan ensure that their students arrive to school every morning and home every afternoon.

Individuals who volunteer to be part of the school patrol learn a lot of lessons about the value of volunteering and about serving those around them, even though I imagine a number of them aren't so appreciative of these lessons on those early mornings at 30 below zero.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the enormous contribution of these young students that they make to our schools and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

2006 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards

Ms. Crofford: — I thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I, along with the member for Walsh Acres and Regina Elphinstone-Centre and a large and enthusiastic crowd, had the pleasure of attending the YWCA Silver Anniversary Women of Distinction Awards.

Since 1981 these awards have recognized women whose activities and achievements have contributed significantly to the health and success of the community. And the money raised by the awards go toward funding the YWCA crisis support programs and services that empower women.

Mr. Speaker, the women honoured at last night's event are among south Saskatchewan's most dynamic, talented, and dedicated leaders, and they've made a real difference in our province and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reaffirm that this year's recipients are for

the arts, Judith Silverthorne; in the business and trades category, Darlene Olsen; in cultural heritage, Gloria Rivero; for community leadership and enhancement, Pat Hanley.

Mary Delanghe is the recipient of the Education Award; health and wellness, the winner is Bonnie Blakley. The Canadian Information Processing Society's women in information technology committee received the Science and Technology Achievement Award; Mary Anderson for sport, recreation, and active living. And, Mr. Speaker, this year's Young Woman of Distinction is Heather Abbey, and Carol Gay Bell for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to all of the nominees and award winners. They spoke of their love of Saskatchewan, our tremendous quality of life, and, Mr. Speaker, these are the women who help make it so.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Support for Canadian Troops

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party would like to take this time to offer our support and encouragement to our military personnel serving Canada in Afghanistan and around the world. Our troops are defending Canada's interests, preserving our freedom, and protecting our way of life. Our troops are also participating in a great humanitarian effort. They are helping to rebuild schools, provide leadership, and restore faith to the Afghan people.

Mr. Speaker, dozens and dozens of our military personnel are from Saskatchewan. They come from small towns, villages, and our cities. They have chosen to serve our country to the best of their ability. Some of these troops will serve by laying down their life for their country. This is the ultimate sacrifice and every person in Saskatchewan and in Canada should be ever grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all members of this Assembly will join with me in saying to our troops that we are proud of your good work and keep it up. Mr. Speaker, members of the public can send our troops supportive messages from our website at www.skcaucus.com by clicking on the support our troops link on the right-hand side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

2006 World Class Players' Cup

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, soccer is the world's largest sport. This week in Regina at the credit union sportsplex there's been soccer — or football — going on as players play for the World Class Players' Cup right here in Regina.

Mr. Speaker, there are 20 countries represented in this second

annual World Class Players' Cup of football which is Kevin Holness's brain child. Kevin, formerly of the Canadian national football team, is playing with the Barbados team here in Regina this week.

It is a real tribute to the teams, the organizers that we have people playing with pride for their original nations. There's a spirit of sportsmanship and there's a simple joy of being part of the world's biggest game, and what an exciting game it is.

Mr. Speaker, El Salvador won last year's championship. I can tell you they're well-trained. They're determined to defend as champions this year.

The round robin ends and turns into playoffs today, tomorrow, and it ends Sunday, with the final game late Sunday afternoon. I know I will be there and I expect there will be some others there. I look forward to the final championship game and the presentation of the World Class Players' Cup of football this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:30]

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Review of Infant's Medical Treatment

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has now been two weeks since the minister promised to review the questionable circumstances around the baby Paige case. Let's review what happened there.

The Hansen family had to flee to Edmonton so that they could get timely care and treatment for their baby because it wasn't available here in Saskatchewan. Baby Paige received diagnosis of leukemia within 24 hours of being admitted to the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton.

The minister launched an investigation on April 24. On Monday he said that he was waiting to speak to the family. Our office contacted Paige's aunt this morning. Alisa Worobetz is extremely upset because, according to her, no attempt has been made to set up an interview with the family. Can the minister tell this Assembly whether a contact has been made with baby Paige's family?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The members opposite have on occasion stretched the credibility of all members of society in Saskatchewan with their quotes of individuals taken completely either out of context or talking to the wrong people.

Mr. Speaker, the aunt may have information in this case. I don't know; I'm not talking to her. The Saskatoon Regional Health

Authority has been making contact with the family throughout the course of the week. Mr. Speaker, I understand that Mike and Michelle were in Saskatoon yesterday with baby Paige. The Saskatoon Regional Health Authority was also going to talk to them yesterday. Have they conducted their interview? I don't know that, Mr. Speaker. I'm not rushing this case. The interests of the family is the most important in my mind at this point in time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the minister also said that he'd provide information about the case as it came available. Now we still don't know whether the family has been interviewed. He admitted that right now.

But there are questions that should be answered and should be able to be answered today, questions like, how come the family had to wait three weeks or more for a bone scan? What were the reasons for that? What are the reasons for the MRI [magnetic resonance imaging] being out of service? Was it out of service? And why weren't they forwarded on to another health district, because only one MRI was operating in Saskatchewan? Can he answer those questions today?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And in fact the member opposite is aware that I've said that I will release information when information is available to be released. I stand by those comments and will in fact release information when information is available to be released.

Mr. Speaker, I am very anxious to ensure that information that has been gathered from the clinical review is shared with the family and is corroborated by the family, that recollections for the family are identical to the circumstances described in the clinical review. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to surprise family members with information released through the media. I'm going to share that information with them. This review is going to be done correctly. It's not going to be rushed because the members opposite want it rushed. It's going to be done well. It's going to serve the interests of baby Paige's family, and it's going to serve the interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, when the minister first launched this internal investigation about baby Paige's case, he told the people of Saskatchewan that the results would be available last Friday. A week has passed, and we haven't heard one answer from this provincial government.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday the minister provided few answers to any of the questions that were put towards him, questions about why the diagnosis was going to take so long in Saskatchewan and it only took 24 hours in Edmonton, Mr. Speaker. That's

unconscionable. Mr. Speaker, will the minister tell the Assembly today then when he expects the report to be done?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The report will be done in a timely fashion, and information will be released to the people of Saskatchewan when it is appropriate to be released and not on a timetable set by the members opposite.

I remind the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, that when third parties have taken a look at the Saskatchewan medical system and compared it to other provinces, Mr. Speaker, the Conference Board of Canada says Saskatchewan has the third best system in the country with the fourth lowest cost. Mr. Speaker, we are very proud of the service that we are providing to the people of Saskatchewan. We are also aware that when there are challenges within the system that need to be met, we have processes in place to do that.

Mr. Speaker, this process includes respect for the family. I have that respect and I will ensure that that respect is carried through in this investigation.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Provision of Oxygen and Palliative Care

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

Mr. McMorris: — Well Mr. Speaker, the Stonehouse family certainly didn't see any respect from this minister yesterday. Yesterday I raised the case of 55-year-old Linda Stonehouse from Arborfield. She's suffering from terminal lung cancer, and her doctor and oncologist has said that she requires oxygen. Linda faces frequent episodes where she's short of breath. When this happens, she is forced to drive 45 miles into Nipawin from Arborfield to the emergency room. Once she's in that emergency room, she's threatened because her immune system is so low.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister said that he'd review this case. Has the minister done that, and can he tell this Assembly and especially Linda Stonehouse that she'll be receiving oxygen because she's in a palliative care state?

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I remind the member opposite that indeed if he had raised that question with me prior to question period yesterday, and we'd had some opportunity to examine this, we could have informed the member in question period yesterday and the family that there has been communication between Sask Health and the doctor representing Mrs. Stonehouse. There's some information that needs to be collected from the family prior to an assessment and a final decision being made.

Mr. Speaker, the department is using its normal processes to deal with this case. She could be entitled. She very much could be entitled to receive this oxygen, Mr. Speaker. I encourage the members opposite to use the processes that are in place to deal

with cases where people's lives are affected.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the families are getting absolutely sick and tired of this minister and this government's cadre of options they have to do before they get care. She's gone through the quality care coordinator. She's gone to the cancer advocate from the cancer society. She's checked with her personal physician. She's checked with the oncologist, and they've all said that she needs oxygen, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the minister said outside the House yesterday that this policy hadn't changed since the 1990s. But if you talk to a number of families who's had a loved one on palliative care, they say a number of people have been dropped off the oxygen free category because they don't meet the guidelines. Can the minister tell me, is this true, that the department has truly changed its policy and knocked a number of people off the oxygen program?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. This government has worked very hard with the palliative care association in this province and with others across Canada who care an awful lot about the terminally ill and their families. Mr. Speaker, we have developed over a number of years the Aids to Independent Living. Mr. Speaker, some parts of the SAIL [Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living] program require some fees to be paid by individuals and some do not.

Mr. Speaker, this is a case of an individual who either can't or won't pay for a program under the existing program. Mr. Speaker, if this is a family who cannot pay, there's another way in which we can address this situation. Mr. Speaker, the important thing is to identify what the problem is and to address that problem to focus in on it.

Mr. Speaker, the palliative care program recognizes the needs of individuals and families. The independent living program addresses the way in which we address some of those needs. And we will address this from the assisted living point of view, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, when I asked the minister yesterday what the definition of his government, or Sask Health definition of palliative care was, he told me to go to the dictionary because the dictionary's definition would suit Sask Health. Well the dictionary's definition is anything used to alleviate pain and anxiety. I can't think of a better case than the Linda Stonehouse case when she suffers from a shortage of breath. And an episode like that, can you imagine the anxiety

the family goes through and she goes through on a 45-minute drive to Nipawin? Can you imagine how it would alleviate the pain and pressure that she feels if she had oxygen at home?

Everything about this case talks to palliative care which is a definition that his government should be following through. Will he review the case and agree to the fact that palliative care and supplying Linda Stonehouse with oxygen is one and the same?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Again I remind the member opposite that, one week ago, the doctor representing the individual in question wrote a letter to Sask Health asking for the oxygen program to be renewed in her case — one week, Mr. Speaker. In that week, the department wrote back indicating that there are tests that the doctor knows has to be performed — simple tests — in order for her to qualify.

Mr. Speaker, the individual in question and her doctor, professional relationship, Mr. Speaker, can determine whether or not this person is eligible under the Aids to Independent Living program. Mr. Speaker, I urge the individual, I urge the doctor to work within the existing program to ensure that her needs are able to be addressed and ultimately met.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Job Growth Statistics

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning Statistics Canada released the most recent job numbers for the province, and I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, that Saskatchewan again finished last in comparison to all other Western provinces. But before that minister stands up and brags and brags about how the job numbers in this province are up eight-tenths of 1 per cent, I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that this is a dismal record for a province experiencing a resources boom.

Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Industry and Resources: is the minister proud of having the worst job growth record in Western Canada?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the province of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — I am proud of the business people in this province, of the working people of this province, the people that

are building the economy of this province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition complains when the job numbers go down. The opposition complains when the job numbers go up. There's nothing I can do to make the opposition happy about the fact that the job numbers are 3,700 more jobs this year than a year ago. But that is a fact, Mr. Speaker.

It is also the fact that we are a have province. We're one of three provinces with above-average personal income. And, Mr. Speaker, our economy is one of the fastest growing economies in Canada. Is it good enough for them? No. But we're going in the right direction, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Stewart: — In spite of that minister's . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. Once again I recognize the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — In spite of that minister's rose-coloured view of the world, Mr. Speaker, under this NDP [New Democratic Party] government, we've been losing people to other provinces. And it's no secret why, Mr. Speaker — because the neighbouring provinces are experiencing real job growth: British Columbia, 76,700 jobs over the same period; Alberta, 67,500 jobs; Manitoba, 11,500 jobs; and Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, 3,700 jobs. That is a pathetic record, and it's no wonder that we can't keep our young people in this province.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister: what is that NDP government doing to ensure young people have a chance to stay in this province and work when every other province in Western Canada is beating us?

[10:45]

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — The member asks what we're doing. I'll tell the member what we're doing, Mr. Speaker. According to the Fraser Institute, we now have the second lowest bundle of personal taxes in Canada, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, my colleague the Minister of Finance, a few weeks ago had a budget for growth and opportunity that cut business taxes in this province, Mr. Speaker. That's what we're doing.

And we look at the headlines, Mr. Speaker. What do they say? They say, "Swift Current hopes boom times continue." They say, "Saskatoon good for business." They say, "Life is very good here." And it is, Mr. Speaker. They say, "Regina house sales set record high."

But, Mr. Speaker, we also see an article that says, "The grumpiest folks in Canada," and I can only assume, Mr. Speaker, that article must be about those people over there.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Stewart: — Mr. Speaker, I don't want that minister paddling my canoe. Again, Mr. Speaker, I will try and put into perspective the job growth record of this NDP government for the minister.

For every job created in Saskatchewan, three are created in Manitoba. For every job created in Saskatchewan, 18 are created in Alberta, and finally, Mr. Speaker, for every job created in Saskatchewan, 20 are created in BC [British Columbia]. To put it another way, Mr. Speaker, if there were 42 new jobs in Western Canada today, only one would be in Saskatchewan.

To the minister: can he explain why, under this NDP government, Saskatchewan continues to finish last? What can he say to the graduating class of 2006 when they start looking for work in other provinces because Saskatchewan lags so far behind?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Well as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, what I would say to the graduating class of 2006 would be this. I met a civil engineer the other day in downtown Regina, who obtained employment in Saskatchewan. I asked him what happened to your class of civil engineers? This is what he said, Mr. Speaker. He said out of 26 graduates all but five had obtained employment in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Because, Mr. Speaker, we can have the opposition saying that when the jobs go up, it's not enough. There's nothing that will ever keep the opposition happy.

But I have this to say to them. In the last three years, the gross domestic product — the economy of this province, Mr. Speaker — grew by 10.7 per cent, the second highest growth in Canada. So they can purvey their gloom and doom, Mr. Speaker, but the people of Saskatchewan who are proud of this province are going to keep going in the right direction because we are going in the right direction, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Appointment at the Labour Relations Board

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the former Vice-Chair of Saskatchewan's Labour Relations Board says he asked for another term in that job and was denied. Walter Matkowski alleges the deputy minister of Labour advised him to quit immediately because his rulings were not popular with unions. That allegation, if proven to be correct, amounts to political interference in what should be an

independent body — the Labour Relations Board.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has been aware of these allegations for several days. Will he today agree to conduct an investigation into whether or not there was political interference in the Labour Relations Board?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting on a day like today, when we've had good news about the employment numbers for April — 3,700 new jobs — and we are moving in the right direction, the member opposite just wants to mud sling.

You know, I have spoken with the deputy minister and his recollection of these allegations is very different. But I want to assure the people of Saskatchewan there was no political interference.

But let's be clear, Mr. Speaker. Let's be very clear. Mr. Matkowski's five-year term had expired. It had expired. No one who's appointed to a board or Crown or agency is automatically entitled to a renewal. That is a fact, Mr. Speaker. There is no automatic entitlement to a renewal. Mr. Matkowski went through a competition originally, and that's how we plan to fill this position.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker. According to the document from Mr. Matkowski and obtained by the minister two days ago, Mr. Matkowski was told it would be best if he resigned. Mr. Matkowski alleges the deputy minister of Labour told him unions had been complaining about his decisions before the Labour Relations Board. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Labour tell us if he or his predecessor received written or verbal complaints from any union about Walter Matkowski and his rulings before the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, you know I just want to make sure that we speak about the facts in this House. This is very clear that Mr. Matkowski's five-year term had expired on February 28, 2006. He had completed his term. And just to review the facts, Mr. Speaker, no one who is appointed to a board, agency, or commission in Saskatchewan is automatically entitled to a renewal.

Now as I had said earlier, Mr. Matkowski went through a competition originally and that's how we plan to fill this position. We fill these positions through competition.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I find it very interesting that on a day like today, these members who have no credibility and about arm's

length . . . how we deal with arm's-length agencies . . . No credibility. Here we have job numbers of 3,700 that show Saskatchewan is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, from the affidavit of Mr. Matkowski I want to quote. This is about his interview process by the then deputy minister of Labour. I quote:

. . . I asked what would be expected of me in the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board, in that as an arbitrator, I called them as I saw them. Ms. Morgan assured me that I was to call them as I saw them, and that there would be no political interference or ramifications if I did this, in that the Board was an independent tribunal.

Can the minister assure this House that there were no ramifications of Mr. Matkowski's non-appointment based on the concerns expressed last summer?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to see if I could shed a little bit more light to the member from Canora-Pelly, Mr. Speaker. I want to say this. You see, Mr. Speaker, I have read extensively the code of ethics of the Saskatchewan conservative party, Mr. Speaker. I've read that. And that code of ethics, Mr. Speaker, says that there should be an opportunity, Mr. Speaker . . . That code of ethics, Mr. Speaker, is to address itself to when there are issues that are of need to dispute, should get ratified.

That member for Canora-Pelly, Mr. Speaker, had the deputy minister in front of him in a committee. He could have asked the deputy minister about whether or not there has been any interference. The Minister of the Environment has on a number for occasions said there has not been any interference . . . the Minister of Labour has said there has been no interference. Why didn't the member from Canora-Pelly ask the question of the deputy minister so that he could have brought the record right and said that there hasn't been any interference.

Why? Because we've got this . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what this province needs is a Labour Relations Board that's fair. We don't need a board that's biased towards business. We don't need a board that's biased towards unions. We need an impartial Labour Relations Board that bases rulings on the facts and on legal precedents. We don't need a Labour Relations

Board where those hearing matters are chilled by allegations of political interference that have not been answered by this minister. Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order, order, order please. Order Please. Order. Order please. Order. The floor to the member from Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is this. Can this minister tell us if he received representations asking him to take Mr. Matkowski off the LRB [Labour Relations Board]? And can he ask the former minister if she received representations from anyone asking her to take Mr. Matkowski off the Labour Relations Board?

The Speaker: — Order please. The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker what I just . . . [inaudible] . . . the member from Canora-Pelly has asked the question . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order. Once again the Chair recognizes the member for Yorkton, the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, the member for Canora-Pelly asks what this Assembly and what this province needs. What this province needs is a bit more integrity, Mr. Speaker. And I want to say . . . [inaudible] . . . and that integrity, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker . . .

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I want to read this quote, Mr. Speaker. This quote says, and the comments are about Ms. Lynda Haverstock, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I appreciate the enthusiasm that members have here, but I do want to be able to hear the words. There have been a couple of things here that appears to have passed by that I was not able to hear, and I insist that I must be able to hear what the people that are on the floor are able to say.

The Chair recognizes the member for Yorkton.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, my comment was that what we need to hear from the member from Canora-Pelly is a great deal more integrity from the opposition. I say this, Mr. Speaker. These are his words as it relates to the Lieutenant Governor of the province: “She’s a great . . . person, tremendous, but as a team-builder, [and as] a . . . player, maybe not so.”

Mr. Speaker, and then this member from Canora-Pelly had the audacity to attack now our public servant by saying that he has put words in the mouths of . . . that the member, that the deputy minister, Mr. Speaker . . . has made allegations that are absolutely not accurate, Mr. Speaker. And the member from Canora-Pelly, Mr. Speaker, also talked about the fact of what happened to Mr. Waller a couple of years ago, Mr. Speaker. This member opposite, Mr. Speaker, continues to attack individuals, Mr. Speaker, whether they’re the Lieutenant Governor, whether they are the deputy ministers of the Crown, Mr. Speaker, or whether they are individuals who are working

today, Mr. Speaker, in major corporations of this province . . .

The Speaker: — Order please.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[11:00]

The Speaker: — Order please. Once again I would like to have caught this at the minute that it happened, but it’s difficult to hear under certain circumstances. But I did hear the member from Yorkton, and I verified that he brought up the words of the Lieutenant Governor and talking about the Lieutenant Governor in this Assembly, and I just believe that that is improper and that ought not to be raised in the Assembly, should not become a matter of debate.

The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Would the member state this point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, it is a long-standing tradition in this House that members are not permitted to do from their seats what they’re not allowed to do on the record. And within the previous about three minutes, Mr. Speaker, as part of the shouting from across the floor by the opposition, the hon. member for Silver Springs several times shouted across the floor calling the government members communists. Mr. Speaker, there have been rulings in this House previously that have disallowed this reference. It was clearly intentional. It was repeated, and it was very loud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you will ask the hon. member for Silver Springs to withdraw his remark and apologize to the House.

The Speaker: — On the point of order, the Chair recognizes the member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the heat of debate there has certainly been words that have been expressed and exchanged. But I’d also ask you, Mr. Speaker, to check the official record, and I believe it will show clearly that the Deputy Premier also used unparliamentary references to the official opposition. And I don’t think that the Government House Leader should stand and pretend that his members have not incited our individuals to reciprocate in using language that may be out of order.

Mr. Speaker, I think that before . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Member for Melfort.

Mr. Gantefoer: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on the record that it is inappropriate for the Deputy Premier . . .

The Speaker: — One point of order at a time. I can’t be going into a couple of points of order. Would the member please stick to this point of order.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I would ask the Speaker to officially check the record and ensure that all episodes of improper use of language is also adhered to.

The Speaker: — I thank both members for raising the issue, and it brings back the point that I think I was originally talking about and that is I found it almost impossible to hear. And it was impossible to hear. I was not able to hear the statement that is alleged to have been made. There are probably other statements that have been alleged to have been made.

All I can say about that is I thank the members for raising it. I ask members to refrain from doing what they cannot — order please — across the floor by just throwing remarks across the floor at random. And if the member indeed did make the remark which is unparliamentary, that is do name calling in the name of communist, if he did make that remark, I would invite him at this stage to rise and withdraw the remark.

The Chair recognizes the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — I withdraw that remark, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I thank the member. I thank the member . . . Order. Order please. Order please. Order please, Order please. Order please.

Members, let's raise the bar somewhat, members. Order please. Let's just raise the bar a little bit, members. The Chair recognizes the member for Melfort on a point of order.

Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then, Mr. Speaker, I would like to officially raise a point of order to make reference to the fact that the Deputy Premier referred to the official opposition as the Saskatchewan conservative party, and clearly the Speaker has ruled that that's inappropriate.

The Speaker: — On the same point of order, the Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I can understand the sensitivity that the opposition has. This week it is getting increasingly difficult. It is getting increasingly difficult to differentiate between the Conservative Party and the Saskatchewan Party. I can understand. I can understand the sensitivity that the hon. member has. And clearly his colleagues . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. Order please. Order please. The member complete his remarks.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it may very well have been that the Deputy Premier made reference to the Saskatchewan Party as a conservative party. And if so, if so, I think we all understand why it's easy to confuse the two. We understand that. If so, Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Thank you. Once again the record will show what was said and what was not said. If the member did refer to the party represented by the opposition in an inappropriate manner, I give him the opportunity at this stage to withdraw the remark.

Hon. Mr. Serby: — Mr. Speaker, I would withdraw that particular remark.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

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

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader is requesting leave to move to government orders. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 55

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Cline that **Bill No. 55 — The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to speak to Bill 55 . . .

The Speaker: — Order please, members. Order please. Speaking to adjourned debates then, the Chair recognizes the member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to me to stand and speak in this House to Bill 55, the industrial sites reclamation Act. Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill that's aimed at the . . . aimed towards the cleanup of reclaimed industrial sites. And the Bill defines and identifies a closed site, among other things. And for the purposes of this legislation, it deals with the issue of the decommissioning of an industrial site, Mr. Speaker — the decommissioning as well as reclamation, remediation, and transition of industrial sites, Mr. Speaker.

Also, the Bill deals with an institutional control registry; another bureaucracy, Mr. Speaker, that may be of dubious value.

We agree, certainly agree, that there is . . . that legislation of this type may be well justified, Mr. Speaker, and the thinking behind it may be noble. The problem with this Bill may be the implementation and the detail of the regulations that may accompany this Act, Mr. Speaker.

We've heard this government give assurances of full consultation and co-operation with the industry. I'm not so sure, Mr. Speaker. This Bill was brought to us very late in the session. We understand there has been some consultations. The extent of that is a matter for some debate. And we don't necessarily concede that that's been properly done at this point.

Mr. Speaker, if I understand the legislation correctly, it deals with a mine site or industrial site that is decommissioned. This Bill would replace certain . . . would place certain requirements on the owner of such site. And if those regulations, rules and regulations that are put in place are met, that site would be given approval to be included in this registry program.

One of the things that should be mentioned is that no indication exists in the Bill as to what the financial obligations on the owners of those sites to be placed into the registry may be, and over what period of time those obligations would continue.

Mr. Speaker, this causes us grave concern. This legislation was presented to us very late in this session. I know that the mining association assumed that we would have been presented with this some time, some considerable time, before we were. And on checking with the mining association they seemed to have had some consultation. Although they were misled as to when we would receive this legislation, they have had some consultation and they seem to generally favour the framework of this Bill. Our concern is that they're not . . . nobody knows what may turn up in regulations.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, having said those things, since the mining association does seem to have a basic understanding and agreement with the framework of this Bill, I think we are prepared to move it to committee at this time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Industry and Resources that Bill No. 55, The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act 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.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No 55, The Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act be referred to the policy field Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 55 be referred to the policy Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure. Is it the pleasure

of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried. Bill 55 stands referred to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Bill No. 48

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Nilson that **Bill No. 48 — The Parks Amendment Act, 2006** be now read a second time.]

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

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate being given an opportunity to enter into the debate on Bill 48, The Parks Amendment Act.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill too was introduced fairly late in our legislative agenda here in our calendar. And it's a Bill that extensively . . . Well it basically has two parts.

One part, which is the minor portion of the Bill, cleans up some of the land descriptions in a couple of our provincial parks — the Makwa Lake Provincial Park and the Meadow Lake Provincial Park. There was some, I understand, some errors in land descriptions and bits and pieces of land around lakes and so on. And so this cleans that up.

[11:15]

But the main purpose and the majority of the Bill deals with setting fees for those people who own cottages within the boundaries of our provincial parks, Mr. Speaker. And this is an issue that gained the public attention nearly two years ago when the Environment minister of the day revised the fee structure that cottage owners paid for rental fees and lease fees that they would have within the provincial parks.

And at that time, the revised system — back in 2004 — proposed huge increases in fees, some as high as 300 per cent increase. And this, as you might well imagine, brought great concerns and disagreement by owners of cottages within our provincial parks.

And I remember a series of meetings that were conducted that summer throughout the parks. And the halls were overflowing with people who were very upset with the massive increase in rental fees, and they certainly voiced their opposition. And as a result, late in 2004 I believe it was, the minister of the day decided to review the system that he was proposing and asked to have a consultation process or set up a consultation process whereby the representatives of cottage owners would have input into the fee structure.

And I believe a committee of five people from around the province representing various cottage associations, that committee of five was set up to work with officials of the Department of the Environment. And numerous meetings were held to discuss the issues, to see if they could find a solution to

this fee structure. And after a extensive period of meetings and consultation, the committee submitted their final proposal to the minister, to the Department of Environment for minister's consideration back in February of this year.

And interestingly, Mr. Speaker, I have been in conversation with a number of committee members. After they submitted their final recommendation, they have had no further communication from the minister or any officials within the department as to whether their recommendations have been accepted. They haven't been consulted as to what the government is proposing in this matter. The first time they were aware of what the government is proposing, as far as setting fees, was when Bill 48 was given first reading, Mr. Speaker.

And basically what the Bill does, it's proposing that cottage owners pay two fees. One is a service fee which will be "... determined by the minister in accordance with the regulations and based on direct service costs; ..." as it says in clause 2(a) of section 4. And the second fee is a land lease fee which is again determined by the minister in accordance to regulation.

Well the general thrust of these two fees I believe is in keeping with what was recommended by the committee, but as I said and read from the Bill, the fees will be set by the minister in regulation. And that leaves a lot of questions, Mr. Speaker, that need to be answered because we don't know what items will be included in determining the fee. We don't know what allocation of those costs will be attributed to cottage owners because there is costs associated with the daily visitors and occasional visitors, the campers, you know, road maintenance, general maintenance within the park. So there's a whole series of questions surrounding the service fee.

And then also there's an equal number of unanswered questions as far as how the land lease fee is going to be determined. In the 2004 proposal, the fee was based on a fair market value system of the cottage and lot in accordance with the SAMA [Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency] guidelines, and then the minister proposed to take an average mill rate of surrounding communities and apply that to that assessed value which resulted in those tremendously high fees in 2004.

Well now what system is the minister proposing to determine the land lease fee? We don't know that. The old fee, prior to 2004, the rental fee as I understand it was based on the dimensions of your lot, sort of the front footage of the lot.

And the fee was so many dollars per foot, which in itself was really not a fair system of determining the fee. Because if you happened to own a large lot with no buildings or very minimal buildings on the lot, you paid quite a large annual fee compared to someone who would maybe have a smaller lot but has a very new cottage and so on. So there was inequities in the old system. The proposed system in 2004 certainly didn't meet the Bill.

On the face of it, what's proposed here may solve the problem. And the framework looks like it may be able to come up with a fair and equitable fee for cottage owners within the parks. But the devil is in the detail. And in this case, Mr. Speaker, the details are in regulation.

So having consulted with cottage owners and their association to get a better understanding of what has transpired in the past and what is being proposed there, there were certainly quite a number of questions and concerns raised by these individuals.

So, Mr. Speaker, I did ask the minister for a briefing so that we could get some sense of what he was proposing and to understand how the various fees will actually be calculated. Well to this date, Mr. Speaker, that briefing hasn't taken place. So in order for us to move this piece of legislation along, Mr. Speaker, we need to have the information as to how the fees will actually be calculated. I mean something as basic as do the cottage owners have to buy a park pass to get into the park so they can go to their property? Even a basic question like that we have no answers to at this point in time, Mr. Speaker.

But the minister assured me in our conversation that he has the answers. Perhaps he hasn't found time to slot in a briefing on this particular Bill. We are prepared to move this Bill to committee, but I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, that we will be asking a lot of questions, a lot of detailed questions. It will take a lot of time, Mr. Speaker, in committee.

And I would hope that the minister and his committee members are prepared to give us the time that is needed to answer all these questions because, Mr. Speaker, the general public wants to know the answers to this. And without the answers so that we have some sort of an idea as to what level the 2006 fees will be set at and the methodology that will be used to determine these fees, without having that information, Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid we will have to keep this Bill in committee until we get those answers. So by way of this discussion today, I'm serving notice to the Minister of Environment. And I would hope that he is prepared to provide us with these answers.

But in a gesture of good faith, Mr. Speaker, we will move this Bill to committee. But as I had said, we are prepared to spend a lot of time, and we need to spend a lot of time and get the answers to these questions that have been raised by the interest groups. So, Mr. Speaker, I would recommend that we do at this time move this Bill to committee.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion moved by the Minister of Environment that Bill No. 48, The Parks 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.

Clerk Assistant: — Second reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this Bill be referred? The Chair recognizes the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 48, The Parks Amendment Act be referred to the policy field Committee

on Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Government House Leader that Bill No. 48 be referred to the policy field 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. So the Bill 48 stands referred to the policy committee, Intergovernmental Affairs and Infrastructure.

Clerk Assistant: — Committee of Finance.

The Speaker: — I do now leave the Chair for the Assembly to go into the Committee of Finance.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE

General Revenue Fund Health Vote 32

Subvote (HE01)

The Chair: — The estimates before the committee would be the estimates for the Department of Health vote 32 in the Estimates book. I welcome the minister and his officials and would ask him to please introduce the officials to the Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much. I'm very glad to be back in front of Committee of Finance on estimates. I have a number of officials from the Department of Health today. I'm just going to provide the names as opposed to pointing them out because, without turning around, I'm not exactly sure how we've all settled in back here. I have . . .

The Chair: — What you could do then, Mr. Minister, as you introduce your officials, they could just give a quick wave so the opposition members can recognize them.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Okay. I think everyone's familiar with everyone else but, as I call your name, I would ask my officials to indicate who's who. I have with me a very recognizable individual to members opposite, the deputy minister, John Wright; the assistant deputy minister, Lauren Donnelly; executive director, workforce planning branch, Bonnie Blakley who by the way was recognized by Women of Distinction last night. We're very proud of the work that Bonnie has done.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The executive director, finance and administration branch, Ted Warawa; the assistant deputy minister, Max Hendricks. We also have with us the executive director, community care branch, Roger Carriere; executive director, population health branch, George Peters; executive director, drug plan and extended benefit branch, Kevin Wilson; executive director, regional policy branch, Rod Wiley; executive director, regional accountability branch, Bert Linklater; director, medical services branch, June Schultz; and assistant to the deputy minister, Leslie Grob.

[11:30]

The Chair: — Thank you. The estimates before the House, vote 32 Health. I recognize the member from Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Chair. And thanks to the minister and all the officials for being here on a gorgeous Friday morning and soon to be afternoon. I hope there's not a test on all those names and putting a name and a face to the wave because I won't pass, but I have a number of questions in a lot of different areas regarding Health of course.

But the first area I want to talk about is non-profits. And in the health care field there's a lot of non-profit, non-government organizations that operate in the health care field, whether it's, you know, the autism society or a number of different non-profits. And I would just ask the minister, does the department fund any of them, grant them money to keep the doors open for general operations?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I would ask the member to be a little bit more specific. Non-profits could be any number of things. He mentioned the autism society. Is he talking about societies and associations, or is he talking about some business interests? Non-profits could be delivering services that the department pays for. Others simply provide a referral or an information service. I don't fully understand the member's question, and I want to be as specific as possible in answering.

Mr. McMorris: — I guess maybe just a general statement to begin with because some of the organizations that I'm going to be looking at supply information, education, supply services that the Department of Health doesn't. So just give me a general statement I guess, and then I can go from there.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Chair, it's always been suggested to me that be careful what you ask for. The member opposite asked a very open-ended question and answering it, just listing the organizations we fund, could take me about 20 minutes. And of course there is the fact that not only does Sask Health provide some funding, but also the regional health authorities through their own budgets and community activities would also provide some funding.

But for example just let me indicate, in terms of our third party funding program, we provide funding — and I won't give the dollar values or we'll be here all day — the FAS [fetal alcohol syndrome] support network; MACSI [Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan]; the core youth and field worker programs; rehabilitation programs through MACSI; the St. Louis Rehabilitation Centre; the Saskatchewan Institute on the Prevention of Handicaps. Through the University of Saskatchewan there's a drug evaluation support group, the Canadian Institute for Health Information, and a bunch of others.

Under mental health services, the Canadian Mental Health Association in Saskatchewan; Canadian Mental Health Association in Saskatchewan's annual conference we provide support to. The addictions clinical conference; mental health rehabilitation conference; Saskatchewan Towards Offering Partnerships Solutions to Violence program; Saskatchewan

Seniors Mechanism; Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan; advisory committee on family planning; AIDS Program South Saskatchewan; AIDS Saskatoon; All Nations Hope AIDS Network; Alzheimer Society; association of Saskatchewan care home auxiliaries; Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment; the child action plan prevention and support programs; the first responders, first responders' conference; avenue centre for gender and sexual diversity; hope air; Mackenzie Infant Care Centre.

The list is quite extensive in that we provide considerable supports to organizations, associations, non-profits throughout the province, Madam Chair.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you for that answer. And it looks like there's an awful lot of organizations and associations and groups that do receive some funding. How do you determine who does and who doesn't? Because that's really kind of the root of my question.

I was able to meet with a couple of people from Saskatchewan Epilepsy Inc. And they have had an organization that's been operating for a number of years and they have been fundraising on their own. They were part of the United Way and they are no longer part of the United Way. They had a bingo. They used to run bingos in downtown and found that since Casino Regina opened up that their funding has dried up. I think the last bingo that they went to operate, there was only two or three people there to play and a number of there to work to fund their organization.

When you look at the work that these people need to do, it's amazing. And there's certainly a real void there for the information that the epilepsy Saskatchewan inc. can provide.

So I guess maybe I would like some guidelines as to how you determine who you would fund and whether this group would fall into that category because as I said, there's a void there in education. It seems like, you know, epilepsy is very seldom talked about, and they really find it difficult to keep their doors open to provide a service that is much needed.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much for the question. Indeed as I had indicated earlier, there are a number of programs and associations who do receive funding. I'm also aware that each year Saskatchewan Health and the regional health authorities would receive many, perhaps hundreds of applications for funding from various groups across the province.

I'm assuming the question has to do with criteria of evaluation because obviously when you receive a request for funding and there's a specific dollar value available for funding, evaluations need to take place. And you evaluate on the basis of criteria. Some of that criteria would include the provincial focus of the work that's being done, the ability to meet the broad needs across the province with the specific program, tying it into very specific initiatives that may be under way in the province already through other existing work or work that is taking place through the department where a focus has been assigned.

There's no easy answer to the member's question specific to this particular application. Because I think we are all aware of

the important work that the folks who are advocating on behalf of epilepsy, the value of the work that they are contributing to the province. But the applications are based specifically on what is being requested, the focus, provincial focus, the dollars that are available, and perhaps meeting the needs of a provincial-wide focus that's already in place.

Mr. McMorris: — After talking to two of the people from the Saskatchewan Epilepsy Inc., they certainly educated me on the need for education and you know it's something, if you've ever been around a person that has an epileptic seizure, do we know how to act? And it's not just the general public but it's even professionals such as police and ambulance attendants and so many other people.

Who would do the education then to inform people if it isn't an association like this? Does the Department of Health do that? I know sometimes it's been talked about . . . well it would fall under mental health. But it really doesn't fall under mental health because the seizure could be 30 seconds long once or twice a year and the other, you know, total amount of time the person is functioning perfectly normal. So it's really not under mental health and they find that they're kind of in limbo. They don't really have anybody, you know, educating other than themselves. But again they don't have funding. So do you know if any of this is covered off through any department?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Before I try to seek some guidance on the specific question I just want to indicate to the member opposite and to any of those who might be watching, of the answer I provided earlier about we receive perhaps hundreds of applications, the member opposite could be actually asking a question on behalf of any number of organizations who have made an application and have not been funded because there's not enough money in the system to fund everybody.

When I was the minister of Government Relations we managed programs of community infrastructure. I appeared in committee here in which members opposite raised concerns about communities that they represented, doing very good work for their citizens, not being funded under a community infrastructure program. The concern is always specific to the application. They're doing good work, absolutely wonderful work. It's evaluated against others doing equally valuable work. The set of criteria can only fund so many. Some won't be. So some are happy under a funding mechanism; others are unhappy. Ultimately we'd like to be able to ensure that the services being recommended are provided.

Now there are a number of other sources available within the communities and whatnot. And I know that agencies like the United Way and others provide funding to assist associations locally and provincially to provide services. The health regions have health promotions branches that are engaged in community distribution of information. That's not to say that what they're doing meets the needs of all of those who are advocating in that area, whether it's epilepsy or any number of other areas.

But I just want to stress to those who are watching, who have an interest in funding of associations, that there is provincial funding available — not to stop trying to do good work, not to stop because you've been unsuccessful at getting money one

year, not to stop making applications in the future. There are dollars available. There is an interest within Saskatchewan Health and the regional health authorities. And I simply encourage people to keep bringing forward their applications so that it can be considered along with those others that are in the system.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I don't know. I didn't ask the question, whether they have even applied. They may not have even applied to your department for funding.

But what I would ask then is that maybe your department would get in touch with them. I know they have sent a letter to your office because they sent a letter to my office at the same time. And I would say it was two weeks ago. I met with them yesterday or two days ago. They haven't heard a word back from your department yet, but I would ask that the department then get in touch with them and perhaps tell them the options that are available through the department because I don't believe that they were aware of that. I'm not sure. But it may just be an issue of communication. And between the two, they didn't know what was available. So would that be okay?

I can give the information to you, or I know you have a letter has been sent to you with the information on how to contact them. Would that be fair then to have your department at least get in touch with them and maybe walk them through the different options they may have to fund their organization because as you have said . . . But, you know, after listening to the work that they have done and knowing a couple people that suffer from epilepsy, the work that they do is really very, very important because for someone for the first few times, if they have a seizure, it is a pretty scary time. They don't know, you know, what this all entails.

So I would ask that the department work with this organization to walk them through the process of hopefully finding some funding so they can keep their doors open, because right now it's being run out of one person's home. It's her home phone number. She is the organization. And with such a void out there for education, I don't think that's the way it should be. I think there should be some funding for this organization.

[11:45]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I don't want the direction considered by the question left that in fact the letter to my office or the department might go unanswered. If a letter has been provided, the letter will be answered. And it will be answered in a way that we assume will be helpful.

What the member opposite is suggesting, that with . . . The request may be to keep the doors open, not necessarily to provide education. I can't, I can't respond to that. We don't provide core funding, for example, to associations or agencies. The funding would be to provide for very specific programming aspects. But certainly if the letter is within the department, the letter will be answered, and we will be as helpful as we possibly can. There's no doubt advocacy in this particular field is useful, and we'll be as helpful as we possibly can.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. I think they would appreciate that, and I believe that's . . . They're not

looking for core funding for rent or anything like that. They're looking funding for education because as I said, there's a huge . . . They used to do programs at the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] barracks and city police, explaining to them what the process is when somebody goes through a seizure. That isn't being done any more. They just don't have the funding to carry out simple education programs like that.

I know there is some coverage of it in first aid courses which they would be going through, but this is specific to, certainly specific to the issue of epilepsy which . . . And there's just a lot of other areas, too. Even a number of the physicians don't know what's available. And so there's just a whole education piece around that. And I think that's what they'd be looking for.

I can't speak for them. But talking to them, that seemed to be what they were looking for, is specific programming which because of a number of reasons . . . when they used to fund raise, that fundraising has dried up and they seem to be struggling right now. So I would appreciate if . . . And I didn't imply that the department wasn't going to respond to that letter. I'm just saying that I had talked to them over the last couple weeks.

The other issue I wanted to talk about, and it was an issue that came up a couple weeks ago, was . . . because there was a week on it, organ and tissue donors week. And the whole issue after that was around whether there should be a registry. And I know the province doesn't have a registry right now. I have, you know, you put a sticker on your health services card. You sign a card. You put it in your wallet. You talk to your next of kin—whether it's spouse or family — what your intentions are. But that doesn't always mean that is what happens in the case of a person being able to donate, being put in the position to donate.

And they talked about a registry. Can I just hear what the department's view is of an organ donor registry? And I have a number of other questions around that. I'm not sure of the whole legal issue with that but I'll just start with the department's opinion of an organ and donor tissue registry.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much for the question. And of course this is an important issue and I appreciate the support that all members of the legislature gave on the organ registry day that occurred here a short while ago.

The organ donation program is an important part of the health system Canada-wide, and I understand that some jurisdictions — as the member has indicated, like British Columbia, Nova Scotia — have established registries of a sort in order to improve the organ donation rates. Prior to any consideration being made here in Saskatchewan, the department would want to undertake a considerable amount of consultation, both with those from outside the province and with those here in the province including health providers and others, about what the impact the establishment of a specific agency might have.

But that having been said, the deputy minister will be meeting in a couple of weeks with the Canadian council for donation and transportation which is a national group formed by federal, provincial, and territorial governments to advise on organ and tissue donations and transplantation issues. There's also a meeting of deputies coming up in June in which this issue will

be discussed more fully. So the question . . . the answer to the question is one of . . . the issue is in transition. We currently don't have a registry. We don't currently have a process for establishing a registry in place. We know that some consultation is necessary, and reviewing the work that's being done elsewhere will be useful. And there are meetings scheduled in the very near future to discuss this issue further.

Mr. McMorris: — Well that will be interesting. And I did hear a little bit about the British Columbia and Nova Scotia registry, but really the fact that it really was ineffective. It didn't deal with the issues that the associations were concerned about. United Kingdom has a different process completely, and I don't think that we could quite get to that, where everybody's organs are donated unless you say not. Whereas here, it's the opposite way.

But what I have learned over the last couple of days is that so often the card will be filled out and the sticker will be put on your health services card, but that doesn't necessarily mean that your organs will be donated. It's the next of kin's final say. So what are the legal ramifications around that? Like why is that the case? That the next of kin — which is going to be an extremely stressful time for them — could say no, and that would be what is done. Like is there some legal precedent that causes that, or why is that so?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Let me just say on the legal question that the member opposite is asking, we've actually — through the wonderful technology that's available to us here — we've actually put in a call in the last seconds here to try and find an answer for the member and for the public that's interested. Because for all intents and purposes the more information we can provide here today, the better off we all are at the end of the day and going forward.

The comments that the member made off the start of his remarks having to do with the situation in British Columbia and situation in Great Britain — the inadequacies in British Columbia; we can't go as far as Great Britain — indicates the, to a certain extent, the complexities in creating a registry that meets the needs of the people in the province, and at the same time, the desire for provincial governments to see that there's some benefit right across Canada to an organ donation registry program. What happens in one province may in fact, it should in fact line up with what happens in any other province when we have a truly Canadian system. How we get there is another story.

I can't . . . I'm not being signalled anywhere about the legal answer to the member's question. Perhaps if we're still on this subject, he might raise another issue. And as I get the answer to his very specific legal question, I can bring that forward as it becomes available.

Mr. McMorris: — Yes, I'd be interested to find out the answer because just talking to the people that are involved with this, they are frustrated because a person goes through all the processes and then eventually the organs aren't donated because the family has the final say.

And what they were looking at is a registry, you know, and it doesn't have to be as complex as what it is in the UK [United

Kingdom]. But if a person of sound mind goes down and registers and their name is put into a computer and saying, this is what I want to do if the eventuality ever happens to me, that it wouldn't be followed through, that somebody could then overrule that. And that's what they were looking at as a registry, that once a person has committed, that that would be seen to fruition as opposed to somebody coming in and changing what my wishes would have been. But maybe . . . I know there's some answers coming on that. Maybe they're just coming through the door now. I'm not sure.

The other one is the issue around . . . It used to be on drivers' licences. Every year when you get your driver's licence, there was questions on your driver's licence if you wanted to donate your organs. And that isn't the case any more. Whose decision is that? Would that be the Department of Health or is that SGI's [Saskatchewan Government Insurance]? I imagine you're working in conjunction on that. But whose decision would that have been to stop that program? And I don't know how long ago that stopped. But I do remember seeing when I would get my driver's licence renewal form that there was a tab right on there regarding organ and tissue donation, and that isn't the case any more.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The question asked with regards to legal circumstances, I can offer the member a bit of an answer. The issue's a little more complicated than it would first appear from the questions. I think we are aware that there's some co-signing responsibilities with regards . . . like spouses will co-sign the donation card. And I do believe that it's not law but practice within our health authorities that physicians, surgeons will want to confirm the request or the consent of the . . . particularly the spouse, confirm that that was indeed the wishes that are represented by the cards. I believe that this is a protection of physicians or facilities in ensuring that consent was indeed granted. So it's more practice, legal practice, as opposed to law. But we will continue to have a look at this issue.

Mr. McMorris: — Yes, I'd appreciate it if you could get back to me on any of the information you find out regarding this. Because again talking to the people that are involved in this they find that is probably the case is that, you know, the person has gone through all these steps with the sticker on their health services card and then when the physician asks a grieving spouse, they may reverse what the person intended.

And that's the whole point of a registry that if, you know, you've gone down to sign into a registry, maybe it makes it that much more acceptable for the spouse or next of kin. They've gone through this process to donate and the next of kin knows.

I'm interested to find out that it isn't set in law. It's a practice of the health authorities more than anything else. I don't know if you have any more to comment and if you don't we'll move to the next subject.

[12:00]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think just one further comment, and it may indeed not only be the practice of the health authorities, but in fact it might be the practice of the physicians who indeed would perform the work. And I think there's a confirmation that indeed the wishes . . .

So it is very important that individuals who are indeed committing their organs for donation discuss their wishes with their family members, particularly their spouses. The grieving spouse does not want to be surprised in the hospital by this request. I think it would be very helpful that when the donation card is signed that these wishes are made very clear for spouses or other immediate family members, because I think we are aware of tragedies that occur where sometimes both spouses are lost and the consulting family member may be children. So to consult with family members I think is a very important part of this process. And we will make further inquiries on the legal aspects of this.

Mr. McMorris: — Just one final statement is that, you know, we normally think of it as, you know, it's a spouse that has to make that decision, but it's not always the case. A person that isn't married, you know, and that can be at whatever age; it can be children. When I went to the kickoff of organ and tissue donors week, and listening to the story of a lady from Lumsden whose seven-year-old girl was killed in a playground accident and the process that they went through, so it's more than just a spouse. There's just, as you can imagine, there are just many, many different examples.

And I certainly do think that moving towards a registry — we could probably lead in this in Canada — that so many of those questions could be answered. It could be cleared up. Because I think, you know just as I said, a sticker on the health services card and communication between whoever, and then five years down the road, whether that has been talked about in the last five years. But if the formal process is more of a registry I think it would certainly benefit the province as a whole.

So I'll just turn it over to my colleague from Kelvington-Wadena to ask a few other questions.

The Chair: — I recognize the member for Kelvington-Wadena.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Madam Chair. To the minister and to his officials, thank you for the opportunity to answer some of the questions. Most of them are specific to my constituency. And which is . . . I don't know how many people have the luxury of having at least . . . I have three different health regions within my constituency so it is interesting.

I'm going to start with the Foam Lake centre. A number of years ago when there was a cutback in long-term care beds, the minister at that time promised that Foam Lake would be one of the first places to have a primary health care centre. And there's been many discussions back and forth between the ministers and the board and the mayor of the town about this health care centre and waiting to see when the initial work was going to be started.

I spoke to the mayor this morning, and he tells me that they have been advised there will be a needs assessment in the fall which is the first step. And I realize there's always a process to go through.

But in a small town . . . And I guess Foam Lake isn't small. Within the constituency, it's one of the larger centres. In fact it's the only centre that size in my constituency that doesn't have a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week emergency centre. That was

taken away a couple of years ago. So it is a huge concern for the town, when they talk about growing and attracting new people into the town, to not have a health care centre.

I know that the minister's aware that Foam Lake is the home of Milligan Bio-Tech, and the work that they are doing in that area is groundbreaking. And they employ 10 people now with huge opportunities. But when people look at moving out to a new town, there's a couple of questions they ask. They ask about a school. They ask about health care. And they look at the roads. We're lucky to have a great school, but the other two I'm afraid we're failing on.

I'm wondering has your department had any contact with Sunrise Health Region to talk about something that could be used in the meantime, before this primary health centre is set up, to allow Foam Lake to have a 24-7 emergency centre within the town?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much for that question. Every individual in the province of Saskatchewan has an interest in quality health care, ensuring that health care is delivered as close to them as possible. The system province-wide faces considerable pressures, both, well, financial and otherwise.

We are developing very, very quickly in this province the primary care delivery model to ensure that we can provide a multi-disciplinary approach to health care that represents the best service available from each of the service providers within the system.

This having been said, thinking about province-wide, we are developing a primary care network that currently has reached 38 different communities in the province. Our budget this year provides us with some tools to proceed with the development of additional primary care sites in the province. We are working with communities in various parts of Saskatchewan and the health regions to evaluate and assess where the priorities are and the communities are best positioned to utilize these services and dealing with very specific guidelines. We are also reviewing those guidelines.

I could make quite a speech about primary care because I am strongly committed to the delivery of health services through the primary care network, and I believe strongly that the people of Saskatchewan will be well-served through the full utilization of nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and others in addition to physicians who can offer services in a community.

So not wanting to make a speech out of the member's question — her question was very specific to Foam Lake — I can tell the member opposite that Foam Lake, like all communities across the country, across the province are represented within a regional health authority. The regional health authorities make very specific decisions about their capital allocations and their distribution of services. Saskatchewan Health works very closely with the regional health authorities to deliver services, again within the financial means both of the province and of the regional health authority.

It is my understanding that the authority, the regional health

authority in this case has at this point identified a number of capital needs. We are currently working on and funding on capital needs in Preeceville. It is my understanding that the Foam Lake project rates very highly in the next dollars to be allocated.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And before I go any further, I would like to thank you for the help for the individual that we talked about the other day. And I do appreciate your help.

But going back to Foam Lake, you indicated that you're working very quickly on this issue. And probably for the process that's involved when it comes to setting up a primary health care centre, this is quickly.

But for the people that are living out there right now, they know that you better get sick between 9 o'clock in the morning or 5 o'clock at night or you're not going to be able to go to Foam Lake. You're going to have to go down one of the roads that I talked about to one of your colleagues last night, or you're going to have to get an ambulance — which also costs considerably more money now after the recent announcement, which again is a separate issue.

But what the people from Foam Lake are needing is somebody to say in the meantime, give us back what we had a while ago and that was the 24-hour emergency service. It is something that you . . . The minister indicated that there was additional dollars and that you were looking at sites right now, additional sites.

I think that this area, and I know that you probably get a number of people saying, my area is the right area. But when you look at this constituency that doesn't have a large centre in it, you're forced to go to Yorkton or to Regina or to Saskatoon. It's a long way. And there has to be some opportunities in that area.

Last year we had a close call when the school bus with a number of First Nations children on it was involved in an accident not too far from Foam Lake, and because of the people that were close by there wasn't anything, there was no major incidents. But it was a scare to the community, and they realize that there is nothing there for them. We have not only the reserve that has needs in the Foam Lake area but also the increase in the number of people who live full-time at Fishing Lake that are requiring hospital services.

So my question again to the minister: is there anything that your department can do to say, we recognize there is a need in Foam Lake until we can get the primary health care centre set up? Is there something we can do to ensure that they have 24-7 service in that town?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much for the question. And I know that the member made a couple of comments in her remarks about other communities could have similar concerns or even similar questions. And I know that of those who might be watching these proceedings today there are people in other communities who are indeed saying we want 24-hour care, we want more action taken on physician recruitment, we want . . . Anyway there are considerable human resource and capital

needs in the health care system across the province.

We are aware of the importance of the service and the service providers to the individual communities. The regional health authorities are those responsible for the delivery of day-to-day operations. That includes the establishment of needs and priorities throughout the region. We have 12 regional health authorities in the province of Saskatchewan. Those authorities work with the communities to ensure that there's an understanding of what the expectations and needs are within that community and, within the resources available to the authorities, work out a means by which those needs and concerns can be addressed.

The first line of contact for Sask Health with regards to the priorities of a region are the health authorities. So while we are very sympathetic to the circumstances in Foam Lake, we encourage the member opposite and the people of Foam Lake to continue to work with their local health authority, the regional health authority, to ensure that they have communicated the urgency of their needs and that the region is able to respond or advocate on their behalf.

[12:15]

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Minister, and I assure you that not only myself but my constituents have done that. And they know that a few years ago when there was a shortage of money and they needed \$1million, it was easy to just whack off one area. And you don't frustrate near as many people, if you say, okay I'm just to cut the services in this one town rather than do it right across their whole health care region.

The regional health authority is limited with the amount of money they have and the minister is well aware of that. And they are doing what they can do. But when it comes to the big decisions about what should be closed, it was the government that stood in the House a number of years ago and said, this is the ones that are going to close. So it also can be your . . . and it's your government that stands in the House on budget day and stands up and says, this is the ones that we're going to put money into.

And I'm hoping that before long that this government will look, not just at health care, but taking into consideration the other departments which are intertwined when it comes to deciding where the facilities need to be. The economic development that's possible in this area can only happen if you have the facilities that you need to ensure that people want to live in the area. So I just wanted to register their concern and I know the minister will probably have another statement on Foam Lake.

But in the meantime I'm going to ask your officials to look at another issue. And this one probably seems a little smaller, but it is a concern for an individual who has a tea house. Because June 30 last year I wrote to the then Health minister, asking if there was a government regulation regarding non-commercial dishwashers in tea houses, because in one of my health regions they approve an ordinary dishwasher in a tea house and in another health region they don't give that type of approval. So I'm wondering if there has been any kind of . . . is there any kind of a policy across from your Health department that would give leadership to the regions on this issue?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much for the question. There are two answers that I will provide. The first answer supplementary to the previous question with regards to Sunrise and capital and secondarily with regards to public health inspections and the specific tea room that the member is talking about.

First and foremost we all are aware of the increased costs within the health system. The main drivers of those costs essentially are human resources, drugs, and technology. Capital is a driver but the capital costs come into play after we've addressed the human resource needs, drugs, and technology which are required to provide very specific services. We have renovations, we have new capital needs.

Each of the regions have benefited over the last three years from increases to their budgets in order to accommodate not only those three, but also their capital needs. And in fact the budget that we are dealing with this year has not only increased the dollars available for capital . . . [inaudible] . . . we're not funding a lot of new projects because the increase in capital is covering off a lot of projects that are currently in the works.

The Sunrise Health Region received 9.7 per cent increase in their budget. That's about \$11.3 million of additional money this year for a total of \$127.1 million for their projects and priorities. Even with those types of increases, the regions and the department are unable to meet all of the expectations and demands on the system. But we are very pleased that, given the strength of the Saskatchewan economy, we have able to continue to increase the dollars that are available to the system to try and meet increased and enhanced needs across the province.

Specifically to the member's question — of course she is aware that I wasn't in this position when the question was first raised — but I am aware that over the course of this period of time, some review view has taken place. There's no conclusion to this review at the moment.

The issue has to do with providing guidance to public health inspectors whose job is sometimes complicated by big city rules applied in smaller communities. We face these challenges in the way in which we as a province address water quality issues and a number of other things, whereby the simple fact of what we do in some of our very small communities cannot be exactly the same as what is done in downtown Regina or Saskatoon. But at the same time, the people of Saskatchewan expect that the safety of their food and water environment is the same no matter where they are in the province.

So what we have are rules and regulations with regards to washing dishes that public health inspectors are required to enforce, and when it doesn't make sense on a practical basis, we have to come back and review how does that practical circumstance sit up against the regulation that we are charged with enforcing. And that review has begun. It's taking place, and I don't have any conclusion for the member at this time.

Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And I am hoping that when the review is completed, you'll contact our office as soon as possible because of course the minister had indicated that safety is the prime concern. Well I can assure you it's the

prime concern of the people that are running the business as well. They want to ensure that all of their customers are receiving not just quality food, but the safety concerns that surround this issue.

But because the present minister wasn't in place when I addressed the original letter, I had done some background work at that time and found out that the department didn't use the Jameson test to determine bacteria count, but they do allow the three-step process for washing dishes. And as long as the process meets the standards, there's no check at the end to determine if the end product — and that would be the dishes — meets the standards of sanitation.

So when you think about it, regardless how clean the kitchen is or the dishwasher is, all you have to do is touch a tea towel when you take it out and everything could be changed. So I think that there are a number of issues that I'm hoping that your department is looking at and looking at quickly before we get into the really busy season again.

My last question, Mr. Minister, is regarding MACSI. And I'm wondering if . . . I know that there was some issues around this area a couple of years ago and at the last I heard there was still no decision made on some of the work they had been undertaken. I'm wondering if you can give me an update on it.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I'll do my best in the limited knowledge that I have. The MACSI file actually falls under the authority of the Minister of Healthy Living Services. That having been said, the department responds to both ministers and some of the officials who would be responding to the Minister of Healthy Living Services have been able to provide me with some assistance to help answer your question so we're not bouncing things around. I don't think that assists us in any way.

The Provincial Auditor made some requests. We have responded to all of the requests that have been made through the Provincial Auditor. A report has been made to the Public Accounts Committee. There is one issue that remains outstanding and that one issue is still being dealt with within the department.

Ms. Draude: — This issue has been being dealt with for a number of years now. Can you give us some idea of when you plan on having some kind of a report that would be available and made public so that the whole MACSI issue can have some kind of a conclusion, not just for the general public, but specifically for the Métis people who are dealing in this area?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The one issue that I'd mentioned earlier that remains outstanding is strategic planning. A lot of what we've done already, of course, has been reported to the Public Accounts Committee. I think the member opposite might be referring to another piece here. The department has made some referral to the police. The police have not yet responded back, to my knowledge.

It is the intention of the department, once a police report comes back, we've had a chance to assess and evaluate what comes back against the issues that we've been dealing with, with regards to our Public Accounts reporting and the strategic planning elements, that indeed we will make this information

available. We will release whatever information is available.

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the hon. member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a couple of questions regarding . . . there's been lot's of correspondence that's gone on between your department and this individual, but it's regarding the Spalding Orthopaedic Design Inc company in Rouleau, Saskatchewan and the work that he does. It has been an issue for a while. And I've certainly been out to visit Clayton Spalding a couple of . . . once for sure at his facility in Rouleau right on the Main Street of Dog River which you'll see on most every episode of Dog River.

But I've looked at the work he does, and I've talked to him and I've certainly heard his frustration — and it is extreme frustration — with the letters that he keeps receiving from the former minister and now yourself. And the letters say the same thing, which is that Wascana Rehab Centre and the Saskatchewan Abilities Council are the two organizations that do this type of work, that there is no room for another company to do this work that has the capability of charging the government.

There's only two organizations: the Wascana Rehab which of course is here in Regina and the Abilities Council which is in Saskatoon, which wouldn't be classed as a government agency, I don't believe. So there is some deviation from the fact that it can only be government delivering this service because the Saskatchewan Abilities Council isn't government. Certainly it seems like there is an attitude from the department that they don't want private business delivering this type of service.

Could I please hear what the department or the minister has to say about this issue?

[12:30]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much for the question. And indeed I have paid some attention to this file since I took over the minister's office within the department. I have no, no complaints about the work that Mr. Spalding is doing. He's running a quality business, and he's serving the people that he represents very well. He operates, as the member has pointed out, a private business.

We have developed within the department a system that recognizes the publicly funded, publicly administered health care system and providers for the way in which we provide access to care and to Aids to Independent Living. And there are some very specific processes in this regard.

Mr. Spalding has not only been the recipient of letters in this regard; he has met with departmental officials. The agreements between what Mr. Spalding wishes to do and how it fits within the guidelines that have been developed for providing these services haven't meshed together very well. That having been said, we do believe that those who require the manufactured devices are being well served by the Wascana centre and the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, which indeed have been contracted to provide these services for a considerable period of time.

The bottom line in all of this is that Mr. Spalding believes there's a role for the private sector in providing these services. We have not yet been convinced that the need exists to move outside of the publicly funded, publicly administered system. And we'll continue to proceed with the policy that existed prior to my assuming responsibilities here as minister, and we'll continue to discuss matters along these lines with Mr. Spalding should he wish to continue to press for additional service.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Minister. And I certainly understand the government's statement around publicly funded, publicly administered health care system. We can start talking about a number of organizations that are private that are contracted through this publicly funded, publicly administered health care system. You know, whether it's ambulance service, whether it's blood work, whether it's low-imaging diagnostics, are all done contracted to private companies. I can understand the issue around Wascana Rehab.

But you're contracting to the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. You're contracting to a non-government organization. So is the argument that we're just not going to contract to a private organization, but we'll contract to a non-profit like the Saskatchewan Abilities Council? Is that the position of the department?

Because you can't say . . . because your answer doesn't hold true when you say that we are going through a completely publicly funded, publicly administered process here because the Saskatchewan Abilities Council wouldn't fit into that category.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think that the debate over a for-profit, non-profit delivery of care, etc., is one that the member may wish to engage in at considerable length. The system in Canada that we are aware of currently has a degree of for-profit delivery or private sector delivery, and public sector delivery. In fact the figure that is quoted across Canada is essentially the Canadian system is about 70 per cent publicly funded and 30 per cent privately funded. That debate recognizes that there are some non-insured services delivered by the private sector and takes into account certain existing contracts for services that are not directly related to delivery of health care.

Pharmacists, the ambulance fees for example, dentists — there's a number of parts of the system that are currently being delivered and have been for some time because they were never brought into the system.

In this case we're talking about the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre and the Saskatchewan Abilities Council that have been delivering a quality service to meet the needs of the Saskatchewan people for a considerable period of time. There is not an apparent need to expand the service outside of that which is delivered in a non-profit way within the publicly funded, publicly administered system to include a for-profit or private sector component of an existing program.

So in answering the member's question, there is no desire to expand the delivery of this service to a private sector service or a for-profit service. The needs of those who are receiving the care are being met. And Mr. Spalding runs a very good business to meet the needs of the people to whom he is selling his services, with a desire to have some profit into his business for

his labour, for the product that he provides.

Mr. McMorris: — Can the minister tell me, for example people in the Yorkton area, do people from Wascana go up and service a person that would have a prescription for a orthotic in Yorkton? Or does that person have to come to Regina to get service?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Answering the member's question, there are currently no outreach programs from the current system so that individuals wishing to utilize the services of Wascana or the Sask Abilities Council do have to come in to the city.

Mr. McMorris: — Well I find that interesting when you were saying that all, you know, the two organizations — the Abilities Council and the Wascana Rehab — are servicing the people well because I know Clayton Spalding travels the province and holds clinics in Yorkton and certainly ends up getting work from people that don't want to wait or don't want to make the trip to Regina. There's a need for that.

You know, if the Wascana Rehab wants to stay just in Regina and the Abilities Council just wants to stay in Saskatoon . . . I mean, there's a lot more to the province than that.

And here we've got an individual that would supply that service at the locations. He travels to a number of communities and supplies that service, you know, so I would debate the fact that the service that is being delivered is every bit as good as what the minister is saying it is.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Again I indicate that I have a considerable amount of respect for the work that Mr. Spalding has done and is continuing to do. I applaud his efforts in taking forward outside of the area his services to meet the needs of folks who are out there. And certainly there are insurance plans and others that are providing Mr. Spalding opportunities to continue to build his business.

That having been said — and without getting into details of the discussion that has occurred between Mr. Spalding and the department — there remain issues of conflict in the discussions between Mr. Spalding and the department about what services are available, what dollar value would be paid for those services, who would pay those services. There are a number of things that remain unresolved in the discussions that have occurred.

That having been said, on the basis of the proposal that's been brought forward by Mr. Spalding at this point in time, the conclusion is — as has been stated — that there is no further support under the publicly funded system for the proposal that Mr. Spalding has made.

Mr. McMorris: — Just one question on . . . You mentioned the issue of conflict. And this is a hypothetical situation. If a person was running, was managing a facility that was doing these orthotics for the provincial government, and, you know, there was certainly some waiting lists, would it be appropriate for that person then to have one or two other businesses doing the same thing but running privately? Would there be a conflict of interest there?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I think it should be said that, I mean, neither of us are in a position to negotiate a contract from Mr. Spalding on the floor of the Chamber. There are interesting issues of discussion and debate.

It is the department's view at the moment that we have a program in place that's meeting the needs of the majority of the people in this province. We have resources available to support that program and to support those who need the services. We are continuing to work with the regions in identifying their future needs and priorities, not only in this field but in other fields. And as a result of that, should additional needs be presented that need to be funded in the future, this will be discussed in our normal budget preparation processes.

But we are confident that we are providing a service, we are funding the service, and we will continue to go forward on that basis.

Mr. McMorris: — I certainly don't want to negotiate a contract on behalf of Mr. Spalding's interests here on the floor of the legislature. But I'm sure he'd be very interested somewhere else to enter into that negotiation.

But my question was, it was a hypothetical one, but if somebody is operating, is working in the . . . doing orthotics under the provincial government, would that be appropriate if that person had a separate business doing the same thing?

[12:45]

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Let me just say that I've been involved in the business of communications for a long time. I was in the media. I sat in the federal parliament. I've been a city councillor, and I represent a constituency at the provincial level. At every stage of my work, whether it was in the media or in politics, I've always been advised by those much smarter than me that one never answers a hypothetical question.

And nothing could be more important in the health care field where we have complex issues that are being discussed on a regular basis. It is the detail not the generality that at the end of the day is important, to whether it's settling a contract, negotiating a fee for service, or performing a function for the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Health care is complex, but it's also very basic. The basic premise is providing the best quality care to the people of this province within the resources available to us. I believe very strongly that the department is fulfilling that mandate, doing what it needs to do. And the member opposite can bring me all the hypothetical questions he wants. I want to deal with specifics.

Mr. McMorris: — Well, Mr. Minister, we may be able to do that in the future. I have a specific question then regarding student training seats. Saskatchewan purchases orthotist training seats in British Columbia and offers bursaries. That bursary is returned in service; a return-in-service commitment to the public agency is what your letter says. If that person comes back to Saskatchewan and wants to operate . . . wants to do his practicum I guess it would be, it has to be through a public agency and it can't be through Spalding. Is that correct? And

what is the reasons for that?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The answer again can be very specific in this case. The answer is that the individual is receiving public money — the bursary is public money — and therefore the facility that the individual is expected to practise in would also be a publicly funded institution.

Mr. McMorris: — So in the case that there was no space available for him to do his practicum, and so then he turns and goes back to Alberta to do that as opposed to supplying that in Saskatchewan, is that then what the department would expect?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Is the member opposite suggesting this is a real case, that there's an individual involved? I'm not aware of this being a problem. If the member has a very specific case of an individual who can't be placed in the publicly funded, publicly administered area here, I'd be happy to hear about it.

Mr. McMorris: — Well that's certainly what I was told, that this case happened. The person came back to Saskatchewan. There wasn't the job or the space for him to practise and he then . . . He could have certainly worked through a private clinic, but the government wouldn't accept that. And so he was looking at moving out of province to carry out his work.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — The information that I have gathered here quickly would indicate that in the field of orthotics, we have a significant shortage in the province, and I find it very hard to believe that an individual would not be able to find a position in orthotics in the publicly funded system.

The contracts that individuals who are receiving bursaries sign are very clear about providing in-service in return for that bursary within the publicly funded, publicly administered system, very clear in the contracts that the individuals sign. They are aware of this in advance.

The member opposite, in raising his questions, first talks about practicum and then jobs. If we're talking about job — which is what he referred to in the second set of questions — if he's talking about job, the bursary contract is a 12-month contract. He has a year after leaving school to find the job in Saskatchewan to be able to retain the bursary that he or she has received. After that 12-month window expires, the contract is no longer applied, and the individual is relieved of his or her responsibility under the contract. If however the individual finds within that 12-month period a job outside the province or a job in the private sector that's contrary to the terms of the contract, then they are required to repay the bursary.

So while I find it somewhat incredible that a job in orthotics was not available, I'm also aware that the individual would have a 12-month window to seek employment within the province. And I'm sure within that period of time the jobs would be available.

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the hon. member for Last Mountain-Touchwood.

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Chair. Minister, it has come to my attention that an official within your department within the last month or so issued a — or perhaps since the new year at

least I understand — issued a directive to the Saskatoon and Regina Qu'Appelle health regions informing them that the type of refrigerant they are to use in their chillers needs to be changed. That they felt that they are banning the use of the refrigerant known as HCFC-123 [dichlorotrifluoroethane]. That it no longer is to be used and is to be replaced with another type of refrigerant.

First of all, Minister, I guess my first question is, did that actually happen? And secondly, if that did happen, did the official in your department or officials — whoever made that decision — confer with the Department of the Environment as far as to see if they had their facts straight and that this was the proper directive to be giving health regions as far as the type of refrigerants that are being used in chillers and refrigeration plants?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much for the question. The answer is not as simple as the question asked would make it appear. I will try to make this as simple as possible. The member opposite seems to have a number of other questions that he may want to ask in this regard, but I'll start my answer by indicating that indeed projects funded by Saskatchewan Health will not be allowed to use CFCs [chlorofluorocarbon] or HCFCs [hydrochlorofluorocarbon] that are on a phase-out list.

Public Works Canada has already adopted a policy of not allowing refrigerants included on the phase-out list. Saskatchewan Property Management follows a policy of not allowing refrigerants included on the phase-out list. And we're in the process of formalizing that written policy back in May 2005.

So I think that in terms of trying to answer the member's question, we have to phrase this in the broader perspective of what is and what is not appropriate in the environmental field and taking some direction from what Saskatchewan Property Management is doing, what Public Works Canada is doing.

Mr. Hart: — The second part to my question, Minister, was prior to making that decision, did your department confer with the officials within the Department of Environment who would have some additional knowledge in this area?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — I can indicate to the member opposite that prior to any decisions being made within Saskatchewan Health, consultations with Sask Property Management were undertaken, and consultations were made with other experts in the field. There are a number of manufacturers of chillers — I think there's four or so — that we work with. The majority of those manufacturers of chillers are in complete agreement with the policies set in place.

Mr. Hart: — So, Minister, I take it by your response that your officials did not talk to officials within the Department of Environment. Now this is a fairly technical issue that I'm raising here. But I guess one question that I would have is, I believe from the information I've been provided that your officials don't have all the information necessary to make that kind of a decision.

Because the University of Saskatchewan recently took delivery of a very large chiller at their central plant, and they are using

the HCFC-123 because in the overall context of an environmental impact, that particular refrigerant has a much smaller environmental impact than the alternative — the HFC-134a — which is much less efficient and therefore has much greater impact on the environment.

And secondly, Minister, seeing that my time is short, are you aware of a major leak at the Regina General Hospital of refrigerant, something in the neighbourhood of 3,000 pounds, that happened within the last few weeks?

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — In answer to the two questions, the member opposite appears to be advocating for one manufacturer. We have had representation from what I'm assuming is that manufacturer with regards to these chillers. The department has agreed to meet again with the manufacturer in question sometime in June. And we will discuss all of these matters with the manufacturer at that time.

In answer to the second question, we are aware of a spill that occurred. We are also aware that the spill occurred during the installation of a chiller at the facility. The investigation has indicated that the spill was a result of a manufacturer's defect. The manufacturer has repaired the circumstances. Matters have been taken care of, and we're assuming that everything now is fine.

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Chair, just to correct something that the minister just said. I'm certainly not advocating on behalf of one manufacturer or another. I'm merely asking questions to see if the minister and his officials have all the information required to make a decision. And I would suggest from his answers that — I'm guessing — they may not have all the pertinent information. But I will pursue this at another time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much. Knowing that we're at the end of the time then, I simply say to the member opposite we are prepared to meet with a particular manufacturer who has indicated some of the things that the member opposite has expressed. So that consultation will occur.

We, having reached the end of the time, I'd like to thank my officials for their attendance here today and helping to answer the questions raised and thank the members opposite for their interest.

The Deputy Chair: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

[13:00]

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Mr. Chair, I move the committee rise and report progress — and in fact it may want to report extreme progress — but at any rate, ask for leave to sit again.

The Deputy Chair: — Thank you. It's been moved by the Government House Leader that the committee report progress and ask for leave to sit again. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt that motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Chair: — That is carried.

[The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Greystone.

Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'm instructed by the committee to report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

The Deputy Speaker: — The committee has reported progress and asks for leave to sit again. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Being the hour of 1 o'clock, this House does now stand adjourned until Monday at . . . I'm sorry. When will the committee meet again? Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Next sitting of the House, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — Next sitting of the House. I would thank all members for their respectful dialogue in debate and look forward to seeing everyone again Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:02.]

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Premier

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Minister Responsible for Seniors

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Minister of Advanced Education and Employment
Minister Responsible for Immigration
Minister Responsible for the Public
Service Commission

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

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

Hon. Eric Cline
Minister of Industry and Resources
Minister Responsible for Investment
Saskatchewan Inc.
Minister Responsible for Information Services
Corporation of Saskatchewan

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

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Provincial Secretary
Minister Responsible for Gaming
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance

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Gaming Authority
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