



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

of the

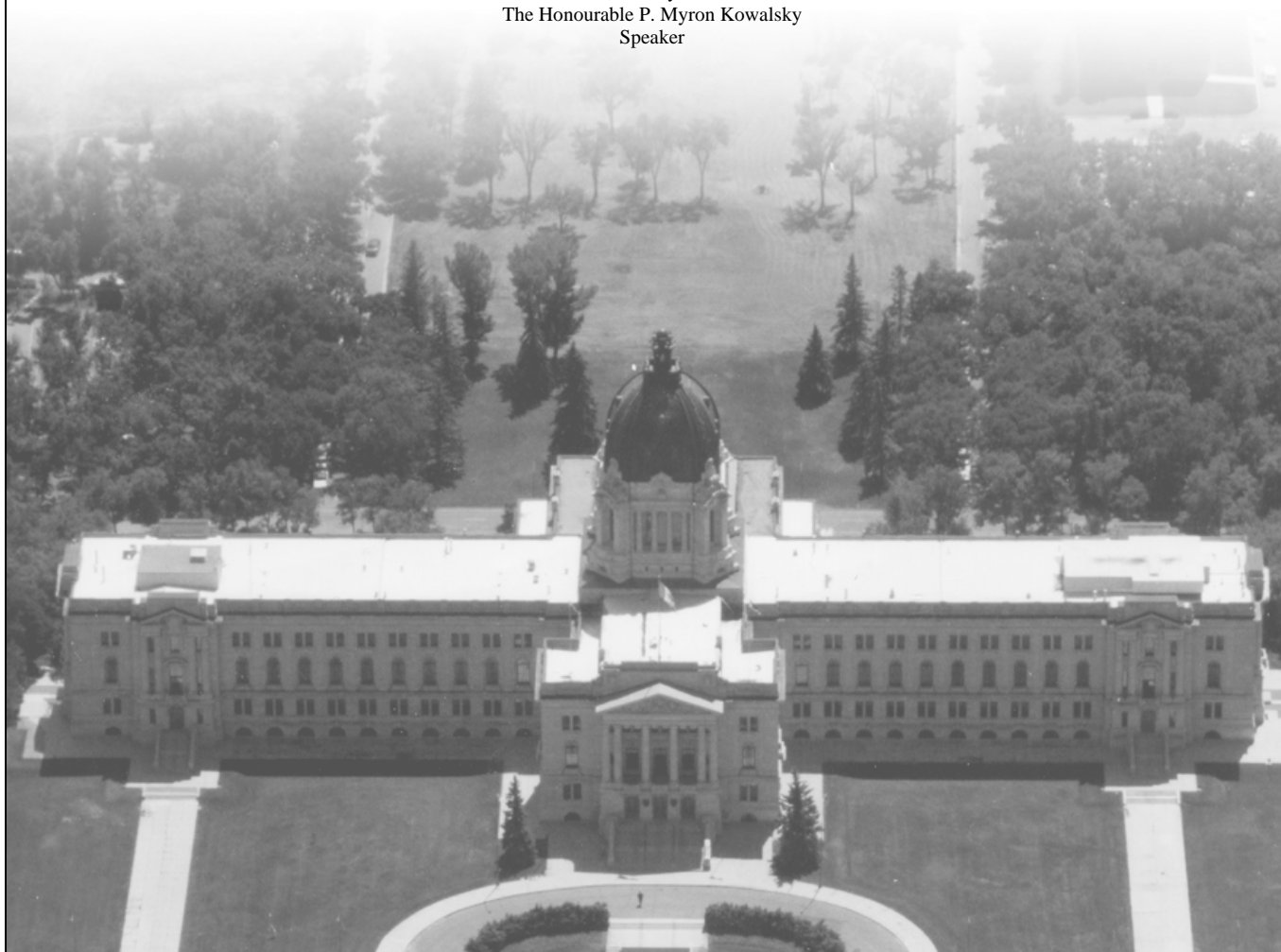
Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**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
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Atkinson, Hon. Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Hon. Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Hon. Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
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Heppner, Ben	SP	Martensville
Hermanson, Elwin	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
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Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kerpan, Allan	SP	Carrot River Valley
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
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McMorris, Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
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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
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Taylor, Hon. Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Thomson, Hon. Andrew	NDP	Regina South
Toth, Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Hon. Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wakefield, Milton	SP	Lloydminster
Wall, Brad	SP	Swift Current
Wartman, Hon. Mark	NDP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Yates, Hon. Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Vacant		Weyburn-Big Muddy

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

Clerk: — I wish to advise the Assembly that Mr. Speaker will not be present to open today's sitting.

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, I have the privilege of presenting a couple of petitions today to this Assembly. In particular the petitions are talking about surgical services at the Tisdale Hospital. And I read the prayer:

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

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

Madam Deputy Speaker, the petitions are signed by the folks from the communities of Tisdale, Mistatim, Crooked River, as well as Arborfield. I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Elhard: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Today I present a petition once again on behalf of constituents who are concerned about the condition of Highway 18, especially the section from Claydon to Robsart. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary actions to ensure that Highway 18 from Claydon to Robsart is repaved at the earliest possible time to ensure the safety of drivers in the area and so that economic development opportunities are not lost.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Madam Deputy Speaker, today's petition is signed by individuals from the communities of Maple Creek and Claydon as well as Success. I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Hermanson: — Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a petition to fund Avastin. And this petition is signed by people who are concerned that forcing patients to pay for this drug is an example of two tiered health care. Madam Speaker, the prayer of the petition reads:

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

the necessary action to fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners ever pray.

Madam Speaker, the signatures on this petition come from the communities of Hagen, Albertville, and Prince Albert. And I am pleased to present it on their behalf.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Thunder Creek.

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I as well rise to present a petition signed by citizens concerned with the lack of funding for the cancer drug Avastin. And the prayer reads:

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

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

Madam Deputy Speaker, this petition appears to be signed by individuals all from the community of Saskatoon. I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I have a number of pages of a petition of citizens concerned of the safety of Highway No. 5. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to upgrade and widen Highway No. 5 from Humboldt to Saskatoon.

And to demonstrate how well-travelled this highway is, Madam Deputy Speaker, the signatures are from Saskatoon, Vonda, Kamsack, Lake Lenore, Naicam, Norquay, Meacham, Viscount, Pelly, Kelvington, Sturgis, Watson, and Regina. I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to present another petition from citizens concerned about the lack of funding for the drug Avastin. 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 fully fund the cancer drug Avastin.

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

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Rosthern-Shellbrook.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens of northwest Saskatchewan that are concerned with the highway 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 government to resurface and properly maintain Highway No. 3 from Fairholme to Turtleford and the Livelong access road.

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

Madam Deputy Speaker, the signatures on this petition are from Livelong, Turtleford, and Glaslyn. I so present.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I have a petition calling on this 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 is duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This particular petition is signed by Watrous and Imperial and Manitou Beach and Nokomis. I so present.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Deputy Clerk: — According to order the following petitions have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 14(7) are hereby read and received as additions to previously tabled petitions being sessional paper no. 7, 42, 638, 639, 644, and 669.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice I shall on day no. 62 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: what long-term care facilities have waiting lists in the Heartland Health Region, and how many people are in each facility waiting list in that region?

While I'm on my feet I also have another question for the Minister of Health. I give notice I shall on day no. 62 ask the government the following question:

To the Minister of Health: how many people are currently on the waiting list for long-term care in the Heartland Health Region?

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Mr. Prebble: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce several members of the lung association who are in the west gallery, Madam Deputy

Speaker.

We're very fortunate this afternoon to be joined by five members of the lung association who are in the gallery. Starting on my left is Sharon Kremeniuk, who's the staff person in the Regina office of the lung association; and seated next to her is the vice-president of the lung association for our province, Marilyn Reddy. And seated next to her is someone well known to all of us in this Assembly. A colleague, a former member of the legislature for Lloydminster, Violet Stanger, is in the gallery and she's an active member of the lung association. We're very pleased to have you here, Violet. And seated next to Violet is Gail and Lorne Procysen. And Lorne is a board member from the Yorkton area on the lung association.

So we want to welcome you here this afternoon and also to express special thanks for the excellent work that you do and that all members of the lung association do. As we know that there's going to be a reception later in the day, and these five representatives will be joined by many other members and including board members and staff from the lung association.

So welcome to your legislature. And I ask all members to join me in expressing our welcome and appreciation to these special guests. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I'd like to join with the member from Saskatoon Greystone in welcoming the people from the lung association to their Assembly on behalf of the official opposition. As the member mentioned, there will be a reception I believe from 5 to 7 that I know a number of our colleagues will be joining and learning some of the issues that you'll be talking about at that reception.

We know that the lung association has been instrumental in lobbying the provincial government and opposition on changes to legislation, and the most recent one of course is the banning of smoking in public places, which will go a long ways to bettering the health of our citizens in Saskatchewan. So I'd like to welcome you all here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Regina Rosemont.

Ms. Crofford: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. Well today is pretty exciting. I have 26 students from St. Josaphat School accompanied by their teacher, Mrs. Elaine Pack. And you know, Madam Deputy Speaker, I noted what a polite group of children they are. The guide was with them and instead of just jumping into the conversation, they put up their hand when they wanted to speak. And we're going to see if the members of the legislature can behave as well as you can today.

And I'll be seeing you for drinks afterwards at 2:30. So could everybody please join me in welcoming St. Josaphat School to the legislature today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for P.A. [Prince Albert] Northcote.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I would like to today take this opportunity to introduce to you and through you to all members of the House 27 grade 7 and 8 students from École Vickers School in Prince Albert. They're accompanied by their teacher, Brandi Sherwin-Shields; chaperones, Cheryle Harris, Kerry Macintya, Lisa Robertson, and Ed Elliott.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I'll be meeting with them in room 218 after question period. I'm very much looking forward to meeting them on behalf of the Speaker. They may not know but they're residents in the Speaker's constituency. He's unavailable today because he can't speak. He's got laryngitis so . . . But he'll be with us shortly, I'm sure. So, Madam Deputy Speaker, I'd like you to join with me in welcoming these students from École Vickers School.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you and through you and to all members of the Legislative Assembly four people that are seated in your gallery, Madam Deputy Speaker, who are very, very happy people that they get to live, work, and remain in Saskatchewan. They are workers with the Worldwide Pork plant in Moose Jaw and are anxiously awaiting the reopening of the plant. With us today, and perhaps they could stand as I mention their names, is Greg Tanner, Duncan McIntyre, Tim Andrews, and Lawrence Peverett.

I would like all members of the Legislative Assembly to welcome them to the legislature today and wish them the very best in the reopening of their Worldwide Pork plant and much success into the future.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moosomin.

Prairie Valley School Division Heritage Fair

Mr. Toth: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Recently the Prairie Valley School Division held its Heritage Fair in Wolseley. The event was hosted by Dr. Isman Elementary School with support from the town of Wolseley, the RM [rural municipality] of Wolseley as well as a number of local businesses.

The purpose of the fair is to encourage the youth of our schools to learn about local, provincial, and national history. This year's fair had more than 123 exhibits. Through the exhibits, students shared information on historic events such as First Nations

culture, the working of a prairie elevator, agriculture then and now, many sporting activities such as hockey and curling, including an exhibit on Sandra Schmirler.

I thoroughly enjoyed talking to many of the students about their exhibits and was amazed at the knowledge they had of their display, indicating the time and effort they had taken in planning their project. One student had a display on the War of 1812. This young gentleman went so far as to sew his own uniform depicting the dress of the day.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the organizing committee also arranged for tours of local historic centres such as the Banbury House and many historic homes and churches in the community.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Tim Taylor, principal of Dr. Isman Elementary School, Dennis Fjestad, the staff of Dr. Isman Elementary School, and everyone who volunteered to help in making this year's Heritage Fair such a tremendous success.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Massey Place.

Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence Awards

Hon. Mr. Cline: — Madam Deputy Speaker, last night I had the pleasure of attending the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce and Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan 11th annual Celebrate Success Awards Gala.

It was a special evening for Les and Irene Dubé, founders of the Concorde Group of Companies, who earlier this year were nominated into the SABEX [Saskatoon Achievement in Business Excellence] Hall of Fame for their many business and charitable activities. And they were recognized last night.

Business of the Year honours went to North Ridge Development Corporation. The New Business Venture award went to SandCastle Resort/J.E.M. Tours. In the growth and expansion category the award went to GC Teleservices Canada. The award for new product to Venmar CES Inc. For marketing, DSG Canada Saskatoon Diesel. In the export category, Container Port of Saskatchewan. For customer service, Merlin Ford Lincoln.

The Saskatoon Blades Hockey Club won the award for community involvement. The Award of Innovation went to doctors Deborah Haines and Brian Chelack of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Marla Adams received the ATHENA International award, and Kent Smith-Windsor was recognized as Canada's Chamber Manager of the Year.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating the 2006 SABEX nominees and award winners on their achievements and their contributions to the Saskatchewan economy.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

World Lupus Day

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Madam Deputy Speaker, today is the third annual World Lupus Day, a day set aside to increase recognition of lupus and to promote diagnosis, treatments, and research into a cure.

On May 10 lupus organizations around the globe call for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, targeted education programs for health professionals, patients, and the public, and worldwide recognition of lupus as a significant public health issue.

World Lupus Day focuses on the need for improved patient health care services, a cure for lupus, enhanced physician diagnosis and treatment of lupus, as well as better data on lupus globally. A complex disease affecting many aspects of life for more than 50,000 Canadians, lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can strike any tissue or organ of the body including skin, muscles, joints, lungs, heart, kidney, and the brain. Symptoms of lupus can mimic other illnesses, making it hard to diagnosis. Therefore it is the early detection, diagnosis, and treatment that helps to slow the debilitating effects of the disease.

Effective treatment can minimize symptoms, reduce inflammation, and improve overall quality of life. It is up to us to make a difference for those living with lupus by helping to increase awareness and understanding of the disease. Improving awareness of lupus symptoms will save lives.

Betty Bellamy from the constituency of Saskatoon Silver Springs was honoured with a Centennial Medal for her tireless work with the Saskatchewan branch of the lupus society in educating people of all ages about the disease of lupus.

Madam Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to congratulate Betty Bellamy for her work.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Regina Walsh Acres.

Saskatchewan Party Position on Investment in Business

Ms. Morin: — Madam Deputy Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party under the leadership of the member for Swift Current couldn't find a consistent position on anything with two hands and a flashlight. Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago the member for Thunder Creek stood with the workers of Moose Jaw's Worldwide Pork plant and called for government intervention to ensure the plant didn't close.

On April 26 in the Economy Committee, the same member questioned why Worldwide Pork couldn't benefit from government investment in the pork industry, and then went on to say, I quote:

... I wonder if the minister is aware that the employees

have approximately \$700,000 or 750,000 maybe in place for investment ... and what they need from this government is some sort of backing for another 500,000.

After the government announced \$1.5 million to support Worldwide Pork, the member for Thunder Creek said this, and I quote:

Well naturally I'm delighted the plant being close to my home has another shot at survival.

Except he's not delighted, or maybe he is. Who knows what he actually believes? After calling numerous times for the government to step in, now he is saying, and I quote from his website:

We [meaning the Sask Party] don't believe in equity investment or direct investment in business by ... taxpayers ...

Madam Speaker, why the abrupt turnaround? Because the member was out of line with the Sask Party ideology, and under the current leader it's politics over principle and my way or the highway.

Madam Speaker, Brenda Bakken chose the highway. And now we know what the member for Thunder Creek has chosen to do as well.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Arm River-Watrous.

Condition of Highways

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is with great concern I rise in the House today to again remind the Highways minister that Saskatchewan highways are a mess. Worse than that, they are now a menace to the safety of the motoring public.

Last week I had the person from Regina that delivers newspapers to all the towns through my constituency stop me in the morning when I was picking up my newspaper to tell me that on Saturday he tore the gas tank off his van on Highway 44. He says it's a total mess.

The next day I received an alarming call from a constituent who owns a freight business in Watrous. He said that Highway 2 between Imperial and Watrous is now so full of large holes that it has become basically almost impassable, wrecking his vehicles as he delivers freight up and down.

He also heard a story of a person near Young that lost their engine oil pan off their car on Highway No. 2. Also had numerous calls on Highway No. 20. Same thing, many potholes on that. The highways crews out there are basically busy just marking the holes. They're so busy marking holes they don't even have time to actually stop to fill them. That's how many calls they're getting at that.

And what's the response from this government, Madam Deputy Speaker, is to close the section shops in Watrous, take men

from there, take equipment from there, and cut funding to the Department of Highways. Madam Deputy Speaker, that is a shame out there in rural Saskatchewan as these highways keep deteriorating and this government is doing absolutely nothing to address that problem.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Saskatoon Eastview.

Registered Psychiatric Nurses Day

Ms. Junor: — Thank you. Madam Deputy Speaker, I'm proud to rise in this Assembly today to recognize that today is Registered Psychiatric Nurses Day. Madam Deputy Speaker, today gives us the opportunity to recognize the many contributions of registered psychiatric nurses.

Across the province they play a key role in the delivery of quality mental health services in Saskatchewan. On the front lines of mental health services, RPNs [registered psychiatric nurse] are hardworking and talented health professionals dedicated to the people who need their care and compassion. And compassionate care is so vital to people living with mental illness and just as important to their families.

At a very stressful time in their lives, patients and their families know they can count on registered psychiatric nurses and count on their competent, caring presence. Every day RPNs help their patients improve their coping skills and control the symptoms of their illness. They also provide emotional support. In short they help their patients achieve better mental health.

Madam Deputy Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and Saskatchewan citizens, I'd like to thank all registered psychiatric nurses for a job well done. We value their contributions and join them in celebrating this special day.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Cannington.

Viewpoints Expressed in Letters to the Editor

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The Saskatchewan people have spoken. I offer the Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* letters to the editor as proof. The first title, open quote: "NDP failures evident in contrast with Alberta," aptly points out the results of 15 years of NDP [New Democratic Party] rule in this province. The writer says, open quote:

I was travelling to Regina from Saskatoon on Good Friday and couldn't help but notice the numerous vehicles from Alberta, all occupied by young people and young families.

It saddened me because these were kids returning to visit their parents for Easter, back to the very province whose NDP government gave them no choice but to move away.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this worn out, tired, old NDP government has hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Finance minister leadership ad campaign but no clear vision on how to keep young people in Saskatchewan. Speaking of that,

Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to read from another letter to the editor. This one says, and I quote:

The Calvert government's broken PST promise continues, and the debt still rises by \$285 million. The only "identity crisis" Cheveldayoff is having is that he's acting like a responsible finance minister, unlike Andrew Thomson who is frittering away a half-million dollars of our money on an advertising campaign about the budget.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Recruitment of Health Care Professionals

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Health responded to how Ontario is now guaranteeing next year's graduating class full-time jobs so that they will stay in the province. The minister said that the Saskatchewan graduating nurses would be guaranteed a job also. But he stopped far short of the commitment of Ontario guaranteeing them full-time, permanent positions, Mr. Speaker. When asked, the minister said that not all nurses want full-time positions. I think he's incorrect when he talks about graduates, having student loans to pay back.

Madam Deputy Speaker, will the minister commit today to guaranteeing full-time, permanent positions to our graduating nurses?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I've just returned from the town of Hudson Bay where this morning I announced the expansion of the Hudson Bay long-term facility.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the comments of individuals within that health facility — whether they were residents, administrators, doctors or nurses — were that they're proud of the Saskatchewan health care system. They're proud of the commitments that this government has made to support communities.

And, Madam Deputy Speaker, that makes me very proud to be the Minister of Health in a government that's made a significant commitment in this budget to support not only doctors and nurses but seniors in this province and citizens throughout Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Madam Speaker, we're continually training nurses for export out of this province. The Saskatchewan Union

of Nurses has called on this NDP government to hire 600 full-time positions to deal with the staffing shortages and to also bring the staffing shortages up so that nurses can practice at professional standards, so professional standards can be met.

We see that other provinces are working with the nurses' union to address staffing shortages and workplace conditions. In British Columbia the government has established a workload measurement system to determine the appropriate staffing level in their facilities.

Can the minister commit today to start working with Saskatchewan Union of Nurses regarding their 600 positions and regarding workplace conditions?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I remind the member opposite we're already doing that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in December we issued a report indicating the points that we will follow dealing with workplace action. And we are committed to work with Saskatchewan Union of Nurses, Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, and the Saskatchewan licensed practical nurses association to ensure that we have more nurses working in this province.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I was reviewing media reports this morning. I couldn't help but find a piece printed today in *The Financial Post* printed in Canada. The quote I'd like to make from Lisa Little, human resource consultant with the Canadian Nurses Association in Ottawa, Madam Deputy Speaker: "The United States is going to be short one million nurses by the year 2010, and the problem is global."

She goes on to say, Madam Deputy Speaker, "It's not a matter of . . . numbers — we have to start using . . . [our] resources . . . more efficiently and effectively."

Madam Deputy Speaker, the Canadian Union of Nurses knows that. The province of Saskatchewan knows that. And we're going to go to work to ensure that we have more nurses working in this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. On the issue of using people in the right places, we know that right now dealing with endocrinologists that there are no endocrinologists practising in Saskatoon. The solution of this government is to fly endocrinologists in from other provinces to deal with that.

A letter written by Dr. Mohammed to the Regina *Leader-Post* . . . and he's an endocrinologist here in Regina. On February 4, Dr. Mohammed goes on to say that when he sees patients, it's

only a one- to two-week wait; urgent cases may be seen in a few hours.

My question to the minister is: does the Saskatoon Health Authority know this? Are patients from Saskatoon being referred to this endocrinologist in Regina? Or are they more content in flying people in from out of province to deal with the need in Saskatoon?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. The situation in Regina, as I've indicated previously, is regarded as stable. The situation in Saskatoon is described by individuals in the media yesterday . . . was one of being hit by the perfect storm.

Madam Deputy Speaker, endocrinologists are an important part of the Saskatchewan system. There are many who work closely together. They understand where referrals need to be made at appropriate times.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we leave the care decisions to the professionals. We don't take responsibility for the work that the professionals do as politicians, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

The Deputy Speaker: — Member for Indian Head-Milestone.

Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Talking about the professionals, Dr. McNab, the Saskatoon endocrinologist who is now leaving for Edmonton, tried to get involved in the recruitment process for other endocrinologists in the area. We have heard similar stories from Dr. Boctor and Dr. Best who also tried to assist in recruitment of endocrinologists before leaving the province so their regions wouldn't be left short . . . [inaudible] . . . Mr. Speaker, why is this government not listening to the professionals in the field when it comes to recruitment of other professionals?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. Over the years, the most recent years, Saskatchewan Health has worked very closely with the Saskatchewan Medical Association to set in place guidelines, practices, principles, and have assigned dollars to assist with specialists and physician recruitment and retention issues.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in the next two days I will be meeting with the representative board and the membership of the Saskatchewan Medical Association. On our agenda will be this very subject.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Batoche.

Condition of Highway 368

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, I raised the issue of Highway 368 last week and received no answer from the Highways minister. This time I'm asking him again, and hopefully he will answer. When does he plan to fix Highway 368 between St. Brieux and Lake Lenore?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I'll answer the member opposite in this way. This fiscal year we have allocated \$345 million for highways repair and upgrading. Obviously we have some challenges with the largest number of roads of any jurisdiction in Canada, much of it TMS [thin membrane surface] that is in some pretty serious strain based on the amount of traffic. The retention of the . . . or the Crow rate obviously caused more pressure on our highway system. And I want to say, Mr. Speaker, in light of the pressures that we're facing, we're doing the best that we can with the resources that we have.

What I would say to that member is that perhaps he would speak to the leader of his party, the member from Swift Current, when he's out raising funds in Ottawa, if he would maybe have a chat with some of his colleagues in the federal government to see if perhaps they would be interested in putting together a national infrastructure program that this province and this country needs very badly, Madam Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, I have in my hand a letter from Rita Bourgault which appeared on the popular website smalldeadanimals.com this morning. I'd like to read to you some of it, Madam Deputy Speaker. And I quote:

You would swear you're driving through a minefield. There have been 2 road accidents involving semi trailers that are . . . [attributed] to road conditions.

Madam Deputy Speaker, Rita Bourgault said St. Brieux ships 150 to 175 million dollars worth of equipment per year and pays between 70 and 100 million in taxes per year. Madam Deputy Speaker, you'd think the minister could fix the road.

To the minister: does he believe Bourgault Industries and the people of St. Brieux should be forced to live with an unsafe highway when they contribute so much to the NDP government?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, highway safety is obviously first and foremost in the minds of the people who work . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — I would remind members asking questions, we would want to hear the answers as well.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that we do face some challenges here in this province. We have hundreds of kilometres, thousands of kilometres of thin membrane roads that were built in the 1950s, built in the 1960s, and weren't designed to haul heavy loads that they're forced to haul now because of rail line abandonment. And we do have some pressures. We obviously do, and no one will deny that.

I want to say to that member that we have upgraded — since 2000 — 1,100 kilometres of thin membrane roads, one of which he refers to. And we have more to go.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to that member, that to upgrade all of the TMS roads in this province would cost just under \$1 billion, and I want to ask that member if that's another one of the commitments that the member from Silver Springs would make when he's doing all of his expenditure promises in this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. This morning we heard the Minister of Industry and Resources announce that his department was going to spend 350,000 on an ad campaign promoting Saskatchewan. While we are supportive of this campaign, there is much work to be done here at home when it comes to infrastructure businesses rely on. Madam Deputy Speaker, Highway 368 is a disgrace. And this road is the heart of a multi-million dollar industry, but it stays in disrepair.

Madam Deputy Speaker, can the Minister of Highways explain why his government is promoting how good Saskatchewan is for business when it hasn't fixed the infrastructure businesses rely on?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Madam Deputy Speaker, I will explain to that member exactly why we're promoting this as a good place to do business: because we have got one of the most competitive tax regimes. We have got the richest resource base in terms of our people. We are a great place to do business, and it's evidenced by our GDP [gross domestic product] growth on an annual basis.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Mr. Speaker, I would say to members on that side of the House, if they were to focus on what really is important in areas where they could be of assistance, perhaps they'd get on the phone, phone their federal

cousins and ask them why Saskatchewan isn't getting a fair treatment on equalization. Maybe they would ask their federal cousins why they haven't introduced a national highways program for this country.

Mr. Speaker, that opposition sees nothing but bad. There isn't anything in this province that they ever see that's working or that they ever see as good. They're grouchy, Madam Deputy Speaker. They're grouchy because they're in opposition and they're going to be grouchy for a long, long, long time because that's where they're going to stay.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The NDP government and the Highways minister has lost touch with the values and interests of Saskatchewan people. Here are some of the comments posted on smalldeadanimals.com about Highway 368 and I quote:

Typical of NDP gov'ts, waste millions on failed enterprises and neglect their areas of responsibility. The sooner Calvert gets the boot, the sooner people can start to return to Saskatchewan.

Or how about:

Fortunately there have not been any fatalities yet, but I believe the clock is ticking on that. Will it take a death or serious injury to get some [action] . . . ?

Madam Deputy Speaker, is the Highways minister waiting for a fatality to happen before he takes action?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Highways.

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, small dead animals indeed — small dead political parties. Madam Deputy Speaker, this is a group of men and women who took the name of their political party and they swept it under the mat because of the disgrace of the 1980s led by, Mr. Speaker, Grant Devine, like the member from Swift Current.

I want to say to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we're well aware of the pressures on the infrastructure, on the highway system in this province. And I tell you how we're going to fix all of that. It's going to be with the resource wealth that we've been creating in oil and in gas and in potash. And I tell you, Madam Deputy Speaker, we're believing that there is a future in agriculture as well.

And I want to say in closing, Madam Deputy Speaker, that members on this side of the House are very upbeat about this economy. We're very upbeat about our province. And the grouchy old men and women on the other side can just sit there and stew. That's where they deserve to be, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Canora-Pelly.

Appointment at the Labour Relations Board

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, for the last five days I have raised allegations made by former Labour Relations Board Vice-Chair, Walter Matkowski, that there had been political interference in his duties on the board. Matkowski alleges the deputy minister of Labour called him and told him he should resign because unions were not happy with his decisions.

Yesterday Mr. Matkowski said he was willing to pursue mediation to get to the bottom of this dispute instead of going to court. The Labour minister told reporters that mediation is not an appropriate process to go through. Can the minister tell this Assembly why mediation is not appropriate in this case?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. Well let me repeat this yet again. There was no political interference. No one was forced to resign or pushed out of their jobs. The term expired.

Now the member for Canora-Pelly seemed to understand this in the past. Just last year in the spring in this Chamber, the member for Canora-Pelly said that it caused him tremendous concern to allow members of the LRB [Labour Relations Board] to stay on the payroll following the completion of their term. Well I'll tell you, I'll tell you this, Madam Deputy Speaker, what's tremendously concerning is the Sask Party is . . .

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order. I would mention to all hon. members . . . Order. I would mention to all the hon. members, both with the question and the answer, we would want to be able to hear the response and respect the member who is on their feet. The Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Thank you. Well I'll repeat that because I want to make sure the member for Canora-Pelly has this right. It caused him, and I quote "tremendous concern" to allow members of the LRB to stay on the payroll following the completion of their terms.

But I tell you this, Madam Deputy Speaker, what causes me a lot of concern is the Sask Party has yet once again changed their tune, is now supporting this culture of entitlement in which five-year terms seem to stretch into automatic lifetime appointments. Madam Deputy Speaker, the opposition is just not credible on this.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, yesterday the minister told reporters that mediation was not necessary because as far as he was

concerned, there is no dispute. And yet he is aware that there are two sides to the story.

On one side the former Vice-Chair of the Labour Relations Board says he was contacted by the deputy minister and told and to resign because his decisions were unpopular with the unions. On the other side the deputy minister says his recollections of that conversation are quite different.

Clearly there is a dispute. Again to the minister: why is he refusing to deal with this dispute through a mediation process?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, this is quite interesting that two sides of the story seem to be coming out of the member opposite's mouth. But even Mr. Matkowski has stated publicly that he was never interfered with in the course of his duties.

Now clearly the issue is not political interference or bias. The issue is whether the government is obligated to automatically reappoint anyone to a position after their term has expired. But the fact of the matter, Deputy Speaker, that no one should expect that their term will be automatically reappointed.

Now perhaps the member for Canora-Pelly should ask the member for Thunder Creek how this all works because just last spring the member for Thunder Creek said, and I'll quote again, "... it is obvious to any member of the public that people in any job must leave their duties when ... their mandate expires."

That's what he said. Now ...

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, going through mediation as Mr. Matkowski has suggested could save the taxpayers of this province a lot of money. Yet yesterday the Minister of Labour told reporters he was quote, "comfortable going to court."

Can the Minister of Labour tell us why he's comfortable going to court and spending taxpayers dollars instead of using an in-house conciliator to deal with this issue through mediation?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, I've made it clear, made it clear over several days that there was no political interference. No one was forced out of their job. The term simply expired.

But if the members opposite want to talk about political interference, I'll gladly do that, Madam Deputy Speaker,

because I'd like to quote again from the Thunder Creek member just last spring, as I said yesterday, he, quote: "No amendment ... should be considered ..."

Now members over there laugh, but this is what they said: "No amendment ... should be considered unless the government is willing to remove all current members of the Labour Relations Board ..."

Last spring the opposition wanted to politically interfere with the LRB by firing every single member. And yet today, Madam Deputy Speaker, here they are calling for a culture of entitlement. Well ...

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Time. The member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, yesterday, after question period, reporters asked the Labour minister if he was aware that his deputy minister had met with Mr. Matkowski's lawyers last summer. The minister said he was not aware of such a meeting. Then later in the afternoon, the minister met with reporters again and said he was mistaken, and that he was indeed aware of the meeting his deputy minister had with Mr. Matkowski's legal counsel. He said that he was confused. Well the minister need not worry about being confused; we're just as confused by his answers.

Madam Deputy Speaker, why did the minister say he was not aware of such a meeting when clearly he was?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — You know, let me continue here. You had the Thunder Creek member here saying that everybody was biased and they should be fired, and the member from Canora-Pelly telling the media a couple of days ago that he didn't think the LRB was biased.

And what did the Leader of the Opposition have to say? Well he was very clear, Madam Speaker. He wasn't sure what he thought. He wasn't sure what his thoughts were. The only thing he was sure of was he would change the mandate at the LRB and politically impose a growth agenda on them. Now if they appear to have any credibility whatsoever, Madam Deputy Speaker, I would suggest that instead of throwing out baseless allegations, the Sask Party needs to sit down and finally figure out where they stand.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member for Canora-Pelly.

Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Madam Deputy Speaker, in an article in *The Star Phoenix* this past Saturday, May 6, under the heading "Political interference denied," there's a quote from the Minister of Labour, and I want to read it into the record. It says:

"Anyone within a department ... if they were to ... favour one way or the other trying to influence, unduly

influence a decision or a series of decisions or punish anyone for past decisions by some . . . reward or some sort of punishment, I would consider that political interference.”

Madam Deputy Speaker, yesterday the minister has admitted that he knew that the deputy minister, Mr. Craik, had indeed contacted the lawyers. Is that not political interference? Will the minister stand and say that he made a wrong statement in this article?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Forbes: — You know, Madam Deputy Speaker, I've been very clear about this. There's been no political interference. The term has expired.

But I want to talk a little bit about the opposition, what they talk about fairness and balance in labour legislation. You know the opposition spouts off there has been political interference when clearly there hasn't been. And based on their previous comments, the Sask Party would clearly political interfere with the LRB if ever given the opportunity. Now how's that for fair and balanced?

Now the Sask Party has also said they would declare war on a very important segment of our society — the working people here. Now how is that fair and balanced? The Sask Party opposite said they would fire every single member of the LRB because they don't agree with their decisions. How's that fair and balanced?

And finally, how is dragging the name of yet another civil servant through the mud fair and balanced?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 206 — The Bio-diesel Fuel Act

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member for Arm River-Watrous.

Mr. Brkich: — Thank you, Madam Speaker. I move that Bill No. 206, The Bio-diesel Fuel Act be introduced and read a first time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has introduced Bill No. 206, The Bio-diesel Fuel Act. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Deputy Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Deputy Speaker: — When shall the Bill be read a second

time?

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

The Deputy Speaker: — Next sitting of the House.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip, the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Madam Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the government I'll be tabling response to written question no. 1,095.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader, the member for Moose Jaw North.

Hon. Mr. Hagel: — Madam Deputy Speaker, in order to accommodate the good work of the policy field Committees on the Economy as well as on Crown and Central Agencies, I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House does now stand adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:22.]

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Premier

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hon. Frank Quennell
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

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

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

Hon. Len Taylor
Minister of Health

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

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen
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Hon. Mark Wartman
Minister of Agriculture and Food

Hon. Kevin Yates
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety