



THIRD 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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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
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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
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, Hon. David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Gantfoer, Rod	SP	Melfort
Hagel, 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, Nancy	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, Hon. 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
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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, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

Mr. Toth: — Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure on this, the last sitting day of the spring session to again bring petitions to the Assembly and in regards to the needs for a dialysis unit in Broadview Union Hospital, and I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement a strategy that will see a dialysis unit placed in Broadview Union Hospital.

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

And the petitions I present today are signed by folks from the communities of Broadview and ... basically mostly from Broadview I see, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

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

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today on the last day of session to introduce a petition to improve Highway No. 310:

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

The people who have signed this petition are from Foam Lake. They're from Sheho, Quill Lake, Saskatoon, Lanigan, Wadena, Wynyard, Yorkton, and again from Kuroki. I so present.

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the member for Melville-Saltcoats.

Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition to present to do with Highway 49. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to repair Highway 49 in order to address safety concerns and to facilitate economic growth and tourism in Kelvington and Lintlaw, Preeceville and surrounding areas.

The signatures, Mr. Speaker, are from the areas of Kelvington and Yellow Quill. I so present.

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

Ms. Eagles: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again today I rise to present a petition on behalf of citizens of Estevan who are very concerned about the future of the Estevan campus of the Southeast Regional College. 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 ensure that basic education classes continue to be offered at the Estevan campus of the Southeast Regional College.

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

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

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

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to present another petition from citizens of Biggar who are concerned about the possible reduction of health care services in their community. 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 services maintain at the very least the current level of services.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed by the good citizens of Handel, Landis, and Biggar and district. I so present.

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

Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to present yet another petition on behalf of the 600 children under six years of age and their parents in the Saskatoon Silver Springs constituency regarding a much needed elementary school in the Arbor Creek, Willowgrove neighbourhood of Saskatoon. Recognizing the NDP [New Democratic Party] government's propensity for only doing things in election years, they are hoping their long wait will finally be over. The prayer of the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take the necessary action to implement an allocation of financial resources to build an elementary school in the Arbor Creek, Willowgrove area of Saskatoon.

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

The petitioners today come from northeast Saskatoon — Beckett Crescent, Kucey Crescent, Brunst Crescent, and Bonli Crescent. I so present, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again I

rise with a number of petitions to turn in today from citizens of south Saskatchewan that are very concerned that the withdrawal of lab services at the Lafleche and District Health Centre would cause undo hardships, especially to seniors. 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 actions to ensure that lab services are continued at the Lafleche and District Health Centre.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens from all of the affected area around Lafleche. I so present.

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

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Assembly this morning to present a petition signed by citizens of my constituency that are concerned with the government's handling of the health care system and the lack of recruitment and retention of our doctors in those areas. 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 improve timely access to medical treatment.

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

Signatures to this petition, Mr. Speaker, are from Shellbrook and Leask. I so present.

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

Mr. Kerpan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too want to rise on this last day of the spring session to present a petition on behalf of citizens of the province of Saskatchewan who are concerned with the fact that Highway 255 and Highway 320 have road bans on them, and that causes heavy traffic to deteriorate the RM [rural municipality] roads. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take action immediately and address the serious concerns of the people affected by these road restrictions.

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

Mr. Speaker, signed by citizens from Domremy, Aberdeen, and St. Louis. I so present.

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

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to bring forward a petition of people of Saskatchewan concerned with the current road ban on Highway No. 225 from Highway 2 to Batoche and on Highway 320 from Highway 2 to Highway 20. It is causing

extreme hardship to the farmers and business people in the area and has the potential for economic disaster. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to take action immediately and address the serious concerns of the people affected by these road restrictions.

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

And, Mr. Speaker, it is signed by the people of Tway, Wakaw, Domremy, Saskatoon, Bellevue, St. Louis, Edmonton, and Hoey. I so present.

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

Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, on the last day of session I am pleased to rise to present a continuation of a petition requesting an allocation of long-awaited funding for a provincial children's hospital in Saskatoon, and we look forward to that funding action materializing, and we hope that it will. The prayer states:

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

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by citizens from Saskatoon; I'm pleased to present it on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — According to order the petitions received at the last sitting have been reviewed and pursuant to rule 15(7) are hereby read and received.

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Order.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — The Chair of the Standing Committee on Human Services is recognized.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Ms. Junor: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 63, The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall . . . Order please. When shall Bill 63 be heard in Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the Minister of Justice.

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

The Speaker: — Order please. The Chair recognizes once again the Minister of Justice.

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

The Speaker: — The Minister of Justice has requested leave to waive consideration for Committee of the Whole for Bill 63. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. When shall Bill 63 be read a third time? The Chair recognizes the minister.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 63 — The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act

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

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill 63 be now read a third time and passed under its title. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion is carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Third reading of this Bill.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and, through you, to all members of the Legislative Assembly 55 grade 5 to 8 students from St. Paul School which is located in the beautiful constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin. They are sitting in the west gallery, Mr. Speaker. And with them are their teachers: Francois Rivard, Maria Coupal, Lorna Plemel, Jocelyn Miller, and Chantal Brown.

I hope to be meeting these students. The vast majority — perhaps all of them — appear very bright eyed and attentive. And I hope to be meeting with them at 11 a.m., briefly this morning, Mr. Speaker. But in the meantime I trust that my colleagues will join me in welcoming them to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you a group of grade 6 students from the Valley Christian Academy in Osler. There are 33 of them here today with their teachers, Randy Priebe and Carla Fehr, and a

few chaperones I see.

And they're the first school group that I've been able to be with since I was elected, so I'm looking forward to meeting with them after question period today and to answer their questions. And I find that that age group has probably the most perceptive and interesting questions. And so I look forward to meeting with them after. And I ask all members to welcome them here.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Lautermilch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce to you and, through you, to members of the Assembly a young gentleman who I have had the opportunity to work with in the past few weeks — Mr. Jason Miller. Jason is sitting in the west gallery. He is originally from Eatonia. He is at this present time attending the U of S [University of Saskatchewan], and he's working on his political science degree.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that Jason has been a great addition to my staff. And I'm going to make a prediction. And my prediction is that one day Jason will be joining members of the government on this side of the House as he does have some political aspirations. I want to ask all members to join me in welcoming Jason to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to introduce to you and, through you, to members of this House a group that are seated in the opposition gallery. They are a sampling of the very excellent Saskatchewan Party caucus staff.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — And by way of this introduction, we want to say thank you to them for the work that they, that they have done on behalf of not only the opposition but the people of the province of Saskatchewan. So if I can, I'll just quickly introduce them in no particular order, Mr. Speaker: Neal Pobran, Cole Goertz, Bill Cooper, Drew Wilby, Reg Downs, Kathy Young, and Ian Hannah.

And while I'm on my feet . . . Welcome to the Assembly. I think we should . . .

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Wall: — Oh and, Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, Terry Gudmundson has also just joined that group.

I also want to welcome to the Assembly again the leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. Karwacki. I understand yesterday he has now claimed a victory over the NDP. And he's now going to come after the Saskatchewan Party. And we look forward and welcome that debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan], the member for Meadow Lake.

Hon. Mr. Sonntag: — Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, each year I'm joined by a class from Meadow Lake, and this year is no exception. So I'd like to introduce to you and to all members of the Assembly a class from Meadow Lake, 44 students.

Now I don't know if anybody's noticed this other than me — probably not — but they seem to join us on the last day or very close to the last day. And I think a couple of years ago, they arrived in fact about 10 minutes before the session ended — I think that was two years ago. So they've picked it again today. So I think that if we ever have sort of a little legislative pool again about when the session might end, I might phone this class for advice about that.

Anyway, we are joined by 44 students in your gallery, Mr. Speaker. Joining them is their teacher, Mr. Terry Paley, and chaperones Sheila Chisholm, Leanne Neudorf, Brian Graham, Sam Ho, and Sherry Carson. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming them here today. Thanks very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, it's my pleasure to introduce to you some very sharp looking young people who are just starting work here in the legislature, and these are the additions to the visitor services' team who will be starting working extended hours for the summer. The Legislative Building will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily with tours in both official languages offered every half hour. These are our front-line legislative ambassadors, and I'd ask them to rise as I call their name, and remain standing.

In the front row we have Kari Olson, Sean Stephenson, Mukesh Rambaran, and also we have Adam Zelmer, Marita Wacker, Amy Dancsok. Seated behind them are their supervisors and the senior members of the team: Patrice Tremblay, Annelise Stoppa, Arnold McKenzie, Marianne Morgan, and the director of visitor services, Lorraine deMontigny.

They're all decked out in their brand new Saskatchewan tartan and, members, I ask you to welcome them to the Legislative Assembly which they so proudly promote on our behalf.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

Norwegian Celebrations

Hon. Mr. Nilson: — [The hon. member spoke for a time in Norwegian.]

Mr. Speaker, that's the national anthem for Norway, and it's sung around the world on this day to celebrate the Constitution Day in 1814. There are many descendants of Norwegians in Saskatchewan, and the celebrations take place in a number of different places. This year I especially want to emphasize the celebration that's taking place at Birch Hills, Saskatchewan because they're having a special celebration there.

I'd also like to say that today in Norway is a double holiday. They have a holiday which is called Kristihimmelfartsdag, which is Ascension Day, and so in Norway they're celebrating both of these. We can celebrate those holidays here as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members from Regina Coronation Park, The Battlefords, Rosetown, Biggar, Saltcoats, Saskatchewan Rivers, Lloydminster, and all those others who are here in Saskatchewan who want to be Norwegians, let's all celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Aboriginal Awareness Week

Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, next week is Aboriginal Awareness Week across Canada. During this week people all across Saskatchewan are encouraged to learn more about our First Nations people, their history, their culture, and their traditions.

I believe that Aboriginal Awareness Week plays an important role in further understanding our Aboriginal peoples. I also believe that Aboriginal awareness must continue beyond this week and throughout the entire year.

The Saskatchewan Party believes that one way of ensuring that this happens, especially amongst our young people, is to have treaty education as a mandatory part of the core curriculum in our schools. Our leader has often said that when he was in school, he learned about the Treaty of Versailles but nothing about Treaty 4, the treaty that allows him to own his home in Swift Current.

Mr. Speaker, as the Saskatchewan Party's critic for First Nations and Métis Relations, I have had the great privilege of meeting with hundreds of people from First Nations all across this great province. From elders to senators, chiefs to tribal councillors, entrepreneurs to hoop dancers, men, women, and children — I've been truly blessed by the great conversations and experiences I've shared with them, and I'll be forever grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all citizens of Saskatchewan to get out next week and participate in Aboriginal awareness events to ensure that we move further towards . . . for people to understand and respect one another in our province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

International Day Against Homophobia

Ms. Morin: — Today is a day to confront the truly misguided beliefs of an unfortunate segment of our population. Today is the International Day Against Homophobia.

To celebrate Saskatchewan's proclamation of this occasion, the Pink Triangle is hosting a barbeque later today here in Regina. There will be many exciting speakers, including representatives from the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, the Canadian feminist action network, Regina Pride, and of course, the Pink Triangle. The member for Regina Elphinstone will also bring greetings on behalf of the government, Mr. Speaker, as a part of the proclamation presentation.

Homophobia is a complicated form of discrimination. It is a systemic problem that pits individuals against themselves as well as against their own perceived cultures.

Unfortunately Canadians are not yet free from the terrible effects of this often subtle form of harassment, Mr. Speaker. The insipid ideology of the far right continues to perpetuate the problem even here. In fact Canada's own Public Safety minister, Stockwell Day, once said that, quote, "Homosexuality is a mental disorder that can be cured through counselling."

Mr. Speaker, on this International Day Against Homophobia, it is important for each and every one of us to affirm a commitment to make ignorant and intolerant statements like this figments of the past.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Spring Session in Review

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Mr. Speaker, at the close of today's spring session, I'd like to review the session that was for that tired, old, scandal-ridden NDP government.

The session kicked off with the NDP government announcing that it had decided to reward Murdoch Carriere, the former senior government official and NDP friend who had been fired for harassment and convicted of assault . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. The member for Wood River.

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Again to repeat, with a whopping \$275,000 and a generous top-up to his government pension. This ludicrous decision prompted justified outrage and sent a loud message to all women in Saskatchewan that the NDP government does not take sexual harassment in the workplace seriously.

Then we had the NDP fraud scandal cover-up that resulted in the resignation of the NDP caucus chief of staff, who by the way, Mr. Speaker, is in line to receive a Murdoch Carriere golden handshake in the form of a severance payment that is clearly against the rules of the Legislative Assembly.

Most recently the Regina city police announced that they have turned over their files on the NDP fraud scandal to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] for a full investigation. With the NDP government and its caucus now under investigation, the Premier finally accepted the resignation of the former House leader yesterday, something he should have done three weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, the spring session has been one where the NDP government has lurched from crisis to crisis, careened through internal messes, and failed to take responsibility for anything. Mr. Speaker, it's time for the Premier to do the right thing and call an election.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ethical Conduct

Mr. Trew: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party doesn't want to talk about policy or about what matters to the people of Saskatchewan. Well that's fine. If they want it, then let's talk about ethical conduct — their ethical conduct or lack of.

For the third time in two years, we have released a document chronicling the ongoing potential ethical violations of their own code of ethics by members of that party. And what's been the response, Mr. Speaker? They've ignored it just like they ignore policy and just like they ignore what is good for Saskatchewan people. If the Sask Party takes their own code of ethics seriously, wouldn't they at least make a statement or publish a document or in some way address the pages and pages of evidence presented?

No, no, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to policy and ethics, the Sask Party is no better than their predecessors, the Devine Conservatives. The only difference is . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I invite the member to complete his remarks.

Mr. Trew: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To conclude . . . No, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to policy and ethics, the Saskatchewan Party is no better than their predecessors, the Devine Conservatives. The only difference is instead of deny, deny, deny, it's now, the mantra is ignore, ignore, ignore.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Farewells

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last six months, six veteran NDP MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and cabinet ministers have decided not to stand with the Premier or to run for his team in the next provincial election — the member from Saskatoon Greystone, the member for Regina Rosemont, the member for Saskatoon Massey Place, the member for Prince Albert Carlton, the member for Regina

Wascana . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order please. The correct procedure is not to refer in any way to the Speaker in debate. I would ask the member to withdraw that part of the statement.

Mr. D'Autremont: — I withdraw the words Prince Albert Carlton, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member may proceed.

Mr. D'Autremont: — And most recently the member for Regina South, the province's Finance minister.

Mr. Speaker, Fridays at this building have now become known as farewell Fridays. According to the sources from the government's bench, these six are about to be joined by at least four more veteran MLAs — perhaps the member from Saskatoon Nutana, Prince Albert Northcote, Saskatoon Meewasin, Regina Lakeview, and, last but not least, the member from Moose Jaw North, Mr. Speaker.

Their fortunes are sinking in the polls. The Premier's popularity is dropping like an anchor. The RCMP are investigating the NDP. And even the lifeboats appear to have holes in them. Oliver Cromwell once said, and I quote:

You have sat too long here for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you.

The people of Saskatchewan could not agree more when it comes to this tired, old, scandal-ridden NDP government. Mr. Speaker, as the members opposite pack up their lifejackets, I hear them faintly humming Gordon Lightfoot's, "Alberta Bound."

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

The Future

Mr. Yates: — Well, well, well, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Yates: — It seems the Saskatchewan Party is no better at predicting the future than they are at an informed political debate or for that matter adhering to their own code of conduct. They predicted nothing but doom or gloom for the province under this NDP government, but the facts speak for themselves.

The NDP has taken Saskatchewan from bankruptcy to boom times. And today in the province, job numbers are up. Population numbers are up. Farm cash receipts are up. Urban housing starts are up. International exports of goods are up. The value of building permits are up. Retail sales are up. New motor vehicle sales are up. Average weekly earnings are up . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The member for Regina

Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Average weekly earnings are up. So much for Sask Party predictions.

Mr. Speaker, this session has provided a stark contrast between the NDP and the opposition. While the Saskatchewan Party has taken the low road and placed their own interest in power above the interest of Saskatchewan people, on this side of the Assembly we have focused on improving health care opportunities for seniors. We have focused on improving future opportunities for young people. We have focused on creating a healthy future environment.

And we are going to continue to work on behalf of Saskatchewan people and for the brightest possible future for our province. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:30]

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Retrospective Views of Session

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Desperate to deflect attention from the Murdoch Carriere scandal, this NDP government hastily put together some legislative changes. However, no one from outside government was even consulted — not business organizations, not unions, no one. Murdoch Carriere's victims would have been helped if the legislation already in place would have been enforced back in 1994, but it wasn't.

Mr. Speaker, why should Murdoch Carriere's victims feel any better today than they did at the beginning of this session?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what I do note is that the members of the opposition did support this most progressive piece of legislation. That means that Saskatchewan is only the second jurisdiction in all of North America that has legislation that protects workers against intimidation and bullying in the workplace — and we're proud of that.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Now, Mr. Speaker, here's what I know about this session. What I know about this session is that the members of the opposition had stolen documents in their possession for over a year, that they posted people's private, personal information on the Sask Party website, that they had secret cameras in their offices, Mr. Speaker, that they requested

people's private information, citizens' private information, day in and day out in the legislature, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they implied that they were above the law throughout this session.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, this is what happened this session. The NDP government refused to release their secret legal opinions. The NDP government refused to release its settlement agreement with Murdoch Carriere. The government failed to allow Murdoch Carriere's victims to have a copy of their own settlement. The government failed to allow this scandal to be investigated by a legislative committee. This government failed Murdoch Carriere's victims and they have failed the people of this province.

Mr. Speaker, will the government admit their failure, stop hiding, and release the information that the people of this province deserve to have?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, what the members of the opposition have tried to do throughout this session is to get the Government of Saskatchewan to release people's private, personal information, Mr. Speaker. So what the members of the opposition have failed to understand is we have laws in this province and we are there to protect citizens' information, Mr. Speaker. But what I will . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, what this whole session has been about for the Sask Party is distraction — distraction from their agenda, distraction from their history, and most of all distraction from the Sask Party leader's history and relationship to the Devine government, Mr. Speaker.

And they won't tell us what they stand for, but they did yesterday. What they've decided to do, Mr. Speaker, is to keep the poorest artists, who have the highest education, poor. And why is that? Because they don't want their friends to have to share into their profits.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, paying Murdoch Carriere \$275,000 and bumping up his pension was the wrong thing to do. The people of this province want the Premier to know that it was the wrong thing to do. They have phoned. They have written letters. They have sent emails. And, Mr. Speaker, about 7,500 Saskatchewan people would like to

say to this Premier: you've got mail. I would like to send these over to the Premier right now.

Will the Premier . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. I do believe the Pages have a job to do here. Order. The members will . . . The members will come to order. Order. I would ask members to keep the personal remarks away from the debate. Let's stick with the issues.

I ask the member to recall the rule . . . Order please. I would ask the member from Martensville to recall and to respect the rule about exhibits. The member for Martensville is recognized to complete her question.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Premier promise to read the . . .

The Speaker: — Order please. Order. Member for Martensville.

Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, will the Premier promise to read the opinions of 7,500 people who took the time to voice their disgust over his handling of the Murdoch Carriere scandal?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I understand the Sask Party has about 12,000 members. Their own members didn't sign these forms. Yet they sent out over close to half a million of these little black slips for us all to sign. So I would say it's not a great return, Mr. Speaker.

But I will say this, that in this session of the legislature the government has focused on the citizens of this province. We have changed and we have seen significant growth in our population. We've seen a change in the corporate capital tax, the corporate income tax. We have seen a significant investment in our young people, in our senior citizens, and in the citizens of this province through infrastructure and social programming.

But the members of the opposition, what they continually try to do is distract the public from their agenda — their secret agenda. They haven't told us one thing in terms of where they stand but we do know they want to continue to keep artists poor this . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Caucus Issues and Parties' Policies

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier was defending his

outrageous decision to reward harassment. And you remember what he said at that time, Mr. Speaker? He said, "Would I do it again? You bet I would."

Well you know what? He wasn't even kidding, Mr. Speaker, because he is going to do it again. Now the Premier's going to write another big, fat severance cheque to his chief of staff who resigned over the NDP fraud scandal. And just like Murdoch Carriere, the Premier still won't explain why. Mr. Speaker, why is the Premier breaking the rules of the Legislative Assembly of paying out severance to someone who resigned?

The Speaker: — Order please. I'd like to bring to the attention of the Assembly that the question is out of order because it is not dealing with the responsibility of a minister. I will allow a voluntary response.

The Chair recognizes the Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what I find interesting is that the opposition chose that particular member to talk about harassment. But, Mr. Speaker, what the members of the opposition continue to try and do is to divert the public's attention away from the real agenda.

Here's what we know. They go to Alberta for their leader's dinner with the business community in Alberta, and what do they talk about? They talk about changing Saskatchewan's labour laws. That's what they talk about, so that they become more business-friendly.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we believe, we believe that the workers in this province are entitled to occupational health and safety. They're entitled to minimum standards in their . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order please. Order please. The members are interrupting the debate. Several members are interrupting debate, and I ask members to cease that. I particularly request members to stop hurling personal remarks across the floor. The Minister for the Public Service Commission.

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — We believe in a minimum wage that at least keeps up with the rate of inflation. We do not believe in a two-tier minimum wage where the members of the opposition would have young people at a minimum wage lower than the rest of the citizens in our province, Mr. Speaker. We stand for something. All they . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, we have a government that has the Conflict of Interest Commissioner doing an investigation. The RCMP are doing an investigation, and now the NDP House leader has resigned. So the problem here seems to be a lot bigger than just Jim Fodey. Mr. Speaker, Pat Lorjé told police that it was the intention of the NDP caucus to conceal fraud.

The question is, who was involved in this cover-up? Why can't the Premier just answer any of these questions? Why do we need a conflict of interest investigation, an RCMP investigation just to get to the truth?

Mr. Speaker, the Premier was at the Prince Albert caucus meeting in 1994 when the matter was fully discussed. Was everyone . . .

The Speaker: — Order, please. Order. The member for Humboldt.

Ms. Harpauer: — Mr. Speaker, I want to say again the Premier was at the Prince Albert caucus meeting in 1994 where the matter was fully discussed. Who knew about this cover-up? Did the Premier know about this cover-up, and if so why is the NDP House leader the only one that's resigning?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, here we are on the last day of the session and what the members of the opposition continue to try and do is distract, because they don't want to talk about their record. Now, Mr. Speaker, let's talk about their record.

Mr. Speaker, we introduced for the first time in 25 years a social policy so that senior citizens in our province can have access to drugs for their medical purposes, Mr. Speaker. And what did the members of the opposition do? They said they were opposed to a universal seniors' drug plan, Mr. Speaker. They don't want to talk about that. Well I can tell you this. The seniors in my constituency — which they think that they'll win in the next provincial election — are pleased with that drug plan, Mr. Speaker, and they want the opposition to come clean and tell us where do they stand on the day-to-day issues confronting the citizens of our province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Candidates Seeking Election

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Premier: today's the day, today's the day the Premier's deadline for his MLAs to declare whether or not they're running in the next election or if they're running for the lifeboats. He already has six NDP MLAs who have donned their lifejackets and bailed off this shipwreck of an NDP government. The question is, how many more? Mr. Premier, how many more NDP MLAs are heading for calmer waters and abandoning this NDP government by not running in the next election?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

[10:45]

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A number of our current members of the legislature who have served with great distinction have chosen not to run in the next election. A fair number, if I may say, Mr. Speaker, of the members opposite are choosing not to run in the next election. I believe the member of Lloydminster is not running in the next election. I believe the member of Rosetown is not running in the next election. The member of Carrot River Valley is not being allowed to run in the next election. The member of Kindersley is not running in the next election.

But here's the difference, Mr. Speaker. There are a team of men and women who are standing for the New Democratic Party who are going to renew this government and who are going to bring their vision and their hopes to the people of Saskatchewan. The difference, Mr. Speaker, the difference is: who are they bringing? The retreads. The retreads. The former leader of the Conservative Party, Bill Boyd; Ms. Arlene Julé who once ran as Liberal . . .

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

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the . . . Order please. Order. Member for Cannington.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears that some members over there don't even take the Premier seriously any more. Some of them are openly defying the Premier's deadline. The member from Saskatoon Nutana said she wasn't making her decision until the end of May. And now the SPUDCO [Saskatchewan Potato Utility Development Company] minister is going even further. He told the P.A. [Prince Albert] *Daily Herald* that he doesn't base his decisions on what other candidates do. His decision will come shortly before the Premier calls the election or possibly during the election. Now there's a real vote of confidence, Mr. Speaker. He's going to wait until the campaign is halfway over and if it's not going well, he's going to bail out before the ship hits the bottom.

Mr. Speaker, why should the people of Saskatchewan take this Premier seriously when his own MLAs don't take him seriously?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I'll tell you what we take seriously. We take seriously the interests of the people of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — And we know full well, as evidenced by this session, what they take seriously. They take seriously the interests of the Saskatchewan Party. That's what they take seriously. Well we're taking seriously the interests of Saskatchewan family and the future of this province. And this

session has been the best illustration of that in living memory where you have a government, a New Democratic Party government, providing benefits for our seniors in drug plans. Where we're providing benefits for our students; we've frozen tuition with a graduate tax credit. Where we're providing benefit to our environment through a green strategy that's being recognized across the country, Mr. Speaker. Where we're taking interest in the interests of working people in this province. Legislation to protect our reservists. Legislation to end mandatory retirement, Mr. Speaker. And legislation we wanted to pass to protect artists in our province that's been stopped by that opposition.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Performance of Government and Opposition

Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, you remember at the beginning of this session when the Premier said he said he was going to make this session about the environment and specifically about the government's climate change plan, about their plan to reduce greenhouse gases. That's what he said. It never happened, Mr. Speaker. It never happened.

Mr. Speaker, the government also this session failed to meaningfully address the most important health care question facing the province, the shortage of nurses and the shortage of doctors. This government failed to provide leadership in the area of education, as schools closed across the province. And it's not hard to see why that happened, Mr. Speaker.

But I'll tell you what's not going to fix this government. A cabinet shuffle isn't going to fix this government. A new ad campaign with angry punctuation will not fix the problem, Mr. Speaker. Not even the human dynamo that is the member for Regina Douglas Park can save this government. What will fix things for the province of Saskatchewan is a general election. Will the Premier call one this year?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Yes, Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues have just observed that Leader of the Opposition, he ought to be careful what he wishes for, Mr. Speaker, I tell you.

Mr. Speaker, here is the result. Here are some of the results of this government, this New Democratic Party government, at work in this session. Mr. Speaker, during this session we have added, we have added 2,118 training seats for young people in our province. Mr. Speaker, we've dedicated every cent of highway, of road tax being collected at the gas pumps to the building of highways in this province, Mr. Speaker.

In this session, Mr. Speaker, we've extended benefits for 30,000 low-income workers, extended health benefits to 30,000 — health benefits. We've provided a \$10 increase for those of our neighbours who are living on social assistance, Mr. Speaker, and that adds to the increase of last year.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence is this. The Leader of the Opposition and the Sask Party, they're interested in one thing — elections and the future of the Sask Party. We're interested in the future of Saskatchewan families.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I think there's one thing the Premier and I could agree on and that is we're at a very important juncture in the history of our province. And so we have important questions to ask as a result of that. Is now the time for a government mired in scandal, Mr. Speaker? I think the answer is no. Is now the time for a government that's under RCMP investigation? I think the answer is no. Is now the time for a government that's losing all of its more youthful, certainly more progressive members of the cabinet? I think the answer is no. Is now the time for a government whose new source of youthful energy was elected when Wang Chung topped the charts, well before Al Gore even had a chance to invent the Internet, Mr. Speaker? I think not.

Now is the time for a provincial election, for that debate about the issues. I want the Premier to commit today that that general election will happen before the calendar changes to 2008. Will he do that, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, is now the time, is now the time for a Premier whose capacity for one-liners is about what he brings to the debate, Mr. Speaker? No. The time is now for a Premier and a political party, the time is now for the New Democratic Party to bring, as we have brought, a future vision for this province and policy that matters to Saskatchewan people. That's the time, Mr. Speaker.

Now I find it very interesting, Mr. Speaker, that I'm handed a copy of the Sask Party's news release for today for the end of the session. Again I find no, no debate about substantive policy. And then what do I find out? The Leader of the Opposition says, well most of our plan will be released during the election campaign. What is this plan, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — What is this secret plan that they will not talk about? What is this secret plan that they will not share with the people of Saskatchewan? Is it no plan or a secret plan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes . . . Order, order. Order. Order. Order. Order. The Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I don't blame the Premier for wanting to know a little bit about the plans that the Saskatchewan Party has. And certainly he can review the things

that we've already presented, our Enterprise Saskatchewan plan for the economy. He could look at our 36-point plan for the labour shortage or our biofuels plan that we've offered. He can look at all of that.

But I don't blame him for being interested in wanting to know what our plan is. I want to assure him this, Mr. Speaker. It is right. It'll be a plan that is absolutely right for the province of Saskatchewan. There will be opportunities for everyone, including unemployed former NDP politicians, Mr. Speaker. We want to assure him of that.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the best way to end this session, the best way to end this session where the government has been exposed to be mired in scandal and now under RCMP investigation, the best way is for the Premier to stand up and commit to a general election before 2008. We will have that debate in the province. The people will make their choice and they will choose positive change. What will he choose? Will he call the election this year, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition is predicting that the people of Saskatchewan will choose positive change, they're never going to choose the Saskatchewan Party. They're never going to choose the Saskatchewan Party.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, we've got a leader and an opposition who by their own admission today in a news release say they will not share their plan with the people of Saskatchewan up and to an election. What's wrong with the plan? Is it no plan? Is it a secret plan? Or is it the plan that's being developed in Alberta every time he's over raising money? Or is it a plan being developed in Augusta, Georgia when he sends his friend to Augusta to go golfing?

Mr. Speaker, this session has told the truth. It has told the truth about a government, about a government that works to build for the future of Saskatchewan families, to make life better for our young people — that works with the people of Saskatchewan. And it has told the truth about an opposition that's only interested in their own political agenda, only interested in the Saskatchewan Party, Mr. Speaker. The people will choose and they will choose the New Democratic Party.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Order please. I would . . . Order please. Order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The Speaker: — Before we go to written questions, I wish to advise the Assembly that question 1,486 and question 1,487, both of those questions, are out of order because they do not fall within the responsibility of any minister or of the government in general.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — The Chair recognizes the Government Whip.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I'll be tabling responses to questions no. 1,488 to 1,509 inclusive.

The Speaker: — Responses to 1,488 to 1,509 inclusive have been submitted.

I wish to advise the members that His Honour is here for Royal Assent.

[11:00]

ROYAL ASSENT

[At 11:01 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took his seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following Bills.]

His Honour: — Please be seated.

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

Clerk: — Your Honour, the Bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 301 - The Eston College (Full Gospel Bible Institute Amendment) Act
- Bill No. 8 - The Paramedics Act
- Bill No. 61 - The Vital Statistics Act, 2007
- Bill No. 62 - The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendment Act, 2007/Loi de 2007 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Vital Statistics Act, 2007
- Bill No. 64 - The Graduate Tax Exemption Act
- Bill No. 13 - The SaskEnergy Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 59 - The Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 50 - The Municipal Employees' Pension Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 51 - The Public Employees Pension Plan Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 60 - The Revenue and Financial Services Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 65 - The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 38 - The Wildlife Habitat Protection Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)
- Bill No. 17 - The Miscellaneous Statutes (Municipal Collection of Other Taxes) Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 28 - The Cities Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)
- Bill No. 56 - The Municipalities Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 57 - The Assessment Management Agency Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 58 - The Municipal Revenue Sharing Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 9 - The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2006

- Bill No. 10 - The Limitations Amendment Act, 2006
- Bill No. 19 - The Securities Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)
- Bill No. 21 - The Evidence Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi sur la preuve
- Bill No. 23 - The Securities Transfer Act
- Bill No. 44 - The Class Actions Amendment Act, 2007/Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi sur les recours collectifs
- Bill No. 47 - The Fatal Accidents Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 49 - The Mortgage Brokerages and Mortgage Administrators Act
- Bill No. 37 - The Court of Appeal Amendment Act, 2006/Loi de 2006 modifiant la Loi de 2000 sur la Cour d'appel
- Bill No. 43 - The Payday Loans Act
- Bill No. 45 - The Agricultural Societies Repeal Act
- Bill No. 52 - The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2007/Loi de 2007 modifiant la Loi de 1998 sur la faune
- Bill No. 53 - The Miscellaneous Environment Statutes (Inspections and Investigation) Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 46 - The Crown Minerals Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 48 - The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 66 - The Occupational Health and Safety (Harassment Prevention) Amendment Act, 2007
- Bill No. 31 - The Regional Health Services Amendment Act, 2006 (No. 2)
- Bill No. 63 - The Royal Saskatchewan Museum Act

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

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

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

- Bill No. 69 - The Appropriation Act, 2007 (No. 3)

to which Bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

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

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 11:06.]

The Speaker: — Please be seated. The Chair recognizes the Government Deputy House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I request leave of the Assembly to make a motion regarding the adjournment of the session as well as to make some closing remarks.

The Speaker: — The Government Deputy House Leader has requested leave to make a motion with respect to adjournment of the session. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave has been granted. The Chair recognizes the Government Deputy House Leader.

MOTIONS

House Adjournment

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As we wind down this session of the legislature, it's appropriate to make a number of remarks and thank those who make this House operate.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to start by thanking you for your guidance in this House to all members and helping us to operate this Assembly in a manner that allows us to fulfill our duties in a professional and caring way.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to thank the Clerks at the Table who through their support, organization, and attention to details have made this House a more enjoyable place, allowed us to fulfill our duties, and to accomplish the work that we are sent here by our constituents to do.

I think at this time it's also note . . . to give special congratulations to a successful first session to Mr. Ken Ring — his first time sitting at the Table as a Clerk. Ken, we want to thank you on your hard work and thank you for your dedication to this Assembly.

It's also appropriate, Mr. Speaker, to thank all the many, many staff that work for the Legislative Assembly that make our jobs easier each day — those who work in Hansard, who supply a record, a recording of the events each day so that we have the opportunity to review what has been said; to the library staff who help us with our research work, who provide information to us on a regular basis; to the broadcast services staff who are here every hour that the House is sitting, both in committee and in the main Assembly, providing broadcast of our proceedings each and every day.

To the Sergeant-at-Arms and his staff who provide security to this building and help us in many, many other ways as we go about doing our duties within this building; to the maintenance and property management staff who clean our offices, keep this building in top shape, and who take every opportunity to befriend each of us and give those kindly words each and every day; to the staff at the cafeteria who work and provide meals for us each and every day as we are here in the Assembly, who work very hard; to the media and press gallery who are here to provide to the people of Saskatchewan the news each and every day about what's going on in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker.

To the Pages who help us each and every day in so many ways, both in the House and throughout the building, as they deliver each morning the *Hansard* and House proceedings to us before the morning; to the interns who are working with a number of members and have worked with members on both sides of the House, who helped to make this place a better place during the session as well.

Mr. Chair, also to the . . . I'd like to thank all the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees, that have helped make the process work throughout this session, for all their hard work. We moved to a new process. It has been difficult at times. We've had to, at times, evaluate how the process is working. We've had to make some tweaks in order to make it work. But the committee

process has worked very well for us, and it's allowed us to continue to accomplish more in a period of time than we would have been able to in the past, Mr. Speaker, because now we have two committees doing the work that one used to. And that gives us the opportunity to do twice as much work in the same period of time, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's very valuable to the people of Saskatchewan.

I'd like to now thank the former government House leader, the member from Moose Jaw North, who guided the government side with both integrity and professionalism in this House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Moose Jaw North was instrumental in many of the reforms that we've seen over the last couple of years that have made this Assembly a better place to work, a better place to be, and more friendly to the public as we go about our work.

I'd also like to thank the Opposition House Leader who worked with the member from Moose Jaw North and myself throughout this session to see that we were able to accomplish the work that was put before us, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Yates: — I'd like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the House. This has been a very difficult session, but we've managed to accomplish a great deal for the people of Saskatchewan during this session, and we should all be proud of what we have been able to accomplish during this session.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank all the support staff in the caucus, in both caucus offices on both sides of the Assembly. Without their help and support, much of the work that we do in this Assembly and in our committees would not be achievable. So I'd like to thank them on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan, on behalf of all members of the House.

I'd like to also thank all the staff who work in ministers' offices and all those staff who work in Executive Council and media services because without their help on a daily basis the operation of the Assembly, the operation of the government, and the accomplishments that we are so proud of as members of the Assembly could not be done.

And last but not least, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank our families. Many members have to travel and be away from their families for extended periods of time during the session. It's difficult on spouses, on children. And for them, Mr. Speaker, and for their co-operation and support and help, we are able to do our jobs. And, Mr. Speaker, lastly I'd like to thank our families, those who support us each and every day and make it possible for us to do our work.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move, seconded by the member from Melfort:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 24, 2007, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon request of the

government. And if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Dewdney, seconded by the member from Melfort:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, it shall stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 24, the year 2007 unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government. And if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

The Chair recognizes the member from Melfort.

Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to rise and join with the Deputy House Leader of the government to express our gratitude at the end of the session on behalf of the official opposition. The member from Regina, the Deputy House Leader, named all of the employees of the Legislative Assembly in detail, and I won't repeat that. But I would like to add my voice to his in terms of thanking everyone in the Legislative Assembly who assist us so much each and every day, not only when the House is sitting but also intersessionally.

I would as well like to join in expressing the gratitude of the official opposition to our caucus employees and as well the government's caucus employees. There's so much work that happens behind the scenes that allows us to conduct our duties and discharge our responsibilities that it's important to acknowledge and to thank those many workers on both sides of the House who help us do our work.

I would like to join as well with the Deputy House Leader in acknowledging and thanking the member for Moose Jaw North, the former House leader, who has worked very closely with myself over virtually this entire session. It not only is something that is a pleasure to deal with someone who will keep their word, who will honour their word, and who realize that this Assembly is a place that has to function in the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan despite times wherein emotions get very heated and the debate gets very energized.

[11:15]

Certainly I think that notwithstanding the fact that those events occur, it's important that all of us respect the fact that House leaders have to operate on the word of each other. And certainly I've always come to respect and trust the word of the member from Moose Jaw in regard to our House business.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, I also am going to make these remarks with the assumption that there is going to likely be an election before we reconvene on the date that the motion talks about, and in particular to thank colleagues who are not going to return — those who have already announced and those who

are yet to announce and perhaps those who will not be successful in the election — and point out in particular on the opposition side of the legislature and thank the member from Lloydminster, the member from Carrot River, the member from Kindersley, and the member from Rosetown-Elrose for their service to the people of Saskatchewan and the work that they have done over the years.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Gantefer: — Mr. Speaker, I believe this is the first full session where we've operated under the new rules of the Assembly that have been established and developed. And I think that in balance we have been very successful in bringing our Saskatchewan legislature to the forefront of parliamentary process, not in this province but also in this entire country. And I think that we can all be rightly proud of all of the work that we've done to accomplish these changes.

These changes, Mr. Speaker, are for the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan firstly. And I think that the fact that there is more predictability also, in particular, benefits our constituents and the people, in addition to the people of the province generally. But most particularly I think it benefits in some significant manner our families who have some predictability when their fathers and mothers, grandmas and grandpas are going to be home with their families and have time that is quality time that many of us sacrifice in the discharge of our duties.

I hope in closing that each and every one of us will go home to our constituents and to our families and enjoy the beauty of this province in the summertime. I would like to think, on some beautiful Saskatchewan summer evening as the sun is setting that all of us will reflect on the beauty of this province and the beauty of its people, and that's what motivates us to contribute to public life. Have a great summer. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before I put the question, I would appreciate leave to be able to make a statement. I've appreciated the remarks from the Deputy Government House Leader and the Opposition House Leader very much. And I would like to echo their remarks in terms of the thank yous that are to be expressed to all in the public service, to those in the Legislative Assembly Service, the Clerks, and of course my personal office staff.

And I do so appreciate also very much the work that was conducted in co-operation with the government House leader and the Opposition House Leader with respect to the progress that was made on rules of the Assembly.

I do all of this in the context of two points. First of all, I feel that I have the best seat in the House. And from this vantage point, it just brings to my mind the very utter significance and importance of the processes that we use to make our decisions here in Saskatchewan and really throughout the country. The process enables the debate to happen, enables the decision to be made in a way that represents a victory for those who oppose certain positions and those who are for certain positions because, as members exercise their responsibilities, it's the debating and the voting process that assures citizens that they have been represented and that directions are being taken

legally and peacefully.

The second point I want to make is, from this seat again, I observe the deep personal respect that members establish for each other over the years through the contact. The political differences are very obvious and often portrayed in the media, but there is the deep, personal respect that I see members establish between themselves, and the personal respect that I have for the members here, as well, I wish to express at this time. I couldn't think of anybody working in a position with people that have greater integrity than the people that have been elected to office in the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the member for Regina Dewdney, seconded by the member for Melfort:

That when this Assembly adjourns at the end of this sitting day in accordance with the parliamentary calendar, to stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on October 24, 2007, unless earlier recalled by Mr. Speaker upon the request of the government. And if recalled, Mr. Speaker shall give each member seven clear days notice, if possible, of such date and time.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the Deputy Government House Leader.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — Before I put the motion of adjournment, I wish to advise members that today the Canadian Forces Snowbirds have planned a historic flight over Regina. Flight will include nine members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and it's intended to be a symbol of provincial heritage and patriotic spirit. The flight will pass over the Legislative Building at an altitude of 500 feet. This will give everyone in the building and close to the building an excellent chance to view the world-famous Snowbirds. It might also be a good time to have . . . oh pardon me. These two scheduled flights are scheduled at 1:30 and 1:45 p.m.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Motion is carried. This House stands adjourned until the call of the Chair.

[The Assembly adjourned at 11:23.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Lorne Calvert
Premier

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

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

Hon. Joan Beatty
Minister of Northern Affairs
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation
Acting Provincial Secretary
Acting Minister Responsible for Gaming
Acting Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance

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. 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. Warren McCall
Minister of Corrections and Public Safety

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

Hon. Frank Quennell
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General

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

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

Hon. Len Taylor
Minister of Health

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

Hon. Harry Van Mulligen
Minister of Government Relations

Hon. Mark Wartman
Minister of Agriculture and Food