



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

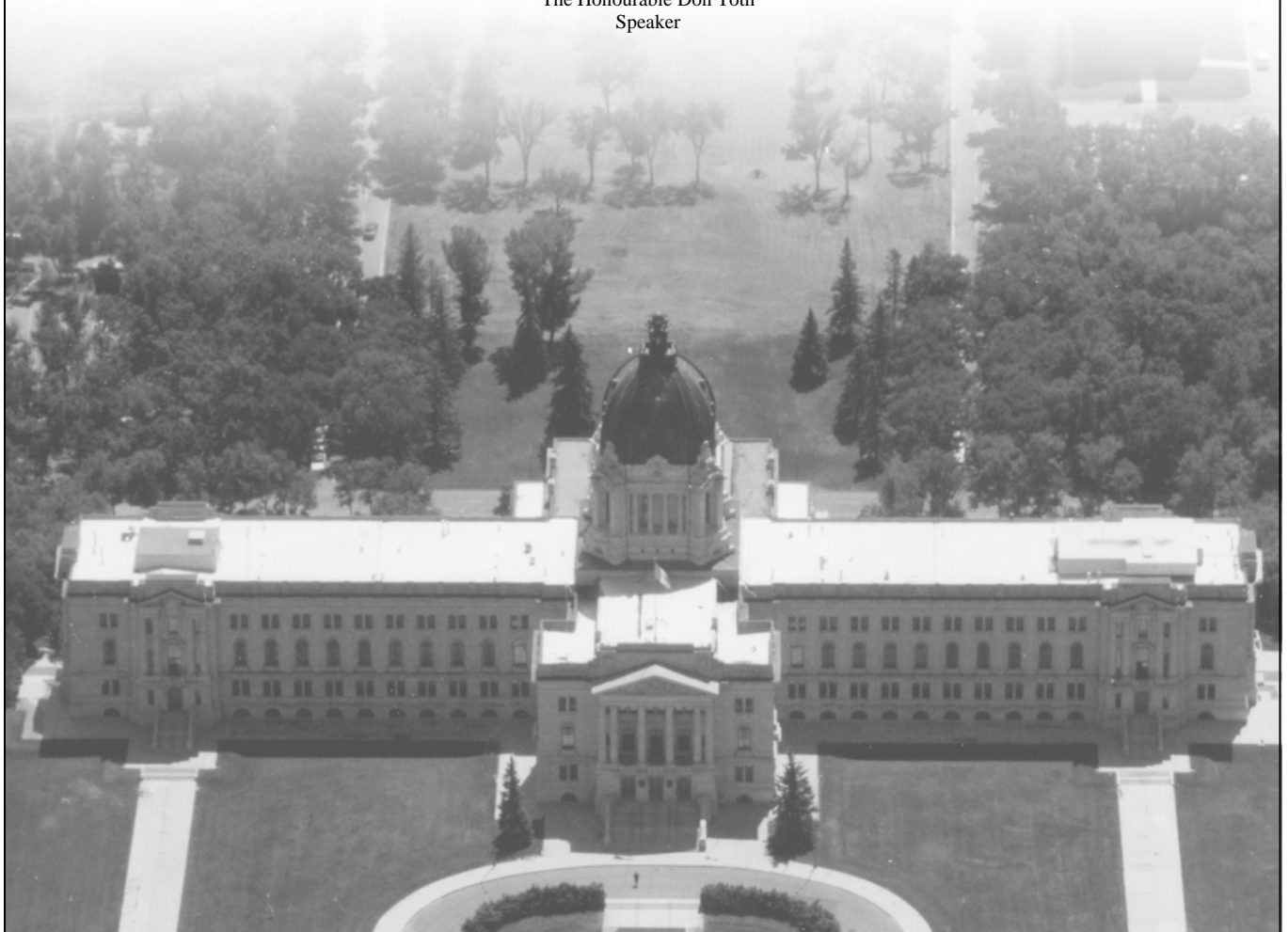
**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)  
Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth  
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall  
 Leader of the Opposition — Lorne Calvert

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Beatty, Joan	NDP	Cumberland
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Calvert, Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Hon. Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Hon. Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Hon. Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Yogi	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serje	SP	Saskatoon Northwest
McCall, Warren	NDP	Regina Elphinstone-Centre
McMillan, Tim	SP	Lloydminster
McMorris, Hon. Don	SP	Indian Head-Milestone
Michelson, Warren	SP	Moose Jaw North
Morgan, Hon. Don	SP	Saskatoon Southeast
Morin, Sandra	NDP	Regina Walsh Acres
Nilson, John	NDP	Regina Lakeview
Norris, Hon. Rob	SP	Saskatoon Greystone
Ottenbreit, Greg	SP	Yorkton
Quennell, Frank	NDP	Saskatoon Meewasin
Reiter, Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, Hon. Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
Taylor, Len	NDP	The Battlefords
Tell, Hon. Christine	SP	Regina Wascana Plains
Toth, Hon. Don	SP	Moosomin
Trew, Kim	NDP	Regina Coronation Park
Van Mulligen, Harry	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
Weekes, Randy	SP	Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney
Subject of recount		Meadow Lake

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

**Clerk:** — I wish to inform the Assembly that I have received a communication from the private secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor stating that His Honour will open the first session of the twenty-sixth legislature at 10 a.m. this 10th day of December 2007.

[His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber at 10:01.]

**Hon. Mr. Elhard:** — I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to inform you that he does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present legislature until later today when the Legislative Assembly shall have elected a Speaker according to law.

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 10:02.]

### ELECTION OF SPEAKER

**Clerk:** — Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to inform you that only one candidate has declared his intention to stand for the election of Speaker — Mr. Don Toth, the hon. member of the Legislative Assembly for the constituency of Moosomin.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Members of the Legislative Assembly, I wish to express my grateful thanks and humble acknowledgement of the high honour the Assembly has conferred on me.

While I leave the floor of this Assembly to take the Speaker's Chair, I leave behind all political partisan biases in order that I may discharge with impartiality to all and to the best of my ability the various and important duties pertaining to the office of Speaker.

It will be my aim and duty to uphold the principles and traditions of the Assembly and secure for each member the right to express his or her opinions within the limits necessary to preserve decorum; to recognize the rights and privileges of the hon. members, the political groups, and the Assembly itself; to facilitate the transaction of public business in an orderly manner; and above all to seek to be fair and impartial in the decisions you entrust to me.

It has been my pleasure to serve in this Assembly for the past 21 years. During this time I have gained a greater respect for our system of parliamentary democracy and all that it represents. This parliamentary democracy gives us the legal framework and stability necessary to allow us the opportunity of continuing to build this fine province.

When I was first elected as a member of this Legislative Assembly, I felt my duty was that of a servant. It was my responsibility to ensure that the voice of my constituents was heard and that their interests were represented in this Assembly. As I leave the floor of the Assembly to assume the role of Speaker, I accept that not only do I serve my constituents; I now become your servant.

It will be my responsibility as your servant to ensure that the rules and customs of this Legislative Assembly, which have been refined by members past and present, are observed. I will endeavour to the best of my ability to ensure that, as members of this Assembly, you have optimum and equal opportunity to be the voice for your constituents and to represent them with integrity and honour.

I pray that I will be able to serve this Assembly well as your Speaker and that during my term the work of the members of this Assembly will make your constituents proud.

I close by acknowledging the most important people in my life. It is because of their support and encouragement that I stand before you today. I am joined today by my wife Lois, son Byron, and daughter Stephanie. They are seated in the Speaker's gallery and I ask them to stand and be recognized.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I thank you once again for entrusting your confidence in me. I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It falls to me to have the great honour and privilege of being the first of a number of members, I'm sure, who will take the opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Speaker of this House.

John Diefenbaker commented on the role of parliament, saying that "Parliament is more than procedure; it is the custodian of the nation's freedom." It is the role of the Speaker of course to ensure that all of us as elected members are living up to those duties that are ensuring that this House plays its role in living up to those duties.

Your job, the one you're about to embark on, is obviously very important. It's probably also one of the more thankless tasks that are a fact of life at the Legislative Assembly. The challenges I think we all know about — those members who have been here certainly before, and new members will find this to be true — the challenges of what can be at times what I've witnessed to be some raucous behaviour. Never participated myself, Mr. Speaker, but I have seen some raucous behaviour in this Assembly. And of course it's your job to strike that proper balance between the need for lively debate and proper exchanges and also proper behaviour and decorum.

And I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that we have a lot of faith in your ability to do just that. You, sir, are up to the task that lays before you because of the fairness that you have exhibited as a member of this Legislative Assembly for 21 years, because of your disposition, because of the personality you have, because of your temperament, because of the honesty that you live on a daily basis.

I noted with interest that during the election campaign when there were some articles, I think 20 questions sorts of articles asked of various combatants or contestants in the election campaign, we were asked, some of us, about people in the Assembly that we knew — who to be perhaps the friendliest or the easiest to get along with. And I noted that those of us who were asked the question cited the same people, and you were on

that list. You have that respect from both sides of the House.

And you have the experience to do this job. You have been in this Assembly for all of these years. You have participated in debate. And we all know on our side of the House — and I think it's probably true to say of members opposite — that you understand the procedures. You have the experience to get this job done and to do the task very well.

After all, Mr. Speaker, you've been here a long time in this Assembly. It's a testament, I think, not only to the support that you have built in your constituency but also your own endurance, your own interest in public life and being a Member of the Legislative Assembly. For example, Mr. Speaker, when you were first elected, when you took your seat here, I was in third year university at the time. That's how long ago it was.

I've done a little bit of checking this morning on the Internet. The Ticats won the Grey Cup. They beat the Eskimos the first year that you were elected. *Top Gun* was the top grossing movie at the charts, and "Walk Like An Egyptian" was one of the most popular songs. That is a long time ago, Mr. Speaker.

But it highlights for us the reality that you have the experience. You have the knowledge of this place, and as I've said earlier, you have the disposition and the grace and the personality to do this House proud. And we commit on this side of the House, and I'm sure members do, to commit to work with you in ensuring that the work of this institution continues and that we can build respect for the institution while we build the province. We say to you, Mr. Speaker, today, a heartfelt congratulations on your election as Speaker of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Premier and with I'm sure all members, with those who are guests in the Assembly today, and I'm sure with the people of Saskatchewan in congratulating you, sir, on your acclamation as our Speaker. It's one thing to win an election. It's another thing to win an acclamation. In fact many of us wish we could have done that.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues want me to say to you our thanks for the approach that you have already made to the opposition caucus. We congratulate you on opening your door immediately to all members of this House. As the Premier has pointed out, your long experience in this House and wisdom gained will serve you well and will serve this House well.

And I am caused to be reminded, when the Premier talks about that survey that was conducted during the election when we were asked as leaders to discuss members of this House, he is absolutely correct. You appeared, I think, on all of our lists, along with Peter Prebble. I'm not sure what else you share in common with Peter but clearly this — the respect of members. And that will serve you, sir, and will serve this House well.

[10:15]

I wish you well not only in the challenging role of overseeing the proceedings of this House but in sometimes the equally challenging role of administrator of this Legislative Assembly and all that goes with that. We know that is a very significant role and a very significant task if not accompanied by the same level of public awareness.

We also wish you well and know that your demeanour and your experience will serve us well in terms of representing this legislature, and by representing the legislature, the province and the people of Saskatchewan both nationally and internationally. You will often receive the visits of foreign delegations. You will often represent this House and this legislature beyond our borders, and we wish you well in those endeavours.

And finally if I may say, you follow in the path of two former Speakers who have proven to be activist Speakers through the establishment of the social studies institute, the engagement of the Speaker's office in the classrooms, the internship program, the mace runner and cushion. And I would encourage you, sir, to continue that role of activism for you represent not just a legislature and a province, but you represent the fundamental principles of democracy in our province. And part of your work can be, and I'm sure will be, to extend that understanding and knowledge of democracy beyond this Chamber.

It was a former clerk of this Chamber, who now serves in another office, who put together a little booklet about our Chamber and talked about the only true enemy of democracy being indifference. You, sir, have an opportunity to combat that indifference and in doing that work, we wish you well.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I personally would like to say thank you to the Premier and the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition for the kind words you've expressed on my behalf, and I will do my utmost to serve you well.

This House now will recess until 2 p.m. later today when His Honour the Lieutenant Governor will present the Speech from the Throne.

[The Assembly recessed until 14:00.]



# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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**Hon. Brad Wall**  
Premier

**Hon. Bob Bjornerud**  
Minister of Agriculture  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Crop  
Insurance Corporation

**Hon. Bill Boyd**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs

**Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff**  
Minister of Crown Corporations

**Hon. Dan D'Autremont**  
Minister of Government Services  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and  
Gaming Authority  
Minister Responsible for the Information  
Technology Office

**Hon. June Draude**  
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations  
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs

**Hon. Wayne Elhard**  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission  
Provincial Secretary

**Hon. Rod Gantfoer**  
Minister of Finance

**Hon. Donna Harpauer**  
Minister of Social Services

**Hon. Nancy Heppner**  
Minister of Environment

**Hon. Darryl Hickie**  
Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

**Hon. Bill Hutchinson**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan  
Gaming Corporation

**Hon. Ken Krawetz**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister of Education

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
Minister of Health

**Hon. Don Morgan**  
Minister of Justice  
Attorney General

**Hon. Rob Norris**  
Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour  
Minister Responsible for Immigration  
Minister Responsible for the Workers'  
Compensation Board

**Hon. Lyle Stewart**  
Minister of Enterprise and Innovation

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for the Capital City Commission