



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

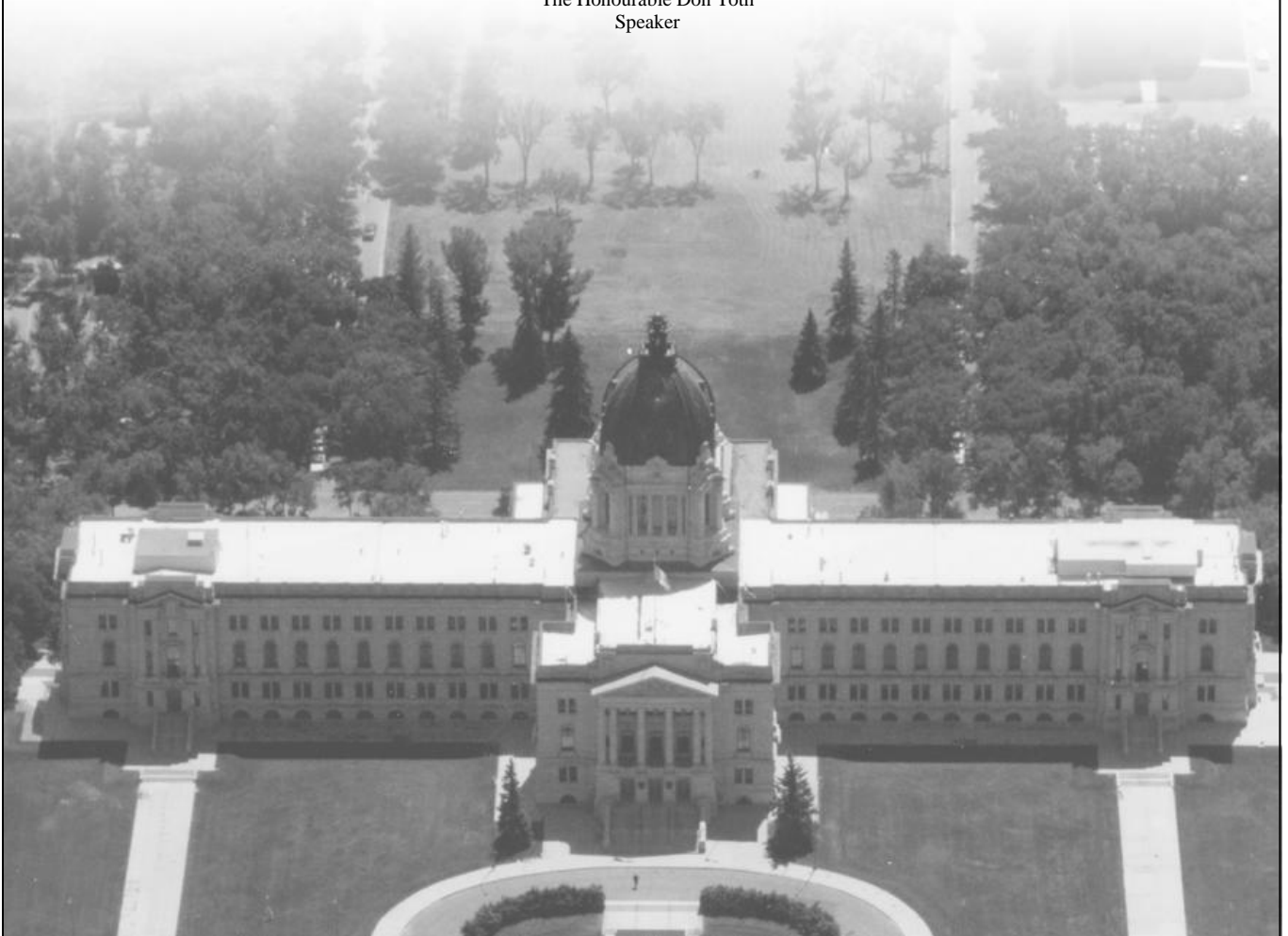
of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(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

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
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
Harrison, Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
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, Serge	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
Vacant		Cumberland

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you it's certainly my pleasure and my honour to introduce a very important and special guest to myself here in the Assembly today, and that would be my mother, seated up in your gallery.

And I'll ask my mother to wave to us here. And I know my mother's arranged to be away from her work at Scotiabank here this afternoon to come in and sit in on Assembly. And I ask all members to extend a greeting. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, I'm requesting leave to give an extended introduction, from members of the House.

The Speaker: — The member has requested leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure today to introduce some very special people that have joined us in your gallery. There are there four distinguished guests.

It's a pleasure to introduce Captain Wes Gramiak, detachment commander, Canadian Forces recruiting detachment, Saskatoon. Captain Gramiak is also Chair of the Central Saskatchewan Military Family Resource Centre in Dundurn. Joining him is Master Corporal Tom Kennedy who is also here today with us in the House. He is with the air traffic control section at 15 Wing in Moose Jaw and chairs the Moose Jaw Military Family Resource Centre. Also with us today is Mr. Regan Gorski. He is the executive director of the Central Saskatchewan Military Resource Centre in Moose Jaw, and finally — last but not least — Richard Cuttell, executive director of the Central Saskatchewan Military Family Resource Centre in Dundurn.

Mr. Speaker, these gentlemen have provided each member of this Assembly with a yellow Support Our Troops lapel pin, and I hope all members will wear these pins with pride.

In addition these men have been instrumental in advancing a request for the observance of Canadian Forces Day in Saskatchewan. And it is my great pleasure today to proclaim just such a day here in our great province, that we would

officially proclaim June 1 as Canadian Forces Day in Saskatchewan.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, our government has taken a great deal of interest in protecting the jobs, as did the previous administration, of reservists who serve our country outside of our province and who need time away. We join with everyone in Saskatchewan who feels justifiably proud of the sacrifice and commitment that has been shown, that has been demonstrated by not just reservists but of course members of the regular forces as well.

One individual that we in the Legislative Assembly should be particularly proud of is an employee of this building, John Saltasuk, who works in the House business and research office in Executive Council. John left Friday for two weeks of reserve training in Brandon, Manitoba. This summer he'll be leaving again for New Brunswick for further training. We salute John's commitment to the country, to the reservist program, and we know that he is symbolic of many, many others like him — women and men right across our province and right across the country. Today's proclamation and our celebration of Canadian Forces Day really is just a very small, small token of the appreciation and respect that we all have for those who are prepared literally to risk everything in the defence of freedom, in defence of our country.

I should note as well that the Central Saskatchewan Military Family Resource Centre is encouraging people in the province to also observe what they are calling Red Shirt Fridays. By wearing something red on Fridays, each of us can show some support for Canadian troops currently serving us around the world.

I wonder if all members will join with me in welcoming these very special guests to the Legislative Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to join with the Premier in welcoming our guests here today. I want to take the honour that I have of being here in this Assembly to, on behalf of families of members serving in the mission in Afghanistan, to express our appreciation and gratitude for the work done by the military family resource people. And it's appreciated, I know, by many who have a spouse, a parent, or a child serving overseas in the mission in Afghanistan. And I want to, on their behalf, extend my personal welcome as well as the welcome of the opposition to our guests.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you I'd like to introduce a group of grade 5 students from the Delisle Elementary School. They're in the west gallery. With these grade 5 students are teachers, Mrs. Dreher, Mr. Normand, and chaperones, Ms. Parker, Mrs. Vanderveen, Mrs. Nickel,

Mrs. Hamm, Mrs. Derksen, Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Wiebe, Mrs. Worth, and Mrs. Gaucher. We are going to get together later for a photo and then have a visit in room 218, and I'm sure there will be many, very interesting questions to me about the role of an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] and the legislature. So please join me in welcoming these students from the Delisle Elementary School.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you to all members of the Assembly 25 students from St. Marguerite Bourgeoys School in my riding, Mr. Speaker. These young people are here today to see the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, and we'll have an opportunity later to have a visit and ask questions. It's very nice to see them here today with their teacher, Mr. Bradley. So thank you very much.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to introduce to you and through to all the members of the legislature 10 grade 10 students from Melville Comprehensive School and their teacher, Stuart Wilson. I'll have the opportunity to have a photo taken, and we'll have a meeting a little bit later. So I ask all members to welcome them to their legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the Premier and my colleague to welcome the gentlemen here from the family resource centres, both the central Saskatchewan-based 15 Wing Dundurn . . . or 17 Wing Dundurn — I apologize — but also the gentleman from Moose Jaw based at 15 Wing.

I know while we recognize these gentlemen today and recognize the service that they provide to families, I can speak quite clearly that I know the Moose Jaw family resource centre provides services to families 365 days of the year and its important support and important resources for those that may be separated from family members and join us in Moose Jaw, I know, from right across the world.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to join and welcome these gentlemen to our House today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you or perhaps reintroduce to you an individual seated in your galley, and that is Mr. Patrick Button. Patrick is a member of SLIP, the Saskatchewan legislative internship program, and he's just completed a term with the member from Yorkton. The interns have switched sides, and Patrick will be serving with me until the end of the program.

It's been just a short little while that Patrick has been working with me, but he's already proven to be a very bright individual, someone with a good work ethic and has already helped me out in a number of ways. Patrick just finished an economics degree at the U of R [University of Regina], and he'll be headed to the University of Toronto to begin graduate studies in the fall. I wish Patrick all the best as he is on the home stretch of the internship program here in the legislature. I'd ask all members to join me in re-welcoming Patrick.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Ms. Schriemer: — Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to you and through you a couple people in the gallery. I have an intern as well. His name is Justin Redekop. We haven't spent a lot of time together yet, but he appears to be a highly intelligent, energetic, and hard-working young man, always pleasant.

Another person in the gallery is Amanda Vindevogel. She is a close family friend. I've known her since she was knee-high to a grasshopper, and the man with her is affectionately known as the boyfriend. And I would like to welcome them to their Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to as well reintroduce my intern for this half of the internship program. Dwayne Meisner is up in your gallery, and of course they've just come back from an incredible trip to England and points in that area. So I don't know how much more we can share, but it's going to be worthwhile.

And I appreciate the good work that he's done in terms of his assistance to date and of course his insights into the kind of things that are happening around here. It's very important to have some fresh eyes. So welcome Dwayne. I'd ask all members to help me welcome Dwayne to this House. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members as well I would like to introduce three individuals who are seated in the Speaker's gallery at the front: Al Kirchgessner and his sister, Agnes, from Saskatoon and their brother, Ernest, who's come in from Victoria. And Ernest tells me that he's really got into this watching the proceedings in the Legislative Chamber in BC [British Columbia] and takes note of what's going on in Saskatchewan.

So join me in bidding a warm welcome to the Kirchgessners.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition that deals with the shabby way the employees and our South Hill community was treated with the closure of our South Hill liquor store. And the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to reassess its decision to close the South Hill liquor store, allowing it to continue to serve the people of Moose Jaw and provide valuable revenue to the people of this province.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition signed by individuals concerned about the withdrawal of government funding from the Station 20 West project. And the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately restore funding to the Station 20 project.

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

Signed by individuals from every neighbourhood in Saskatoon, and Delisle and Outlook are also represented, Mr. Speaker. I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have the privilege today to present a petition on behalf of residents of The Battlefords. The petition deals with the means testing of the seniors' drug plan. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners acknowledge that earlier there was a seniors' drug plan which capped the costs of prescription drugs for all seniors at \$15 per prescription. They therefore:

Call upon the Legislative Assembly to cause the government to reverse its decision to means test seniors and ensure that all seniors continue to have access to affordable prescription drugs.

I so present, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of affordable housing in Saskatchewan which continues to be a major, major issue. I'll read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to ensure that the task force on housing affordability hold open public consultations for all Saskatchewan citizens.

I do so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present petitions in opposition to the government's Bill 5, The Public Service Essential Services Act and Bill 6, The Trade Union Amendment Act. And the prayer reads as follows:

We respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the new government to withdraw both Bills and hold broad public consultations about labour relations in the province.

And as duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

The petitions are signed from people from Watrous, Young, Lanigan, and Moose Jaw. I so present. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Youth Expedition to the High Arctic

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure today of informing this Assembly of the British Council Canada's Cape Farewell youth voyage expedition to the high Arctic in September 2008.

This innovative education program is designed to raise awareness of climate change and its implications. Participants are Canadian youth age 15 to 17 from high schools representing every province and territory in Canada. Schools that are selected assemble a team to support a chosen student on the expedition. This student will complete scientific and creative art projects with the assistance of top scientists and renowned artists on the expedition.

Proposals were received from schools all over the country. And, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I inform the Assembly that Invermay School has been chosen as Saskatchewan's 2008 representative for the Cape Farewell project. All of the students and staff including science teacher Ron Adair, art teacher Penny Castle, and principal Gail Krawetz are extremely excited about the opportunity to participate in such a worthy endeavour. The impact of Arctic climate change is being felt worldwide, and the students and staff of Invermay School should be commended for wanting to learn more about how this challenge can be met.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the students and staff of Invermay School for contributing to efforts to solve one of the most urgent problems of our time. We wish them well with their Cape Farewell adventure.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Saskatoon Regional Youth Historica Heritage Fair

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to attend the Saskatoon regional youth historica heritage fair on May 2. There were over 100 projects by grade 4 to 9 students from Saskatoon public, greater Saskatoon Catholic, Prairie Spirit, Sun West, and Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. I thoroughly enjoyed viewing the projects and visiting with the students.

I would like to congratulate the following plaque winners. In the agriculture category, Kylee Junop; archaeology, Nicholas Gabruch; architectural heritage, Elizabeth Shirley; the arts, Andrew Slusar; business and industry, Eric Westad; Canadian leadership and citizenship, Samantha Huckerby; Canadian sports history, Tess Thiessen; design award, Emily Polanik and Jaden Senger; engineering technology, Jenna Polischuk; First Nations history, Lissa Kiss; Franco-Canadian history and culture, Austin Buxton; heritage buildings, Sophie Reisinger; Métis history, Morgan Ryan-Roe; nature and natural habitat, Austin Shirley; rural families, Shay Brehm; Saskatchewan history and folklore, Troy Baschuk; Saskatchewan heritage, Jordana Day; stories of childhood, Meaghan Clubley; and in the other category, Kristen Wall, Richard Proctor, Jade Spoonheim, and Sebastian Belanger-Zemluk.

The Laurier LaPierre medals are awarded to Sarah Ball, Patrick Langer, and Connor Wonko.

The two students who will represent Saskatchewan at nationals in Victoria this July are Silas Black whose project is on Eleanor Yates, and Kaitlyn Chomitsky whose project is on Dr. Banting and diabetes.

I would like to congratulate all the students, their teachers and parents, and especially teachers George Charpentier and Wally Dyck for their hard work in organizing the fair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Weyburn Red Wings Coach Marks Milestone Victory

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today it is my pleasure to pay tribute to a legend in Saskatchewan hockey circles. The man I speak of is Dwight McMillan, head coach of the Weyburn Red Wings. Dwight began coaching the Red Wings in 1972 and has guided them to many winning seasons, including national championships in 1984 and 2005.

He has coached and mentored hundreds of young men over the years including former Los Angeles King head coach Barry Melrose and our very own Minister of Health. I would also note that the member from Lloydminster is Coach McMillan's nephew.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year on February 1, Coach McMillan's Red Wings defeated the La Ronge Ice Wolves by a score of 4 to 1, but it wasn't any ordinary win. That victory marked Coach McMillan's 1,000th victory as a head coach. Mr. Speaker, to put this feat into perspective, it is believed that only two other coaches have accumulated 1,000 victories at one level of hockey — legendary NHL [National Hockey League] coach Scotty Bowman and Ottawa 67's Brian Kilrea.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career as head coach, Dwight has been also busy away from the rink raising two sons with his wife, Diane, and working full-time for EnCana and PanCanadian, retiring in 2005 after 38 years. Mr. Speaker, in typical fashion Coach McMillan was quick to share the praise with others — his players, assistants, the Red Wing organization and its supporters, and his family.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Weyburn-Big Muddy, I offer my congratulations to Dwight McMillan, his wife Diane, and their family on reaching this incredible milestone. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Saskatoon Hospital Home Lottery Winner

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, today I'm very pleased to share a Saskatchewan actor's and a constituent of Saskatoon Nutana's good fortune. Last week the winner of the Saskatoon's Hospital Home Lottery was announced. An elated Kent Allen and his wife Kathy emerged triumphant to receive the keys to an \$850,000 show home in Saskatoon's Willows neighbourhood.

The Allens toured their new home before TV cameras, so on the supertime newscast that night, we could all watch the joy of Kent and his family. In addition to the grand prize home, the family won a 2008 Cadillac and \$10,000 in cash. Mr. Speaker, proceeds from the sale of tickets to the Hospital Home Lottery will go to the Irene and Leslie Dube Centre for Mental Health.

Kent is an accomplished local actor who is famous for his recent role as John Evans in the television mini-series *The Englishman's Boy*. Kent has also had a role in another TV mini-series *The Tommy Douglas Story*. Kent has appeared in episodes of our beloved *Corner Gas* and in numerous movies

produced in Saskatchewan and abroad. Mr. Speaker, we are truly lucky to have such an accomplished actor living in our province, and I would ask all of my colleagues in this Assembly, to join me in congratulating the Allen family on their recent, great good fortune.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Leading the Country in Economy Growth

Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan leads the country again. Statistics Canada has released its latest international export numbers, and Saskatchewan leads the pack with 36 per cent increase when you compare first quarter '08 to first quarter '07 numbers. Our neighbour Alberta is way back with 22 per cent growth, and every other Canadian province is down, Mr. Speaker. This increase means \$6.3 billion in the pockets of the Saskatchewan people. That is only the latest in a long string of numbers for this province.

In recent weeks we have heard of record land sales. We hear that Canada will lead the country in retail sales, construction activity, and population growth. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan will lead the country in economic growth this year. Wages are at record highs and unemployment at record lows. We have been called Canada's new it province.

It says a lot, Mr. Speaker, about the change in direction the people of this province chose on November 7. Before that day, Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan were hungry for change, and they got it. They elected a government that keeps its promises, wants to grow the economy, and ensures everyone shares in the benefits.

They elected a government committed to learning from the challenges of other jurisdictions who have experienced rapid growth. Mr. Speaker, the only thing that's going down in Saskatchewan these days is the support for the NDP [New Democratic Party]. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm delighted to remind everyone of Saskatoon's, in fact our province's, most favourite festival that kicks off our wonderful Saskatchewan summer — the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival, June 20 to 29, its 22nd.

It's starting out in grand style with legendary musical group, the Neville Brothers, at the Bessborough Gardens Mainstage, as part of the festival's opening night party. "We couldn't be happier about having the Neville Brothers open the 2008 Festival," said festival manager, Kevin Tobin. He goes on to say, "What a way to start the Festival out right!" Well, Mr. Speaker, Saskatoon will be swinging into summer with numerous concerts throughout the city, free stages, and

numerous workshops. And concerts will be happening in Regina and North Battleford as well.

But what keeps this festival moving though are the volunteers behind the scenes. Some 250 people will be making sure the music fills the air without any problems. They deserve a lot of credit. Thank you.

"The Festival draws people from all across Saskatchewan, as well as visitors from around North America," said Lyle Bolen, president of the festival. He notes that the festival's community engagement, artistic diversity, and strong growth, as well as the many economic benefits it delivers to Saskatchewan builds a vibrant cultural community in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members join me in congratulating the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival on yet another great year. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Severance Package

Mr. Huyghebaert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the cover-up continues. Now the NDP is refusing to release the letter it sent authorizing a \$131,000 severance payment to former NDP chief of staff, Jim Fodey. What are they hiding? If they've been telling the truth about Mr. Fodey's departure, what are they hiding? If Mr. Fodey is truly entitled to this \$131,000 severance payment, then what are they hiding?

Mr. Speaker, the NDP covered up the truth about their caucus fraud scandal 16 years ago, and they're still doing it today. The NDP claim to be concerned about openness and accountability. They claim to be concerned about the government changing the approval process for contracts over \$50,000, yet they flat out refuse to release the letter authorizing this huge severance payment to an NDP staff member who supposedly resigned. Typical NDP, say one thing and do another.

Mr. Speaker, the NDP has turned a \$6,000 fraud scandal and cover-up into a \$131,000 bill to Saskatchewan taxpayers. At the very least, they owe Saskatchewan people an honest explanation. They owe Saskatchewan people the truth. Will the Leader of the Opposition show that he actually still is the leader of the party, do the right thing, and release the letter? If not, what are they hiding?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Members, it's been brought to my attention we have a few other guests in the Chamber with us, and I would ask leave to introduce these guests.

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — It's agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — We have joining us today from

communications and technology services branch, Holly Schafer and Laura MacDonald — they're in the Speaker's gallery — and from the Legislative Library, Kim Heidebrecht and Keith Willis. Laura and Keith are students currently on work terms with the LAS [Legislative Assembly Service]. And we welcome you to the Chamber today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Allegations of Conflict of Interest

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, SaskTel employees and the people of Saskatchewan have some questions for the minister about his plans for SaskTel.

The official opposition has been told that SaskTel is diverting all SaskTel Max and high-speed Internet installation services to Jump.ca. Can the minister confirm that Jump dot will be taking over SaskTel Max and high-speed installation and inform the House whether he or the board made the decision?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the hon. member that I didn't make no such decision.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the contract, Jump.ca is benefiting from new business being directed its way. As the minister surely knows, the chairperson, Grant Kook, who the minister appointed as Chair of the SaskTel board, is also the CEO [chief executive officer] of Golden Opportunities Fund.

The Golden Opportunities Fund has \$2 million invested in Jump.ca. Well Golden Opportunities prospectus states that the fund manager is eligible for financial incentives if the fund does especially well.

To the minister: the board Chair that the minister appointed has the potential to benefit financially from any move that sees business go to Jump.ca. What does the minister say about this possible conflict of interest?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:00]

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell all members of this Hon. Assembly that Mr. Grant Kook does run Golden Opportunities, a labour-sponsored venture capital fund in Saskatchewan. It has about \$100 million under administration. His fund has benefited Saskatchewan in many, many ways.

I was very, very pleased when we approached Mr. Kook and asked him to extend his public service to Saskatchewan people by accepting the very important job of Chair of SaskTel's board of directors. I can assure the member opposite that Mr. Kook's intentions are to benefit Saskatchewan and to benefit SaskTel in every endeavour.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, Grant Kook is not the only one with a financial interest in Jump.ca. And according to the April 20, 2007 public disclosure statement, the minister responsible for the Crown holds investments in the Golden Opportunities Fund. As I've mentioned, Golden Opportunities is set to profit from work diverted to the SaskTel, a Crown that the minister is responsible for.

Mr. Speaker, my question is simple. To the minister: how does he explain his possible conflict of interest?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I can tell the members opposite and all members of this Hon. Assembly that yes, I am one of the holders of the Golden Opportunities Fund which is one of two labour-sponsored venture funds in Saskatchewan that benefit our entire province.

I can tell the hon. member that there's many, many thousands of individuals who have benefited from their management and also many companies within Saskatchewan who have benefited from this. I am very surprised at the line of questioning, and I would be interested to see if the member opposite will be following this line of question outside the House.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Ms. Higgins: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the many, many thousands of investors in Golden Opportunities are not the ministers responsible for SaskTel. So let's recap, Mr. Speaker. In January the Minister Responsible for the Crowns appointed Grant Kook as the SaskTel board Chair. Mr. Kook is CEO of the Golden Opportunities Fund which has \$2 million invested in Jump.ca.

We've been told Jump.ca is to perform all future SaskTel Max and high-speed Internet service installations. That work could greatly improve the profits of Jump.ca and therefore the Golden Opportunities Fund which the minister also has investments in, according to public records.

To the minister: there are lots of unanswered questions about what, if any, conflict of interest may be at work here. And what is the minister going to do about it?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the hon. member that yes, I do have shares within Golden Opportunities and they have been properly disclosed with the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. And I would hazard to guess that probably most members of this Assembly share that investment as well.

I can tell the member opposite that I also have investments within Potash Corporation, Cameco, and other Saskatchewan . . . because I believe in Saskatchewan and that's where I believe that the money should be put to work. And I can assure the member that there is no conflict of interest, perceived or otherwise, in regards to those funds.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Funding for the Arts

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, unfortunately for the people of our province, the minister's three and a half million dollar slush fund, developed at the expense of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, doesn't only affect the Arts Board. Because of these cuts the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association also will see its operation budget reduced. Additionally, we've learned that SMPIA's [Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association] proposal for funding of a career development program has been declined. Mr. Speaker, SMPIA is an organization that has helped promote, develop, and maintain our film industry in our province for over 20 years.

To the minister: with \$2 billion in the bank, why would she make cuts to an organization that's vital to the film industry in our province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you for the question. In response to the issue with cutting of Crew Call, it is our determination in

the ministry that SaskFilm is our lead agency on training initiatives for people within the film industry. We are taking the lead. We believe that SaskFilm is the one to offer that particular program, and they do so quite adequately.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Furber: — It's not ironic that this news comes as a surprise to SaskFilm. It's the way they've developed their programs — on the fly.

Mr. Speaker, it looks like a three and a half million dollar slush fund wasn't enough for the minister. Now she's taking funding away from an industry in our province that's in the middle of unprecedented growth. They're not shy about their beliefs that the arts community shouldn't get funding from government, but cutting money to an ed program in a non-profit organization goes beyond that to destructive. Mr. Speaker, this isn't about budgetary constraints or the need for a framework; it's about her ideology.

To the minister: will she restore funding that was taken from a vital industry in our province? Will she restore the funding she's cut from SMPIA?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, as I have said before in this House that we are as a ministry stepping back involving . . . We're going to involve stakeholders within the industry for consultations to ensure that we put together a proper framework to ensure the viability of the arts and cultural sector in this province.

We are also following a direction as provided by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy to develop this framework, because this province under that government did not, did not have a proper framework. Mr. Speaker, we are taking it on good authority that what we are doing is the right thing to do, to step back and take a thoughtful approach to this very vital industry to ensure sustainability into the future, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Furber: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is beginning to look like a pattern. In one year, they sabotaged status of the artist legislation. They've ripped three and a half million dollars dedicated to the Saskatchewan Arts Board so that the minister can develop a slush fund. And now, while this government sits on over \$2 billion, they've cut funding for ed programs at SMPIA, programs that have been offered for nearly a decade. It

certainly hasn't taken long for the Saskatchewan Party to show their contempt for arts and culture in our province.

To the minister: what other organizations is she targeting? What other groups are on her funding cut hit list?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, our commitment in the platform just prior to the election was that we were going to ensure and maintain funding to the arts and cultural sector. Promise made, promise kept, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Personnel Changes in the Public Service

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we have been asking questions since day one about long-time civil servants and their treatment by this government. Mr. Speaker, many civil servants that were let go by this government have not yet been afforded fair severance packages, and the government refuses to negotiate in good faith with these individuals, Mr. Speaker, forcing them to go to the courts to look for settlement.

To the government: why are you refusing to negotiate with these civil servants in a fair and equitable manner?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite knows full well that individuals who are released because of a change of government, who are released without cause, have rights to severance packages. Those severance packages are negotiated between legal people that will be hired by the individual involved or by the government.

These negotiations are continuing, Mr. Speaker. There may be some impasses and someone decides that they wish to go to a court of law. That is the rights within a democratic society, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party has a habit of appointing their friends to high places. Many of those friends are from the former Devine administration. Gren Smith-Windsor was appointed by the government as acting

deputy minister of Health. Many questions about the appointment were asked by many people, especially since his termination as CEO of the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region in 2005.

The Premier defended that decision by saying it was not a permanent appointment but simply an acting position until they did a national search for a deputy minister. To the government: will the new deputy minister be appointed soon or is the government simply going to appoint Gren Smith-Windsor to this position?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I believe in the fall session these questions were asked at that time and answered at that time. An acting deputy minister has been appointed for the Ministry of Health replacing long-serving John Wright, absolutely. A search has been taking place over the last number of months, a nationwide search. And I believe that the list has been shortened and I think a permanent deputy minister for Health will be named very soon.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, we understand the Ministry of Social Services is not filling vacant positions in income security. The minister's failed attempt at restructuring may have caused her some budgetary problems. Will the minister commit to filling those vacancies or is she using the vacancies as a backdoor method to follow through with her plan of restructuring?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Before I recognize . . . Order. Before I recognize the minister, I just want to remind members to direct the questions through the Chair. I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have taken direction from my deputy minister when vacancies need to be filled. I have done nothing to fill positions or prevent them from being filled.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, the civil service continues to wait for the next round of firings to occur. They know the end is not yet here. To the government: when can we expect the next round of civil service firings?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated in this Assembly many times, the initial transition phase is primarily over. We have asked ministers who are now reviewing staff, who are reviewing vacancy positions that have occurred, Mr. Speaker . . . In the entire civil service, both within the Crowns and within the government ministries, there are over 20,000 employees, Mr. Speaker. And through a process of attrition, through a process of retirement, there is about a change of 1,500 employees on an annual basis, Mr. Speaker. So that means over 100 changes are made monthly.

So, Mr. Speaker, there will be changes. I can assure the member opposite there may be changes within ministries in terms of people who are evaluated by the deputy ministers and by the process that's in place. And the members will find out if those changes will occur over the course of time.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Premier indicates to us that the transition phase is primarily over, Mr. Speaker. Well that doesn't give a lot of people great comfort, Mr. Speaker. Could he please define for us what primarily over means?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we know that the former government, the NDP, in 1991 I think, took about two and a half years to complete their transition phase, Mr. Speaker — two and a half years. So for that member to stand there and say what does primarily mean, it means that the transition team is nearly finished.

There are still some evaluations that are taking place. There are still some positions that need to be filled, Mr. Speaker. And those will continue under the direction of the Deputy Premier and the Premier as we work towards creating a civil service in this province that we can be proud of, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Gasoline Prices

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, we interestingly heard last week that despite having promised when in opposition to cut the gas tax in the province of Saskatchewan if the world price of oil

exceeded \$60 a barrel, now apparently the government does not believe that it needs to be concerned about the price of gas at the pumps.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we've got analysts telling us that the gas prices are projecting upwards. And we learned over the course of the weekend, Mr. Speaker, that in fact pump measurements in this country, in this province may not be in fact accurate.

Well last week the Minister of Finance told the House that he and his government were monitoring the situation. Well I'll tell you what, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Finance monitors his growing treasury, people's pocketbooks are being squeezed. So my question is for the Premier: how high does the price of gas need to be before his government will take some action?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for the question. First of all, we are seeing certainly higher energy costs right across the piece. There are higher utility bills being dealt with by people across the country. And certainly gas prices are on the rise.

We here in Saskatchewan are fortunate to at least partially benefit from high energy costs because, of course, the hon. member is right — revenues to the government increase. This government is carefully monitoring the situation. This government is committed to this basic principle, that the people of the province should and will share in the prosperity of Saskatchewan, that this government will use those revenues to make important investments — like \$60 million today for the St. Mary's School and an affordable housing project and, yes, like relief for Saskatchewan families.

There will be the opportunity perhaps for long-term debt reduction. These issues I know our MLAs are going to be talking about throughout the summer. And I'm interested in some more specific ideas from the opposition as well. How much would they like the gas tax to be reduced? And what else, what other ideas do they have for the revenue the province now sees?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Well, Mr. Speaker, oh how, oh how things have changed. Back when the price of gas, Mr. Speaker, when the price of gas was just peaking over \$1, here's what the Sask Party members opposite had to say. The Minister of Enterprise and Innovation said, quote, "Saskatchewan motorists are upset and angry about high gas prices." The Minister of Government Services said, quote, "The government is getting rich from oil revenues, but Saskatchewan drivers are getting nailed every time they go to the pumps." And the Leader of the Sask Party,

now Premier said, quote, “Saskatchewan people deserve a break.”

Well it's apparent they'll say anything in opposition; and now in government, it's do nothing. So the Premier apparently has dropped his plan to reduce the provincial gas tax. Does he have a plan then to help people who are struggling — whether they be families, whether they be farmers, whether they be business people — does he have a specific plan to help people with the high cost of fuel?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question. I can remember when those debates were taking place here in the Legislative Assembly. The opposition at the time came forward with some very specific ideas, some specific numbers. We did quite say, very publicly by the way, and apparently with the agreement of the NDP, that gas tax relief was not perhaps the best way to provide relief for Saskatchewan people. It neither sent the right message with respect to conservation and the environment, and neither did it provide broad-based relief for Saskatchewan people who face high costs.

But at the time there was some specific proposals put forward by this party. So I'd ask the hon. member again, he must certainly have a specific proposal in mind. If he has changed his mind, if he has changed his mind and now believes that this kind of relief is the right kind of public policy alternative, we'd like to hear the specifics.

In the meantime, in the meantime Saskatchewan families are benefiting from a government that's committed to fixing the infrastructure deficit we inherited from there. Mr. Speaker, we're also demonstrating, even today, we are committed to ensuring that the people of his constituency at St. Mary's School, through housing and a brand new school, share in the prosperity of Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, this morning I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada. I said to the Prime Minister in my letter, about the same time this Premier was promising to cut the gas tax for motorists in Saskatchewan, the Prime Minister was . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, at the same time this Premier, now Premier, was promising to cut the gas tax for Saskatchewan motorists, his friend Stephen Harper was committing the federal Conservative Party to reducing the GST [goods and services tax] on the amount of the cost of a litre of gas, anything over 85 cents.

So I've written the Prime Minister this morning to say it's about time he kept his promise and give even this small bit of relief to the motorists of Canada, the motorists of Saskatchewan. Furthermore, I've said to the Prime Minister that it seems to us appropriate that all of the fuel tax being collected by the federal government in Saskatchewan ought to be returned to the people of Saskatchewan for our infrastructure and the maintenance of our highways.

Mr. Speaker, then I ask the Premier, would he do this much? Would he join with me today in contacting his friend Stephen Harper, the Prime Minister of Canada, demanding that the Prime Minister at least keep his promise to the people of Canada and return to the people of Saskatchewan all of the fuel taxes that is being collected in our province?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — I want to thank the hon. member for the question. We certainly agree that a tax on a tax is not the right practice for any government. In fact I remember prior to being chosen as leader of the opposition, as an MLA I wrote a similar letter to the minister at the time, the Finance minister, Mr. Martin. And of course no change was forthcoming. The change has not yet occurred. And certainly applying the GST to other fuel taxes doesn't make a lot of sense.

I note that the hon. member has said he also put in his letter how he wants the federal government to make sure that the money from the federal tax stays in the province. And, I mean, certainly this idea has some merit as well.

But I'm not sure that's the right member to write that letter because it is the history of that party and that leader that they would take this gas tax from Saskatchewan motorists — in the millions and millions of dollars — but they would not put it in the highways in the province. And so we were left with that billion dollar pothole people talked about in the campaign.

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that the people of the province appreciate this government's approach, for every dime of gas tax and more will go to fix the roads in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, the Premier may want to be reminded that it is the law in Saskatchewan that every cent of fuel tax collected goes to the highways — that law put in by the New Democratic Party government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, this Premier will say anything in opposition and now when consumers in this province — you name it, families, working people, farmers, business people, people looking forward to summer vacation — are facing these

kinds of prices at the pumps; we've apparently got pumps that aren't measuring properly; we've got a federal government that won't keep its promise.

Will he not, at least, today join us — he can phone, he can write — contact the federal government, lower that GST and give us back the money that's being collected in Saskatchewan? Will he at least do that much?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the budget is full of measures that this government has taken to make sure that the people of Saskatchewan are sharing in the prosperity that we see. It was in this budget where we saw an historic \$5 million investment to food banks and CBOs [community-based organization] to invest in life skills and employment training. It is in this budget where we saw an historic investment with respect to addictions treatment, an historic investment in school facilities, an historically large investment in health care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, it was in this government's budget . . . well in fact it was this government's action today with respect to next year's budget, that we would fix a problem that has gone unattended by now two successive former premiers who represented Riversdale, and that's a brand new school at St. Mary's, and a brand new affordable housing project, Mr. Speaker, for that particular constituency.

All of that at a time of unprecedented growth that should have members opposite a little happier than they are, frankly. The job numbers are out. We broke another record, over 8,000 new jobs. We're leading in export, not just the rest of the country — we're beating Alberta while the other country's actually backing up. This is the place to be — in Saskatchewan right now — and the only group that hasn't figured it out is the members opposite.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of Human Services Committee.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Hart: — Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report Bill No. 24, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2) without amendment.

The Speaker: — When shall this Bill be considered in Committee of the Whole? I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

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

and that the Bill be now read a third time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour has requested leave to waive consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bill No. 24, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2008 and that the Bill be now read the third time. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The minister may proceed to third reading.

THIRD READINGS

Bill No. 24 — The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Bill be now read the third time and passed under its title.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour that Bill No. 24, The Trade Union Amendment Act, 2008 be now read the third time and passed under its title. Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — All those in favour say aye.

Some Hon. Members: — Aye.

The Speaker: — All those opposed say no.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — I believe the ayes have it. It's carried.

Some Hon. Members: — On division.

The Speaker: — On division.

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

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Human Services Committee.

Standing Committee on Human Services

Mr. Hart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm instructed by the Standing Committee on Human Services to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its

third report. I move:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Human Services Committee:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Human Services be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Chair responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice Committee.

Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice

Mr. Kirsch: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its third report. I move:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair:

That the third report of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs and Justice be now concurred in.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

The Speaker: — Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

Mr. Allchurch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions no. 661 to 669.

The Speaker: — Questions 661 to 669 tabled.

Clerk: — Item 10, question no. 670, asked by Mr. Forbes.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Chair of committees.

Mr. Allchurch: — Did I say 669? I believe it was 692, was it not?

The Speaker: — Thank you.

I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With leave to introduce guests.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Agriculture has asked leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. The Minister of Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce to you and through you members of SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] — the directors Don Taylor, Doug Steele, and Ray Orb who we, the member for Rosetown-Elrose and I, had the good fortune of having lunch with at the rural administrators' association convention at lunchtime today. And we also want to make sure we acknowledge, and everyone knows, the large part they play in representing municipalities all across the province.

So I would ask all members today to welcome them to their legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — Why is the member from Nutana on her feet?

Ms. Atkinson: — With leave to join the minister in welcoming guests.

The Speaker: — The member has asked for leave. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — I'd like to join the Minister of Agriculture in welcoming our guests from SARM. The minister is correct, SARM provide a number of services to farm families across Saskatchewan and they are involved in all kinds of public policy endeavours. So I join with the minister, on behalf of the opposition, in welcoming our guests from SARM to the Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantfoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In order to

facilitate the work of the standing committees, I move this House do now adjourn.

The Speaker: — The Government House Leader has moved that in order to facilitate the work of committees, this House now stands adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:29.]

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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