



FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

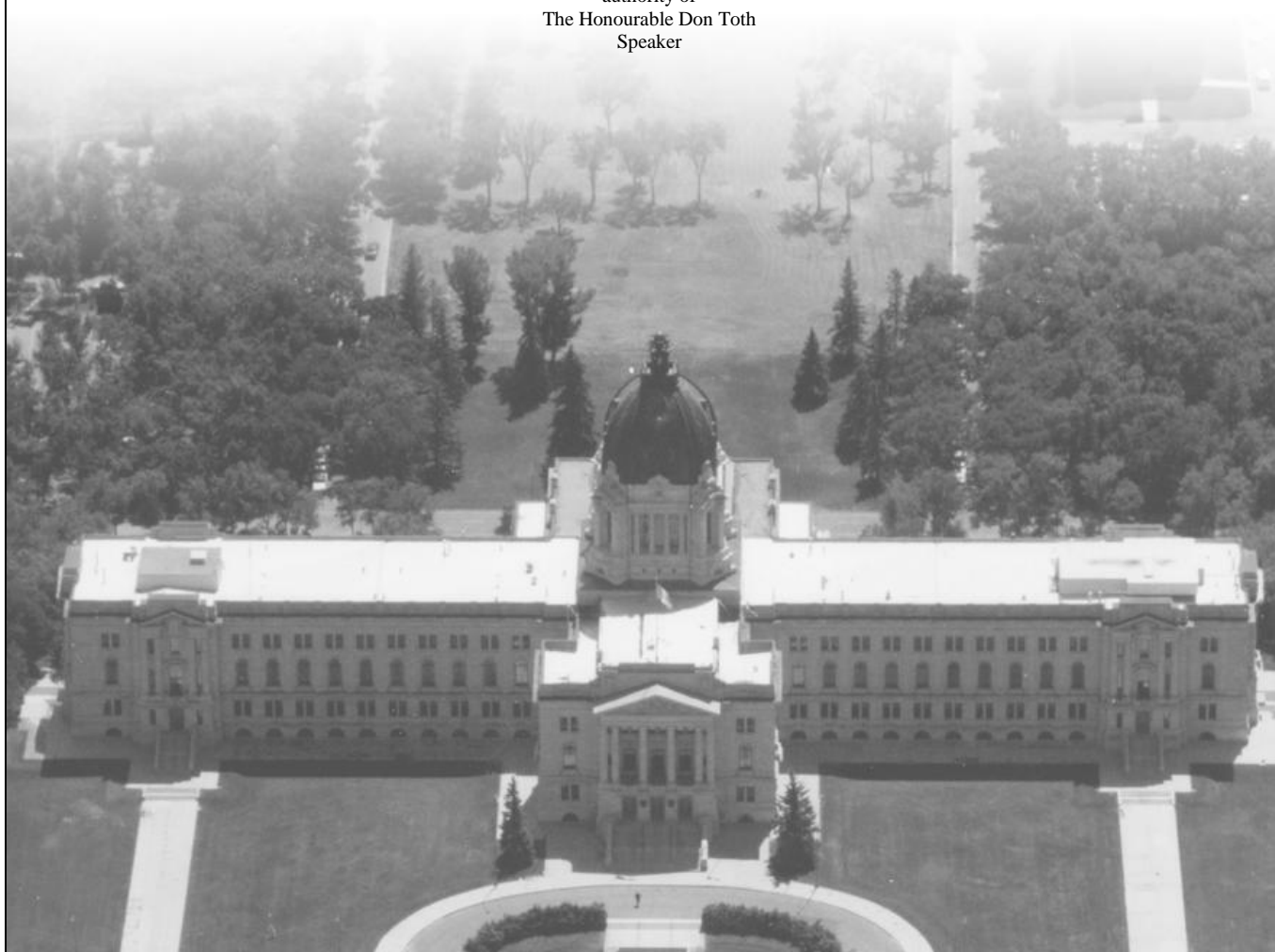
of the

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
Broten, 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
Gantefoer, 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
Ottobreit, 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
Vermette, Doyle	NDP	Cumberland
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

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Speaker: — I hereby inform the Assembly that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has received from the Chief Electoral Officer a certificate of the election and return of Doyle Vermette, as a member for the constituency of Cumberland. I hereby table the return of the writ.

Mr. Calvert: — Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present to you, Doyle Vermette, member for the constituency of Cumberland, who has taken the oath and signed the roll and now claims his right to take a seat.

The Speaker: — Mr. Vermette, as you take your rightful place in this Legislative Assembly, I'm sure that your time here will be one that serves as a record of honour to yourself and your constituents. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Let the hon. member take his seat.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I am advised that his Honour is here for prorogation.

PROROGATION

[At 10:03 His Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Honour was then pleased to deliver the following speech.]

His Honour: — Please be seated.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly.

It is my duty to release you from further attendance at the First Session of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature.

In thus relieving you, I would like to thank you for the work done and the progress made.

The past year has been an extremely eventful one.

This session's work included passage of *The Growth and Financial Security Act*, which includes specific measures to ensure balanced budgets and the appropriate use of surplus revenues.

In just a year, members of this Assembly can proudly point to the fact that Saskatchewan's debt has already been reduced by one-third, with debt reduction remaining a high priority.

In this session, you passed a budget, which included the unprecedented "Ready for Growth" initiative, a \$1 billion investment in our future.

Legislation was passed that saw the creation of Enterprise Saskatchewan.

This new agency will collaborate with First Nations, the private sector, labour, post-secondary educational institutions and municipalities to sustain economic momentum in Saskatchewan.

The passage of Bills Nos. 5 and 6 have brought Saskatchewan's labour legislation into line with other Canadian jurisdictions.

The commitment to keep royalty rates unchanged continues to bring record-breaking activity to crown lease auctions.

With one sale remaining, year-to-date revenue from land sales now stands in excess of \$1 billion - the first time in history the billion-dollar mark has been exceeded.

This Assembly approved the full and immediate funding of AgriStability and AgriInvest, programs aimed at improving income support for our agricultural sector.

The commitment to establish a Graduate Retention Program has been fulfilled, making post-secondary graduates eligible for rebates of up to \$20,000 over seven years, provided they stay in our province. Saskatchewan now has the most aggressive youth retention plan in Canada.

Revenue sharing for municipalities was increased in the budget, then again in April, in response to growing provincial revenues. Revenue sharing in 2008/09 will now total \$140.5 million, an increase of 15 per cent.

Progress was made on addressing the shortage of registered nurses in Saskatchewan. New nurses from the Philippines are, as I speak, beginning work in our province. More are coming.

In addition, a partnership agreement was signed with the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses. It commits all parties to finding ways to bring 800 new nurses to Saskatchewan by 2011.

In 2008/09, \$100 million in new funding was provided to address urgent health facility maintenance and needed repairs across our health care system. Work has begun on a ten-year health sector human resources plan, a ten-year capital plan and a senior's health care strategy.

This year also saw the largest ever single year funding increase for the agencies across Saskatchewan that provide crucial services to people in need. The \$18.3 million investment in Community Based Organizations will help them recruit new workers and retain existing ones through salary increases and improved benefits.

In May, an important commitment was fulfilled when the first-ever Round Table on the Duty to Consult took place in Saskatoon.

The round table included representatives from First Nations, Métis, business and all levels of government.

Other initiatives seen in the past year include:

- \$16.3 million for revitalization of St. Mary's Community School and the Pleasant Hill

- neighbourhood in Saskatoon;
- \$2 million for 38 pre-kindergarten programs for 3000 vulnerable children;
- \$500,000 for school lunch and anti-hunger programs in community schools;
- \$400,000 to help Saskatchewan pork producers provide 320,000 kilograms of pork to our food banks;
- A 15 percent increase in payments to people who provide support for children in foster care;
- The largest increase in Saskatchewan's history to the Employment Supplement, benefiting 5,800 low income—mostly single parent families;
- \$5.1 million for 88 additional addictions treatment beds;
- A 3 million increase in programming for students with learning disabilities;
- \$10.7 million more for cancer care; and
- \$1.1 million more for transition houses and sexual assault centres.

We, in Saskatchewan, have been truly blessed. Our province now has the resources needed to make these important investments in our future.

However, we must remain aware of the fact that we are global trading partners. We are not isolated from events taking place around the globe.

As world financial markets experience uncertainty, it is important for members of this Assembly to plan a wise and careful course for the future of Saskatchewan.

This course must be characterized by fiscal prudence, a desire to make the investments that will allow for continued prosperity in our province and the need to assure that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from that prosperity.

Finally, in taking leave of you, I wish to thank you for the diligent manner in which you have devoted your energies to the activities of this session, and wish you the full blessings of Providence.

Hon. Mr. Elhard: — Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislative Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued until later today, the 22nd day of October 2008 at 2 p.m. This Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

[His Honour retired from the Chamber at 10:11.]

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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
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Hon. June Draude
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Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs

Hon. Wayne Elhard
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Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission
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