

SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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



NO. 12A THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008, 10 a.m.

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 NDP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview Saskatoon Eastview
Junor, Judy 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 NDP	Regina Douglas Park
Vermette, Doyle	NDP SP	Cumberland Swift Current
Wall, Hon. Brad Weekes, Randy	SP SP	Swift Current Biggar
Wilson, Nadine	SP	Biggar Saskatchewan Rivers
Wilson, Nadine Wotherspoon, Trent	Sr NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce to you and through you to the Legislative Assembly some special guests who are joining us today and are seated in the Speaker's gallery. They are here representing the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

The organization has also just recently received a prestigious national award which we will all hear about a little bit later. Mr. Kevin Korchinski is the acting executive director of OSAC [Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils], and with him are Jennifer Schell McRorie, the visual and media arts coordinator, and Margie McDonald, the operations coordinator. Please join me in welcoming them to their legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I simply want to extend greetings as well as the minister, from the opposition, to the members of the arts community who are here today. We recognize the very significant contribution that you make to the life of this province, and we thank you very much and welcome you here to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you it's my privilege today to introduce a group of people who are representing the Gabriel Dumont Institute on the publication of the *Stories of Our People: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology*, which you'll hear about later.

There are members of this group from Yorkton — we have Jeanne Pelletier and her daughter Johanna. Can you give us a wave? From Regina we have elder storyteller, Norma Walsh, and elder storyteller, Joe Welsh. From Saskatoon we have Carrie Saganace — he's an illustrator — Darren Préfontaine, David Morin. And this group are joining us today and we're looking forward to a bit of a discussion later. And I know that the stories will be very interesting to many people in this province. So I'm asking everyone in the legislature to please help me welcome everyone to their legislature.

Hon. Members: ---- Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

Mr. Vermette: — To you and through you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge with my colleagues opposite the staff of GDI [Gabriel Dumont Institute] and the storytellers and community members that are here, and welcome to the gallery. And I would ask all members to welcome the Métis members that are here and community members that are here.

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 on behalf of Saskatchewan families that are struggling to be able to afford or struggling to be able to find quality child care for their children.

And the petition reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government through consultation with the child care community to immediately invest in growing the capacity of the early child care community to enable new child care spaces. This investment must include infrastructure funding for new facilities and expansion funding to significantly increase the number of early childhood diploma and certificate training seats and funding to ensure that the sector is able to increase its wages and benefits to attract and retain the needed personnel.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of residents of Saskatchewan who are concerned about the increased cost of living and the sporadic increases on the minimum wage. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to indexing Saskatchewan minimum wage to ensure that the standard of living of minimum wage earners is maintained in the face of cost of living increases.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents from Maple Creek, Gull Lake, Abbey, Ituna, Melfort, Saskatoon, Tisdale, Star City, and, Mr. Speaker, Pleasantdale. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Biggar.

Saskatchewan Olympians and Paralympians Excel at Beijing Games

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to a group of people who are shining examples of citizenship and sportsmanship.

There were 34 Saskatchewan members of Team Canada who represented our province at the 2008 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Beijing, China. This morning we honour them with the pride for their accomplishments in life and on the world stage. Through the example they set, we hope the youth of Saskatchewan find the encouragement they need to lead healthy, active lives, overcome obstacles, and excel in their personal endeavours.

In every Olympic and Paralympics year since at least 2002, our province has honoured Team Canada members hailing from Saskatchewan. While I do not have the time to tell all the stories of this year's, I would like to share a few with the members of this House and the people of Saskatchewan.

Earle Connor set a new record of 12.32 seconds in the 100-metre sprint at the Summer Paralympics Games in Beijing, winning gold. This is Earle's second Paralympic gold and he won gold in 2000 Sydney as well. Amy Alsop and Shawna Ryan were teammates on the national goalball team at the Beijing Paralympics, a team that finished fifth in the world. Erin Cumpstone was the catcher on Canada's softball team which finished fourth at the Beijing Olympics. And Jake Wetzel was part of the Canadian men's eight rowing team that won gold this summer.

Mr. Speaker, a legendary sports broadcaster once said, "Sports do not built character. They reveal it." Saskatchewan's Olympians and Paralympians are shining examples of strength of character. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Moose Jaw Health Foundation Philanthropy Awards

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to rise to speak about the Moose Jaw Health Foundation. On Friday, November 7, I was very pleased to be in attendance for the presentation of the foundation's annual Philanthropy Awards.

Three special groups were honoured for their commitment to raising much-needed funds for the Moose Jaw Union Hospital and the Five Hills Health District. The first recipient was Horizon Running Club, headed by Dawn Luhning, for their annual Moose Jawg which is held each Canada Day and has raised thousands of dollars for the Health Foundation.

Mosaic was the second honouree for their dedication in

fundraising and the company's involvement in our community, and in particular the recognition was given for Mosaic's support of the Moose Jaw Foundation's telethon.

The third recipient was the Kinsmen Foundation for a tremendous donation of \$150,000 towards renovations of the new intensive care unit.

Mr. Speaker, it was wonderful to join with other guests, including my colleague from Moose Jaw North, in honouring these three generous organizations. The community of Moose Jaw and the surrounding area will benefit immensely from the hard work and perseverance shown by the agencies and their volunteers.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that all members join me in recognizing the efforts of the Horizon Running Club, Mosaic, and the Kinsmen Foundation, along with Kelly McElree, executive director of the Moose Jaw Health Foundation. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

National Award to Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils

Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to inform the members of the Assembly about a recent honour awarded to the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils, commonly known as OSAC. The volunteer president of this organization, Ms. Lori Glauser, resides in Yorkton. She was not able to join us today but we welcome the members of OSAC staff who were introduced earlier by the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

OSAC, founded in 1968, is proud to be celebrating its 40th year in operation, Mr. Speaker. It receives funding through the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture and Recreation. Together OSAC, their member arts councils, and a total of 500 volunteers work tirelessly to bring theatre performances, visual art exhibits, and workshops to rural communities. Their work means that approximately 100,000 rural residents and schoolchildren are able to enjoy many of the high-calibre cultural experiences normally seen in the larger centres.

Last Friday, Mr. Speaker, November 7, the National Arts Centre announced that OSAC was receiving the award for distinguished contribution to touring. This award is a prestigious one and is particularly welcome in OSAC's 40th anniversary year. My colleagues and I would like to congratulate OSAC and all of its volunteers across this great province on receiving this award.

To quote Ms. Glauser:

"For 40 years OSAC has been making the arts an integral part of the lives of the people of Saskatchewan and this award is a terrific anniversary gift . . ."

Once again, congratulations to OSAC for making culture a vital part of the community life in Saskatchewan.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Olsen Family Recognized

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 8 Prince Albert had a very special birthday party and family reunion. The brothers Olsen — Lloyd, 88; Louie, 86; Lawrence, 82; and Edward, 78 — along with their sister, Laura Kirkness, 84, gathered with their family and friends to celebrate the 90th birthday of their big brother, Leonard.

It's not often that the Olsen family has the opportunity to be at the same event at the same time, so this was very special for them and they shared many stories and reminisced at length about their youth.

What makes this family gathering even more special, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the four eldest Olsen brothers — Leonard, Lloyd, Louie, and Lawrence — all enlisted during World War II and served their country proudly. The Olsens know how fortunate they are that all four brothers survived the war and are very well aware that not all families were as fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in extending greetings to Leonard Olsen on his 90th birthday, and in expressing gratitude to the Olsen family for their great contributions to the freedom that we all enjoy so much today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Métis Publication Short Listed at Saskatchewan Book Awards

Mr. LeClerc: — Good morning, Mr. Speaker. As a person of Métis heritage, I would like to take the time today to acknowledge a recent accomplishment of the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatoon. GDI is a non-profit educational training and cultural institution owned by the Métis people of Saskatchewan. Its publishing department is the only Métis publisher in Canada that exclusively publishes Métis-specific books and cultural resources.

It is also important to note, Mr. Speaker, that six of this publishing group's recent efforts have been nominated for this year's Saskatchewan Book Awards. One of these books, *Stories* of Our People: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology, was short listed under the First Peoples category. This book, the first Métis theme graphic novel ever produced and published by the Métis people, this groundbreaking anthology, includes legends that have been passed on through oral traditions in the Métis community and weaves elements of Cree, Ojibwa, and French-Canadian cultures. This novel includes stories about flying skeletons, werewolves, and three Métis tricksters, along with many other characters and images that are important to the Métis people.

Mr. Speaker, three of the elders who contributed their enticing stories for this wonderful book are here with us today: Jeanne Pelletier, Norma Walsh, and Joe Welsh. Carrie Saganace took each myth and illustrated it as a unique visual tribute to each elder's story.

Based on the values and importance of preserving the Métis culture and of listening to the stories of our elders, I am pleased to acknowledge and show great respect to this recent publishing accomplishment.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Cumberland.

La Ronge Arts Council Enhances Quality of Life

Mr. Vermette: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Mr. Speaker, La Ronge is a community of people who reach out to one another. One fine example of community involvement is the La Ronge Arts Council.

Mr. Speaker, every year the La Ronge Arts Council hosts three stars involvement, shows that feature various musical performances. Although it sometimes isn't possible due to space limitations in certain community venues, the council makes every effort to ensure the communities of La Ronge, Air Ronge, La Ronge, the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, and all other opportunities to host these performances in these communities.

Mr. Speaker, La Ronge Arts Council also works in partnership with five schools in the area to raise funds for junior concert series shows that tour in the fall and spring. Schools as far north as Grandmother's Bay have benefited from the partnership, Mr. Speaker, and it has allowed many young people in the North to be exposed to various forms of art they would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the Assembly to join me in acknowledging the contributions of La Ronge Arts Council to enhance the quality of life in the North and in thanking its members for their time, dedication, and hard work.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

World Diabetes Day

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, November 14, is World Diabetes Day. Mr. Speaker, this disease is a major health issue across our province for people of all ages and from all walks of life. This year the focus of World Diabetes Day is on raising awareness of the impact of diabetes on children and adolescents.

The Saskatchewan children's insulin pump program, Mr. Speaker, provides insulin pumps free of charge to children

under the age of 18 who qualify for the program. We also provide assistance with the cost of pump and supplies.

As well, under the children's drug plan, children 14 and under pay no more than \$15 per prescription for drugs and diabetic supplies covered under the Saskatchewan formulary. In this province, diabetes supplies are provided at no charge to children less than 18 years of age under family health benefits, as well as to the beneficiaries under supplementary health. Our provincial diabetes plans allows primary health care teams and diabetes teams to work collaboratively to improve delivery of services and continually to care for people living with diabetes.

Education is also critical. Several educational resources have already been developed and I'm pleased to tell you that four new patient resources to support people living with this disease will be available soon. Mr. Speaker, fellow members, please join me in officially recognizing World Diabetes Day. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Public Notification Policy

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing admitted to the media that the policy that he had been referring to for weeks in this House is actually not a policy at all. It is quote "an interim protocol." Would the minister like to take this opportunity to correct the record and apologize for repeatedly making incorrect statements in this House?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Corrections and Public Safety.

Hon. Mr. Hickie: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the member opposite for his question. Mr. Speaker, I've said it time and time again in the Legislative Assembly — the interim policy, Mr. Speaker, was to the deputy minister to the senior officials, Mr. Speaker. And that policy is exactly what was implemented and worked last Friday, Mr. Speaker.

I'm very proud to say that the public safety was taken in consideration as it was supposed to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Property Tax Relief

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan families and businesses are incredibly strained financially. The province however is flush in cash.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: when will this government do the

right thing and make good on its promises of substantial, long-term, property tax relief?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, this government has been very clear in our election campaign and since becoming elected back on November 7, 2007. We've made it clear that we wanted to follow a rebate program to ensure that there would be immediate relief. The former NDP [New Democratic Party] talked about status quo not being acceptable for years and years and years, and did very little about that. Mr. Speaker, we did something. In the last budget that the Minister of Finance proposed, we have spent over \$159 million, Mr. Speaker, on property tax relief. Mr. Speaker, the member from Rosetown is ...

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, the fact is we said we were going to use a rebate program as a short-term measure. We're doing that. Over 150 million, as I've indicated, is the amount of money that we are currently rebating to property tax payers. What we're also looking at, Mr. Speaker, is a long-term solution. And the member from Rosetown is working on that. He has been consulting across the province — in fact even outside of the province — to determine what might be a long-term strategy.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, this 2 per cent increase just doesn't fly with the Saskatchewan public. With reassessment in 2009 many property owners will pay far more in the coming year on their property taxes. Some of these homeowners are seniors on fixed incomes that have been in their homes for many years and want to remain there, but they can't afford to pay more.

Mr. Speaker, the Saskatchewan Party now tells us that any permanent solution will have to wait until the member from Rosetown-Elrose issues his report. So, Mr. Speaker, the obvious question to the minister: when will the report from the member from Rosetown-Elrose be presented to the minister?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minster of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, to the member, we've been very clear on that. The report is expected in the month of January 2009. I have said that to the media. It's been published. And I'll say it again so that the member fully understands that the report will be in my hands in January 2009.

Mr. Speaker, therefore this government, this caucus will have the opportunity to deliberate on that report. I understand that there will be a number of options that will be proposed in that report. The member is working on that right at the moment and Mee that report will be in our hands in January.

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to have in place a permanent plan for dealing with property tax in a very short order. Now, Mr. Speaker, that may in fact involve the spring budget, as was indicated by the Minister of Finance yesterday if that member would have been listening.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — I think we'll clarify it for the Saskatchewan public, Mr. Speaker. On this topic the Premier told the media on October 21, I quote, "We're not going to wait till an election year to do the right thing." The province has the resources to act now.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister — and he kind of talked around in circles a minute ago, but we'd like him to be clear — will the recommendations of the member for Rosetown-Elrose's report have an impact on next year's budget? I'll be more clear. Will the next provincial budget include the permanent solution to the property tax issue? Very simply, yes or no?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I know that the member is relatively new in this Assembly. And I'm sure a member, like for instance the member for Saskatoon Nutana, might be able to help him, might be able to indicate to him that we have been very forthright in telling the public what we're doing. Mr. Speaker, I think I made it very clear that the report will be in our hands in January 2009...

The Speaker: — Order. It seems that the line of questioning is generating a lot of debate, but only one member's been invited to speak to the floor, address the floor. I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the comment yesterday about the fact that questions directed to me seemed to irritate the opposition and seemed to get them rather, rather annoyed, Mr. Speaker. In fact listen, Mr. Speaker, it's even tough to hear my own words. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think I'm very quiet in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, to the member, I have indicated the report will be considered in 2009. The Finance minister has indicated that if the financial conditions of this province allow us to proceed with something in maybe more than one year, we are going to do that, Mr. Speaker.

But I ask him to stay tuned, the spring budget is around the corner — I believe about 120 sleeps.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: - I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Meewasin.

Natural Gas Rates

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people know that when the price of natural gas rises, the government gets richer. At the same time, Saskatchewan people get poorer because it costs more to heat their homes.

Previous governments in Saskatchewan have shared the energy revenues with Saskatchewan ratepayers, most recently in 2005 when the government unveiled a short-term assistance program called Energy Share.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: what is the Sask Party's plan for helping Saskatchewan families struggling to keep pace with rising energy costs?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As all members know in this Assembly, SaskEnergy does not make any money on the sale of natural gas. They monitor the markets, they hedge where appropriate, and they make sure that Saskatchewan residents have the lowest ... pay the lowest possible cost. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan residents over the last 12 months have paid the lowest cost for natural gas in the country — a job well done by SaskEnergy on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan.

It's this government's intention to ensure that people pay the lowest taxes in the country as well and have the highest exemption. And that's why we announced the elimination of 80,000 people off the tax roll some two weeks ago, retroactive to January 1, 2008. We are helping each and every individual in this province, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, the government has an historic surplus and a lot of it is thanks to energy revenues. And a lot of families can't afford to wait until next year which is the earliest they'll see any benefit from the government's tax measures.

On November 3, the Alberta government announced that Albertans will be saving \$27 on their November gas bill, thanks to that province's natural gas rebate program. At the same time, the Saskatchewan Party increased SaskEnergy rates by nearly \$20 per month for the average customer.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why does the government continue to rest on 60 per cent of an historic \$3 billion surplus instead of giving Saskatchewan ratepayers a break?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: - I recognize the Minister Responsible for

Crown Corporations.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, in the months of May and June and July, when Alberta residents were paying 11, 12, up to \$13 a gigajoule for gas, people in Saskatchewan were paying \$6.51 because of the well-managed SaskEnergy and their hedging program. Mr. Speaker, as members know, there is a gas cost variance account, that when the sale of gas is above the price that is charged will be in a positive manner, and that will be reviewed on a twice annual basis. And that's the way it's been for quite some time, and that's the way it will continue to be.

I referenced in my previous answer, Mr. Speaker, about the great pride we take in eliminating 80,000 people off the tax list. Today, Mr. Speaker, the Conference Board of Canada confirmed what this government is doing and what this government will be able to do in the future when they say that Saskatchewan is booming. Real GDP [gross domestic product] is forecast to be 5.2 per cent in 2008 and leading the country by 3.6 per cent in 2009.

More help will be on the way for Saskatchewan residents. They will lead the country, Mr. Speaker, and this government will help them.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, we all know that our energy resources are feeling a boom, Mr. Speaker, but the consumer of energy in Saskatchewan is not feeling the benefits. Mr. Speaker, the Alberta natural gas rebate program provides rebates during the winter months whenever the price of natural gas rises above \$5.50 per gigajoule. Thanks to this government, the average Saskatchewan consumer is now paying \$8.51 per gigajoule — \$3 more. If this government had a program similar to the Alberta natural gas rebate program, Saskatchewan consumers would be getting a rebate, a rebate of approximately \$40 a month instead of an increase of nearly \$20 a month. Mr. Speaker . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I ask members to allow the member to place his question. The member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

Mr. Quennell: — Mr. Speaker, to the minister: why won't this government follow the province's past practice and Alberta's current example and use some of its energy resources to provide Saskatchewan families with relief from high utility costs?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic. I don't know if all members remember that NDP campaign pamphlet from not so long ago. We're not going to follow Alberta; we're going to lead Canada — remember that one, Mr. Speaker? That was something there. That's very interesting in light of the information.

Mr. Speaker, to the question that the hon. member poses, the hon. member knows that SaskEnergy does not track the financial circumstances of each of its customers, Mr. Speaker. They know that the best way to ensure that relief goes to those that need it the most is through the tax system. I think all members will agree on that. And that's what we were doing, Mr. Speaker.

And according to The Conference Board of Canada, that's where we will be able to take this province into the future. Again I quote, "The economy is doing so well that the provincial government announced significant financial relief and increased infrastructure spending which will aid and bolster growth in 2009."

That's what this government's doing, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Sale of Crown Land

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 4, the Minister of Agriculture and Food assured this Assembly that in developing the new policy on Crown land sales to producers, he had consulted quote "all over the province of Saskatchewan." That's on page 1561 of *Hansard*, Mr. Speaker.

To the minister: could he be a little more specific? Which groups or individuals did he consult with before enacting this policy?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:30]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite I would just like to explain how the Crown land sale lease works. And First Nation and Métis ag Crown lessees will have the same opportunity that anyone else does in the province. The discount will apply to those same lands. Mr. Speaker, I might also inform the member that duty to consult is only triggered on vacant Crown land, and the land we're selling here is occupied by lessees all over the province, whether it's First Nations, Métis or farmers or ranchers across the province.

And, Mr. Speaker, the program does not interfere with treaty land entitlement negotiations. They're separate from this land. Mr. Speaker, the ministry is also committed to fulfilling the treaty land entitlement obligations. And as I said before, the program is only for producers currently leasing Crown land.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Well it's very interesting, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of sweet words right now, but how is it that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations stated in a news

release of November 6 that quote "... the Province of Saskatchewan did not consult with First Nations before announcing plans to sell off Crown lands to lessees"?

FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations] Vice-chief Delbert Wapass points out that many First Nations have an interest in various Crown Lands pursuant to TLE [treaty land entitlement] and specific claim settlements. He states, and I quote, "You would think that these settlements arising out of Treaty rights to land would have obligated the Province to discuss this new program with First Nations prior to implementing it."

Mr. Speaker, again to the minister: why did he fail to meet the duty to consult with First Nations before implementing this new program?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I repeat what I said before: duty to consult is only triggered on vacant Crown land. The land that we're selling here is occupied land by farmers, ranchers, First Nations, Métis across the province that have utilized this land and sometimes, many cases, 33-year leases. So duty to consult does not apply to this land.

I might remind the member opposite, in 1991 the NDP when in government also sold about 600,000 acres of lease land across the province. So we're really not reinventing the wheel here. We're continuing the program with an incentive to help move some of this land back into the hands of the producers all across Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone Centre.

Mr. McCall: — I'll tell you what we did when we were in government, Mr. Speaker. We settled 700,000 acres of treaty land entitlement, and again a lot of that figured into Crown land.

So I'd ask the minister to try and explain something for me. The minister's seatmate is the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations. That minister is responsible for ensuring that every government department meets its duty to consult. And I'm just wondering, Mr. Speaker, are they on speaking terms? Are they not? You know, are the notes coming now? Or is this just another example of what the minister was talking about last spring when he said, and I quote, in opposition I could say just about anything I wanted and a lot of occasions I did?

To the minister: how did this happen? How did it not occur to him to consult with the FSIN and other Aboriginal groups before introducing this policy?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister responsible for First

Nations and Métis affairs.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, to clarify to the members opposite, yes I'm on good speaking terms with my seatmate and we discuss these issues, and the duty to consult is on Crown vacant land. And I also want to make sure the member knows that the Minister of Agriculture has verified that lands under TLE selection are not included in the sale program and that the First Nations in the future, when lands become privately held, will remove any requirement to resolve leasehold interests before purchasing land.

And I really wonder how the member opposite can talk about the duty to consult. When they were in government, they didn't even bother talking to them about the guidelines.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Support for Livestock Producers

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday in an article entitled "Party's sincerity called into question," well-known agricultural columnist Kevin Hursh had this to say about the Sask Party's commitment to the cattle and hog industry, and I quote:

The Sask. Party government has been largely ineffectual in stemming the downturn in the cattle and hog industries. The new government has actually been less supportive than the previous administration.

Mr. Speaker, imagine that. The Sask Party less supportive than the former NDP. To the Minister of Agriculture: how do you explain that?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that comment is almost laughable if it wasn't so important though to rural producers across this province for the last 16 years under an NDP government. Mr. Speaker, the NDP were in power for 16 years. They downloaded on municipalities, they raised the education tax on farmland, they totally ignored rural Saskatchewan when it came to any kind of support that they could put out there.

But, Mr. Speaker, I want to remind that member opposite that it was brought to my attention this week what they really think of rural Saskatchewan. And it's a commentary in an NDP newsletter in December 2007, Mr. Speaker. And I want to quote out of that newsletter, and it goes on to talk about the Premier becoming Premier of the province of Saskatchewan and talking about his rural redneck base out there, Mr. Speaker.

So now we know, Mr. Speaker, why that opposition party is in opposition when they have an opinion of the 230,000 rural voters in Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, in his article Mr. Hursh said, and I quote:

The beef cow herd in Saskatchewan is shrinking [away] rapidly ... and the provincial government isn't doing much to stop the bleeding.

There's even less action in support of beleaguered hog producers. The Sask. Party seems content to watch the industry whither away.

He went on to describe government agricultural initiatives as low-budget items. With \$2 billion in the bank and the livestock and hog industry shrinking in front of his eyes, why is the Minister of Agriculture refusing to provide these producers with any meaningful, immediate support?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hursh may think they're low-budget items, but \$40 million additional going into the crop insurance program . . . I might add, a crop insurance program that the previous government cut the coverage and raised the premiums for five consecutive years after 2002, Mr. Speaker.

I think the water program that we've got going on in the Southwest, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite might call it low-budget items, but I'll tell you one thing: it's \$15 million more than the previous government put into southwest Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, for three or four years, southwest Saskatchewan's had a drought ongoing under that opposition party when they were government and they paid absolutely no attention to them. So I don't know how, Mr. Speaker, the member opposite, the member for Nutana, has the nerve to get up and criticize us for what we're doing as low-budget items when they did absolutely nothing for rural Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Atkinson: — During a November 5, 2008 interview, the minister admitted that when he was the Ag critic, he used to lobby for farm support comparable to Alberta all the time. When asked why he's not giving producers the support he lobbied for when he was in opposition now that he's in government, and he said, and I quote, "A number of times you have said exactly the opposite of what you were saying today."

So to the minister: was he wrong when he was calling for support payments when he was in opposition, or is he wrong now when he's in government and will not provide aid for those livestock and hog producers?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to remind the member opposite that when I was talking about making an ad hoc payment, it was exactly the same time that they were gutting the crop insurance program. If her memory serves her well, the previous minister of Agriculture would never sign onto the AgriStability or the CAIS [Canadian agricultural income stabilization] program . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I call members to order. I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I might also remind the member opposite in the last 2007 election campaign they had absolutely no dollars designed for agriculture land for the education tax rebate. Where was that? If they were so concerned about rural Saskatchewan and money for farmers, how come they weren't putting anything in for the education tax rebate, Mr. Speaker?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that livestock and hog producers need immediate aid. And he has said, and I quote:

A farmer out there would naturally want an ad hoc payment. They're stressed out there, and I would be the first to admit that.

Even the Premier realizes that livestock producers need money. When questioned after the recent first ministers' meetings, he said there are sectors in the West like the cattle industry that are feeling a significant pinch. Well, Mr. Speaker, not only has the minister admitted livestock producers need immediate cash assistance, the Premier is also calling on the federal government for assistance for livestock producers.

Will the minister, with \$2 billion in the bank, commit to providing immediate cash support to this rapidly shrinking industry?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I once again want to remind the member opposite that it's only 11 months that we've been in power right now. Eight months ago the cattle and hog industry came to me and asked for a loan program. The industry asked for a loan program. What did we do, Mr. Speaker? We provided \$90 million — \$60 million on the cattle side, \$30 million on the hog side. That was some . . .

The Speaker: — Order. I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, I think what you have to do is check with the cattle producers. Did they ask? You have. Well then you would know that they asked for the loan program. The hog producers asked for the loan program. And, Mr. Speaker, we provided that. We've done additional things like the water program, education tax rebate, gopher rebate program.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we've got a good start. Are we finished? No, we aren't. There's more to do.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 57 — The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2008

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

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2008* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Crown Corporations has moved that Bill No. 57, *The Land Titles Amendment Act, 2008* be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered a second time?

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 58 — The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 58, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Finance has moved first reading of Bill No. 58, *The Income Tax Amendment Act, 2008 (No. 2)* be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

Clerk: — First reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered a second time?

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Next sitting of the House, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before orders of the day, I would like to ask leave of the Assembly on behalf of all members who have special responsibilities and privileges to introduce guests today to be granted leave of this Assembly.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for leave for a special Olympian recognition ceremony. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Leave is granted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — Members of the Assembly, it is my pleasure to bring to your attention that we have with us today, seated in the Speaker's gallery and on the floor of the Assembly, we have 22 Saskatchewan Olympians and Paralympians from the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games in Beijing, China. By leave of the Assembly, I will call upon the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the Opposition for remarks, and then I will recognize the members of the Assembly as they introduce their constituents. The Chair recognizes the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past summer the world joined together to celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing. The theme of this year's Olympics was One World, One Dream.

Our province of Saskatchewan is home to many athletes that share that vision and were able to experience it first-hand in China. Today we are honoured to have these fine Olympians here in the legislature. They represent the true spirit of our nation and our province — one of pride, dedication, and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan I want to welcome these athletes to their legislature and let them know how proud, as a government and a province, that we are of their performance in Beijing.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of athletes who participated in the Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games in Beijing who could not be here today. At the conclusion of the members of the Legislative Assembly introduction, I will take my place again and speak to those who could not be here today. We want their names to be recorded and recognized as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to welcome these fine individuals to their legislature this morning. Thank you very

much, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[10:45]

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

Mr. Calvert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to join with the Deputy Premier in welcoming and recognizing the Olympians who are with us today.

If memory serves, Mr. Speaker, we had a similar recognition in 2006, recognizing the athletes who participated in the Winter Olympics in Italy. And if memory serves, I believe we were joined that day by 16 individuals. Today I believe we're being joined by 22 individuals and will recognize another 12 who could not be here. That is I think, Mr. Speaker, very telling. The Saskatchewan presence at this Summer Olympics was, I believe, the largest Saskatchewan presence that we've ever seen at any Olympics and Paralympics.

Mr. Speaker, I think all of us, when we'd seen our athletes walk into those Olympics and when we watched them walk into Beijing with those Canadian flags on, we knew full well that behind those flags were a little bit of green and gold from the Saskatchewan flag. And you made us all feel that somehow we were there too, and we were very, very proud.

So I'm very pleased to join the Deputy Premier, look forward to the recognition ceremonies that will happen in the rotunda, and welcome you here to the legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very honoured to introduce Ms. Amy Alsop, who represented Canada in goalball at this year's Paralympic Games in Beijing. Amy is already a Paralympic veteran, having competed in three Paralympics, winning two gold medals, one in Athens and one in Sydney.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Batoche.

Mr. Kirsch: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the member for Rosthern-Shellbrook, I am honoured to introduce Mr. Earle Connor, who won gold in the 100-metre sprint at the Summer Paralympics Games in Beijing, finishing in a record 12.32 seconds. This is Earle's second Paralympic gold. He won gold at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney as well.

Hon. Members: ---- Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Kelvington-Wadena.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member from Humboldt, I'm honoured to introduce Ilana Duff, who

won a bronze medal in the women's wheelchair athletics 100-metre race at Beijing Paralympics in a time of 17.69 seconds.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to introduce Ms. Lisa Franks, who represented our province and our country at the Beijing Paralympics this summer where she and her basketball team ranked fifth in the world. She has previously won a total of six gold medals and one silver at the Sydney and Athens Paralympics. Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, Lisa is my neighbour and I know the 800 block of Main Street is hugely proud of this young Paralympian.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to introduce Mr. Clayton Gerein, who has participated in every Paralympic Games since 1984, including this year's Paralympic Games in Beijing, and has won a grand total of 15 medals.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Regina Lakeview, I am honoured to introduce Ms. Georgette Reed, who took part in the Paralympic Games this summer as coach for our national athletics team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Walsh Acres.

Ms. Morin: — Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to introduce Ms. Jacqueline Rennebohm, who competed in swimming at this year's Paralympic Games in Beijing.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to introduce Ms. Shawna Ryan, who represented Canada for the first time at the Paralympic Games in Beijing as part of our national goalball team which came in fifth place in the world. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to introduce Mr. Jeff Toth, who participated in the 2008 Paralympic Games as a swimming coach for Team Canada. So please welcome Mr. Toth here today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Furber: — Mr. Speaker, it is my honour today to introduce Mr. Roger Archambault, who took part in the Beijing Olympic Games as a sport services officer for our national team.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Biggar.

Mr. Weekes: — Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to introduce Mr. Don Bates, who served as the pitching coach for Canada's women's softball team at the Olympic Games this year. As such, he was part of one of the strongest softball coaching staffs in the world.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Quennell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm honoured to introduce Mr. Al Bodnarchuk, who took part in the Beijing Olympic Games as a massage therapist for our national team.

Hon. Members: --- Hear, hear!

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

Mr. LeClerc: — On behalf of the member of Saskatoon Sutherland, I am pleased to introduce Ms. Erin Cumpstone, the catcher on the Canadian softball team which came in fourth place at the Olympics this summer. She also played for our national team at the Olympic Games in Athens 2004.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I also recognize the member for Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. LeClerc: — On behalf of myself and our constituency, I am honoured to introduce Ms. Kelsie Hendry, who represented Canada at the Beijing Olympics in pole vault.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member from Eastview, I'm pleased to introduce Ms. Dione Meier, who played on Canada's softball team which came in fourth at this

summer's Beijing Olympics.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Mr. Yates: — I am honoured, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Regina Lakeview, to introduce Ms. Carla Nicholls, who attended her first Olympics this year as a track and field coach for Team Canada.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Silver Springs.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm honoured to introduce to you, to the Assembly, Mr. Cory Niefer, who served as Canada's rifle coach at this year's Olympic Games in Beijing. Mr. Niefer is also a national champion rifle shooter and the national team coach and he's a former army cadet from Yorkton. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member from Saskatoon Eastview, I'm pleased to introduce Mr. Jake Wetzel, who is part of the Canadian men's eight rowing team that won gold at the Olympics in Beijing this summer. He was also part of the Canadian men's four rowing team that took the silver at the 2004 Olympics.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Melfort.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce Mr. Frazer Will, who represented Canada in the men's 60-kilogram division in judo at the Olympics in Beijing.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are 15 Olympic and Paralympic team members who could not be here with us today who'd I'd also like to introduce in their absence. I ask the members to help me show our appreciation for these men and women once I have introduced them all.

Mr. Speaker, the following Olympians and Paralympians could not be with us today: Mr. Phillip Allen, Paralympic team services officer; Mr. James Avery, pitcher for the men's Olympic baseball team; Ms. Nancy Brawley, Olympic diving chef d'équipe; Mr. Doug Charko, meteorologist for the Olympic team; Mr. Kevin Graham, men's Olympic water polo team; Ms. Rachelle de Jong, women's Olympic rowing; Mr. Graham Olson, videographer for Paralympic swimming; Mr.

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Terry Puhl, manager of the Olympic baseball team; Mr. Robin Randall, goalie for the men's Olympic water polo team; Mr. Reuben Ross, men's Olympic diving team; Mr. Ivor Schledewitz, chiropractor for the Olympic team; Mr. Darren Stolz, Paralympic team coordinator for our national team; Ms. Karen Van Nest, women's Paralympic air pistol shooting; Ms. Amy Vermeulen, women's Olympic soccer; and Ms. Alexandra Wrubleski, women's Olympic curling ... women's Olympic cycling — we're in the summer sports, not the winter sports.

Mr. Speaker, although they could not be here today, let us now in the presence of their fellow teammates show them our appreciation.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Wascana Plains.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to you and through you and to all members of the Assembly, I would like to introduce a group of grade 7 students from Pilot Butte school who are sitting in the west gallery. They are accompanied by their teacher, Ms. Shelly Riffel. This group is here today to join us in honouring our Saskatchewan Olympians and Paralympians.

Mr. Speaker, this group of hard-working students has just completed an in motion project making posters of ways that they can keep active. Pilot Butte School encourages all of its students to participate in sport, to stay active, and eat healthy.

Perhaps these students were inspired by Mr. Ruben Ross, Saskatchewan Olympian, and Mr. Clayton Gerein, Saskatchewan Paralympian, who are both from the great community of Pilot Butte and are here with us today. I ask all members to join me in welcoming the grade 7 class from Pilot Butte School, and their teacher, Ms. Riffel. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So that we might participate in the program, and not to endure any more sitting of the House, we would ask to adjourn debate. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, to adjourn the House.

The Speaker: — Government House Leader has moved adjournment of the Assembly. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 10:59.]

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GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

Hon. Brad Wall Premier

Hon. Bob Bjornerud Minister of Agriculture Minister Responsible for 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 Gantefoer Minister of Finance

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> Hon. Lyle Stewart Minister of Enterprise and Innovation

Hon. Christine Tell

Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Responsible for Capital City Commission