



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)

Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable Don Toth  
Speaker



**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**

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

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Political Affiliation</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
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
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Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
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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
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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
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 13:30.]

[Prayers]

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my honour again today to recognize and introduce 17 grade 5 students seated in the east gallery and their teacher, Ms. Sandy Jost.

This group has come . . . I know Ms. Jost has been here a number of times. The Huda School in my constituency has visited the legislature I think every year and I don't want to say how many years because it dates me. But they're an amazing group and I just have to share, Mr. Speaker, as we were going through the opening prayer, I have a Islamic prayer rug hanging on the wall in my office here that was presented to me in the first visit of this, from the Huda School. And I will cherish that prayer rug always.

I invite all colleagues to join with me in welcoming this very good-looking and very smart group from the Huda School in Regina Coronation Park. Thank you.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce to all members of the Assembly a group of graduate student leaders that are seated in your gallery today, Mr. Speaker. On our far right we have Janice Victor, who is the president of the Graduate Students' Association at the University of Saskatchewan. Beside her is Merlyn Richelhoff, the president of the University of Regina Graduate Students' Association. And the last individual in the group is Daniel Zhang who is the VP [vice-president] academic of the GSA [Graduate Students' Association] at the U of S [University of Saskatchewan].

Janice is pursuing her Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] in psychology. Merlyn is pursuing his M.P.A. [Master of Public Administration] at the Johnson-Shoyama school of public policy. And Daniel is pursuing his Ph.D. in ed admin.

Thank you. I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming this group of student leaders to their Assembly.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Greystone.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, it's with great pleasure to introduce to you and through you to the members of this Hon.

Assembly the student leaders from both the University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina. We just had a pleasant lunch. Daniel, thanks very much for coming. And I hope all members will join in to reiterate that welcome.

**Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

### PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on behalf of Saskatchewan residents in support of the government's policy on green vehicles. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government ministers named in this petition to follow their own platform and government policies, and trade in their Jeep Libertys for vehicles that are on the SGI's 2008 list of recommended fuel-efficient vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by residents of the communities of Battleford, North Battleford, Meota, and Mervin, Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition that speaks to the crunch for seniors when they're accessing the housing market, that the changes over the past number of years have translated into more difficulty for seniors, especially those on fixed incomes, accessing quality housing. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to act as quickly as possible to expand affordable housing options for Saskatchewan's senior citizens.

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 Centre.

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise as well to present a petition. This one's entitled wage equity for CBO [community-based organization] workers. And we know that the low wage that is paid to CBO workers result in high staff turnover and subsequent lack of continuous care. And this has a negative impact on the quality of care that's given. And I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Assembly may be pleased to cause the development and implementation of a multi-year funding plan to ensure that CBO workers achieve wage equity with employees who perform work of equal value in government departments.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

And these good folks are from the city of Moose Jaw. Thank you very much.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to present a petition in support of a new Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners note that Prairie North Regional Health Authority has indicated that the construction of a new hospital is a priority and they have committed resources to develop the facilities. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners pray:

... that the Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately recommit funds and resources for the continued development and construction of a new Saskatchewan Hospital at North Battleford and provide the Prairie North Regional Health Authority with the authority necessary to complete this essential and much-needed project.

Mr. Speaker, the petition is signed by residents of The Battlefords and surrounding area, the majority of whom live in the constituency of Cut Knife-Turtleford.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to stand today and present a petition in support of expansion of the graduate retention program. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to immediately expand the graduate retention program to include master's and Ph.D. graduates.

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

Mr. Speaker, the individuals that signed this petition are students at the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, as well as a number of health care professionals working in the province who hold graduate degrees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present petitions in support of needed expansion to child care within Saskatchewan. The prayer reads as follows:

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.

These petitions, Mr. Speaker, are signed by good folks from Oxbow, Redvers, Arcola, Carievale, and Carnduff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Red Cross Month

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. March is Red Cross Month, so it's an honour today to speak about this dedicated group of people that help those suffering from devastating disasters.

The international movement of the Red Cross was born on the battlefield in 1859 in Solferino, Italy. A Swiss businessman witnessed the aftermath of a grim battle that left 40,000 dead and wounded on the battlefield with few military or local services to tend the wounded. Horrified by what he saw, he organized local villagers to care for the casualties. He ensured that all victims from both sides received food, water, and medical attention. The impact of this experience changed his life.

Today the Red Cross emblem continues as an internationally recognized symbol of protection and neutrality. The emblem identifies people, programs, and objects connected with the humanitarian activities of the International Red Cross.

Recently the Red Cross chapter in Moose Jaw has been put to the test helping many fire victims find shelter and provide care in some difficult situations. We often think of the Red Cross as an international organization, but they are here helping those with needs right in our own communities.

Those of us who live without armed conflict must protect, nurture, and spread knowledge of the true meaning of the Red Cross. Each of us should do our part to increase this awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join with me in recognizing Red Cross Month.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Biggar.

### Condolences Following Tragic Death in Biggar

**Mr. Weekes:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 17, a blanket of uncertainty, disbelief, and fear fell over the community of Biggar as the word of the killing of 82-year-old Ruby Macaroff began to spread. Ruby's death, in her own home in the late afternoon, was a shock to the residents of the small community and resulted in doors being locked, older women that live alone staying with each other, and others wondering if the person they are passing on the street could be the one responsible.

A sense of relief came at the announcement of an arrest on February 21, and on February 23 a community meeting put on by the traumatic events response team gave residents the opportunity to learn more details about the tragedy and dispel some of the many rumours that were floating around. The gathering also allowed everyone to share their emotions of fear, sorrow, and anger, and exchange tips on how to deal with these emotions as well as ideas of how to keep safe and watch out for each other. They also had the opportunity to recall fond memories of Ruby and how she touched the lives of so many in our community.

I'd like to commend the traumatic events response team for hosting this meeting, along with the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police] for their professionalism and interaction with the public and the diligent efforts in finding a suspect.

I'd like to ask the members of this legislature to join with me in expressing condolences to the family and friends of Ruby Macaroff. She will be missed in the community.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

### Regina Public Library Round Dance

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to recognize the Regina Public Library for its commitment to building bridges and stronger relationships between peoples and cultures in our community. In particular I want to commend RPL [Regina Public Library] CEO [chief executive officer], Jeff Barber, and Albert Community Library branch head, Wendy Sinclair, for their leadership role in this regard and for putting on a fantastic round dance this past Friday evening at the Regina Performing Arts Centre in the fair constituency of Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

The round dance is a traditional First Nations gathering held during the winter months for memorials and celebrations. I want to thank Isadore Pelletier and the elders who lifted their pipes to get things started in a good way. I want to thank Rick Favel, Roland Kaye, and all the escapiosuk and the people who helped to serve up a wonderful feast. And I want to thank MCs [master of ceremonies] Mike Pinay and Howard Walker and the stick men and the singers for helping the hundreds of people who came out to "dance and sway the Aboriginal way." And last but certainly not least, I want to thank all the volunteers

who came out to help the RPL and the community, especially the Albert Library Community Council and community council Chair, Lisa Workman, and her dream team of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, this round dance is part of efforts by the Regina Public Library and the provincial library system to encourage more Aboriginal content programming. This new vision of outreach serves not only Aboriginal peoples, but also educates the general public as a whole.

I encourage this Assembly to recognize and applaud the Saskatchewan public library system for its dedication to building a better future for all Saskatchewan people.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Meadow Lake.

### Engineering and Geoscience Week

**Mr. Harrison:** — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to talk about Engineering and Geoscience Week being recognized across Saskatchewan as a time to take note of those who are helping to build our province.

Few places in Canada are touched by these professions more profoundly than Saskatchewan. We are blessed with an abundance of resources, and that requires us to have the skill and expertise to successfully find it and extract it. That's where our engineers and geoscientists come into the picture.

Today our province is benefiting from resources such as the Bakken play due to the innovations that allow us to recover previously inaccessible deposits. When you drive on a new highway, connect to the Internet, or fabricate a product, you're utilizing the fruits of the labours from more than 7,000 engineers and geoscientists in our province.

Mr. Speaker, as we are about to embark on a busy summer of construction thanks to our \$500 million economic booster shot, I would invite all residents to thank those who helped bring those projects together from conception to construction. The design of our new facilities and infrastructure is vital to our province's future, and while this is the week to acknowledge their work, our engineers and geoscientists are working hard all year long.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[13:45]

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

### Soldiers March for Telemiracle

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 737 Communication Squadron reserve unit is located in my constituency of Saskatoon Meewasin. As members know, I have another personal connection as well.

From February 13 to February 15 the reserve unit conducted its annual marchathon to raise funds for the Saskatchewan

Telemiracle. On the night of February 13, members of the unit set up tents for the marchathon base next to the Vimy memorial on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River. Commencing at noon on Saturday, February 14, they marched in teams wearing backpacks in successive laps around the west-east banks of the river, day and night, for 24 hours.

They did not deliberately choose one of the coldest weekends of a cold winter; it just worked out that way. But there was never any question that they would show up. They did just that, and raised more than \$6,000 for Telemiracle.

I managed the first lap with the first team out. Not to be competitive, but I understand that Corporal Nathan Quennell completed the second most laps at 18. Corporal John McFarlane completed the most laps at 19.

Members of the unit will also be performing at Telemiracle. They have pulled together a band that has successfully auditioned to play during the broadcast. It may not be the musical highlight of the performances, but it will no doubt showcase the spirit of a group of young people willing to march that extra mile to serve their community and their country.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw North.

#### Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month as people across the country work to promote awareness about this deadly but treatable disease. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Canada, despite the fact that it is highly preventable if detected early. In Saskatchewan, colorectal cancer is the second most common cancer in men and women. In 2005 about 650 Saskatchewan residents were diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and 250 died from the disease.

Mr. Speaker, far too many families suffer tragic losses due to this disease that is highly treatable. I ask that my fellow MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] join me in urging everyone to speak with their family physician and determine if and when they should be screened.

I'm pleased to acknowledge that our government has taken steps in the fight against colorectal cancer. We provided \$1.1 million in funding a pilot project, colorectal cancer screening project, in the Five Hills Health Region. We are also fully funding the cancer drug Avastin so that patients with advanced colorectal cancer can have more precious time to spend with their families.

Our first budget provided a \$10.7 million increase in cancer care in Saskatchewan. By raising awareness and increasing screening, we can beat this disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

#### Heart of the City Piano Program

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was my pleasure to attend a Christmas recital put on by the Heart of the City Piano Program at Rosemont Community School. It included piano, drumming, and dance.

I want to thank Rae Pelletier, community coordinator at Rosemont Community School, for her leadership to this program. I want to recognize the piano teachers who volunteer weekly: Marjorie Burns, Dorothy Cook, Gail Garden, and Barb Willows. I would also like to recognize Ramses Calderon for teaching guitar and Kristy Obrigewitsch for facilitating the drum group.

This program receives full support of Principal John Finlayson, VP [Vice-Principal] Lisa Frei, teachers, and staff of Rosemont. It would not be possible without the support of the Regina Public School Division or Ranch Ehrlo Society and its coordinator, Lana Currie-Lingelbach.

I must say that through this program Rosemont has inspired a culture of arts, music, and dance within the school and community. This is impressive.

Heart of the City Piano Program is sponsored by the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association and its aim is to enhance the lives and learning opportunities for children and youth in the community through music.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in commending the students, and in thanking and recognizing the volunteers and partners for making this fine program possible.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

#### Graduate Retention Program

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the innovation, knowledge, and ideas that come with higher education are an essential factor in fuelling a modern economy. If we want Saskatchewan to thrive, we must encourage those with higher education to build their lives here and contribute to our economy. But the Sask Party doesn't seem to get that. They axed the successful NDP [New Democratic Party] graduate tax exemption program and replaced it with a pared-down graduate retention program. Sadly the Sask Party's version of the program leaves masters and Ph.D. graduates out in the cold. Those who pursue their education beyond undergraduate degrees are completely excluded from the program.

Today in our gallery, we have the presidents of the grad student associations from the U of R [University of Regina] and the U of S. They have come here to hear from the Minister of Advanced Education why they're being excluded by the Sask Party government.

To the minister: why is he discouraging masters and Ph.D. graduates from making their home here in Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the opportunity to talk about this vitally important part of our advanced educational programming in the province. Mr. Speaker, we've got about 3,900 graduate students in the province. About half of those already receive support, Mr. Speaker. And what we can begin to look at is, we already have the third lowest, on average, tuition of graduate programming right across Canada.

What we have been able to do is ensure that not just graduate students but others right across the province are benefiting from affordability measures we put in place. For example a family of four with an income of about 35,000 is already saving over \$2,600, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we can say is a single parent with two children making \$15,000 saving over \$1,000, Mr. Speaker. Both of those add up to more than anything that the previous government had in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Our province needs those with graduate level degrees. We need to recruit physiotherapists, social workers, psychologists, academics, and business grads as much as the professions already included in the retention program. Mr. Speaker, after a lot of pressure the Sask Party has already admitted that it was wrong to exclude out-of-province graduates. Now it's time they realized their other failure and extend the program to those with graduate level training. These are all careers where the competition with other provinces to retain our best and brightest is steep.

Mr. Speaker, this government claims that it is capable of learning from its mistakes and fixing them. Today I submitted a petition from students and professionals, all agreeing that the minister was wrong to exclude so many needed graduates.

To the minister: when will he admit that the Sask Party is discouraging master's and Ph.D. graduates from settling in our province? When will he admit that this is a mistake and reverse this short-sighted policy?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, on February 5 the member opposite met with graduate students at the University of Saskatchewan and he happened to mention, saying that it was the opposition that put pressure in order to expand the graduate retention program, the most aggressive youth retention program . . .

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — So, Mr. Speaker, rather than be self-referential, why don't we just see what others are talking about the graduate retention program? Mr. Speaker, "Saskatchewan's gain P.E.I.'s drain?" From the editorial, December 2, 2008, from PEI:

The province should take note of Saskatchewan's recent pitch to attract university and college grads from across the country. It's a strategy that could work well for Saskatchewan . . .

Mr. Speaker, rather than speaking to themselves in the midst of a leadership race, Mr. Speaker, why don't they listen to what others are saying about Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker? Over 15,000 people have come to the province, Mr. Speaker. Saskatchewan is leading Canada in economic growth and an air of optimism.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, I'll be frank. I'm beginning to become a little creeped out by the minister's preoccupation with my daily itinerary. If only he would spend the same amount of time tracking my movement in the province as he would fixing his failed programs, we might be getting somewhere.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broten:** — Mr. Speaker, the graduate student leaders in attendance today deserve some real answers from this province. Graduate students in our province want to know why they're being ignored and unappreciated by this Sask Party government.

Mr. Speaker, instead of shutting the door on Saskatchewan graduates who want to remain in Saskatchewan or move here to build a future, we should be opening doors to people like physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, business graduates. Instead of staged photo ops and ceremonial cake-cuttings, the government should be focused on real action.

To the minister: will he take concrete action today, admit he was wrong, and expand the graduate retention program to include all Saskatchewan students?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take much to track someone at a snail's pace and that's what they're moving at over there. Mr. Speaker. What we can say is there's a lot more to do. We know that, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously what we're looking at is we're working very closely to ensure that there's greater coordination with Ottawa. What we've seen in recent years for example, Mr. Speaker, out of

NSERC [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada] and SSHRC [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada] grants, we've seen that Saskatchewan has received less than 2 per cent of the national amounts.

What we've seen from Ottawa is that there's an increase of 50 per cent of SSHRC grants over the last three years. We need to be doing a better job. The federal government has just announced an additional 500 Ph.D. scholarships nationally as well as 2,000 master's degree scholarships.

I'm having meetings in the coming days to ensure that the universities are doing more to ensure that we're actually attracting our fair share of national dollars. Then we can begin to look at programs to help ensure that we're complementing instead of competing with other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

#### SaskTel Email Service

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. SaskTel has confirmed that they want to privatize sasktel.net email services, and in fact they've issued a request for proposal to some 25 different companies.

To the minister: can the minister tell us which companies are included in the request for proposal?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Deputy Premier, I'd like to answer that question on behalf of government. Mr. Speaker, for a number of years we have listened to the NDP talk about privatization. They have fought the last election on privatization. They want to fight the next election on privatization, Mr. Speaker. What the member opposite is confusing, and I think the president of SaskTel made it very clear this morning, the difference between something called outsourcing and something called privatization.

We have said very clearly that we are not, we are not supporting privatization.

You know, Mr. Speaker, there's a pretty good example in this Legislative Assembly about outsourcing. There's a candidate in this building, internal candidate for the leadership of the NDP, who is in this building. But do you know what? The NDP, they want to outsource it. They want to outsource it to Alberta and get back a candidate from Alberta, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No one's fooled. New Democrats have a . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. I recognize . . . Order. I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Media reports suggest that these companies are located outside of Saskatchewan and include at least one American company based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Can the minister tell us where the rest of the 25 companies are located?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite has asked a very technical question. I understand that that information was provided by the president of SaskTel. He's indicated on the process that is being followed. That has not been completed, Mr. Speaker, that is the process that is under way. And the Minister Responsible for Crown Corporations will provide that information to that member.

But, Mr. Speaker, I do want to clarify the answer that I gave in the first question. Mr. Speaker, outsourcing by the NDP. I indicated that there was an internal candidate that was being . . . that was on the agenda, is put the name forward. But, Mr. Speaker, I did forget to mention that the outsourcing is not supported by all of the members opposite. Outsourcing is only supported by a small group over there on that side. They would like to outsource rather than look internally within their own ranks, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Mr. Speaker, now back to SaskTel and our Crown corporations and the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, there have been already media reports indicating that one of the companies is based in the United States. Saskatchewan people, quite frankly, deserve better than the government that tries to hide the truth on such a serious issue.

To the minister: will he at least confirm that the one of these companies is Hostopia, a company based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated, I know the NDP want to fight the next election over the issue of privatization. The questions, the technical questions that the member asks here in the Legislative Assembly were answered this morning by the president of SaskTel. He indicated all of the answers to the questions that the member has asked, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, you know, there's an interesting dynamic



developing within the NDP . . .

[14:00]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, as the government we're looking forward. We're looking forward to growth in the province of Saskatchewan. We're looking forward to development. But you know, not all members opposite have a very good view about themselves or especially the potential of the next election, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to quote from the Estevan paper where the member for Regina Rosemont was there. And he spoke to 18 people, and this is his quote, Mr. Speaker, this is his quote: "I don't think there's any probability as far as a likelihood of winning government in 2011." Mr. Speaker, that's a member of the Dwain Lingenfelter team saying, sorry, Mr. Leader, you don't stand a chance in 2011.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Coronation Park.

**Mr. Trew:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the people whose jobs at SaskTel are at stake are finding this most interesting. The reports in the media give no firm timelines as to the SaskTel's schedule for privatization, but the people of Saskatchewan, the owners of SaskTel, deserve better than that and they deserve to know how much longer an important and growing part of SaskTel will remain in public hands. To the minister: what is the Sask Party timeline for the privatization of sasktel.net?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — The member opposite, as I've indicated, is confusing outsourcing with privatization. The president of SaskTel made it very clear that in the year 2004 SaskTel had pursued outsourcing. They had pursued outsourcing on various sources. So, Mr. Speaker, for the member opposite to stand up in this . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — The NDP's plan in 2004 was to pursue opportunities for what might enhance the province of Saskatchewan. The president of SaskTel today has indicated that that is the plan for SaskTel today — continue with the plan that was developed in 2004. So, Mr. Speaker, how can the member opposite stand and say that is the plan now for privatization, but that was our plan in 2004, but we just didn't call it privatization?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government's decision to privatize, to privatize a significant component of our communications company, SaskTel, will have direct impact on the 150,000-plus subscribers to sasktel.net, a number that is growing, Mr. Speaker. But beyond that it has potential to affect every citizen in this province because, Mr. Speaker, every citizen in this province is a shareholder of SaskTel, and those citizens elect men and women to this Chamber to be responsible for their investment in SaskTel.

My question — not to the Deputy Premier who wants to talk about everything under the sun but the question he's put — my question is to the acting Minister Responsible for the Crown Investments Corporation. My question is this: why in the world did you not inform the people of Saskatchewan of this decision to outsource, to privatize sasktel.net?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, a question that I will carry on to the Minister Responsible for CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan]. And I will take notice of that.

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

#### Strategy for Crown Corporations

**Mr. Calvert:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, we will anticipate an answer at the next sitting of this legislature to the very question which is at the heart of this debate. Why did this government not inform the people of Saskatchewan of this very significant outsourcing of a extremely important component of SaskTel?

Well keeping secrets, Mr. Speaker, seems to becoming a habit for this government. Just witness the past few weeks. Last week we learned that this government had cut funding to the First Nations University of Canada — didn't tell the public; it was a source in a newspaper that did that.

Before that, what do we find out in January? This government has created something called the P3 [public-private partnership] secretariat to begin to look at public-private partnerships, Mr. Speaker, without telling the public. They're sitting on a report from one of their own members around property taxation in this province, not telling the public what's in the report.

Mr. Speaker, I repeat my question, and this can go to the Deputy Premier: why the secrecy about these important issues facing Saskatchewan people?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's . . .

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

**Hon. Mr. Norris:** — Mr. Speaker, it would be unfortunate if

we were to politicize the events and activities at First Nations University, but I do want to stand on the record to ensure there's a correction made.

Mr. Speaker, on July 29, officials from First Nations University came and met with officials from this government. As a response, we were able to determine that there was a fiscal situation that needed to be addressed. Mr. Speaker, we were then in a position to respond. We responded with \$1.6 million in additional funding, as well as \$400,000 that was made available for a governance study and a strategic focus going forward.

Mr. Speaker, for the record, \$1.1 million has been paid to help take care of a collective bargaining agreement, collective bargaining agreement that has been outstanding since 2005, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, \$500,000 was made available for operating funds. That has been rolled out into three different segments. The first two have been paid, Mr. Speaker, and for the record, the 2,000 remain frozen, but I'm optimistic that we're making progress on this file. I don't think it's helpful that this issue is raised in that fashion.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, if I recall, my question was why were the taxpayers, the citizens, the shareholders of this province and SaskTel not informed publicly of this decision? Why is it that they — members of the opposition, members of the press — are obliged to find this information out through sources to daily newspapers?

Mr. Speaker, they've been caught again not wanting to tell the people of Saskatchewan what they're doing. Well now that they have been caught, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to ask again to the acting Minister Responsible for the Crown Investments Corporation, I'm going to ask that minister: will he put this privatization plan on hold at least until the people of Saskatchewan, the shareholders of SaskTel, can debate and consider this issue?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I may have to be corrected but, in 2004, I do not recall the NDP putting a public release that says that we are outsourcing services in 2004. I don't recall that, Mr. Speaker. And maybe the member opposite can stand up and say yes, that we were planning to privatize an outsource, and we told the people of the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, it was made very clear this morning by the president of SaskTel that in fact, in terms of the services that are being provided currently by members in SaskTel, there would be no job losses wherever, wherever this service is provided.

So, Mr. Speaker, for the member opposite to say that there's this massive plan of privatization, we've been very clear about that. I think the member wants to go back in time and look at fighting that last election when the members opposite, many of them know, they've already given up on the next election.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this very legislature, we welcomed people who have come to this province to build their futures here.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**Mr. Calvert:** — Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, then the irony of this, the very day after we find out that the government is secretly, secretly trying to outsource jobs from Saskatchewan perhaps to Ontario; perhaps to British Columbia; perhaps to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Mr. Speaker, my question to the government, and again I put it . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. I ask all members to allow the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition to place his question.

**Mr. Calvert:** — My question, Mr. Speaker, again to the acting Minister Responsible for the Crown Investments Corporation, is as follows: how in the world can the prospect of outsourcing, outsourcing jobs from Saskatchewan to some other part of the continent or the globe square with their Sask-first policy for the Crowns, which declares it is the intention of this government to build the strength of the Crowns in Saskatchewan, to provide opportunities for Saskatchewan people, to provide strength for our economy?

How can this outsourcing plan, this privatization plan, square with the Sask-first policy which they say they believe in? Or, Mr. Speaker, is this another example of you say one thing and you do something quite different?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, across Canada, across Canada, especially with the Conference Board of Canada, they are looking at Saskatchewan. They are looking at Saskatchewan with very positive eyes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan will lead the country with 5.4 per cent economic growth in '08. Saskatchewan will continue to lead the country with 1.6 per cent economic growth in 2009. All other provinces except Manitoba will suffer negative . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, with that kind of reaction to the possibilities here in Saskatchewan. I want to look back at some of things that the NDP did. The member opposite seems to think that the NDP did not look at anything outside of

this province. Just for the record, Mr. Speaker, ask whether or not the NDP consulted publicly with the public in Saskatchewan over losing 6.7 million into tappedinto.com, 9.4 million into Persona, 43.4 million into Navigata, 16 million into NST [Network Services of Chicago]. Mr. Speaker, 1.9 million into Clickabid, and the list goes on. Did the NDP consult with the people of Saskatchewan over those losses?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Calvert:** — I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, why. The shareholders of SaskTel and the people of Saskatchewan do not trust this group of men and women in government with their Crown investments.

I'll tell you why. You'll recall, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people will recall that just prior, just prior the election in 2007, the now minister, acting minister responsible for CIC said as follows about SecurTek. When pushed on the question on the privatization of SecurTek, he said, well no, we're not selling that company, you know, we're not selling SaskTel. We're just going to transfer the employees into a different department. I see. We're not going to sell it, we're just going to shut it down and transfer the employees.

Well now the policy's gone further. We're going to shut it down and transfer the employees to Florida or somewhere. Mr. Speaker, how in the world can this outsourcing be consistent with the Sask Party pledge that they are going to grow the Crowns and that that the Crowns will serve the people of Saskatchewan?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — You know, Mr. Speaker, there are so many good things happening in this province. We've had the Conference Board of Canada recognize these things. Mr. Speaker, from their report just issued a couple of days ago, there are quotations that I want to put on the record. And these are this: "... massive income tax cuts, combined with the swift increase in infrastructure spending, will boost Saskatchewan's economy by 1.6 per cent in 2009."

Mr. Speaker, second quote: "... the province will benefit from an enhanced infrastructure investment program." Mr. Speaker, which SaskTel just received 19 million additional dollars to ensure that we have high-speed Internet all across Saskatchewan, unlike what the NDP did, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a second quote: "... incomes will get a further boost from the province's \$300 million personal income tax cut ...". Mr. Speaker, this is a great place to live, unlike what the NDP thinks about Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**Bill No. 79** — *The Education Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)/ Loi n° 2 de 2009 modifiant la Loi de 1995 sur l'éducation*

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 79, *The Education Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* be now introduced and read a first time.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Minister of Education that Bill No. 79, *The Education Amendment Act, 2009 (No. 2)* be now read a 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 read a second time?

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

**The Speaker:** — Next sitting.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, by leave of the Assembly, I'd like to move a series of condolence motions with respect to three former members of the Assembly, as well as allow for leave for others to move motions of condolence for two members of the judiciary and one additional member of this Assembly, an Ombudsman.

**The Speaker:** — The Deputy Premier has asked for leave to introduce condolence motions. Is the leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

## CONDOLENCES

### Laurence Edwin Tchorzewski

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, members in the Legislative Assembly know that almost every year we move to a day, today to recognize past members of this Legislative Assembly. And this year we have expanded that to include members of the judiciary and an Ombudsman.

Mr. Speaker, today we will recognize the careers of three former members of the Legislative Assembly, and I would like to begin first with the first member. Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing a motion at the end of my remarks that will be this:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and

expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and the province.

**Laurence Edwin Tchorzewski**, who passed away on June 6, 2008, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1971 until 1982 and again from 1985 until 1999. He represented the constituencies of Humboldt, Regina Northeast, and Regina Dewdney for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Tchorzewski was born on April 22, 1943 in Alvena, Saskatchewan. He spent his formative years on the family farm and attended local schools in Hudson Bay. He continued his studies at the University of Saskatchewan and later graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and a teacher's certificate. Mr. Tchorzewski married Shirley Stasiuk on August 6, 1966. He is survived by his wife, four children, and nine grandchildren.

A teacher by training, Mr. Tchorzewski began and ended his professional career instructing elementary school students in Humboldt and Regina. He later put his extensive knowledge of public affairs to use as a consultant for Rawlco Communications. In his private life, Mr. Tchorzewski was active in a number of community and professional organizations. The Knights of Columbus and the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation were two groups that benefited from his participation.

Mr. Speaker, I do recall attending the celebration here in springtime where there are a number of different cultures that put on displays, and I recalled at one of those such occasions Mr. Tchorzewski was the host, and he greeted me at the door when I entered and made me feel welcome. And that was the role that he played especially within that Ukrainian community. He was admired by many in terms of the amount of time and the amount of dedication that he gave.

Mr. Tchorzewski's involvement with politics extended over four decades and encompassed positions in elected and party offices at both the provincial and federal levels. He first entered this Assembly in 1971 and continued to represent the Humboldt area until 1982. He subsequently returned to elected office in the constituency of Regina Northeast after winning a by-election in 1985. He retained his seat in the next three elections before announcing his retirement in 1999.

Mr. Tchorzewski held numerous portfolios in the cabinets of Allan Blakeney and Roy Romanow, including minister of Finance, Health, Education, Provincial Secretary, Municipal Government, Consumer Affairs, and Culture and Youth. Over the course of his tenure in this Assembly, he served as deputy premier, as a government backbencher, and as an opposition critic.

Mr. Tchorzewski lent his expertise to the New Democratic Party by taking on positions as a party advisor and provincial campaign manager. He was elected president of the federal NDP in 1997 and later served as the chief of staff to the federal NDP leader.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

**The Speaker:** — The Deputy Premier has moved a motion of condolences in regards to Mr. Laurence Edwin Tchorzewski. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Well thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. And I am pleased to acknowledge, and to welcome to the Chamber, Ed's wife Shirley and some of their family who have joined us. And we appreciate having you here.

Mr. Speaker, if I may say, I've had opportunity over the years to participate in a number of these condolence motions, and in some ways this is probably the hardest condolence that I've ever had to move or speak to in this House.

It's sometimes said in public life that we have many, many acquaintances, but very few friends. And remembering Ed Tchorzewski as we are today, I remember a friend, and he is a friend that I miss. I miss coffee at Chapters and I miss the conversations in the office and I miss the conversations in the circles of our party.

Ed was my counsellor; he was my colleague; he was my critic; and he was my confidante. And I believe that could be said for others of us, past and present, within this legislature.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Tchorzewski was loyal. He was loyal, ever loyal to our party. He was ever loyal to the premier that he served as a deputy premier. He was ever loyal to all of his colleagues and, if I may say, ever loyal to all of his principles. Through this condolence motion so graciously read by the Deputy Premier, we recognize all of Ed's contributions to this legislature and to the public life of Saskatchewan.

You know, within this Chamber, within this legislature, Ed Tchorzewski virtually served in every role that exists within this room. He sat first as a private member in government. He sat in Executive Council. I think Ed was one of the youngest individuals ever named to a cabinet post in this province. He served as a time as an opposition member of the legislature, and as identified, he served in a variety of portfolios and ministries and he served as minister of Finance, post 1991, and deputy premier at the same time.

I think the only chair that Ed Tchorzewski . . . On the floor of this legislature, with the exception of yours, Mr. Speaker, the only chair that Ed Tchorzewski did not occupy in this legislature was the chair of Premier. And I can tell you Roy Romanow has said on many, many occasions how relieved he was that Ed Tchorzewski did not seek the leadership of our party.

As the motion has indicated, Ed was first and always a teacher. And I can say whether it was in the classroom or whether it was in the caucus room or whether it was in the cabinet room, Ed taught many of us very well.

He was first elected in Humboldt, and I'm sure as the current member from Humboldt will know, Ed never lost his roots in the Humboldt constituency. He never lost his deep love for the people, beginning with Alvena and then into Humboldt and Humboldt constituency. And you can be sure, Mr. Speaker — and I hope other members have done the same — that if Ed were alive today, he'd be on that website voting for Hockeyville in Humboldt. I am sure of it.

It was the coldest by-election that I can remember. The absolute coldest by-election that I can remember, knocking on doors with Ed Tchorzewski when he was re-elected back into this Chamber here in Regina in the mid-1980s — 1985, I think it was. And he was without question, in my mind, the role model of a constituency MLA. There are few in my memory of this place can equate to Ed Tchorzewski when it came to serving his constituency. One comes to mind, Ned Shillington.

Ed taught us much about serving the constituency. A little thing that he taught to myself and a former member, Glenn Hagel, was that a nice gesture at Christmastime is to go to your senior citizens' residences and bring a poinsettia. Ed did it for years and he taught others of us to do it. And some of us can return to some of those places and find those poinsettias still alive.

I want to say today, Mr. Speaker, in the context of this legislature and for history, as the deputy premier and as the minister of Finance in what some of us would argue were this province's darkest hours, when we faced the verge of bankruptcy, Ed, Ed Tchorzewski, more than any other individual — without exception, more than any other individual — it was Ed Tchorzewski that led this province back, that set the path to get us back from that verge of bankruptcy. You know, some of us used to call him Steady Eddy. And it was his steadfastness, his calm, his steady hand that kept our caucus and our government at that time intact, and with the ability to tackle some of those very, very difficult, very, very difficult decisions. It may well be Ed's greatest contribution in public life in this province.

And I tell you, Mr. Speaker, those of us who knew Ed well saw what the public of Saskatchewan did not see. We saw the toll that that period of time took on that man and the tough decisions.

But again, as the Deputy Premier has indicated in the motion, not only did Ed fill virtually every role in this legislature, in our own political party, he filled virtually every role there too. I mean, he was a party member. He was a party councillor, president of the national party, member, candidate — successful and unsuccessful. He served as chief of staff to our national leader. He served as the CEO of our provincial wing. Ed Tchorzewski loved the party and believed in the party and gave a great deal to this party of ours. And I don't know if I know of a more faithful New Democratic Party member.

And I believe it's fair to say, and I think the family would agree with me, that Ed was competitive — no doubt about that. And that was true on the golf course as much as on the campaign trail. And Ed was a man who always appreciated and sought and expected excellence. Whether it was in public policy or whether it was in political organization or whether it was in the most well-manicured lawn on the block, Ed Tchorzewski

expected excellence.

So, Mr. Speaker, alternately, you know, we've called him Mr. T. We've called him Eddy T. And on occasion, we used to call him Two-Button Eddy because, you see, you could never get that distinctive last name on one election button, so he became known to us as Two-Button Eddy.

[14:30]

Above all else, Mr. Speaker, above all else Ed Tchorzewski was a son and a husband and a father and a grandfather. And nothing mattered more to Ed Tchorzewski than those he loved and who loved him in return. Never were his words more kind than when he spoke about his mother. And never were his eyes more warm than when he spoke of Shirley. And never was his voice more proud than when he spoke of his children. And never did I see Ed Tchorzewski more happy than when he was with his grandchildren. I think our last visit in my office Ed was accompanied by grandchildren.

He was an able politician. He believed in the worth of public service. He was an able teacher. And from the days of my beginning in public life to the very last few days of his, Ed was my friend and my teacher.

He was a man of faith. He was faithful to his God. He was faithful to the church into which he was baptized. He was faithful to his convictions. He was faithful to his party. He was faithful to his friends and faithful to his family. And in all the words of scripture that I might find that I think would apply to Ed Tchorzewski, I can think of no more appropriate words than those of Paul who wrote these words to his young friend Timothy:

The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. And I have kept the faith.

Mr. Speaker, I know it's not required, but I would seek to serve as seconder to the condolence motion.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an honour for me to add my words of condolence to Shirley and the family, and to say a few words about the man that we knew as Ed who was always there.

He was always available for consultation. He was always available for very good advice. And many times, he would come when he knew you needed advice, but you hadn't asked him. And I think that was a real secret, especially for me, in the last number of years when he lived in my constituency. Because no matter what year of his political career — which spanned 40 years — that he was in the community, he was able to have conversations with people anywhere and pick up some concern, some issue which needed to be dealt with. And I think that's what initially led him into politics. But over the years, that was a gift that he had which was taught to others, but ultimately we couldn't have the same kind of gift that he did because his was really a special gift.

When I was first nominated to run in the election in 1995, Ed came to spend some time with me to tell me what this was about. And that was really important because he was very skilled in teaching. But what was also really important was that he gave to me some of his best people that had worked with him over many years. And in that 1995 election, as long as I listened to him and to the people that he had who gave me advice, I did very well. And I have often thought back to those weeks of that '95 election, as I've come forward in my own political career, of how important the conversations that I had then were and continue to be in my role as a politician.

When election days came over the last few elections, one of the honours that I had on election day was to stay out of the way of everybody who was making sure the election went the way it should. And so part of those days I would go and visit Shirley because she had some of the best food in the neighbourhood, but more importantly, she had been through so many of these elections as a spouse of a politician that she had very calm and very wise advice. And I want to say a special thank you to Shirley for that kind of a role which she played, I think, for many people in our caucus but especially for me.

I know that the children and grandchildren had a huge influence on how Ed perceived issues as we dealt with them in government, but more importantly, I think they were also why he was in politics. And I know that his children feel that way, and I am sure that the grandchildren will figure that out as the years unfold because the tough decisions, the tough situations that he had to deal with, but also all the things that were built across the province were built for the children and the grandchildren.

I know that one of the excitements in the family over the next couple of months is another, the 10th grandchild coming. And in many ways, I think that's an important legacy of Ed's as well because it's a signal that here in Saskatchewan we're building for all of us, but we're especially building for the future generations. And I want to say thank you to Shirley and to the family, but we all want to be thankful for such a solid citizen as Ed was for the province of Saskatchewan. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased to stand this afternoon and take a few minutes to honour Ed Tchorzewski. I knew Ed differently than some of my other colleagues. I never had the opportunity to serve with Ed in the legislature, but I had the opportunity to sit on Ed's executive, work with Ed through a number of elections, and to learn a great deal from Ed Tchorzewski. I had the opportunity in 1999 to replace Ed — if anybody could ever replace Ed — in the constituency of Regina Dewdney.

And we're honouring a man today who was perhaps bigger than life in some ways, who always took the high road, who believed in this province, and so very much cared about the people of this province. I can remember the conversations I had with him as we were going through the difficult times in the early 1990s when very difficult decisions had to be made, and how difficult those decisions were, and the painful and difficult times he went through having to make difficult decisions that he knew would

hurt people and that he didn't want to make but knew he had to. And those are the types of things that determine the true ability of an individual and show us that he's in fact bigger than life itself.

But Mr. Tchorzewski's real love in his life was his family. I can remember talking around the table after a constituency meeting or over a drink after, talking about his children, his wife, and you could see, as he was talking about his children, a gleam come in his eye. He talked about how smart they were, how capable they were, and how they meant the most to him of anything in his life. He was so proud of them. He was so proud of his family. Mr. Speaker, those are his true legacy, and it's what he cared about most.

Mr. Speaker, he felt the same way about his grandchildren. He waited for the day he would be a grandfather, and he was so very happy when he became a grandfather. And, Mr. Speaker, he loved his grandchildren, and they became the focus of his life. He gave more than 40 years of his life to the public of this province, but he cared most about his family as it always should be. He was a devoted Catholic who cared about his church. He was a very compassionate individual who kept the faith of his church. And, Mr. Speaker, he was a man who didn't think selfishly a single day in his life. He wanted what was best for this province and for its people and for his family.

And, Mr. Speaker, he honestly, in his entire life, worked for the betterment of this province. And we lost a very important Saskatchewan citizen and one that should be remembered for many years to come. Thank you very much.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a humbling thing to rise in this debate of the condolence motion, and it's quite humbling to stand here amongst our colleagues, before Shirley and family, in this place that Ed loved very much.

In the funeral for Ed, the point was made in a few different ways — the attachment of Ed and of the family to these chambers. And there was one story related about the grandkids going to visit grandpa over at grandpa's house — the legislature — or the picture with Ed in his chair on the floor here, taking his place with his grandkids. And it's very humbling to be participating in this debate. When we all come to this Chamber and when we're brought in as new members, we all of course get to sign the roll. And of course there have been many tremendous people that have signed that roll over the years, and it blows you away to think about the contributions that have been made and the calibre of people that have signed that roll. And one of the people I thought about when I got to sign the roll, you know, in this sort of amazement that you're getting to sign the roll — Tommy Douglas, Walter Scott, Thatcher, and Romanow — one of the people I thought about was Ed Tchorzewski.

And I got to know Ed as a member of the party's youth wing, and I got to know Ed working together when he was the chief of staff to Alexa McDonough. And as has been well stated here, there was hardly a job in the party that Ed didn't do. And it

wasn't of course, as was joked about at the funeral, because he had trouble holding down a job; it was just because that call always came from so many quarters. We've got a hard job to do. Who better to do it than Ed Tchorzewski?

And of course, you know, chief of staff to the federal NDP — that's a tough gig. But Shirley and Ed packed up and moved out to Ottawa, and Ed did that job very well. I still have a picture on my wall from a column that Jeffrey Simpson had done in *The Globe and Mail* where . . . It was a story about Ed coming to the federal NDP, and it's got Ed lifting weights because he was going to bring some muscle to the cause. And he certainly did that.

One of my memories of Ed will always be . . . In opposition of course you rarely win motions, and Lorne Nystrom, who I was working for at the time, won a private member's motion. And it was a supertime vote, so I had to run down to the press gallery to distribute a release and was heading back to the opposition lobby and ran into Ed along the way. And Ed and I walked along together and he said, you know, this feels great, doesn't it? And I was so excited that we'd won and he put his arm around my shoulder and he said, you know what? This is what it's like in government every day.

[14:45]

And it's something that I thought about when we'd win votes on the government side, and it's something that I think about when we lose votes on the opposition side. And I know that Ed, being the happy warrior that he is, was, and shall be in our memories, he'll be there with the legacy of lessons that he taught us and the example he set out before us in terms of what it takes to not just win power but to exercise power before the people.

I just want to say a couple other things about that example, Mr. Speaker. I've read in other places where there are politicians who don't lose a night's sleep wrestling with the issues, who are able to sort of leave the job here at the legislature or out in the community. And certainly Ed had his places of refuge at Crystal Lake or in his home that was made so well, with his family, but Ed took so much to heart in terms of trying to steer through the bad times that you wonder about it, in these politics, what a toll it takes on a person to make those tough decisions.

And Ed had a heart so big that you knew that he may have been keeping it calm and strong on the outside for the people in caucus and the people of the province, but you knew, you knew it took a toll. And we owe all the much more to him and to the family for that sacrifice in labour for the people of the province.

I want to say that one of the things I will also remember about Ed is that he would, in terms of doing, you know . . . There was never a job beneath him in the party. There's a great story from Peter Lougheed: if you want to be the person in the front of the room, you should be the person at the back helping to clean up the chairs at the end. And that was very much Ed's approach to politics.

And you know, there's a particularly great story from the mid-'80s, when the finances weren't as great in the party, about Ed auctioning off his services to go paint Tommy Douglas

House, and then trundling off on a hot day in the summer and painting up Tommy Douglas House, because that's what the party needed Ed to do, and that's what he did, with a joyful spirit and a giving heart.

I'd be remiss if I didn't say that Ed was very, very proud of his heritage. And, you know, to go to the Poltava Pavilion, there will be many people that will be looking for him just inside the door, you know, making sure that everything runs smooth, making sure that everybody is seated and enjoying the good times.

And Ed did his Ukrainian heritage proud. He was of a generation where, and again our leader has talked about . . . You know, Roy Romanow has said many times how glad he was that Ed did not stand to challenge him in the mid-'80s. But I mean here's a man who was a deputy premier when not a generation before there are many people in this room that know the prejudice and the bigotry that would be put towards people of Ukrainian descent in Saskatchewan.

So he blazed the trail and moved things forward there, and in so many regards we will miss him. He was a great guy and did such a wonderful thing for the province, and our hearts break with the Tchorzewski family.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a real honour to say a few words about my friend and colleague, Ed Tchorzewski. I have several memories of Ed, but I think I'll refer to just a few today.

I was on the party executive in the early 1980s after that defeat of the Allan Blakeney government in 1982, and I think it's fair to say that our caucus was reduced to a very small group of people that sat on this side of the House. And Ed Tchorzewski was not one of those people, but when a by-election came up, I believe it was 1985 in the city of Regina, Ed was asked to run in that by-election and he did. And for those of us that were already candidates for the 1986 election, we went to work in that by-election. And it was the coldest by-election that I can remember.

And I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, maybe you worked in that by-election too. But the one thing I do remember was that the Devine government had introduced the tax on used cars and we had ourselves a winner on the doorstep, because we were going to make sure that we needed to elect one more voice in opposition to a tax on used cars, and this was part of our campaign. And we went door to door to door to door, talked about the tax on used cars, and Ed was overwhelmingly elected in that by-election and he came into this House. And I know Allan Blakeney was sincerely grateful that we had one more caucus member to ask questions in the House and do the work of the opposition. Shortly thereafter, I believe, Mr. Devine took off that tax on used cars. So that's one memory.

The second memory I have is coming into this House as a newly elected member in 1986 and Eddy T was a member who'd been in this place for some time. And I think there were 16 brand new members that were elected in that 1986 general

election. And I think it's fair to say that we paid a lot of attention to Ed and the work that he did in this Assembly and the way he asked questions in the Assembly — and just paid attention to him because he was a mentor for many of us.

There were three of us that came into the House in 1986 and we were three women members of the caucus. And I don't think the NDP had elected any women since the 1960s. And I can say with certainty that Eddy T treated these three women members of the legislature with respect. And he always was helpful and supportive and he made sure that we had opportunities to hone our political skills and ask questions in this Assembly, and for that I will always be grateful.

The other memory I have of Ed is the coming into the government in 1991 and Premier Romanow had named him minister of Finance. And, you know, you have to think about this. He's the minister of Finance. There are 55 members in our caucus — 55 MLAs — and we've been waiting to get into government for some time. We've been waiting for nine years. And we had all kinds of ideas and all kinds of programs and all kinds of things that we wanted to get done. And we were greeted with this tremendous fiscal mess, so to speak, and debt that was in the stratosphere, and I think it's fair to say that Ed Tchorzewski as the minister of Finance had a huge sell job to do, not only with the public in terms of getting our fiscal house in order but also with those 55 members of the legislature. And he was respectful and very, I guess, earnest in some ways, but also he was a teacher in terms of making sure that we understood what we had to do in order to get our province's finances put back together again.

Now in those days, we had to go back to our constituencies and talk to our constituents about what was happening in the legislature, and we had to give a report to our constituents. And this was a time when we had reduced spending significantly, programs had been changed, reduced, deleted, and so on and so forth. And Eddy T was there at all times making sure that we had the information, supporting us, assisting us in any way he could to ensure that we could explain to our constituents why we were implementing the program changes we were in order to get our financial house in order.

And I think it's fair to say that there were many, many, many debates in our caucus about some of the things that we had to do, and he was patient and wise and careful and prudent, and for that I will always be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, there are some that will say that it was others that got our financial house in order, but for those of us that were there in 1991, we know. And the person that did the legwork, who did the heavy lifting, was Ed Tchorzewski. And I hope the history books will show that someday — that it was Ed Tchorzewski that helped put this province back on the right track.

And I think he paid a price for that. In fact I know he did because shortly thereafter he asked to be relieved of his duties as the Finance minister. He went on to other portfolios, and then he made the eventual decision to leave politics. And when he made that decision to leave the cabinet, he and I became seatmates. And when the House wasn't sitting, he went back to his first love and that first love was teaching. And I think it was

St. Angela's or St. Theresa's — I can't remember the school — elementary school, but he was back in the classroom and he absolutely loved it because Ed of course always was a teacher. And as a former teacher myself, I always appreciated the fact that when issues around teaching and education came up in caucus, in cabinet, he was always extremely supportive of those people in the teaching profession.

One of my last memories of Ed was about a little over, I guess, maybe a year and a half ago. He had come to see the Leader of the Opposition. Clay Serby, another former deputy premier, was there. All of us had bad backs that day, and we somehow ended up in my office and we decided that we were just totally hopeless; that now that we were no longer in government that obviously all the stress was leaving our various portions of our bodies and we were all bent over and feeling, I guess, getting rid of all of that stress. And the Opposition Leader came down the hallway wondering what all of this laughter was emanating from my office. Well it was Ed Tchorzewski, Pat Atkinson, and Clay Serby having a very, very good laugh.

Mr. Speaker, the other memory I have of Ed is going to his house, and his lawn was absolutely perfect. I think he alternated between moving the mower one way and then maybe moving the mower diagonally, but he had the best looking grass on his street. And we used to tease him about his perfectionism when it came to his yard. He had a beautiful yard. I don't know if he was totally responsible for it, Shirley, but when it came to talking to us it seemed as though he was, and he was truly an impressive gardener.

And my final, final memory of Ed is Ed talking about his grandkids. And he made an effort with all of his little grandkids to have a picture taken in this Assembly with them. And even when he was very sick, he had another grandchild that needed to have a picture taken in this Assembly, and he came here and had that picture taken. And I know as, you know, a much older grandchild now, I have my pictures of myself and my grandparents and they are something I treasure, and I know that Ed's grandchildren will treasure those pictures forever.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for allowing me to participate in this recognition of Ed Tchorzewski — a good friend, a faithful colleague, and a favourite son of our province.

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

[15:00]

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My remarks won't be that long, Mr. Speaker, but I wanted to take the opportunity to stand and express a few thoughts and join with my colleagues in expressing my condolences to the Tchorzewski family.

Ed will certainly be remembered as someone who served his fellow citizens with honour and integrity. On a personal note, Ed was the individual who moved the motion of condolence for my grandfather, Hans Broten, and I would like his family to know how much my family appreciated him doing so and for the kind words that he expressed at that time. I believe between 1975 and 1982, Ed represented much of the same area geographically that my grandfather did.



Though I did not know Ed well on a personal level, his example of public service and a work ethic that was second to none serves an example for all members of this Assembly. As a relatively new member of the Assembly, it's certainly an example that I would seek to emulate and model my own behaviour after.

In closing I would like express my heartfelt sympathy to the Tchorzewski family and thank them for the role they have played and will continue to play in the affairs of our province. We all know politics is a family affair, and our province owes a great amount of thanks to the Tchorzewski family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Cannington.

**Hon. Mr. D'Autremont:** — Mr. Speaker, it's an honour today to speak on behalf of my colleagues in caucus and our government about the accomplished life of a dedicated public servant and to offer our condolences to his family, his friends, and his former colleagues.

Ed Tchorzewski spent his life serving Saskatchewan people — first as a teacher, then as an elected member of this legislature. It is this life of service to others that we are recognizing today.

Despite our ideological differences, I can readily attest to how much Ed sacrificed for the province he loved. No one who served with Ed in these chambers could dispute his prolific work ethic and dedication to the job. Ed clearly agonized over tough fiscal decisions that he needed to make as the Finance minister — agonized over both internal and external conflicts arising from those discussions. Ed's agonizing over his responsibility is evidence that he took the burden of public service very seriously.

Ed Tchorzewski's story is a classic Saskatchewan tale. Born of a Polish Saskatchewan family, raised in a three bedroom house with no electricity, and having spent his formative years on the family's Hudson Bay area farm, Ed's meagre beginnings, his family's life on the land, and the pioneering spirit of the fledgling Hudson Bay area farmers he grew up around would have been familiar to any Saskatchewan homesteader.

Ed's rural, small-town background no doubt informed his political sensibility. Ed's first speech in the legislature demonstrated how passionately he identified with the struggle of Saskatchewan's farmers. There is no doubt this passion was a source of most of Ed's angst over decisions made regarding rural Saskatchewan in the early 1990s, but he complemented this with a toughness even his opponents could not deny. Ed overcame his humble beginnings and received a bachelor's degree in political science and earned a teaching certificate at the University of Saskatchewan in the 1960s.

Ed's career trajectory was off to a fast track after that. After his brief career as a teacher, he was elected to the legislature in 1971 and was quickly appointed to cabinet by then Premier Allan Blakeney. With intellect, initiative, and hard work, Ed overcame the obstacles before him, turning the strong work ethic he learned around the farmers in Hudson Bay into a long political career serving the people of Saskatchewan.

Ed's particular calling was politics, but his story is quintessential Saskatchewan — a success story born of hard work and sacrifice, much like this province. And while Ed and I may not have agreed on much politically, he clearly had a knack with people that served him well at the ballot box. He got elected time and again because people could relate to his story and because of the small-town sensibilities he gained growing up in rural Saskatchewan.

This was a valuable political skill set that made Ed a formidable opponent both inside this Chamber and on the doorsteps at campaign time. In his initial 1972 speech to the legislature, Ed made mention of how simple, small things like hockey can knit a community together. In a reference that is timely now as it was then, he lauded his constituents in Humboldt for rallying around their hockey team. As he said in 1972, and I quote, "Humboldt is one of the rare towns of its size that can boast a junior A hockey team." As a Humboldt Bronco fan, Ed would no doubt be clicking furiously to make Humboldt Canada's Hockeyville this year.

Other than former Premier Roy Romanow, Ed was the central figure on the NDP side in my early days as an opposition politician. And some people may disagree with me on that because they were sitting there at the time. I know that we tried to give him a rough ride at times, as rough a ride as a 10-member opposition could do. And it won't surprise members opposite that even as a rookie MLA, I hounded Ed from my seat as much as I could. But even as we disagreed with some of his decisions, our caucus at all times had a grudging respect for his sometimes surprisingly candid nature.

This was an admirable but not always politically expedient quality. To this day, I still carry a copy of *Hansard* from July 30, 1992, in which Ed admitted that Saskatchewan had significant debt way back before 1982 election, debt that he was still dealing with as the Finance minister in 1992. I carried it because I recognized the power of a quotation from a man of his calibre.

In the 1990s, both sides of the House fought over the tough fiscal decisions that needed to be made. But Ed also faced the additional burden of quelling concerns in his own ranks. For those of us around at the time, it was no small secret that this battle took quite a personal toll on Ed. I bring this up only because it speaks to the more admirable side of Ed's character. He took the decisions personally because he cared. Whether you agreed with his ideology, there's no doubt he fretted over decisions because of his desire to have a positive impact on this province.

Perhaps the most compelling evidence of Ed's character came late in his career. We politicians are often accused of lingering in this career strictly for reasons of vanity. Ed left cabinet and later left the legislature altogether. His frank admission that he had not spent enough time with family, that he had regrets about being at the office too much, was a refreshing reminder that the rewards of politics are not always enough.

Ed made the humble decision to rebalance his life, to put his responsibilities to his family first instead of stubbornly clinging to power. Furthermore Ed opted to end his career with a return to serving this province at the grassroots level. Despite a long

absence from teaching, Ed returned to his original calling — taking a job at St. Theresa elementary here in Regina. No matter what political stripe you were, you have to admire that Ed chose to serve the people of this province in whatever capacity he could. For that we owe him a debt of gratitude.

On behalf of our caucus and our government, I'd like to thank the Speaker for allowing me this time to honour the life of a distinguished member of this legislature, Ed Tchorzewski. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I would ask leave of members to make a few comments in regard to Mr. Tchorzewski's life. Thank you, members. I guess of the members from that '86 period, I'm probably one of the few members left that would remember Mr. Tchorzewski a bit. And when I first came to sit in this Legislative Chamber, I remember he sat exactly where I believe the member from Regina Douglas Park sits today.

He was a critic at the time. And one thing I remember about Mr. Tchorzewski was budget day. I'm not sure if we quite achieved of what . . . the things that Mr. Tchorzewski could achieve. In fact I often thought that he took great pride in responding to the budget debate. And sometimes I thought his responses were exceptionally long. I'm not sure if it was because of his passion to speak or if it was his attempt to rally the guests who were members of the opposition or if it was his attempt to demoralize the guests that were members there as the government side. But I know Mr. Tchorzewski took great pride in speaking on the floor of this Chamber. He certainly had a competitive nature.

As has been mentioned by many of the members who have spoken this afternoon, members of all parties, when you put your name forward and are elected, you sacrifice a lot. Oh and I understand that Mr. Tchorzewski, elected in 1971 . . . One thing I never really got the opportunity to do was to sit down and find out how young his family was at that time and how many may have been added to thereafter.

But I do know when I was elected at that time in 1986, my daughter was two. My boys were six and eight. And for many members, you think back to those times and you think of the periods in your life as a politician where, when your family being that young, and you miss a lot of things.

But I would like to say to Shirley, thank you. As spouses we fail to say thank you to our spouses long enough, and I know if it wasn't for the support of my wife, I wouldn't be as proud a father as I am today or a grandparent as I am today. Our spouses certainly contribute and contribute. Each and every one of us, I am sure, would acknowledge the work of our spouses, and we can say thank you to them. So I would say thank you to Shirley and her family for sharing your husband, your father, with the people of Saskatchewan as a member of this Legislative Assembly.

At this time I want to say thank you to the Deputy Premier, the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and all the members who have participated in the debate, and I bring forward the motion by the Deputy Premier:

That this Assembly, in recording its deepest sense of loss and bereavement, expresses its most sincere sympathy to

members of the bereaved family.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. Thank you. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

### Josef Saxinger

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I would like to honour the next former member of the Legislative Assembly. And I move the following motion:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly, and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and the province.

**Josef Saxinger**, who passed away on July 3, 2008, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1986 until 1991. He represented the constituency of Kinistino for the Progressive Conservative Party. Mr. Saxinger was born on February 2, 1930, in Niederbrunn, Germany. He attended local schools in Haag and Passau and trained as a tool and dye maker. Mr. Saxinger immigrated to Canada on July 11, 1954, and settled near relatives in the Cudworth district. In 1956 he married Eleonore Lobl and they had five children. Much later in life he married Delphine Nielsen in 2006.

Mr. Saxinger spent the majority of his professional career in the agricultural field. He operated Saxinger Motors from the early 1960s until 1982. In 1992 he opened Saxinger Farm Parts and Implements in Cudworth. Later Mr. Saxinger joined a partnership that established the Sagehill Buffalo Ranch on the former Dana radar base.

Mr. Saxinger's dedication to his fellow citizens was evident in his lengthy and diverse public service. His tenure as Cudworth fire chief extended over two decades. Mr. Saxinger was a charter member of the Cudworth Lions Club and served as district 5CN governor in 1982. He was instrumental in establishing the Lions Eye Bank of Saskatchewan and the Cudworth municipal airstrip.

Mr. Saxinger's involvement with politics began at the local level, as a member of the Cudworth Town Council. He was elected to this Assembly in 1986 and served as the legislative assistant to the Minister of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Speaker, in recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

[15:15]

**The Speaker:** — The Deputy Premier has moved the motion of

condolences to the Saxinger family. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to bring a few remarks to this condolence motion to the Saxinger family on behalf of the official opposition. The numbers of us who occupied this Chamber with Joe are becoming fewer and fewer, but there are those of us here who do remember Joe Saxinger.

We came, many of us, as newly elected MLAs at the same time; some of us on this side, and Joe and others of course on the government side at that time, in 1986. And I sense there is a bond that occurs between members when they are first elected. It doesn't matter if we're sitting on one side of the House or the other, there is a certain bond between the newly elected, which I predict, Mr. Speaker, 20 years hence, members who were recently elected in the election most recent will recognize. There was a bond established, and that doesn't change. And so while those of us who sat with Joe, with Joe Saxinger, did not sit as political colleagues, we did sit as colleagues, and I'm sure we have memories.

One of my clearest memories of Joe, and I think it would be shared by others, was the warmth of that German accent when he spoke in this legislature. Now I might not have liked what he was saying, but it sure sounded good. And I'm not sure that since the time of Joe that we've had someone with that, with that depth of the German accent and the warmth that he brought.

And, Mr. Speaker, he had something to say and he said it here. He said it on behalf of his constituents. He brought to this House the talents that he obviously, obviously had in terms of the small-business world. And he brought to this House the same kind of passion that I think the people of Cudworth particularly — and the Kinistino constituency generally, but Cudworth particularly — he brought to this House the kind of skill and talent and passion that they saw in the man they elected.

I had an opportunity at one time to serve in the United Church in Wakaw, and in that experience came to know people of that constituency, even some from Cudworth. And over my time in public life — either as an MLA, a minister, and as premier — had opportunity to visit Cudworth.

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that constituencies tend to elect people who reflect the kind of people they are. And the people of that constituency — Wakaw, Cudworth, that area — they're hard-working; they're hard-working, determined people. And Joe, I recognized immediately in meeting him here, was one of those — hard-working, determined, but ever hospitable and ever believing in community.

And we hear from Joe's description of the work he's done for the Lions Club and the work he did in Cudworth, how he did believe in that community. He served his community well. He served this legislature well. And though some of us may have not shared the political views, we shared a bond.

And today, on behalf of those who sat with Joe at that time and

on behalf of all of the current members of the opposition, we'd want to extend our condolence along with this motion to Joe's family and friends in Cudworth.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Hear, hear!

**The Speaker:** — Members, I would ask for leave . . . Oh pardon me. I recognize the member from Batoche.

**Mr. Kirsch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the members of this Assembly for the honour and the privilege of speaking on the condolence motion for Mr. Josef Saxinger. I will be referring to him as Joe because that's the name I knew him by.

I first met Joe when he was the Case dealer in Cudworth. Now Cudworth is a town of under 500, and it was from this base that Joe built a huge dealership. It was the top 10 Case dealerships in all of North America 16 years in a row, and three of them as number one. This is from a town of Cudworth. With no technology like today — computers, fax machines, and cellphones — Joe ran his dealership. And with Joe in his airplane and if he had to, he flew the parts to where they were. And he was known throughout the country as Mr. Case. That's the kind of man Joe was.

When he took on a job, he didn't just do the job — he excelled at it. Joe was a man of vision and a man of passion. Whatever he tackled, he gave it his all — whether it was Case dealerships or the Lions Club. He was a founding member of the Cudworth club and once again therein he found a mission, and that was the Lions Eye Bank of Saskatchewan.

Joe was also passionate about his politics. In 1986 Joe decided that he could do some good in Regina, so he became the candidate and won the election for the constituency of Kinistino and served under Grant Devine from 1986 to 1992. Joe was very proud of his years of service for the people of his constituency and once again put his entire being into the job.

Mr. Speaker, Joe and his family have been friends to me. His daughter, Barb, was a close friend and very instrumental in my nomination run. Unfortunately we lost her to cancer this winter. Joe was a big supporter of mine from day one, but most of all, he was my mentor. Joe was always available to me and never pushed his view. He would just offer his opinion. For his friendship, his advice, and wisdom, I will be forever grateful.

Joe was born in Germany and he never forgot his heritage. And Cudworth Oktoberfest won't be the same without Joe in his lederhosen and Bavarian hat. He was quite a sight.

Joe was one of those unique individuals who stood out in a crowd. At a little over 5 feet, he stood very, very tall for his family, his community, and his province. Joe believed in living life, not just standing there and watching life go by.

Thank you, Joe, and thank you to his family for sharing him with us. The legacy he leaves for us here in Regina is one of honesty, integrity, and work ethics second to none. The legacy he leaves for his family is one of pride and accomplishment and integrity, but above all, love — the love of his family, the love of his church and community and his province. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I would ask leave of members to make a few comments in regards to Mr. Saxinger's acknowledgement.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — I was one of the members that was elected at the same time Mr. Saxinger was elected, and as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has already indicated, a number of new members arrived on the scene in 1986.

One thing I remember about Mr. Saxinger, as has already been mentioned by the member from Batoche, was a very shrewd businessman. And he was a man, as was referred to, of action.

And the one thing I remember very distinctly. He found this place, I mean not quite exactly what he had anticipated. In fact he found it somewhat dull, and he found it moved very slowly. He had anticipated that he would arrive on the scene and that he would be able to do things for his constituents and they would happen now. Not tomorrow or a year from now — now. And so in some of those ways, Mr. Saxinger did find it a little frustrating.

And it was actually, I believe, the premier of the day found it somewhat difficult — and for the Whips, you would understand some of the frustrations — trying to keep him in his seat or even around the city if he had things to do. But that was, that was Joe.

He came to this Assembly on a mission and he was going to do it and if it wasn't getting done, he'd get out and he'd do it. But I really appreciated him. As the Leader of the Opposition said, his German accent was certainly intriguing to listen to as he expressed his views on political issues.

There's very interesting stories when you talk about Joe, and one of them was his passion for flying. And I think the premier of the day is certainly appreciative of the fact that on numerous occasions, he'd have a small twin-engine plane and he'd have it full of MLAs. And I think the premier was just praying that that plane wouldn't go down somewhere because his caucus would be cut almost in half with the number of MLAs he'd carry around. But Joe just enjoyed flying.

Another comment. I'd come back on a Monday and ask Joe, what did you do on the weekend? Well he got in the plane and he was flying around northern Saskatchewan. He liked witching. And he was trying to see what was available up there, and he kept coming back and saying, you know, there's diamonds up there. There's minerals up there. And he was truly an interesting individual.

But I would also say that he was certainly a family man. He truly enjoyed his family, was very proud of his family.

And one other thing I'd like to say in regards to Mr. Saxinger, when you talk about his business ethics and making sure he provided and looked after his constituents and his customers. Shortly before his death, as was mentioned, he was running this bison ranch and he would process bison. He would pick up, and he had customers that would order and he would actually personally deliver.

And it was about a week or so before he had gone to deliver some bison to be processed, picked up the previously processed meat, arrived back in order to . . . and changed into his suit to go to a graduation ceremony and, on the way, delivered the bison that had been ordered by a customer. He got the job done. He just did it. He got it done on the way.

And so, we find from Mr. Saxinger an example of someone who had a real passion for this province and this country that he came to, that he called home. He certainly contributed to this province and I want to extend to his family my sympathies as well, joining with the Deputy Premier and the members of this Assembly in extending our condolences to the Saxinger family.

At this time, I present the motion by the Deputy Premier:

That this Assembly in recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

#### **Lorne Aubrey McLaren**

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I again would like to move the following motion with regards to one of our former members:

That this Assembly records with sorrow and regret the passing of a former member of this Assembly and expresses its grateful appreciation of the contribution he made to his community, his constituency, and the province.

**Lorne Aubrey McLaren**, who passed away on January 4, 2009, represented the constituency of Yorkton as a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1982 until 1991.

Mr. McLaren was born in Saltcoats on August 17, 1928, and was raised on the family farm. He worked for 30 years in farm implement manufacturing, eventually becoming president of the Morris Rod Weeder Company in Yorkton.

Moving into the political scene, Mr. McLaren was first elected in 1982 and became the new Progressive Conservative government's minister of Labour. After re-election in 1986, he was named government caucus Chair. He held this last position until his retirement from politics in 1991.

Mr. McLaren is remembered by his colleagues as a hard working man, committed to his constituents. He is also credited with helping to build a strong agricultural industry in Saskatchewan.

Mr. McLaren is survived by his wife Barbara, four children, and numerous stepchildren, grandchildren and

great-grandchildren.

In recording its own deep sense of loss and bereavement, this Assembly expresses its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

I so move.

[15:30]

**The Speaker:** — The Deputy Premier has moved:

That this Assembly express its most sincere sympathy with members of the Lorne McLaren family.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

**Mr. Calvert:** — Mr. Speaker, if I may, just a word or two in the debate, the condolence motion for Lorne McLaren.

Lorne McLaren, to many of us, the name Lorne McLaren, the person of Lorne McLaren is virtually a name and a person synonymous with Yorkton. For many years when we thought about Yorkton, we would think about Lorne McLaren, and when we heard the name or thought about Lorne, we thought about Yorkton.

And equally over time his name was synonymous almost with the Morris Rod Weeder Company, that very, very successful implement manufacturer in Yorkton in our province. Again when we thought about Lorne McLaren, we thought about Morris Rod Weeder.

He came to this Assembly, as the Deputy Minister's indicated, in 1982, in that large majority government. He brought with him the expertise, his managerial expertise, honed over many years in the Morris Rod Weeder. And when I think of positions that we are often called upon to occupy within government or within the legislature, within the political process, and think about Lorne McLaren, he was handed, I would argue, two of the most difficult assignments, in government particularly.

In that first term he was handed the assignment of minister of Labour. And I'm not sure if it's harder being a minister of Labour in a left-of-centre government or harder being a minister of Labour from a right-of-centre government, but it's a tough assignment. And those of us who used to challenge Lorne as minister of Labour also recognized that he earned a certain respect in the trade union movement, in the labour movement. While there were some deep disagreements, there was a certain civility that Lorne McLaren brought to that work, a civility that was respected.

And of course not having been part of that group, I can recognize that when Lorne was asked or was chosen to serve as the caucus Chair, my experience around government tells me that to serve as a caucus Chair in any caucus, and particularly in the government caucus, is not easy work. It is challenging work and there are some in the room who I think, having filled that role, would testify to the fact that as caucus Chair there is a certain diplomacy. There is a certain respect that needs to be

earned by all members in that caucus. And my hunch is that Lorne had the respect of his caucus colleagues in what can be, Mr. Speaker, a very difficult role.

I have come to conclude, Mr. Speaker, and I say this with the member of Yorkton in our company, that somehow you can take a member out of Yorkton but you can never take Yorkton out of the member. I watched Mr. McLaren and if there was ever a passionate advocate for Yorkton, it was Lorne McLaren.

And I was served and call a good friend, Mr. Clay Serby, who served as my deputy premier — again I met nothing but a passionate advocate for Yorkton. And then I watched in the most recent election campaign how our candidate and the successful new member from Yorkton, both passionate advocates for the city and the community and the people of Yorkton . . . Lorne McLaren was that. He was a passionate spokesperson, a passionate advocate, a passionate worker on behalf of his city, his community, and his people.

So it is with respect that we remember Lorne McLaren's contribution to the political process, to this legislature, to public life and debate, and on behalf of my colleagues in opposition — some of whom again have sat with Mr. McLaren, others of whom have not — to extend our deep condolences to the McLaren family and to the friends and neighbours of Yorkton.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Yorkton.

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to thank the member of the opposition, the Leader of the Opposition, for those kind comments about the constituency of Yorkton, all of which are very true.

I wish too to rise today and take this opportunity to convey condolences to the Lorne McLaren family on behalf of my family and the constituency of Yorkton.

Mr. McLaren, who passed away on January 4, 2009 in Regina at the age of 80, was a long-term resident of Yorkton and area and very well known. Being born near Saltcoats and working in the farming and agriculture industry for most of his career, including his 30 years with Morris Rod Weeder, was well known with this well-known and worldwide company, and made him very well known in the area. His involvement with Morris Industries saw him rise to company president in '79 and for a time he did serve as the Chair of the Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association.

Because of Mr. McLaren's interest in politics, he ran provincially for the Progressive Conservative Party and won the Yorkton constituency in 1982, where he served for nine years until his retirement.

Although I never knew Mr. McLaren personally, I do know members of his family well, and I again extend my prayers and condolences to them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to add my words of condolences to the Lorne McLaren family.

In my previous career as a lawyer, I remember quite well the 1982 election and the new names that showed up around the legislature, and one of the names that showed up in that election was Lorne McLaren from Yorkton. And this was a person of good stature and he was a known commodity and somebody who I know that we, in my office, were quite pleased was coming forward from Yorkton to be part of the new government.

And I know that in those years in my professional capacity, there were a number of times when I had a chance to meet him or work with him and was always impressed by his leadership at his company, Morris Rod Weeder, from before, but also as he stepped into some of the very difficult roles as our leader has outlined today. Because when you are asked to step forward and are newly elected and then given a very tough job, we all know that it's a very steep learning curve and you really need to take the people who have skills from many places. I think that Mr. McLaren showed that and that he served the people of the province well in the jobs that he was given.

And to his family and children and grandchildren, we need to say thank you for the good work that he did for the people of Saskatchewan.

**The Speaker:** — Members, I would ask leave to make a few comments in regards to Mr. McLaren.

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Thank you, members. I would just like to also add my few comments to the remembrances and condolences. When I first met Mr. McLaren it was at a Conservative convention prior to him even getting involved in politics. And I remember sitting down with Mr. McLaren as president of Morris Rod Weeder and talking about the province and talking about where they were as a company and talking about the challenges when you're in leadership in a company and working with the men and women and working on the floor. And I got a sense that Mr. McLaren certainly had a passion for his employees, for his company, and was doing very well.

When Mr. McLaren ran and won, it was a period when I wasn't as involved. But afterwards I learned that Mr. McLaren really didn't desire to get involved in politics. He was quite happy to be president of Morris Rod Weeder. In fact in the Saltcoats history book, he says a little bit about this. It wasn't his intention nor his desire. He felt there were other people that were more qualified, but as has already been indicated, there was a lot of respect in the community for what he represented, what he stood for. And then he decided that with the pressure that he would seek nomination. And lo and behold, he was elected.

Next thing you knew, he was on the floor of the Assembly. And one of the things that I understand, and I know from Mr. McLaren, while he enjoyed representing the constituency, he found it very difficult to speak on the floor — that wasn't really his forte. His forte was to sit around a coffee table and enjoy a cup of coffee, rather than the real debate on the floor. But he

still had a heart for his constituents.

In his biography that he placed in the Saltcoats history book, he also acknowledges that the darkest days of his life were the late '80s and the fact that, at that period of time as Chair of the Conservative caucus, he failed to adequately manage the caucus, and as a result he paid a very serious price for it. And Mr. McLaren acknowledged that, although there was a sense as well that probably was more placed on his shoulders than he was actually responsible for. But he acknowledged that. And that's in the history books as well.

As we heard earlier today, being in public life isn't easy and you sacrifice a lot. So I would also like to express my appreciation for the work that Mr. McLaren did.

And having kept in touch with him on numerous occasions over the past few years, he wasn't someone just to sit back and feel sorry for himself. He got involved in business again.

And then he really enjoyed, what he really enjoyed, the passion of his life was his family and his grandchildren. That's why I wanted to extend on my behalf to Barb and her family and all of the family, my deepest sympathy on the passing of Lorne Aubrey McLaren.

The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Deputy Premier:

That this Assembly in recording its own deep loss, sense of loss and bereavement express its most sincere sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Donald Murray Brown**

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to request leave to move:

That the Assembly offer condolences on the passing of one of our Provincial Court judges and express sympathy to the family of Judge Donald Murray Brown.

I understand that in the past the House has not previously heard condolences for judges, Mr. Speaker, but I believe that we should recognize their services and it is a precedent that I would be pleased to set.

**The Speaker:** — I thank the member. I would like to also acknowledge the Deputy Premier has already requested leave for all condolence motions, so we'll move forward. Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For over 30 years Murray Brown served the people of Saskatchewan, first with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, and then later on as a judge of the Provincial Court.

During my time as opposition Justice critic, he was one of the officials that frequently appeared for estimates or second reading of Bills during committee, and was one of the individuals that you could count on to be fair, competent, courteous, and professional. I would like to express condolences to his family on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and, on a personal note, to convey my respect for his dedication and commitment throughout his career.

Judge Brown was born and raised in Melville, Saskatchewan. He continued his education at the University of Saskatchewan, obtaining an honours degree in psychology in 1972 and a law degree three years later. He became a Crown prosecutor upon graduation, rising to the director of appeals in 1988 and director of public prosecutions in 2001. As director, he played a crucial role in the development of our domestic violence courts and northern cultural courts. He was involved in legal education, teaching at the Saskatchewan Police College, speaking to prosecutors across Canada, and as a mentor to many in the legal community.

Murray Brown was appointed to the Provincial Court in October 2007. It is a tragedy that his career on the bench was cut short by illness. I had the privilege of attending Judge Brown's funeral in Melville last month, an event that included many senior judges, members of the legal community, and Judge Brown's wide circle of friends and family. He will be truly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to move:

That the Assembly offer condolences and to extend expressions of sympathy to the family of Judge Brown.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved that we extend condolences to the family of Judge Murray Brown. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Saskatoon Meewasin.

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a sad thing to rise today to speak to this matter, to this motion, Mr. Speaker.

Judge Brown, Murray Brown, dedicated his life to public service and to the law. I didn't meet him until 2004. I'd become minister of Justice and was usually briefed by deputy minister, assistant or associate deputy ministers. But on matters of criminal prosecution — those rare ones that get to a minister's office, those most sensitive ones, Mr. Speaker — I would be briefed by the director of public prosecutions. And that's how I became familiar with Murray Brown.

[15:45]

Judge Brown — Mr. Brown when I first knew him — cared about three things more than anything else. He cared about the law; he cared about justice which we hope is usually the same thing; and he cared very much about the truth, and he had very high standards. He had very high standards for himself, and he expected a great deal of people around him, and more so of people entrusted with responsibility. And so he had very high expectations, in particular, for members of the judiciary.

Sometimes he was disappointed and sometimes people did not meet those expectations.

And I learned quickly about Murray, that he had a sense of humour which I had some sympathy with. It protected him a little bit from the failings of his fellow human beings. And sometimes he would make a comment about a court's decision — usually a court's decision. And I for a second would think, Murray doesn't really think that, and of course he didn't. But he would make these comments, these humorous comments, with a very dry wit and with a very deadpanned face, and we were usually discussing fairly serious matters. So it was always a pleasure when Murray's wit, as dry and pointed and sharp as it could be, broke into the conversation.

I suppose, Mr. Speaker, I was always fortunate that I didn't report to Murray Brown, that Murray Brown reported to me. But I developed a very strong appreciation, over time, of his qualities, of his integrity, of his honesty, and of his high standards.

I often said at the swearing-in of a Provincial Court judge — I don't know if I said it at Murray's — that in my view the Provincial Court is the most important court. It may be the lowest court, and it's not the court decisions which are cited by academics when they're explaining which way the law is going. No one takes much notice of the Provincial Court in academic circles. For a matter to become of importance, he has to go through a couple of appellate courts before it is noted and considered to be indicative of how the courts are deciding matters.

But the reason I believe the Provincial Court is the most important court is this is the court that deals with 90 per cent criminal cases. It deals with all the small claims cases, Mr. Speaker. So it deals with most accused, most victims, most unrepresented litigates. That is the court where people who cannot afford arbitrariness — an arbitrary decision, a negligent mistake, people who can least afford that — who although they may have a legal right to appeal, often have no resources for an effective appeal. That's the court that those people go to. That's the face of the justice system, and for many of them, that's the only court that they see.

And the Supreme Court and our Court of Appeal can make all kinds of pronouncements about our rights and our freedoms and the principle of legality and the rule of law. But if the Provincial Court doesn't put those into effect — when people who often don't get a second chance in life and can't afford their first chance to be ill-used — if those pronouncements aren't put in place by the Provincial Court, then they are of little effect in the lives of many, many common people.

Murray Brown, I think, understood that. He was a prosecutor in that court, and he directed public prosecutions in that court. And he became director of public prosecutions after a very rocky history — legal history — in this province. When he took over in 2001, he, I believe, did much to raise the standard for public prosecutions for the administration of justice in the province of Saskatchewan.

I was extremely pleased when Murray Brown accepted our request to become a Provincial Court judge. I believe he would

have been a very interesting Provincial Court judge. I believe he was. I believe he would have been influential despite sitting on the Provincial Court to an extent that some higher court judges or superior court judges are not. He would have provided great service. I know he did provide great service from the date of his appointment to the date of his incapacity. I only wish that he could have served so much longer. His early death, his premature death, and his departure from service to the law and service to the people of Saskatchewan is a tragedy, Mr. Speaker.

I personally will miss him greatly. And I wish that I could still receive on occasion his dry but very insightful comment upon the working of our justice system and the actors within it. I was shocked that his potential on that court could not carry on longer. We are the poorer for it, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Schriemer:** — Mr. Speaker, I would like to participate in comments about Judge Murray Brown with my own non-political experience. When I attended police college, 18, 19 years ago, Murray Brown was our criminal law instructor, and it was quite a thing to see. You have 20 bright-eyed, bushy-tailed young officers in the making, and when he walked in the room, nobody even breathed a word. He taught us to love the law, to understand it and apply it in an even-mannered, fair way, in the sense that you need to prove the charge that you're investigating.

He did have a dry sense of humour which I found myself laughing aloud many times. He taught a group of men and women to love and respect our laws and to care about the people of this province when dealing with them in the legal manner.

So I would like to express my profound sorrow that Murray died too early to finish or live through what would have been a wonderful, fair career on the bench. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — The motion before the Assembly is a motion presented by the Justice minister:

That this Assembly record its condolence and expresses its sympathy to the family of Judge Murray Brown.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

### Barrett Douglas Halderman

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise today to move another motion of condolence and expression of sympathy for the family of Judge Barrett Douglas Halderman. Barrett Halderman passed away early in the new year following a lengthy illness. He is remembered as a dedicated public servant, legal counsel, and Provincial Court judge.

Barrett Halderman grew up in Shaunavon and studied at the University of Saskatchewan and Dalhousie Law School. From the mid-1960s he was an assistant, first to Woodrow Lloyd, then to T.C. Douglas, and then legal secretary for the Crown corporations ministry. In 1976 he moved to legal aid, working in Weyburn and in Saskatoon, and then on to private practice in Humboldt where he and his wife, Betty, raised their two children, Amy and Jeffrey. After 20 years of private practice, Barrett Halderman was appointed to Provincial Court where he served for eight years.

As a lawyer I had a number of occasions where I had files opposite Mr. Halderman. He was always ethical, professional, and competent to deal with. He had a keen sense of humour and on our files we were able to share some significant political banter.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I wish to convey to his family our condolences on his passing and our thanks for his many years of public service.

I move:

That the Assembly record its condolences and expresses its sympathy to the family of Judge Barrett Halderman.

**The Speaker:** — The Minister of Justice has moved:

That the Assembly record its condolences and expresses its sympathy to the family of Judge Halderman.

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

**Mr. Nilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was on March 10, 1999, that I had the honour of announcing that Barrett Halderman would become a judge of the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan after serving as a lawyer in Humboldt for 20 years. And I remember that week — which is about exactly 10 years ago from this week — when I phoned Barrett up. And one of the questions that always comes is, when you serve as a lawyer in a smaller town, you usually have to move to another town to be the judge. So this meant that he had to move to Melfort. And he basically said, this is an important thing for me to do, to serve the people of Saskatchewan. And I think as the colleague across the way has outlined, he served Saskatchewan people in quite a number of different roles in his career as a lawyer.

Barrett Halderman was a man with many interests and I got to know him in practice much as my colleague across the way did so that I knew him before I got into politics. But it was quite fascinating to go as attorney general and visit the bar in the Humboldt area because he was always one of the leaders there and you'd end up with a very good discussion. And I think the present Attorney General knows about the discussions coming out from Humboldt on quite a number of issues. Well I think in a lot of ways it's just the nature of the bar in that area.

But Barrett always had a broader perspective on how you would deal with politics, with world issues, with how he served as a judge making decisions on a daily basis, basing it on all of the



experience that he had.

He grew up down in Shaunavon area but his family had a farm out Frontier way, and I think that many people who know that area know that many of our leaders in our province have come from that particular part of the province. And sometimes the way to capture the sense of how that works is recognizing that that's the same kind of area where Mr. Stegner came from when he wrote about Saskatchewan. And it was this sense of being on the prairie, being in a place that gave you an obligation to go and be with people, serve people. I think that a lot of that showed up for Barrett no matter where he lived.

I also had a special affinity with Barrett. We enjoyed visiting because he loved to read. He loved to read all kinds of topics of books and whenever I would see him — and I think I last saw him not this last winter but the previous winter — and he was telling me about some things that he had been looking at and reading. And it felt right to have that kind of a conversation with him.

Mr. Speaker, Barrett served the people well. He was a good judge for eight years until he became ill, and I know that we all want to thank his wife, Betty, and his family for the good work that he did for the people of Saskatchewan. I know especially in the Humboldt and Melfort areas, they will remember his legacy for a long time. Thank you.

[16:00]

**The Speaker:** — The motion before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice:

That this Assembly record its deepest condolences and express its sympathy to the family of Judge Halderman.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

#### Gerald McLellan

**The Speaker:** — Members, I wish to advise the Assembly also of the passing of a former officer of this Assembly, and express our grateful appreciation for the contribution he made to his community and to this province. Gerald McLellan, who passed away on January 5, 2009, served this Legislative Assembly as provincial ombudsman from 1987 until 1993.

Born in Arcola, Saskatchewan on March 9, 1932, Mr. McLellan moved to Saskatoon as a young man. At the University of Saskatchewan, he earned degrees in law and commerce. He served as a bencher of the Law Society of Saskatchewan and as a trustee on the Estevan Board of Education. After practising law in Regina and Estevan, Mr. McLellan was appointed to the position of ombudsman in 1987.

He worked on many important files during his tenure as ombudsman, including an investigation into youth group homes and an examination of the province's investment regulation system. Mr. McLellan also supported amendments to *The Ombudsman and Children's Advocate Act* which authorized his office to resolve conflicts using non-adversarial means such as

negotiation and mediation.

Apart from his professional life, Mr. McLellan enjoyed curling, golf, playing duplicate bridge, and going for regular walks. He had countless friends and kept in contact with many former colleagues. He was married to Wanda for 43 years, and the couple cherished their two daughters and four grandchildren.

I ask all members to join me in conveying the Assembly's condolences to the bereaved family.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By leave of the Assembly, I would like to move:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, an audio-video record of the oral tributes, together with the *Hansard* transcript and the resolutions adopted, be communicated in memory of the deceased to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — It has been moved by the Government House Leader, by leave of the Assembly:

That notwithstanding rule 8(2) of the *Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan*, an audio-video record of the oral tributes, together with the *Hansard* transcript and the resolutions adopted, be communicated in memory of the deceased to the bereaved families on behalf of the Assembly by Mr. Speaker.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. Carried.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Gantefoer:** — Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do now adjourn.

**The Speaker:** — The Government House Leader has moved that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Agreed. This Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:04.]

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