



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

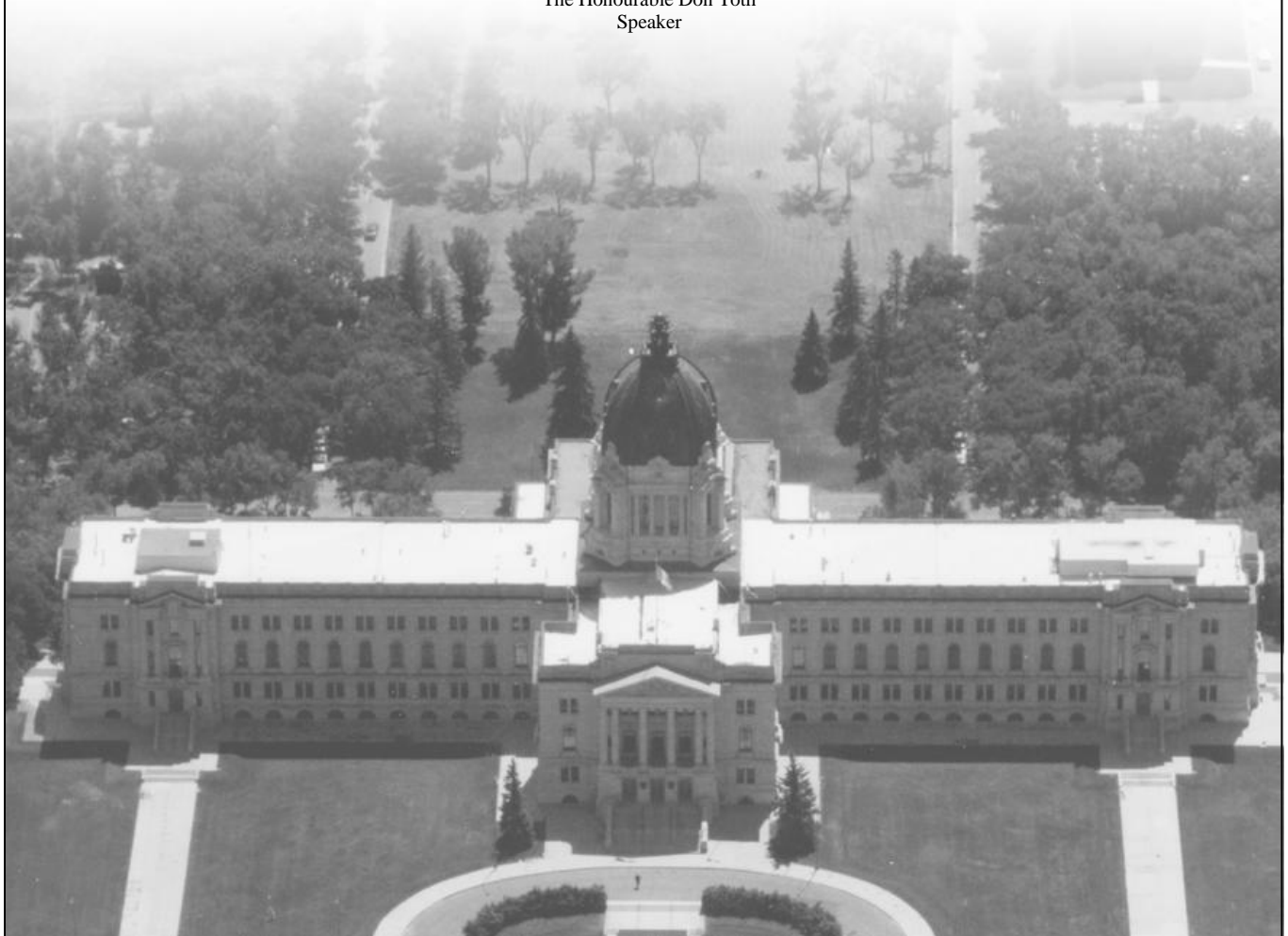
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**DEBATES  
and  
PROCEEDINGS**

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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 — Dwain Lingenfelter

<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
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
D'Autremont, Dan	SP	Cannington
Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
Eagles, Doreen	SP	Estevan
Elhard, Wayne	SP	Cypress Hills
Forbes, David	NDP	Saskatoon Centre
Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
Gantfoer, Hon. Rod	SP	Melfort
Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
Hart, Glen	SP	Last Mountain-Touchwood
Heppner, Hon. Nancy	SP	Martensville
Hickie, Darryl	SP	Prince Albert Carlton
Higgins, Deb	NDP	Moose Jaw Wakamow
Hutchinson, Hon. Bill	SP	Regina South
Huyghebaert, Hon. D.F. (Yogi)	SP	Wood River
Iwanchuk, Andy	NDP	Saskatoon Fairview
Junor, Judy	NDP	Saskatoon Eastview
Kirsch, Delbert	SP	Batoche
Krawetz, Hon. Ken	SP	Canora-Pelly
LeClerc, Serge	Ind.	Saskatoon Northwest
Lingenfelter, Dwain	NDP	Regina Douglas Park
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, Hon. Jim	SP	Rosetown-Elrose
Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
Schriemer, Joceline	SP	Saskatoon Sutherland
Stewart, 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
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:** — Members, it's my pleasure this afternoon to introduce to the Assembly someone who needs no introduction, especially to the members of the Assembly. And I'd invite him and his wife and family to stand when I introduce them. But with us today we have Mr. Gerald Gerrand, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner who will be retiring after 10 years of service, effective April the 24th. And we want to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Gerrand.

So I'd invite Mr. Gerrand to stand. Mr. Gerrand is accompanied today by his wife of over 60 years, Ella, and his daughter, Wendy Rossmo, and also his secretary, Orla Cuddington. I would invite members to join with me in extending a warm welcome to Mr. Gerrand and his family and staff who have joined us today.

I recognize the Premier.

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the opposition Justice critic for the chance to precede him in welcoming our friend and his family and colleague to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have in front of me a long list of achievements of Mr. Gerrand in terms of his legal career, and it's been quite an amazing legal career to be sure. But at the very, very end of this list that I've been given, I think is the very, very most important descriptor of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner that we honour today, and you've already referenced it. The very, very last thing here at the end of a long list of achievements is reference to his marriage of 60 years to Ella and also a reference to his five kids and eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Because we know that to be successful in any vocation or avocation, we rely a lot on, obviously, on family and on friends and on those around us. And by the way, Mr. Speaker, it's great to meet, even from a distance, Orla, whom many of us have dealt with via the telephone.

But, Mr. Speaker, we want to pay special tribute to the family of Mr. Gerrand because they have shared him both with the legal community and our justice system over the years. And for the last 10 years, she has, his wife Ella and their kids have shared him with the members of this Legislative Assembly, and therefore with those that we represent in the province, and also, of course, with a number of Canadians in the North where he has also served democracy.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I just have a few things that we should note here. He was born in Melville in 1931. He graduated from the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] College of Law before Elvis even had a hit in 1954. He practised law for a number of years before the courts of Saskatchewan and the Supreme Court of Canada with a focus on civil litigation.

In the 1960s he served two terms as a trustee of the Regina public school board. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1970, served as a bencher of the Law Society from '78 to 1982. He was elected president of the Law Society in Saskatchewan in 1981.

The list is long; I won't go through it all, Mr. Speaker. But he was elected fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1982, served on the advisory committee for judicial appointments for the province of Saskatchewan from '92 to '96, served as chairman for the last three years of that appointment. And in 2000, as you've noted, Mr. Speaker, he became the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and the Freedom of Information and Privacy Commissioner for the province of Saskatchewan, the latter of which he served until 2002.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's worth noting that our legislation in the province that enables this position, this officer, gives the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council indeed the chance to refer things beyond conflict of interest questions to the commissioner. He has significant responsibility, this officer does. And we know that Mr. Gerrand has executed them with honour and with distinction, and he's also done it with a bit of a sense of humour, Mr. Speaker.

I remember an occasion meeting with the Conflict of Interest Commissioner when I had handed in . . . It felt a little bit like handing in your work to the teacher or your professor from years ago. But I handed mine in and I said, how are we doing? How are our members doing? Are we getting . . . You know, we were getting close to the deadline at that time. Have most of our members submitted? And I remember on this one occasion he said to me, well actually all of your members have submitted except for one. He said, we're waiting, and we're waiting for the member for Kindersley. He said, and I quote, "He's a tough dog to get from underneath the porch."

I know that those files were submitted though on time because of his bidding and his encouragement. But he has served . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . The member says, with the help of Orla. He has served this province with great distinction in his role of Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and we salute him, his family. We salute his legal career here in the province that truly has made the province a better place than how he found it and really that's the ultimate measure for each and every one of us, Mr. Speaker.

To you and through you, I'd just invite all of us to say thank you, and we'll have a chance to do it at a tea later, but to say thank you here in this Assembly and to welcome Mr. Gerrand and Ella and his daughter and Orla to their Legislative Assembly.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Premier for saying that I allowed him to precede me because I was being gracious. It was actually because I expected he had a script, and I was correct.

On behalf of the official opposition, and I don't know who else

might pop up, Mr. Speaker, but if I might be so bold, on behalf of the small legal community here in the Chamber, I would also like to extend a welcome to Mr. Gerrand and his family. He has, as the Premier pointed out, served this Assembly well, its members well. It's an important role in a modern democracy, which is not much known about or understood and is underappreciated, and Mr. Gerrand has served well in a largely thankless if not entirely thankless task.

And as the Premier alluded to, we have also generously lent him to one of the territories in Canada and I think he's served them well as well. And some credit goes to him to be willing to do that as well, Mr. Speaker. So again on behalf of the official opposition, but I think also perhaps on behalf of legal counsel here in the Chamber, we too wish to extend our appreciation and welcome and thanks to Mr. Gerrand.

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

**Hon. Ms. Draude:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you today and to the members of the House, I'd like to welcome 20 members from the public service who are participating in the parliamentary program for public service. I'd like to welcome to the legislature.

There are fine employees from the public service representing nine government ministries. There's Advanced Education, Employment and Labour; Agriculture, Education, Environment, Health; Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport; Children's Advocate office, and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer as well as from the ministry I have the privilege of representing, and that is the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this Assembly knows the decisions that are made in this Assembly cannot be completed without the dedication and the hard work and the commitment of the public service, and we'd like to thank them for that work.

After the proceedings today I'm going to have the opportunity to meet with them personally, along with other members of the Legislative Assembly so, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome warmly these participants to their Assembly and invite all the members to join me.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the official opposition, I would like to join with the minister and welcome our guests today from the public service. It's always wonderful to have you here with us. And I hope that today is an enjoyable day and you learn a little bit about the roles we perform on behalf of the people of Saskatchewan and that you often have the difficult task of implementing. And it's a tough job at times, but we do appreciate it.

Having been a career civil servant in the Saskatchewan public service prior to being elected and actually still on leave, I certainly understand the difficulties that at times is upon you and your families, implementing some difficult things. So we thank you very much and hope you have a very enjoyable day today.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. To you and to all members in the House, I'd like to take a moment and introduce some very special guests in the House. In your gallery right up here are members of the Self-Advocacy Action Group. And with us today is Jana Friel, Shelly Alderson, Patti Ward, supporter Barry Halliday, and facilitator Lynne Harley. Tina Friesen was with us earlier but had to leave.

So we met with this group earlier today to learn more about their hopes and dreams and some of the frustrations they experience in our society and how we might eliminate some of those barriers, in fact make our society more inclusive. And, Mr. Speaker, really spoke to me that we need to make a commitment to do more. And one of those things that we could do is fully implement SAID [Saskatchewan assured income for disability], the principles.

I want to let the House know that these folks are actually travelling to Berlin. They're going to be presenting, actually presenting at the 15th World Congress of Inclusion International this June. Hopefully the airports will all be working. But they're looking forward to that, and I know all members in this House will wish them best wishes and safe travels. And I know members will also want to join in with me to thank them for coming into Regina, visiting with us and visiting their legislature. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Social Services.

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's truly an honour to join with my colleague in welcoming the people from the SAAG [Self-Advocacy Action Group] organization. They do great work, as do many of our advocacy groups for individuals with disabilities. They have been extremely helpful to our government in helping giving us direction in what needs to be done, and I know there is always more that can be done.

But I have to say that the initiatives that we have undertaken, especially the new SAID income program, couldn't happen as seamlessly as what it is without the help from the advocacy groups that we've received. So I thank them and I want everyone to help welcome them to their Assembly.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure, to you and through you, to introduce seated in the east gallery a group of 52 grade 7 and 8 students from Regina Christian School here in Regina. They're accompanied with their teacher, Mr. Geoff Glasspell who's a . . . certainly brings his class, I believe, on an annual basis to this Assembly. But not only does he introduce students to the democratic process, he's also one of the top-notch basketball coaches in Regina and we thank him for his service to our community.

I also welcome teacher Mrs. Nadine Siever who's here today; welcome her here today. And too, at risk of singling out one last

individual, I'd like to introduce air force cadet from the 41st Squadron, Mr. Matthew McArthur. And maybe Mr. McArthur could stand up. And thank you for joining us here today. So I ask all members of this Assembly to join with me in welcoming these fine students. I look forward to meeting with them following question period.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you I'd like to say a special hello to one individual in the group of civil servants that we have us. Chandra LePoudre is an individual that I grew up with in the same end of Saskatoon and she was good friends with my younger sister growing up. So I wanted, Mr. Speaker, to say a special hello to Chandra who lives in Saskatoon with her husband and family and dogs. Welcome this afternoon.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce a familiar face again in the west gallery, Heather Malek, who is a film and television editor who moved to Saskatchewan in 1998 and calls Regina home. She's very concerned with the haste of the SCN [Saskatchewan Communications Network] closure and the lack of public consultation prior to this decision. And I think she plans to be a regular attendee. So please join me in welcoming Heather to her Assembly.

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

**Mr. McCall:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure, but it's also with a bit of sadness that I rise to make an introduction to an individual seated in your gallery. I'm speaking of Colleen Smith. Colleen Smith has worked with me as the constituency assistant in Regina Elphinstone-Centre since February 2001. Politically we go back to when I won the grade 8 student representative council election at Kitchener School, and our families have known each other forever. Colleen is a real North Central girl.

And anyway, so it's a pleasure to introduce her to the legislature, Mr. Speaker, but the sadness comes in with the fact that Colleen is going on to some educational and career opportunities. I finally drove her out, Mr. Speaker. She's an individual who's served the people of Regina Elphinstone-Centre with a tremendous amount of passion and compassion — people, you know, often in a lot of stress and duress. And she's done that job with such diligence and such caring.

Our friendship continues, Mr. Speaker. But it's really good to see her today so we can mark out just to get it on the record what a great job she's done as a servant for the people of Regina Elphinstone-Centre, and wishing her every success with these new opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[13:45]

## PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

**Mr. Harper:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned over the conditions and the safety of our highways. This particular petition pertains to Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and junction of No. 1. This portion of the highway is a main traffic route to a year-round tourist destination as well as serves three major inland grain terminals. And, Mr. Speaker, the prayer goes on as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to construct passing lanes on Highway No. 10 between Fort Qu'Appelle and the junction of Highway 1 in order to improve the Saskatchewan motoring public's safety.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

This petition is signed by the good folks from Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina, and Yorkton, Saskatchewan. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Higgins:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to present a petition in support of the protection of wildlife habitat lands. And the petition speaks to the issue that *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act* protects 3.4 million acres of uplands and wetlands or one-third of all wildlife habitat lands in Saskatchewan in their natural state; and that repealing the schedule from the actual Act leaves in question the protection and designation of these lands. And the prayer reads, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action:

To cause the provincial government to immediately and without delay recognize the importance of the protection of wildlife habitat lands and immediately withdraw proposed amendments that will negatively affect the protection of wildlife habitat lands;

And in doing so cause the provincial government to commit to meaningful and adequate consultations with all stakeholders that will be affected by future legislative changes to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I so present on behalf of citizens from Biggar, Outlook, and Regina. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a petition in support of maintaining educational assistants. As the members will know, in November of 2009 the Ministry of Education

introduced a document that would consider drastically changing or reducing the number of educational assistants in the province and replacing them with a smaller number of people like speech and language therapists, psychologists, and so on. This will have a particular impact on those families and students living in rural Saskatchewan which have difficulty attracting those types of professionals. And the prayer reads as follows:

To cause the government to provide funding for the required number of educational assistants to provide special needs students with the support they need and maintain a positive learning environment for all Saskatchewan students.

And this petition is signed by people from Shellbrook, Grenfell, Regina, and Montmartre. I so present.

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

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling for protection for renters from unreasonable rent increases. And we know that many Saskatchewan renters are facing dangerous combinations of rising rents and low vacancy rates in many communities. And in fact the vast majority of Canadians, some 80 per cent, now live in provinces with rent control guidelines. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: cause the government to consider enacting some form of rent control with a view to protecting Saskatchewan renters from unreasonable increases in rent.

And Mr. Speaker, this is signed by citizens of Prince Albert and Melfort. Thank you very much. I do so present.

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

**Mr. Vermette:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition in support of Highway 135. Concerns in the petition address some of the concerns of Pelican Narrows. I read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to pave the 7 kilometres of Highway 135 through the community of Pelican Narrows as committed on August 24th, 2007.

It is signed by the good people of Pelican Narrows. I so present.

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

**Mr. Broten:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition on the issue of high tuition fees. And I call on the Sask Party government, Mr. Speaker, to have their actions match their rhetoric. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause

the government to commit to addressing the burden placed by high post-secondary tuition fees on Saskatchewan students.

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

Mr. Speaker, I so present.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, I rise today on yet another rural water issue. Although today is a day of celebration regarding the accomplishments of the Duck Lake community, the people all across Saskatchewan are wondering why the government still hasn't offered any assistance with the issue of providing safe and affordable drinking water to the community of Duck Lake, resulting in monthly water bills in excess of \$165 a month. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to financially assist the town of Duck Lake residents for the good of their health and safety due to the exorbitant water rates being forced on them by a government agency, and that this government fulfills its commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Saskatoon and Duck Lake. I so present.

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

**Mr. Iwanchuk:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of withdrawal of Bill 80. Mr. Speaker, the existing construction industry labour relations Act, 1992 has provided a stable environment for labour relations in the construction industry in our province. And, Mr. Speaker, the results of that stable environment are good quality work, safe construction sites, and benefit for all the people. And the prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to withdraw its ill-conceived Bill 80, *The Construction Industry Labour Relations Amendment Act, 2009* which dismantles the proud history of the building trades in this province, creates instability in the labour market, and impacts the quality of training required of workers before entering the workforce.

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

This petition is signed by people in McLean, Regina, Moosomin, Ituna, Prince Albert, Good Spirit Lake, Melville, Saskatoon, and Bradwell.

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

**Mr. Quennell:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sask Party government is referring two legislative options to the Court of Appeal to allow public officials to opt out of their legal obligation to provide couples with civil marriage services. And if successful, this would allow marriage commissioners to discriminate against couples, not only on the basis of sexual orientation, but also on the basis of religion or race. And the prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to direct marriage commissioners to uphold the law and the equality rights of all Saskatchewan couples and to withdraw the reference to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal that would allow marriage commissioners to opt out of their legal obligation to provide all couples with civil marriage services.

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

Today the petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon. And I so submit.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise to present petitions on behalf of residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented mismanagement of our finances by the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive \$1 billion dollar deficits tabled by the Sask Party, and the two years and billions of dollars of debt growth under the Sask Party. The prayer reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly condemn the Sask Party government for its damaging financial mismanagement since taking office, a reckless fiscal record that is denying Saskatchewan people, organizations, municipalities, institutions, taxpayers, and businesses the responsible and trustworthy fiscal management that they so deserve.

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

These petitions are signed by concerned residents of Saskatoon and Regina. I so submit.

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

**Ms. Chartier:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of the Saskatchewan film and television industry. This petition is signed by residents who are concerned this government has put ideology before good public policy with the closure of SCN. I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the provincial government to make changes to the film employment tax credit that will allow the Saskatchewan film industry to be more competitive with other provinces, to reverse its decision to shut down the Saskatchewan Communications

Network, and to work with the industry to reverse the decline in film production.

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

This petition is signed by residents of Regina and Moose Jaw. I so submit.

#### STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

#### Administrative Professionals Week

**Ms. Eagles:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are certain people within an organization that are noticeably missed when they are absent. These valuable co-workers do so much to make our offices run smoothly and efficiently and brighten up our day with their positive attitudes. Without these wonderful people, we would truly be at a loss.

Mr. Speaker, this week is dedicated to recognizing administrative professionals, where we take the time to show our gratitude and appreciation for the hardest working people in our workplaces. There are almost a half a million persons employed as administrative professionals across our country, and of course millions more around the world.

These people are an integral part of any organization, whether it is in the public or private sector. But I would like to take this opportunity to mention a few of these important individuals whose efforts I get to see every day. In our government caucus office here at the Legislative Building we are lucky to have Marianne Hoffart and Terry Lynn Carefoot. And I would also like to acknowledge Rosalie who works in my constituency office in Estevan. These ladies bring a level of enthusiasm and dedication to their profession that is certainly admirable and greatly appreciated.

I would ask all members to join me in recognizing administrative professionals in their lives and take a moment to let them know how much they are appreciated, not only today but every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### TheatreFest 2010

**Mr. Taylor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to one once again inform members of the Legislative Assembly of the continuing success of The Battlefords Community Players who recently came home from the very well-done provincial theatre festival held in Moose Jaw. The Battlefords Community Players came home with three awards. Rick Kostiuick, a relatively new actor was named best actor; Barb O'Neal was named best director, and The Battlefords Community Players entry entitled *Speak* was the runner-up for best play.

My congratulations also to Regina Little Theatre, which won best entry for their play *Pride and Prejudice*, and to their own Bonnie Senger who took home the award for best actress. Also I want to thank the Moose Jaw Community Players for hosting another wonderful and inspiring event.

Mr. Speaker, those who attend TheatreFest know that for more than 75 years community theatre companies from around Saskatchewan have been bringing entries for competition and entertainment. The Battlefords Community Players have featured prominently over the years, and for that we are all very proud. I ask all members to join me in recognizing and congratulating The Battlefords Community Players on another fine effort and I might add, Mr. Speaker, another fine year in providing young and some not-so-young theatre talent an opportunity to excel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Victims of Crime Awareness Week

**Mr. Hickie:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to inform this House that April 18th to the 24th is Victims of Crime Awareness Week in Saskatchewan, proclaimed as such to coincide with National Victims of Crime Awareness Week. This year's theme is Every Victim Matters. Mr. Speaker, this week is an opportunity to raise awareness about victims issues and about the programs and services in place to help victims and their families in Saskatchewan.

Victims of crime and traumatic events can feel overwhelmed, isolated, and unable to cope with what has happened. Victim service workers offer information and support immediately after the event and throughout the criminal justice process. They also refer victims and their families to other programs and services for help.

Mr. Speaker, there are almost 300 victim service volunteers operating out of 18 police-based programs which are available to 87 per cent of our province's population. As victim services programs have evolved over the years, dedicated volunteers have connected with victims in their communities and supported them throughout the criminal justice process. By working tirelessly and selflessly with victims they show in their daily actions that every victim truly does matter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in expressing our appreciation of our victim services volunteers for their service to the people of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

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

### Cancer Awareness Month

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April is Cancer Awareness Month, reminding us of those who are affected by the disease and gathering support and donations in the fight against cancer. During April, the Canadian Cancer Society's Daffodil Month, thousands of volunteers from coast to coast will be selling daffodils, knocking on doors, and organizing special events.

In 2009 approximately 171,000 Canadians were diagnosed with cancer, and over 75,000 died from the disease. An average of 3,300 Canadians are diagnosed each week with cancer — that's

one person every three minutes. The good news today is that an estimated 62 per cent will survive five years after their diagnosis. Through a combination of healthy lifestyles and progressive public policies, 50 per cent of cancers can be prevented.

On April 1st, ironically the first day of Daffodil Month, one of the two remaining gynecological oncologists in Regina closed her doors to any new cancer patients. She had given the government two years notice, citing severe overwork and substandard working conditions. But because of their inaction, women with cancer are left paying the price.

Virtually all jurisdictions in Canada provide in-hospital space with its attendant support system for ovarian cancer specialists — all except Saskatchewan. This is yet another example of the Sask Party's lack of response to a life-and-death situation. During Cancer Awareness Month, it is absolutely essential that the Sask Party government immediately find a solution to this problem so that women with ovarian cancer can receive the medical treatment that they need, when they need it. Thank you.

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

### Knights of Columbus Benefit Community

**Mr. Michelson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend, I had the good fortune of attending the Knights of Columbus 88th State Convention State Banquet. It's no wonder that an organization like the Knights of Columbus has lasted so long. The Knights of Columbus are Catholic men who are committed to making their community a better place while supporting their church. Being a Knight is more than camaraderie. It's involvement in their community. It's supporting their local church while enhancing their own faith. It's about protecting and enhancing family life.

Throughout its history, the Knights of Columbus have been an effective advocate and defender of civil and religious rights for all. The organization has also contributed billions of dollars and billions of hours of volunteer service to charity. The principles they follow are very admirable — charity, fraternity, unity, patriotism define the core of values of the Knights of Columbus. And these values in turn define the people of Saskatchewan. So much of what the Knights of Columbus have accomplished have gone to benefit this province.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members of this House join me in thanking the Knights of Columbus for their many years of service to the province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Exercising Judgment

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, it is clear from the events of not only the past week but also the previous 18 months that we cannot trust the judgment of this Premier.

He appointed a Minister of Finance who can't balance the budget. He appointed a Minister of Energy and Resources who



predicted potash revenue to be \$3 billion, only to end up actually paying the potash companies \$200 million. He appointed a minister to Corrections, Public Safety and Policing who doesn't know that gangs exist in prison, and another who fails to immediately notify the public when a violent offender has escaped from prison.

He appointed a Provincial Secretary who believes that a full one-fifth of the world's natural resources come from this province and then manages to misquote herself in her own press release. He appointed a legislative secretary to Western Canadian co-operation who made inappropriate and inoffensive comments to a member of our caucus.

He appointed a Minister of Environment who's so busy organizing an offensive pig roast that she has completely failed to take any action in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. He appointed a Justice minister who clearly does not understand the fair and democratic process in accepting the recommended candidate for Chief Electoral Officer. And now the allegations are swirling about the member from Saskatoon Northwest, the judgment of this Premier being thrown into question even further.

Clearly the people of Saskatchewan cannot trust him to recruit candidates, to appoint cabinet ministers, or let alone run the province, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Carrot River Valley.

#### Tri-Town Thunder Wins Silver

**Mr. Bradshaw:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have great news from Carrot River Valley. Last week I informed the Chamber of our Junior B hockey team, the Tri-Town Thunder, and their subsequent winning of the provincial title. The Tri-Town went on to Kamloops to play in the Prairie Junior Hockey League playoffs in search of the Keystone Cup. The Prairie Junior Hockey League is made up of northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia and only the top teams of each province get to vie for the prestigious cup.

Mr. Speaker, I said I had great news, and it is while the Tri-Town Thunder did not win the Keystone Cup, they played in the gold medal game against the Revelstoke Grizzlies who won 5-3. And the last goal was an empty netter; Mr. Speaker, this is indicative of how close this game was. The Grizzlies were the only team to beat the Tri-Town in round robin play, and that also was a close game of 4-2.

Mr. Speaker, the Tri-Town Thunder returns home with a silver medal, and I want to congratulate Coach Randy Cuthill, President Pat Flegg, Governor Leo LeBlanc, Associate Coach Ken Soucy, Trainer Maurice LaLonde, and of course Captain Brandyn Wasyliw for a fantastic and entertaining season. I would like all members of this Assembly to show their support for the Tri-Town Thunder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### QUESTION PERIOD

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

Dewdney.

#### Police Investigation and Member's Conduct

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Premier said, "Mr. Downs has taken steps to turn over all of the information we have to the Regina Police Service." When pressed by the media on what was handed over to the police, the Premier said, "We turned over everything we had."

To the Premier: what did the government have?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, I don't know whether the member there wants to play Perry Mason or play cross-examination. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, we have done what each and every member of this caucus . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, we have done exactly what we intended to do. We have turned over everything that is in our possession that is at all relevant to this. We have indicated to the Regina Police Service that we will give them our full and complete co-operation. And, Mr. Speaker, that is what each and every member of this House should do, and that is what each and every member of this House has an obligation to do. Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge all members of the House to do exactly that: co-operate fully with the Regina Police Service; let them do their work.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, the people of Saskatchewan have a right to know. Did the government have other information relevant to the cocaine affair in its possession before Friday, or did they have anything at all to turn over to the Regina Police Service?

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

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. I think the opposition members would be appropriate to allow the minister to respond to the question just presented. I recognize the Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is we have turned over everything that is in our possession. Mr. Downs made that statement, Mr. Speaker. We intend to leave this matter with the Regina Police Service until they have completed their investigation. The investigation is under way, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that things are progressing as they should and, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to urge the members on that side of the House to let that work continue as it is supposed to do, Mr. Speaker.

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

Dewdney.

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, in any other job if an employee used company resources inappropriately, the employee would be fired. At the heart of this cocaine affair are some basic questions about inappropriate use of government materials during work hours. The people of Saskatchewan have a right to know the answers. And it's been five days since the cocaine affair came to light. What steps has the Premier taken to check whether his legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing misused taxpayers' resources?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, there was no knowledge by the Premier or anyone on this side of the House of any impropriety of any . . . or no knowledge of these allegations before last Friday. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, within hours of when this came to light, they removed the legislative responsibilities of the member for Saskatoon Northwest and, Mr. Speaker, we have turned the matter over to the police and that it is where it will stay until the matter is resolved, Mr. Speaker. They can make the allegations that they choose to, Mr. Speaker, but the matter is with the Regina Police Service. We will co-operate with them. If they want more information, Mr. Speaker, if we have more information, if it comes to light, we will continue to provide any information that they want, and would like to urge the members opposite to do exactly the same.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, well before the cocaine affair came to light, the Premier should've been looking into the potential misuse of taxpayers' dollars by his legislative secretary. Anyone who visits this individual's personal website, which he uses to promote himself as a public speaker, will find that the person responsible for booking those highly lucrative speaking engagements is Ryan Long. Ryan Long is also the individual's constituency assistant, whose salary is paid by the taxpayers. The same person who served as the constituency assistant is also the main contact for the individual's company.

To the Premier: does he still think it is appropriate for Saskatchewan taxpayers to pay Ryan Long to book lucrative speaking engagements for his legislative secretary?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the matter has been turned over to the Regina Police Service. We will continue to co-operate fully and completely with the Regina Police Service. We do not intend to make any further comments on this matter while the matter is with the police service, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to urge the members opposite, if they have other information, if they think there's an impropriety, they can raise the matter with the Board of Internal Economy. They can give

the matter to the police. Mr. Speaker, we will, on this side of the House, give our full, complete, candid co-operation with the Regina Police Service.

Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite have any other additional information, I'm sure the Regina Police Service would be glad to receive it. Mr. Speaker, I urge them to give the same level of co-operation that this side of the House has given.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, we know the Premier's legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing was potentially using his constituency assistant and his office inappropriately for his personal affairs. And we know that the Premier did nothing about it for two years. What we don't know is whether this individual was also using his position as a legislative secretary in an inappropriate manner. Weeks ago the official opposition asked written questions about this legislative secretary's expenses and travel. The government has refused to answer those questions.

To the Premier: why the secrecy? Was his legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing using taxpayers' dollars inappropriately for his own personal gain?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite have some additional information that would be beneficial to the Regina Police Service, I would urge them to give it to them. If they have other issues that they wish to raise, let them raise it in the Board of Internal Economy. Let them raise it through written questions, Mr. Speaker. Let them raise it in the ordinary and usual fashion . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the matter is with the Regina Police Service. We will let them do their work. The members opposite should let them do their work. We've made comments on this earlier in the media. We do not intend to make any further comments. We will let this matter work its way through in the ordinary course. The police are involved, Mr. Speaker, and that is where we are going to stop our comments, Mr. Speaker. The matter is with the police and we will give the police our co-operation. Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite have some other information, let them give it to the police or let them deal with it appropriately.

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

**Mr. Yates:** — Mr. Speaker, it's a basic question. Did the legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing use his position for personal gain? But the Premier refuses to answer and keeps hiding behind a police investigation.

But the issues that will concern the Regina Police Service are very different from those that concern the Legislative Assembly

and the people of Saskatchewan. The police can only look at the potential for drug or prostitution charges. While those are concerning issues, the standards for an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] go well beyond the Criminal Code.

To the Premier: will he stop stalling and refer this entire file to the Conflict of Interest Commissioner immediately?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the matter is with the Regina Police Service. I've answered the question in that fashion before and, Mr. Speaker, the individuals can rephrase the question as many times . . . The matter is with the Regina Police Service. We will give them our co-operation.

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

[14:15]

### Status of Member

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, there are still so many unanswered questions about this cocaine affair, but the most fundamental question is still the judgment of the Premier. With so many unanswered questions and so many competing stories, it's no wonder that many Saskatchewan people are wondering whether they can trust the Premier or not.

According to yesterday's *StarPhoenix*, the Premier's legislative secretary for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing had decided well before Friday that he would not run again, ". . . because he and Wall had discussed LeClerc heading a new drug treatment program that would involve the government."

To the Premier: is that true?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, I had numerous conversations with the former Saskatchewan Party member, currently the independent member. In fact it's a matter of public record that I advocated for the kind of model of a drug treatment model that was available through Teen Challenge, which the hon. member ran. And there would have been a number of occasions where I would have said if there was ever, if the decision was ever made not to be involved in politics, we would be open, we as a government would be open to proposals that work in terms of addictions treatment. I advocated for some capital funding for groups like Teen Challenge when I was the opposition leader in debate of premier's estimates in May of 2007. Mr. Speaker, there's no secret about that.

No, Mr. Speaker, the allegations are baseless as we've seen from members opposite, but that is the truth of the matter. We want for this province addictions services that work, whether they are community-based, whether they are faith-based, or whether they're offered in the public sector.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Premier chose not to be forthright about his legislative secretary's nomination as a candidate. Yesterday he finally admitted he had a conversation with his legislative secretary on Sunday evening.

This is what the Premier said yesterday about that conversation:

That's where he indicated clearly and definitively that he was not running again. That's for the first time he's ever indicated that to me.

But the legislative secretary said that he and the Premier spoke about a golden parachute in the form of a drug treatment centre for the legislative secretary to run.

To the Premier: did he or any member of his staff speak to the legislative secretary about setting up a drug treatment centre for him to run? And is this another example of providing a golden parachute?

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Mr. Speaker, the premise of the hon. member's question is false.

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

**Ms. Morin:** — So clearly we have conflicting stories again. So again no one knows what to understand. Mr. Speaker, with so many competing stories, it's difficult to determine what the truth is.

The legislative secretary says the Premier had a dream and thought it was predestined that he would become an MLA. The Premier says, that's not true. The legislative secretary says he talked with the Premier well before Friday about not running again. The Premier says the first time he heard about it is on Sunday night. The legislative secretary says the Premier was going to appoint him to head up a drug treatment centre. The Premier refuses to admit that today.

To the Premier: with so many different versions of this story, how can Saskatchewan people possibly trust him?

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

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Mr. Speaker, the Premier spoke with the media late last week. The Premier spoke in the House the last two days and answered questions and clarified facts and issues. Mr. Speaker, the Premier has answered candidly and openly the questions that were put to him about the conversations that he has had.

Mr. Speaker, right now the matter has been given to the Regina Police Service and as long as that continues, the expectation of this side of the House is that we will give our full and complete co-operation to that investigation, Mr. Speaker, as should the members opposite.

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

### Kidney Transplants

**Ms. Junor:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in response to Stacey Simms's dramatic demonstration of how the lack of a transplant program affects her daily life, the minister threw the doctors under the bus, basically blaming them for the lack of progress on the kidney transplant program.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Shoker, the director of the kidney transplant program, has given two names of surgeons to the Department of Health. As of today, Dr. Shoker still does not know if those surgeons have even been contacted.

To the minister, Mr. Speaker: have these surgeons been contacted?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, yesterday certainly we had some guests in the gallery that made a very compelling case, Mr. Speaker. And each and every time you see how the effects of, for example, a kidney failure impact people, it impacts us directly as legislators, Mr. Speaker, and as a government.

What I have said before and I'll say again is that the kidney program will be up and running in this province. I've set a tight timeline of three to four months, Mr. Speaker. Other specialists in other parts of the country have been contacted. There's a couple of possibilities. Absolutely they've been contacted, Mr. Speaker. Now they've got to make arrangements and decide one way or the other if they're coming here, Mr. Speaker.

But I will say once again, and it was reiterated by the vascular surgeons and even Dr. Shoker, that the way the program had been running before under our government and under the previous government was not sustainable, Mr. Speaker. Something had to change, Mr. Speaker. Those changes are taking place — longer than what I want, Mr. Speaker — those changes are taking place. Our program will be up and running that will be sustainable well into the future.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is about the future of the transplant program. Dr. Shoker is frustrated because of the lack of a concrete plan to reinstate the kidney transplant program. Today he said, "Nobody in the transplant program has any idea what's going on. Saying it will be up and running in three to four months is not good enough. What surgeons have been contacted? When were they contacted?"

Mr. Speaker, why is the minister keeping the director of the program out of the loop? Dr. Shoker is the patients' link to information. Surely the minister could open up the lines of communication and show the plan to Dr. Shoker. When will he do that?

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, what I will say to that is first of all the basis of the question is absolutely wrong.

The Ministry of Health has met, ministry officials have met with Dr. Shoker on Saturday, had a very good conversation with Dr. Shoker. We understand some of the concerns he has . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, not only has the Ministry of Health talked to Dr. Shoker, the head of the transplant program; I have myself talked directly to him on Monday at about 12:30 for about 15, 20 minutes, Mr. Speaker. Got a very good understanding; both of us now have a very good understanding. Our government is working hard — he understands that — to find replacements, Mr. Speaker. He's very aware of that. I asked him, what about a three- to four-month timeline? He thought that was aggressive, but he certainly was happy that we've got a plan, that we're going to be moving forward to try and have a sustainable transplant program well into the future to service people here in Saskatchewan.

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

**Ms. Junor:** — Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister's living in the same dream world as the Premier. I spoke to Dr. Shoker this morning. The minister says now there are not enough surgeons in place to sustain the kidney transplant program the way it is. Mr. Speaker, the minister's in danger of losing the kidney transplant surgeons he has now. According to Dr. Shoker, "If there is no firm start date, the surgeons will leave." Mr. Speaker, if these surgeons do not receive a firm start-up date from the minister, if they don't see a concrete plan from the minister, they will leave. Perhaps that is his plan. He wants it to fail. He doesn't want it to start.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier, the Premier promised Stacey Simms yesterday that he would fix this in three to four months. So what's the plan? The clock is ticking.

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

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Mr. Speaker, quite frankly I cannot believe that member's assertion. I cannot believe that member's assertion, that she stands in her place and says . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The Minister of Health.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — I cannot believe, Mr. Speaker, that member's assertions, that she would say that we are wanting the transplant program to fail. That's what she's inserting . . . referencing, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is stand and look in the eyes of patients that want care in this province. And then for her to stand there and accuse us of trying to see a program fail is absolutely ludicrous, Mr. Speaker. Anyone that would have the gall to do that, Mr. Speaker, has a . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. It's difficult for the Speaker to hear exactly what's being said and when, and I want to ask members to allow the members to respond without interference. And I ask members and ministers in their response as well to use language that would be more fitting with the appropriateness of the Assembly.

I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

### Employment of Educational Assistants

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Mr. Speaker, on February 26th of this year the Minister of Education described a document issued by his ministry that called for the reduction of the number of educational assistants in the province as a working document. And the minister asserted that this was not government policy. And he claimed that school divisions across the province had misinterpreted the document.

My question to the minister: does the minister still stand by those words?

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, I will state again for the record that this suggestion by the member opposite that the Minister of Education was going to somehow control the number of educational assistants that boards of education hire is in fact not true, Mr. Speaker. It's not true.

There has never been a change to the policy. It is the same policy that existed prior to, in fact, our government getting elected. It is the same policy, Mr. Speaker. There has been no change to this policy. School divisions determine the complement of teaching staff. Whether or not those are professionals in regards to teachers, special education teachers, therapists, psychologists, those people are determined by the school division. And, Mr. Speaker, that same school division also determines the number of educational assistants that they will hire.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Then, Mr. Speaker, the minister has some explaining to do because in March of 2009, his ministry sent out a 2009 funding guide to all school divisions, laying out the ministry's expectations for funding. And in that document, it indicates that the:

Key program expectations for 2009-10 associated with Intensive Supports Level I and II recognition include [and this is for special needs students, the following]:

Continue development and implementation of a school division service delivery model and staffing profile that support learners requiring intensive supports, utilizing research-based ratios of appropriate supports and data-guided decision-making.

Attached to that is the school division service delivery model staffing program, education teacher assistants, 1 to 100. How do you explain that, Minister?

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, as the member would know, having been a former minister of Education, there's been a change in how recognition is provided to students with intensive needs. The model that used to exist under the former government was, Mr. Speaker, a medically based model.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Minister of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that the opposition critic has been raising the question in the legislature for many days, presenting petitions. Mr. Speaker, the model that we are changing to is from a medically based model to a needs-based model. And, Mr. Speaker, that money is provided to . . . Mr. Speaker, the money is provided to the school division, as it always was, in a block funding model, Mr. Speaker. The school division determines what their team-based approach will be.

In many cases, Mr. Speaker, in rural school divisions where there is an educational assistant providing the support to a teacher in a classroom, that person is mandatory to have there, Mr. Speaker. And that is the statement that I have made, Mr. Speaker. Those are the considerations that boards of education are going to do. And in fact right here in Regina, we've just seen a centralization of those people, sorry, a decentralization of people from the board office out into schools, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Atkinson:** — Well, Mr. Speaker, we have the funding guide that was sent to all school divisions a year ago, and what is the result of that? And this came from the minister.

[14:30]

The Northwest School Division was told to cut the number of educational assistants from 127 to 49 over three years. South East Cornerstone was told to cut it by half. Then we had the assistant deputy minister defending the government's plan by saying, and I quote, "This type of model provides better service and better outcomes." It's rather hard to believe any senior public servant, particularly in a government that tolerates no dissent, saying such things without the endorsement of the minister.

So to the minister: in the face of all of this evidence, how can the minister expect us to believe that cutting the number of EAs [educational assistant] is not government policy? And why should we trust your government?

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

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, there has been a model in place since 2006. The former government, the NDP [New Democratic Party] began to look at the model of moving from a medically based model to a needs-based model to ensure that students across this province could be assured of services, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order. The Minister of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the changes that our government has made . . .

**The Speaker:** — Order. The member from Saskatoon Fairview will allow the Minister of Education to respond without interference. I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Krawetz:** — Mr. Speaker, there have been tremendous improvements to education. Mr. Speaker, we have looked at a number of initiatives. We have looked at initiatives in the First Nations and Métis programs. We have looked at improvements to the pre-kindergarten program, Mr. Speaker. But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we have moved on the deficit infrastructure that that NDP government left.

They left a horrific deficit program in this province, Mr. Speaker. The last two years of the NDP government, Mr. Speaker, not even \$50 million, not even 50 was provided for infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, with our announcements this year in our budget, we're moving forward with \$328 million worth of capital construction.

[Interjections]

**The Speaker:** — Order. Order.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 1,530 through 1,532.

**The Speaker:** — Questions 1,530 and to 1,532 are tabled.

I recognize the Government Deputy Whip.

**Mr. Allchurch:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answers to questions 1,533 through 1,550.

**The Speaker:** — Question 1,533 through 1,550 are ordered.

I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Mr. D'Autremont:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this House now adjourn to go to committees.

**The Speaker:** — Order. Before I place the question, I just want to extend an invitation to all the members of the Legislative Assembly to join with Mr. Gerald Gerrand who is retiring as our Chief Conflict of Interest Commissioner. The tea will take place in the Library Reading Room, beginning immediately through until 4 p.m. So at any time, members are welcome to drop by and extend their appreciation to Mr. Gerrand.

The Government House Leader has moved this House do now adjourn to facilitate the working of committees. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 14:35.]

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# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

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**Hon. Brad Wall**  
**Premier of Saskatchewan**  
**President of the Executive Council**

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

**Hon. Bill Boyd**  
Minister of Energy and Resources  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Power Corporation  
Minister Responsible for Uranium  
Development Partnership  
Minister Responsible for Innovation  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Research Council

**Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff**  
Minister of Enterprise  
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated  
Minister Responsible for Trade

**Hon. June Draude**  
Minister Responsible for Crown Investments  
Corporation  
Provincial Secretary  
Minister Responsible for Information Technology Office  
Minister Responsible for Information  
Services Corporation  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Government Insurance  
Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

**Hon. Dustin Duncan**  
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport  
Minister Responsible for the Provincial Capital  
Commission

**Hon. Rod Gantfoer**  
Minister of Finance

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

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
Minister of Municipal Affairs

**Hon. Nancy Heppner**  
Minister of Environment  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Water Corporation

**Hon. Bill Hutchinson**  
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations  
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Gaming Corporation

**Hon. D.F. (Yogi) Huyghebaert**  
Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing

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

**Hon. Don McMorris**  
Minister of Health

**Hon. Don Morgan**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Telecommunications

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

**Hon. Jim Reiter**  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan  
Transportation Company

**Hon. Christine Tell**  
Minister of Government Services  
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan  
Liquor and Gaming Authority