



THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Dwain Lingenfelter

Name of Member	Political Affiliation	Constituency
Allchurch, Denis	SP	Rosthern-Shellbrook
Atkinson, Pat	NDP	Saskatoon Nutana
Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
Brotten, Cam	NDP	Saskatoon Massey Place
Chartier, Danielle	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
Cheveldayoff, Hon. Ken	SP	Saskatoon Silver Springs
Chisholm, Michael	SP	Cut Knife-Turtleford
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Draude, Hon. June	SP	Kelvington-Wadena
Duncan, Hon. Dustin	SP	Weyburn-Big Muddy
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Furber, Darcy	NDP	Prince Albert Northcote
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Harpauer, Hon. Donna	SP	Humboldt
Harper, Ron	NDP	Regina Northeast
Harrison, Hon. Jeremy	SP	Meadow Lake
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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
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Ross, Laura	SP	Regina Qu'Appelle Valley
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Stewart, Lyle	SP	Thunder Creek
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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 10:00.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly, or Kelvington-Wadena, pardon me.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, I'd like to introduce to my colleagues 26 grade 4 students in the west gallery from the great town of Wadena. These students are accompanied today by Bertha Harvey and Lindsey Harvey, the teachers. And the chaperones are Candace Smoke, Bobbie Flandares, and Crystal Miller. I'm absolutely delighted they made it today. I was a little worried that maybe the weather would keep them home. But I'm looking forward to a chance to meet with them later on, and I'm pleased you're here, and I want to welcome you to your Legislative Building.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a true pleasure to be able to introduce a family member to you and, through you, to all members of this Assembly. Seated in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, is Curtis Wiebe. Curtis, if you could stand. Curtis is my brother-in-law, married to Rachael, my wife's sister, Ruth.

And Curtis is from Swift Current, lives in Swift Current, originally from Rosetown. He practises law with Kanuka Thuringer in Swift Current. And Curtis always looks good, but if he looks a little tired it's because they just welcomed their second son into the family, Karsten. So it's been a busy few weeks for the Wiebe household. I should also mention that Curtis recently began a term as president of the Swift Current Chamber of Commerce. So I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming Curtis Wiebe to the gallery. Thank you.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce, in the west gallery, Heather Malek who is a film and television editor here in Regina, who is working very diligently to find out more details about the privatization of Saskatchewan Communications Network and is disappointed with this government's policy decision. I'd like everyone to welcome her to her Legislative Assembly.

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 safety of our highways. This petition pertains to Highway 135 which runs through the community of Pelican

Narrows. Presently, Mr. Speaker, that highway is a gravel road, but the upgrading of that road would be an excellent investment in the safety and well-being of the people of Pelican Narrows. The prayer reads as follows:

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

And in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the good folks from Pelican Narrows, 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 marriage commissioners upholding the law. Mr. Speaker, there are many citizens concerned about this issue across the province. And I would read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

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.

Mr. Speaker, I present on behalf of concerned citizens in Moose Jaw.

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

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of citizens of Saskatchewan who are concerned that many seniors live on fixed incomes and are victims of physical, emotional, and financial abuse. And they understand that seniors or believe that seniors have a right to social and economic security and a right to live free from poverty and that seniors have a right to protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The new prayer reads:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan to enact a Saskatchewan seniors' Bill of Rights, which would provide Saskatchewan seniors with social and economic security and protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The petition is signed by the citizens from Glentworth, Fir Mountain, and Lafleche. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon

Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today and present a petition in support of affordable rents and housing for Saskatoon. We know this is a serious issue for seniors who have seen huge rent increases, some 30, 40 per cent, and yet the number of rental accommodation is continuing to shrink. 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 call upon the Government of Saskatchewan to develop an affordable housing program that will result in a greater number of quality and affordable rental units to be made available to more people in Saskatoon and Saskatchewan and that the government also implement a process of rent review or rent control to better protect tenants in a non-competitive housing environment.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from Saskatoon. I do so present, thank you very much.

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

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to present a petition in support of the expansion of the graduate retention program and a call for fairness for university students here in Saskatchewan. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable 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 who signed this petition are from the city of Saskatoon. I so present.

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

Mr. Furbur: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today to present a petition in support of financial assistance for the Duck Lake water project. The petition is being circulated and signed by folks from Saskatchewan due to the exorbitant amount that the town of Duck Lake citizens are forced to pay for clean, safe water. And it's causing them hardship up and to including forcing people to move from the town of Duck Lake to other communities. And the petition reads:

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 a commitment to rural Saskatchewan.

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

Mr. Speaker, the petition today is signed by folks from Duck Lake and Rosthern. I so present.

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

Ms. Morin: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present yet another petition with respect to water issues in rural Saskatchewan.

A government ministry has directed that the customers of Furdale may no longer treat non-potable water using methods approved by Sask Health. The Furdale residents, dealing in good faith with SaskWater for over 30 years, have paid large amounts for their domestic systems and in-home treatment equipment. The alternative water supply being referred to by the government ministry is a private operator offering treated, non-pressurized water at great cost with no guarantee of quality, quantity or availability of water. 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 order to cut off non-potable water to the residents of the hamlet of Furdale, causing great hardship with no suitable alternatives; to exempt the hamlet of Furdale from further water service cut-offs by granting a grandfather clause under *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002* and *The Water Regulations, 2002*; and that this government fulfills its promises to rural Saskatchewan.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

Mr. Speaker, these petitions are signed by the good residents of Furdale. I so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Saskatoon Fairview.

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, I stand today to present a petition in support of maintaining quality health care services. Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate that the Government of Saskatchewan's heavy-handed essential services legislation is making a mockery of the collective bargaining system. The government must recognize the value of health care providers by having a commitment to adequate funding in the installation of good-faith bargaining. They also need to require that they care about the health care providers and that they provide an integral role as part of a health care team and for our province. And the petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to commit to negotiating a fair and just collective bargaining agreement with health care workers in the province.

This petition is signed by residents of Stoughton, and I so present.

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

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise here again today to present petitions on behalf of concerned residents from across Saskatchewan as it relates to the unprecedented financial mismanagement of the Sask Party. They allude to the two consecutive \$1 billion deficit budgets put forward by the Sask Party and the billions of dollars of debt growth ongoing and projected by 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.

Now these concerned citizens on this petition are from Canora, Preeceville, Buchanan, Prince Albert, and Regina. I so submit.

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

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise again today to present a petition in support of midwifery in Saskatchewan. This petition is signed by residents concerned that the Sask Party government was more than eager to take credit for proclaiming the last bits of *The Midwifery Act*, but aren't so willing to put their money where their mouth is when it comes to funding and ensuring that all women — northern, rural, and urban women — have access to this important service. I'd like to read the prayer:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your honourable Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to keep its promise to broaden the options for women and their families and recognize that presently this promise remains unfulfilled, as many communities in Saskatchewan still do not have midwives employed by their respective health regions;

And in doing so, your petitioners pray the honourable Legislative Assembly cause the government to support midwifery in Saskatchewan by making funding available for additional midwife positions in Saskatchewan's health regions as well as independent positions;

And, furthermore, the honourable Legislative Assembly cause the government to encourage an increase in the number of licensed midwives in Saskatchewan by extending liability insurance, thereby making it possible for prospective midwives to achieve the number of births required to successfully apply for a licence with the newly formed College of Midwives.

This petition is signed by residents of Saskatoon, Fort Qu'Appelle, and Regina. I so submit.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

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

North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

Mr. Iwanchuk: — Mr. Speaker, this week marks North American Occupational Safety and Health Week. This week provides an opportunity to not only heighten awareness of employers and employees but all of us on the importance of safety on the job.

This week I had the opportunity to hear the tragic story of David Ellis from his father Rob. David was a young worker who was killed when he was working at a bakery and became entangled in an industrial mixer. According to his father, David had received only minimal training. But perhaps even more disturbing is the fact that his employer had ignored a mandatory order to install a low-cost safety device on the outside of the mixer.

This is a clear testament, Mr. Speaker, to the important role that governments have in regulating occupational health and safety standards. Last year the Workers' Compensation Board reports that 34 people were killed in the workplace. This is 34 too many. As Rob told the *Leader-Post* this morning:

I don't want you to ever . . . go through what I went through. It's been really hard even just . . . to drive home. I wish David were here today instead of me.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in marking North American Occupational Safety and Health Week and call on the Sask Party government to confirm their commitment to creating a culture of workplace safety so that no one is killed or injured on the job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Youth Business Excellence Awards

Mr. Bradshaw: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the privilege of attending the YBEX [Youth Business Excellence] Awards in Nipawin this past Saturday. This was the ninth annual Youth Business Excellence Awards ceremony, and the Legion Hall was filled to capacity.

Mr. Speaker, YBEX is an event to engage youth in the world of entrepreneurship. The goal of this event is to provide an entrepreneurial experience for youth using business skills that will assist them with analyzing career choices.

[10:15]

Mr. Speaker, the awards are offered in two categories: the creation of a business idea and the development of a business plan; and the accomplishment and evaluation of an operating youth business venture. This is open to any student in grade 6 through 12 attending school in the Newsask region or an out-of-school youth under the age of 30 living in the Newsask region.

Mr. Speaker, I was both surprised and delighted at the number of entries in all the different categories. These awards are a showcase of the entrepreneurial talents of our youth. The optimism of these young people is infectious. These young

people are the future of our new Saskatchewan. No longer will the youth of our province be exported, now that they see there is ample opportunities right here in their home province.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all members of this Assembly to congratulate not just the winners, but all the participants of this year's YBEX competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Apologies

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, what parent hasn't told their children that they should only say sorry if they really mean it? Sadly it appears this life lesson didn't really sink in when the Minister of Health and the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing received their early childhood instruction. As we've seen in this Assembly, these ministers only say sorry, or something like sorry, once they're forced to.

Last November when the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing made completely inappropriate comments in this Assembly, threatening the ability of another member to do his job, did he immediately retract his statement and apologize? No. Not until it was clear he was going to be embarrassed publicly and by this Assembly did the Premier twist his arm and force him to say sorry, sort of.

And in recent days, when the Minister of Health made statements about consultation that were proven to be untrue, did he immediately correct them? No, not at all, Mr. Speaker. He and the Premier paraded out to the media and repeated them over and over. And the only time he finally gave a pseudo apology was once public opinion had turned. Sadly it appears all the Sask Party MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] missed the childhood lesson on saying sorry and actually meaning it.

Two evenings ago, the Sask Party used its majority to let the Health minister off the hook. Then the next day, the Health minister gets up and sort of apologizes for what his friends had absolved him of doing. Something doesn't add up, Mr. Speaker. Well deathbed conversions may be enough for the members opposite, but they certainly aren't enough to prove honesty, trust, or accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Thunder Creek.

Good News for Saskatchewan

Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the good news keeps rolling in for our province. Today in the business section of the *Leader-Post*, the headline was "Sask numbers lead nation." The latest survey done by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business shows that once again Saskatchewan businesses are the most optimistic in Canada.

The CFIB [Canadian Federation of Independent Business] survey shows that on the optimism scale, Saskatchewan scored 74.4 points — well above the national average of 66.4. The optimism scale is based on a system developed by the CFIB.

Marilyn Braun-Pollon of the CFIB said, "It's good to see that Saskatchewan is the leader . . . We're still very optimistic."

Mr. Speaker, new building permit numbers also recently released, and again Saskatchewan is moving forward. Building permits were up 73.4 per cent in Saskatchewan from March '09 to March 2010, third highest in Canada. Residential permits, new homes were up a remarkable 134.4 per cent, second highest in Canada: Regina's residential permits up 85.3 per cent, Saskatoon up 80.5 per cent over last year.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition are probably sitting there thinking, who cares? What does this mean to the people of Saskatchewan? Well, Mr. Speaker, this means that people want to move here, upgrade their homes, set up a life, start a family, and put down roots in Saskatchewan.

In the new Saskatchewan, optimism reigns supreme. And the people of Saskatchewan will never apologize for being optimistic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Efficiency

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, we've all seen the efforts of the members opposite on conservative conservation. And we've seen their best efforts to manage mismanagement. Now we're seeing their best efforts on inefficient efficiency.

The Premier claimed that there was too much red tape in the occupational health and safety regulations, despite the fact that 34 workers were killed on the job last year and hundreds were injured. He thinks it would be much more efficient to get rid of those pesky OH & S [occupational health and safety] rules. The Premier thinks that by cutting the civil service, by laying off social workers, highway maintenance teams, and health care professionals that services provided to Saskatchewan families will become more efficient.

The Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour insisted that by cutting funds, slashing programs, and removing training and skills development our post-secondary system will become more efficient.

By the same logic the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] seems to think that our Crowns will be much more valuable if we increase their debt — 116 per cent increase as planned by the Sask Party even when it simply borrowed to transfer to the deficit GRF [General Revenue Fund]. By this efficient logic, when the total government debt hits \$11.9 billion, a 55 per cent increase as planned by the Sask Party, maybe the Sask Party thinks the public, that will be paying far more, will also appreciate them that much more.

Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan people have seen enough of this Tory inefficient efficiency. and for the sake of the province, they're ready for an upgrade.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatchewan Rivers.

Mother's Day

Ms. Wilson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This weekend will be a very special one for women across our province as we celebrate Mother's Day. It is a time to thank those who brought us into this world and for all of their work and sacrifice. A mother's work is never done and every day these women fill the most important job in the world.

Mother's Day traditionally falls on the second Sunday in May, the time of year when we see new life emerging all around us in this season of birth and renewal. Mother's Day is the busiest time of year for SaskTel as people all across our province call home to speak with their mothers. We may be far away from our mothers, but they are still only one call away.

As our province is growing again, it is important for people to remember where they came from. And days like these remind us to pause and give thanks to the people who are responsible for where we are today. As the old line goes, nobody would be where they are today if it weren't for their mother.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and loving care that mothers provide to all of us. We will always appreciate your years of dedication to making us the best children we could be and citizens of Saskatchewan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Whereabouts

Mr. Furber: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we know the track record of the Minister for Corrections, Public Safety and Policing is dismal. In fact, the first time he got up to answer questions in question period, he was written up in the *Parliamentary Review* for making threats to another MLA.

Additionally under his watch, dangerous offenders have been allowed to escape from our jails. What's his response? Keep it a secret. Don't tell the public, and conduct a witch hunt on any whistle-blower that does.

But we had no idea that this minister had such a chronic case of butterfingers that he couldn't even keep track of his own legislative secretary. When the Premier personally recruited the member for Saskatoon Northwest and appointed him to work side by side with the member for Wood River on the Corrections, Public Safety and Policing file, the Premier had great expectations. With the minister's unwavering disdain for social programs and the legislative secretary's staunch hatred of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Premier thought this was a match made in heaven.

But now the Premier's dream team has come to an abrupt end because the Corrections minister has lost track of the Premier's hand-picked legislative secretary. And who knows where he is? So the question is, what are the Premier and his Corrections and Public Safety minister doing to track down their trusted advisor? The answer — as little as possible.

Surely the people of Saskatoon Northwest deserve an MLA

who's actually working for them, and certainly the people of Saskatchewan deserve a Premier who will recognize this fact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

QUESTION PERIOD

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

Habitat Protection and Sale of Crown Land

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Environment has said to the House that she consulted on the amendments to *The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*, but a number of organizations in the province including Nature Saskatchewan, the FSIN [Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations], Nature Conservancy of Canada and others, and many hundreds of individuals have stated something different, that they weren't properly consulted before this Bill was brought to the Assembly.

Many people are asking how can we trust this government to consult when they say one thing and do another. My question to the Premier is this: since the organizations say that the minister has not properly consulted, how can anyone trust the Premier when he says he will consult in the future?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, as the member will know, right now there's about three and a half million acres under the WHPA [*The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act*] legislation. Under the amendments and the changes that are coming to that legislation, Mr. Speaker, there will be three categories.

The one category, land will not change from the same position it's in right now and will not be for sale. But as cattle ranchers and farmers across this province have asked, they would like the opportunity to purchase some of their lease land, Mr. Speaker. And that will be happening, but with a conservation easement, Mr. Speaker . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Mr. Speaker, cattlemen and ranchers right across this province would like the opportunity to purchase some of the land that is presently under WHPA, but with a conservation easement. These same producers looked after this land for the last 100 years very well in this province, and I think the member opposite would know that, Mr. Speaker.

There will be a very small portion of this land that will be sold without encumbrances and, Mr. Speaker, I think this land will be protected as it has been in the past and will be on into the future.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier, to the minister is this. The fact of the matter is this three and a half million acres is already owned by the people of the

province. The men, the women, students, every family in this province owns the 3.5 million acres the same as they own SaskPower, the same as they own the university buildings.

My question to the minister opposite is, why are you selling land that is owned by 1 million people? Why are you selling that land without proper consultation? It's not the question of ownership, the land is already owned by 1 million people. Why are you selling it off without consulting with the public who owns it?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member opposite for his question. I have to say that this is an issue of land ownership. We believe in the principle of land ownership, Mr. Speaker, and the principle of environmental protection. We believe those two things go hand in hand.

But as to selling land that is under WHPA, Mr. Speaker, I have a press release issued by the NDP [New Democratic Party], June 20th, 1996 where then Environment Minister Lorne Scott was praising the government for selling over 25,000 acres of land for the purchase by farmers and ranchers, Mr. Speaker. The difference is, Mr. Speaker, there were no conservation easements attached to that land. It was sold outright from habitat protection, Mr. Speaker. Our government will be attaching conservation easements to that land for protection in perpetuity.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, someone should inform the minister that at that time land was being exchanged, that the information she's given isn't the whole answer to the question asked. The fact is there was no net loss in the amount of land that was contained under habitat management.

The question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister opposite is this: why was there not proper consultation before the decision was made to sell 3.5 million acres of sensitive habitat land that is owned by every member of society in Saskatchewan? For the minister to say, well the ranch community wants the land is not the issue. Of course they're good people; nobody argues with that. The land is already owned by 1 million people. Why was there not consultation with the present landowners before it was made, the decision to sell that land to friends and neighbours and people in the province who may want it? Why are you selling land you already own?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to have a discussion about this issue, but I think we need to do it based on proper information. The Leader of the Opposition just stood up and said that we're selling three and a half million acres of land. Mr. Speaker, that is absolutely incorrect. And if they want to have a discussion, I think the facts of this matter should be put on the table, and not misinformation, Mr. Speaker, because that doesn't make the debate any better.

But, Mr. Speaker, as to who would be buying this land . . .

[Interjections]

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

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Nutana, in a debate in this House on April 29th, said that if we're going to sell this land, it should go to, and I quote, "the highest bidder." Not the person who's actually using the land, Mr. Speaker, but the highest bidder. That is not our approach, Mr. Speaker. We will look to the lessees of that land, the people who are using that land, to see if they want to purchase it. If they do not, they remain lessees of that land, Mr. Speaker, and carry on with the activities, as opposed to the NDP who would like it being sold to the highest bidder.

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

[10:30]

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, there have been many people across the province who are concerned about the lack of consultation on many issues with this government, this being the most recent — the wildlife habitat land, the three and a half million acres that the minister and this government is planning to sell without consultation.

My question to the minister is this: based on that opinion of the public that there should be consultation, would it be in the best interest of the people of the province that this Bill be pulled for the time being, that proper consultation take place before the Bill is brought through the Assembly and rammed down the throats of 1 million people who presently own the land?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon I will be meeting with stakeholders to discuss their concerns and listen to their suggestions, Mr. Speaker. And I think that we should wait to see what they have to say and not preclude those discussions, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The Speaker's trying to hear the response from the minister and . . . Order. I ask the member from Regina Rosemont to come to order. The members are, when the Speaker's standing, the members are to be quiet. I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, I would also point out that Allan Blakeney, in a second reading speech on WHPA in 1984, said that the critical habitat ". . . could be increased [Mr. Speaker] without the necessity of the Crown necessarily acquiring the title."

Mr. Speaker, they apparently realized back in 1984 that the people who own the land and use the land are the best stewards of the . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. There's a couple other opposition members that obviously want to ask a question. If they wait, abide their time, they'll have the opportunity. Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, it was obvious then that the NDP believe that people who use the land and own the land could be the best stewards of that land, Mr. Speaker. We agree with that and look forward to the consultations that we're having with stakeholders this afternoon.

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

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, that's the problem. This afternoon there's a workshop being held with a group of organizations that are working hard to protect the land under the management of the government. They're working hard to stop this Bill from being passed in its present form.

A workshop after the Bill is introduced and in its final days in the House is not consultation — not internationally, not nationally, and not here in Saskatchewan. A workshop on implementation of a Bill is not consultation. And if the minister is so wrong in her thinking that she doesn't understand the word consultation, I think she needs to take some training in the fact that a workshop is not consultation.

I ask the minister again: will this government come to its senses, withdraw the Bill, do proper consultation, and bring the Bill back in a form that makes sense for the million people in this province?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, we had notified groups back in June. There was meetings held last summer, and we will continue those discussions this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. And even Brent Kennedy from Ducks Unlimited said, and I quote, "Some of these lands have been wildlife protected lands for some time and they probably warrant a review as to whether they still provide that same level of habitat."

Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what we're doing through the science-based approach, through the assessment tool that the ministry is using. And again, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the input from the groups this afternoon.

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

Health Care Provision

Ms. Junor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dale Regel is in the Assembly today looking for help from the Minister of Health who has continually turned his back on him. In June of 2009, Dale had an aggressive tumour in his jawbone which required the removal of part of his jaw or he would have lost the remainder of his teeth.

He now needs reconstructive surgery and part of that reconstructive surgery includes dental implants. This will allow

Dale to do what most of us take for granted — eat properly. Dale didn't choose to have this procedure done. It's a necessary procedure as a result of removing a tumour.

Mr. Speaker, is the minister going to continue to ignore Dale Regel's call for help, or will he stand up today and admit that this is a non-elective surgery procedure and agree to cover the cost of the operation?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our concerns definitely go out to Dale and his situation, and certainly we want to make sure that everything that we can do is done, is done properly. I don't know the particulars at this time of the situation, Mr. Speaker, but I'd be certainly more than glad to meet with him after and talk about the situation and see what we can do as far as the Ministry of Health.

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

Ms. Junor: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister has to read his material or get briefed properly on what he's signing. A copy of the letter of support from Dale's oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Dr. Frank Hohn was sent to the minister's office. In the letter Dr. Hohn states:

Part of the resection included multiple teeth and the current space is too large for conventional crowns or bridges. The current standard of care for reconstruction of a defect this size would be to place titanium implants. I would respectfully suggest to you that our provincial health care plan should provide coverage for this reconstructive effort.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will he listen or will he read the material that has already come and have a look at this and listen to an oral and maxillofacial surgeon when he says that this operation should be covered? Or does he think he knows more than the specialist?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said in my earlier answer, I'd be more than willing to meet with this individual. It would not be appropriate for me to start discussing his situation that I don't have much detail, or any detail on right now on the floor of the House, Mr. Speaker, but I'd be more than glad to talk to him after.

I think that member should know though that it would not be appropriate for me to comment on personal details in this Chamber.

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

Ms. Junor: — I think Mr. Regel would be happy to hear that the minister is committing in this Chamber because he's sitting here listening and implied his support for this.

In August of 2008, the minister chose to cover a medical procedure that was not normally covered by Sask Health when he issued a \$52,000 cheque to the Bonderud family. When he issued the cheque, the minister said it was a unique situation and “this family fell through the cracks and we felt their medical costs should have been covered.”

Dale Regel is also falling through the cracks and needs his coverage, and his procedure will only cost \$14,000. Mr. Speaker, to the minister: will he say today that he will cover Dale’s procedure just like he covered the Bonderud’s family medical costs?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I’m not going to comment on the particulars of this case. I’d be more than glad to meet with that individual after.

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

Ms. Junor: — Well, Mr. Speaker, this is going to be a pattern then. The minister ignores all the letters that are sent to him, all the specialists, and experts that say this should be done. And for people to get their situation dealt with by this minister they have to come here. And that’s what the minister is saying: come here and then I’ll pay attention. Obviously he hasn’t paid any attention to all the letters that have come to him from this issue and in the past, and is now going to have a look at it.

Well that’s reassuring to Dale Regel that he’ll have an audience with the minister. But I don’t think that’s a good message to the people of Saskatchewan, that to get anything done, if they’re falling through the cracks or if they have a special situation, they’ve got to come here. And interestingly enough, Mr. Speaker, during the 2000 election the Sask Party used Crystal Bonderud to launch their health platform and in many of their election commercials.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to the minister: do people have to appear in Sask Party election commercials to receive coverage from this minister?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite cites the Bonderud case. The Bonderud situation was reviewed and ruled on and looked into by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman said that the government, the former government, was liable, should have followed through on costs. Mr. Speaker, our government was able to do that.

I will not take the assertions that we do not follow through on correspondence or returning calls to people, Mr. Speaker. That’s absolutely not true. Mr. Speaker, we follow through. We deal with people every day through my minister’s office, through the Ministry of Health, through health regions, Mr. Speaker. In some cases, people are happy with the decision; some people aren’t. But, Mr. Speaker, as I’ve said earlier, we will look into this case and I have no problem meeting with the individual after.

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

Efficiency in Government

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier established the efficiency secretariat with the dubious claim that it would make his government more efficient and cost-efficient. My question is this: what advice has the efficiency secretariat provided to the Premier and has the Premier listened to that advice?

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, the work of the efficiency secretariat, which was formerly done under the Minister of Finance, has now moved over to the Public Service Commission. There is a number of issues that they’ve identified and I think we talked about it earlier in the House when we talked about things like accounts payable initiatives. They’re all work that we are looking at to make sure that our government is spending the money in a cost-effective manner, that we’re spending the money that belongs to the people of the province in a way that most benefits them.

And there were a number of initiatives that are coming forward, and as we bring them forward . . . And you’ll notice that there was a couple of RFQs [request for quotation] out last week, as an example of some of the work they are doing. And we will continue to do those, bringing forward information.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m interested in knowing then what the efficiency secretariat thinks of the fact that Enterprise Saskatchewan effectively has two deputy ministers. The government continues to pay under contract its former deputy, Dale Botting \$15,000 a month, but the government is also paying the interim deputy minister, Mr. Chris Dekker seemingly to do the same work.

So to the minister: did the efficiency secretariat review and advise on this matter, or is this simply another example of the Premier saying one thing to the people of Saskatchewan and doing something entirely different behind closed doors?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister Responsible for Enterprise Saskatchewan, I will take notice of that question.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We really are talking about government efficiency and effectiveness and the mismanagement of taxpayers’ money and the Premier’s comments to the contrary, Mr. Speaker.

Another example of this mismanagement of taxpayers’ dollars is the Premier’s half million dollar scrum club, Mr. Speaker. The Premier pays large amounts of money to his friends to hover in the rotunda for every media scrum after question

period. Their job is to make sure that the Premier looks good and that his message gets spun correctly to the provincial media.

So to the minister: has the efficiency secretariat reviewed this half million dollar scrum club, or is this yet another example of the Premier saying one thing and doing something completely different?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a number of members opposite, they've been here probably, some of them as long as I have, some of them even a little bit longer. And, Mr. Speaker, you know over the last number of years, I've had the opportunity to watch Executive Council members prepare the Premier, the premiers of the past and the Premier of today.

Mr. Speaker, the staff that is at the current government level is in fact smaller than the staff that was there under the NDP. Mr. Speaker, we have great people that provide advice to government. We have great people that are supporting the Premier. And, Mr. Speaker, we're very pleased with the role that our government is playing because, Mr. Speaker, this province is growing.

This province leads in so many things. This province leads in job creation. It leads in earnings per year, Mr. Speaker. This is a province that is moving forward after years and years of NDP planning for decline. We're finally moving forward.

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

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the minister says we're moving forward and the economy is contracting by 6 per cent, you have to wonder what he's talking about, Mr. Speaker.

And it is interesting the questions are about efficiency. And we now notice that we've got two ministers responsible for this efficiency secretariat. Mr. Speaker, paying two salaries, getting one job.

Mr. Speaker, the mismanagement goes beyond pots of money for his buddies in the half million dollar scrum club, Mr. Speaker. The Premier brought in one Kevin Doherty back to the province to run as a candidate in Regina Northeast. To entice Mr. Doherty to run for the Sask Party, the Premier gave him a job as vice-president of corporate relations at SaskPower. Kevin Doherty is now being paid by the Saskatchewan people through their power rates, Mr. Speaker, to actively campaign for the Saskatchewan Party.

To the minister: did the efficiency . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. The member from The Battlefords is not that far from the Chair, but I'd like to hear his question. I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

[10:45]

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So to the minister: did the efficiency secretariat think it was a good idea for the Premier to use a vice-president position at SaskPower to recruit a Sask Party candidate, or is this yet another example of the Premier breaking trust with Saskatchewan people?

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

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — You know, Mr. Speaker, I think it's time that the members opposite understand that the difference in the position of the NDP and the difference in the position of the Saskatchewan Party government . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — I acknowledge the Minister of Education's voice carries, but even I'm having difficulty hearing his response to the member's question. I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on November of 2007, in November of 2007, in Executive Council and ministerial assistant position, the NDP had 179 people. Mr. Speaker, we've looked at efficiencies. We've looked at the ability to deliver services in a different fashion, Mr. Speaker. And as of, Mr. Speaker, as of May the 1st, 2010, there are 148 people within those same positions, Mr. Speaker. That's a difference of well over 30 people. That's efficiencies, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at ensuring that the services within this building are provided.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, the former premier of the province of Saskatchewan, the NDP leader who said after questions that were given by opposition . . . And by the way, Mr. Speaker, this government has received over 1,500 written questions and, Mr. Speaker, we're supplying those answers with the same staff rather than the increased staff that the NDP had to use.

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

Child Care Programs

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, I see that the Sask Party government has enough money to pay for two deputy ministers over at Enterprise Saskatchewan. So my question's to the Minister of Education: why is the government cutting the community solutions family support program at the end of June?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago, a number of years ago the member in fact from . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Order. Order. I'd ask the opposition members to allow the minister to respond to the

question from the member from Saskatoon Nutana. I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, the member from Saskatoon Nutana implemented a number of initiatives. In fact there were 14 initiatives that were introduced. Mr. Speaker, the other night in estimates, the member asked for information about these programs and, Mr. Speaker, she asked for that information the next time we have an estimates. But I can tell her, I can her today that the grants to 10 of the 14 community solutions programs have been eliminated, and we have saved \$447,000.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, at the same time as we've looked at those programs that are no longer relevant, Mr. Speaker, we have added monies for 235 additional child care programs, Mr. Speaker, and 18 pre-K [pre-kindergarten] programs, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, we're moving forward.

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

Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, the community solutions program provides child daycare centres serving children at risk with funding for family support workers, family support workers to help support those children's parents.

Now what do these support workers do? They offer parenting support programs that help parents cope with challenging behaviours. They help parents to find respite care or housing or jobs or connect to other support services. So my question is this: why is this government, when they have enough money to pay for two deputy ministers over at Enterprise Saskatchewan, cutting a program that supports vulnerable children and their parents?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, last year we informed the CBOs [community-based organization] that the member asks about, we informed them that they were under review, and we wanted to see whether or not the services that these organizations provided were in fact delivered. And, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we found out. The previous government created these one-offs, they created these one-offs without policy. They had no guidelines and, Mr. Speaker, we . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I ask the members of the opposition to allow the minister to respond to the last question presented.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Mr. Speaker, I can tell the people of Saskatchewan that our ministry still provides over \$3.8 million to these agencies to ensure that they still provide the services to the people of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, we've increased the number of child care spaces by nearly 3,000 spaces since we took over from that government. That's a positive step and people appreciate those changes, Mr. Speaker.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. The member from Regina Rosemont, the member from Regina Rosemont will come to order. Order. Order.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 144 — *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — The Minister of the Environment has moved that Bill No. 144, *The Litter Control Amendment Act, 2010* be now read the first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

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

The Speaker: — When shall the Bill be considered a second time? I recognize the Minister of the Environment.

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

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Speaker: — I recognize the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee.

Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies

Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, I am instructed by the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies to report that it has considered certain estimates and to present its 10th report. I move:

That the 10th report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Chair of the Crown and Central Agencies Committee:

That the 10th report of the Standing Committee on Crown and Central Agencies be now concurred in.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answers to questions 1,590 through 1,619.

The Speaker: — Questions 1,590 through 1,619 are tabled. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to order the answer to question 1,620.

The Speaker: — Question 1,620 is ordered. I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the answers to questions 1,621 through 1,626.

The Speaker: — Questions 1,621 through 1,626 are tabled.

SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTE DEBATE

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Children's Hospital

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to speak to the children's hospital in Saskatoon. It's something that I know we take very . . .

An Hon. Member: — Point of order. Point of order, Mr. Speaker. Point of order . . . [inaudible] . . .

The Speaker: — Right. Right. Order. I remind the members that the member has to be in her chair to move the motion forward. I recognize the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Order. Why is the member on his feet?

Mr. Yates: — Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Mr. Speaker, in order for a motion before this Assembly to move forward when it's called, the mover of the motion has to be in their seat and move the motion, Mr. Speaker, and enter the debate. At the time the motion was called, the member was not there. A second member stood and spoke, began to speak, Mr. Speaker. I rose on my feet to say that was out of order, Mr. Speaker. Subsequently the member came back into the House, Mr. Speaker. The rules would say that that motion should have been passed over, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — On the point of order, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not in disagreement with the point of order that

the member raises. But as we saw a couple of times in the past with the Opposition House Leader that errors were made and leave was given. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, while the point of order is proper, we will be asking for leave to revert back to the calling of that motion to allow the member to move her motion.

The Speaker: — Order. I thank the Opposition House Leader for his point of order, and I recognize the response made by the Government House Leader. And acknowledging that certainly there was an error, the government House . . . But I would ask the Assembly if the Assembly would grant leave to move to motion . . . rule 75, the motion presented by the member from Saskatoon Sutherland.

Some Hon. Members: — No.

The Speaker: — Leave is not granted.

[Interjections]

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS AND ORDERS**ADJOURNED DEBATES****PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS****Motion No. 3 — Release of Intelligence File on Former Premier**

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. Lingenfelter.]

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to be able to join into the debate on what has been commonly referred to, Mr. Speaker, as the Tommy Douglas motion, here in the Assembly. There has been . . .

[Interjections]

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

Mr. Broten: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure today to join into the debate on the Tommy Douglas motion that has been commonly referred to here in the Assembly. And it's a pleasure to join into the discussion, Mr. Speaker, after our leader, the member from Regina Douglas Park, has had the opportunity to speak to the motion.

It's an important motion, Mr. Speaker, because it speaks to a number of concerns that Saskatchewan people have, a number of priorities that Saskatchewan people have. This motion, Mr. Speaker, is not coming out of isolation only from Saskatchewan but it's part of a larger push by people in the country from different provinces, from different walks of life, from different places — a push for individuals to want to have a greater understanding of the history, the accomplishments, the interactions that took place over a period of time many years ago.

And, Mr. Speaker, the activities revolve around the role that a past premier of this province, Tommy Douglas, the role that he had in our country, in our province, and really internationally as well, Mr. Speaker, in shaping and guiding much of what we as Saskatchewan people and we as Canadians hold near and dear to our hearts.

[11:00]

The motion, Mr. Speaker, has a number of aspects to it in terms of the rationale as to why the motion should go forward. But the main part of the motion, which I'll restate for individuals who might be tuning in today at home and haven't had the opportunity to watch on the previous private members' day when it was discussed and introduced by the Leader of the Official Opposition, the motion stated:

That this Assembly calls upon the Government of Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to release the complete intelligence file on former Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas; and further

That in making this call, the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan asserts the following:

And there's a number of points, eight of them, Mr. Speaker, that states the rationale as to why this motion is an important one, why it has relevance for today, and why it has relevance for the future as well, Mr. Speaker. And I should say relevance for the past as well.

And I will get into the eight points that are mentioned in the motion. I would like to state though, Mr. Speaker, that it's a true honour for me to have this opportunity to speak to this motion and to bring a greater amount of clarity and truth and openness to the great history that Tommy Douglas has provided for our province and for our country. I say that, Mr. Speaker, because while I perhaps haven't, while I certainly haven't served the same length as some members of this Assembly on both sides of the House — this is my first term, being elected in the fall of 2007 — and while I never had the chance to meet Tommy Douglas face to face, he certainly is an important individual.

Though I was just recently been elected, my grandfather, Hans Broten, did serve in the Legislative Assembly in the '60s and served under Tommy Douglas. So I feel, in terms of every family has stories that are passed and shared with different . . . with each generation and shared with family members, relatives, and people, and so certainly in my family Tommy Douglas is an important person because of what he's done for my own family, for my neighbours, my extended family, for the people of Saskatchewan, and the people of Canada.

So to be able to have that connection, it's a special one for me. And for that reason, it's special that I am able to stand today and provide a few comments on the Tommy Douglas motion, a motion for clarity, a motion for transparency.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's not only a special and an important motion because of whatever personal connection I may have, or any member of this Assembly on either side of the House may

have, to Tommy Douglas. It's important, Mr. Speaker, for reasons that go far beyond that. Because I think within the larger Saskatchewan community, within the larger Canadian community — and it's recognized internationally as well by many individuals — there is an understanding of the significance that the role of Tommy Douglas and the legacy that he has left for the people of this country, there's a recognition that it is significant.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this motion, as I alluded to in my opening comments, it is a motion that, while it's being talked about today, while it's being talked about with respect to a specific issue that we face right now as an Assembly, the question as to whether or not we as a group of elected representatives here in Saskatchewan will call for greater transparency and clarity and understanding for the history and the past of the actions of Tommy Douglas and the actions of a government that did a great amount of work, very positive work, I'd like to make a few comments, Mr. Speaker, why I think that this has relevance when considering the past.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who works in this Legislative Assembly now or has worked here or it doesn't . . . actually outside of the Legislative Assembly as well, anyone who is involved in any walk of life, we always know that there is a great deal to a story. And while stories may appear to be one way at face value, there's many things that go on.

So while there might be one issue where there's a general statement or a news story written about an issue that we might be debating in this House, that story, there's always a great deal of detail behind the actual story, the entire story. There's different individuals that have been talking, different individuals that have been making decisions. There are different motives that these individuals may have had on any given circumstance and issue. And, Mr. Speaker, while we can't always know everything going on, based on the reading of a story in *The StarPhoenix* or the *Leader-Post*, we can assume that there is always a greater amount of details — rich details, very telling details — in the basic facts of how the story came to be.

And I think anyone, Mr. Speaker, who enjoys history on a recreational level in terms of reading history or following history or being a bit of a history buff, to colloquially put it, knows that by looking back to the past, looking back to instances that have been perhaps a watershed event or a turning point for any major decision that is made by any government, there is a great deal to be learned through looking back to the past situations.

And now that appreciation for the past can occur on different levels. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, it's simply because individuals are curious. They know that an outcome has occurred for whatever reason, and they want to know more about how that situation came to pass, how it came to be. So on a basic level of curiosity, Mr. Speaker, it's good to know what has happened in the past.

But if it was simply curiosity, Mr. Speaker, that was the rationale for this Bill, or this motion rather, I don't think that would be adequate. I don't think that would be a sufficient reason as to why we would want to pass this motion. But, Mr.

Speaker, when we look at history not simply as someone who enjoys watching the History Channel or reading a biography of someone or just dabbling in historical books, if we look more at wanting to gain a better understanding and insight beyond simply a level of curiosity, if we want to look at what the complete story was, I think that can provide a great amount of value to us here in the present day.

It's through understanding what has happened in the past, what instances have occurred, that it allows us to gain a better understanding of how something came to pass. And that's information, Mr. Speaker, that we can take as individuals now today, in contemporary or modern day Saskatchewan, and learn lessons from those historical facts, learn lessons as to what approach we should take, what approach we shouldn't take, what is needed to make something come to pass, what kind of work that as we as legislators, that we as the Saskatchewan public should be pursuing in order to ensure that we have the proper kinds of policies and decisions being made out of this Assembly, and the decisions being made by the larger, collective society we do live in. So I think, Mr. Speaker, when looking at it in a historical perspective, there are lessons to be learned.

Mr. Speaker, I also think it's important to look at it in a . . . I also think it's important to gain a better understanding of the past because we owe it to the good work that Tommy Douglas accomplished, the good work that Tommy Douglas as premier of this province for a number of years and as a Member of Parliament on the federal scene, we owe it to that individual to gain a better understanding of what were the facts.

If there was surveillance, if there was oversight involved in the actions of Tommy Douglas's governments, I think we owe it to Mr. Douglas. And I think if members or people watching at home say, well what do you mean? How do we owe it to Mr. Douglas? Well I think it's part of, Mr. Speaker, the amount of respect that we show to any individual who has been significant. And while we as politicians in this Assembly and perhaps people that follow politics closely in the broader community, while we might feel the need to honour a politician, maybe not everyone understands why we would want to do that.

But I would ask individuals considering this point to think of anyone who is special and anyone who has been significant in their own life and who has played a really significant and constructive role in their own life. You know, as a young person, I'm fortunate to have both my parents alive, and I hope that is the case for many, many years. But I can think of my grandparents, for example, who I value and respect a great deal because of the work that they did and the love that they showed to their entire family. Because of the actions that they've done, I feel, Mr. Speaker, a debt of gratitude to them. And the way that I can properly display that attitude is by treating their memory, their life, their historical record here on Earth with respect.

And we as individuals and as families do this through a number of ways. We do this by telling the stories of people who have gone before us that we may love and may appreciate. We strive to not speak poorly of people. And we strive, Mr. Speaker, to simply treat the memories and the records of the people who've gone before us with respect.

So on a personal level, Mr. Speaker, since we do this with people that we have affection for and a great amount of respect for in our daily lives, in our immediate families, if we take that to the political realm, Mr. Speaker, when there's an individual who has played a very significant role in the programs they've introduced, the objectives and the achievements that they have made, when there is an individual that fits this bill and we are able to do something that honours them and shows respect to them, I think that's something that we as elected members of this Legislative Assembly who value those who've gone before us in this Assembly . . .

We often speak of the history and the tradition and the legacy and how we may be members who hold this seat for a period of time, but we certainly don't hold that seat. We don't own it. It's not ours. We're part of a bigger process here in this Legislative Assembly that's carried on for many, many decades and, God willing, will carry on for many, many more decades. And I think if we can show respect and honour in our personal lives as professional politicians and members of this Assembly, I think it is also wise to show that respect to those who have gone before us.

And I think that, Mr. Speaker, goes beyond partisan politics. It's not about the fact that Tommy Douglas was the leader of CCF-NDP [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation-New Democratic Party] governments. It's not about the fact that he was of a certain political persuasion or ideology. No one would refute, I think, any sound-thinking person would refute that Tommy Douglas accomplished a great deal of good work for the people of Saskatchewan and for the country as a whole. And the fact that he belonged to a political party, we can't escape that reality because we're part of a partisan system. We're part of an adversarial parliamentary system that has political parties, so that is a reality that we all face. And I support the party system, and I think it is a good one.

But surely as elected representatives of this Assembly, we can recognize that someone of any political persuasion, when they have done good work, when they have made significant accomplishments that go beyond our own provincial borders, east and west, north and south, when you've seen that kind of record, it's appropriate that we as legislators honour that record. And, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I think we can honour that record by doing the right thing, by having a better understanding of the historical record.

It's important too, Mr. Speaker, in a present sense because many of the things that we value here in the province come directly out of the work that Tommy Douglas accomplished as an opposition leader and as a premier here in the province.

We can thank, Mr. Speaker . . . Everyone of course knows of the role of medicare and providing the proper medical care to all Saskatchewan people. That is something now that is not a partisan issue when it comes to the basic understanding — I hope — of the need for medicare in our country and in our province. This is something that people of most political persuasions . . . There's always an outlier in a party here and there, and there are certainly different interpretations as to what medicare should look like according to right, left, and centre. And probably there certainly is that diversity within this Assembly here. But people understand that providing medicare,

providing proper medical care to Saskatchewan families and people is something important, and it's now become part of our fabric as Saskatchewan people and our fabric as Canadians.

So for me, because of the great work that's been done on medicare, we owe it to the record of how medicare came about. We owe it to the legacy of Tommy Douglas because of the work he has done. And we owe it to ourselves in order to understand how to make better decisions in the present day. We certainly owe it to ourselves to get to the full facts of the matter with respect to the past years where Tommy Douglas was active in politics in Canada.

There's a number of programs, and of course they go on and on, Mr. Speaker. The establishment of human rights in the province and at a national level . . . Everyone knows of Tommy Douglas's stand on the War Measures Act, a very principled stand which did not allow . . . where he championed the rights of individuals — very important.

[11:15]

We can think of other examples like the role of pensions in our country and the work that Tommy Douglas and CCF-NDP governments made in the world of pensions and the need for them for Saskatchewan people and Canadians in order to ensure that individuals have a high standard of living and a high quality of life after they have worked hard for many years.

We can think of other examples like the Arts Board, Mr. Speaker, that over the decades have proven to be so very effective in promoting arts and culture, promoting the things that really tell our story as Saskatchewan people, tell our story as Canadians — very important examples for us to remember as we think about the legacy that's lasted.

And, Mr. Speaker, all of these examples — we as a province, we as a country, we as a group of people — we have improved collectively because of the progress we've made over generations, over different governments, over the years in improving the way the government operates and improving the types of services that can be provided. And it's my hope, Mr. Speaker, that that trajectory of providing greater care, better care, working with Saskatchewan people more closely and more effectively, but that is something that improves and that there isn't backsliding.

So, Mr. Speaker, if there are steps that we can take now by calling on the federal government and agencies to release information about how we can gain better understanding of the past, if that information allows us to make better decisions in the future as to how we want to improve programs, introduce programs, make a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people, I think that's a smart thing to do because the work of any government of any political persuasion of course is never complete. There is always more to do. There's more to do on economic fronts, more to do on social fronts, more to do on cultural fronts. It's important that the work always continues. So we can take decisions . . . If we can learn from lessons in the past as to how programs came to pass, as to how important steps and improvements in our province came to be, if we can learn those lessons — and as current members of this legislature who have a role in promoting the province, have a role in

introducing new programs and making life better for Saskatchewan people — if we can learn from those lessons, Mr. Speaker, then I think that is a very positive thing.

I've talked a bit about how this motion about Tommy Douglas and the release of information concerning Tommy Douglas is important to me on a personal level. I've talked about, Mr. Speaker, how the motion about Tommy Douglas is, I think, important to the province and the country and especially important to this Legislative Assembly because, as I have highlighted, it has I think a great deal of relevance for the historical record, what has happened in the past. It has a great deal of relevance, Mr. Speaker, for our current actions and the current programs that we appreciate and enjoy — like medicare, like pensions, like the Arts Board — and, Mr. Speaker, it has a great amount of relevance for the future as well because, as everyone in this Assembly would agree, our work in this province is certainly not completed, is certainly not done. And so if we can learn lessons from the past, if we can look at the programs that are running at present, Mr. Speaker, then that puts us in a better position to promote things in the future. And I think that's important for all Saskatchewan people.

So it has relevance, Mr. Speaker, for the past, for the present and for the future. And it has relevance for me, Mr. Speaker, as an individual. Certainly that's not enough to pass a motion, but I think it speaks to the greater relevance that it has for all members of this Legislative Assembly. I think that's something, Mr. Speaker, that we as legislators should certainly promote.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, we live in a democratic country, and public access to information truly is at the heart of democracy.

Time and time again in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, we as an opposition and we as legislators in general understand that part of the process of having information publicly accessible, sharing information with the public, is that this is the people's Assembly. This is the Legislative Assembly for the people of Saskatchewan, and it does not belong to any one member, any one party. It is their information, Mr. Speaker.

This is a principle that we promote around the world through the work of peacekeeping, through the work of military action in countries such as in Afghanistan, Mr. Speaker, the work that development agencies, either CIDA [Canadian International Development Agency] or church, faith-based or individual, other humanitarian-based organizations pursue in other countries. It's about improving the lives of people.

And we, Mr. Speaker, as members of an elected system, as members of a democratic country, we value the principles that we believe in of the democratic process. We value that history. And every time we stand in this Assembly and ask a question or give an answer or sit in committee and ask a question, give an answer or write a written question and receive a written reply, every time we go into the media and ask questions about an issue, or a minister gives comments on an issue, it's about the sharing of information.

And clearly, Mr. Speaker, it's in the public's interest in a democratic country where the people are the individuals in charge of this Assembly — not any one individual, not any one party. It's in the public's interest to have information accessible

to all. That's something we believe at the federal level, something we believe at the provincial level, the municipal level. It really cuts to the core and the heart of our democratic process and what we're about as elected representatives in the Canadian parliamentary system.

On this motion, Mr. Speaker, we know that, as I said, the motion calls for the release of information that may have been kept on Tommy Douglas and the work that he did while an elected representative in Canada. It's known, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service routinely releases files on individuals 20 years after their deaths. So it's an understanding, Mr. Speaker, that when a certain amount of time has passed, when a window has expired, it's common practice, Mr. Speaker, for CSIS [Canadian Security Intelligence Service], as it's commonly referred to, to release information.

And I think, Mr. Speaker, that principle and guideline would be put in place because of the point that I just stated, that we live in an open and democratic process, Mr. Speaker, a democratic country that values the sharing of information because we know that that is at the heart, at the core of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, CSIS, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, does not operate independently from government in the sense that it's not accountable to government. There's certainly — I'm no expert on CSIS; I won't pretend to be, Mr. Speaker — but my point is that CSIS falls under the authority of the federal government because it is a federal organization under the authority of a minister accountable to the Prime Minister, just as any other agency that is an arm or a branch or a department of government is.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, we have a policy in place because it makes good common sense that when a certain amount of time has passed, if there's information that can be learned that has relevance to the past, has relevance to the present, and has relevance to the future, it makes good common sense to release that information because, Mr. Speaker, it strengthens and buttresses the democratic values that we have here in the country. It provides greater insight to actions of the past. It provides insight into actions where perhaps the government did not act appropriately. And perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it provides insight likely where a government acted appropriately, where they were acting in the public interest.

But if the time has passed, if the actions have been made, if the individuals that may have been observed by CSIS, if that individual's passed away, if the family members, Mr. Speaker, of that individual are in favour of the action, to me, Mr. Speaker, it makes good sense to release that information because it provides a better understanding of what happened. It allows us to learn from the incidents that happened, perhaps pro and con, good and bad actions. And, Mr. Speaker, it allows us to improve the situation for the future by hopefully building on the past successes and discarding the past mistakes.

So my opinion, since we live in a democratic country, since CSIS falls under the authority of the federal government, since the family members of Tommy Douglas are in favour of this position, since Canadian people value Tommy Douglas and the record and want to pay amount of respect to him, I think, Mr. Speaker, it makes some good sense.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, Tommy Douglas passed away 25 years ago, so the time threshold has been met, but CSIS steadfastly refuses to release about 30 per cent of the file. So there has been some release of the documentation but there is still, Mr. Speaker, a little under one-third of the information that is not available. And that's a substantial amount. Now maybe that one-third of the information isn't that telling or isn't that informative, but that's something, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Canada should decide through the release of that information.

Since we live in a democratic country, since information is available, since the time has passed, let's release, Mr. Speaker . . . let's call on the federal government to release that last about third of information and see what in fact, what information is held in the documents.

Mr. Speaker, since the time has passed since most of the individuals that perhaps have been, I would assume, be in these documents have passed away or not actively involved in politics, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion I don't see a legitimate security reason as to why this file should be kept secret, in my opinion.

Because now, Mr. Speaker, as I said, we don't exactly . . . We can't predict with certainty what is, in fact, in the files. We don't know what information might be provided, but, I think, Mr. Speaker, if . . . Well first of all, I'll state if the actions in the last third of the information indicate the government acted correctly back in the day when Tommy Douglas was active as a politician, if the documents reveal that the actions of government were not inappropriate, that the things that were perhaps being done by CSIS or the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], Mr. Speaker, if it's revealed that this is completely fine and there were no problems with what they were doing, then, Mr. Speaker, the release of this information would allow us as Canadian and Saskatchewan people and as legislators in this province to say, well done. Thank you for releasing the information. The record has been cleared up. The record is now available and transparent to all Canadians through the release of this information. And that's appropriate.

The other side of the coin, Mr. Speaker, if actions weren't appropriate, it's important that we understand what inappropriate actions took place. And it's not about a witch hunt or it's not about going after someone in a vindictive way. But as I said before, since we are democrats, since we are people that value democracy and transparency, since this is something that our country espouses and something that our country values here at home and overseas, it only makes sense that if there has been inappropriate actions, that government would recognize those actions and take action in order to ensure that history does not repeat itself and that bad mistakes are not made once again.

It's not uncommon, Mr. Speaker, for governments to make mistakes. No one in this Assembly would say that they don't make mistakes. We're human beings and certainly we make mistakes. That happens on this side of the House. It happens on that side of the House. It happens in our daily lives. We're flawed individuals who often stumble and don't do things properly. But part of that process, Mr. Speaker, if we are making mistakes, it's appropriate that we recognize when we make a mistake, show some contrition, show some heartfelt

remorse for what we did, and then take actions that would indicate we have learned a lesson and we are sorry for what we have done.

And governments do this from time to time, Mr. Speaker. I can think of, for example apologies about residential schools and the way that First Nations people were treated in our country through the residential school process. Our government has made an apology on that front, recognizing that the way things were done in the past were not appropriate.

Other countries, Mr. Speaker, have done similar actions. I believe the Australian government has made an apology to Aboriginal people in their country for actions. I think, Mr. Speaker, I read in the paper not too long ago that the British government made an apology to children who were orphaned and sent off into Canada and other colonies to work on farms, as young children got cut off from existing family members that they may have. An apology was made in that instance.

[11:30]

Mr. Speaker, we see apologies or recognitions of wrongdoing when an individual is wrongfully convicted through the court system. If someone has inappropriately or wrongfully been convicted and has spent time in jail, it has been practice, Mr. Speaker, that when that is, in certain cases the government that is responsible will issue an apology and try to make amends for that action.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can't predict what is in that last third of information that has not been released by CSIS. But what I do know and what I do believe in my heart and to my core, is that that information belongs to or that information should be shared with the Canadian people because it is the Canadians' information because it is information that was collected on their behalf by the government, by agencies of a different day.

As I have talked about, Mr. Speaker, I think the actions, by releasing this information, it can increase the amount of accountability, the amount of transparency, and the safety for future politicians, members of parliament, members of the Legislative Assembly. And so while many of the motives that I've spoken about, Mr. Speaker, have been more on a level addressing how collectively we as people — past, present, and future — have an interest in having this information shared, I think, Mr. Speaker, as individuals in this Assembly, as an elected individual who may be doing things that are of interest to other individuals, we wouldn't want to be spied on in an inappropriate way, Mr. Speaker.

So I think it's only fair that we also support this motion as individual MLAs, speaking probably on behalf of other MPs [Members of Parliament], or MPPs [Members of Provincial Parliament], or members of the National Assembly, Mr. Speaker, who would want the same amount of respect shown to them as a legislator.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I've made some remarks at length, I've talked about how this is important to me as an individual, but of course that's not enough to support a motion, for all members of this Assembly to support a motion. I think, Mr. Speaker, this motion, this call for the release of information is important to

people in Saskatchewan because it allows us to understand our pasts. It allows us to appreciate the institutions that are important to us now, and it allows us to build stronger institutions, stronger policies in the future.

And, Mr. Speaker, I've also spoken shortly on how I think we as elected officials would want this type of release of information because we would not want to be under surveillance in an inappropriate manner. The people of Saskatchewan, I believe, want the access to this information. The family members of Tommy Douglas want this information. I think the appropriate thing to do, Mr. Speaker, is for members of this Assembly to support this motion, and in so doing, Mr. Speaker, send a clear signal . . .

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — With leave to introduce guests, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Minister for Crown Investments has asked for leave to introduce guests. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

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

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker and a thank you to the members across the floor for allowing me this opportunity to introduce to you and to my all colleagues 24 grade 4 students from Robert Melrose Elementary School in my hometown of Kelvington, Saskatchewan. They have with them today their teachers, Monique Gollings, Tracy Ziola, and Shannon Murch. And we have chaperones. We have Michelle Bernier, Joanne Brownlee, Theresa Evans, Dawn Kennedy, Melissa Lockie, Kerri Polachek, Veronica Wilton, Karla Elmy, Ernest Swehla, Dianne Lund, and Tracey Fletcher.

I am very pleased you're here today, I know it wasn't easy to make your way in this morning; I understand the roads weren't that great. And, Mr. Speaker, I think most of my colleagues are noticing a number of the students and the teachers are wearing pink shirts, and I'm interested in talking to them about it later on. I'm really pleased you're in your legislature today, and I'm asking all my colleagues to join with me in welcoming this wonderful Kelvington grade 4 class to their legislature.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Motion No. 3 — Release of Intelligence File on Former Premier (continued)

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and of course welcome to the students. It's always great to have visitors here, whether they're school groups or family or members of organizations here in the province.

Mr. Speaker, I have been very honoured and pleased to be able to make a few remarks about the Tommy Douglas motion, a call for the release of information by the federal government and federal agencies. I've given my rationale as to why I think this is appropriate. Mr. Speaker, I would at this time, I'll simply reread the motion along with the rationale for individuals who may have just tuned in today to get the full picture. And then, Mr. Speaker, following that I will close my remarks.

The notice of motion reads:

That this Assembly calls on the Government of Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to release the complete intelligence file on former Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas. And further, that in making this call, the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan asserts the following:

1. That public access to information is a core tenet of democracy;
2. That the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, CSIS, should be consistent in that it routinely releases intelligence files on individuals 20 years after their death;
3. That 24 years after Tommy Douglas's death and several decades after the information on him was gathered, there is no legitimate security reason for keeping this information secret;
4. That the release of this information is important to the legacy of Tommy Douglas and to the people of Saskatchewan and Canada;
5. That this Assembly recognizes that Tommy Douglas served our province and our country with distinction as the first social democratic leader in North America;
6. That this Assembly values Tommy Douglas's legacy to Saskatchewan and Canada including medicare, old age pensions, family allowances, social programs, the central Bank of Canada, civil liberties and rights legislation, and our Crown corporations;
7. That this Assembly recognizes the people of Canada voted Tommy Douglas as the greatest Canadian to mark his accomplishments;
8. That this Assembly believes that Tommy Douglas's family, friends, and all Canadians deserve to know the information contained in the intelligence file.

Mr. Speaker, that is the state of the motion as it currently stands. And as I said before, I'll be very honoured and pleased to support this motion based on the rationale that I've stated in my speech. I would call on all members of this Legislative Assembly to also support this motion because I think it's very important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — Order. Order. Before I recognize the member from Weyburn, I just want to acknowledge that, earlier this

afternoon, I erred when we moved forward to the adjourned debates. I automatically assumed we were into a different motion, and given the fact that we no longer have seconders, I recognized the member from Saskatoon Massey Place without making the effort to acknowledge that we should move to a government member. So my apologies for the error in that part. I recognize the member from Weyburn.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise in the Assembly to speak on this motion, one that I have a great deal of interest in, not just as a legislator or as a legislator from a constituency that represents the great city of Weyburn but also as somebody that has an interest in the history of the province and the people that have served this province, Mr. Speaker.

I think some of my colleagues and some of the members will know that I do have a great interest in history. And, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the things that I would say immediately at the top of my speaking notes, if I could maybe take a page out of the member from Lakeview and just quote from one of my favourite historians, the historian and author David McCullough, who has written extensively on matters of American history. Mr. Speaker, David McCullough said in an interview and I quote:

History is not about dates and quotes and obscure provisos. It's life. About change. About consequences. Cause and effect. It's about the mystery of human nature. The mystery of time . . . [Mr. Speaker].

I know of no other subject that interests me more than the history of this honourable body and of members that have served in it. And so I'm very pleased to take part in the debate on this motion. As I said, I'm honoured to speak on behalf of, I think, my colleagues on this side of the House and to speak on behalf of the people of the Weyburn-Big Muddy constituency who have given me the honour of serving in this Chamber since 2006, Mr. Speaker. And I thank them for that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so honoured to serve the Chamber and to serve a constituency that does include the city of Weyburn, Mr. Speaker. And anytime Weyburn is mentioned, I take great notice of it, Mr. Speaker. It's a community that I live in and am very proud of, Mr. Speaker. And it's one, when you look at the history of the province, obviously when you think of Weyburn and politics, T.C. Douglas does come to mind. But it's one that has really great stories aside from T.C. Douglas, and if I could just share a few of those with the members and with people that are watching.

Mr. Speaker, since the general election of 1908, there's been a constituency on the provincial level that has had the name of Weyburn in its title. And we've certainly been served by a distinguished group of men and women over those years, obviously with T.C. Douglas filling a big part of that, Mr. Speaker, and his electoral success.

But, Mr. Speaker, if I could just talk a little bit about how we got to that point in our history, Mr. Speaker. There's a number of very interesting elections that took place in a Weyburn constituency. And the one that comes to mind is the 1917 general election, Mr. Speaker, that actually featured two

candidates. And both their names were, last names were Mitchell even though they weren't related, Mr. Speaker.

But in fact, the Mitchell that lost that election was the father of the famed author W.O. Mitchell, Mr. Speaker, who — I believe, in my opinion — is probably the most famous product of Weyburn. And that is in no disrespect to T.C. Douglas, but I mean that in somebody who was born in the community of Weyburn. In fact, Mr. Speaker, W.O. Mitchell's childhood home, as I think I've said in this Chamber, is just two doors down from the house that my wife and I live on, on 6th Street in Weyburn, Mr. Speaker. It's a historic fact, historic site, Mr. Speaker, that house in Weyburn.

And there's an interesting story in one of the biographies of . . . just to not to dwell on this very long, but an interesting . . . In one of the biographies of W.O. Mitchell that was written by his son, Ormond, and his wife, Barbara — I believe it's his wife, Barbara, Mr. Speaker — in the first volume, there's an interesting story about how when W.O. Mitchell was a child about three years old, Prime Minister Laurier actually came to Weyburn in a whistle stop campaign stop, Mr. Speaker. And so Laurier obviously was a Liberal prime minister, Mr. Speaker. And so W.O. Mitchell was told that, as a child, he and his brother were taken to see the prime minister at the train station. But it was pointed out that it was the servant, Olga, who took them because his parents, staunch Conservatives, wouldn't even take the children to see the prime minister because he was of a different political persuasion.

Mr. Speaker, not long after that election, the 1917 election, we have an intriguing situation. This is why history is so fascinating because there are so many stories. Despite it being our history and records being kept, there are so many stories that we really don't know the circumstances around them.

For example, Mr. Speaker, after the 1917 election, we have an intriguing situation where Charles McGill Hamilton was elected in four straight elections; however, he first entered this Chamber in a by-election uncontested. What is curious about this story is that he returned in a second by-election to this Chamber, less than one year after his first by-election, and again he was uncontested. He was an acclaimed candidate. And so the interesting story, the mystery is, why an uncontested candidate in less than one year would return, would come to this Chamber through by-elections. And so it's one of those interesting stories about the history of Weyburn. And I'm leading into the story of Tommy Douglas for all members that are listening, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly we're very proud in the city of Weyburn to have a history, a political history that we have had and names that have really been amongst our political history, names that are synonymous with the history of the city of Weyburn, whether that be Eaglesham or Staveley, Mr. Speaker. Mitchell is certainly one of them.

Mr. Speaker, Hugh Eaglesham was elected in 1934. And one of the candidates that he defeated, the third place finisher, was a young, up-and-coming politician and a preacher by the name of T.C. Douglas, Mr. Speaker. And it wasn't long after that that Mr. Douglas became a federal member of the parliament.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the historical record, you know, I think it's interesting or it's important to put things in context. Certainly Mr. Douglas had a string of election victories in the Weyburn constituency. But it's interesting to note that by the end of his run as premier, his election victories were getting closer and closer. In fact it was his second last election that, for the first time, he actually finished with less than 50 per cent of the combined vote in Weyburn. And his last election in 1960, Mr. Douglas actually just squeaked out a 500-vote victory, margin of victory. And in fact the record would show, Mr. Speaker, that in 1961, to fill his seat that was created by his resignation, the CCF [Co-operative Commonwealth Federation] actually lost the Weyburn seat in that election. Soon they would regain it after in general elections after that but something that is worth noting.

[11:45]

Mr. Speaker, I think it's obvious that while even today in the city of Weyburn, there are a number of people, obviously seniors, that would have some recollection of Mr. Douglas and would have been around at the time. Certainly it's safe to say that he wasn't always the overwhelming choice for the people of Weyburn. But I think obviously people would have disagreed and been on different sides of Mr. Douglas when it came to political debate, not only across the province but in the city of Weyburn.

And certainly there are a number of people that remain in the city of Weyburn today that have those memories of being on the opposite side of the debate with Tommy Douglas, no doubt respecting the man and respecting his position. But I think it's probably best summed up, Mr. Speaker, by the editorial that appeared in the *Leader-Post* at Mr. Douglas' resignation as premier of the province, when they wrote in their editorial that "Despite sincere differences over some of his government's policies, the people of Saskatchewan generally have respected Mr. Douglas while from his followers he has received their utmost admiration and adoration," Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think one of the reasons why I think this is a relevant and an important debate is because it speaks to the whole of the historical record when it comes to not only Mr. Douglas but also the Douglas government. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that obviously is important when you talk about ensuring that there is accuracy in the record, when the record is told of that time, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier I quoted from the author David McCullough. One of the things that he has been able to do in writing his, I think, masterful biography of John Adams is use the actual handwritten letters between John Adams and his wife Abigail in telling the story of the time. And so that's why I think the record, the full record is important. And we know what happens, Mr. Speaker, when historical records are incomplete and when creative licence is taken.

Mr. Speaker, I think members of the public and members of the Chamber will recall a miniseries that Mr. Douglas, that came out on CBC [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation] just a couple of years ago. And I know the member from Elphinstone, my friend and I think who shares our shared interest in history of the province in the House, spoke on that miniseries when it was

unveiled. And he said, and I quote, “The story reminds us of Saskatchewan history.”

Mr. Speaker, I guess it did remind us vaguely of Saskatchewan history if you recall the trouble that ensued with that, Mr. Speaker. According to a *StarPhoenix* editorial, March 16th, 2006, it was like, and I quote, “wonderful television but abysmal history,” Mr. Speaker.

I think of all the historical inaccuracies, probably the worst of all was not necessarily the revisionists building up of Douglas, the man, but the tearing down of Jimmy Gardiner, Mr. Speaker. Jimmy Gardiner, as people will know, served the people of Saskatchewan as an MLA and an MP and a premier, and was the longest, I think, to date, is still the longest serving federal cabinet minister in one portfolio — an incredible 22 years as the minister of Agriculture in Canada, Mr. Speaker.

And certainly when you look back at that time, just a few years ago, and really the terrible, the terrible telling of Saskatchewan’s story, David Smith, the Saskatchewan political scientist who co-authored, I believe, the only biography on Jimmy Gardiner called the treatment of that man scandalous, Mr. Speaker. And I quote from David Smith: “It’s not right to portray him like that. You might disagree with how he went about it, but Saskatchewan was very important to him.”

And, Mr. Speaker, I’m quoting from a *StarPhoenix* editorial from 2006 where it talks about the egregious errors that were done to Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Speaker, throughout that TV series talking about . . . that really weren’t even a debatable matter, Mr. Speaker. Having Gardiner being portrayed as a premier making a speech when in fact he wasn’t even premier at the time around the riots in Estevan, Mr. Speaker, the miner’s strike at that time, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Smith goes on to call it a travesty of what was done.

So we know what happens when, not only when the historical record is incomplete but when it is not accurately portrayed, Mr. Speaker. In fact I believe CBC pulled the miniseries from future broadcasting, I think, in large part from the work that the member from Melville-Saltcoats who was speaking on behalf of the Gardiner family and the Premier who was leader of the opposition at the time . . . brought this member to the Chamber.

Now, Mr. Speaker, moving to the words of the motion, in principle I agree with the motion before us, Mr. Speaker, that should there be no compelling reason existing that these records, I think, for the public record should be made public, Mr. Speaker, for, as I have said, their historical importance and significance. Obviously the motion speaks to, it speaks to the importance of access to information. I think we can all agree on that, Mr. Speaker. It speaks to the CSIS policy of releasing information as a matter of course 20 years after the person’s death. Obviously that is the case with Mr. Douglas.

Mr. Speaker, I also agree with the Leader of the Opposition who, in his speech on this matter, said on April 22nd on page 4987 of *Hansard*: “And if there is some glaring reason why it can’t or shouldn’t be released, then I think it’s incumbent on the agencies involved to outline exactly what those reasons are . . .” Mr. Speaker, I agree with that. I think if there is a compelling reason why it shouldn’t be released, then that information

should be made known, Mr. Speaker.

At this time I don’t know, I certainly don’t know of any compelling reason why it should or should not be released. I don’t know if the member, the Leader of the Opposition, does. But certainly that’s one where I think . . . a point where we may be able to agree on.

Mr. Speaker, the motion then goes on to read, and I will read from the motion that . . . And this was moved by the Leader of the Opposition:

3. That 24 years after Tommy Douglas’s death and several decades after the information on him was gathered, there is no legitimate security reason for keeping that information secret.

Mr. Speaker, I again, as I said, and the Leader of the Opposition right before he moved that clause, said that he wasn’t sure if there was any glaring reasons why it should be not disclosed, Mr. Speaker. And so I think that clause, Mr. Speaker, maybe needs to be amended, which I will do at the close of my comments, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I think point 4, clause 4 of the motion speaks to the legacy of Mr. Douglas. Certainly it can’t be disputed — he was the premier of the province of Saskatchewan for many years, served as a legislator in this province, Mr. Speaker.

There are other clauses that I do want to speak to, Mr. Speaker, that . . . When we get into clause 6 and it goes through a list of what the members opposite believe are Mr. Douglas’s legacy . . . And I, while I agree with the fundamental question before us and the motion, I don’t believe the matter should be released, the information should be released for any one particular reason or for anything in Mr. Douglas’s record as premier of the province, Mr. Speaker.

I believe by virtue of his time as premier, by the fact that he did serve as premier then, that that information is probably relevant to the historical information, Mr. Speaker. I don’t believe that his legacy to medicare has, as the motion states, has any more or less bearing on the interest in this motion than his government’s decision to expropriate a box factory which ultimately went bankrupt, Mr. Speaker.

I don’t think either parts of the record, Mr. Speaker, have any bearing on the motion. I think the motion stands on its own, Mr. Speaker. I think as the motion reads, his contributions to old age pension or family allowance, I think it brings no more or less weight to the arguments for releasing the information than the issues around the reasons why the petroleum industry left the province and went to Alberta not long after the Douglas government was elected, Mr. Speaker, or the unanswered questions around things like Farmers’ Mutual and the commission that was put in place to delve into the issue of farmers’ mineral rights, and how they were treated by individuals in the province, Mr. Speaker.

I think the merits of the argument stand on their own, that Mr. Douglas was the premier of Saskatchewan, he was an MP, he was an MLA, and by that fact alone, regardless of his record on health care or on, Mr. Speaker, on some of these other issues

that I've talked about, I think the motion stands on its own.

Mr. Speaker, one of the areas in the motion, the clause that I think really has no bearing on this issue at all is, as read by the Leader of the Opposition, is clause no. 7, that we do this, that in part, one of our arguments is that Mr. Douglas was somehow decided to be the greatest Canadian of all time, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I will be amending that as well because let's put this into context. This was a contest on CBC television and radio that also chose the following people. So, Mr. Speaker, if we want to put weight into this one activity of the CBC, this contest which allowed people to vote in online or to register their vote by text or by as many times, I understand, as they wanted to . . . I didn't vote in the CBC poll, Mr. Speaker.

But if you put in some of the other votes, Mr. Speaker, on that same contest that selected Mr. Douglas as number one — Mike Myers, the actor, who I'm a big fan of . . . I enjoyed him on *Saturday Night Live* and I think he was Shrek. We've got a fan over on the other side of the benches, Mr. Speaker. He rated 20th in the vote that was taken place by CBC and 21 was the Unknown Soldier, Mr. Speaker. Now I think if you put that in context, it really shows the CBC contest for what it was. Whether you have Céline Dion and Jim Carrey rating higher than a person like Rick Hansen, Mr. Speaker. I think that really shows what this was all about.

Or my favourite, my personal favourite, Mr. Speaker, the 34th, according to CBC the 34th greatest Canadian was Hal Anderson. And people are saying, who's Hal Anderson, Mr. Speaker. Well I'm happy to report according to the CBC, Hal Anderson, the 34th greatest Canadian, as voted on in the same contest that selected Mr. Douglas as number one, is an on-air personality at Winnipeg's Power 97 and a regular host of amateur talent searches and Budweiser Messy Wrestling Nights at the Henderson Draft House.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, as I said before, I think the vote by CBC has no bearing on the motion, Mr. Speaker. And I'm pointing out, and I'm pointing out to the members who have maybe . . . I'm pointing out to the members opposite that I agree with the motion based on the fact that he was the premier of the province; not because CBC said one thing about him, Mr. Speaker, not because . . . for other reasons that were given, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, by all accounts, Mr. Douglas had a number of qualities that people think of today, whether it be . . . Certainly people would view him as a passionate individual, somebody who was pugnacious, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, but I think the overall as what I've been trying to say to members who may or may not have heard all of my comments, Mr. Speaker, but something that, Mr. Speaker, that I think is important is just so that we have the full historical record, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, so that we're not looking through this through rose-coloured glasses so that the story's been told just by one side, Mr. Speaker.

[12:00]

Mr. Speaker, one of things that Walt Whitman wrote and that applies to history and I think applies to the debate that we're having about the merits of a historical record, and I quote, "As

soon as histories are properly told there is no more need of romances," Mr. Speaker. And I think that's very important because many times — not from everybody, but many times — whether it's members opposite or other individuals, they do some revisionist history when it comes to the record of Mr. Douglas. Certainly members opposite would agree that he's just a man, Mr. Speaker, who made mistakes, who's fallible; had maybe points of view that weren't always the correct ones or the proper ones.

I give a lot of credit to my friend and colleague, the hon. member from Elphinstone, who has no problems with speaking about the full record of Mr. Douglas. In fact it was the member from Elphinstone that put into the record of this Chamber Mr. Douglas's early writing on eugenics which the member from Elphinstone rightly pointed out that he never put those in place when he became Health minister and as he was the premier of Saskatchewan in the first government. But it is part of the record.

Same as what we're debating with this motion about these files. I believe the member from Massey Place said there's about 30 per cent of the file that has not been disclosed, Mr. Speaker. I think the member from Elphinstone, in talking about this, talked about how Mr. Douglas was ultimately a dogmatic, was not a dogmatic person, was fairly practical, Mr. Speaker. I think that's seen by his early beliefs in things like the manifesto that talked about capitalism being driven out of the province and people not resting, and his party's early positions in their resolutions that they passed at their own conventions in the early years of their government that talked about nationalizing the oil industry. Who then later became in his life, Mr. Speaker, a board of director of Husky Oil. So it really shows that he was not a dogmatic person that could change his ideas, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it's interesting to note, it's interesting to note . . . I guess other members want to get into the debate, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, I know my time is winding down. I'm going to move an amendment. The Leader of the Opposition . . . In my closing comments, Mr. Speaker, and I hope on a lighter note, and I hope the members have taken, will read my comments in their full, in the full body of my context, in the full body of my speech, Mr. Speaker, because I know that perhaps that was not the case.

But, Mr. Speaker, on a bit of a lighter note, the Leader of the Opposition, in moving his remarks, talked about the day that will come this year when the city of Weyburn will be receiving — I think they have received — a statue that was created of Mr. Douglas, that was created I think by an Ontario artist. And it's been a couple of years in the making, Mr. Speaker. I think the city was expecting it a little bit sooner, but ultimately it will be arriving, Mr. Speaker, and it will be erected in the city of Weyburn this summer. And, Mr. Speaker, many people I think will obviously celebrate that day, Mr. Speaker, in Weyburn, across the province, just as I'm sure that many people perhaps will not be as boisterous and jovial in their celebration of that date, Mr. Speaker.

But I'm not sure really what Mr. Douglas would think of that, of having a statue raised in Weyburn of him, other than what he said, Mr. Speaker, and I quote:

I don't mind being a symbol but I don't want to become a monument. There are monuments all over the Parliament Buildings and I've seen what the pigeons do to them [Mr. Speaker].

Now I hope the pigeons are more kind in this matter, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's been a pleasure for me to speak on this motion. I do want to move the following amendments:

That the motion be amended by deleting the word "legitimate" under clause 3 and replacing it with the word "known"; and

That the words "people of Canada" in clause 7 be deleted and be replaced by "viewers and listeners of CBC who voted in the contest".

I so move. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The motion before the Assembly is the motion presented by the member from Weyburn-Big Muddy:

That the motion be amended by deleting the word "legitimate" under clause 3 and replacing it with the word "known"; and

That the words "people of Canada" in clause 7 be deleted and be replaced by "viewers and listeners of CBC who voted in the contest".

Is the Assembly ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: — Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

An Hon. Member: — Amendment.

The Speaker: — The amendment. That's correct. The motion as amended, is that agreed?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. Standing vote. Call in the members.

[The division bells rang from 12:05 until 12:14.]

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion as amended. Will the members take it as read?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Those in favour of the motion please rise.

[Yeas — 44]

Morgan Bjornerud Gantefoer

Draude	Krawetz	Eagles
Duncan	Harpauer	D'Autremont
Norris	Reiter	Hutchinson
Brkich	Hart	Schriemer
Stewart	Allchurch	Weekes
Tell	Wilson	Michelson
Ottenbreit	Ross	Chisholm
Bradshaw	Kirsch	McMillan
Lingenfelter	McCall	Harper
Trew	Higgins	Junor
Atkinson	Forbes	Broten
Furber	Morin	Yates
Iwanchuk	Taylor	Quennell
Wotherspoon	Chartier	

[Nays — nil]

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — Mr. Speaker, those in favour of the motion, 44.

The Speaker: — The motion carries. I recognize the Opposition Leader.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, I move:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion and verbatim transcripts of the motion just passed to the Prime Minister of Canada, leaders of the federal opposition parties, the Speakers of all provincial legislative assemblies, and the family of Shirley Douglas.

I would ask leave to move that motion.

The Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has asked for leave to move a motion of transmission. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed.

Mr. Lingenfelter: — Mr. Speaker, by leave, could I take it as read and hand it to the Clerk? At the urging of the Government House Leader, I would read the motion again. I move:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion and verbatim transcripts of the motion just passed to the Prime Minister of Canada, the leaders of the federal opposition parties, the Speakers of all provincial legislative assemblies, and the family of Shirley Douglas.

I so move.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition:

That the Speaker, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly, transmit copies of the motion and verbatim transcripts of the motion just passed to the Prime Minister of Canada, the leaders of the federal opposition parties, the Speakers of all provincial legislative assemblies, and the family of Shirley Douglas.

Is the Assembly agreed with the motion of transmission?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — The motion carries. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Mr. D'Autremont: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would move the House do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. This Assembly stands adjourned until 1:30 Monday afternoon.

[The Assembly adjourned at 12:19.]

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Premier of Saskatchewan
President of the Executive Council

Hon. Bob Bjornerud
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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
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Minister Responsible for Innovation
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