

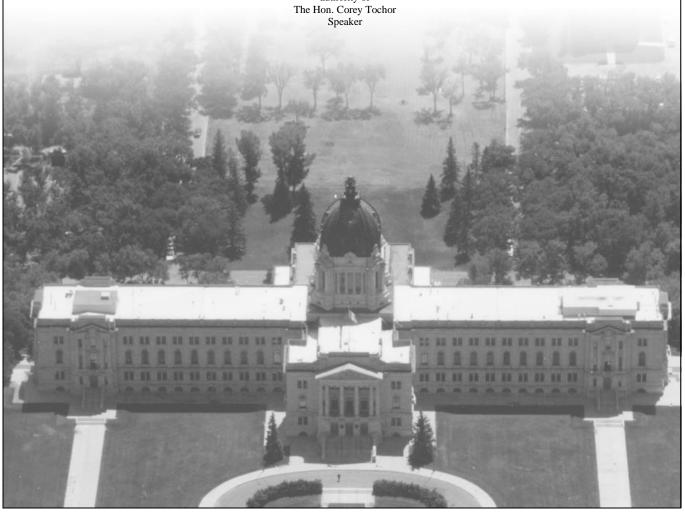
FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

## Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

## DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)
Published under the authority of
The Hon. Corey Tochor



## MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN 1st Session — 28th Legislature

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Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
Leader of the Opposition — Trent Wotherspoon

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Young, Colleen — Lloydminster (SP)

Vacant — Saskatoon Meewasin

**Party Standings**: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 49; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 10

Independent (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 1

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#### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN November 30, 2016

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

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

**Hon. Mr. Wall:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask for leave of the Assembly for both myself and the Leader of the Opposition to make a statement of condolence.

**The Speaker**: — Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Premier.

#### STATEMENT OF CONDOLENCE

#### Roger Parent

Hon. Mr. Wall: — "That in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee we may glorify thy holy name and finally, by thy mercy, attain everlasting life." These words you just led us in in the daily prayer that begins each proceeding, Mr. Speaker. Though sometimes the routine of a prayer can rob it of its petition or its aspiration, but not today, Mr. Speaker. For in that prayer, in those words, rests the hope we have for the family of our friend Roger Parent, MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Saskatoon Meewasin — that last evening, when he passed away, was not the end. For his family gathered in this House today, this legislative family, it is where our hope rests too.

Before I go on, I want to thank the hon. Leader of the Opposition. He came to my office this morning to extend condolences on behalf of his team to me, for my team, for this team, for Roger's team. That was appreciated. And we're also wanting to say thank you to the Leader of the Opposition and the caucus opposite for their co-operation in allowing for this tribute.

There are many titles represented in this venerable Chamber. Yours is quite a title, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition, Premier, ministers of the Crown, whips, House leaders — all impressive as titles go, perhaps. But none as great and none as honourable as those few among us who can honestly and credibly be called constituency men or constituency women.

Roger Parent was a constituency man. He worked hard to serve and to represent the people that sent him here. He never forgot the people that sent him here. Most discussions I had with Roger would involve him saying something like, you know what I'm hearing; or, my people are saying. And when Roger said that to you, you knew that that was exactly the case because he would have just been talking to them. He would have been door knocking. He would have seen them about the community. He would have been returning phone calls. And he would then be, in those conversations, giving voice to his constituents. And then he would advocate for them, sometimes for their individual plight or their individual case, and sometimes on broader policy matters that he believed might

uplift the station of the people that he called his constituents.

He was a constituency man who was very proud of the diversity of his constituency. Members on both sides of the House will know that that part of Saskatoon, like other parts of our major cities, there are so many newcomers that have moved there. And in his very first speech in this House — it was the 6th of December, 2011 — he talked about those newcomers.

He talked about people on his campaign team that actually would help him to communicate. He told me that on many occasions he knew he was talking to potential voters but folks who couldn't vote at that particular time. But he wanted to hear from them and he wanted to hear their concerns.

You can judge a lot about an individual — you can judge a lot about a candidate — by the people that are attracted around that individual to help in some effort like a campaign, especially when they're all volunteers, when dozens of them, in Roger's case, wanted to give of the most precious thing they have, their time, to do not-so-fun things like door knocking or cold calling or organizing campaign events.

But Roger had a force with him. They knew him best. Many of them knew every side of him, more sides than some of us knew. But they gave of their time. They wanted to volunteer. They wanted to send him to Regina. They believed he would be their voice, and he was.

In that same maiden speech, Mr. Speaker, Roger names that corps of volunteers, named them all. I counted 91. Imagine that calculation. He's giving his maiden speech in this House, and we all know — we've all done it — it's a bit of a nervous moment. We don't know if we'll be too long or what we should put in or what we should leave out. And he decided that every person that was at the core of that campaign, had volunteered their time, owed the respect, his respect and his gratitude, to have their name read into the public record, into the *Hansard*.

He was a constituency man who found all of the challenge and all of the honour that any of us might seek from our vocation in the job that he had earned. In my one-on-one meetings with Roger, we would canvas what his aspirations were, or I would ask him what else might he want to do in politics. And he said, "Well I'll do whatever I'm asked," but he said, "I'm happy being an MLA."

He said to me, and I remember he said, "It is an honour to be an MLA." You know, that's a rare thing in politics today. I was surprised to hear it the first time. He said it subsequently to me that, when we had other meetings, and I shouldn't have been surprised that that was what he wanted to do because he worked so hard to do it. He ran four times, twice unsuccessfully. The last one very, very close, and some would have at that point been discouraged and probably decided to do something else, but he kept at it, battling in a contested nomination and then winning the seat, and then winning again.

He was a constituency man. But he brought a provincial perspective as well. His priority was an economic one. He believed — I talked to him about this — he believed that we really did need to focus on the economy, that that was the best

way to ensure long-term quality of life for not just his constituents but people around Saskatchewan.

In that same maiden speech in December of 2011, he offered a series of touchstones to his vision. But the very first one he mentioned is that his objective, his goal, his vision would be that this province would be a province of 1.1 million people by 2015, and I am glad he lived to see it.

In recent years his focus, as has been the focus of other members including members opposite, has been on the issue of procurement. He believed in free trade. He believed in open procurement, but he also believed that it should be fair. And he had concerns that that wasn't necessarily happening based on, maybe, treatment that other companies from outside the province would get from their home jurisdiction, but just generally about the procurement policy. And he would talk to us in the front row, in any row; he would talk to me about it.

And today in government we actually have an office that the Attorney General is responsible for called Priority Saskatchewan, whose job it is to respond to those concerns not just from Roger, from others. But boy, we heard a lot from him on the matter. Their job is to work with government on procurement and also for businesses here so we can ensure a level playing field. And I promise you this, Mr. Speaker, Priority Saskatchewan would not exist in the province today, neither would even its objectives be as focused, I don't believe, were it not for the work of Roger Parent.

Roger had a good sense of humour. The Deputy Premier, as he's wont to do, sometimes asks random questions. And he told me today that he asked Roger once, why don't you just go by Roger Parent? And Roger said, well because then people would speak French to me, and I don't know French. And furthermore, he said, I've no interest in being a federal judge.

Before politics, Roger used his skills and his training as an economic development professional, and I was in the economic development profession at the time he was involved in the Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association. And I was too — not as involved as he. But his priority was Aboriginal economic development. He was proud of his Métis heritage, and he was determined to be a part of uplifting all people through opportunity.

Roger was a constituency man, but he had his other passions, as we all do. He loved to hunt. He loved to golf. He was a left-hander like I am, but that's where the similarities ended because Roger was good. He was also pretty good at swinging a hammer. He's very good at home improvement. He shared projects with me, and this was a passion of his.

But here lately, seeing him beam about his grandson Nash betrayed the fact that there was a new passion, a greater passion. Nash is the son of his daughter Shanaya and her husband, Kyle. And those of us who have worked alongside him and those who knew and loved him best I know will resolve this day, and all the days forward, that they're going to ensure Nash knows the quality and character of his grandfather.

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Philippi, he invokes the peace that passeth all understanding. And what he meant by that, clearly, is that there are for certain profound losses, certain sudden tragedies, where there ought to be no immediate peace for anyone that's endured them — that we could understand, at least — and so then we might want to pray for the peace that passes understanding. So whatever our tradition today and whatever our faith, that is what we must do for Sheila and her family, whom he called ... Sheila, he called in that same speech, his rock, and for all who mourn Roger.

And still there is the assurance of the psalmist who said, sorrow lasteth the night, but joy cometh in the morning. We know it will take much more than one night, Mr. Speaker, but we pray today that the sorrow and the loss that Sheila and her family feels, that we all feel, will soften to longing and then to wistfulness and then to good memory and then even to smiles and, yes, to joy that we got to know Roger, that we were able to work alongside him, and that they had the chance to love him and be loved by him.

So to the member for Saskatoon Meewasin, Roger Parent, thank you for your example. Thank you for being a constituency man. Thank you for your hard work, your humour, and your humility and your servant's heart.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Eloquent, thoughtful words from the Premier here today, emotional and passionate words for definitely a good person within this Assembly and within our province.

I think it's important to say that we mourn together and we stand together. And this will be a different type of day here in this Assembly here today. We get engaged in battles often in this Assembly that are very important, some battles that aren't that important. But today, to properly mourn this sitting MLA, this very good person, we lay down those battles and we remember him properly.

It's a sudden and devastating passing of a sitting MLA of this Assembly, of a very good person, of a very good family man. And I didn't get the chance to know Roger to the level that the Premier and others opposite would have. I appreciate the stories that are shared here today.

But in the experiences that I had with Roger — and in fact they were many, often quite brief exchanges — I found an affable, gentle, caring individual, something that I think is sometimes lost in the whole discussion of what happens in this Assembly and how we engage in the discussions that are relevant to our province, that many in this Assembly engage in as people and citizens. And while heated moments occur on this floor and through question period, as they should, there's a humility and a humanity that many members bring to their work, and Roger's certainly one of those individuals.

[13:45]

The brief exchanges, the many exchanges that we often had were centred on a mutual passion of ours. He was an avid outdoorsman, avid hunter, and I am too. And I've enjoyed, I've enjoyed those conversations. And it's sometimes a bit grounding, when you step outside the heated exchanges of this

Assembly or the tough questions of the media looking down upon us here today, to be holed up in the corner of a hallway with someone like Roger to be talking about a passion such as hunting. And I know that, I understand that he had the chance, in this quick and hard fight that he took on, I understand that he had the time to, the opportunity to be out in the field this fall for his annual hunting trip. And you know, that sits well with me, Mr. Speaker.

More than a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Roger, as described so well by the Premier, was a beloved family man and someone that, if you simply look at their record of service not just in the Assembly but importantly prior to entering into this Assembly, is someone that's been devoted to his constituency but to people in our community and our province for, it would appear, his entire life.

It was mentioned by the Premier, but his work in advance of coming into this Assembly and working around economic development and the support in work around indigenous economic development and support for indigenous entrepreneurs, it's something that can't be underestimated. And that's a powerful legacy that I suspect will live on in the lives of many people all across our province.

If you look at the list of organizations that Roger lent himself to, it's an impressive list: the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority's Aboriginal economic development committee; the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation; the Métis Nation — Saskatchewan; the Saskatchewan committee on procurement; the Saskatoon homelessness initiative partnership, all such meaningful organizations. And again this is in a place that that legacy of this person, this good person, where it will live on.

On behalf of the official opposition and all Saskatchewan New Democrats, I extend my deepest condolences, our deepest condolences to Roger's wife, Sheila, to the entire family for their tremendous loss. The Premier referenced the legacy and the memories that will live on and be so impactful for the grandchild that was mentioned. I'm certain that that will be the case.

This will be a period of tremendous loss and hurt and mourning. But from a good person such as this, I'm certain that fond memories will live on in many ways and that his legacy will be lived out in the members of his family and those organizations and the people that he's touched.

It's fair to say that cancer has touched all of us. And I understand that the final battle had complications and other matters and, I believe, a stroke as well. But I think, as we remember Roger, we also think of those all across our province that have taken on this battle with this terrible disease, all of those that are currently battling this terrible disease. And I think we each think of those within our own lives for whom have taken on this battle and for whom have been lost.

At this time our thoughts and prayers are simply with the family. And, Mr. Speaker, finally I do want to offer our deep condolences to all members opposite in that entire caucus — a very difficult day and a very tragic loss. Our sympathies and our care rest with each and every one of, each and every one of

you for losing this valuable member of this Assembly and a good colleague, I know.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're thankful for the life of Roger Parent.

**The Speaker**: — Would all members please rise for a moment of silence.

[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]

**The Speaker**: — Please be seated.

I'm advised that Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor is here for Royal Assent. All please rise.

#### ROYAL ASSENT

[At 13:53 Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor entered the Chamber, took her seat upon the throne, and gave Royal Assent to the following bills.]

**Her Honour**: — Pray be seated.

**The Speaker:** — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly in its present session has passed several bills which in the name of the Assembly I present to Your Honour and to the bills I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

**Clerk**: — Your Honour, the bills are as follows:

- Bill No. 39 The Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 42 The Traffic Safety (Miscellaneous Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 2 The Miscellaneous Statutes (Crown Corporations' Fiscal Year End Standardization) Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 37 The Traffic Safety Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 32 The Automobile Accident Insurance (Benefits) Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 12 The Public Health (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 26 The Patient Choice Medical Imaging Act
- Bill No. 13 The Cancer Agency Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 1 The Crown Corporations Public Ownership Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 16 The Adoption Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'adoption
- Bill No. 28 The Extension of Compassionate Care Act,
- Bill No. 33 The Child and Family Services Amendment Act. 2016
- Bill No. 34 The Provincial Lands Act, 2016
- Bill No. 14 The Horned Cattle Purchases Repeal Act, 2016
- Bill No. 10 The Forest Resources Management Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 11 The Forestry Professions Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 17 The Power Corporation Amendment Act, 2016

- Bill No. 29 The Justices of the Peace Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur les juges de paix
- Bill No. 4 The Queen's Bench Amendment Act, 2016 Loi modificative de 2016 sur la Cour du Banc de la Reine
- Bill No. 5 The Electronic Information and Documents Amendment Act. 2016
- Bill No. 6 The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No.7 The Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016 (No. 2)/Loi nº 2 de 2016 modifiant le droit législatif
- Bill No. 9 The Enforcement of Canadian Judgments Amendment Act, 2016/Loi modificative de 2016 sur l'exécution des jugements canadiens
- Bill No. 15 The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2016
- Bill No. 19 The Film and Video Classification Act, 2016
- Bill No. 35 The Small Claims Act, 2016/Loi de 2016 sur les petites créances
- Bill No. 36 The Small Claims Consequential Amendments Act, 2016
- Bill No. 8 The Summary Offences Procedure Amendment Act, 2016

**Her Honour**: — In Her Majesty's name, I assent to these bills.

**The Speaker:** — May it please Your Honour, this Legislative Assembly has voted the supplies it requires to enable the government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Assembly, I present to Your Honour:

Bill No. 45 - The Appropriation Act, 2016

to which bill I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

**Her Honour:** — In Her Majesty's name, I thank the Legislative Assembly, accept their benevolence, and assent to this bill.

[Her Honour retired from the Chamber at 13:58.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. Merriman**: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that this Assembly do now adjourn.

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

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. Pursuant to the sessional order dated May 18th, 2016, this Assembly stands adjourned until Monday, March 6th, 2017.

[The Assembly adjourned at 13:59.]

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1531
1532
1533

### GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN CABINET MINISTERS

# Hon. Brad Wall Premier President of the Executive Council Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

#### Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor

Minister of Social Services
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women

#### Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff

Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission

#### **Hon. Kevin Doherty**

Minister of Finance

#### Hon. Dustin Duncan

Minister of Energy and Resources
Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Telecommunications

#### Hon. Bronwyn Eyre

Minister of Advanced Education

#### Hon. Joe Hargrave

Minister of Crown Investments
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Government Insurance
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Transportation Company

#### Hon. Donna Harpauer

Minister of Government Relations Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

#### Hon. Jeremy Harrison

Minister of the Economy
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Liquor and Gaming Authority
Minister Responsible for The Global
Transportation Hub Authority
Minister Responsible for Tourism Saskatchewan
Minister Responsible for Innovation

#### Hon. David Marit

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Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Water Corporation

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Minister of Education
Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety
Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan
Workers' Compensation Board

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Minister Responsible for Rural and Remote Health

#### Hon. Jim Reiter

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#### Hon. Christine Tell

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
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#### Hon. Gordon Wyant

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