



THIRD SESSION — TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

of the

**Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan**

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**DEBATES  
AND  
PROCEEDINGS**

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(HANSARD)  
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The Hon. Randy Weekes  
Speaker



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN**  
**3rd Session — 29th Legislature**

**Lieutenant Governor** — His Honour the Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M.

**Speaker** — Hon. Randy Weekes  
**Premier** — Hon. Scott Moe  
**Leader of the Opposition** — Carla Beck

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<b>Lemaigre, Jim</b> — Athabasca (SP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Regina Coronation Park
<b>Love, Matt</b> — Saskatoon Eastview (NDP)	<b>Vacant</b> — Regina Walsh Acres

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**Standings**

Government Caucus: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 45; Opposition Caucus: New Democratic Party (NDP) — 12;  
Independent: Saskatchewan United Party (Ind.) — 1; Vacant — 3

**Clerks-at-the-Table**

**Clerk** — Iris Lang  
**Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel** — Kenneth S. Ring, K.C.  
**Deputy Clerk** — Kathy Burianyk  
**Principal Clerk** — Robert Park

**Sergeant-at-Arms** — Lyall Frederiksen

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

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

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Mr. Speaker, I would request leave to move a statement of condolence today.

**The Speaker:** — The Premier has asked for leave to move a statement of condolence. Is leave granted?

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

### STATEMENT OF CONDOLENCE

#### Derek Meyers

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to colleagues for granting leave on this day. Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly we often have differences of opinion — that's evident on the evening news each and every night — but I think we can agree on this: it's a great privilege for each of us to serve the people of Saskatchewan collectively. We all want to do what is the very best for the folks that we represent across this province.

And, Mr. Speaker, as we go about our business here in this House or in the communities that we represent, we develop a close kinship, at times a very close friendship with those that we serve alongside. In many ways we become more than friends; we become family members. Well, Mr. Speaker, when we lose a family member, when we lose a close and dear friend, we feel deep sorrow. And when that loss is compounded by the realization that our friend is just beginning to hit his stride in life, that sadness is, it's almost impossible to describe.

And this is where we find ourselves today as we mourn the passing of a good friend, the member for Regina Walsh Acres, the man from Midale, Saskatchewan, our friend, Derek Meyers.

Mr. Speaker, Derek's passing, it's so tragic. It's so unexpected. And it's difficult for so many people, and it will be difficult for some time. So today I would say from the floor of this Assembly, we send our love and our support to Derek's wife, Laurie. We send that same love and support to their daughter Easley and to their two boys, Dayn and Sebastian.

As we all know, Laurie and the kids, they were Derek's moon and stars each and every day. And that devotion to family extends to Derek's mom and dad, to Blake and Brenda, to his brother Darcy and his sister Brandi. We send our prayers to the entire Meyers family from the floor of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, Derek was elected in the year 2020. He was not a member of this Assembly for a long period of time, but I would say that he leaves impact, like he leaves a positive impact and has left a positive impact in all of his travels. Derek had the enthusiasm and the sparkle of an eternal optimist. And any that met him knew he was just that — an eternal optimist. He saw the bright side in any situation, and he certainly saw the

bright side in Saskatchewan.

Derek loved this place. He had a strong and abiding belief in the destiny of his home province. Derek entered public life because, by his own words, he saw opportunity in Saskatchewan. He saw opportunity in the people that resided here. And he saw opportunity in our collective future. He also saw the opportunity to join yet another team.

Derek had arrived at this legislature and he was eager. He was eager to learn and he was extremely ready to serve, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, I would say that he brought so much as an MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly]. He brought so much to the table. He brought so much to the table as a member of our team. He brought all of those experiences from previous teams that he had served with and been a part of. He brought a strong work ethic, a fantastic sense of humour. He brought a breadth of professional experience and he brought plenty of life experience as well, Mr. Speaker.

Derek was the third generation to work in the family business in Midale Petroleum, a generational team, a company that is still going strong after 50 years and three generations.

Derek founded his own team. He owned his own video production business.

Derek had a successful career as a broadcaster as well. For many years he was part of the sports team at Global News. He was a talented journalist and he was well known not only across the city of Regina but throughout the province. But those that know Derek would know that that never went to his head in any way. He never took himself very seriously.

For example, I was reading a number of articles over the course of the last few weeks really. But a few years back, the *Leader-Post*, they did an interesting feature on the fashion stylings of Derek Meyers and his fellow Global sports personalities. I think it was Kent Morrison and Taylor Shire. And they were called the trio that brought flair to the air. And Derek, he described himself as a metro man, a metro man that carried a purse. And he said, and I quote my friend again, I still take a lot of abuse over that. Saskatchewan is very slow at embracing metro.

And by the way, in that very same feature article, Derek, he revealed that his attire included underwear from lululemon, pants from Le Château, and happy socks from Nordstrom. And thankfully, I think we can all say, at some point Derek met Colin O'Brian.

Derek went his own way in life, whether it was putting together his wardrobe or whether it was pursuing his career. But whatever he was doing, Derek had a lot of fun. We can all attest to that.

Mr. Speaker, like all of us, Derek faced challenges in his life. There were dark times for Derek. As we know, Derek's daughter Teigha suffered with mental illness, and she struggled with depression and anxiety for a number of years. As we know, just prior to the 2020 election campaign, Teigha took her life. She was 17 years old. That was devastating for Derek and it was devastating for the family, and somehow, somehow Derek persevered. I don't know how.

He campaigned hard right through that election and he won Regina Walsh Acres, not only for himself — least of all for himself — but he won it for his daughter Teigha, he won it for his family, and he won it for his team, the Saskatchewan Party.

He said later that an important motivator was his desire to extract something redeeming from the passing of his daughter. Derek figured that the best way that he would be able to help kids who were dealing with the same struggles that Teigha went through was for him to take his seat in this Assembly. He said, and again I quote my friend, then I could be one of the voices in government for those people who are struggling with mental illness. Only Derek, through what was such a personal tragic time, could be looking to extract and aspire some positive impact out of that. It's a lesson for each of us here.

As the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions will tell each of us, Derek was a very passionate and a very persistent advocate for strengthening mental health services in our province. Derek was fearless in sharing his own story and he shared his story because he was a very caring and a very compassionate man.

And he was a thoughtful man. You saw that in his maiden speech in this very Assembly. Very quickly Derek acknowledged the people who influenced his decision to enter politics, people who were good friends but were also mentors to him: Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Kevin Dureau, Kevin Doherty among many others. In that speech, Derek acknowledged Clint Fox, his hard-working campaign manager. He acknowledged all of the folks at the party office and all of the door knockers by name. And he acknowledged his family. In fact he spoke very glowingly of his family. He spoke very proudly about Dayn and Sebastian, and understandably had such special praise for Laurie, who gave birth to one very beautiful Eisley just a week after that election.

Mr. Speaker, Derek loved many teams in his short time with us. He loved the Edmonton Oilers hockey team, rightfully so. He loved his team at Midale Petroleums. He loved his Global News team. And he loved his Saskatchewan Party team. But the team that he was most proud of, the team that he absolutely loved the most was his family.

Mr. Speaker, near the end of his maiden speech, Derek, he said this, and I quote my friend again:

These are days for neither the faint-hearted nor for petty squabbles amongst ourselves. Instead we must plow through this rough land so our next generations can enjoy the beautiful harvest and the future of the seeds we sow here and [the seeds that] we sow now.

Mr. Speaker, in his all-too-short time among us, Derek Meyers, he most certainly plowed the land for the benefit of those future generations. He has sown the seeds for a much stronger Saskatchewan. And he has left a very positive impact on all that he met. He will never leave our hearts, ever. He will live on in our hearts forever.

So now I would say that it's on us to make that case on behalf of our friend, on each of us in this Assembly and beyond to take what Derek has given us in his lived example, to take that forward.

So I would ask each of us, as we leave today, think of how gracious Derek was with you, how gracious he was with his time, with his words. Think of how positive he was, even in times that otherwise were very bleak. Think of how positive our friend Derek Meyers was. Think about how every time that you spoke or interacted or even sometimes just walked by Derek, think about how you just felt a little bit better after. And think about the impact that Derek Meyers had on your life.

I think we can all strive to carry a little of Derek Meyers with us in every future interaction that we have, in every conversation that we have, and in every friendship that we aspire.

Mr. Speaker, it's been said that those we love and lose are connected with us by heartstrings into infinity. And so it shall be for our friend, Derek Meyers.

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

**Ms. Beck:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'd like to thank the Premier for his thoughtful and heartfelt remarks.

[13:45]

This is a difficult day. Derek was a cherished member of this House, of his community, and the province. We saw that yesterday in the grief displayed by his colleagues in this Assembly and the outpouring that we saw in the media and social media.

Speaking as a mom, sibling, spouse, I can only imagine what Derek's family is going through today.

On behalf of the official opposition I wish to extend our deepest sympathies, our condolences to Derek's partner, Laurie; his children Dayn, Sebastian, and little Eisley; as well as to his parents, Blake, Brenda, and your whole family.

To my colleagues across the aisle: you were fortunate to spend many more days with Derek than we ever did. As I said yesterday, we see your grief. We hope you all take good care of each other. We grieve with you.

Now as the Premier described, Derek was a larger-than-life character. He had a voice that cut through the loudest of debates in this legislature. I recall my colleague from Rosemont sometimes making note of how well his voice travelled across this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, when we leave this Chamber, when we leave this world, I think the most that any of us can hope for is that we leave something behind, something better — memories for our loved ones. And that certainly is the case with Derek. One of those things I will remember is that booming sportscaster voice and a lot of laughter, excitement, that energy that the Premier spoke about.

The Premier remarked yesterday that throughout all of the challenges that Derek faced, he was positive and upbeat. And he did face challenges. I do recall his maiden speech, the obvious pride that he took being the newly elected member for Walsh Acres. And he made a point to those listening that he was not standing alone. He spoke about Christy, the daycare operator;

Luke, the university student; Dave, the retired senior that he'd met on the doorstep; and many, many more. And he did keep his word. Mr. Speaker, he was a voice for his community. And I can say with confidence that that voice will be missed.

And you could see the pride that he had for those around him, the pride when he spoke about growing up in Midale, pushing that chair around the rink — I think an experience that many people have had — and his pride and love when he spoke about Laurie and his boys and his brand new baby daughter. And he also spoke about his daughter Teigha, who he described as his light, and he described the pain upon losing her to suicide. He said that she made him a better dad, a better person, and a better MLA. And he described that there was no greater loss than losing one's child.

And I remember him introducing his parents, parents now grieving the loss of a child gone too soon. I remember him just a few weeks ago introducing his brother Darcy to this Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the battle he was in with cancer was evident on his frame, but he spoke so lovingly and with courage, courage to even be here in the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, we see a lot in this Chamber. We hear a lot. Some of it we will remember for a very long time. Some of it I think we wish we could forget. But I do remember this very clearly about Derek on the occasion of his maiden speech and introducing his brother: I remember that courage.

In his maiden speech — and I'm going to borrow some of the same quote that the Premier used — he described, these are days for neither the faint of heart nor for petty squabbles amongst ourselves. And I think that is a very fitting quote for today.

There will be days, there will be time for debate very soon. And that's as it should be, Mr. Speaker, because what we do here, what we talk about, the decisions made here, they matter to the people of this province. And Derek knew that. That debate is important.

But there can be no debate about this: Derek was treasured. He is gone too soon. He showed us that life can be filled with joy and enthusiasm. He will be missed but his memory will live on in the records of this House, in his work in the community, in the memories of his colleagues and his loved ones, for all those who knew him best, and his family.

To all of you I say, may those happy memories of your partner, your father, your son, your brother, your friend and colleague carry you through and give you solace.

And I know that there are many who find comfort in faith and scripture at a time like this. And I was reminded by a good friend of mine of Psalm 30, verse 5, "... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

We are weeping today, Mr. Speaker, but Derek's life and work has given us much to celebrate. May we continue to celebrate the joy and positivity that Derek brought to his colleagues, to his family, and to this Chamber. May we continue to hear that booming voice.

On behalf of the official opposition, we offer our heartfelt

condolences.

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

**Hon. Ms. Harpauer:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, throughout life all of us are going to meet many, many, many people. And as we age — which of course I never do — but that circle of people you meet just gets larger and larger and larger, and you have that . . . These are people that we will never forget.

Some of them are family members. You wish you could forget them. There are some that give you prolific advice that you will always remember. There are some that solve an issue for you and you will always remember them. There are some that you will remember just because of who they are and they inspire you. And then there is that small circle of people that you will never forget because of who and what they are. That's Derek Meyers.

You're going to hear many people say his optimism, his positive attitude, his intelligence, his experiences, his kindness, his amazing heart, his acceptance of everyone, his enthusiasm, his love of life, his love of the province, his love of his family — you're going to hear it again and again because it's all true.

I was not a close personal friend with Derek outside of work. Frankly I don't drink beer; I hate it. I know nothing about sports as the member from Rosetown would say. And so, you know, the guys wouldn't say, hey, Donna, let's go out and talk about sports. But as you will hear too, you know, we're a family, and as a family we become friends in that context.

And Derek loved being on our team. Doesn't matter what position he was given, he threw everything into it with enthusiasm, with his energy, with his optimism, with his heart. He put everything behind whatever job he had on the team. He loved the job, he loved the people, he loved the politics.

I was privileged to have conversations with Derek. Sometimes he'd come to my office. We'd just chat; many members do. And you know, it wouldn't matter how crappy my day was — and I wouldn't put that on Derek — we'd talk about many, many things and he'd leave the room and I just felt better. He hadn't fixed my problem. He hadn't fixed my worry. But I just felt better because his positive attitude, his optimism, was just so contagious that you couldn't help feel better when you talked to Derek.

It's not long enough. Time was not long enough. My heart goes out to Laurie. It's not long enough but, Mr. Speaker, how blessed are we. How blessed are we we knew him, because it's not long enough. For me it was only three years. Rest in peace, our friend.

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

**Mr. Wotherspoon:** — I rise in solemn solidarity and deepest condolences. This province has lost a real decent soul. We mourn together and we stand together. For Laurie to lose her love, her husband; for children to lose their dad, not to return; for parents to lose their child, their son; to lose a brother; to lose a colleague or a teammate, co-worker — it's heartbreaking. And our hearts break for you.

I got to know Derek over the years long before he served in this

Assembly. He was a prominent sportscaster, a heck of a fun guy, a real character — gregarious, funny — wonderful to trade stories with, often emceeding events and community activities that were raising dollars for good causes.

We got to tease each other over the years about the choice of our respective teams: the Edmonton Oilers, the Boston Bruins, the Sask Party and the NDP [New Democratic Party]. And I'd tell him, I'd tease him and say, oh boy — once I found out that he was kind of hitching his wagon to these guys — I'd say, oh boy, you know, bad mistake. Come work with us, Derek. And he'd bug me and tell me that I was the one that was offside and should be over there. Looks like maybe he chose the winning team in the last election, Mr. Speaker.

He was funny as heck. And even as adversaries in the political fray, which matters, there's always a relationship and humanity. I think of, on the cusp of that election when he lost Teigha, chatting with Derek at that point in time, and since then about Teigha as well. And we know what that meant to him and we mourned with him then as well.

Trading stories about Midale over the years and the oil patch and hockey and that wonderful family and those beautiful, young kids that can always look up to their dad.

I just want to say, we mourn together. We celebrate his life. We offer our deepest condolences, Mr. Speaker, and we know that he'll be remembered fondly by many. And we ask that he rest in peace.

[14:00]

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Ms. L. Ross:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Derek Meyers loved being an MLA. He loved his city. He loved his province. But most of all, Derek loved his family.

Now Derek was the real deal. His enthusiasm, it was infectious and we all benefited from that. And Derek never said, "I don't have time" or that it wasn't important. Because you know what? Derek was all in. And many times going to events together, Derek would say to me, Laura, I have to bring the kids. And it made me proud to see what a caring dad he was, but he was also a committed MLA and committed to his constituency.

Derek, you were larger than life. You will be missed, and we are all the richer for having served with you. Laurie, Derek's family, we are all thinking of you.

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

**Ms. Sarauer:** — I have a story I want to tell about Derek. I've been thinking about it a lot. I was planning on talking about it during my budget speech, and I so desperately wish that that is where I was sharing this story today. And I think it speaks to what the Premier mentioned about the graciousness that is Derek.

You know, question period is question period. We say that all the time. But it's the kindness and the graciousness that we show

outside of that space, across the aisle, that I think has a lasting impact. And Derek had a lasting impact on me and I want everybody to know that. You know, whether it's snacks across the aisle in a late-night committee or mentions in a member's statement of a member across the aisle who was at an event, those things matter. They truly do, and Derek got that.

Remembrance Day, this past Remembrance Day. You know typically I go to the cenotaph in Victoria Park and don't make a thing of it, just kind of hang out in the crowd, think about my grandpa. But we realized as a Regina MLA team that we needed somebody here for the Regina Rifles event that happens just outside this building. So I agreed last minute that I would go and I would come and join with the crowd and give my respects there.

Now it was minus 35, I believe, minus 50 — it's always cold on Remembrance Day — and I don't really like the cold. So I got all dressed up as if I was a six-year-old about to head to a snowball fight, just fully mix-matched snowsuit action, and didn't expect anybody to recognize me. Kind of was completely okay with that.

And Derek saw me and he came up and he said, how's it going? I said, good, and he said, are you a part of the ceremony today? And I said, well no, I'm kind of just rolling in; I'll just hang back with the crowd and watch. And he said, well I have an extra wreath. I want you to have that wreath. Why don't you come up, and I'll let the MC [master of ceremonies] know, and you can be a part of the proceedings.

And so I did join the proceedings. I mean I was the only fully snowsuited official there. Everyone else looked quite professional in their professional-looking jackets. Perhaps for others, that might not sound like a significant thing, but for those on this floor, they know how significant that is. That speaks a lot about Derek, and that really touched me.

And I told him that. I told him I would make sure that the member for Rosemont gave him a free pass for at least six months for being so kind to us on the other side. I think he lived up to that.

He was also someone who very much cared, and he showed up for community. So us Regina MLAs often see each other at events regardless of political stripes, and we often saw Derek at the same events as us because he showed up for community. And you see that today when you see organizations like the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] of Regina and Carmichael speaking out and giving thanks for Derek and expressing their condolences.

We also shared a love of family. The last time I spoke to him was after the New Year in the cafeteria. And I was talking about a trip I had just gone on with my family, and he was talking about a trip he was about to go on with his. And we lamented the difficulties of flying with a two-year-old and really bonded over that, over many other things about toddler life. And I know his kids and his wife and his family meant the absolute world to him.

We also share a close mutual friend, and through Melissa I've been learning about what's been going on in his life and sending my well wishes to him throughout the course of this horrible situation. And I want to give her space with my last words. I asked her what she wanted me to share today, and this is what



she said:

What I would want people to know about Derek is he felt such purpose in his role as MLA. He didn't take for granted that he was trusted to step into that role, and he tried every day to honour that trust in the work he did and the attention he gave to his constituents and the people of our province. He really cared to understand others' perspectives and what mattered to them. His optimism was unwavering and shied away from recognition. He showed people grace and cared deeply about making a difference until the very end. I think the best way anybody can honour Derek is to show up in every space, every day with the same positivity and gratitude that he did.

Thank you for sharing him with us.

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

**Mr. Buckingham:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to extend my condolences to the family and friends of Derek.

You know, last night when I thought about jotting a few words down, I tried to come up with a word that would adequately, you know, encapsulate who Derek was. And there is no one word; there's not even maybe several words. Derek was a wonderful person. But I kept coming back to one word, and that word is "gentleman." I think of Derek as, he was a real gentleman, and you know, courteous, honourable, and polite — just a man that you would want to be a friend of.

I also thought of the word "leader." So many of us here have learned something from Derek because he led by example in his home, his community, and his workplace. But he didn't consider this a workplace. Being here with his colleagues, with this staff in this building, that wasn't work to Derek. That was his passion. And if you asked Derek to do something, it was done. Derek always wanted to help wherever he could.

And I asked the caucus staff today to give me, in a few words, what their thoughts were when they thought of Derek, and I'll just read them off: fun and full of positive energy; it was a better day in our office when he would stop by; camaraderie; always, always happy; professional and welcoming; he made you feel better; positive, upbeat person; inspirational; full of life — Derek most certainly was full of life; passion for his community and passionate about his work. You know, we could give Derek a very bland member statement. He could rewrite it and deliver it like it's for 2,000 people and bring the House down.

Derek, I will try and honour you, to be a better person because that's what you made us with your positive energy and attitude. May you rest in peace, our friend. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Cockrill:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know over the last number of months, every time I'd talk on the phone with Derek, he'd start the conversation and he'd say, Jeremy, the highways are great in Walsh Acres today. And you know, I really, I always appreciated that encouragement. And that's funny because there's no provincial highways that go

through Regina Walsh Acres. But you know, I think that speaks to Derek's humour and really the kind of guy he was. And he was always very encouraging to me, especially as I've stepped into new responsibilities. So I'm happy to report to the House today, yes, today the highways in Walsh Acres are great.

You know, it was a tough day here yesterday, Mr. Speaker, to sit with our caucus in silence after losing a close friend, colleague. So I took a walk around the lake yesterday afternoon, and you walk around the lake and you look back at the building and you see the flags at half-mast. And that was a hard thing to see, Mr. Speaker, when you know that the reason those flags are at half-mast is for a good friend of yours.

So as I continued to walk around the lake — I felt like turning back but I kept going — my favourite hymn came to mind. And there is a line in there that says, How great the pain of searing loss. And this is a searing, this is a hard loss, Mr. Speaker. I think our caucus feels that.

And I was thinking about it this morning, and I think the reason it's painful for our group, and I think for many in the gallery today and members of the opposition and folks who work in this building, folks in the city, is I think — I don't want to speak for everybody else — but I certainly feel as if Derek gave more to me than I ever gave to him. And that's hard. You lose a close friend and you think about everything that he gave you, in terms of encouragement and support, and he's gone, Mr. Speaker. And so this is a searing loss.

You know, I think about and talk about what he gave to us, Mr. Speaker, and I have known Derek to be an incredibly generous individual. Generous with his time, generous with his hospitality. I remember as a new MLA, Mr. Speaker, Derek invited me over to the house — and I don't know if Laurie knew I was showing up — but I went over for dinner, Mr. Speaker, and you know, I just felt like a part of the team. I felt welcome in this city and I felt welcome in the Meyers' home.

And I'd say Derek was also generous with his ideas. You know, Derek — and you'll hear this from a number of our colleagues today — Derek was always willing to engage with a challenge, engage with a topic, and think about it, think about it critically and offer his feedback on that.

You know, Mr. Speaker, you've heard from many in the community already; you'll hear from more today, Mr. Speaker, about how positive Derek was. And you know, I think, what is that positivity rooted in, Mr. Speaker? It's rooted in — you know, I've heard a few members say it now — it's rooted in purpose. It's rooted in hope for this province, hope for his family, hope for himself, Mr. Speaker. That's why Derek was so positive.

Now going back to the hymn that I was talking about, there's a line later in the hymn that says:

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this workplace, the temptations of self-importance in this workplace are massive, Mr. Speaker, every day. You know, everybody in this House, whatever side they're on, wherever they sit, they have gifts. They have a power that

comes with the position of being an elected representative in the province. I'd say there's a fair amount of wisdom in this room, Mr. Speaker.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.

And I think about Derek. I think about how humble he was. Derek had a lot to boast about, a lot to bring to our team. He brought a lot to our team. He brought a lot to the city. I appreciate the member for Regina Douglas Park's story. That's what he brought to our province, Mr. Speaker.

But he's so humble, so humble, Mr. Speaker. If you met him on the street, if you didn't recognize him — and again I'm not from Regina so I didn't watch Derek on TV — but you'd never know he was an MLA. He was just willing to engage with anybody on any topic. And I so appreciate that about Derek. And watching Derek serve the constituents of Walsh Acres so faithfully and dutifully is a good inspiration to me, Mr. Speaker, to do the same in my community.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I talked at the beginning about just the deep pain of the searing loss for us and for the Meyers family, and really for our community and our province here. And you know, again going back to this hymn, the subsequent lines after not boasting about no gifts, no power, no wisdom are talked about:

But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.

[14:15]

And I think many of us, people who are close to Derek, looking for what hope do we have to go forward, to remember our friend and to live a better life because of who he was and what he gave to us. And certainly, Mr. Speaker, that's the hope I have in the face of this searing loss. And so I just want to take this opportunity again to thank Derek for his friendship and for his service. And I want to wish all the best to the Meyers family. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member for Cut Knife-Turtleford.

**Mr. Domotor:** — Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to express my sympathies and condolences to Laurie and the Meyers family for your loss. Mr. Speaker, Derek was part of what we call the class of 2020. There were 12 new MLAs elected in the last election, and I am proud to say that I was one of them who was fortunate enough to meet Derek and get to serve with him and know him better.

I remember meeting Derek for the very first time. It was at a caucus meeting where we shook hands, introduced ourselves, and just started talking. His enthusiasm and optimism to begin his new role as the MLA was contagious. Derek's goal was to make a difference for his constituents and help make the province a better place to live. Mr. Speaker, I believe Derek excelled in this goal through his advocacy for mental health, and he was an outstanding representative for his constituency.

Derek touched so many lives with his presence that he definitely made this province a whole lot better. His void will be missed throughout every nick and corner of the province.

Mr. Speaker, although we may have differences of opinion on either side of this Assembly, I think we can both agree that being in politics and representing your constituents is a different type of occupation. There's a unique bond and friendship formed with your colleagues that make you and your family of extended brothers and sisters where we all understand and support each other in facing the day-to-day dealings of our roles. Mr. Speaker, one can only fulfill this role with the love and support of your family. We will continue to be part of Derek's extended legislative family and will extend our support to the Meyers family in days to come.

Mr. Speaker, when I think of Derek, three quick thoughts come to mind: optimism, positivity, and loyalty. Dear friend, you will be missed and forever in our hearts. Rest in peace.

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

**Hon. Mr. Duncan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his maiden address as a newly elected member, Derek began, the very first thing that he said was to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election as Speaker. And then with the very next breath, with a big smile on his face, he said that he hoped to never be called down to your office because it would be akin to being called to the principal's office. It was such a Derek thing to say, Mr. Speaker.

Over the past 24 hours since we've all learned of Derek's passing, the tributes have been such a testament to who he was. And from all corners here in this Assembly, on talk radio, on social media, it seems like everyone knew Derek and everyone has a Derek story to tell.

For those of you in this Assembly, perhaps the first time that you met Derek it was after being elected with him in 2020. Or maybe you merely knew him from watching him giving the sports highlights on TV, or perhaps you heard his voice on a Friday sports round table on the radio and you wondered, the Derek that you have gotten to know with the big laugh and the bigger smile and most especially an even bigger heart, you might have been wondering, was he always this way? Mr. Speaker, I can say yes.

You see, Mr. Speaker, I don't really recall a time where I didn't know Derek Meyers, whether it be at the sports grounds or just hanging around Midale as a kid, but especially at the rink. Our families go back a long time. Derek is a year younger than my brother. Derek's brother Darcy is a year younger than me, and I think Brandi is a year younger than my sister. We spent a lot of time together especially at the rinks all across the place.

Derek and my brother Dallas played a lot of hockey together, and they had some really good teams out of Midale. And they were pretty good together, Mr. Speaker. I asked my brother yesterday to give me a story that I could tell from that time, and right away he texted me back with this. He said that:

Derek set me up and I scored a goal, and we met behind the net to celebrate. Derek was so excited he jumped up to hug me but he clotheslined me instead. And we both lay laying

there on the ice laughing.

They scored some pretty goals together, Mr. Speaker. Whether it was the finesse that they showed on the ice or the lack of finesse that they showed in their celebrations, that idea kind of stuck. And the two of them, and I think with Chris Dixon but I'm not quite sure, they were known as the shampoo line.

Mr. Speaker, Derek was made for this place: outgoing, social, smart, quick witted, always a smile on his face, always willing to lend a hand, an adoring and supportive family behind him. Derek had every gift but time. He was a friend to everyone. I've never met anybody who knew Derek that didn't like him.

Mr. Speaker, if most of us measure our circle of friends with a ruler, Derek would have needed a yardstick. And he fit in so well, whether it was hockey or volleyball or curling or slo-pitch or with the team at Midale Petroleums. He was so proud of what his family had been a part of building. Or the media circles here in Regina. Derek liked being part of a team. And I think he found that here too.

Mr. Speaker, even though he was here for too short of a time, I think that he knew that our caucus is more than a team, that we're a family. And I trust and hope that he and Laurie have felt that, especially in the last couple of weeks. Though he isn't here with us, he'll always be a part of us. And same goes for you, Laurie, and the kids.

Mr. Speaker, I sent a text message to Derek on Saturday night, just wanted him to know that I was thinking about him. And we were told that he would get the message, but he may or may not reply, which was okay. About an hour later he replied, and it said, hanging in; every day is a gift.

I'm going to miss Derek. I'm going to miss seeing him in this House. I'm going to miss seeing him at our kids' soccer games. So to Laurie and Dayn and Sebastian and Eisley, to Blake and Brenda, to Darce and Brandi, my deepest condolences.

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

**Mr. Friesen:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few people know this story already, but Derek didn't have a seatmate the whole time he's been here. And he was so excited to have a seatmate. And I said, but it's me, Derek. And he said, anyone'll do.

There's a lot of common themes here today, Mr. Speaker, and rightly so. Derek was so positive, so positive, and if positivity could have got rid of that cancer, it would have. Such a big heart and so passionate about what he did here and about the people he served.

There's so many good stories. Last night colleagues went out to spend a little bit of time together, and actually with his Memories family as well, Mr. Speaker, because one of his favourite places to go was Memories, and the staff there knew him very well. So it was quite fitting that we were able to spend some time together there last night.

One thing I know that would make Derek smile and will make Derek smile moving forward is that we continue those

conversations. We continue remembering the good things about Derek and all the things that he did for us, for his constituency, for his friends, and his family.

It was very difficult yesterday, Mr. Speaker. I don't know who put it there but there was a mace pin on the desk of my colleague. And as the member from The Battlefords said he saw the flags at half-mast, that pin on that desk was a little bit of finality for me. It just was very tough. I had to come in a couple of times this morning because I knew there would be an arrangement sitting here. And I tell you, every morning I would come . . . we would come here and I would sit at my desk and just hope that Derek would be back one more day, because he just loved being here and we loved to have him.

I just want to express my most sincere condolences to your family. And thank you, Derek, for the time we had.

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

**Mr. Grewal:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been talking to the member from Melfort lately. As we enter this world we indulge ourselves in a race, the race of life, a race to prove ourselves to be faster, better, smarter. In the speed of the race from childhood to adulthood, we often forget that it is a short journey, that we have limited time to love and enjoy the world and people around us.

We should go for many achievements, we should win many races, but the ultimate mission is to be a good human being. Often the realization doesn't hit us until we lose someone close to us. It is at that moment we realize how delicate this life is. Even still, we are again sucked back into the same routine. Yes of course we must adhere to our responsibilities as siblings, as a parent, as an employer, as an employee. The hope is that while we go through our various roles, we should take a moment to really see the people around us as a family.

Let's slow down a bit. My spiritual belief is that our date of departure is predetermined even before we enter this world. Mr. Speaker, we are all sent here to this world with a return ticket, but only the God almighty above there knows the date of the return flight and the manner in which we will depart.

What I have learned from my life experience and attending joyous occasions along with funerals is that being kind to everyone we meet and approaching life with simplicity is the best policy that will always render peace within us. Once we leave this earth, nobody remembers the material possessions we had.

[14:30]

My favourite quote from Maya Angelou has always been that "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel." And that's where Derek comes in. I had many good moments with my friend and colleague, Derek. He was a charismatic man that always left me smiling. If you ran into him in a hallway, say, hey, nice suit, man. And by the way, this is one of his most favourite suits I'm wearing today.

He was dedicated to his constituents and cared for everyone. We are all remembering him today as a good human being, a good

MLA, and a dedicated family man. You are gone too soon, my buddy. My deepest condolences to the whole family. May God give the family the strength to bear this tragic loss. May God bless us all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Wilson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was deeply sorry to hear of Derek's passing. I had the pleasure of visiting with him several times in his office to discuss the roles of a newly elected member.

However, Derek didn't want to listen to my wisdom. He wanted to talk about his family. He wanted to talk about his beautiful wife, Laurie, and his lovely children, and he would show me pictures of them. And he drew my attention to the older daughter and told me about her tragic circumstances. And I would sit and listen, and he would talk. And sometimes we'd laugh and sometimes we'd cry. And he was ferociously protective of his family. I got that right away. He loved his family very much. He loved his parents. And he was so proud of his children, so very proud of his children, Mr. Speaker.

Derek was a huge advocate for mental health, and I can only speculate on what impact he would have had on Saskatchewan people had his life not been so short. I know he would have had a lot more to say and a lot more work ethic for what he believed was so important, and I respected Derek for that. He will be missed, as Derek gave so much to the province in his short life.

As everyone has attested to, Derek had many facets and many skill sets. And we can laugh and cry along with him. He was a wonderful human being. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Laurie, and their young children, his brother, and his parents. He will not be forgotten. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Goudy:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't see Ang Currie in the room, but you know, she's been a big support for all of us. Yesterday she sent me to pick up some flowers and print off some pictures. And I hopped in my car, and as I got onto the road, your husband . . . I don't know why, but I started singing a song. And it was "Thank You for Being a Friend." And so I just wanted to . . . I don't know if I can sing here, so:

Thank you for being a friend.  
Travelled down the road and back again.  
Your heart is true, you're a pal and confidante.

And if you threw a party, invited everyone you knew,  
You would see the biggest gift would be from me,  
And the card attached would say,  
Thank you for being a friend.

And I just kept singing that song over and over. And I got to the flower shop, and I pulled over because I didn't know how I knew the song. And I googled it. Turns out I watched *Golden Girls*. So you know, I read the words, as I was saying, and I didn't even know what they all were and I was singing this song. And I'm not a big gift giver; if you knew my wife, she would attest to that. But you know, I think that song is more from the heart of your

husband.

If I look around this room, even when there was fighting going on — he was a pretty good fighter, competitive guy — but he'd always be in the corner afterwards smiling and talking with even the opposition. He was a friend to everyone that I knew and he was a good friend.

You know, we've been in the hallways, kind of not sure what gear to be in. We're crying at one point and then we're laughing and sharing Derek stories together. And there's one other song I wanted to share with the family. And it's "Johnny Appleseed," and it's:

The Lord is good to me,  
And so I thank the Lord  
For giving me the things I need:  
The sun and the rain and the apple seed.  
The Lord is good to me.

And every seed I sow  
Will grow into a tree.  
And someday there'll be apples there  
For everyone in the world to share.  
The Lord is good to me.

You know, our captain came back, left everything behind, ditched everything, and came back to be with his team, his family, and shared this morning in tears. There are some seeds that your husband and your son and your brother has sown into all of our hearts. And he was mentioning those things this morning, the takeaways from his life. And I don't know what you did to raise that boy. I hope that my kids grow up with the kind of joy and positive attitude of your son. And we're just thankful to you for sharing him with us. And you know, I think of those three kids, probably the greatest gift that he's left behind for all of us.

God bless you and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Conway:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't sure if I was going to stand up and share words today, but I'm thankful for the opportunity. And it struck me that there's something about Derek we haven't talked about enough, and that's what a top-notch heckler he was. And it wasn't just the voice that cut; it was, as the Minister of Education said, he was quick witted. And as someone who was often on the receiving end of those heckles, I had a natural affinity for Derek from day one because it was never personal. He kind of always left it in here.

I'm not as good at nurturing friendships on the other side as maybe some, Mr. Speaker. But as a Regina MLA and because of Derek's deep commitment to the community and the city, we did cross paths a lot at events and stuff. And there were two things that really struck me about Derek — apart from the tremendous courage that he showed those last few weeks, showing up here the way he did and leaving us all breathless — and that was his warmth and his kindness, especially his kindness. And those are perhaps characteristics that aren't as rewarded or encouraged as they maybe ought to be in this line of work, Mr. Speaker, but it

was his kindness that struck me. And he didn't lose his kindness as he spent time in here. He sort of leaned into it, as far as I could tell. You know, as one of his would-be adversaries, I really felt that.

So I'm thankful to his colleagues and to his family to have an opportunity to say that about Derek today.

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

**Mr. D. Harrison:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly with a heavy heart today, I wish to offer my sympathies and condolences to Laurie and her family. It's hard. I didn't write any words down today because I didn't think any size of font would be sufficient to see them through my tears, but Derek's such a loss.

Derek's one of those guys that you remember for a lifetime. You meet them once, and you remember Derek for a lifetime. He's that small-town Midale, Saskatchewan kid that came to Regina, and he treated Regina like it was Midale. He knew everybody, had contacts to everything, and he was at any event possible. And he was always willing to lend a hand to complete strangers or family or friends. He was just one of those guys you couldn't help but like, like and love.

As has been said before: this is a team, a family. And being elected with Derek in 2020, I think we have a very close bond. I just can't say enough about it. The Minister of Education mentioned the shampoo line. Derek had to explain to me. He said, well it's nothing but finesse.

From his Global News and Sports story, as being a Rider fan myself, it was post-game and Henry Burris was playing for us for a change. And Henry asked Derek for a ride after the game and he said, sure. But it wasn't just Henry; it was four or five linemen, and they all crammed into that little Global News minivan or whatever he was driving. And I just had this vision of this clown car coming into the circus ring and all these big linemen, like, bailing in and out. Quite the vision. But that's what Derek was. He's always, always willing to lend a hand.

He will be missed. I'm glad I was able to call him a friend. He was a great colleague, and even a better person. We'll miss you, Duke.

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

**Hon. Mr. Hindley:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Derek, my man, where to begin? So many of our conversations or text messages ended with "Hey, man. How's it going, my man?" And I think of that to this day.

I didn't have the opportunity to know Derek as long as some people have here in this city, in this province. But, Mr. Speaker, it felt like I knew him for a lifetime. He was just one of those people with so much charisma, as we've heard today from the stories that have been told by the members here in the House. It is just amazing. It truly is amazing to me how many people he knew right across this city and this province.

And I didn't really get to know Derek too much until after the

election. I remember on election night back in Swift Current where I was running, you're kind of watching the results roll in. And you're happy to see your colleagues get re-elected, and you're really happy to see the new folks that get elected to this Chamber. And I remember kind of watching, you know, as the names come through the faces pop up, and you want to know more about that guy and that gal. And I remember when Derek's face had popped up, and I knew of him from his Global sports days on TV. But I thought, that's a guy that I really want to be able to get to know in my time as an MLA.

And so I got to know him after that election in the fall of 2020, and it wasn't until then that I had realized and been made aware of his family's very, very personal tragedy involving Teigha. And there was a very touching article written by Murray McCormick of the *Leader-Post*, and I read it over that Christmas break.

And I remember sending Derek a text at the time that just said, you know, saw your story in the *Leader-Post*. Such a difficult and touching piece and I can't imagine how challenging this must have been — the loss of Teigha, being elected, the birth of a newborn. Just so much on both sides of the spectrum. And I said to him, I said, you know, 2020 was quite a year; I hope 2021 is so much better for you. I hope I don't get trouble with my man for sharing a few text messages but he responded back and said, I really appreciate those kind words; Murray McCormick did a great job of telling our story.

And then in the very next breath — and I had just been recently appointed as Minister of Mental Health and Addictions — he says:

Anything I can do or any help I can be, I'm always here. Obviously getting through the pandemic is going to leave us seeing such an increased focus on mental health and mental wellness. I'm here to support you on whatever you need.

[14:45]

That was Derek, Mr. Speaker. It was never about him; it was about everybody else. And I think back to . . . And again, I'm just amazed about how he had the ability to spend so much time with so many people. He was always kind of checking in and wandering the halls and popping into offices and at events.

And you know, there was one time there I had broken my hand. And he caught wind of this and sent me a text and says, hey. What's going on with your paw, he says. And I said, yeah, I was clumsy and broke it. And anyway he says, aw darn it man, that sucks; I'm wincing just thinking of it.

Couple weeks later he checks in again, how's the hand? I told him, yeah, the cast comes off in about a week or so. He says — capital letters — nice, you'll be ready for golf season. And I unfortunately had to inform him that I golf about as much as I participate in elections, which is once every four years. And I think that was kind of disappointing for Derek. We didn't get a chance to golf together. Probably, you know, for his sake that was probably a good thing.

And he would just check in. And I think he did it with all of us, especially on this side of the House, you know, just completely

out of the blue. “How the heck are you? Barely seen you.” I’d been busy with pandemic stuff and all these other things going on. I said, hanging in there; things are going well. He says, “Good man. Just wanted you to know I’m proud to serve alongside you.” Like who does that but Derek Meyers, right?

Completely random text out of the blue: Patrick Marleau retiring today. I said, yeah, I heard that. You know, old sports guys going to chat about those sorts of things. And in that text message I said, “You know what? I wonder if you could help me out. I’m trying to find some soccer gear for my grandson. He’s four and he can’t find equipment anywhere.” And of course just like that he said, try this place, try that place; they’re likely your best bets. And then after that he said, “LOL [laughing out loud], let me know how it goes. I may have some gently used stuff if you’re in a jam.” And that, Mr. Speaker, that was Derek. Always looking out for everyone else. It was never about him.

And you know, in this role that I’m fortunate to serve in right now, we had some very, very good heart-to-heart conversations about mental health and his passion for it, his involvement with the Canadian Mental Health Association. Some of the folks here in Regina, he had introduced me to. He was so passionate about it, so very passionate about it. And we’ve still got some work to do, my friend, and we’re going to get that work done.

I said to him, I said, “You know what? When my turn is done in this role, I know who I’d pick. I have a pretty good idea who’d be good to fill these shoes as the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.” And he was always such a good friend and a great person and, again, just so very fortunate in my very brief time to have known him and to work alongside him.

So thankful to his family. Thank you for everything that you have done to share Derek with us. May God grant you strength and courage. And as Derek said to me in that one text, I now say back to him one final time: I’m proud to serve alongside you.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Martensville-Warman.

**Mr. Jenson:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To Laurie, Dayn, Sebastian, Eisley: it’s a tough day and I don’t know what words can accurately express the loss of Derek.

Derek and I, we didn’t become friends until we became colleagues — we were elected in 2020 together — but I knew who Derek was from his time at Global. You know, I’m a big Roughrider fan, just like most of us in this room. I’d gotten the chance to watch him on TV the occasional time and I thought, you know what? I hope he gets elected — and he did — just so that I could finally meet the guy in person. And he didn’t disappoint.

You know, the very first few days after we were sworn in, when we were in the building together, my office was in the same corridor but not in the same unit. But there was more than once where we just about collided coming around the corner. He’d be coming into the building and I’d be going somewhere else. And it was always a greeting of, hey how you doing? And we’d stand there and we’d talk for 30 seconds, 60 seconds, and it was always about family. It was, you know, how’s Ang? How’s the kids? How’s Laurie? How’s the kids?

If Derek was having a bad day, you never knew it, plain and simple. You never knew if it was a bad day with Derek. He was always smiling. His attitude was infectious and it rubbed off on everybody, and I think I can speak for all my colleagues.

Last summer when we were at meetings and Ang and you, Laurie, and the kids went out together, and I think you did a bit of a field trip together, and Ang still talks about that day and how much fun it was. And we really want to be able to do that again. We really wanted to do it with your entire family and our entire family, and we will. We will, because I think Derek would want it that way.

You know, I can’t express enough how much Derek meant to me personally and I think to all of us here today. We were just absolutely blessed to know him. You know, to you, Laurie, to Derek’s parents — I’m so sorry; you should never have to lose a child — the extended family, siblings, and to anyone who Derek touched, I just hope that you find some inner peace and the strength to carry on.

And to Dayn, Sebastian, and Eisley — they’re not here today, but at some point they’re going to watch this I’m sure — your father was an absolutely incredible, passionate man. He cared about everybody he met. He’s going to be missed, but his memory is going to live on, and we’ll make sure of that. We will.

So may he — may Derek — remain in our hearts and may he rest in eternal peace. And just like the member from Swift Current, the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, I received a text about two weeks ago. We were going back and forth. He said, “Otherwise it’s good. Hopefully you guys are good. We appreciate you being there. I’m going to try to pop by Monday.” Try. So next message was, “Hey, you know, you just take care of you first and foremost. You know we’re all with you on this, whatever it takes.” And his response was, “I do. The support is overwhelming. Our team is the best, just the best.”

Derek, you were the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Melville-Saltcoats.

**Mr. Kaeding:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m just afraid my words are just not going to be able to describe the profound effect that Derek Meyers had really on this House, his family, his constituency, and this province.

You know, I know we only had a short time together — my office is right adjacent to his — but I felt we became friends. You know, if you needed something, he was there. If you needed help with a project, “I know a guy.” Right? “I know a guy.” And he did. And he’d text you about three different names and addresses because he knew a guy.

And you know, I’ve been asked to repeat my story that I put forward in my budget reply because it really reflects Derek, who he is as a person. I found out the other day that Derek during COVID called on every church in his constituency and just wanted to check in, see how they were doing, how they were making out, you know, with the effects of COVID, and just wanted to know how things were in their parishes.

And you know, he took this one step further and he called on a couple, a friend of ours that lived in his constituency. And he found out they were really struggling badly with COVID. They had some pretty serious effects. And he didn't know them personally. He actually didn't know them at all, but he found out that they were constituents and they were really struggling, and he gave them a call. And to this day they are so thankful that their MLA from Walsh Acres really cared about his constituents.

So you know, just to Laurie, I know you're from Melville. And Derek and I quite often laughed about your favourite haunts in Melville. And some of them are still there; some aren't. But I just want you to know that the people in Melville care. They care about you and they wish they could make this pain go away for you.

You know, to Derek's kids and his family: be rest assured that, you know what? Your dad, your brother, your son, he left an incredible legacy of caring and compassion that is forever going to last in this House. It's going to last in this community and it's going to last in this province.

You know, I think Rod Pedersen really summed it up best when I read a quote he'd put out this morning on one of his social media posts. "You know, I found the best way to honour Derek Meyers and his legacy is just to be that positive influence every day and help others." And that's going to be the way that I honour Derek Meyers. So rest in peace my friend.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the member from Last Mountain-Touchwood.

**Mr. Keisig:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I met Derek in 2019. It was a party convention and met him there, and then we really got to know each other on the campaign trail. We took all of the election pre-courses together. And you know, everyone talks about the class of 2020, but it's a real thing, that 12 of us with our one new addition . . . Well we're going to count him as a 2020 too. And like we did so much together. Like it was kind of COVID and just, we were all experiencing the same thing and we became very, very close. And it's so much. It's like a kid at kindergarten, you know. Those are your friends the rest of your life. And that's what it really seems like here.

You know, I really, like the member from Melville-Saltcoats . . . Like he knew a guy. He always knew a guy. Like he knew so many guys. So he phones me up one time — and the member from Cannington was there too I remember — and he's having some stakeholders and wanted some rural MLAs to meet them and everything else. So we go for a wonderful supper at Memories — shockingly — and had a very interesting meeting with these stakeholders. And this one stakeholder started talking about the benefits of carbon taxation and how it's going to improve the economy and the environment and everything else.

Well Derek just looked at me. And I gave him a little bit of education, Mr. Speaker, and said that I really don't . . . I discounted a lot of his theories and everything else. And I phoned Derek the next day and I says, you know, I hope I didn't overstep my bounds and everything else. He's like, no, no, everything you said was absolutely true; it made sense and everything else. And Derek never invited me for another stakeholder meeting. God, we had so much fun. Yeah.

You should be so proud of your son.

So you're kind of always on your phone. All of us are far too much. Anyway the last text I sent Derek was the northern lights the other Thursday. And you know, out in the country there's no light pollution, so anyway they were very nice. It was good.

I really liked that story from that member from across the way . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Douglas Park. Thank you. Like, I always knew Derek was better than me, and after that story it's evidence. Like, I just honestly couldn't see myself being that nice. So you know, well done, Derek.

I texted my wife before we come into the Chamber and I just said, you know, what would you like to say? And, Laurie, Sheila just really wanted you to know that our condolences and everything else . . . And she really described Derek as, there's no way someone could not like him. Everyone liked him, and that's just how he was.

So to the family, oh . . . Oh. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Lemaigre:** — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Not knowing, yesterday I spent the day of celebrating Derek's life. And first I want to start by saying thank you to the constituents of Walsh Acres for sending him to us and for him to grace his presence here. And it's known.

[15:00]

I ran into him in the hallway one night. And him and I have had a couple of drinks together and we talk about our shoes and where it came from. And I ran into him and then he said, Jim, he said, I bought a coat, he said, and I'll have to remortgage my house, but I bought a coat. And we laughed about that.

The last thing him and I worked on was the youth summit for mental health. And I got there yesterday and the first thing I was asked was, is Derek going to be here? And then I'd double-booked myself, so I had to rush back here and then rush back there. And when I walked in and there was young students that were given an opportunity to ask questions about mental health — very personal. And the comfort of that environment allowed them to ask what it was they were suffering with, mentally. And I sat there and I thought to myself, Derek would be proud. His efforts yesterday was there and it was felt, and those questions that those young people asked. We are making a difference, and Derek was a part of that. He was a man that represented his people with his heart, and that was seen there.

Laurie, the last time the three of us hung out was at the Grey Cup. I won't put on the record the amount of wine that was consumed. And you were ready to take on the nightlife of Regina that night, and in Derek fashion he said, no, you're not.

And yesterday we ended up at Memories. Tina, we were there for your birthday, and how fitting it was. And then there was some red wine that was also consumed in his memory.

You know, when this happens, we are all reminded of what we mean to each other. And I don't remember the day I met Derek

because when you become family, it doesn't matter. He welcomed me into your home. We had an excellent meal, and the discussion that we had that night, I will carry with me forever.

And there are going to be days where I feel like I can't continue, where I feel like I'm struggling. But what I will come to with his memory is the day that he stood up when his brother surprised him with a visit. And how he spoke and how he acknowledged and how he said — and this doesn't need to be said — but thank you. And I will carry that with me on the days where I feel like I can't keep going.

And very fittingly, everybody mentioned text messages that we exchanged. Just this past two weeks, I kind of had a rough day here, and he sends me a text. We exchanged for a little bit.

But this I do want to put on the record. I can't imagine cutting through . . . And I'm not going to say what the rest of the word was because I said to myself, this week I'm going to get through without a point of order. But this is what he said. You are making generational change, just honoured to be here for it. And whatever you need, even if it's to vent, let me know. I'm here with you, 100 per cent with you. My friend, I said to him, I love you.

And it's tough, but he would want us to continue. He had this province in his heart, and how we carry on and how we celebrate his legacy from now on will always be with us. And to the family, thank you, thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. Makowsky:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We'll see how this goes. I wasn't sure if I was going to get up, but don't normally let my feelings known. I just wanted to let everybody know Derek's importance to me and his family as well, what a special guy he was to this city and this province. It's tough to believe, tough to believe we're here today.

But I first met Derek many, many years ago, crossed paths in our respective professions. I was in the CFL [Canadian Football League] and of course he was a reporter as everybody has mentioned here, with Global, and you know, we were kind of separated by that. Those two job descriptions not always, you know, able to chat after.

But later on in life, his kids went to the same school as my kids. My guys were a little bit older, but once in a while we'd see each other, cross paths at school there, at the elementary school, and have a nice chit-chat about, of course, sports. And he was very passionate; we shared that passion. And I don't exactly remember what we talked about, Mr. Speaker, but I always walked away feeling better. And that's been expressed here many times. Just an upbeat person, very knowledgeable. I thought he had a lot of great points. And he made you feel good about having that quick interaction with him.

Later on, of course, very excited that he decided to join our team over here, Mr. Speaker. I think Derek could've done anything. He really could. He was that smart, that talented. Just that guy. But I think — it's been said before in this Chamber here today — he flourished when he became an MLA. I was so excited that I was able to be on the same team as him, after knowing him for

quite some time. But he did a great job. And he was very passionate.

I think of all the events he was at in Regina. Boy, he was everywhere, and a lot of times he brought his family with him. Brought his family with him. He couldn't do one or the other; he did both. That proves his dedication. I think of a few things. And sometimes in this job there's things you have to do, but there's also things you get to do. I think Derek looked at, he gets to do everything. He gets to this. He gets to take that seat. He gets to be all around our city. And like I said, he knew everybody. Regina's a fairly large city and I swear he knew half of them by name, and likewise as well. So when I think of Derek, if you do what you love, you never work a day in your life, and I think he just loved it.

I think maybe today it might have been appropriate that we have some sort of debate in here and have the member from Rosemont say something that was, you know, on the edge and have us all heckle back and forth. I really think he enjoyed that. He really looked forward to that, being part of 75-minute debates. And it's been said before, whatever he was asked to do, he did it with absolute passion.

So I think of a member's statement he did not long ago. He put a shout-out to my son. I was too superstitious to do it, so he did it. It was about the Regina Thunder and how well they were doing. And we appreciate that in our family.

So I take a lot from Derek. I take away a lot. That's why I'm not doing very good right here, but wanted to say that what's going to stay with me, Mr. Speaker, his attitude, his reliability, his example — that's going to live on. That's going to live on. His dedication to work and his family, he was ever . . . [inaudible] . . . like I said. I also take away how upbeat he was in the face of extreme difficulty, extreme difficulty. Difficult situations and he never gave up. He never gave up. That'll stick with me.

So, Mr. Speaker, I've had many, many teammates for a lot of years and, Mr. Speaker, Derek Meyers was one of the best I've ever had. So with that, Mr. Speaker, my deepest condolences to the family and friends, and memory eternal. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Mr. McLeod:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some great, great stories shared about my friend Derek Meyers today. But I don't want to be talking about Derek Meyers today. I would far rather be talking with Derek Meyers today.

I want to be talking with him about the latest community events that he's attended because I don't think he ever missed one, or be talking with him about our families because he loved talking about Laurie and the kids. I would far rather be listening to him heckle the member from Regina Rosemont right now — I think even that member would prefer it — or talking with him about the Riders or the Oilers, or making a friendly wager on the Warriors versus the Pats. I would like to be talking with Derek about our plans to golf at the Wascana this summer, or hear one of his many stories about Midale and growing up in southern Saskatchewan.



You see, Mr. Speaker, that was the great thing about Derek. You could talk to him about absolutely anything. Didn't matter if it was oil and gas or the economy, hockey, football, golf, politics, or even men's fashion. Didn't matter what the topic was because Derek could speak with ease about anything. He was a small-town, prairie guy, but he was also big city. He was community. He was business. He was sports. He was family. And I was honoured to call him my friend.

As has been mentioned, we were part of the class of the newly elected in 2020, but Derek always seemed like he had held this job forever. It just came naturally to him, and I respected him and admired him for that.

As has also been mentioned many times, Mr. Speaker, what stood out above all with Derek was his positivity. I mean, here was a guy who had faced more tragedy in his life than I would wish upon my worst enemy, far more than I could have personally endured, and yet he remained positive about everything. He spoke about the loss of his daughter only weeks after her passing. The unbelievable strength it must have taken to do that. And he turned that unthinkable pain into passionate advocacy for mental health and hope for those who may be struggling.

He stood in this Chamber only two weeks ago when he introduced his brother Darcy, and he spoke positively. He wasn't wearing rose-coloured glasses, Mr. Speaker. He was under no illusion about the reality of his situation. But his words were filled with gratitude and love and hope. I don't know how he did it, Mr. Speaker, but we in this Assembly should do our best to figure it out, because this world needs a whole lot more of what Derek Meyers had to offer.

My deepest condolences to the family. Your son, your brother, your husband, and your father will be sorely missed but forever remembered. Rest easy, my friend.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Government Relations.

**Hon. Mr. McMorris:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So often we rise and say what a privilege it is to be here and speak in this Chamber. This is not one of those days, Mr. Speaker. What the honour and the privilege is, is to have been able to know Derek Meyers for the short time that many of us have.

[15:15]

You know, it's an interesting position we come from. There's 61 of us in this province, not right now, but 61 that have the privilege to stand and talk at these chairs and desks. And there's not really any other profession, I don't think, that can kind of compare. When we have a bad day, you don't go and talk to your neighbour because they haven't had the same bad day.

So when we talk about family and friends and team, it's because there's only 61 of us in this province. And yes, we're divided by an aisle. And I'm sure the opposition has good days and bad days, and I hope you have support of your team and family. But Derek was the centre of this team and family.

It's amazing how many people have talked about the text messages they've got in the last little while, and I was one of

them. I don't know how he had as much time to do all that. Like, he must have been, Laurie, on that phone continually. But he was, and it's showing through here.

But you know, and that's what makes these days so difficult is when you lose a family member or a team member. And I am so proud of everyone that has spoke and spoke so well. Because Derek really did love his team, and he loved the position he was in. He went to so many events in the last year and a half for us, and it was amazing. And he loved every one.

You know, just the one story quickly. I was texting with him, and he was in the hospital after he got back from the trip from Mexico. You know, how are you doing? Great, I think I'll be out on Thursday. And I said, oh, that's so great. And I'll see you at the Evening in Greece on Saturday. Came out of the hospital on Thursday, and he was at the Evening in Greece on Saturday and mingling and talking to people. Like, what a commitment he had to this party, to this province, but to the betterment for all of us.

I replied to I think it was either a budget or a Speech from the Throne a year or so ago, and the order happened to be Derek speaking and then the member from Regina Rosemont and then myself. And the member from Regina Rosemont kind of went after Derek a little bit, and I thought it was my place to defend, try to defend. And it's funny because I talked to him after, and you know, he was, oh, good speech. And I said, what did you think of the numbers? You know, the Government Relations revenue sharing is up. Isn't that wonderful? He said, no, I don't care about any of that. I loved the way you went after the NDP like that.

And so, I just think it's only fitting. I don't want to do this, and this is different than any other tribute that we've seen . . .

But you know, the opposition, Mr. Speaker, has the nerve to call us tired and out of touch. Can you believe that? Mr. Speaker, have they looked in the mirror lately? It doesn't need to be a very big mirror. It can be a very small mirror. Mr. Speaker, we have 13 first-term MLAs. They elected 12. Who's out of touch?

I might be old or tired and out of touch, but the one member that wasn't was Derek Meyers. He loved this position, and nobody was more in touch with his community. From our family to yours, God bless.

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

**Hon. Mr. Merriman:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues on both sides for the amazing tribute that they've done to our, our friend. I want to keep my comments brief, Mr. Speaker. I knew Derek for a couple of years. He instantly felt like a friend that I had known forever. He was an old friend, an old soul. He was just a genuinely good man. We were all blessed from knowing him. We had an amazing relationship of just chatting, just talking about family, just talking with Laurie and the kids at the retreat. And the energy that the man had, even though he was battling every day.

He called me back in February and I could tell the crack in his voice, something was up. He just wanted to go for a beer, get out of the house. I said, buddy, I'm in Saskatoon. So I called the member from Rosetown and said, hey, something's up with

Derek. See if he wants to go for a beer. And after a beer, he called me the next day and said, yeah, you're right. Something's up. It's not going well. I said, I wish I'd have drove down to be able to talk with him and been able to do that.

We did go to the night in Greece, as the member from Indian Head-Milestone just said, and Derek was not feeling well. A lot of people didn't recognize him as he had lost so much weight. But there he was sitting at a table, talking with everybody, with a little, wee cup of beer. And he sat there and he sipped on his beer all night, because he just wanted to be part of the crowd. He just wanted to be there. He loved being around people, absolutely.

Mr. Speaker, we've all talked — and my colleagues say it better than I do; they're more articulate than I am — but what I want to say to Laurie was, Derek was here for us. He was here for all of us, always. No matter when we needed him, no matter what time it was, he was there for us. I commit to you, we will be there for you and the kids whenever you need us. You call, you pick up the phone, text us. This team will be here. The team up there will be here. Even the team in the opposition. We will be there for you whenever you need us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments Corporation.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to do this, but I felt as I got in that there were some things I just had to say. And I do want to thank the tired, old opposition for yesterday, for the hugs and the friendly comments. Yesterday and today, we weren't people on two different parties or three different parties. Yesterday we were all friends and colleagues and I thank them for that.

I didn't know Derek Meyers before the 2020 election. My chief of staff was Clint Fox, and I checked in with Clint the odd time and I said, how's that new guy working out? And he said, well he lost his daughter to suicide just before the writ. So I said, is he going to go ahead with it? Yes, he is. He's going to do it and it's going to go all right. And he did. And Clint told me periodically through the writ that it was going well, that Derek was incredibly powerful and great at the doors and was going to be a success and was going to win it. And he went ahead and did it.

So shortly after the election, we came down. We got to know everybody else. I chatted with him briefly and Derek was always very open about that part of it. And then a few weeks later, a close friend of mine lost a granddaughter in high school to suicide. I went to see Derek and he spent all the time in the world. He told me what to say, what not to say. He became an instant friend and checked in with me afterwards.

I was, at the time, thinking I'm the only person he's checking in with, and then I realized he checked in with the entire caucus and probably most of the city of Regina. And then I realized that they were getting all these texts from him and I was getting texts as well. And they were getting, you know, these what's up, bud, and whatever else. The last text I got from him is, my family is a blessing. Thanks so much, sir. Like, how old does he think I am?

I'll just close, Mr. Speaker, by saying we were both on the CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan] board, and

he was the Regina member, and he went to a lot of events and filled in. And I worried, this is the new guy. What's he going to be like? So I phoned a couple of the people that hosted events that Derek spoke at and I said, how's this new guy working out? And the one, early on — and it was one of the last calls I made because I didn't like making those — everybody said, oh he's great. He was the best ever. That guy should be in cabinet. So I said, well I'll pass it on to him. And they said, well you pass it on to him, because I'm passing it on to the Premier. That guy should be in cabinet.

So anyway, thanks so much, Mr. Speaker, and to Derek's family. Rest in peace. Thanks to all of you for being here. I know it's been a long afternoon on the most uncomfortable benches in the province, but thank you.

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

**Mr. Nerlien:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to speak today, but there's been so many wonderful words that a song came to me. And I'm an old guy, I admit it — not quite as old as the last speaker — but I'm an old guy. And I'm a bluegrass country fan and there's a lot of old bluegrass country songs that come to mind, but I want to share this with you. It's by the Stanley Brothers. It says:

Oft I sing for my friends,  
When death's cold hand I see.  
When I reach my journey's end,  
Who will sing one song for me?

I wonder who will sing for me.  
When I'm called to cross that silent sea,  
Who will sing for me?

When friends shall gather round  
And look down on me,  
Will they turn and walk away,  
Or will they sing one song for me?

So I'll sing till the end,  
Contented I will be,  
Assured that some friends  
Will sing one song for me.

To the Meyers family, there is an entire choir singing today in this room, in this city, in this province. Thank you for sharing him with us.

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

**Mr. Ottenbreit:** — Mr. Speaker, I never knew Derek before he was elected, aside from his television work. However shortly after meeting him, I developed an appreciation for his personable, positive, and outgoing nature, his intelligence, his articulation, not to mention his witty and humorous personality.

I believe we connected quickly. Not only was he friendly, but truly a good friend and neighbour. Our offices were very close to each other. Me being appointed as Government Whip after his election was truly a blessing. It afforded me the opportunity to get to know all of our new members — as we heard earlier, 12

and then the member from Athabasca the 13th — so I got to know them all very well, including Derek. He had an impeccable work ethic and enormous energy, would enthusiastically and thoroughly prepare for any task at hand. As well, he was well-spoken, an excellent debater as we've heard. He really enjoyed the back-and-forth debates. Did I mention his humour?

Often we would hear heckles from across the floor — members opposite maybe a little bit prodded by Derek's witty sharp wit — “we can't hear you way back there, way back in the corner,” a reference to his position in the Assembly, backbench in the corner. I can assure everyone, we definitely heard him. In here and in caucus his voice was heard loud and clear, influential, respected, his relatively short political career very successful and evident. He made his mark as an MLA, Mr. Speaker.

He also made his mark as a family man, as we've heard — son, husband, father, and friend. I learned a lot about Derek, including his love for his family. He spoke often of his wife, Laurie; children Dayn, Sebastian, and Eisley; and of course his daughter Teigha, as we've heard today.

Something we both learned quickly we had in common was that we belonged to the club that no parent ever wants to belong to, that of a bereaved parent. I admired his courage and his strength. The pain of Teigha's loss on September 20th of 2020 was no doubt devastating. However a quote that my wife used to use a lot: bitter or better; choose the vowel. Derek, his experience, his life experience, and his experience with mental health and suicide and wanting to teach people about mental health and suicide was evident. And he always chose better, not bitter.

2 Corinthians 1:4 tells us God comforts those in their time of trouble so we can comfort others in their time of need, Mr. Speaker. And Derek lived that out. I prayed for Derek daily since his diagnosis and cherished our visits, especially the last short while. He would often lay on my couch in my office to just gain a little bit of energy or get a nap, or quite often the couch of our Provincial Secretary.

He wanted to come into the Assembly, not that he needed to or had to, but he wanted to. He loved serving his constituents. He loved being here with his friends. And as anyone going through cancer knows, it's nice just to live a little bit normal every now and then from time to time in the midst of that fight.

[15:30]

Mr. Speaker, last night — it was mentioned, the trip to Memories — a lot of us went and had a supper in memory of Derek. And you know, credit to the member from Melfort, one of the most compassionate and attentive people I know, and his seatmate the member for Riversdale, a very good friend. We were walking out the front of the building, almost nobody left here, and there was a young woman in a black SUV [sport utility vehicle] sitting out front in tears. The member from Melfort took it upon himself to ask what was wrong. It ended up it was Derek's cousin. Didn't know what to do, just missed him so much.

Mr. Speaker, that's Derek's impact. Everybody misses him so much. He had such a huge impact on everybody. So we asked if we could bring her inside. So she came inside, and we broke into his office. And we spent a bit of time in his office, looked at some

of his personal things, and took her up to the memorial here and she got to sign the book. Brought her by the back window here so she could see the arrangement on his desk.

And it was just so evident she loved him so much and I think, you know, everybody that knew Derek, every family member, every friend would feel the same. And it was just so great to see that offered her just a little bit of peace.

Derek, the pain of your loss will sting those of us left behind for some time. However I pray that eventually only good memories and love will remain. Your struggle is over, Derek, and I pray you are now reunited with your beautiful daughter in heaven.

Derek, you are so very missed. Rest peacefully, my friend. Our prayers are with you, Laurie, Dayn, Sebastian, Eisley, and of course mom and dad, Brenda and Blake, and brother Darcy, sister Brandi, here with us today. God bless you all and all who knew Derek. God bless you all his comfort.

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

**Hon. Mr. Skoropad:** — We'll start with a drink. My condolences, I just want to start there. And where else to begin?

Well my colleague here pointed out that that was Derek's favourite suit. I know this isn't Derek's favourite suit, but I do know which one was his favourite suit. It was actually my — well I would say it's my most boring suit — but it was the black and black, right, white shirt, black tie. And you know why that was his favourite suit is because we kind of got something going when I used to sit — I sat a number of different places here on this side — I used to sit at the back corner there, loved that spot there. We had quite the little group there.

And we got talking. I thought, well you know, Mondays, let's really class this whole thing up here, and Mondays we're going to wear the black tie, Mondays. So that's what we did and it kind of started to catch on, right. So Mondays more and more people were . . . The member from Carrot River, he joined in on this. It was great; like it was just spreading like wildfire.

And we just loved those days and we'd always compliment each other, and you know, and that was Derek, right. He could always find a way to bring excitement, bring something fun to the equation, until one day actually, I forgot. I forgot and wore the opposite of a black suit. Oh boy, he didn't let me forget it. And so certainly I hear that, I hear that still in my mind.

But you know, if you've ever heard Derek talk, which everyone in here has, you would all hear his voice in your head right now. That is a voice that you can remember. He is a person that you can remember. And you know, he would be that guy that would pick up the room, pick up the locker room. And he would actually be saying something to me right now. Actually he is saying something to me right now. He's saying, pick it up here, like pick up the room. Like don't bring this down, right, and so because he was a locker-room guy, as we all know.

He was those guys, those critical people that you need on your team to keep it going. So yeah, he was a locker-room guy. He was a sports guy, family guy. Well that doesn't sound right. But he was a family man, right. He was a true family man.

He was a TV guy, right. He was a TV guy, and we heard it here a number of times. This is where we first, many of us, our first encounter with him was on the television. He was a friend. He was a politician. But you know what he was? He was the same guy. It didn't matter what his role was. He was the same person. He was that person who brought electric energy and positivity. He was that person who was caring. And he had an incredible sincerity about him. When he talked to you, he actually talked to you. When he asked you a question, he was actually asking you a question. He cared.

He always brought his A-game. You know, if there was a manual for an A-game, the picture of Derek Meyers, there's an A-game, because he brought his A-game every single day here.

And he truly loved being here. You know, so getting to sit at the back with him, I just think his favourite times here, I would say, were those private member debate days. He just loved it. And so you know, I just want to say this actually and direct this to members opposite: thank you for pounding him with questions because he loved every single minute of it. That brought him such joy.

You know, there's a saying here. And I know the member from Melfort, he had brought a saying that came from, I think from . . . was it from the old country? Yesterday and yesterday . . . See, I can't remember. Like it was a little tricky. But my dad had a saying that came from the old country. And it was from his dad, so my grandfather, and he said — and I'll translate it out because it would have been in Ukrainian and I unfortunately don't speak Ukrainian — but translating it out it said, talk to a hill, and a hill is still a hill. And so my dad would say that when he was incredibly frustrated with me. Because when he had given me an instruction about something and I just didn't listen and I just did the same thing, he'd go, talk to a hill, and a hill is still a hill.

So it wasn't necessarily flattering for me. But you know what, for Derek it would have been flattering because — just wait; this is going to go in a right direction in a second here, I assure you — because it would've applied differently to Derek. Because you see, Derek, no matter what people said about him or to him, he was still Derek, right. And no matter what he faced, he was still that hill or that mountain.

You know, he was a guy that nails look at in relation to his character and go, wow, I'd like to be tough like him. He was tough, right, his character, his integrity. He certainly brought joy to me and to my colleagues and to the entire building, brought joy to us. And I certainly hope that we brought him some joy too.

You know, I guess I'll end on this. I've said more than I actually intended on saying. I will say this though. One time I was at home and I was a bit flustered and so I deserved everything I got. I was reaching in this file, probably in some kind of disagreement with the kids or my wife, and I ripped this file out of our filing cabinet at home — which was one of those cheap filing cabinets, you know, those cream-coloured ones with sharp edges — and I almost cut the end of my finger off.

And so my wife's reaction was, see, I told you; settle down. And so then I was like, aw, and I looked and the end of my finger was almost off. And what do you do? And so I put it on, and you know what? My finger got huge and it was sore and the cut was

deep and . . . man. But eventually it healed. It healed, but it was still tender. It was tender for a long time, and I did get what I deserved on that one.

But now it's a scar. And it's a scar I'll probably . . . Maybe some of my colleagues will ask, hey, can I see your finger? It's awkward. But I'll tell you, that scar healed. And now I look at it, and it's a fond story, right. And that's kind of how this is. You know, that mark that he's made on us will always be there. So thank you for giving him to us. Thank you.

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

**Ms. A. Ross:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't know if I'd be able to speak here today, but I thought if the situation was reversed, Derek would be talking to you today. So I will be short, but what I want to talk to you about is my friend Derek. We know he was a wonderful MLA. We know how he loved sports, how he loved, loved what he did. And he was so positive. Such a great, great guy. But he was a friend, and that is so important.

One of the highlights. The start of the week when I was in Regina, I'd look up — our offices are side by side in our main office — and I'd see him coming down the hall, laptop over one shoulder, Starbucks usually in hand, suit jacket either on a hanger or it could be just over his arm in this hand. And he'd be a couple feet from my door and he'd say, hey, Northcote, how are things up there in P.A. [Prince Albert]?

And then he'd go and dump his things in his office, and he'd come — and I've got two beautiful black chairs in my office — and he'd sit down and we'd catch up. And we'd talk a little bit about everything, but not about work, but mostly about his greatest love, which was his family.

He'd update me on what the boys were up to. He was proud of Dayn and Sebastian, and you know they'd have some sports endeavours and he'd talk to me a little bit about them. And I have a grandson, but I have no granddaughters, so he loved to talk to me about Eisley. And he'd say, oh, Alana, she's a force. She's already arguing with her mom, and she's only two years old. But he just had such pride when he talked about his family, and I loved hearing about it.

When he got back from his trip to Mexico we had a couple long chats on the phone, and one night we were talking and he said, "Alana, I have never felt so loved. And Laurie, she's just so amazing. She is so strong. I am so blessed."

Thank you for sharing Derek. My condolences to you all. We love him. We miss him.

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

### TRANSMITTAL MOTION

**Hon. Mr. Moe:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to all of those that participated today. To honour our friend, I would now move:

That this House send to the family of Derek Meyers transcripts of the tributes and statements of condolence on

his passing, through a letter of transmittal from the Speaker.

I so move.

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

That this House send to the family of Derek Meyers transcripts of the tributes and statements of condolence on his passing, through a letter of transmittal from the Speaker.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

**The Speaker:** — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

**Hon. Mr. J. Harrison:** — I move that this House do now adjourn.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** — Agreed.

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

[The Assembly adjourned at 15:44.]

# GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

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