

[English]

### SASKATCHEWAN BUDGET

**Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I applaud the direction of the Government of Saskatchewan in its recent budget which attacks the deficit through expenditure cuts and tax increases in order to “guarantee that all we enjoy today is passed on to our children and our grandchildren”.

This is surely sensible advice for all levels of government and just happens to be exactly what the federal government has been doing for the past eight years in order to deal with the Trudeau legacy of debt. Ironically, every single federal taxation measure and program reduction has been opposed by the NDP and Liberal opposition.

I want to congratulate the Saskatchewan provincial NDP for having finally seen the light. Hopefully, the federal NDP members from Saskatchewan will learn from their provincial brethren the importance of and the need for deficit reduction programs, provincial and federal.

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### FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, the reason the Government of Saskatchewan has to reduce the deficit is because of the position in which the Devine government left that province.

Across Manitoba, Friendship Centres are being hampered by cold-hearted politicians who simply do not understand their value to society.

Three months ago the federal government announced 10 per cent cuts to selected native programs such as Friendship Centres. Last week, Gary Filmon’s Conservative government in Manitoba staggered aboriginal groups by announcing 100 per cent cuts to Indian and Métis Friendship Centres province-wide.

Friendship Centres are worth their weight in gold. In many cases they are the only social safety net available to Canada’s urban aboriginal population. Friendship Centres provide counselling and referral services, hostel accommodation, youth, recreation and education pro-

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gramming, interpreters, fine option services, food banks, emergency support, and interpreters for medical care.

If this government understood the need for Friendship Centres it would not be cutting funding it would be increasing it. Our Friendship Centres should not be forced to close.

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### PEACEKEEPERS

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the House of Commons to take notice of the return from Croatia of the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment.

The 120 personnel from 1st Combat Engineer Regiment stationed at Canadian Forces Base Chilliwack spent six months with the United Nations protection force in the former Yugoslavian republic of Croatia.

In the very difficult environment of post-breakup Yugoslavia the troops distinguished themselves and carried out their duties of maintaining roadways and constructing facilities for use by UN forces. My congratulations to their commanding officer, Major Carmen Bradley.

• (1415)

I was honoured to meet the families of these troops during a welcome home ceremony this past Saturday evening at the base. I doubt whether people who have not been involved with the Canadian forces or had loved ones in the force realize the stress that the children and spouses go through during extended absences like this. These people on the home front have also done an excellent job of supporting the troops.

My congratulations and appreciation goes out to the forces coming home and to their families. We are proud of you.

**Some hon. members:** Bravo.

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### FOREIGN AID

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada has not only made extreme budget cuts to official development assistance, but has changed its development assistance policy with-