

*Tributes*

for many years. I think Mr. McRae had a difficult job in succeeding a person of Mr. Badanai's stature from Thunder Bay, but to his credit Paul did his job very well.

He was a very effective parliamentarian, not only for his riding of Thunder Bay—Atikokan, but he was an effective member for all of northwestern Ontario. He always dealt with great sincerity about the feelings and the viewpoints of the people of the north and considered everyone's concerns in northern Ontario to be his own responsibility.

On a personal note, it was my honour to have known Paul McRae prior to his becoming a member of this House, during the time he was a member of this House and after his membership in this House when he became a valued member of the CRTC here in Ottawa.

The very first call I got from Ottawa after my election some four years ago was a call from Paul asking if he could do anything in any way to assist me in the transition from Thunder Bay to Ottawa.

Through your leadership, Mr. Speaker, I am sure all members of this House would like to join with me and the Liberal Party in offering our sincere sympathy and our condolences to his wife and his family.

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my party I would like to associate myself with the words of my friend, the member for Thunder Bay.

Paul McRae came into this House in 1972 along with many of us. We were class-mates in that sense. He had been a teacher, as has been mentioned, and as the member for Provencher, the so-called first western riding, Thunder Bay was literally in our back door. We were neighbours.

Mr. McRae served very faithfully in this House up until 1984. He served on many committees including transport, national resources and communications. He was parliamentary secretary to a post we had then known as the Postmaster General and more laterally as parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. He was also appointed to the CRTC.

I take it that one has a slightly different view of a colleague from across the way. Paul McRae was one of those members willing to heed his party's call and if

there was a speech to be made Paul was one of those who would make that speech; at least that is the way it appeared to us at all times.

I have described him as a happy warrior. I think that is what he was in this House. He represented his riding well. On behalf of my party, we would like to associate ourselves and express our condolences to the family.

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I now represent the constituency Paul McRae represented so well for 12 years; first as the riding of Fort William and then, after redistribution, Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

I knew Paul as a political competitor and we ran against each other for the job that he held on two occasions. I can remember on the night of the 1980 election two of us arrived at CKPR television together literally shaking our heads in amazement because we had come so close, with 84 votes between the two of us, neither of us really knowing who was going to come out the winner that night.

Paul did and he served his constituents and this House very well. As the minister just said, he was very active on committees, particularly transport, because like a lot of us from Thunder Bay he recognized the importance of transportation to our region and its viability.

He was more than just a transport person or parliamentary secretary. He was very active in the Parliamentarians for Global Action. He was very strong in terms of his party for the call to end the cruise missile testing and on a number of occasions Paul did break ranks with the government of the day to let people know how he felt.

In addition to politics I knew Paul in a number of other ways. He was my high school vice-principal and I can remember working with him and the late Bob Cato, arranging dances at the high school. I remember being sent out one day to hire Neil Young and the Squires, now Crosby, Stills, Young and Nash.

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I also worked with Paul when he was the principal of Sir Winston Churchill when I was a community development officer working with that neighbourhood to bring in some social change, some social action. I remember being at his house in Vickers Heights one night when he was part of the Lakehead social planning council. I