

FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

# Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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## DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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(HANSARD) Published under the authority of The Honourable Dan D'Autremont Speaker

N.S. VOL. 57 NO. 81A MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015, 13:30

### Challenges to Democracy Conference

**Mr. Forbes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity to attend a very special conference at the University of Saskatchewan this weekend, November 6th and 7th. The Conference in Honour of Allan Blakeney: Law, Public Administration, and Challenges to Democracy was both timely and insightful with presentations that celebrated Premier Blakeney's legacy. The conference was wide ranging with thought-provoking topics and stimulating conversations in the halls, perhaps due the recent federal election and the upcoming provincial election.

Some of our province's brightest academics, civil servants, and leaders — including Greg Marchildon, Roy Romanow, Dwight Newman, and John Courtney — made their case on the big questions facing Saskatchewan today. What role should the government play in growing the economy? How do we balance rights and freedoms? How do we best develop our resources? What does meaningful consultation and accommodation of Indigenous peoples look like?

The conference also played host to several well-known Canadian academics, including Alex Himelfarb, the former Clerk of the Privy Council of Canada; Simone Chambers of the University of California; and Nelson Wiseman from University of Toronto.

Special thanks go to the sponsors of the conference: the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] College of Law, the political studies departments of St. Thomas More College and the U of S, and the Broadbent Institute. Special thanks as well go to David McGrane, Roy Romanow, John Whyte, and Russ Isinger for organizing the conference. I ask all members to join me in thanking everyone whose work made this event a success in remembering the legacy of one of our province's greatest leaders, Allan Blakeney. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.