

Introduction of Guests – December 3, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with an interesting number of introductions: two and a half. Of course, my wife, Jennifer, is expecting our first child in just a few months. As you know, Jen is a friend of this Assembly. She continues to be the general manager of SpiritQuest Enterprises. She is my manager personally and professionally. On the political side I often say that Calgary-Lougheed has two MLAs for the price of one. She also continues to run our charity, the Top of the World Society for Children, which leads me to my next introduction, a very special one.

Danaru Sherpa is a dear friend. He comes all the way from the other side of the world, the village of Phortse in the Solo-Khumbu Valley beneath Mount Everest. He's a great inspiration to me. He's incredibly innovative, and he's an extremely hard worker and a wonderful husband and father. His wife is Yangzen Doma. His 14-year-old is Nawang Tshering, also 11-year old Paljom Tsono, and nine-year-old Pemba Neru. For over a quarter century, Mr. Speaker, he has helped to make dreams come true for Canadians who go to the Himalayas to trek and to climb. He has climbed Cho Oyu, the sixth highest mountain in the world, three times; Makalu, the fifth highest; Kangchenjunga, the third highest; and Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, not once or twice or three times or four times but a five-time Mount Everest summiteer. He will tell you that that is not the most important thing in his life, though. I will tell you that the strongest person I know in every way is Dawa Sherpa, not the biggest man but the biggest man in heart. He is gentle and strong, and I have literally seen him give the shirt off his back.

I say a big namaste to our friend, Dawa Sherpa, and my wife, Jennifer. Please rise and accept the warm congratulations of our House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.