

Members' Statement – November 26, 2007
Grey Cup

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Close to a million Saskatchewan residents and countless others across the country and beyond breathed a collective sigh of relief yesterday as their beloved Roughriders prevailed over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the 95th edition of the Grey Cup. Christmas came exactly one month early as the Riders did just enough to win 23-19. It wasn't the most exciting game ever, but that happened in 1989 with the same Riders. At that point Kent Austin was the quarterback. Yesterday he was the coach leading the team, the Green and White, as they ended the CFL's longest Grey Cup drought. That's over. The SkyDome became Riderville. It was a sea of green.

When I saw Jack Layton at the airport in the morning, I wondered if he'd like to know that, number one, his provincial cousins did not win the last election in Saskatchewan and that, number two, every time the Stampeders, the Eskimos, or the Riders have won the Grey Cup, the NDP were not in power. With the new Premier in Saskatchewan, Brad Wall, and the new administration in this province I believe the future does look very bright for Saskatchewan and Alberta, even brighter than this tie, I might say, Mr. Speaker, even if we do cheer for different football teams. I encourage families, friends, and neighbours to enjoy this victory because, pun intended, I do hope that the Saskatchewan party lasts a long time. But let's face it; we want that cup back here in Alberta.

In the meantime, I do have to say that we have a guest here, Mr. Chisholm, a Representative from Saskatchewan. I hope he'll convey our warmest wishes to the new Premier. We look forward to working with him and the Saskatchewan government to make the new west even better, a strong force throughout the country and the world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Riders for the entertainment.