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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Saskatchewan | 20e | 1e | Discours sur la santé | 2 mars 1983 | Douglas Taylor | Minister of Health | Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan |

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to introduce my officials. I would like to give a few introductory remarks at the same time. Seated beside me is the deputy minister of health, Mr. Ken Fyke. To my left here is the associate deputy minister, Dr. Peter Glynn. Seated right behind me is the acting associate deputy minister, Mr. George Loewen, and beside Mr. Loewen is Mr. Lawrence Krahn, director of administrative services.

In beginning the estimates of my department, the Department of Health, a department which I am very pleased to be able to head up, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few comments by way of introduction before we get into a lot of the details of the health budget. The total budget for the Department of health is $728.7 million, which represents, Mr. Chairman, an increase of 26 per cent over the 1981-82 estimates.

The total number of person years has increased by about 100, but most of that is attributable to the transfer of northern health services to the Department of Health as of October 1.

I should perhaps note increases in a few major areas. There has been an increase of 85 million or 26 per cent for payments to hospitals for operating expenditures. The budget for community health services has increased by 1.9 million or 19 per cent, and for the psychiatric services branch, 1.7 million or 23 per cent. I think, rather substantial increases and a commitment to our goal of improving health services in the province of Saskatchewan.

The budget of 146.6 million for MCIC is 37 per cent higher than in the 1981-82 estimates. But as I said in the House last fall, it is only slightly higher than the 142.9 million the previous government had actually approved for the 1982-83 budget.

The grant to the cancer foundation has grown by 1.6 million or 16 per cent. In certain other areas, changes for both the 1981-82 estimates (the last official ones) and the unofficial estimates tabled last March, reflect a re-ordering of priorities as well as circumstances beyond our control. For example, the remaining $210,000, Mr. Chairman, set aside for the 20-35 program has been quite properly deleted from the expenditures of this government. Grants to hospitals for capital projects are down, but this simply reflects the effects of the long construction strike last summer. The funds we have approved for construction and renovation projects are helping to create valuable and productive jobs in communities around the province this winter.

Elsewhere in the budget, Mr. Chairman, we have provided adequate funds to ensure that the level and the quality of services will be maintained. We have done this, Mr. Chairman, despite pressures created by our current economic situation.

Mr. Chairman, that’s all I want to say by way of introduction, and we will now respond to whatever questions the opposition would like to raise at this time.