|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Saskatchewan | 20e | 5e | Discours sur la santé | 7 avril 1986 | Douglas Taylor | Minister of Health | Progressive Conservative Party of Saskatchewan |

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce the officials that will be assisting me in this set of estimates. Seated beside me to my left is Walter Podiluk, deputy minister of Health. Across from Walter is Don Philippon, assistant deputy minister of Health. To my right here is George Loewen, associate deputy minister of Health. Directly behind me is Dick Bailey, assistant deputy minister of Health, and beside Dick is Lawrence Krahn, the director of administrative services.

Mr. Chairman, I’d like to make a few brief introductory remarks before we get into the estimates in themselves. I think also at this time I would like to indicate there are a number of other branch heads at the back of the Chamber that will be assisting us as we go through the estimates.

Mr. Chairman, I think it’s appropriate that health should be the first of the departments on the estimates of this session of the legislature, because I think being number one and being the first one reflects the position of Saskatchewan health care on the Canadian scene. And, Mr. Chairman, I don’t intend, as I said earlier, to make a long opening statement. During the throne speech debate, and the budget debate over the past couple of weeks, my colleagues on this side of the House have certainly enunciated very articulately this government’s commitment to health care, and I think it has been described and documented very well.

However, Mr. Chairman, I want to mention just a few highlights of the 1986-87 Health budget. First of all, Mr. Chairman, in the 1986-87 budget, for operating and capital, the total budget is $1.2 billion. And that’s an increase, Mr. Chairman, I should say an increase over last year of 11.6 per cent.

And, Mr. Chairman, we are providing $75 million for the largest construction, capital construction, in hospital and special care homes. We’ve heard some discussion of this a little between the Leader of the Opposition and the Finance minister. That’s for capital for special care homes, hospitals, and other health care facilities, and this certainly reflects a continuation of our five-year plan towards capital construction.

Mr. Chairman, we are continuing our efforts to administer health care programs and services as efficiently as possible, so that the new dollars can go where they belong, and that is directly into services for the public.

Mr. Chairman, in 1986-87, the Health budget reflects our government’s continuing priority on health care for the people of Saskatchewan, and I welcome this opportunity to discuss the 1986-87 Health estimates with the members of the Chamber.

So therefore, without any further discussion, Mr. Chairman, I would certainly be willing to enter into a complete and thorough description of this year’s health care budget. I say, as I take my seat, an improvement, and addition of 11.6 per cent over last year – I think substantial in any constituency, in any part of this country.