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| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Saskatchewan | 19e | 3e | Discours sur la santé | 19 mars 1981 | Herman Rolfes | Minister of Health | Saskatchewan New Democratic Party |

Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to introduce the people who are with me today. Sitting beside me, to my left, is the deputy minister of health, Ken Fyke. To my right is the associate deputy minister of health, Clem Reid. Sitting directly behind me is Dr. Peter Glynn, the acting associate deputy minister, and beside him is Lawrence Krahn, who is the director of administration.

There will be others coming in, Mr. Chairman, but I will be introducing them as we need them during my estimates.

Before I take my seat, I would like to make a short statement. I indicated to my critic yesterday that I would give her a copy of it because it does contain a fair number of statistics. She may want to allude to some of them as we proceed with my estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the total budget for the Department of Health for this fiscal year will be $604,496.790, which represents about an $80 million increase, or 15.3 per cent over 1980-81 estimates. Now, additional funds for health programs and health related facilities are to be found elsewhere in the estimates as well. There is $2,707,600 for the health services branch of DNS (Department of Northern Saskatchewan), and $3,397,540 in the budget of the Department of Government Services for ordinary and capital expenditures on health-related facilities.

Further, there are three health items for which funds have been allocated from the heritage fund. These are: $6 million for capital expenditures at the University Hospital; $1,591,000 for initial work on a new provincial laboratory building; and $300,000 for initial planning work on the new Saskatchewan rehabilitation centre. These additional items bring the total estimated expenditure for health for 1981-82 to $618,492,930 — an increase of 86.5, or a 16.3 per cent increase over the estimated expenditures for 1980-81.

The Department of Health budget provides $351.4 million to the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan. This total does not include $15 million allocated to the Regina hospital regeneration program, or a further $4 million for hospital renovation and construction projects in a dozen other communities.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation receives a substantial increase of $2.4 million, or 30.1 per cent, to a total of $10.2 million. The increase includes $405,000 for a cobalt simulator for the Saskatchewan Cancer Clinic, and $285,000 for a cancer research program.

Other funds for research include the grant through the health research fund, $750,000, and the grant for radiation research of $400,000. These grants, together with the $1 million for the psychiatric research division of the psychiatric services branch, bring the total funding of health research for 1981-82 to $2.435 million.

Another area of note is the Saskatchewan dental plan, the budget of which increased by over 30 per cent to $13,075,860. This increase includes provision for extending coverage to 15-year-olds beginning this fall, so that all children and youths ages 4 to 15 will be eligible to enrol. The increased budget also includes funds for the pilot project to provide adult dental care in a rural area. There are also substantial new funds for other initiatives we are taking in the field of community programs and preventative services. The budget of the community health services branch has risen by $1,458,100 or 17.1 per cent to just over $10 million.

Finally, I would like to point out that the budget for health promotion increases this year by $400,000 or 49 per cent to $1,230,870. The media campaigns carried out under the Aware and the Feeling Good programs have been highly successful. At least, we think they have been. We are anxious to build on this success, and have therefore provided funds for the continuation of Feeling Good and for the development of a new media campaign dealing with a range of lifestyle-related health issues.

Mr. Speaker, I think with that short statement some of the questions the members wanted to ask have now been answered. I will now give the floor to my critic.