Provincial Government releases throne speech.

Disabled Persons Council Reacts To Speech

The Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons held a full Council meeting over the weekend and reviewed the recent Throne Speech from the perspective of disabled persons.

Council Chairperson, Paul Bourque, stated that the members were happy to note that the government plans to continue support for sound and effective social programs that will allow full human dignity for citizens in need.

References were made to such particular items as improving the availability of accessible transportation, the upcoming Task Force on Housing, improved and equitable health care services, and further improvements to the Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Bourque said that the Council will be looking at the proposed Office of Childhood Services with great interest and will be offering input to the government on the needs of disabled children.

While these matters will obviously be of direct impact on the disabled community, Mr. Bourque felt that other initiatives in educational services and employment programs will also benefit disabled persons as well as the general population.

The Council will be monitoring the progress of government activity in the current session of the Legislature to see how the budgets, legislation and programs of specific Departments will relate to the needs of the disabled community. The Throne Speech is not the final measure of government support.

In summary, Mr. Bourque revealed that although the Throne Speech did not cover every subject of interest to the Council and disabled persons, he felt that there was a reasonable amount of evidence that the current government has not forgotten the needs of persons with disabilities.

The "Thanks" giving story

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president internal, when asked how he thought things would turn out. He feels that his experience as a council member was an asset. For now, Luigi would "like to get the executive together and get to know them better." He stresses that he wants to "make the councillors feel comfortable, and let them know what parliamentary procedure is all about." Following is his list of thank-yous: "I would like to thank my campaign committee composed of Laureen Smith, Jackie Vienot, Brent Ryan, Richard Renaud, Rachel Ingram, Heather McNeill, and Carl Burgess (A.K.A. Gus). Special thanks also to Larry Hansen and Jane Arnold for their guidance and emotional support. Most of all, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me. I won't disappoint you." An impressive 429-vote lead over Trina Chisholm's 503 votes clinched Luigi's victory.

During the days before the election, our new vice-president external, Carl Burgess, says that "I felt basically confident. I have done a lot of public speaking, so I wasn't nervous. I was kind of excited that things went so well." But on the morning of the 30th, Carl was sitting at home flipping a supposedly prophetic coin. Things didn't look too rosy. But so much for his coin - "I was surprised that I won by such a majority. Of course I'm really glad that I won!" 386 extra votes over Bruce Carroll's 523 put the election in the bag for Carl. Presently, Carl wants to "get together and spend an afternoon with the old and new executive to get an idea as to what we will do in the summer and in the fall." He would like to "Thank my election committee. Special thanks to Laureen Smith who was my campaign manager, and also to all the people who showed support for me during the election."

Before the election, Ernest Dunphy, our new treasurer, felt "confident but reserved." Now, he's a "bit relieved" that it's all over. He would also like to "get familiar with the other executive members" in order to begin planning for the next school year. :"I want to thank everyone that voted for me" states Ernest. He ended up with a good 210 votes in his favour over Brian Clark's 768.

For Dean, Luigi, Carl and Ernest - things are looking good, as they are all extremely interested in fulfilling goals as soon as they can. Eagerness, confidence, experience, skill, and true dedication are necessary qualities which they all possess. What more could a successful Student Union ever need?



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