

The Speaker: The hon. leader of the third party.

John Kolkman

Mr. Mason: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to recognize today John Kolkman for his contributions to the Alberta NDP opposition caucus in the nine years since April 1997 that he's been with us. John was invited to join the NDP caucus by then leader Pam Barrett. John came to the caucus with considerable experience in the nonprofit sector as an administrator, a researcher, and a community builder. He was an active citizen in his neighbourhood of McCauley, where, amongst other activities, he was part of the group that developed Edmonton's first community health centre to serve inner-city residents.

Prior to joining the caucus, he was assistant director at the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, where he worked tirelessly to assist the diverse immigrant community to establish themselves in the community. From this and other experiences John developed deep-rooted interests in human rights, good governance, and government policy.

During his tenure with the caucus his primary role was as caucus researcher, and as such he developed an encyclopedic knowledge of government policies, finances, and legislative matters. He has used this prodigious knowledge to benefit the New Democrat opposition as we actively pursue quality of life issues for Albertans.

John has also been the chief of staff on a number of occasions, fulfilling this vital caucus role when the position was otherwise vacant. In this capacity he worked to create a stable, productive work environment. I want to mention that John has a tremendous capacity for work and a very, very strong work ethic, Mr.

Speaker.

He has a wonderful family as well. He's married to Kate Quinn, who's the executive director of the Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton. He has two young-adult sons, David and Brendan.

John Kolkman is a person of vision, dedication, and compassion, and he supports various nonprofit organizations and other causes promoting human rights, social justice, diversity, and peace.

On behalf of the caucus I wish John and his family the best of everything. We are indeed grateful for his outstanding contribution to our caucus, Mr. Speaker.