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Statements  
(Standing Order 25B)

SARAH McLACHLAN FOUNDATION CONCERT

Joan McIntyre, MLA, West Vancouver-Sea to Sky

**Statements**  
**(Standing Order 25B)**

SARAH McLACHLAN FOUNDATION CONCERT

**J. McIntyre:** I rise to pay tribute to the Sarah McLachlan Foundation, which just sponsored an amazing fundraising concert in Ambleside Park in West Vancouver in support of the artists' music outreach program. It was a magical late-summer evening last Saturday, where almost 10,000 enthusiastic fans were mesmerized by the outdoor performances of Sheryl Crow, Neil Young and Sarah McLachlan herself, in very fine form.

The Sarah McLachlan music outreach, an Arts Umbrella project, brings music into the lives of Vancouver's inner-city children in grades 3 to 12. More than 200 students receive group and individual instruction in guitar, piano, percussion and choir through a repertoire of musical genres, including contemporary, jazz and world music. Public performances are an integral part of the program and allow students to develop skills, foster pride and reach out to the community.

Sarah McLachlan's childhood dream to open a free music school for inner-city youth is reflected in the foundation's mandate to bring music into the lives of young Canadians, to build self-esteem and to foster creativity through the power of song and sound. The start of a relationship with music has a lasting impact on all parts of a youngster's life.

The school is dedicated to helping young people find their voices to explore their creative potential. For that, British Columbians, and especially the youth who are so fortunate to participate, should be grateful to Sarah McLachlan for her vision and ability to develop this foundation, which, I might add, has been supported by the province in the past to the tune – no pun intended – of \$500,000.

Our deep thanks should also go out to all the organizers, the sponsors, the mayor and the district of West Vancouver, including the West Vancouver police, for all their contributions in making the evening so seamless. This was a first for West Vancouver and likely a preview of the 2010 festivities to come – a memorable concert with hints from Sarah McLachlan on stage of an encore presentation next year.