

THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD) Published under the authority of The Honourable Dan D'Autremont Speaker

N.S. VOL. 56 NO. 45A THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2014, 10:00

Asbestos Awareness Week

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week is Asbestos Awareness Week, marked globally by the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization. This week is a time to raise awareness about asbestos-related diseases. This is also a time to remember those who have lost their courageous battles and to collectively work towards the day when no one is lost to those diseases. We cannot ignore our grief from those lost, but there is comfort in our memories.

It is important to be reminded that we can make a difference and we have a very special role here in the legislature. And it was incredibly encouraging to have members from both sides of the House co-operate in the creation of Howard's law, a mandatory registry of public buildings. This system is the first of its kind in Canada and allows individuals to make their own choices that might affect their health and their futures.

Over 100,000 workers across the globe die of asbestos-related disease each year. In fact, Howard's law was brought forward on behalf of Howard Willems, a Saskatoon man who was lost to a rare form of cancer caused by inhaling asbestos fibres.

Mr. Speaker, there's no greater priority than the health and safety of Saskatchewan people. I call on all members to recognize this week as a time to raise awareness about asbestos-related diseases, to remember those lost, and to remain vigilant in the protection of workers in their workplaces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.