

SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

# Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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## DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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

N.S. VOL. 55 NO. 38A MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

### **Breaking the Silence Conference**

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an event I attended over the weekend, the 16th annual Breaking the Silence conference. Organized out of the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan, Breaking the Silence is Canada's longest running anti-homophobia conference and tackles a wide range of issues including the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited, queer, questioning, and intersex community. This year's theme was Removing Homophobia from the Locker Room and Beyond, tackling homophobia, transphobia, and inclusiveness in sports.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Calgary Stampeder running back Jon Cornish. Jon Cornish's mother came out just after he completed college, and he has been a strong ally ever since. In 2012 Jon Cornish was named CFL's [Canadian Football League] most outstanding Canadian and was runner-up for the most outstanding player. He also, notably, came forward in support of his mother, an Anglican priest who is happily married to another woman.

Speaking of his personal experience, Cornish said, and I quote:

Football locker rooms have been allowed to sort of stay the way they've been for a long time. And there's a lot of change happening of late, and I think locker rooms will slowly but surely accommodate that change.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of this House to join with me in congratulating the organizers of Breaking the Silence Conference and thank Jon Cornish and his family for courageously speaking out in support of inclusive communities and locker rooms. Thank you.