

FOURTH 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. 57 NO. 38A MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015, 13:30

Breaking the Silence

Mr. Forbes: Mr. Speaker, on Saturday I had the pleasure to attend the 18th annual Breaking the Silence Conference at the University of Saskatchewan.

As always, there were a number of excellent presentations and guest speakers, covering a wide variety of queer topics of interest to Saskatchewan teachers and students, including a group of students who fought successfully to change the Vancouver School Board policies regarding queer students, a presentation about LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] rights around the world led by Helen Smith-McIntyre and Bill Rafoss from Amnesty International, and a workshop about our own recent amendment by this Assembly to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code*, protecting people from being discriminated against based on their gender identity.

I also want to congratulate Pat Atkinson, former MLA [Member of the Legislative Assembly] from Saskatoon, on receiving the Peter Corren Award for Outstanding Achievement, well deserved for her leadership over the years first as a University of Saskatchewan student and then when she served so well as a minister of Education fighting for rights for queer students in our Saskatchewan schools. Pat is an excellent role model for all of us who are elected as MLAs to strive to build a better society that is inclusive for all people.

When it comes to LGBT rights, Mr. Speaker, I'm glad Saskatchewan is making progress. We've come a long way but there is still much more that needs to be done to make sure everyone in our province can live with dignity and safety.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in thanking the organizers of this year's Breaking the Silence Conference. Thank you.