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(HANSARD) Published under the authority of The Honourable Corey Tochor Speaker

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Celebrating Pride Month

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in the Assembly today in recognition of Pride month this June. We know that the folks in the LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning] community contribute so much to our province, and we're all very proud to stand with them to kickoff Pride here in Saskatchewan. This year we're seeing more and more Pride events across our province, including Regina, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and now Beardy's and Swift Current. And I know that we'll be seeing more communities join in in the very near future.

Pride month is very important because there is so much more work to do in the fight for equality for everyone, including our queer community. In too many of our schools, workplaces, and public spaces, people turn a blind eye to homophobia and transphobia. In 2016 we need to be doing so much better to build a province where everyone is treated with dignity and the respect they deserve and where their basic human rights are respected.

Mr. Speaker, I want to especially recognize a recent human rights victory that we can all celebrate. Laura Budd is a trans woman who took the government to the Human Rights Commission to fight for her right to have the right gender marker on her driver's license, and she won her case. She shouldn't have had to take the province to the commission to get her gender marker corrected. This is one more important milestone for the LGBTQ community here in Saskatchewan.

I ask all members to join in me recognizing Pride month here in Saskatchewan. And let's all get out and join in the Pride parade in our nearest community. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.