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Children's Rights Day

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the Assembly today to recognize Children's Rights Day. Today we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is an important document for children and youth in our community and around the world.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child outlines the protections and privileges that ought to be provided to every child in every home in every community. The kid-friendly version of the convention summarizes the document nicely, and I quote:

“Rights” are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important.

We know there's still much to do in Saskatchewan when it comes to children and youth. The Canadian Council of Child & Youth Advocates recently said, and I quote:

A particular area of concern is the vast overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and youth in the child welfare system. Concerted and dedicated action and special effort is required to consider and address the rights and well-being of this group of children and youth.

I hope all members will join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and will commit to building a province where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.