

FOURTH 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. 57 NO. 49A THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015, 10:00

### Equality Day

**Mr. Forbes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination [and in particular without discrimination] based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

Mr. Speaker, that's the text of section 15 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and tomorrow marks the 34th anniversary of this section coming into force. This anniversary is marked all across Canada as Equality Day. Numerous important cases have been fought and won all the way to the Supreme Court that has expanded these provisions to include the unemployed, pregnant women, and the LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] community.

This section of the Charter is so important, Mr. Speaker, but there's still so much more that needs to be done before we can have real equality for all people in our province. We know that women still earn less than men do in the workplace and are under-represented on our corporate boards and places like this Assembly. First Nations students still receive far less funding than their provincial counterparts, and newcomers all across our province still face racism and discrimination in many places.

We've come a long way, Mr. Speaker, but we've got so much more to do to fight for equality in Saskatchewan. I ask all members to join me in recognizing this important milestone for human rights, but also to commit to making every day equality day and to fight for the right and dignity of all people in Saskatchewan. Thank you.