

SECOND 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. 55 NO. 62A MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Fifth Annual Camp Firefly

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As summer approaches, many of us start thinking back to our own time at summer camp or preparing to send our own children to camp. The Fifth Annual Camp Firefly in Saskatchewan will be operating from August 15th to 18th. Camp Firefly is a camp for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two-spirited, intersexed youth and their allies between the ages of 14 and 24.

The camp's director and co-founder, Kris Wells, says the reason behind the theme Camp Firefly:

The firefly is one of the only animals that produces its own energy, which I think is a . . . [beautiful] symbol for the camp. We want to move youth from feeling at risk to feeling resilient in their communities so that their own light can glow in dark times.

The camp is youth-focused with older youth doing programming and mentoring for younger youth. The model is one that allows youth a voice in how the camp is run and the activities that take place. Camp Firefly exists because caring adults believe that all youth are entitled to live fully in a world that embraces diversity rather than fearing or opposing it. For four days each year, Camp Firefly tries to create that world, a world that lives out the Firefly acronym, which the youth say stands for fostering, youth, resiliency, energy, fun, leadership, yeah!

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members of the House join with me in wishing Camp Firefly another successful summer. Thank you very much.