

FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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

N.S. VOL. 58 NO. 24A TUESDAY, JUNE 28th, 2016, 13:30

2016 GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) Summit

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and congratulate the organizers, volunteers, and the over 100 students who took part in Saskatchewan's first ever Gay-Straight Alliance Summit on April 16th at Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon.

I was honoured to be invited to be part of such an important event, with members and allies of the queer youth community in Saskatchewan coming together to brainstorm and develop new initiatives to deal with the issues that face them. With such important topics on the table as bullying, equal rights, and GSA [gender and sexuality alliance] legislation, participants were hard at work doing their part to create an environment where everyone can feel safe and accepted.

It is sad to say, but 64 per cent of LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning] students still feel unsafe at their school and 80 per cent of LGBTQ youth report being bullied and 50 per cent of LGBTQ students have had thoughts about suicide. These alarming stats show us just how important this summit is for our kids.

A big congratulations goes out to everyone who attended the GSA [gay-straight alliance] Summit, and a special thank you to Amanda Guthrie and Suzy Yim, the coordinators of this first of its kind event in Saskatchewan. As well a big thank you goes out to OUTSaskatoon and Camp fYrefly who sponsored the summit and made it all possible.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to recognize the great work done at this year's GSA Summit and all the GSAs in all our schools. And here's to a great camp at Camp fYrefly this summer.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.