

FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

## Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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# DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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### How Saskatoon Eats

**Mr. Forbes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 28th I attended a very unique dinner hosted by Engineers Without Borders, University of Saskatchewan chapter. Unfortunately I was only served a can of pop, a cold corn dog, and a bag of chips. The event was entitled How Saskatoon Eats, and it was centred around the concept of food deserts — areas of the city where good food is difficult to access.

The purpose of the poverty dinner was to give participants a hands-on understanding of how citizens in Saskatoon may eat by assigning each person in attendance with a particular neighbourhood and lifestyle. I was set up to live in the neighbourhood of Pleasant Hill in a low-income family without a personal vehicle. Because of these circumstances, it can take over 40 minutes to reach a supermarket by bus, and restaurants are also few and far between.

I only had to live in this situation for a couple of hours, but for many of the constituents in my riding, this is their everyday reality. Because there are so few grocery stores nearby, many buy their food at corner stores where the food is marked up 30 to 60 per cent. This often leads to diabetes and other serious health concerns, which then puts a tremendous strain on our health system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all members join me in congratulating Madeline Berezowski, Alyssa Kimber, and Angela Howell and other members of EWB [Engineers Without Borders], U of S [University of Saskatchewan] chapter, on this very successful initiative, and I ask that we all consider the serious costs that food deserts have for our citizens and for vulnerable people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.