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Centennial Year for International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 295 Regina and 300 Saskatoon, for celebrating their 100th anniversaries. These IATSE [International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees] locals were officially granted their charters on July 10th, 1913 for stage workers and film projectionists.

The Saskatchewan locals maintain a membership of over 250, covering 30 craft departments in film, stage, and projection areas. Major events such as the Grey Cup, the Junos, and Paul McCartney, all were IATSE workplaces.

Mr. Speaker, since the 1960s these locals have been representing film production technicians. But as you can imagine, IATSE was not supportive of the decision to axe the film tax credit.

John Lewis, international vice-president and director of Canadian affairs for IATSE, wrote a letter to the Premier in May of 2012 warning him that the replacement of a non-refundable tax credit spells doom for the local film and TV production sector. I quote: "There are few industries that are as mobile as the film industry," he wrote in his letter. "It's an industry capable of packing up and setting up elsewhere in a matter of days." Unfortunately this is what happened in many cases.

Many members persevered though, and the IATSE locals celebrated their anniversary in Saskatoon at Persephone Theatre and here in Regina at the Conexus Arts Centre this past August. I ask all members to join with me in congratulating IATSE Local 295 and 300 on their centennial year, ensuring that while we enjoy the game, the movie, or the play, that the work is well done and everyone is safe and treated fairly. Thank you.