

THIRD 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. 56 NO. 65A THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014, 10:00

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, recognized on May 17th of each year. The theme for 2014 is Freedom of Expression, aiming to remind us that the right to freedom of expression of members of sexual and gender minorities should be respected as part of the most fundamental human rights.

Here in Canada, despite protections under the charter of human rights, LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] citizens and their families continue to experience oppression and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender expression. Navi Pillay, the UN's [United Nations] High Commissioner for Human Rights, argues, and I quote, "The fact that so many continue to deny that these abuses are taking place or that there are human right violations makes it all the more important to speak out at every opportunity."

So, Mr. Speaker, today I'm taking the opportunity to speak out, encouraging all members of the Assembly to reach out to those who are particularly vulnerable to homophobic and transphobic bullying. I call on all members to take the opportunity to do so this summer by participating at the upcoming Pride events held throughout Saskatchewan, including this Saturday in Moose Jaw or several Pride parades including Prince Albert on June 8th, Regina on June 14th, or in Saskatoon on June 21st.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities have as much right as anyone to feel safe and free, and we should do whatever we can to secure that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.