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International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring attention to the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, which is observed on October 17th. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993. The UN [United Nations] Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, states that “On this day we recommit to think, decide and act together against extreme poverty — and plan for a world where no-one is left behind. Our aim must be prosperity for all, not just [for] a few.”

A Saskatoon report released last week outlined that the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen throughout the city, and October 17th community members are joining together for the Hands Across the Bridge event. Participants will form a human chain across the Broadway Bridge to demonstrate that Saskatoon is a city united against poverty and homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage others to partake in community events in the neighbourhoods and support local efforts to mitigate the impacts of poverty. I want to thank those groups such as the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition, the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, Upstream, Poverty Free Sask, and the Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership for their tireless work on this front. As a community, we need to continue to work towards the elimination of poverty.

I ask all members to join me on October 17th in marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and urging the government to take real steps now to address income inequality and poverty in our province. Thank you Mr. Speaker.