

FOURTH 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. 57 NO. 23A WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014, 13:30

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Forbes: Mr. Speaker, I rise too in the Assembly to recognize that today is the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The purpose of today is to promote the dignity, rights, and well-being of those in our communities who are living with disabilities. Currently there are over 1 billion people living in the world with some form of disability. We know persons with disabilities not only face physical barriers, but also social, economic, and attitudinal barriers.

At the national level we salute this week the unanimous agreement of the House of Commons to commit to support the needs of those who are victims of thalidomide, and now we look forward to the release of our own provincial strategy on how we can best support those living with disabilities. In both cases the real challenge will be actual supports, including financial resources from governments.

Mr. Speaker, we've noted that many groups are looking for better housing and better educational opportunities. One group that continues to face barriers in our province is the deaf and hard of hearing community. I continually hear that from the advocates of the deaf community. They need stronger supports in our schools, including supporting American Sign Language as a language of instruction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing today as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and that our work to ensure that our province is the best place for all citizens must be a real priority.