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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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International Transgender Day of Remembrance

Mr. Forbes: Mr. Speaker, it's with a heavy heart that I join many across the world on the 15th International Transgender Day of Remembrance. On this day we remember that many people who have been victims of these homicides, and we raise public awareness of hate crimes and provide a safe place for public mourning.

A report released this summer revealed that 238 transgender people across the world had been killed in the last year and a total of 1,373 have been murdered since January 2008. Sadly the report only includes murders of transgender people that can be documented or are reported; it may not be a complete picture of the scope of crimes committed worldwide. The Trans Murder Monitoring Project found that the highest number of murders disproportionately affect minors. In the early months of 2013, 18 of the first 22 people who lost their lives were under the age of 18.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of hatred is unacceptable, and it is only through compassion and acceptance that we can begin to help transgender people feel safe in their communities. It is encouraging to see Saskatchewan youth working to end this violence. There will be a Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil at the Administration and Humanities Building at the University of Regina tonight at 7:30.

We at the Saskatchewan NDP [New Democratic Party] have called for changes in *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* in order to provide better protection for all Saskatchewan residents through the inclusion of terms gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds for discrimination.

I call on all members of this Assembly to give honour to the hundreds of transgender people who have lost their lives because of transphobia and homophobia. I hope that we can strive towards creating a world this kind of violence does not exist anymore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.