

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. 43A MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2015, 13:30

International Transgender Day of Visibility and Trans Awareness Week

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is indeed a historic day as the trans flag is flying proudly here at the Saskatchewan legislature as part of the International Transgender Day of Visibility and Trans Awareness Week. This is a first for Saskatchewan and actually a first for any provincial legislature in Canada. Well done.

Many speakers at today's event commented positively on our new amendment to *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* that we passed last December. We can now say protection as a gender identity is now included — again, well done. And while many were calling for greater protection for including both terms, gender identity and gender expression, we will continue to monitor whether gender expression should be part of our Human Rights Code as well.

But we know that for the trans community much more work remains including, for example, we need to explicitly ensure that there are strong provisions in our schools for students who request supports like GSAs [gay-straight alliance]. And, Mr. Speaker, we also know that we need much more improved health care services and mental health supports and a revision of *The Vital Statistics Act* to reflect current best practices here in Canada.

I would like to, Mr. Speaker, recognize the important work of TransSask Support Services in helping to provide services to meet the needs of trans identified and gender diverse people within Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to recognize and celebrate Trans Awareness Week and TransSask and to pledge continued support to the goal of helping transgendered people feel safe and supported in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.