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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD) Published under the authority of The Honourable Dan D'Autremont Speaker

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May Day

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today with workers across the world as we recognize May Day. May Day, also known as the International Labour Day, originated as workers organized for an 8-hour work day. Ironic, Mr. Speaker, that this issue continues to be relevant over 100 years later as we see Bill 85 attempt to change this hard-fought right and allow moves towards a 10-hour work day.

In my own community of Saskatoon, there will be a rally taking place this afternoon protesting Bill 85. The people of Saskatchewan are asking that the Sask Party government slow down the bill. There are also people here in the gallery today with the same demand.

Achievements that we are happy to see so far this session are Howard's law and Jimmy's law. The passing of Howard's law makes Saskatchewan the first province in Canada to have a mandatory asbestos registry for public buildings. And Jimmy's law is an important step in protecting late-night retail workers.

Mr. Speaker, May Day has never been more relevant to workers than it is today. The factory collapse in Bangladesh, with over 380 deaths, reminds many of us that we cannot disconnect our purchasing habits from the working conditions of people in other countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all members of this House join with me in recognizing May Day. I am honoured to stand with solidarity with workers throughout this province and add my voice to theirs in a call for fair, safe working conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.