

THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

# Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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## DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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N.S. VOL. 56 NO. 59A TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014, 13:30

### North American Occupational Safety and Health Week

**Mr. Forbes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize North American Occupational Safety and Health Week, held from May 5th to 11th this year. NAOSH [North American Occupational Safety and Health] strives to relay the key message that workplace injuries impact everyone, and we must do whatever we can to reduce harmful and life-changing workplace incidents to zero. Saskatchewan has the second-highest workplace-related injury rate in Canada. Last year there were over 37,000 injuries despite continuing efforts to improve on-site safety conditions.

This week a number of activities are taking place as part of the awareness campaign. This provides an opportunity to empower workers to take concrete steps in securing their own protection while promoting a workplace culture of balance between employees and employers. Even though many companies see the value in managing their occupational health and safety responsibilities, it often takes a serious workplace injury or fatality before organizations understand the real costs of cutting corners.

NAOSH Week is a celebration of the safety work that takes place all year long. It reminds us that safety should be considered a priority every week of the year. This year's theme, Make Safety a Habit, is a powerful reminder of this.

Mr. Speaker, the North American health and safety week's goals require commitment from workers of all ages and abilities but also employers and government. Workers deserve to be safe, and we must collectively stand for nothing less. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.