

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. 54A MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014, 13:30

### National Day of Mourning

**Mr. Forbes:** Mr. Speaker, since 1985, April 28th has been recognized across Canada as the International Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. The purpose of the Day of Mourning is twofold. We have an opportunity to remember and honour our fallen workers, but it is also a time to renew the commitment to prevent further work-related injuries and deaths.

A private member's bill established April 28th as the National Day of Mourning in 1991. For over two decades, Canadians have been joining people across the globe to honour the men and women who have been injured or killed on the job.

Meanwhile, in the last two decades, we've also seen the number of deaths on the job rising. Youth and inexperienced workers are often facing the highest risk. It saddens me, Mr. Speaker, to report that since last April 28th, 31 people have died on the job in Saskatchewan.

As legislators, it's crucial that on this day we commit to legislation and action that better promotes health and safety practices. One death is too many, Mr. Speaker. And I call on members of the Assembly to use our positions of influence to continue supporting workers' rights and safety. I ask also that everyone pause and remember both those who have lost their lives and to also commit to fighting for the living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.