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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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

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Saskatoon Young Women's Christian Association Celebrates 100 Years

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past year was full of celebration at the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] Saskatoon as they mark their 100th year of service in the Saskatoon community.

From a one-room cottage in the early 1900s to a facility today that serves in excess of 8,000 clients annually, they have grown and prospered. Donors, employees, and volunteers have been the backbone of the YWCA for 100 years. The past century have been marked with challenges, excitement, and opportunities. As they enter their second century, they are full of optimism and have launched a number of exciting new programs.

Mr. Speaker, the YWCA continues to provide important programming for girls and women in Saskatoon, including economic literacy programs, girls' education programs, and the YWCA encore, an eight-week breast cancer recovery program described by one of the participants as:

. . . [bringing] together a group of women with diverse stories who grew and healed a little [bit] every Tuesday afternoon. What the doctors and health specialists didn't tell us, we learned together and shared together at encore.

This is just one example of the YWCA's commitment to women, children, and families in our community. Many more stories and examples can be found in a publication from the anniversary committee that summarizes the past 100 years, an excellent tribute to the hard work and dedication that have grown the YWCA, without which hundreds of thousands of lives would be very different today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in celebrating the YWCA Saskatoon 100th year of service. And I hope many will continue to support the great work they do in our community. Thank you.