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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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

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Student at Centre of Idle No More Movement

Mr. Forbes: Mr. Speaker, this week is Aboriginal Achievement Week at the University of Saskatchewan, a perfect time to recognize the work of a young, active U of S [University of Saskatchewan] student and constituent of Saskatoon Centre, Erica Lee, who has been at the centre of the Idle No More movement.

Erica is the cultural coordinator for the Indigenous Students' Council, a well-established group on campus; has been running the Idle No More Saskatoon Facebook page. This is the hub where people from around the world go to find help organizing rallies, sharing stories, and supporting the cause. Lee has helped organize events here in Saskatoon, across California, and many other places.

Mr. Speaker, Erica Lee was at the first Idle No More event before it was Idle No More. She spoke at the event — I was also able to attend, along with my colleague from Saskatoon Nutana — at Station 20 West last November. She got involved through her former teacher and friend, Sheelah McLean, one of the co-founders of the movement. As written in a StarPhoenix article featuring Erica Lee, and I quote:

As a political studies and philosophy major at the U of S, Lee is living what she studies. She says her school work hasn't suffered despite immersing herself at the very root of the national grassroots movement. Lee, who is the first person in her family to finish high school, refuses to let her grades slip.

Lee said, "It's important for me to finish my degree and get into a position of power."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the hard work and passion Erica Lee has put into making this world a better place, and I hope to see her sometime in the near future in a position of power. Thank you.