

THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

## Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

---

# DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

---

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

N.S. VOL. 56 NO. 42A MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014, 13:30

### Transgender Awareness Week

**Mr. Forbes:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the third annual Trans Awareness Week in our province. This week provides an opportunity to inform and raise awareness about challenges facing the sex- and gender-diverse community, while celebrating the lives of transsexual, transgender, and intersex people across Saskatchewan.

I would also like to recognize the important work of TransSask Support Services in helping provide services to meet the needs of trans-identified and gender-diverse people within Saskatchewan. We believe that all people of Saskatchewan should have the resources and support to lead their lives however they wish to and to have their needs accommodated without being hindered by discriminatory practices.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in that instrument without distinction of any kind. The acts of violence and discrimination directed towards people because of gender identity or gender expression are unacceptable. I've called for greater protection by changing *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* to include the terms gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds for discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all members to recognize and celebrate Trans Awareness Week and TransSask for their important work supporting the sex- and gender-diverse community and to pledge continued support to the goal of helping transgendered people feel safe and supported in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.