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Transgender Day of Remembrance

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House to recognize the passing of a very solemn occasion, the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance on November 20th that honours the memory of those who have been murdered through acts of transgender violence.

I, along with the member for Saskatoon Greystone and Saskatoon city councillor, Charlie Clark, was honoured to attend the ceremony organized by the USSU [University of Saskatchewan Students' Union] Pride Centre at the University of Saskatchewan last Thursday evening.

Here in Saskatchewan, transgender people are among the most disenfranchised. Trans people are often pushed to the fringes of our society and face many barriers. Trans people face homelessness, depression, interpersonal violence at rates greater than the general population.

I've called many times for amendments to the Human Rights Code to include the terms gender identity and gender expression, but the government has refused to adopt these amendments. These protections are badly needed and would help to prevent violence and hatred in our communities. I hope that in the spirit of Transgender Day of Remembrance, all members will keep a pledge to end violence against transgendered people close to their hearts. Together we can build a better world, one without the evils of transphobia and homophobia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.