

FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

## Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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# DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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N.S. VOL. 57 NO. 7A MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014, 13:30

### Western Canada Conference on American Sign Language

**Mr. Forbes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On October 17th I had the pleasure to attend the Western Canada Conference on American Sign Language (ASL) and English Bilingual Education at the University of Regina. I know the member for Regina Douglas Park was there also so I hope that he will bring back what he learned to his colleagues in the government as well.

This conference provided an opportunity for teachers, experts, and members of the deaf and hard of hearing community to come together to discuss the important issues facing bilingual ASL education in Canada and here in Saskatchewan. There were a number of engaging speakers from all over North America who spoke about some very important topics for deaf education here in our province, the importance of developing both written and sign language skills, the systematic barriers many deaf and hard of hearing students face in our schools and society, and the transfer of language skills from American Sign Language to written English.

One issue that came up over and over again at the conference was the need for ASL to be a recognized language for instruction here in our province. All of the deaf community advocacy groups all want to see ASL officially recognized as a language of instruction here in Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I hope that all members will join me in supporting this very important cause. Thank you.