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Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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World Ostomy Day

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Saskatoon Ostomy Association. On October 17th I had the privilege of attending a barbecue held by the association to celebrate World Ostomy Day.

World Ostomy Day is October 3rd. However, due to the sometimes unpredictable weather here in Saskatchewan, the barbecue was postponed until October 17th. It was held at the Saskatoon Forestry Park & Zoo, and many people enjoyed the hamburgers, hot dogs, cupcakes, and the beautiful fall weather.

The theme for this year was Many Stories, One Voice. Across the globe, people were using the hashtag #MyOstomyStory to raise awareness about life with an ostomy.

The Saskatoon Ostomy Association provides support and advocacy for people who have had or are about to have ostomy surgery. On a matter that's highly stigmatized and rarely discussed, this group openly embraces those who have had ostomy surgery. They're not embarrassed or ashamed to remind others that they simply have had a body part that didn't work and as a result they now have an ostomy.

They asked me as well to raise a concern that other provinces such as Manitoba pay full cost of the ostomy appliances while Saskatchewan pays half, and they can hope this changes soon. I'm honoured to carry their message into this Assembly and throughout the province to raise awareness and support those with ostomies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join with me in applauding the work the Saskatoon Ostomy Association does across the city and this province. Thank you very much.