

FIRST 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. 54 NO. 20A THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

United Nations World Water Day

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today is United Nations World Water Day. Each year World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of fresh water. This year its theme is Water and Food Security. Food security was a focus of an event two weeks ago at the Saskatoon Farmers' Market where local chapters of three international NGOs [non-governmental organization] hosted a celebration of the contributions women have made to food production around the world.

But the connection between availability of water and food security is an important issue both globally and locally. It will be important, Mr. Speaker, to watch how the lower amount of snowfall we've received this year in Saskatchewan will affect farmers' crops. But it's also important to draw attention to the achievement of the UN [United Nations] millennium development goal of safe water for 88 per cent of the globe's population. This is great news and should not be overlooked.

But however we need only to look to our north in Prince Albert to see what it was like to live without safe drinking water. Prince Albert just recently finished six weeks of a boil-water advisory due to mechanical failures at the water treatment plant. We cannot take our water for granted. There is still a lot of work to be done in ensuring safe drinking water here in our home province, in our First Nations communities right across Canada, and right across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing the United Nations World Water Day as we all keep in mind the important role water plays in keeping us in this world alive and healthy. Thank you very much.