

FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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

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The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

International Year of Co-operatives

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The United Nations has proclaimed 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives to highlight the contributions of co-operatives to socio-economic development, in particular recognizing their impact on poverty reduction, employment generation, and social integration. In fact United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says, and I quote, “Co-operatives are a reminder that it’s possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility.”

Mr. Speaker, it is impressive that one-third of the province’s top 100 businesses are co-operatives with 1 million members in Saskatchewan alone. Now the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association has a lot planned in celebrating this year, including the official launch in January and the Co-operative Week of Volunteering from May 28th to June 3rd where co-ops are encouraged to adopt a community project.

Later this year, there’ll be a week of activities in October as part of Co-op Week, and in November, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association will be hosting the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, we know when so many people are dissatisfied with an economic system dominated by profit-driven enterprises, the time has never been better for the promotion and growth of the co-ops. It is imperative we continue to support the co-operative movement here in Saskatchewan.

And I ask all members to join with me in celebrating the Year of Co-operatives, and I hope many are able to attend their many events throughout the year. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.