

FOURTH SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

# Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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## DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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

N.S. VOL. 57 NO. 64A WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2015, 13:30

### Gay-Straight Alliances

**Mr. Forbes:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Education minister admitted that he'd heard a number of instances in which students have been too afraid to ask for a GSA [gay-straight alliance] or they've asked and been declined. And he even admitted that students are far too afraid to identify themselves, so he's been unable to follow up. Shockingly, this is what the Premier calls "a happy circumstance." Why won't the Education minister stand up to the Premier and start properly protecting vulnerable kids?

**The Deputy Speaker:** I recognize the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** Mr. Speaker, a GSA, by definition — I'm quoting from mygsa website — is a "... student-led safe space group, is primarily a club for students, and so it's important that students lead in its creation."

We intend to work with school divisions to ensure that they are made available. In fact, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we're doing three things. One, we're reviewing all of the complaints or issues that have come forward. And we understand people's reluctance to give their names, give their phone numbers, but we are working through to try and find out if there are any places in the province where GSAs have been requested that have not been provided.

But to take it further, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are going to do two other things. We have asked the ministry to develop a list of all of the division schools and to see which ones are already providing GSAs and whether there are any issues so that we can look at them on a school-by-school basis.

Finally, we've talked to the president of the SSBA [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] this morning and I've said, would your school nurse, would they be willing to provide a designate in each school, either a counsellor or a teacher whose name would be put on a school handbook, on a sign, or a website so that a student that's interested in starting a GSA would have a contact person to go to? We know that these are vulnerable students and we want to do everything we can to help them.