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Living Skills Program

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the living skills program offered by SIAST [Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology] in Moose Jaw is an employment readiness program designed to help adults with diagnosed disabilities enter the next stage of their lives. It's a highly regarded 36-week program to help prepare these adults to be independent, self-directed, and work in engaging careers in the community. And, Mr. Speaker, it's been very successful. That's why it makes no sense that this program was cancelled last week. To the minister: why was this program cancelled?

The Speaker: I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll take notice of that question and get back to the House.

The Speaker: I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: Mr. Speaker, the members opposite should listen to the question. I'll go with a second question. Patty Lembke joins us here today with her daughter Shelley. Shelley is one of the successful graduates of the program. She excelled at the living skills program and is now working in the medical field here in Regina. Her mother, Patty, says the whole family was upset that this great program has been cancelled.

The living skills program focused on the basics: helping these adults be independent, navigate urban transportation systems, follow proper nutrition, and generally get ready for a career. Shelley and Patty want to know why this government would not support the living skills program. To the minister: what's the answer to this?

The Speaker: I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Harrison: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The appropriate minister will be happy to meet with the individual, but we'll take notice of the question and get back to the House.

The Speaker: I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: Mr. Speaker, Patty and Shelley are joined in the gallery by Kim Skidmore, and Kim is a foster parent here in Lumsden. She's raising foster children, some of whom, or upon graduation, would be a perfect fit for the living skills program at SIAST. But because this program is being cut, Kim isn't sure what to do. Kim wants the best for her kids that she's had the privilege to help raise, and she thinks the living skills program would be perfect for them in the same way that it's helped other young adults like Shelley. But now she has major concerns because this important program has been scrapped. Again to the minister: what do they have to say to Kim today?

The Speaker: I recognize the Minister of Advanced Education.

Hon. Mr. Norris: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'll look into this, but we'll be happy to meet with those in the gallery today and we'll take notice and get back to the Assembly on this.