

THIRD 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. 56 NO. 63A TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014, 13:30

Support for Addicted Youth

Mr. Forbes: Mr. Speaker, Chantaey Katchmar was 16 years old when she died from an overdose in July 2012. Her mother, Carla, has joined us today along with family and friends. Because of her tragic experience, Carla has had many thoughts to share with this government about how to prevent youth addictions and how to help young people who are struggling with addictions.

Carla's had a difficult time getting a meeting with the mental health and addictions commissioner, but I think she deserves to be heard. To the Minister of Health: will he meet with Carla today to hear her thoughts? And will he also ensure that Carla gets a one-on-one meeting with the mental health and addictions commissioner?

The Speaker: I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Duncan: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government, I want to express my sympathy to the family in this case. Certainly I know personally the devastation that addictions can cause to a family and what that means for a family.

Mr. Speaker, I can say today that both myself, I believe the Minister of Social Services, will meet with the family if they so want to meet with us. As well, we will be putting in a call to the commissioner. We've often referred, after meetings in the last six months, in meeting with families and other providers regarding mental health and addictions, we've often referred them to meet with the commissioner because we do want that input. And certainly I would extend that offer as well and be contacting the commissioner about this case as well.