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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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

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Grand Opening of Station 20 West

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on October 17th I joined my colleagues from Riversdale and Nutana, along with hundreds of others, to celebrate the much anticipated grand opening of Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre.

Station 20 West, initially a \$16 million project when planning started six years ago, had to be scaled back after the Sask Party government pulled \$8 million in funding in 2008. Since then the community has rallied to raise over \$6 million necessary to complete the project.

Mr. Speaker, there has not been a grocery store in this area of Saskatoon for more than a decade. In addition, only 44 per cent of the children under the age of two were immunized in the city's core neighbourhoods in 2006 compared to 91 per cent in the five most affluent neighbourhoods. Now thanks to the support of the community, Station 20 West houses a grocery store, cafe, gathering space, and a mothers' centre. Quint, CHEP [child hunger and education program] Good Food, KidsFirst, and the U of S [University of Saskatchewan] outreach centre offer help, housing, and food services.

Sheila Pocha, the Chair of Station 20 West, spoke about the potential within the walls of this very important building saying, and I quote:

We have an opportunity for growth and people to feel happy. They have something actually built that's new in their community and not used, not a pawn store. That's really wonderful to be part of.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members in this legislature to join with me today in celebrating the official grand opening of the Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre. Thank you very much.