

FIRST SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

# Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD) Published under the authority of The Honourable Corey Tochor Speaker

N.S. VOL. 58 NO. 15A MONDAY, JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 13:30

## National Day of Mourning

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April 28th was the annual National Day of Mourning for workers who were killed or injured on the job. On April 28th our Legislative Building had flags flying at half-mast in order to recognize these people. As we were not in session on April 28th, we are recognizing these individuals today. Across both Saskatchewan and Canada, groups gathered to remember those who have suffered tragedy and loss due to workplace incidents.

Mr. Speaker, the Day of Mourning is a time to honour and mourn those who have suffered fatalities and injuries in the workplace. It is also an important opportunity for us to remember, reflect, and renew our commitment to eliminating workplace tragedies. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure our workplaces are safe and healthy and that everyone makes it home alive. Nobody deserves the tragedy of losing a loved one due to preventable work-related injury.

I once again ask my colleagues to renew their own personal commitments to safety. We must all be conscious of safety in everything we do if we wish to eliminate workplace accidents. I would also ask both employers and employees, small and large businesses, and those involved in all industries to consider the health and safety of everyone around them. We must all make it a priority.

I would like to thank those workplaces in Saskatchewan who have achieved Mission: Zero and the leadership that they have shown. Saskatchewan has the fourth highest workplace injury rate in Canada. While work has been done to reduce this injury rate, we are still far from our goal of zero workplace incidents. Mr. Speaker, there is still more work to do. No job is worth someone's life, and no job is worth injury.

This past year in Saskatchewan, 32 workers lost their lives as a result of workplace injuries and illnesses. These are parents, children, friends, and loved ones. It cannot be understated, the financial and emotional turmoil that these deaths and injuries have had on those closest to them. We must all remember these individuals by ensuring that every worker returns home safe after their work is done.

To honour those that we have lost, I will now read the names into the record. I would ask that all members rise, and the member for Saskatoon Centre will read the first list of names.

**Mr. Forbes:** —

Alfred Joseph Hazelwanter

Dewaine Irwin

Andrew Boa

Duane Nelson

August Martin

Eugene Blocka

Brian Zarowny

George Gregg

Cade Sprackman

Ieuan Williams

Catherine Parkinson

James Rechenmacher

Chad Johnstone

Jonathan Jonasson

Darren Pearson

Joseph Vorachek

Dean Gervais

**Hon. Mr. Morgan:** —

Kevin Timmerman

Rando Biasini

Lah Wor

Ron Vandeven

Larry Chorneyko

Tanner Graf

Leo Hnatyshyn

Travis Gordon

Ludovick Geni

Vanitha Mutukistna

Murray Mann

Wasim Hanif

Nilo Sanchez

William Davies

Pah Day

Not included in these names are the approximately 13 people who lose their lives working on Saskatchewan farms and ranches each year. Today is also to honour their lives as well.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I'd like to offer our sincerest condolences to the families and friends of those who have passed away due to workplace incidents. I would now ask that we observe a moment of silence in honour of the 32 people who have lost their lives.

**[The Assembly observed a moment of silence.]**

**Mr. Forbes:** — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Every year on April 28th, we recognize National Day of Mourning to commemorate workers who've lost their lives on the job. Normally Day of Mourning falls within the sitting of the Assembly and I, along with the Minister of Labour, read the names of those who've died on the job. With this year's spring election, we've delayed that tradition to today.

Last year 32 workers died because of injuries that happened at work. Thirty-two families said goodbye to a loved one who never came home. It's for those 32 families that we have to do so much more to reduce workplace injuries in every part of our province. It shouldn't matter if a worker carries a tool box or a briefcase to a job site, whether they wear coveralls or scrubs, or whether they work high in an office tower or hundreds of metres below ground. Every Saskatchewan worker has the right to a safe workplace. We still see an unacceptable number of injuries and deaths in the workplace, particularly

when it comes to young and inexperienced workers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to consider what they can do to support workers' rights and workplace safety as well as keeping the families of the workers killed and injured in their minds today and every day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.