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National Housing Day

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We're all familiar with walking briskly to our car in minus 30 degree weather, rushing to get inside, and waiting impatiently as it warms up. Now imagine if that was where you slept every night or if you weren't sure if you'd been evicted from your apartment or if the shelter you had stayed in would be too full. You are constantly worried if you're not going to be able to make your rent or mortgage payment this month.

But incredibly, this is a daily reality for 3.2 million individuals, and 1.5 million of them are families. This is why CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation] declares this day, November 22nd, National Housing Day. And with the economy in rough shape in other parts of the country, it's easy to see the correlation. But what about our own province, Mr. Speaker? Despite our current economy, one in five have reported that they have either faced or are in danger of facing homelessness.

Shelter is a basic human right, Mr. Speaker. It enables people to do well in their lives. It's a place where people plan for their future, escape when they're leaving an abusive relationship, study when they're improving their education, raise their kids, or take care of their aging parents. And most importantly, home is the place where people can lay their head at night and feel safe, warm, and secure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in recognizing National Housing Day and committing ourselves to find the solutions necessary to make sure our province needs to make safe, affordable housing a reality for everyone in our province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.