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DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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Canadian Cancer Society Award to Howard Willems

Mr. Forbes: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to invite the members of the Assembly to join with me in honouring Howard Willems's family. Howard Willems was awarded today, posthumously, the 2013 Impact Award for Leadership and Public Policy from the national council of the Canadian Cancer Society.

This is the highest award given in the area of public policy by the Canadian Cancer Society, a national organization, and the only one that is granted each year. Howard Willems passed away at the age of 59 from a rare form of cancer that was directly related to his exposure from asbestos while working. Asbestos is the leading cause of industrial cancers and death in Canada.

Howard has worked tirelessly until the very end of his life to bring Howard's law, Bill 604, forward to protect his fellow workers from harm. Howard's wife, Brenda, and his two stepsons, Jesse and Lee, continue the advocacy that he started. They share Howard's belief that everyone has the right to know if their workplace, school, health care facility, or daycare is safe. Mr. Speaker, Howard's law is a common sense solution to help keep the public informed about where asbestos is located in public buildings by creating a mandatory online registry.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my fellow members of the legislature to listen to the families of Howard Willems and the people of Saskatchewan and vote in favour of Howard's law on Thursday. Thank you.