

SECOND 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. 55 NO. 44A WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

Red Cross Day of Pink

Mr. Forbes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to stand in support of youth across Canada who are participating in the Red Cross Day of Pink. Red Cross Day of Pink is a day to stand in solidarity with youth who are experiencing homophobic or transphobic bullying in their schools and communities. It's a day to say that we will not tolerate violence in our communities. And most importantly, Mr. Speaker, the Day of Pink is a day for expressing kindness, compassion, and courage.

It is expected that 20,000 youth across Saskatchewan will be participating in the Red Cross Day of Pink today. The youth are asking us to follow their lead. And this means that we must also participate in the Day of Pink not just by putting on a pink shirt or a tie, but by committing to addressing bullying when we see it at work, at community events, or in activities that we participate in with our kids. It is up to all of us to create communities that are safe for LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] youth.

Mr. Speaker, bullying is a complex issue and youth are demanding that we help provide solutions. We must listen to our youth leaders in our communities and the solutions they are offering, and we must adequately fund anti-bullying workshops and programs for youth and adults. And all of us must take the time to educate ourselves about the issues that LGBT youth are facing in our communities. Most of all, Mr. Speaker, we must show compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow members of the House join with me in standing up for our youth and join with them in addressing bullying and discrimination in Saskatchewan on today's Red Cross Day of Pink, and every day. Thank you.