

THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

of the

## Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

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# DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

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### Equal Justice for All Reopens

**Mr. Forbes:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last year the Saskatoon non-profit group Equal Justice for All, a charitable advocacy organization that helps people with mediation and appeal decisions by government agencies, particularly Social Services, had to close their doors when the government decided they would no longer provide them with funding.

I'm happy to say that on October 18th this very important organization was able to reopen their doors once again, thanks to the support of the community, especially donations from SaskTel, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, the Holy Spirit church, and the University of Saskatchewan.

Before they were shut down last year, Equal Justice for All was helping with an average of 100 cases a month, but their funding was cut because they were told there were enough organizations in the community already doing the same advocacy work as Equal Justice for All.

Mr. Speaker, currently Equal Justice for All is completely staffed by volunteers, many of whom live in poverty themselves and have one or more disabilities. Roberta Fehr, the executive director of Equal Justice for All says, and I quote, "I think people really need to be able to communicate with somebody who has that lived experience, that has gone through what we've gone through or similar, and not be judged."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow members of this legislature to congratulate the staff and the board at Equal Justice for All in their valuable struggle to keep their doors open so they can help and support those in need in Saskatoon. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.