

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
DEBATES and PROCEEDINGS

(HANSARD)

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STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

We Are Many Festival

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From August 22 to 24 this summer, Saskatoon will be host to We Are Many, a festival of sustainability. We Are Many, also known as WAM, is the power of many making big changes by taking small steps together. It's a celebration of the arts, public education, community action, and a pact that will unite people in making simple adjustments that taken together will have a large, positive impact on the environment — a dramatic step toward becoming an environmentally friendly community.

Mr. Speaker, the centrepiece of the festival, the pact, will propose 40 attainable, sustainable personal commitments that people can choose to implement in their own lives and in their own homes.

Now WAM is youth run. Members of their core organizing team are almost all under the age of 30, though they benefit greatly from the experience, and members of the advisory board and other community members. In fact, they've been endorsed by dozens of politicians at all levels of government across all stripes. They have the support and co-operation of the former premier, Environmental Defence Canada, Steven Page of the Barenaked Ladies, author Yann Martel, the Hon. Carol Skelton, Stephen Lewis, Dr. Jane Goodall, among many others.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, as many as 91 per cent of Canadians consider environmental sustainability to be the critical issue facing Canada and the world, and a similar number express a willingness to make lifestyle changes. This is our opportunity to make a difference.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I encourage all members to come out to the WAM Festival this summer and sign on to the pact and make a difference. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!