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(HANSARD)

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STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

100th Anniversary of Saskatoon Institution

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague the MLA from Saskatoon Massey Place and I had the pleasure to attend a very special 100th Saskatoon YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association] AGM [annual general meeting] and volunteer recognition banquet last night.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the YMCAs across Canada can often be seen as one of the first gateways for so many, including youth, newcomers, and immigrants to healthy and strong communities. Saskatoon YMCA is very much one of these gateways and has done so for the past 100 years.

Last night, Katie Dueck was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. As she was introduced, it was clear her commitment to the YMCA and her work is second to none. Michael Weil, president and CEO [chief executive officer] of YMCA Canada said to the group that meeting the Y's mandate of supporting strong, healthy communities simply could not happen without the volunteers.

I also want to congratulate Terry Gibson as the incoming president as the Y begins its 100th year of operations and to recognize the strong leadership of Jeff Leaper, now past president, for his many contributions to the YMCA. It should be noted that just a few short years ago, the YMCA had a membership of 1,100 and now boasts a membership of over 2,500. Truly, Mr. Speaker, this is all about strong and healthy communities. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the volunteers and staff at Saskatoon YMCA for their outstanding work over the past century, and we are looking forward to the next 100 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!