

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

### MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Kendra's Walk for Kids

**Mrs. Myrna Driedger (Charleswood):** Last Friday I had the honour of joining one of my constituents, 17-year-old Kendra McBain, and hundreds of students, family and supporters in Kendra's Walk for Kids at St. John's-Ravenscourt School.

Kendra McBain is a remarkable young woman of 17. Three years ago, she was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a very rare form of cancer. In the last few years, she's undergone 32 chemotherapy treatments, 50 radiation treatments and six surgeries. She's overcome some enormous challenges in her young life, but Kendra wants to give something back to CancerCare and all of the people who did such a wonderful job of caring for her and supporting her during a very difficult time for her and her family.

Having spent so much time at CancerCare, Kendra noticed a need for a better space for teenagers. The existing teen room is often overrun with younger children. All teenagers need a space to call their own, and teenagers with cancer are no different. They need somewhere to relax and hang out with people their own age. So Kendra organized a fundraising walk near the grounds of her school to raise money to refurbish the teen room at CancerCare.

Kendra's efforts paid off in a big way. The senior school at St. John's-Ravenscourt, alone, raised more than \$57,000 for this very worthwhile cause, and donations were still coming in on Friday.

On Friday when she took the microphone before the walk, Kendra said that she wanted her peers to know that there is no shame in having cancer. That's a message worth repeating, especially since teenagers with cancer can so often feel isolated and alone.

Kendra also paid tribute to her family and to a very special teacher at her school, Roberta Mitchell, who has been a source of endless support and encouragement to her. I had the pleasure of meeting Roberta on Friday, and I can understand why Kendra feels so lucky to have her in her life.

Despite having spent so much of her high school years undergoing treatment for cancer, Kendra has chosen not to let the disease define her. Her high school legacy is not that she has cancer. Kendra is a woman whose hard work, dedication and compassion will make a difference in the lives of countless young cancer patients who will now have a place at CancerCare to truly call their own.

Kendra is an inspiration to all Manitobans. I'd like to ask all members of the Legislature to join me in thanking all those who supported Kendra's Walk for Kids on Friday and in congratulating Kendra McBain on a job very well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.