

MEMBER STATEMENT—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

ST. PATRICK SERVES

February 15, 2018

MS. GREEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure today to go to a unique event hosted by Ecole St. Patrick, called "St. Pat's Serves."

The intent of the day was to engage students in a variety of work done by organizations that fight for social justice and provide various volunteer services and opportunities, here in Yellowknife.

A total of 24 organizations participated, including non-profits like Food Rescue and the Tree of Peace, volunteer organizations like the Rotary Club and Alternatives North, as well as faith-based organizations. It was a very impressive list.

Each group had up to half an hour to talk about their work and to answer questions. Students chose which sessions to attend and had the opportunity to ask questions.

Throughout the lunch hour, the organizations participated in a fair set up in the gym, where students could chat with groups whose presentations they did not get to.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon students will hear from Alvin Law, a highly motivating speaker. He was born without arms because his mother used the drug thalidomide while she was pregnant. Mr. Law learned to use his feet to accomplish daily tasks, including driving. He is also a great musical talent who plays the drums with his feet. His story is truly inspiring.

I was impressed with how many students at St. Patrick's School already volunteer as coaches and mentors in schools and in non-profits. I was also impressed with the number who want to do more. Hats off to the organizers of this uplifting day.

Mr. Speaker, I was there to talk about a day of services I organize for people with low or no income. Yes We Care Day is held twice a year. The main draw is the opportunity to have a professional haircut free of charge from Yellowknife hairdressers and a barber who volunteer their time. The greatest reward is seeing people downtown the next day, looking good and walking tall. Students from St. Pat's have always volunteered at this event to serve food, wash dishes, and sweep up hair.

Mr. Speaker, these students are our future. I am confident they will continue the tradition of caring and sharing in Yellowknife. We are in good hands. Mahsi.