

Northwest Student 1 in 10 Selected for Leadership School

May 19, 2009

Mike Chisholm, the M.L.A. for Cut-Knife Turtleford rose to speak in the Legislature:

“Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer congratulations to Kelsey Wilkinson, a remarkable Maidstone Grade 12 student in my constituency. Kelsey’s been selected through the Absolute School of Leadership as one of the top grade 12 students from across the country and will be joining the program in Hamilton Ontario next year.”

One of ten students from across Canada to be chosen, Kelsey was first introduced to the organization at the National Student Leadership conference in PEI. Kelsey applied and was thrilled to have been accepted to the Hamilton, Ontario based school. She had been planning to attend the University of Regina (Education – math major), but found that the opportunity was too good to pass up, and after discussions with her parents she decided to postpone her university studies for a year. “It took a while to convince my parents but now they’re very excited that I’m going to be doing this,” she said.

The Absolute Leadership Development program focuses on empowering emerging generations to change their world by living their lives with purpose. Its objectives are simple and direct: To reach every teen with a message of purpose. To offer every teen an opportunity to develop a global perspective. To provide every teen a listening ear when they need it. To mentor young leaders in a changing world, and to enable education, business and social institutions to work together to address global issues on an intergenerational level.

The year at the Absolute School begins with a leadership development course. Then, during the first semester, the students travel across Canada working with motivational assembly teams and presenting seminars in high schools advocating for social justice. During the second semester students take a course on international social justice in Vicente Guerrero (Mexico) and then take a leadership role helping teams of people working to improve facilities within the local community.

“ I believe that my work in the Northwest Leadership Academy opened this door for me,” said Kelsey. “ I’ve always been interested, but I didn’t know about the resources or who to contact. It’s been an eye opening experience that has broadened my horizons.”