

The Drummondville cultural centre is considered by the arts community as an outstanding institution with a sophisticated audience.

This award confirms the superiority of the Drummondville cultural centre in the kind of services it offers to artists, producers and the audience.

Congratulations are most certainly in order here, and we wish them well in all their future activities. In fact, I am very pleased that my government has supported a number of projects initiated by this organization for a number of years, for the benefit of the arts world in Quebec and the people of my riding.

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[English]

LABOUR

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, it is a dark day in Canada for the labour movement when the Minister of Labour, who calls himself the Minister of Labour but is not interested in ordinary working people, gives notice that as of the end of this year there will be no further government funding possible for the Canada Centre for Occupational Health and Safety and when he fires the executive director and president who has been the basis and the foundation of that organization for the last 10 years.

I would like to ask the Minister of Labour about the Canada Centre for Occupational Health and Safety which provided information to the people of St. Basile le Grand.

[Translation]

When they had this problem with PCBs, where did they go for information? They went to the Canada Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

[English]

Who is going to be able to speak to the workers who are injured in industrial accidents, who face explosions, who want to understand the basis for chemicals? Who is going to get information about the International Labour Organization? Who is going to get information from NIOSH?

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The decision of this minister to assassinate the Canada Centre for Occupational Health and Safety may be a laughing matter for certain Conservatives across this country. It is not a laughing matter among working people, and we intend to pursue this issue with every last breath we have.

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EDUCATION

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, we are approaching the end of National Universities Week. Coming as I do from a province which possess several fine colleges and universities, both English and French institutions, I wish to express my respect for the immense contribution which they make to our society.

As other colleagues have noted throughout this week, higher education is more important today than ever before. The rapid growth of knowledge, particularly in the fields of science and technology, is presenting Canadians with ever more significant career challenges and opportunities. Universities do truly open doors to these opportunities.

While a university education is an important personal investment for a great many Canadians, support for universities is also an essential investment for governments at all levels on behalf of society. For example, the research being undertaken at Canadian universities is constantly helping us to address pressing concerns about our environment, health, and our capabilities to maintain the standards of living which we enjoy in the face of ever increasing foreign competition.

In this emerging world economy Canada's prosperity will depend on our ability to lead our competitors. That means Canadians will need to generate knowledge and use it creatively. To do that, Canada needs healthy and productive universities. Let us all commit to help keep them that way.

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ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, in my riding today, as a matter of fact right at this very moment, the media are being briefed on a very special project piloted by Atomic Energy of Canada on the concept of deep underground disposal of used nuclear fuel from Canada's nuclear generating stations, none of which by the way are in my riding.