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degrees of difficulty with literacy and numeracy. It is estimated that it costs Canada \$10 billion a year to respond to this particular problem.

What we need is a change of policies. We need to stop cutting funds to the provinces for education. We need to remove the goods and services tax on books, and we need to provide jobs for young Canadians so that they can go back to college and university.

I urge all Canadians who want to improve their literacy and numeracy skills to enrol in literacy and numeracy programs today in organizations that promote those programs: schools, colleges, and universities.

[*Translation*]

These programs exist in French, English and other languages.

I wish all Canadians who are now back in their class-rooms a very successful school year.

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[*English*]

NATIONAL REFERENDUM

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, on October 26 Canadians will have the opportunity to reaffirm their belief in this country in the first national referendum in 50 years.

The wording will neither be complex nor lengthy and could read as follows: Do you agree that the Constitution of Canada should be renewed on the basis of the agreement reached August 28, 1992?

The question is simple but the constitutional package is complex. It is my belief Canadians will speak in support of a renewed Canada provided they understand the proposals.

I urge all members of Parliament to work together to heighten the debate and take it to a level never before seen in Canadian politics. If this is achieved Canadians will unmistakably reaffirm their belief in this country on October 26.

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DR. CHANDER GROVER

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago a human rights tribunal issued a devastating indictment of the National Research Council for its

discriminatory treatment of world-renowned optics scientist, Dr. Chander Grover.

In the words of the tribunal, calling the treatment of Dr. Grover harsh and unfair falls far short of the humiliating, demeaning, and destructive treatment he suffered at the hands of the National Research Council.

This treatment continued even while his case was being heard and decided upon by the tribunal. Even worse, Dr. Perron, president of NRC, and the minister of state for science and technology were repeatedly made aware of ongoing retaliation against Dr. Grover.

I ask both the minister of state for science and technology and the Minister of Justice to investigate and ensure those responsible for this blot on our national reputation are properly disciplined. Until we blot out discrimination we will waste the talent of fine scientists like Dr. Grover.

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[*Translation*]

MINING INDUSTRY

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, for several months I have been speaking in Ottawa on behalf of parties involved in mining exploration and development, the economic development of our resource region Abitibi-Témiscamingue.

For several months the federal government has been conducting negotiations with Quebec concerning the Canada-Quebec Subsidiary Agreement on Mineral Development. As the federal Minister, of Energy, Mines and Resources said in his letter dated August 14, 1992, negotiations were progressing and an agreement might be concluded by the end of this summer.

The mining industry needs a boost, and the people of Abitibi-Témiscamingue are getting impatient. They would like to see this agreement signed as soon as possible.

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[*English*]

LABOUR

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, yesterday we celebrated Labour Day, a time when women and men pause to join with their families to celebrate their contribution to nation building.