

Toronto and indeed throughout Canada as they celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Horse.

The Chinese community is one of the oldest and most distinguished in Canada. Throughout the years they have made an invaluable contribution to the building of Canada and to the cultural mosaic of our country.

The Vietnamese Canadian community has more recently settled but is also a vital part of the cultural life of this country. The Vietnamese have become full and active participants in Canadian society while maintaining the vibrant traditions of their past.

While China and Vietnam have had differences as countries I know that Canadians of Chinese and Vietnamese origin have and will find more that brings them together as Canadians than divides them. Best wishes for a happy and a prosperous new year.

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#### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing):** Mr. Speaker, a recently leaked document from the office of the Minister of Employment and Immigration reveals that \$51.8 million is being cut from the Summer Employment Experience Development Program. That is a 44 per cent cut in the federal government's commitments to student summer employment opportunities.

The Prime Minister has committed himself to making education a priority of his government but the government's commitment to education and its rhetoric are billions of dollars apart. The Minister of Finance has cut \$7 billion in transfers to the provinces for post-secondary education over the next eight years and plans more cuts. He has added a 3 per cent administration fee for student loan applications and hit Canada's universities and colleges and their students with the goods and services tax. Students' fees are being increased across the country while the Secretary of State defends his government's devastating policies.

On top of this high interest rates hurt hundreds of thousands of Canadians trying to pay off huge student loans. All those involved in post-secondary education and concerned about the future of Canada and its young people call upon the Prime Minister and this government to stop the cuts and give Canadians a chance to get the education they need and deserve. The government

should be helping, not devastating our post-secondary education system.

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#### FISHERIES

**Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak about the Atlantic Canada fishing crisis.

We must acknowledge the serious economic problems caused in many areas of the Atlantic region by the sharp decline in fish stocks in Canada's east coast fishery. However, it is equally important to recognize that solutions to those problems will probably not be found in some miraculous revival of the fishery resource. In fact, we may just be stopping in time to avoid incurable depletion.

The first important step toward solutions may well be to reluctantly accept that our fisheries have now reached and exceeded their limits of sustainable development. By so doing perhaps we can better turn our minds and our energies to finding real and lasting answers for present circumstances.

The immediate priority, of course, is to ensure economic support for people in those communities who have critically and unfortunately lost their livelihoods. We probably have the best unemployment insurance program and over all social safety net in the world for those purposes.

The ultimate priority though is to create new economic activities which are sustainable long term. We have good programs for these purposes too, better than ever before with ACOA's mandate, that are already paying major dividends in our Atlantic economy which is still a good one despite the fisheries crisis.

Our most valuable assets always are the traditional capabilities of Atlantic Canadians to cope, to create and to overcome. There is plenty of evidence in the Atlantic regional economy today to prove that. Our most compelling need now is to fully use all of those capabilities and to get on with the job.

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#### CANADA POST CORPORATION

**Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiak):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to protest again this government's callous treatment of its northern citizens. Under a program begun many years ago under a different administration, Canada Post has been shipping food to northern Canadians at special