

## S. O. 31

## NUNAVUT

**Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana):** Mr. Speaker, I believe I speak for all members of this House when I say how pleased I am that on November 3 to November 5 of this year Inuit of the Northwest Territories voted overwhelmingly to their comprehensive land claim settlement agreement. In so doing they voted yes to settling the largest land claim in North America.

At the same time they have affirmed their aspirations to set up the new territory of Nunavut to further this stewardship of the lands and waters of the eastern Arctic and to better manage their own lives.

Through the whole region of Nunavut, 69 per cent of all eligible Inuit voters supported the claim settlement agreement. Of those voting, 85 per cent voted to support the settlement.

This was not only a vote on the claim. Settlement of the land claim is intimately linked to the goal of creating a new territory in the north, that is Nunavut.

Thus Nunavut will be established as a new territory alongside Yukon and Northwest Territories.

May I say that with the territory of Nunavut proposed for the year 1999, it will be a truly memorable inauguration to the 21st century.

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[Translation]

## GRAND-MÈRE ACTION

**Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate *Grands-mères Action* in my riding for their good work against violence and sexism in the media. It is unacceptable that there is so much violence in 1992, and especially that the media do not feel that this issue should be on the agenda.

I believe we must address this problem right now if we really want to ensure a peaceful future for all Canadians.

Violence is unacceptable, whatever the group attacked, and we must correct the problem now. The media have a responsibility to promote a non-violent and non-sexist society and they have a lot of work to do in that respect.

## SMALL BUSINESS

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Small Businesses urged the Canadian Bankers Association to improve access to credit for small and medium-sized businesses in this country. The minister added that the economic recovery was also dependent on a commitment by the banks to provide additional money for loans to new small businesses and generally on the openness of financial institutions to the credit needs of small and medium-sized businesses.

The economy needs help. Canadian businesses must have fair access to credit. This is why I urge the lending institutions to show greater flexibility toward small businesses.

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[English]

## AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, when the federal government laid out GRIP in 1991 it promised a final payment in November 1992. Now the government indicates it will not be in a position to pay producers for wheat and barley until next year.

Why should cash starved farmers wait another few months before they can pay their debts? They are still suffering from the farm aid shortfall of 1990 when the federal government tried to spread the aid package for 1989 and 1991 across that year and the farm debt rose dramatically as a result.

Recent studies show that grain farmers have lost \$6.7 billion since 1986. In Saskatchewan alone this translates into \$106,000 net cash loss per farm on average. The result is that many of them have lost the equity in their farms and have lost their farms entirely, as the recent increase in bankruptcy figures in that part of the country show.

Spreading the aid thinner will not help the situation. If the payments are due now they should be made now and the package should be reassessed because it is totally inadequate.