

The Minister has shown the kind of leadership that has earned him the respect of not only his colleagues and fellow citizens but also of people around the world.

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[*Translation*]

TRANSPORT CANADA

IMPACT OF CANCELLATION OF LEASE ON OUTAOUAIS

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, the facts must be known. Does the Minister of Public Works realize that the Government's reversal of its decision to transfer Transport Canada to the Outaouais region is a flagrant injustice?

This was an opportunity for the Outaouais to demonstrate its competence and its determination to pursue its economic development.

Representatives from the Quebec side of the National Capital Region have taken a professional and calm stance, without making inflammatory or exaggerated statements. They stick to the facts, and they believed that the Government would stand by its decision.

Why was Transport Canada's lease cancelled? It was certainly not because capital expenditures would be necessary, although the Budget says otherwise.

What is the cost of renting from Campeau Corporation, with repairs? Won't this involve capital spending right away for the Government, expenditures that will require immediate payment?

Finally, and most importantly, when and by whom were senior officials at Public Works ordered to negotiate with the Campeau Corporation?

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[*English*]

TRIBUTE TO ALMA WALKER

CELEBRATION OF SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham): Mr. Speaker, Alma Walker, the great lady of Markham, celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday on April 28.

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Last Saturday I attended a reception, along with Alma's relatives and friends, to pay tribute to her. Born in East York, her parents George and Irene Maynard had 13 children, seven girls and six boys. Alma has a daughter Judith, a son Jerry and 11 grandchildren.

In paying tribute to Alma, I want to focus on her over 45 years of public service in elected office in Markham. Alma has achieved many firsts. She was the first woman councillor for the Village of Markham in 1952. She was the first woman mayor of the Town of Markham in 1969. She was the first woman president of the Markham Fair. Alma has also served as a commissioner for Markham Hydro for 33 consecutive years.

Alma, thank you, from the residents of Markham who wish you many more years of health and happiness. God bless.

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CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

CLOSURE OF BASES

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, last week the Government made it clear that it is not willing to act in the best interests of Canada. Nowhere is this more clear than in its wrong-minded plans for the Department of National Defence.

I never thought I would see the day when Canadian troops would be asked by their Government to retreat from Canada. That is what is happening. Seven bases are being closed and seven more are being gutted while we are asked to spend \$1.2 billion per year to maintain Canadian Forces in Europe.

Fourteen Canadian communities are under attack from their own Government. This comes at the same time as the Government has laid waste to the very regional development and retraining programs that these communities now need more than ever before. There is concern, confusion and even fear among those who serve in our Armed Forces.

The defence White Paper is in disgrace. The Defence Department is without direction. It is time to reassess all our priorities and ensure that our Armed Forces have the opportunity they need to properly serve the country and to protect its sovereignty. We owe it to those in our Armed Forces to produce a new White Paper.