

In the opinion of this House, in order to prevent further ecological disaster through the pillaging of trans-boundary fish stock off Canada's east coast, and in order to save an essential national industry and valued way of life for many rural citizens, Canada should take immediate steps to extend its functional jurisdiction to the nose and tail of the Grand Banks. This was put forward by my colleague from Burin—St. George's.

I have listened carefully to the debate today. As my colleague from Burin—St. George's said earlier, this is an environmental crisis. He said that we are all in this together. He suggested that the tone of our debate should be constructive. We are naturally trying to prod the government into taking more aggressive steps but we are not trying to point fingers without coming up with some constructive criticism.

I have been listening all day and I keep hearing the words sustainable development, that we are all operating on the premise of sustainable development. I guess it was in 1988 that my colleague from Restigouche—Chaleur, when he was putting together a bill on forestry, requested in committee that the definition of sustainable development be put right into the act, not just the words, but the definition. It was defined. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

My colleague from Restigouche—Chaleur was very insightful when he requested that definition. When you repeat that and you keep going back to that definition, it is something that every person in the world should understand today. Therefore, when we talk about a situation that is happening in Newfoundland, off the coast of Newfoundland, if we really are as a world community buying into that sustainable development, whether the Law of the Sea is ratified or not ratified, or whatever the limits are in terms of our 200-mile limit, 200 or 250, if we are not operating on the premise of sustainable development, then that is the fundamental environmental law that is being broken. We know now

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that the law of sustainable development is being broken, so what we have here is a serious communications problem.

The minister of fisheries said that he has travelled the world speaking to foreign ministers of fisheries, talking at the United Nations and in all kinds of different international forums. He basically said that nothing was happening. If something as fundamental as an ecological disaster like this is happening and our minister is taking all these steps to communicate what is happening, then there is something wrong with the communications. The communications strategy or the content of the communications is not working. What we have here is an ecological disaster that is worse than the Valdez oil spill. What we have here is something that is as bad as the Brazilian rain forest. What we have here is something that is as bad as the oil spill in the Persian Gulf. Look at the amount of world attention that was garnered for those environmental disasters. This is an environmental disaster no less serious than those three.

I do not want to get hung up on the law. All of these laws are important and I agreed with everything that was said today. Our communications on this environmental disaster are lousy. Sometimes we have to take a lesson from some of our American friends—I hate to admit that. Look at the plight of the farmers in the United States. I see Willie Nelson and his "Farm Aid", which is something he has done for five or six years in a row now. There is not a network in the world that does not cover it, does not bring focus and attention to the issue.

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Maybe we should be looking at something like that. Maybe we should have something like "fish aid". Maybe we should be calling in the Bryan Adams, the Anne Murrays. Maybe we should be using some of that Canadian entertainment talent that is respected all over the world, and say that we have an environmental disaster on our hands here and we need help. We are not going to do it by just debating on the floor of this House.