

*Oral Questions*MINERAL EXPLORATION IN SCHEFFERVILLE AND SEPT-ÎLES
REGIONS—FLOW-THROUGH SHARES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, as my colleague is pointing out, this is not of much help to the Matane workers who are trying to find a job. My question is not about pharmaceutical products. If the Prime Minister wants to know my position on that issue, he just has to read *Hansard* as I have already spoken about it.

Mr. Speaker, the Matane project is important, but unemployment has reached 25 percent in Sept-Îles. I was there a few days ago. Houses are boarded up and unemployment is over 25 percent. This is what I want to ask the Prime Minister. Could he sit down with his Minister of Finance to consider giving the North Shore region, as in the case of the Abitibi, the possibility of using flow-through shares to promote mining development in the Schefferville and Sept-Îles regions and to stimulate the economy of a region whose unemployment rate is totally unacceptable even though the population has gone down from 40,000 to 25,000?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, am I to understand that the Hon. Member, who is Leader of the Liberal Party for Quebec, is now saying that he would like the Liberal Senate to give approval to this legislation so that we may create 1,300 jobs in the Montreal region?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Right Hon. Prime Minister, but both the question and, as a consequence perhaps, the answer, are getting very argumentative.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

MANAGEMENT OF NECHAKO RIVER FLOW—NATIVE
REPRESENTATION

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. While opposing in principle the private ownership and control of rivers anywhere in Canada, I, as many others, would like to congratulate the Minister for saving in perpetuity the Nanika-Morice river systems in their natural state.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fulton: In the face of the profound historic sensitivity and interest in the effects of the Alcan hydroelectric project on the Nechako and Fraser systems, why has the Minister chosen not to involve or appoint even one northern or native representative to participate directly in the flow management of the Nechako?

● (1500)

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend to my colleague, the Hon. Member for Skeena, my thanks for the compliment he has paid in having reached what I think is a landmark settlement of a difficult problem which will permit development to proceed in northwestern British Columbia while at the same time ensuring that the fish stocks are conserved, maintained and enhanced in the future. I thank him for that.

I also want to compliment the Hon. Member in his new capacity as spokesman for the energy industry on behalf of the New Democratic Party. It is going to make for some pretty interesting debates in the House.

In the process of consultation, which led up to the conclusion of this agreement yesterday in Vancouver, we have had many hours of discussion with affected groups in northern British Columbia, in the Hon. Member's own constituency, and that dialogue will continue, as it is continuing today as my colleague, the Minister of State for Science and Technology, travels to meet many of these groups to ensure that they know of our invitation to become fully involved in the plan to implement measures to preserve and enhance fish values. That involvement will continue unobstructed into the long term future.

HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Since Alcan did not deliver on the vague promises it made some 37 years ago in 1950, I would like to ask the Minister why he failed to include in the agreement any terms of reference for Alcan's new hydro project to ensure that the substantial benefits of the development accrue to those northern communities and groups which are affected by this development.

Mr. St. Germain: They will. Come on, Jim, you know they will.

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I think the question has been answered from the rear here.

As the Vice-President of Alcan for British Columbia conceded yesterday, much has changed in 37 years. I am convinced of the commitment of Alcan and the Government of British Columbia, and all parties to this agreement, and of their willingness to live up to the spirit of our fish habitat policy in the agreement they signed yesterday to ensure that benefits flow to the native communities and to all the communities in that important part of British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker: This is the last question of Question Period. The Hon. Member for Algoma.