

*Private Members' Business*

which will protect those who protect us when it comes back for final consideration in this House.

The personal sacrifice of our police officers is inspiring in a day when belief in heroism regrettably is being questioned. Most of the time the public only notices their failures and not their successes. Yet these dedicated professionals continue to serve. Indeed it can be a very thankless job.

• (1955)

I applaud my colleague, the member for Mississauga East, on her motion. I urge all members of the House to recognize the professionalism, personal sacrifice and dedication shown by members of Canada's many police forces, national such as the RCMP and local in every town and city across the country, as they carry out their duties in the service of all Canadians.

They risk their own lives to ensure the safety of Canadians, their person and the security of their property. They risk their own lives so that our lives may not be at risk. They serve us. Let us with deep conviction recognize them with gratitude.

I am confident that my constituents of Winnipeg North join me in supporting this motion and saluting our police forces from coast to coast.

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, many Canadians are probably not aware there are approximately 1,771 police departments in Canada, all the way from the Newfoundland Constabulary to the Victoria City Police Force in British Columbia. There are approximately 55,000 Canadians serving as police officers in Canada. I am not forgetting the important role played by the auxiliary police and the cadets.

I am pleased to hear from my colleague from Manitoba that a growing number of women are now serving in the police forces. We see that in Ontario also.

Let me share a few facts about various levels of policing. First, the RCMP has quite a tradition and history in Canada. Canada is the only country in the world known for its national police force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, RCMP or *la Gendarmerie royale du Canada*. There are approximately 15,000 RCMP officers in Canada. The RCMP made history as one of the first police forces to be called upon by the United Nations secretary-general to serve in peacekeeping operations.

To date the RCMP has assisted in the development of civilian police forces in Namibia, the former Yugoslavia and Cambodia where I had the privilege of observing the first elections from May 23 to May 28. As more countries move from authoritarian systems to democratic systems of government, more and more of our police forces will be called upon to train other police forces in other countries.

The motto of the RCMP is: "Maintain the law". I think we are here to make legislation. The RCMP is there to maintain the legislation that we pass.

The motto of the Ontario Provincial Police, the OPP, is: "Times change and we change with them". It is a motto everyone should keep in mind. The reason the popularity of the government and the Prime Minister is so low is that he did not change with the times. This was evident in the Constitution, the NAFTA, et cetera.

The motto of the metropolitan Toronto police known as metro's finest is: "To serve and protect". On their cars and so on we see that sign: "To serve and protect".

A lot of excellent preventative work is done by local police. I am reminded when I was in the classroom of how the police used to come in and teach kindergarten children safety rules, to stop, look and listen before they cross the street. The police work with a number of community groups to fight drugs and prostitution and to reduce the number of break and enters in larger cities such as where my riding is situated.

I did a survey in my riding recently. In response to a question with respect to law enforcement: "Do you believe that the police should have more power, less power, et cetera" 62 per cent felt that police needed more power to enforce the law while only 2 per cent said that they had too much power.

In response to the question of who should be doing more to fight crime and improve street safety in Parkdale—High Park in the same survey, 72 per cent felt the courts and elected officials should be doing more to fight crime, indicating a high level of community satisfaction with police services in my Toronto riding.

As in other provinces I too have services offered by the police on foot patrol, in cars, on horseback and on bicycles. A new one introduced a year ago is the golf cart. Golf carts are becoming a very important vehicle in parks, especially parks such as High Park. The police now are providing much better service. It was their profes-