

Everyone in Port Hood, and indeed in all of Cape Breton, is proud of their native son. On their behalf I wish to say congratulations to Al MacInnis.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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THE HANDICAPPED

NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, June 4 to June 10 is National Access Awareness Week in Canada, a week for us to focus on ways of improving access for disabled people to all sectors of our society.

Access means removing the physical barriers that stand in the way of full participation by disabled Canadians. It also means changing attitudes, because these are often the most difficult barriers that disabled people face in achieving the goal of integration in housing, education, employment, transportation, and recreation.

This week brings together many groups at the national, provincial, and local levels along with Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada. I would like to congratulate all those involved in striving for access for all Canadians.

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[Translation]

ELECTORAL VACANCY

CHAMBLY—RESIGNATION OF RICHARD GRISÉ

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty to inform the House that I have received a communication notifying me that a vacancy has occurred in the representation, namely, Richard Grisé, Member for the electoral district of Chambly, by resignation. Accordingly, I have addressed my warrant to the Chief Electoral Officer for the issue of a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

I also have a letter, which reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Speaker,

Considering the situation that prevails in the riding of Chambly since the last federal election of November, 1988 and following my guilty plea to various charges at my trial of May 23, 1989, I wish through your assistance to offer my humble apologies, first to you, who presides over this noble House, to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, to the

Oral Questions

members of Cabinet, and to the Members of all political parties; and particularly to my ex-colleagues in the Progressive Conservative Party.

The misdeeds for which I have been convicted and, above all, judged severely, deserve rebuke and are unacceptable from a person elected to the Canadian Parliament. I also wish to offer my apologies to the people of the riding of Chambly who called on me to represent them in 1984 and gave me a second mandate in November of 1988.

My deepest regrets go to my family, to my relatives, to my friends, to the people in my political organization who assisted and supported me so well during my too-short political career and in my life in general.

My Speaker, allow me to offer to you, and to the whole staff of the House of Commons, my sincere thanks for your constant cooperation. It was an honour for me to serve the population of Chambly, as a member of the Government of Canada.

In spite of my errors of judgement, I have always given the best of myself to serve as a member and Chairman of various committees, as President of the Quebec Parliamentary Wing of the Progressive Conservative Party, and especially as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister, for whom I have the highest esteem and the greatest respect.

I wish hereby and through your mediation to offer my deepest apologies to the people of Canada and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to accept my immediate resignation in order to allow this noble institution to be protected from a situation such as this one.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and extend to you, with deepest regrets, my humble acknowledgement.

Richard Grisé,
Member of Parliament for Chambly

• (1420)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE BUDGET

REQUEST FOR FINDINGS OF RCMP

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. You will know, Mr. Speaker, that I am fully aware as Your Honour is that criminal charges are pending against five Canadians. However, there are two distinct issues here. They are eventual proceedings in a court of law and the current proceedings in Parliament.

Cabinet Ministers are accountable for the actions they have taken or have not taken. They are accountable to the highest court in the land, which is the House of Commons and the Parliament of Canada.