

S. O. 21

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

HOUSING

TORONTO—PROPOSED USE OF RAILWAY LANDS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, the recent \$1.2 billion housing proposal by the City of Toronto to build affordable accommodation for 12,000 people offers yet another opportunity for the federal Government to demonstrate a tangible commitment to ease the crisis in affordable housing that has befallen Metro Toronto and other major urban centres.

To date the Conservative Government has failed to respond to proposals to utilize either parts of the Downsview Airforce Base or surplus postal lands for additional and reasonably priced residential units.

Now, in terms of the new St. Lawrence project, which includes 15 acres owned by the Canadian National Railways, a federal Crown corporation, I urge the Government to direct the Canadian National Railway to release these lands and become a co-operative partner in this housing plan.

The Government is quickly running out of time and opportunities. The urban housing malaise demands that the federal Government act swiftly and decisively.

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[Translation]

OCEAN RESOURCES

DEVELOPMENT OF HIBERNIA OIL FIELD

Mr. Gérald Comeau (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, today, all Canadians were delighted to hear the news of the historic decision to proceed with the development of the Hibernia oil site, a project that will involve billions of dollars for the development of this offshore oil field. Thanks to this project, the people of Newfoundland can look to the future with confidence. They can look forward to being on an equal footing with their fellow Canadian citizens, to a future of dignity. While the impact of this megaproject will be felt across Canada the spinoffs will be very substantial for the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec, involving the purchase of supplies, manufacturing and engineering firms. Furthermore, thousand of jobs will be created.

I want to congratulate the governments of Canada and Newfoundland, as well as the members of the consortium who

signed this historic agreement, and I congratulate the citizens of the Atlantic provinces who will benefit from this project.

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[English]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

TRAINING PROGRAMS—IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S ACCESS

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, last Thursday the Conservative Government was given another clear message about its language policy for immigrant women. The largest Roman Catholic women's group in Ontario, the Catholic Women's League, has called for greater access for immigrant women to government subsidized language training programs. These women add their voices to many more groups that have urged progressive reforms of federal policy in this area.

Despite these numerous calls and despite a legal challenge under the Charter of Rights, the Government continues to ignore the fact that its language policy discriminates against women and keeps immigrants in low-paying, dead-end jobs.

Immigrant women need a fair language policy in order to integrate and contribute best to Canadian society. The Government would be wise to avoid a lengthy and costly legal battle, and start negotiating for better programs for immigrant women.

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[Translation]

THE LATE CLAUDE BRUNET, C.M.

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, every person, every society needs role models who live exemplary lives and who impress us by their humanism and warmth. Today, we mourn the passing of Mr. Claude Brunet, the founding president of the *Comité provincial des malades* in Quebec, who championed the rights of the chronically ill, who was the moral and political support of the disabled and the apostle of the sick and all those who received medical care.

Mr. Brunet probably did more for the image of individuals who are stricken by illness than the most sweeping reforms of our health care system. Mr. Brunet was a true advocate, not because of any desire for financial gain but for humanitarian and highly laudable reasons. The passing of Mr. Brunet comes as a shock, but even after his death, he remains a symbol of the urge to live.