

obviously has great potential because it is Canada's only inland seaport to the Arctic. We also believe it is a situation where the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board must ensure that at least 3 per cent of Canada's grain shipments on an annual basis be shipped through the Port of Churchill, and that the Government aggressively pursue additional ways to utilize this important seaport to ship exports other than grain.

CLOSURE OF CFB SUMMERSIDE

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege today to present to the House the duly certified second and final instalment of petitions from 6,500 concerned citizens of Prince Edward Island. This petition was circulated by Mr. Frank Lewis of Radio Station CFCY, Charlottetown, and Mr. Ken Simms of the *Guardian* and *Patriot* newspapers in Charlottetown on behalf of those who wish to retain CFB Summerside as Prince Edward Island's only military base.

Because the socio-economic and emotional impact of this decision is of great concern to all islanders, they request that the Government of Canada reconsider its decision to close the Summerside base.

In addition, the fishermen of Prince Edward Island cannot afford to lose the fishery surveillance role that CFB Summerside now provides, nor can the people of P.E.I. afford to lose the search and rescue surveillance now provided.

VIA RAIL SERVICE

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table two sets of petitions today. The first petition has been certified correct according to Standing Order 36, and has been signed by 433 residents of the City of Thunder Bay and surrounding area, along with other passengers on the VIA Rail Transcontinental. They point out that the Conservative Government, like its Liberal predecessor, has refused to provide VIA the necessary support to fully realize its potential to develop the kind of national passenger rail network that Canadians want and deserve. They call upon the Government to live up to its original pledge to support VIA Rail, to abandon plans for further cuts, and to provide the necessary resources to allow VIA to operate as a modern, effective transportation company rather than a museum.

Petitions

The second petition is signed by 6,839 residents of 72 communities in the Province of Saskatchewan. They basically call for the same thing, that rail passenger service continue to exist as a national network on all main routes in this country and in a manner that provides the best and most desirable travel service for the public in the most efficient way.

CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to table a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 from residents of Kingston and the Islands and the neighbouring constituency of Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington. The petitioners request that the Government live up to its prior election commitments to increase benefits and reduce waiting periods under the Unemployment Insurance Act, and to reverse its decision reflected in Bill C-21, to reduce benefits and extend waiting periods, in accordance with the report originally proposed by the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration, in its first report in the Second Session of the Thirty-Third Parliament. I table this petition on behalf of those petitioners.

VIA RAIL SERVICE

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition certified correct pursuant to Standing Order 36. My constituents call upon the Government to live up to its original pledge to support VIA Rail, abandon plans for further cuts to VIA's budget, and provide the necessary resources to allow VIA to operate as a modern, effective transportation company.

Furthermore, my constituents would like the Government to keep the Vancouver Island VIA Rail service operating.

CLOSURE OF CFB LONDON

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour and privilege to rise again in the House, as I have on numerous occasions in the past number of weeks, to present petitions on behalf of residents of London and area in support of CFB London.

Despite the fact that the Minister of National Defence (Mr. McKnight) has indicated to the mayor and everyone else that it is no use calling or coming to see him because he does not intend to change his mind, it is important to note that the people of London and area feel that CFB