

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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## PETITIONS

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

**Mr. Pat Sobeski (Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty in accordance with Standing Order 36 to present a petition from 1,400 residents of Cambridge and Kitchener who support more severe criminal sentencing for violent crimes. They ask Parliament to pass legislation establishing mandatory minimum sentences for all violent crimes which would apply uniformly to all regions of Canada.

### NORTHERN BENEFITS

**Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, I have three petitions to present today. The first one I have the honour and privilege to present was collected by the Mayor of the northern village of Green Lake, a Métis community in northwest Saskatchewan, a community that experiences 85 per cent unemployment and a high social assistance problem.

The petition calls on the Parliament of Canada to reject the recommendations of the report of the task force on tax benefits for northern and isolated areas released in October. It calls on the government to recognize the financial needs of the people in northern and isolated areas. This is signed by 197 people in the northern community of Green Lake.

• (1510)

The second petition I have is signed by residents of the community of Pierceland, another community in northwest Saskatchewan in my riding of The Battlefords—Meadow Lake. The petition recognizes that residents of northern Canada need a real tax benefit which recognizes the high cost of living and working in areas prescribed as northern and isolated, and calls on the government to reject the recommendations of the task force on northern benefits and declare an equitable and fair tax program for residents of the North.

Mr. Speaker, finally, it is my pleasure and privilege to present a petition signed by an additional 114 people in the town of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. The petition also recognizes that the report of the task force on northern benefits released in October, fails to address

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the realities of the economy of northern Canada, and calls upon Parliament to reject the recommendations of the task force report and to develop a fair and equitable tax benefit program, recognizing the financial needs of the people in northern and isolated areas.

### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present two petitions. The first one is from a number of Canadians who are very disturbed that the GST has been introduced in this House. They call upon the government to take actions to withdraw this tax immediately.

### CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

**Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my second petition is from a number of Saskatchewan farmers who are concerned with respect to the future of the Canadian Wheat Board. They are concerned that oats have been removed from the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board and that wheat and barley may also be removed, completely removing the necessity for a Wheat Board.

They call upon the government to reinstate oats to the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board and provide oats with the same protection that barley and wheat have under the Wheat Board Act.

### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Jack Whittaker (Okanagan—Similkameen—Meritt):** Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to rise today pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of a number of residents of Nova Scotia. These residents petition the Minister of Finance against his proposed goods and service tax, saying that it is an unfair form of taxation because of its lack of regard for the taxpayer's ability to pay. They ask the minister and the government to cease this proposal to shift the tax burden onto ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax, instead of through real tax reform.

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 from University of Ottawa students in my riding of Ottawa—Vanier. These students wish to voice their strong opposition to the imposition of a 7 per cent goods and services tax and join with the hundreds of thousands of citizens opposing this very regressive and unwanted tax.