

*Routine Proceedings*

tomorrow, and I hope that he will listen to us intently at that time.

It is ironic that the government has produced a brand new book praising the technology and transition—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member shares with us his great enthusiasm for his own riding and places in it, but perhaps he is trespassing a little beyond the normal confines of the rules.

## RCMP DRESS CODE

**Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and responsibility to present many petitions today, under Standing Order 36, containing 5,190 signatures from residents of the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.

These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to preserve the distinctive heritage and tradition of the RCMP by retaining the uniformity of dress code with all the recognizable colour and trappings that have had such great historical value to the country.

The pride and *esprit de corps* should not be jeopardized by any concessions to religious or ethnic minorities which result in changes to this truly great police force, its proud traditions and uniform.

This brings the total to over 125,000 names that I have presented in the House to preserve this national symbol.

[Translation]

## OPPOSITION TO TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS ON TAX BENEFITS FOR NORTHERN AND ISOLATED AREAS

**Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi):** Pursuant to Standing Order 36, Mr. Speaker, I present a petition rejecting the recommendations of the Task Force on Tax Benefits for Northern and Isolated Areas. Signatories representing Abitibi's isolated community of Lebel-sur-Quévillon are concerned about the recommendations of the report which will signal the dismissal of a number of workers in these isolated areas. They believe the Government of Canada simply refuses to come to grips with the fact that their daily existence is different, for life in the north is difficult, isolated and costly.

Mr. Speaker, according to the 1989 disparity index of Quebec's isolated communities, Lebel-sur-Quévillon ranks 70th and Fermont 81st.

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[English]

## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 148 and 165.

[Text]

## RRIF/RRSP

Question No. 148—**Mr. Whittaker:**

For the most recent year for which statistics are available to the government (a) what was the total annual cost of tax assistance for (i) RRIFs (ii) RRSPs (b) Has the government estimated the annual cost of eliminating the termination of RRIFs upon the RRIF beneficiary's reaching the age of 90 and allowing RRIFs to be held until the death of the beneficiary and, if so, what is it?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** There are no statistics which directly show the cost of tax assistance associated with saving through registered pension plans (RPPs), registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs), or registered retirement income funds (RRIFs). Since the nature of the tax assistance is a tax deferral, between the time a pension or RRSP contribution is made and the associated retirement benefits are received, rather than a forgiveness of tax, tax assistance costs cannot simply be determined from the level of contributions made in a year. The most recent estimates of the cost of tax assistance for retirement saving were prepared for the Department of Finance publication, *Account of the Cost of Selective Tax Measures*, which was issued in August, 1985. That report contained a section which described alternative methods for estimating the revenue costs associated with tax deferral provisions. It also provided an estimate of \$4.9 billion per year for the federal tax cost of the tax deferrals associated with RPPs and RRSPs (including RRIFs). No attempt was made to separate the RPP, RRSP and RRIF costs—an exercise which would be difficult since funds can be transferred back and forth