

On behalf of the people of Ottawa Centre, Happy Canada Day.

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HOUSING

Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North): Madam Speaker, during National Access Awareness Week I would like to draw the attention of the House to the efforts CMHC has been making to provide greater accessibility in the area of housing.

Under the social and co-operative housing programs, the common areas of each project must be accessible in order to obtain mortgage insurance from CMHC and to qualify for federal subsidies.

The sponsors are required to provide a minimum of 5 per cent of their dwellings as mobility units, ones which can be readily outfitted to meet the specific needs of people with disabilities. Further, the sponsors can obtain full financing and subsidies on the cost of adapting these dwellings to the needs of specific clients.

As well, CMHC has assisted over 9,000 households to adapt their homes to meet the needs of family members with disabilities, through the Residential Rehabilitation Program. We can be proud of the proactive position of CMHC, which brings reality to the slogan for National Access Awareness Week: "Independence, That's Living!"

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PASSENGER RAIL

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Madam Speaker, the federal government has been repeating incessantly that Canadians have given up on passenger rail and that it is the way of the past.

We have known all along that that is not the case. Industrialized countries, our competitors around the world, are moving to modern rail.

The latest to choose rail in Canada is one of our most important centres for innovation, creativity and culture. I am speaking of course of MuchMusic. This June, MuchMusic's veejays have been riding the rails, across the country, with the latest in videos, promoting the first ever Canadian Music Video Awards.

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On behalf of VIA supporters everywhere, I applaud MuchMusic on choosing an efficient, environmentally friendly mode of transportation.

If I can make my own RSVP request, it is for this government to listen to the people and restore the passenger service it cut so foolishly in January.

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NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Madam Speaker, this week national, provincial and local organizations, in co-operation with the Department of the Secretary of State, are marking National Access Awareness Week.

It gives all Canadians an opportunity to work together to answer the following question: What can we do to ensure the integration of all people with handicaps into community life?

As one of my constituents wrote this week:

I just want to comment that to someone who has difficulty climbing stairs, there is no such thing as two short flights of stairs—if there are two sets of stairs, that is automatically too many for comfort. The alternative?

They were told by people to stay in their cars on a ferry, yet there is a sign on the ferry which says that people cannot stay in their cars. They are faced with a double question. Being handicapped, does one leave the ferry? Does one stay in the car? What does one do?

In this week of national awareness things like that should not be happening to handicapped Canadians. I hope that after this week people will have achieved some greater awareness of the difficulties.

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THE SENATE

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the Prime Minister for accepting the nomination of Stan Waters from Albertans and appointing him to the Senate. I offer my congratulations to Mr. Waters.

The process of reforming the Senate is under way.

Don Getty has shown courageous leadership in holding the Senate election and in moving Senate reform to the top of the national agenda.