

Officer-cadets wear Coast Guard uniforms and residence life is highly structured in keeping with the goal of the college to produce competent officers for the Canadian Coast Guard.

The Canadian Coast Guard offers a lifetime career for men and women in a branch of the Public Service concerned with marine matters, particularly safety at sea.

After completing their courses at the college, graduating officers are appointed as junior officers in Coast Guard ships where they serve for three years as watchkeepers, either in the navigation or engineering departments. As they rise in rank and assume greater responsibility, they are assigned to different types of ships where they will broaden their experience and perfect their skills in navigation or engineering, and develop the qualities of leadership and management which will qualify them for more senior appointments in the Coast Guard.

I should also like to quote from a brochure entitled "Coast Guard College", which is published by Transport Canada. It states:

The College accepts 110 new Officer Cadets from across Canada for the training program which starts each August. Applicants may be male or female and must have completed high school including senior level mathematics, senior level physics and one year of training in the second language.

Honourable senators, this college is doing tremendous work and its officers and instructors deserve the highest praise. This is one government project which is devoid of criticism. It receives only the highest praise from those who are aware of the work it carries on. The students come from all across Canada, and to see them on parade, as I have done at various Remembrance Day parades, makes one proud of the young men and women who will be the future officers of the Canadian Coast Guard.

Honourable senators, to go back to the Speech from the Throne, you may have felt that my feelings about it are such that I cannot vote for it. In fact, I think it is a worthless document and I plan to vote against it.

Hon. Frederick W. Rowe: Honourable senators, I rise on a question of privilege. Is there some way we can eliminate this blast of cold, Arctic air that is emanating from behind those honourable senators in this area of the chamber? Unfortunately, Senator Bélisle and I are not in a position to protect our heads from this cold air. I am sure that the temperature is lower than it should be; perhaps the Acting Black Rod or someone else could look into it.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I understand that the cold air we are suffering from now comes from Labrador, and perhaps Senator Rowe might look into it during the recess. It is exceptionally cold and I think it is testing the capacity of our heating equipment, but we will not consider it as a permanent move, if Senator Bélisle wants to cross over to this side in order to listen to Senator Graham's speech.

[Senator Macdonald.]

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham: Honourable senators, I believe Senator Macdonald has shown the way, because I am sure that since he started his speech the chamber has become somewhat warmer; I am also sure that by the time I have concluded my remarks Senator Rowe will be aware not only of an increase in heat but also of comfort if he listens carefully to and digests what I have to say.

[Translation]

First of all, honourable senators, I should like to congratulate our new Speaker very sincerely. Senator Riel has been a friend of mine for a very long time. He has always carried out his duties with the utmost distinction.

I also wish to congratulate Senator Molgat, another friend of old, who has become our Speaker *pro tem*. He is highly qualified for his new job.

At the same time, we regret Senator Marchand's departure. We shall keep an enduring memory of his extensive experience, personal charm and great courage which surely will be an asset in his new position.

All honourable senators are pleased to hear that Senator Flynn is recovering very well and we are looking forward to his return to the Senate where his wit and cool are severely missed.

[English]

The government leader in this chamber has also joined a rather exclusive club, commonly known as the "Bypass Club." As a club it is quite unique. There has never been a membership drive nor do the members compete or try to over-achieve, but thanks to the remarkable skills of our medical profession and the determined resilience of the patients, Senator Olson will soon again take his proper place in the Senate.

Like others before me, I want to congratulate both acting leaders in this chamber, Senator Frith and Senator Roblin, who, in the absence of their respective leaders, have performed their duty in their usual exemplary manner. I want to congratulate those who have preceded me in this debate, whatever their views. I am particularly pleased with Senator Macdonald's reference to the excellent facilities provided to train cadets and future officers at the Canadian Coast Guard in our home area.

● (1510)

Honourable senators, over the past year, we have been coming out of an economic downturn that has been described either as a deep recession or, as some would have it, a real depression. Most certainly, it would have been a serious depression had it not been for the many social safety nets which, unfortunately, were not in place in the horrendous days of the late 1920s and the early 1930s.

I believe that the recession has shown us more clearly than ever before what we must do in order to regain our economic stride. The recession was, in all respects, a staggering blow; it was an experience much worse than most of us could have anticipated. Yet, this country came through it with a degree of toughness and resilience that has given heart, strength and confidence to our combined recovery efforts.