

Routine Proceedings

• (1520)

[Translation]

PETITIONS

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour to table two petitions signed by residents of eastern Quebec, mainly constituents from the ridings of Rimouski—Témiscouata and Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

The date of December 5, 1990 is imprinted on the memory of the people of eastern Quebec as the sad day when the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation announced it was closing its three television stations located in Rimouski, Matane and Sept-Îles. This decision has had a very negative impact on the economy of the region. It has also limited considerably access to information.

These petitioners ask that CBC service be restored to Eastern Quebec so that the region will no longer be isolated and will be able, through this essential communication tool, to make a valuable contribution to the effective development of the francophone and Acadian communities of Canada.

[English]

VIA RAIL

Mr. John Richardson (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to present three petitions on behalf of my constituents.

The first is dealing with the suspected cancellation of the VIA Rail service from Sarnia to Toronto which is the second most patronized route in Canada. This is about the 10th petition I have presented on this.

SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA

Mr. John Richardson (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, the second petition states that the majority of Canadians pray that physicians in Canada should be working to save lives as most physicians agree and they petition we must not sanction suicide or euthanasia.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. John Richardson (Perth—Wellington—Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, the third petition deals with the extension of societal privileges to same sex relationships and the amendments to the Human Rights Act to include the undefined phrase sexual orientation as a grounds for discrimination.

These petitioners have asked that Parliament not amend the human rights code, the Canadian Human Rights Act or Charter of Rights and Freedoms in a way which would tend to indicate societal approval of same sex marriages and/or allow adoptions.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. Gérard Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of tabling, a petition regarding the 1990 closure of CBC's television stations in Sept-Îles, Matane and Rimouski.

According to these petitioners, this decision has had disastrous effects on the people both in terms of the economy and in terms of the right to information. It has resulted in many jobs being lost, has not produced the expected benefits as far as restoring the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's financial health is concerned, and all the while the people of Eastern Quebec have been deprived of a communication tool essential to the effective development of the community.

The petitioners ask that CBC stations in Eastern Quebec be reopened immediately.

[English]

UNITED NATIONS

Ms. Colleen Beaumier (Brampton): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition from the residents of Brampton calling upon parliamentarians to encourage the flying of the UN flag throughout Canada in recognition of the fine work being done by our UN peacekeeping troops throughout the world.

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. Yvan Bernier (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I am pleased to table a petition signed by people from the Lower St. Lawrence and the Gaspé Peninsula concerning the closure of Radio-Canada's regional stations in Matane, Rimouski and Sept-Îles.

The people who took the time to sign this petition denounce the cuts made in the regions by Radio-Canada, the French network of the CBC. I want to point out that Radio-Canada cut almost 2,000 hours of regional programming, so that regional-produced programs have all but disappeared.

When Radio-Canada acts as it did, communities such as ours that are located far from major centres lose not only jobs but mostly a communication tool allowing us in the east to communicate with one another and tell major centres and governments about ourselves.

I therefore table this petition.

• (1525)

[English]

SENIORS

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, in the first instance the petitioners point out that seniors have contributed and continue to contribute significantly to the quality of life that we enjoy in Canada today. They point out that as the population ages there will be a need for more housing, more