

times, has been a part of three Canada Cup championship teams and holds no less than 61 NHL records.

Off the ice Wayne Gretzky has made a tremendous contribution to many charities and organizations, committing endless hours to help less fortunate groups and individuals. Wayne Gretzky's on and off ice dedication and contributions truly make him the great one.

I invite all members to join me in congratulating Wayne Gretzky on his career accomplishments.

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[Translation]

#### FOREST CONSERVATION

**Mr. Philippe Paré (Louis-Hébert):** Mr. Speaker, today I would like to point out that the 25th Forestry Week, organized by forestry and geomatics students at Laval University, is being celebrated. I want to extend hearty congratulations to these young people who are concerned about making the public aware of the importance of preserving our forests.

Let us not forget that trees are among our most important natural resources. From an economic standpoint, in Quebec, forestry accounts for over 4 per cent of GDP, 15 per cent of export revenues, and over 10 per cent of direct employment. The environmental importance of the forest is beyond question: just think of its role as a CO<sub>2</sub> trap.

Again, I congratulate the forestry students at Laval University on their initiative.

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[English]

#### PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

**Mrs. Jan Brown (Calgary Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that the sale of Ginn Publishing Inc. was a bungled deal. The issue will not go away. The sale has become the litmus test of the government's commitment to parliamentary reform and to an open parliamentary process.

The Minister of Canadian Heritage stated yesterday that he had no objection to an investigation by a parliamentary standing committee.

The Liberals speak of an honest and open government but the matter has been discussed in committee and government members have thwarted any opposition attempts for such an investigation. It is easy for the minister to call for an investigation at committee when there is no follow-through for such an investigation.

• (1400)

This government has broken its commitment to an honest and open government over and over. It will not allow this investigation. We saw today it even invoked closure. What kind of open government is this?

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#### NATIONAL ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES MONTH

**Mr. Jack Iyerak Anawak (Nunatsiak):**

[Editor's Note: Member spoke in Inuktitut]

[English]

Mr. Speaker, March is National Aboriginal Languages Month. Today I want to honour these languages, the first languages in this country.

I encourage the members of this House and all Canadians to support aboriginal peoples in their struggle to preserve and promote their languages. Of the 53 aboriginal languages in Canada, only three have a good chance of surviving, one of which is Inuktitut which I just spoke.

The NWT is the only jurisdiction in Canada which recognizes aboriginal languages as official languages. Through the federal NWT Language Co-operation Agreement, aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories receive protection and assistance.

This agreement is significant and I commend its objectives to all Canadians.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL INDUSTRIES

**Mrs. Karen Kraft Sloan (York—Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, this week Vancouver is hosting one of the world's biggest trade fairs and conferences on environmental industries. Approximately 40 countries are represented at the Globe International Trade Fair and Conference. Along with the thousands of visitors, their participation demonstrates that the business of the environment is enjoying an unprecedented boom.

By the year 2000 world markets for environmental industry products will be in the order of \$600 billion annually. In Canada alone the industry includes some 4,500 firms employing about 150,000 people. Its annual sales are now approximately \$11 billion and are expected to double by the year 2000.

Globe 94 provides an important venue toward doing business and bettering the environment. It provides a tremendous opportunity for Canadian companies to demonstrate their innovations and find new suppliers, new buyers and new sources of financing.

Globe 94 highlights how sustainable development fosters the development of environmental industries—