

holds true in Nova Scotia and also in Manitoba. I think that should be looked at very closely as well as where that infrastructure money has gone.

With regard to abandoning rail lines, the member knows the railway is the most efficient way to move products. A lot of these rail lines could probably be repaired instead of abandoned.

**The Speaker:** It being 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 30(5), the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

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## STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

### NATIONAL ART GALLERY

**Mr. Morris Bodnar (Saskatoon—Dundurn, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to tour the National Art Gallery. I was appalled as I toured the Canadiana section at the lack of representation of the many fine Canadian artists from western Canada, in particular Saskatchewan.

One would think that the only western artist since the dawn of Canadian art was Emily Carr. She is the only western artist who is prominently displayed in the gallery with more than one piece of art.

Great artists such as Kereluk rate only one or two representations on the walls of the gallery. Other talented artists such as Allan Sapp, Ernest Lindner, William Pehudoff, Dorothy Knowles, Rita Cowley and many other artists recognized across Canada and some around the world do not even rate one.

I am sure that Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia also have artists who are more than worthy of being displayed.

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[Translation]

### TRIBUTE TO FOUR QUEBECERS

**Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Montreal chapter of the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste honoured four Quebecers for their exceptional contribution to the culture and society of Quebec.

Mr. Paul Piché, a songwriter and signer has been awarded the title of patriot of the year.

Mrs. Myriam Bédard, who won two gold medals in biathlon at the Lillehammer Winter Olympic Games, received the Maurice-Richard Award for her excellent athletic performance.

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Mr. Jacques Bobet, producer, director and scriptwriter at the NFB received the André-Guérin Award for his contribution to cinema.

Finally, the poet, novelist and essayist Fernand Ouellette received the Ludger-Duvernay Award in recognition of the international dimension of his work.

The members of the Bloc Québécois wish to honour these four great figures all Quebecers are proud of.

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[English]

### SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS

**Mrs. Sharon Hayes (Port Moody—Coquitlam, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court of Canada is currently examining the issue of whether or not family benefits should be extended to same sex relationships under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

While the Supreme Court is yet to render a decision on this case, it is important to remember that all such matters should be decided by Parliament and not the courts. It is inappropriate for us as elected representatives to leave it to the courts to design social policy or for the courts to usurp parliamentary authority in these areas. This is a matter for Parliament to decide.

This would ensure that the laws of this land are established and implemented by a democratic process and not by the appointed representatives of the courts. In order to ensure that the voices of the people are truly represented in Parliament this issue must be decided by a free vote.

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### GUN CONTROL

**Mr. Harbance Singh Dhaliwal (Vancouver South, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I stand in the House today to once again voice my complete commitment to stricter gun control legislation.

On November 8, Dr. Gary Romalis, my constituent, was shot while eating breakfast in his kitchen. For Canadians incidents of this nature are horrifying and incomprehensible. They should not have to be endured by any society.

I implore all my colleagues to work toward more effective gun control and crime prevention measures. We must make shootings of this nature a thing of the past.

I feel deeply for Dr. Romalis and his family. I know I am joined by all members of this House in wishing him a full and speedy recovery.

I am very disturbed by the number of shootings on Canadian streets and in our homes. As the federal representative for Vancouver South, I will continue to advocate initiatives that will make our streets and homes safer.