

Oral Questions

Airspace over the North Shore and the Magdalen Islands is covered by the Moncton control unit which offers services in English only; it takes eight to fifteen minutes to obtain services in French.

My question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister tell us why some regions of Quebec still do not have access to effective and fast air traffic control services in French and does he not agree that those regions would be better served by a control centre or unit offering bilingual services?

Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am always surprised to see my colleague's commitment to bilingualism. To answer his question, I would reply that we always try to provide services in both official languages of Canada where it is necessary. There will always be some corridors here and there in Canada where it will be more difficult to offer services in English and French, that is in both languages.

We made all possible efforts, and I think even my hon. colleague will admit that Canada has made fantastic efforts in order to offer services in French in Quebec airspace.

Mr. Michel Guimond (Beauport—Montmorency—Orléans): Mr. Speaker, does the minister not agree that if the coverage of airspace over the North Shore and the Magdalen Islands were transferred to the Quebec control unit, traffic control would be sufficient to keep it operational and Transport Canada could then offer quality services in French to all regions of Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker we are very proud of the air navigational system in Canada. It is as good as any system anywhere in the world.

What we attempt to do in Canada is to prevent the kinds of incidents that would be deplorable whether they occurred in Quebec or any other part of the country.

Our responsibility is to provide a first class air navigational system. That is what we do, and we can provide it from a bilingual province like New Brunswick just as well as we can provide it from anywhere in Quebec.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL HOUSING

Mrs. Eleni Bakopanos (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the parliamentary secretary to the minister in charge of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

On June 8, federal, provincial and territorial housing ministers met in Bathurst, New Brunswick, to discuss among other things a social housing strategy aimed at helping low-income Canadians.

[English]

Could the parliamentary secretary tell us what concrete steps the federal and provincial governments have agreed to in their efforts to house Canadians in need?

[Translation]

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works and Government Services): Mr. Speaker, there were a number of agreements.

[English]

There is agreement to remove and reduce duplication and overlap and to harmonize the building codes in Canada. They have completed consultations on environmental problems but, most important, it was agreed to develop new partnerships, to develop additional strategies to attack social housing, to—

[Translation]

I am saying so for everyone, through the Speaker.

• (1445)

[English]

—establish priority of need in each of the jurisdictions by the end of the summer and to come forward with new concrete initiatives that they will develop from the savings and efficiencies that they have undertaken.

It is a boon for Canadians who earn low income in remote, small, isolated rural and urban areas, as well as for home owners and renters.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

On September 19, 1993 a young lady in my riding was raped by an illegal immigrant. I have in my possession a lengthy criminal record of that individual which reflects sex offences, drunk driving, theft and on and on it goes.

What system is in place to ensure that people like this are kicked out of Canada and stay out of Canada?

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this government does not accept illegal immigrants as much as this member or this party. In fact, tomorrow we will be tabling legislation in the House of Commons to further strengthen the fact that those individuals who come here illegally and who commit crimes against the very system of justice and values that we believe in as Canadians will pay the price. Those amendments will be an effort to further strengthen the laws and those who wish to abuse our laws will pay the price.

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, the minister is going to have a good opportunity today to show how well he backs that up. This young lady agreed to drop the sexual