

Imagine the earful I got from Labradorians as Reform's Atlantic issues critic when they picked up Saturday's newspaper and saw the Prime Minister opening a stretch of road in West Africa built with Canadian money.

Labradorians deserve to know how this Liberal government can spend millions of dollars in Africa when our own citizens go begging for one decent road between Goose Bay and Labrador City.

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MEDICARE

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona, NDP): Mr. Speaker, today I was glad to join with the Moderator of the United Church, Dr. Marion Best, and the member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce in supporting the drive by CAW retirees and the Congress of Union retirees to save medicare.

We played a take-off on the TV game of Jeopardy, answering questions about health care in Canada. At the end we were presented a T-shirt with a caricature of the Prime Minister on it dubbed "Medicare Nightmare".

The Liberals are slowly starving medicare and with it the ability to maintain or enforce national standards. They have renege on the commitment to repeal Bill C-91 and do something about the spiralling cost of drugs and what those costs are doing to our health care system.

The NDP congratulates the Canadian Health Coalition and the CAW retirees and the Congress of Union retirees for the creative way in which they have sought to educate the public and the Liberals about the threat federal cutbacks are posing to medicare.

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VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Mr. Walt Lastewka (St. Catharines, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, approximately one woman is killed by a weapon in Canada every six days. She is often killed in a private home. She is often killed by someone she knows. If she is killed by her partner, chances are she has been killed with a gun.

The victims of violence are often those who suffer in silence. They are our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, and our partners.

The national day of remembrance and action on violence against women is very important. It is a day for us to remember the victims of violence, those who suffer from abuse or from the loss of a loved one who has been taken from them. It is also a day of action. It is a day to promote the rights of victims, victim impact statements, the family violence initiative, more effective peace bonds, harsher sentences for offenders. These are initiatives to empower the victims of violence.

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We must also continue to work locally in our neighbourhoods and communities to promote awareness and openness in helping the victims of violence. Working together, we can make our communities a safer place.

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VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Mrs. Karen Kraft Sloan (York—Simcoe, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the sixth anniversary of the Montreal massacre.

At the Women's World Conference in Beijing, it was agreed that violence against women is not a private issue and that states must exercise due diligence to make sure violence does not occur in the home or elsewhere. At the same conference, Canada introduced and passed a motion that reaffirms rape as a war crime, a crime against humanity. It introduces rape as an act of genocide.

Advances are being made, but there is still much to do, still many barriers to cross, still more awareness to raise, and unfortunately more shelters to keep open.

It is with the memory of the 14 women killed in Montreal on December 6 that we continue to pursue a just society and a better tomorrow.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER TRAINING

Mr. Philippe Paré (Louis-Hébert, BQ): Mr. Speaker, in spite of the strong opposition of all Quebec stakeholders in the labour market, the Minister of Human Resources Development is going ahead with his bill, which, in his own words, seeks to decentralize manpower training to individuals rather than to the provinces.

It is obvious to all Quebec stakeholders that this so-called decentralization is only a farce and does not in any way follow up on the Quebec consensus regarding this issue. On the contrary, it is clear that the minister's project is aimed at allowing Ottawa to keep control over its programs, while trying to make us believe that a decentralization is taking place. Once again, this government is acting in bad faith and is showing contempt for the provinces. Moreover, it shows that it still has not understood the meaning of the results of the October 30 referendum.

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[English]

BALKANS

Mr. Bob Mills (Red Deer, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the foreign affairs minister is so hard-working and dedicated to his job it is scary.