

S. O. 31

The young people from the Sunchild, O'Chiese and Bighorn Reserves provided examples of that pride in art, poems and song.

My compliments go to the organizers from the Rocky Mountain House Native Friendship Centre and the parks staff who provided an opportunity for natives and non-natives to further appreciate the culture and contribution of native Canadians.

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NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

Mr. Bob Wood (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, today marks the beginning of National Tourism Awareness Week and I invite all Canadians to participate in events designed to heighten our awareness of this critical industry.

Not many people know how important tourism is to the Canadian economy. It is our third largest industry at \$25 billion per year, our second largest earner of foreign exchange at \$7 billion, and it contributes \$11 billion in tax revenues to government. It provides employment to all regions of Canada and to all segments of the labour force. In fact, 632,000 people, or 10 per cent of the labour force, derive their living from tourism.

In the near north alone, which includes my riding of Nipissing, tourism generates \$200 million annually and \$1 billion across all of northern Ontario. Yet this government continues to neglect this key industry. At a time when competition for the world travel market is intensifying, we should not be tacking on an additional 7 per cent to the cost of our tourism products. Indeed, when the government sees fit to slash the tourism promotion budget from \$35 million to \$20 million, we have to question its commitment to this vital industry which will be the world's largest by the next decade.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, although the government is always ready to meet with its corporate friends, it has once again refused to meet with the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

Were the government listening, it would hear a reasoned voice on the subject of peace and disarmament. Women have been at the forefront of the peace movement. Agnes Macphail, the first women MP and a member of my party, worked tirelessly for the cause of peace and international co-operation. New Democrats are proud to continue that tradition.

The NDP has been speaking out about the considerable economic advantages of peace and disarmament. Savings in defence spending will produce what has been called a peace dividend. Canadian women are demanding that these funds be used to promote improvements in the human condition. The peace dividend can and must be part of a fundamental restructuring of global priorities. Much can be achieved in the current political climate. What is required is leadership.

The time is long overdue for a complete and progressive update of our foreign and defence policy. When will this government listen to the voice of women?

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MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Mr. Ross Belsher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, ten years ago today then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, at the height of the referendum debate, told a gathering in Montreal's Paul Sauvé Arena that a "no" vote would lead to a renewal of federalism. The majority of Quebecers who voted no, and in fact the rest of Canada, believed that this renewed federalism would involve all provinces, including Quebec.

As we all know, in 1982 Canada patriated her Constitution. Mr. Trudeau affected a renewal of federalism. The problem was and still is that Quebec was left out.

In 1987, the Prime Minister joined all ten Premiers in drafting the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord. This accord fulfilled the promise of renewed federalism, unkept for seven years.

Ten years have passed since Quebec voted yes to Canada. Ten years have passed with Quebec out in the constitutional cold. Ten weeks have passed since I encouraged Canada's 11 First Ministers to reconsider their positions and find a way around the constitutional impasse that we now face.