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## THE MEDIA

COALITION FOR FAMILY VALUES—CHILD CARE RELEASE  
IGNORED

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, I think media people would describe themselves as objective and fair in reporting news. Yet a news release put out by the Coalition for Family Values was greeted by the media with silence.

This release supports the *Report of the Special Committee on Child Care*. Since it has not received any media attention I would like to put their comments on record. They complimented the committee for bringing "a refreshing perspective and common sense to the child care debate". They went on to say that "no one apart from federal Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp, and a few others, has bothered to ask what is in the best interest of the children themselves or who is best equipped to meet their needs".

What the Coalition for Family Values likes about the report is that, "unlike the universalists, the special committee recognizes the diversity of Canadian families and that the primary responsibility for raising children is with the parents". I congratulate the Coalition for Family Values for their insight. I know the news media would not want this one to slip by.

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## HOUSING

## NEEDS OF FAMILIES HEADED BY SINGLE WOMEN PARENTS

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, a report released last week by the Canadian Advisory Council for the Status of Women points out how poorly Canadian housing policy is serving single women, especially mothers.

Although households led by women are the largest group living in public housing, project plans rarely take into adequate account needs for child care, public transport, shopping centres, or even a safe environment.

Owning a home means security, but if you are a woman heading a family you are far more likely to be a renter. That means insecurity, fluctuating rental markets, low vacancy rates, the changing winds of government policy, and the loss of inexpensive housing to gentrification. Some 62 per cent of female-headed households are tenants, compared with only 30 per cent of households headed by men.

The report also looks at the special problems of native, immigrant, and disabled women as well as teenaged mothers and battered women, and finds government policy wanting. I urge the Government to listen to the concerns raised in this report and take concrete action to correct them.

[Translation]

## NATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK

## NEED TO USE CHEMICAL PRODUCTS PRUDENTLY

**Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today to say a few words about National Soil Conservation Week, being held from April 13 to April 17.

Mr. Speaker, soil erosion is a problem that ought to be a concern not just of our farmers but of all Canadians who want to ensure that their children and grandchildren will be able to depend on our land for food.

Mr. Speaker, although most Canadians will find this hard to believe, because of soil deterioration, Canada's ability to feed its population will decline unless we start making more prudent use of chemicals and other products that are largely responsible for the deterioration of about 20 per cent of the arable land in this country.

I would urge all Canadians to participate in this week's activities and, above all, to consider conservation when they start getting their garden plots ready this year. Soil conservation must become a priority with us all, and in concluding, I wish to commend Agriculture Canada for this initiative, and I hope that with the provinces, the Department will find a way to maintain the quality of our soil, that great national resource.

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[English]

## CANADIAN JOBS STRATEGY

## EMPLOYMENT TRAINING BY PROFIT-MAKING ENTERPRISES

**Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, organizations such as the Toronto-based Community Coalition on the Canadian Jobs Strategy are directly involved in delivering federal job training programs and are knowledgeable about how the programs are working. A major concern is that the Canadian Jobs Strategy is increasingly geared to training by profit-making enterprises, although the not-for-profit sector has an established track record in providing effective training for those identified as employment disadvantaged.

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A second concern is that eligibility requirements are rigidly applied and more restrictive than in the past, with the result that people in need of job training—immigrant women and sole-support mothers in particular—are shut out of the programs which could help them.

We all want to see more Canadians participating fully in the job market, with more of the skills Canada needs for a strong economy.