

The provincial government is acknowledging the value these centres bring to each community, while in stark contrast the Conservative government's budget once again says no to women, no pay equity, no child care. Know your place.

We are women who know our place all right. Our place is one of equality. On International Women's Day and every day I urge you to think of building a world-wide movement for social justice, for positive change for all people, for without a dream and a vision where would any of us be?

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## PETITIONS

### JUSTICE

**Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I have several hundred petitions to present with many thousands of signatures from my own riding of Hamilton Mountain, from around the Hamilton area and indeed from right across Canada.

These signatures are to be added to the over 250,000 signatures that have been presented to the clerk by me. There are many thousands that have been presented by other members of Parliament.

These petitioners feel that there are serious deficiencies in the criminal justice system. They feel that sentencing in crimes of violence does not appropriately reflect society's abhorrence of violence in order to act as a true deterrent to protect the public by removal of the offender from society.

These petitioners request that Parliament recognize that crimes of violence against a person are serious and abhorrent to society. They ask that the government amend the Criminal Code of Canada, the Bail Reform Act of 1972 and the Parole Act accordingly.

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I too have a petition from hundreds of individuals from my riding of York West.

The petitioners largely recognize that the drug abuse situation in metropolitan Toronto is unfortunately on the increase, ruining the futures of our young and the livelihoods of families.

## Government Orders

They are asking that the Government of Canada amend the Narcotics Control Act where seizures coming from the assets of a drug offence or offender are immediately channelled into general revenues in the federal coffers in Ottawa.

The petitioners are asking that this be amended so that part of the moneys remain with our local police forces and local organizations that are clearly on the leading edge of battling this wave of drugs.

I hope that the Solicitor General will take stock of the countless people who are requesting that so we can win this battle in the name of our young, our families and our communities.

## FINLAND

**Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honour for me today to present this petition on behalf of over 100,000 Canadians whose parents either came from Finland or were of Finnish origin.

Thunder Bay is extremely proud to have in the area I represent the greatest community of Finnish people in the world living outside of Finland. It is truly a momentous occasion as much as this is the year that Finland is celebrating 75 years of political independence and political freedom.

The petitioners that I represent here from Thunder Bay ask that the good relations and the continuing good spirit that exist between Canada and Finland continue to exist with spirit and freedom for the two great countries.

• (1550)

## GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present a petition which reflects the ongoing fight by the New Democrats to scrap the very unfair GST.

These petitioners are primarily from the interior of British Columbia. They call upon the government to bring in an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations and call for real progressive tax reform in Canada.