

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 16, 1994

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

[English]

COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the students of my riding of Restigouche—Chaleur have benefited from a unique partnership of the government and three of North America's multinational software firms.

Organized by Industry Canada the computers for schools program is allocating hundreds of pieces of used government computer equipment to schools all over Canada.

[Translation]

My riding of Restigouche—Chaleur has already received 20 new computers. This is recycling in the 1990s. In addition, the major computer companies allow old computer programs to be transferred in order to benefit students. This is understanding in the 1990s.

[English]

A partnership between the public and private sectors is benefiting New Brunswick students and helping nurture a culture of learning and innovation. I would like to congratulate all those involved.

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[Translation]

LOUIS RIEL

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata, BQ): Mr. Speaker, 109 years ago today, Louis David Riel, the Métis hero, was hanged, an event that caused turmoil and indignation among French Canadians. A crowd of fifty thousand gathered on the Champ-de-Mars, in Montreal, to hear Honoré Mercier speak his now famous words of tribute.

The prime minister of the day, John A. Macdonald, was careful not to have Riel tried in his native province, where he had led the struggle to have the fundamental rights of Canadian Métis respected.

In order to redress this historic injustice, the Bloc Québécois is today tabling a bill to revoke the conviction of Louis Riel.

Louis Riel was hanged because he was a Métis, because he was a francophone, because he went to the defence of his nation. His execution by hanging is one of the darkest moments in our history. A refusal to acknowledge it is a refusal to understand the present and a refusal to build a future.

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[English]

BARRIE'S NORTH COLLEGIATE SKI TEAM

Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House today to congratulate the student athletes of Barrie's North Collegiate.

The junior boys Nordic ski team has been awarded the prestigious honour of representing Canada at the 1995 International Schoolsport Federation ski event. They will be travelling to Italy in February to compete with other student athletes from around the world.

It is encouraging that these young people have chosen to channel their energy and pursue athletic endeavours. They are a source of pride to their parents, their classmates, their teachers and their community.

I believe it is important to recognize that the vast majority of our young people are hard working and want to be involved and committed citizens of Canada.

The team is raising \$15,000 for this trip from private sources and I encourage their efforts.

I congratulate the team members: Clayton Parent, Joe Tuck, Matt Goodman, Doug Smith, Chris Hogan, and Jason Van Noortwyk, and their coaches Ann Scully and Cathy Cudmore on receiving this honour. I wish them all the very best in Italy.

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LOUIS RIEL

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, many Manitobans and Canadians remember Louis Riel today.