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The federal justice minister, who was responsible for appointing a replacement, has failed to do so. She has even refused to provide an explanation for her delay, just that it should not be too much longer. Her inaction has frustrated the local detachments of the RCMP and has created hardship for countless people who are served by this important court.

Last summer a sexual assault case was thrown out because the case had taken too long to come to trial. There was no judge to hear it. Victims of family break-up and violence suffer as decisions on custody and support payments are put off. Backlogs are growing each day.

Six weeks ago, the justice minister promised me that a replacement would be named shortly. We waited, yet heard nothing. Two weeks ago, she promised there would be a judge by the end of March. Still nothing. Why does she not do her job and name a replacement now?

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VIMY RIDGE

Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago this week, Canadian forces won one of the most significant victories of World War I when they took Vimy Ridge.

At first light, on April 9, 1917, four Canadian divisions attacked. British Columbians were side by side with Calgarians. The Van Doos of Quebec stood shoulder to shoulder with the Highlanders of Nova Scotia. The British had not been able to take Vimy Ridge, neither had the French, but the Canadians did.

The victory was not without cost, 3,000 men died. The casualty list exceeded 10,000. Three of the four Victoria Crosses won at Vimy were awarded posthumously.

The Canadian war record, crowned by the achievement at Vimy, won for Canada a separate signature on the peace treaty ending World War I. It has been said that Canada became a nation at Vimy Ridge and at a time when we are thinking about what being Canadian means, Vimy stands as a grim and glorious reminder of

those who brought us together by giving everything for our country. We will remember them.

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ROTARY CLUB OF ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rotary Club of St. John's, Newfoundland for having raised \$183,000 for a new shelter for battered women.

This fund raising effort clearly shows that men and communities want to be part of the solution to eliminate violence against women. For more than 20 years, small groups of women have been working alone, setting up shelters, providing the counselling and services, raising funds, lobbying governments, educating the public on violence against women. Many women are burned out from having spent a lifetime of putting the needs of others before their own.

I am pleased that these women no longer need to continue the struggle alone. Unless we all join together the way St. John's has, violence will always be a part of our lives.

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of National Wildlife Week, I would like to invite members of this House to join the Minister of State for the Environment and others for a nature tour around Parliament Hill tomorrow. Two biologists from Environment Canada will be our hosts for this 20-minute walk to discover the wildlife and habitat surrounding our home away from home.

After the walk, hon. members are invited to add a personal wildlife touch to a nature painting that will be set up in the rotunda. Members will also be able to view displays and publications from several wildlife organizations and government agencies in the Hall of Honour. The walk will begin at 10.30 a.m. leaving from the west doors of the Centre Block.

As the minister said in this House last week, National Wildlife Week was created to increase Canadians awareness of wildlife issues. We too can better appreciate