

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I urge all members, and indeed all Canadians, to join with their communities in celebrating the achievements of our seniors.

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[Translation]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, on March 14 this year, the ITAC committee (Industry, Tourism, Agriculture and Commerce) of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell sent a letter to the Prime Minister stating the following facts:

That eastern Ontario has suffered a substantial loss of industrial jobs and that the unemployment rate in our communities in eastern Ontario is twice the national average;

That a number of federal and provincial programs have been cancelled, “thanks” to this government;

That the federal government closed its regional development office for eastern Ontario; and

That the federal government is responsible for social and economic development assistance to disadvantaged regions like ours.

I support the demands of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, and I want to ask the government to establish a regional development program for eastern Ontario in order to help Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, Stormont—Dundas, Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke and other ridings in dire need of assistance.

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[English]

ANDREW DES LAURIERS

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday evening, Andrew Des Lauriers, a North York fire captain, was trapped in a tragic blaze in Don Mills. He was put on life support at Toronto General Hospital but despite the hopes and prayers of family and colleagues, Andrew died last night.

I want to convey my condolences to his family and friends. I want to pay tribute to Andrew and all fire-fighters across Canada for their bravery and dedication.

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My son-in-law, Mark Zaorski, has been a fire-fighter in North York for eight years. He was one of the dozens of fire-fighters trying to contain this tragic blaze.

Fire-fighters are always ready to protect our lives and property, putting their own lives at risk time and time again. Canadians owe these men and women much gratitude and respect.

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WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, farmers are being sent a bill for a \$41 million mistake made by the federal government.

The government paid out interim cheques under the Western Grain Stabilization Program about a year ago, based on a guess on how much the farmers' crops would be worth for the last three years. It was not until last August when the program ended that it took a second look and found its mistake.

With the Saskatchewan election pending no decision was made. But now, farmers who had no say in how much they received from the program in the first place are being billed and not being told why. Even farmers who had left the land in 1989 are receiving bills of up to \$750.

The grains and oilseeds minister acknowledges this is a difficult time to be asking farmers for cash. He claims, however, the government has to collect and has given farmers until July 15 in which to respond.

Last year's deficit was \$2 billion more than estimated. Does this mean other Canadians will be receiving bills demanding repayment for the government's overspending too?

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SUN AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, the week of June 1 to 7 has been proclaimed Sun Awareness Week in Canada by the Canadian Dermatology Association.

In an effort to stem the ever-increasing number of people developing skin cancer, Health and Welfare Canada and the Canadian Dermatology Association are reminding Canadians of the need to protect against over-exposure to the sun.