

Oral Questions

[English]

CANADA POST

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Madam Speaker, this Conservative government is intent on closing down rural Canada. Canadians in rural Canada are being treated as second-class citizens by Canada Post and this government. We now see their secret agenda.

The village of Newbury, Ontario, like many other municipalities across Canada, has asked to be given the right to run its postal service as Canada Post is closing down the local post office.

Canada Post wants these communities to buy the postal buildings but will not allow them a priority bid to continue to provide quality postal service. Why? Because Canada Post is afraid that once the municipalities provide first-class postal service to rural Canadians rural Canadians will rightfully ask why Canada Post could not.

I call on this government to reverse this unfair policy and to provide all Canadians with equitable postal service. I ask the minister today to allow municipalities like Newbury the opportunity to provide postal services to their citizens as an option, rather than go the route of privatization.

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FORESTRY

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Madam Speaker, the United Nations is sponsoring an international convention on proper forest policies to be pursued by member countries by the fall of 1991.

The need to recognize forest practices that allow for proper harvesting and the preservation of unique areas must be developed. In Canada, this policy can be developed if we have some signed forest agreements in co-operation with the provinces so that we can obtain and have a truly sustainable forest industry.

I call on the Government of Canada to announce its intention to participate in the development of these policies and hold full public hearings so that we can have a truly sustainable forest industry.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Madam Speaker, last week I was pleased and honoured to attend a ceremony transferring responsibility for family and children's services for native people in Nova Scotia from the province of Nova Scotia to the Micmac Family and Children's Services Organization.

This is the first time responsibility for family and children services has been turned over to native people in Canada and it is another important step toward self-determination. This is important because native adults will now be able to apply their standards and culture to family and children services. It is even more important to the children who see the adults managing the plan as role models and show at a very early age the responsibility for their futures is in the hands of native people.

I want to congratulate Joan Gloade, Chief Lawrence Paul, the staff of the regional office of Indian Affairs in Amherst and all others involved with this exciting step forward on the part of native people.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister.

I understand that this morning Senator Murray, the Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations, and senior officials of the government met with leaders of the Manitoba Assembly of Chiefs in Winnipeg.

It is reported that Senator Murray and officials presented a new series of proposals to the aboriginal leaders with a view to breaking the impasse over the 1987 constitutional amendment which currently exists in the Manitoba Legislature.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House what exactly was contained in these proposals and what has been the response of the leaders of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to these proposals?