

PCBs to our groundwater is serious enough to warrant a government sponsored and funded initiative.

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THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ASSIST

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, "Persons with disabilities have the right to participate in all aspects of the economic, social and cultural life of Canada". Following the Prime Minister's "Declaration on the Decade of Disabled Persons" in 1985 was the announcement of the federal-provincial-territorial meeting of responsible Ministers earlier this year.

Considerable progress has been achieved by the Government toward this objective. This includes housing and transportation measures, improvements in employment opportunities, and economic incentives, such as increases in Canada Pension Plan disability benefits and greater deductions for income tax purposes. We still have a long way to go but our Government has certainly started off on the right track.

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● (1405)

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING NATIVE CANADIANS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, Canadians were touched by the moving sincerity of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Fort Simpson in the Northwest Territories.

The Pope championed the cause of our native peoples in seeking self-government and a just land claims settlement.

Unfortunately, these goals are still some way off from attainment. In the meantime, natives of Canada continue to suffer social, economic and health problems which most other Canadians would find unacceptable, according to the Canadian Public Health Association.

In the Association's most recent journal, they also point out that only 50 per cent of native on-reserve houses have running water and sewage disposal, that 10 per cent to 15 per cent of natives suffer from diabetes compared to a rate of 2.2 per cent for the rest of Canadians, and that infectious and parasitic diseases remain as significant risks to the northern Canadian population.

Clearly, in the spirit of Pope John Paul's visit the federal Government must do significantly more to address these public health issues which are affecting our native Canadians.

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Yet too often the outcome is simply the movement of natives from reserves to central cities where the federal Government refuses to accept responsibility.

Perhaps the Pope's visit will remind the Government how much still needs to be done with our native population right now.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S POSITION ON FLOW THROUGH SHARES

Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, the three words "flow through shares" themselves generate visions of economic development in the northern regions of our country. The same three words send shivers down the spines of the socialist Members opposite.

Last December the finance critic for the New Democratic Party rose in the House and stated that no one but the rich benefit from flow through shares. I challenged his statement during that debate on Bill C-23 and I challenged his ignorance of the North again in January.

Now I understand that this same critic has stated that the NDP actually endorses flow through shares. What has caused this 180-degree change in direction?

Could it be that the NDP saw the screaming headlines and negative editorials from across the North? Could the NDP have been talking with the United Steelworkers whose employers depend so dearly on continued exploration and development? Could that Member and his Party be attempting to mend the damage done by their policy against flow through shares?

They were against flow through shares nine months ago, and for them today. Where will the NDP be tomorrow? Can the NDP finance critic tell the House?

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COMMUNICATIONS

MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, five months after the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture submitted to the House its extensive fifth and sixth reports on specialty services and broadcasting legislation, the Minister of Communications (Miss MacDonald) chose this morning to elaborate on her four and one-half page meagre response.

In her original non-comprehensive report she raised four questions, while supplying negligible responses. This morning