

[English]

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, across the country we see horrifying examples of ignorance about violence against women.

A judge in Ottawa, in a wife battering case, said he was not going to worry about the woman being beaten. The same judge last year acquitted a man who threatened to rape three women because, according to the judge, these threats did not harm the women.

In British Columbia, a judge said a three-year-old girl was sexually aggressive, thus provoking her own abuse by an adult male.

In Manitoba a judge, said that it is sometimes okay for men to slap women around and he was told by a review that there was nothing improper in his remarks.

In Nova Scotia, a judge was removed from the bench for telling women to return to and to obey their abusive husbands. Also in Nova Scotia, a judge was given an absolute discharge for assaulting his own wife.

In Ottawa last spring, a man was given an intermittent 90-day jail term for beating his wife's head in with a baseball bat. She spent a month in a coma.

I call on this government to take concrete action to educate judges about violence against women.

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[Translation]

SITUATION OF PEOPLE IN ISOLATED AND NORTHERN AREAS

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the task force on tax benefits for isolated and northern areas did not respect the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement reached between the Governments of Canada and Quebec, the James Bay Energy Corporation, the James Bay Development Corporation, the Quebec Hydro-electric Commission and the James Bay Cree.

The villagers of Waswanipi and Mistassini were not consulted by the task force on chapters 14, 16, 18, 19, 25, 26 and 28 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Cree-Naskapi Agreement.

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The final report of this task force makes no mention of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the inquiry into regional disparities conducted by Quebec in October 1989.

Mr. Speaker, the isolation of the Cree villages of Mistassini and Waswanipi is a reality in Quebec and in Canada.

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[English]

JUSTICE

Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North): Mr. Speaker, anti-pornography legislation is necessary but can only address the most explicit and obvious types of anti-social material. Mainstream pornography is far more insidious and pervasive in its impact on societal attitudes. Media studies education identifies positive and negative human values underlying media presentations. It helps students to recognize and deal with negative stereotyping, subliminal messages that create rape myths and make violence and domination of women, children and occasionally men appear sexually attractive.

Under the existing copyright legislation and the proposed exemptions, creators are able to prevent teachers from discussing and critically evaluating their material in the classroom.

The moral rights of creators should not be placed above those of other members of society. Educators must be allowed to address negative values inflicted upon us by the media. The commercial value of copyrighted material should not given precedence over the nurturing of positive human values in our society.

The Minister of Communications must bring in exemptions to the copyright legislation that will allow media studies education to continue legally.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, it was one ago and four months ago when Rita Siliwa, a Canadian citizens of 11 years of age, went to Iraq to visit her natural parents. Rita had been adopted by her uncle in Canada when she was 14 months old. She had since spent her life as a Canadian learning Canadian values and believing in Canadian principles and human rights and justice.