

the Parliament of Canada represent all Canadians, and that includes Quebecers. If Parliament decides to consult Quebecers and other Canadians, we will do so.

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[English]

### JUDGES

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Madam Justice Wilson says that too many Canadian judges have a gender bias. Madame Justice L'Heureaux-Dubé and Mr. Justice Gonthier agree with her. The Minister of Justice says mandatory education for judges interferes with their independence.

Will the Prime Minister act upon the suggestions of the Supreme Court Justices and convince his Minister of Justice to implement mandatory gender sensitivity training today?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to precisely this very important question, we have taken the number of federal judges I believe from 33 when I came in as Prime Minister to 100. Rosalie Abella I think was our hundredth appointment last month.

My hon. friend says it is not the issue. Of course it is the issue. The important thing is to put women in positions of decision-making in this country at the highest level, and that is exactly what we are doing. We have increased the number of women on the Supreme Court. We appointed last month the first woman Chief Justice in history of an appellate court in Alberta, Cathy Fraser. Bev McLachlin was the Chief Justice of British Columbia.

We have increased from 37 to I believe 100 the number of women in the Federal Courts. I think it is very important that governments proceed to appoint high quality women to positions of decision-making so that justice can then follow.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I am edified, I am delighted, I am thrilled that the Prime Minister has appointed all these wonderful women. Unfortunately and with the greatest of respect to the gentlemen here

### Oral Questions

and across the land, the majority is still men. Indeed the National Judicial Institute said that 40 per cent of these judges have not taken gender sensitivity training that is available to them.

Unless the Prime Minister intends to fully implement an all-female bench in every court in the land, would he tell us how he is going to ensure Canadians are not subject to sexual stereotyping in the courts.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** I cannot give a complete answer to that but I can give an important beginning. Just the other day I was telling the Minister of Justice that I thought the member for Halifax had all of the qualities for a judicial appointment.

**Ms. Clancy:** I bet. Flattery will get you nowhere.

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### DAVID MILGAARD

**Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James):** My question is for the Prime Minister. It relates to the David Milgaard case. Last fall the Prime Minister spoke to Mrs. Milgaard and expressed sympathy for the plight of her son. Since then his murder conviction has been quashed.

As the Prime Minister well knows, Milgaard's name is still in legal limbo. Due to Saskatchewan's decision to stay charges against Mr. Milgaard, he is unable to bring forward evidence which might clear his name.

In view of these circumstances and the Prime Minister's apparent sympathies, why will his government not consider compensation for Mr. Milgaard?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is quite right. I met Mrs. Milgaard in Winnipeg and talked with her. She pointed out the dilemma as she saw it and the problems, and I discussed it with the members of the government. I am very happy for the results the Minister of Justice caused to ensue pursuant to the decision of the court. I am not sure, but I do not believe that the Supreme Court said that the murder conviction was quashed. I do not believe it did.

• (1500)

**Some hon. members:** No.