

The awesome power of nature and the staggering levels of loss of life and property are exhibited in a special supplement of the August 7 edition of the *Edmonton Journal*. Copies are available for all Members of Parliament. I thank the *Edmonton Journal* for making these supplements available for distribution.

The magnitude of tornado power is beyond comprehension. Loaded semi-trailer trucks are flung about like children's toys, multi-storey steel I-beam buildings are flattened in a few seconds, and people's homes and lives lie crushed and shattered.

If there is a silver lining in all tragedy, surely in this case it is the blessing of being Canadian. In the wake of the July 31 tornado, which shredded the lives of so many, there exists a specific characteristic that binds us all—we have again acted out the fact that we are the keepers of our brothers and sisters.

As powerful as a cyclone can be, which tears apart homes, makes swizzle sticks out of steel beams, and lifts and smashes oil tanks, it has not daunted the Canadian spirit of generosity. Albertans in general and Edmontonians in particular are forever thankful for the warm assistance received from Canadians everywhere.

The outpouring of assistance from all parts of Canada has been overwhelming and, as chairman of the Alberta caucus, I wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the generosity of Canadians and for the fortunate fact that we are Canadian.

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## INDIAN AFFAIRS

### TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, early last month the head office of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada directed its Ontario regional office to close seven of 10 district offices next spring, overruling that office's recommendation of a gradual phase-out. The transfer of program administration and delivery to band governments and tribal councils is of course a process which we in the New Democratic Party support and promote as a fundamental move toward the eventual self-government of aboriginal communities.

However, the transfer of responsibilities in a unilateral, hasty, and simultaneous fashion will not meet the needs of aboriginal governments for a smooth transition and could instead disrupt services to aboriginal people as drastically as it will affect the careers of public servants.

What is required is a phased, co-ordinated, and carefully paced transfer of resources and responsibility which will allow the fair and equitable resolution of problems as they arise and give displaced public servants every opportunity to accept internal transfers, to initiate career moves, or to enter the

## Edmonton Tornado

service of aboriginal governments with appropriate arrangements for continuation of their benefits.

Ontario's aboriginal governments are willing to accept far wider responsibility, but not without the proper identification and allocation of resources adequate to their newly acquired tasks.

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## NEW MEMBERS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Chief Electoral Officer certificates of the election and return of the following Members:

Ms. Marion Dewar, for the electoral district of Hamilton Mountain.

Mr. John James Harris, for the electoral district of St. John's East.

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin, for the electoral district of Yukon.

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● (1420)

## NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

Marion Dewar, Member for the electoral district of Hamilton Mountain, introduced by the Hon. Edward Broadbent and Ms. Pauline Jewett.

John James Harris, Member for the electoral district of St. John's East, introduced by the Hon. Edward Broadbent and Mr. Rod Murphy.

Audrey McLaughlin, Member for the electoral district of Yukon, introduced by the Hon. Edward Broadbent and Mr. Nelson A. Riis.

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## DISASTERS

### EDMONTON TORNADO—CONDOLENCES AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express, on behalf of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and the Government of Canada, and I am sure on behalf of all Members of the House, our deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and families of those who suffered during the Edmonton tornado on Friday, July 31. Tragically, 27 people lost their lives as a result of the tornado and approximately 200 were injured.