

*Government Orders*

As many will remember, the agreement involved a substantial amount of money, \$106 million, from Western Diversification. It is interesting that the forest companies have now been compensated. The loggers that were affected have been compensated. Over \$12 million in just one part of the agreement has been spent for reforestation in a replacement fund for those areas removed from forest tenure. Regrettably, almost all of that has been spent off the Queen Charlotte Islands, not in Gwaii Haanas, not in areas that had been harvested, but rather in other areas of the tree farm licence.

It is urgently important that this be passed now. I understand there is goodwill in the House to get through as much of this bill as we can today so that it can go on to the other place for passage.

I have reviewed the wording that has been worked out between the Council of the Haida Nation and officials of Justice Department and Environment Canada. I understand it is acceptable on all sides so that an appropriate amendment could take place today so that this can be put in place.

There should be no misunderstanding. The Council of the Haida Nation went to great lengths more than two years ago in a binding referendum. An agreement was passed in relation to what we are doing today. That referendum agreement is running out of time. May 5 was the deadline that only by the grace of the Haida has been extended to allow this debate to take place and for this bill to be passed.

The area is cherished by so many Canadians as a symbol. It may be an area that they will never get to, but it is an area that they recognize the importance of. It may well be withdrawn from this process if this legislation does not proceed.

There are other parts of the agreement that the government must now work very hard to get moving because the Government of Canada is in fact in violation of a number of areas of the 1987 agreement. In fact, it has been for some time, not only in terms of the actual expenditure schedules, but also in terms of other parts of the agreement.

There is an anticipation that \$44 million will be transferred to the Gwaii trust. It was a promise made by the Prime Minister of Canada that funds would be made available and efforts would be made to redevelop the economy of the Queen Charlotte Islands from basically,

a logging and forest based economy to one of world-class tourism. That has been a hollow promise so far. There is \$6 million in the aid base for the visitor reception centres and for Gwaii Haanas for the summer, but the \$44 million is still awaited. Sandspit has waited a long time for the Minister of Fisheries to live up to the small craft harbour agreement that was promised by Minister Sidon from British Columbia more than five years ago.

I agree that the price tag of \$9 million sounds high and it may well be that the minister or ministers could involve themselves in finding some better economic engine for Moresby for the Sandspit area. There has been little political will exercised to get that going. I am certainly hopeful that after such a long, long road on this most important issue and one that has been most honourably pursued by the government, I must say, on almost all occasions that it will now be done this year.

Having said that, I just want to say again that the wording as proposed in the clause 1, page 2 amendments under the title: "Reserve for a National Park on the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago" has been reviewed. I spoke to the president of the Haida nation this morning and confirmed that this wording is acceptable to the Haida nation in order to implement. This is enabling legislation to allow for the agreement reached within the Haida nation to be put into play.

The second part of this piece of legislation is in relation to Wood Buffalo National Park. As I am sure you are aware, Madam Speaker, the Minister of the Environment earlier this week had justice officials move forward with a consent judgment in the courts to halt logging in perpetuity in Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada's largest national park, a park similar to the Queen Charlotte Islands, similar to Gwaii Haanas and Ninstints as a world heritage site 10 years ago.

Part of this legislation, in terms of being an amendment to the National Parks Act, implements the 1986 Fort Chip as it is often called, Fort Chipewyan the full name, the Cree Band from there, their specific land claim which involves a two-square mile reserve inside the park boundaries. That will be excised from the park. I understand later today, if we complete the legislation, it will be transferred for a split second to the province of Alberta and a split second later it will be transferred to Canada where it will come under the protection of the Indian Act and revert to the ownership and obvious existing occupancy of the Fort Chip people.