

### WORLD AIDS DAY

**Mr. Ross Reid (St. John's East):** Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the members' attention the famous World AIDS Day, Sunday, December 1. It is «Sharing the Challenge.»

In using this theme to draw attention to the common threat as well as the common need for partnership, the World Health Organization is not simply making a plea for compassion. It is appealing for people from all over the world to recognize the dangers attendant upon the prejudice that often surrounds HIV and AIDS.

It is appealing for people to get involved in actively putting an end to discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS. Discrimination has a negative effect on the quality of people's lives. It denies the reality that AIDS threatens us all. People living with AIDS are sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, our colleagues and our friends.

In this country HIV and AIDS, like any other medical condition is a disability, and disability is one of the grounds of discrimination prohibited under the Canadian Human Rights Act.

During this World AIDS Day let us all on both sides of the House make a commitment—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member's time has expired.

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### NATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORTATION

**Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso):** Madam Speaker, Nova Scotians are very concerned about losing access to national rail transportation at the hands of this government. We have not forgotten the insensitive decision to end passenger rail service from Truro to Sydney two years ago. We are fearful that the current attempts by CN to privatize the rail portion of this line is but a thinly veiled attempt to abandon this vital rail link.

We are very interested in the recent cabinet decision to reverse a national transportation agency ruling that would have allowed the 90-kilometre line from Chandler to Gaspé in Quebec to close. We are told that this line has been losing money for years. Yet this train is regarded as an essential mode of transportation to the economically depressed area of the Gaspé peninsula

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south coast, especially in winter and especially for the elderly who cannot drive or spend long hours in a bus.

True, but what about the elderly in Nova Scotia who live along the discontinued Truro to Sydney line? What about the thousands of jobs that depend upon maintaining rail transportation from Truro to Sydney? Will the government now act to save these lines—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** The hon. member's time has expired.

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### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal):** Madam Speaker, yesterday an agreement for regional development in the province of Quebec was announced. The agreement involves a contribution of \$160 million by the Government of Canada and \$140 million from the province of Quebec.

I would like to point out that the government has made very significant contributions to regional development not only in Quebec but in my region, Atlantic Canada, and in the west.

In the budget of 1989 this government announced a regional development allotment for each of the major regions of Canada. The \$160 million federal share of yesterday's agreement is from a previously non-allocated portion of Quebec's allotment. In the Atlantic provinces this five-year regional development allotment has a value of \$2.125 billion. That is an average of \$425 million a year for each year within the current funding framework to be spent on developing the economy of Atlantic Canada.

Developing the economies of all parts of Canada is a priority of this government. It is most unfortunate that some members of the opposition feel compelled to whine and complain every time support is given to a region other than their own, especially when it is—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry the time has expired.

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### VISIBLE MINORITIES

**Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester):** Madam Speaker, several of my constituents who are employees of Health and Welfare Canada believe that they are being discriminated against because they belong to visible minorities.