

CFB SUMMERSIDE

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, today, April 26, we will observe the first anniversary of the most infamous budget leak in Canadian history. For the people of P.E.I. the most vivid recollection of that budget leak was the announcement of the closure of CFB Summerside.

The town of Summerside, the riding of Egmont and the province of P.E.I. were in shock. The second largest employer on the Island was to close. Twenty-six hundred jobs would disappear. A \$50 million payroll would be lost.

The people of Summerside and area gathered their forces to fight the closure, to fight for the life of their town. The Friends of CFB Summerside was set up. A Mother's Day march and a Caravan of Hope to Ottawa were organized. A federal-provincial task force was established. A comparable federal presence was promised. A private consulting firm was hired, but the report is still top secret. We are still waiting for the announcement.

One of the worst situations is the plight of the civilian workers. Some are being uprooted from their homes. Some are getting lay-off notices and are facing unemployment in a depressed area.

The solution is obvious. Leave 413 Search and Rescue Squadron where it is. Summerside is the best location. P.E.I. would have a military presence, it would save lives and it would save the government money.

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• (1410)

[Translation]

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hogue (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, this is National Volunteer Week, an opportunity for all Canadians to pay tribute to so many of their fellow citizens who work for the well-being of their community.

Individually or as members of a group, about 13 million Canadians have made volunteer work part of their lives. Without them, many programs and agencies would no longer exist. Many of these organizations have made it

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their aim to remedy the inequities and injustice in our society.

Through volunteer work, all Canadians have a chance to play an active role in their community. Volunteer work and the personal commitment it represents are firmly anchored in the democratic principles on which Canada was founded. In fact, this active personal commitment is considered to be one of our basic human rights.

Without the contribution of its volunteers, Canada would not be as we know it today. The generosity of these Canadians is therefore an important part of our national identity.

Today, I urge you to join me in congratulating all volunteers and to thank them for the invaluable contribution they are making to our society.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

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[English]

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 23, this House voted in favour of my private member's motion calling upon the government to reinstate funding for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

Although the government had planned to remove all funding for the centre by next year, even Conservative members opposite voted in favour of reinstating its funding, clearly signalling their disapproval of the government's privatization plans.

For ten years the CCOHS has provided Canadians with cost-free, impartial and unbiased information on occupational health and safety matters. Under privatization the centre would concentrate its efforts on the sale of products as opposed to the delivery of vital services.

In an open letter delivered to the Minister of Labour yesterday, I stressed that, in light of all-party support of the motion, the minister is now obligated to reinstate full funding for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

This place has spoken. Canadian workers anxiously await the minister's reply.