

Although French has not yet been declared an official language in Ontario, this timely initiative of the Peterson Government is worthy of praise in this House.

I therefore have the honour, on behalf of my colleagues in the Liberal caucus, to congratulate Ontario's Minister of Francophone Affairs, the Hon. Charles Beer, his predecessor, the Hon. Bernard Grandmaître, and the Premier, the Hon. David Peterson, for their leadership on this issue.

The wisdom and broad-mindedness of this government will certainly be an example in years to come.

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[English]

UN DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, today on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of Children, the United Nations General Assembly approved a comprehensive convention on the rights of the child.

Canadians can be proud that we are recognized as one of the strongest supporters of the convention and have played an important role in its drafting.

The document contains 54 articles establishing international standards for our children's social, economic, political, religious, cultural and civic rights.

As Canadians, we are concerned that millions of children at home and abroad live in conditions of extreme poverty.

More than 40,000 children around the world die each day from preventable childhood diseases. As many as 100 million children around the world are homeless.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, however, is only a first step. Countries ratifying the convention must put in place measures which will guarantee children their rights. In Canada, this could be done by establishing a national bill of rights for children, as my colleague from Mission-Coquitlam has suggested in her private members' motion. The Government of Canada should take immediate action to end the immoral situation of 151,000 Canadian children each month depending on food banks for their meals.

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[Translation]

SPORTS

Mr. Maurice Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out the wonderful victory of the Victoriaville Vulkins in the Quebec college football AA finals, better known as the "Gold Bowl", Mr. Speaker, for the second year in a row.

Not only is it important to mention the talent and discipline of these students, who from the beginning of their school year had to show a sense of responsibility worthy of young people who can reach the highest goals, but also their coaches, including Yvon Paré and Jacques Dumont, who were more than trainers and became guides and friends thus helping these student athletes bring out their full potential. Reaching the top is already an achievement, but staying there is an even greater one. Bravo, Victoriaville Vulkins!

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[English]

COLCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a significant achievement in my riding.

The campaign chairman of the Colchester Regional Hospital Foundation fund raising committee, Mr. Tom Stanfield and his 15 directors are to be congratulated on organizing a fund raising campaign for an expansion of the Colchester Regional Hospital. The generosity of the people of both Truro and Colchester counties and the value they put on their communities is clearly shown by their terrific gesture of goodwill in the most tangible medium, that of cash donations. These funds, amounting to almost \$1.4 million, will be complemented by funding for the province of Nova Scotia and the municipality toward phase two expansion of the Colchester Hospital to improve the extensive care unit, eye care unit, additional surgical facilities, a rehabilitation centre, nuclear medicine, 50 additional beds and additional space.

Congratulations are in order for the committee and also the 250 businesses which donated as well as the 6,200 individuals. The result will be that more medical and health services will now be available for Truro and surrounding area.