

[Translation]

The Canadian Figure Skating Association, with the support of 300 volunteers from the national capital area, has been working very hard to make the latest championships a success.

I am sure hon. members will join me in thanking the organizers and sponsors of this event, and wish our young Canadian skaters good luck and extend a cordial welcome to all participants.

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CROSS-CANADA REFERENDUM

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, the government has decided not to hold a referendum. This decision is part of the constitutional debate saga. This retreat can be explained by the almost unanimous opposition from Quebec to such an initiative. However, vigilance is still in order because this government is not known for keeping its word.

Some Conservative members, including a woman minister, and the only NDP member from Quebec understood that Quebecers would never allow the future of Quebec to be decided anywhere but in Quebec.

Among the Liberals, only John Turner opposed this plan. It is not surprising that Jean Chrétien ranks behind Robert Libman in terms of the confidence he inspires in Quebecers.

Bloc Québécois members will always defend Quebec's right to self-determination, thus echoing the opposition of the Quebec National Assembly, which recognizes that Quebecers alone have the right to decide Quebec's future.

If this government wants to consult Quebecers and Canadians, let it call an election. Quebecers will then be able to choose real representatives rather than flip-flop artists like Chrétien and Mulroney.

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CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR ILEITIS AND COLITIS

Mr. Maurice Tremblay (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the House that November is officially Ileitis and Colitis Month. More than 200,000 Canadians suffer from this condition which affects the intestinal tract.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the important work being done by the Canadian Foundation

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for Ileitis and Colitis and thank them for their dedication.

The foundation is a non-profit organization, committed to medical research and to educating patients, health professionals and the public in general. The foundation has over 9,000 members spread over a number of chapters across the country.

Health and Welfare Canada is pleased to be able to contribute to the goals of the foundation through its operating grants program for volunteer organizations. The funds received by the foundation are used to develop and improve a host of public awareness and education programs organized by local chapters.

The executive, support staff and the many volunteers of the foundation are to be commended for their excellent work and dedication.

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, *l'Association des parents francophones, l'Association canadienne d'éducation de langue française, la Fédération des enseignants et enseignantes du Canada, la Fédération des jeunes Canadiens français, and la Fédération nationale des commissaires scolaires de langue française* have just sent a telegram to the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs, asking the minister to accede to their request for a constitutional committee or conference on the future of official language communities.

At this critical moment in our history, it is high time the federal government took concrete action to recognize the importance of Canada's linguistic duality and acceded to this entirely legitimate request as soon as possible.

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[English]

DARYL BEAN

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, it is reported that Daryl Bean wrote to three ladies, members of PSAC, calling them scabs. Then he went on to say: "After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad and the vampire, he had some awful stuff left with which he made a scab. A scab is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water-logged brain, and a backbone of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he carries a tumour of rotten principles. No man has a right to scab as long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in or a rope long enough to hang his body with".