

infrastructure in Quebec's resource regions, including the ridings of Pontiac—Gatineau—Labelle and Abitibi—Témiscamingue.

Both levels of government have agreed to budget \$80 million, to be allocated over three different programs.

Madam Speaker, both governments realize that unfortunately, some regions in Quebec, including my own riding, have a very high unemployment rate and are experiencing serious economic problems. These initiatives will stimulate the economy in these regions by helping them carry out major projects, which will give these communities renewed economic vigour.

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[English]

CROP ASSISTANCE

Mr. Lyle Vanclief (Prince Edward—Hastings): Madam Speaker, farmers from all parts of Canada are in desperate need of assistance this spring in order to get their crops in the ground.

Total net farm income has dropped by over 50 per cent. The federal government has promised a so-called third line defence payment but yet, to this day, it has not said when the payment will be made, how much it will be worth, or even who is eligible.

I wish to stress to the government that western grain producers are in desperate need of this cash, but so are producers in Ontario, Quebec and the maritimes; not only grain and oilseeds producers but horticultural producers as well.

The current income crisis is shared by all farmers, and I ask the government to take this into account when the payment is made.

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[Translation]

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Madam Speaker, today I think it would be very appropriate to read a poem by Janet Foster called "A day of rest".

Some women say God is a woman—

Everybody knows that's not true—

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He worked six days and rested on the seventh;

If God had been a woman, he wouldn't have stopped;

After 85 hours of board meetings, working outside the home, making beds, doing the laundry, shopping, taking the kids to the doctor and the dentist, ordering groceries, nursing sick kids, spending Saturdays ironing and dusting and Sundays preparing meals, women don't know what the word weekend means.

If God had been a woman, as so many people seem to think, he wouldn't have needed Sunday to rest.

Since the beginning of time, women have known that only children, men and God need a rest.

Madam Speaker, I have this to say: Men, stop being selfish and help women achieved equality!

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[English]

ATHLETES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas): Madam Speaker, the denial of full funding under the Athletes Assistance Program to Canada's female athletes because they become pregnant is a violation of their human rights. It is gender discrimination. The Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport promised to remove this barrier to equality last October. He has repeatedly stated in the media that this policy will be changed.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, I ask the minister to take this opportunity to announce today that the Athletes Assistance Program will be immediately amended so that female carded athletes who become pregnant will be eligible to obtain full funding.

I ask the minister to correct this injustice to Canada's female athletes.

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RURAL WOMEN

Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, today, on International Women's Day, I rise to recognize the contribution of rural women across Canada.

Rural women and their families are under a tremendous amount of stress. They are overworked, underpaid, and their contribution often goes unrecognized.

The lack of support services and programs in rural areas is a major problem for rural women.