

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, April 8, 1992

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP WEEK

Ms. Barbara Greene (Don Valley North): Mr. Speaker, today the Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship and thousands of Canadians are launching National Citizenship Week with the reaffirmation ceremony called "Committed to Canada".

It is time for us all to reflect on what it means to be a good Canadian citizen. Although we are so diverse, we are unified on these values.

We believe in tolerance, respect and reasonable accommodation for others. We believe in freedom, human rights and equal opportunity for all. We are staunch supporters of peace, justice and law and order for all.

The good Canadian citizen also fights for these same values throughout the world. We fight not with sticks, stones, guns, intimidation and threats but with words and peaceful actions consistent with democratic law-abiding Canadian tradition.

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WHYCOCOMAGH CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, it is a truism that a sustainable world requires an environmentally aware citizenry and this begins first and foremost with education.

Environmental education is holistic. It begins with the child and carries through primary and secondary school

to the development of an environmental ethic as a natural code of behaviour.

Surprisingly, these self-evident principles have taken a long time to find their way into the curricula of our schools. This is changing with a bold, exciting and visionary proposal being developed in the community of Whycocomagh on Cape Breton Island.

Whycocomagh, which is Micmac for "head of the waters", is a small community nestled in the Bras d'Or lakes area. Faced with closure, the staff of Whycocomagh Consolidated School is reinventing its curriculum to become an environmental education centre where the principles and methods of holistic environmental education can be advanced and shared with the world.

This is an idea whose time has come. It is one which this government and all members of this House will want to support and encourage.

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OVERFISHING

Hon. David MacDonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I rise with respect to the serious crisis that exists in the fishing industry off the coast of Newfoundland.

The members will be aware that yesterday the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Fisheries in Newfoundland appeared in front of the environment committee on this issue.

Last week in New York at the fourth preparatory committee meeting leading up to the earth summit, a wide-ranging group of non-governmental organizations and governments produced the New York declaration on high seas overfishing and protection of the commons.

They referred specifically to the implementation of article 116 of the Law of the Sea convention which clearly establishes that high seas fishing states have an obligation to conserve these stocks and to co-operate with adjacent coastal stocks that were given superior rights over straddling stocks.