

In the business category, the winner is Michèle Beau-lieu, owner of *Alimentation des Quatre-cantons* in Lac Beauport, and the other finalists were Ghislaine Lambert, president of *Voyages Lambert* and Reine St-Onge, president and director general of the Optometrists Clinic *Reine St-Onge* in Lévis.

Award winners and finalists reflect the energy, courage and determination typical of all women in the Quebec City area, in Quebec and across Canada, to whom I wish to pay tribute today.

What has been achieved in the last 20 or 30 years on the labour market and in our communities proves that women are increasingly taking advantage of the choices and opportunities they are offered, and in Quebec, 1990 is a particularly important year because it marks the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage. I say, three cheers for all Canadian women!

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[English]

SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, this government has no commitment to supporting social programs. During elections or when in opposition, the Tories pretend to care about the sick, the poor, the aged and the young. But as soon as they get their hands on the levers of power, the disadvantaged are immediately sacrificed to the interests of the rich and powerful.

• (1410)

When in opposition in 1982, in this House the Minister of Finance reproached then Minister of Finance Allan MacEachen for his attack on health and education spending. The Minister of Finance wept crocodile tears over the "risk of major cutbacks in medical care and post-secondary education"—to use his words, as a result of Mr. MacEachen's savage cuts to the provinces.

Now the Minister of Finance is making the biggest cut to social programs in the history of Canada. The effect of his cuts to health and post-secondary education in 1986 and 1989 will be to cut \$24 billion by 1994-95. The effect of the latest vicious cuts announced in the infamous budget of 1990 will cut an additional \$7.3 billion by 1995-96. The total of the cuts is the equivalent of all the federal money spent on health and education for two years running.

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The Minister of Finance is the Pontius Pilate of medicare. By washing his hands of responsibility he is signalling to right wing governments across the country that they can slash medicare, hospital insurance and privatize universities with no threat of reprisals from the federal government.

The Minister of Finance has signalled his intention to pull the teeth from the Canada Health Act and refuse to enforce its provisions setting out minimal standards and hospital insurance. This government must be thrown out of office before they destroy—

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[Translation]

MEECH LAKE ACCORD

Mr. Gilles Bernier (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, upon taking power, the Prime Minister went to work on the constitutional problem which threatened to worsen the isolation of Quebec brought about by the Trudeau—Chrétien—Lalonde gang in 1981.

With the premiers of all the provinces and the support of Robert Bourassa, in the spring of 1987 the Prime Minister achieved a real reconciliation, but the opponents of Meech, by spreading disinformation, have managed to stir up anti-Meech feeling among the people.

The accord in its present form fully respects anglo-phones' rights, meets Quebec's minimal demands and ensures constitutional peace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Canadians to adopt a better attitude. Let the debate on this be calm, tolerant and moderate. I rely on reason.

What Trudeau and Chrétien are now saying is an insult to the intelligence of Quebecers and Canadians. They are bringing about a growing intolerance in English Canada.

As a Quebecer from the Beauce, I am humiliated. Will Quebecers forever deserve the contempt of Pierre Elliott Trudeau and his followers?

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[English]

THE LATE DALTON MCGUINTY

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow and that of the community of