

Routine Proceedings

toke, including signators from the cities of Rossland, Trail, Nelson and Castlegar, the villages of Fruitvale and Slocan, and the communities of Winlaw and Waneta.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present to the House a petition opposing the government's proposed goods and services tax measures.

These petitions are literally flooding in to all members of the opposition. This particular petition from individuals in Maple Ridge and surrounding areas, and Pitt Meadows in the lower mainland. It asks that the government reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax. It also asks that the government reform the tax system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations, and to ensure that if and when there is a broad public consensus on the sales tax measure to replace the manufacturers' sales tax, this reform measure not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab which is just what this proposed goods and services tax is.

It is also my pleasure to provide a similar petition also signed by a number of constituents in the Maple Ridge area again protesting the Draconian measures taken by the proposed goods and services tax.

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour to stand on behalf of several Canadians and present this petition duly submitted under Standing Order 36. These petitioners humbly showeth that the goods and services tax is an unfair tax in that it does not regulate itself on the basis of a taxpayer's ability to pay. They also state that the taxation on reading materials, haircuts, diapers and so on is a regressive, unfair tax, and they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 36, I rise to present a petition on behalf of men and women in my constituency of Mission—Coquitlam. This petition is in response to the statistics that one out of every ten Canadian women is beaten by the man she lives with, one in four is sexually assaulted or abused, and every 17 minutes a Canadian woman is raped.

The petitioners humbly call on this House to provide alternatives to protect women and children from violence by increasing funding for transition houses and advocacy centres, and ensure that women receive greater protection under new laws.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, it is my duty and also my pleasure, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a petition from a number of residents of British Columbia who are strongly opposed to the goods and services tax because of its lack of regard to the taxpayers' ability to pay. They are asking the government to ensure that if and when there is a broad public consensus on a sales tax measure to replace the manufacturers' sales tax, this reform not be an opportunity for the government to impose a massive tax grab.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 144 and 156.

[Text]

FEDERAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Question No. 144—**Mr. Foster:**

Does the government propose to establish a federal workers' compensation program and, if so (a) what is the current status of the proposal (b) will the program apply to all workers under federal jurisdiction, including uranium mine and process plant workers who are now subject to Atomic Energy Control Board health and safety regulations (c) on what date does the government plan to implement the program?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Labour): While one of the options under review is the formation of a federal workers' compensation board, I have instructed my departmental officials to pursue possible improvements to the current process which could achieve similar results and ensure greater harmony between the federal and provincial systems.

a) Proposals are being detailed prior to consultations with clients, provinces and other affected parties.