

## S. O. 31

Colleen is one of Canada's environmental heroes. In fact, her work has been so outstanding she is the environmentalist chosen to represent the entire North American continent. This award is a recognition of the time, effort, and personal sacrifice she has made on behalf of Canadians. Her courage is an example to us all.

Colleen has worked on a number of crucial environmental battles, but she is perhaps best known for her work to convince this government to set aside 12 per cent of land as wilderness; a goal that would ensure Canada never loses its unique natural heritage.

Colleen will be meeting with President George Bush and the head of the United Nations in the coming weeks in preparation for the earth summit in Brazil in June.

I look forward to working with Colleen at the earth summit to ensure substantive progress is made on the crucial global environmental issues facing the world today.

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[Translation]

## QUALITY OF LIFE IN CANADA

**Mr. Jacques Tétreault (Laval-Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in my holiday message, I urged my constituents to reflect on how lucky they are to live in a free, tolerant and compassionate country.

This observation was repeated recently by the United Nations, which rated Canada as the country with the best quality of life in the world.

This measurement of quality of life was instituted to emphasize people's well-being in such areas as level of schooling, life expectancy and purchasing power. At the same time, the International Monetary Fund, in its world economic outlook, predicted that Canada would have the strongest economic growth of all industrialized countries in 1992 and 1993.

Leading the world in these two rankings makes me think of the motto of a great Quebec daily newspaper, "*fais ce que dois*", and tell my government to continue to do what it must do and Canada will be the better for it.

[English]

## FISHERIES

**Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, the Tory government continues to strip Prince Edward Island of federal support services, facilities, and services in fisheries protection and inspections. The latest in the government's steady centralization efforts and withdrawal of services to islanders is the announcement of the phase-out and closing of the fisheries and oceans department laboratory in Charlottetown. The fisheries and oceans lab provides a vital service to the shellfish industry in Prince Edward Island, especially the oyster and mussel industry.

If shellfish are not properly handled and transported and if the environment in which they are grown is not monitored and tested, the whole industry is put in jeopardy as it was a few years ago with the mussels scare.

Consumer confidence in shellfish necessitates a high quality safe product. Any move to diminish that confidence will hurt the industry immeasurably. The logistics of forwarding samples to a laboratory off island is fraught with danger in relation to spoiling of the sample due to the unreliable temperature controls, misdirecting or loss of a sample and delays in the actual testing and retesting of samples.

These things will happen as has been demonstrated in the Nova Scotia experience. The fishermen and fish processors will pay and will probably pay dearly. P.E.I. has the largest shellfish industry in Canada, yet a new lab is being proposed on the mainland and all the small labs in the maritimes will close.

It would be very convenient for scientists from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to centralize in Moncton, but it will put our lobster, oyster and mussel fishermen in great danger. We must always remember our Public Service is working, by definition, for the public and the public must always take precedence.