

• (1720)

Another project, "How to talk to your kids about AIDS", sponsored by Planned Parenthood in Hamilton, Ontario, will assist parents to teach their children about sexuality.

These projects and others promote safer sex practices and focus on examining one's own sexual behaviour.

The Department of National Health and Welfare has been involved in an exciting project sponsored by Telefilm Canada, CBC, and Playing with Time Incorporated. The result of this year-long collaboration and consultation with Health and Welfare is *Degrassi Talks*, a series of six innovative documentaries examining the problems and concerns young people deal with every day. The series will be hosted by cast members of the *Degrassi* television series and will include talks with teens about tough issues like sexuality, teen sex, depression, abuse, drugs and alcohol.

The government is pleased to be part of this national educational program and is exploring other ways to be involved with the presentation of this CBC television production.

Teenagers and young adults who are school dropouts, unemployed or have no permanent homes are especially vulnerable not only teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and AIDS, but substance abuse as well. Many of the educational strategies used for substance abuse prevention can raise individual self-esteem and can improve decision-making skills. Many of the drug strategy programs have been designed within this comprehensive framework, so they too can have a positive effect on the individual's over-all health including their sexual health.

Canada's drug strategy aims to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs to individuals, families and communities. Many partners are co-operating in dealing with Canada's drug problem and the Department of National Health and Welfare plays a leading role in this partnership. Grants and contributions support community drug awareness initiatives such as Safe Grad, Students Against Impaired Driving, and other community alcohol abuse programs. Prevention programs, such as the "Really Me" awareness campaign, are designed to change teenagers' attitudes toward peer pressure and to help them feel better and trust their own decisions and choices. "Ready or Not" is an education program that enables parents to help their eight to

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twelve year old children make positive and informed choices about drug use and also enables mothers and fathers to build parenting and communication skills through group discussion and information sessions.

These programs', as well as others within the national drug strategy, promote life-skills that will enable the individual to make better decisions related to a variety of situations and will promote the self-worth of the person. These will, in turn, lead to better choices for lifestyle behaviour.

In conclusion, this government has considered and is trying to help fulfil the needs of many individuals, organizations and communities. We will continue our efforts to provide a co-ordinated and comprehensive approach to sexuality and reproductive health issues within the Department of National Health and Welfare.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-6, an act to amend the act of incorporation of Metropolitan General Insurance Company in order to authorize its continuance under the laws of the province of Quebec, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

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[English]

### HEALTH

#### FAMILY PLANNING

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Ms. Black (p. 4331).

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise on this private member's motion supporting the development of a number of programs related to the prevention of unwanted pregnancies.

It really is a shame that we even have to put those two words together, that any pregnancy, the potential for any child to be born, can be an unwanted event in anybody's life, but it can be. There have been a lot of statistics in the speeches I have read and heard on this subject about the number of pregnancies, the transmission of sexual diseases, the ages at which young men and women are