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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

Mr. Jacques Vien (Laurentides): Madam Speaker, Monday brought the beginning of a special week of celebration throughout the world, International Women's Week. All across the country this week has been marked by numerous activities involving both women and men, including panel discussions, receptions, films, and rallies.

I invite hon. members to join me in congratulating the women of Canada for their significant contribution to Canadian society. No area of Canadian life, be it economic, social, cultural or political, has been left untouched by the talent and achievement of Canadian women.

In both the traditional and non-traditional sectors, women of every background are making their impact felt and bringing the sometimes elusive dream of true equality that much closer to reality.

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SEED POTATO INDUSTRY

Mr. Joe McGuire (Egmont): Madam Speaker, the Prince Edward Island seed potato industry has been dealt a devastating blow. Potatoes are to P.E.I. what grain is to Saskatchewan, the engine of the provincial economy.

Potatoes have been responsible for 50 per cent of total farm gate receipts the last two years, \$125 million per year.

The entrepreneurial spirit of our producers, dealers and exporters has put P.E.I. in the forefront of world potato production. P.E.I. is responsible for making Canada second only to Holland in seed potato exports.

The industry has reached this position because of 75 years of effort by both producers and government which has resulted in the establishment of a world-wide reputation for quality in seed, table and processing potatoes.

That reputation is now in jeopardy because of the PVY-N virus in our seed stock and an embargo by the United States, Canada and Mexico. This is the first time an entire province has been quarantined.

What P.E.I. needs today is a strict eradication plan in order to restore quickly our reputation in the marketplace and generous compensation to prevent wholesale bankruptcies.

P.E.I. potato farmers appreciate the attention—

Madam Deputy Speaker: I am sorry, but the hon. member's time is expired.

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CANADA COUNCIL

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Madam Speaker, today we celebrate International Women's Day and, with this in mind, I would like to remind this House that the Canada Council is the chief means for the federal government to impact and support arts in Canada. Yet the board of the Canada Council has never been graced with a member of a visible minority.

At this time, when the need for a visible minority representative is greatest, a woman with talent and dedication has stepped forward.

Carol Geddes, who currently is a member on the Native Committee of Canada Council and was a member of the Northern Jury of the Council is a candidate for the board.

With the growing racial tensions in this land, it would seem that the time is at hand for such a woman who represents native peoples to participate in the important decisions that the Canada Council makes.

I would like to take this opportunity to support Ms. Geddes' bid fully, in light of her substantial achievements, and I would like to urge that this House do the same.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Barry Moore (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, recently, the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec announced that under the Canada-Quebec subsidiary agreement on the regional economic development of Quebec, three new programs will be implemented to help reinforce the economic