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white elephant megaprojects, the government however cuts funding to the arts and cultural industries.

• (1410)

The arts and cultural industries provide jobs to over 346,000 Canadians, return \$17 billion to the Canadian economy and earn \$1.3 billion in annual cultural exports.

This government's misplaced priorities will mean orchestras, theatre companies and galleries will have to close resulting in job loss and less productivity within the arts and cultural industries.

Canadians who have signed the largest petition ever presented by the arts community demand that the funds which have been cut be restored.

Canada has a strong and vibrant arts and cultural industry. Canadians are telling this government: "Do not destroy it".

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ARMED FORCES

Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of this House the most unusual thing that has occurred to our Armed Forces.

Because we do not have enough regular troops to replace the ones in Yugoslavia and other areas, we are training reservists to be able to replace the regular force if necessary.

This House is aware that for almost two years the people of Annapolis and Digby counties along with the elected officials, both provincial and federal, have sought to add peacekeeping training to CFB Cornwallis.

What did this government allow our Armed Forces to do to train 826 reservists and regular troops? It allowed them to be sent from Manitoba to California to be trained for peacekeeping.

Imagine what that says to the rest of the world about Canada's ability for peacekeeping training. Imagine what it says to the people in the Armed Forces and to a place like CFB Cornwallis that does recruit training. Imagine what it says to the laid-off people and the businesses in the CFB Cornwallis area.

It makes absolutely no sense to send 826 Canadians to California to be trained in peacekeeping when we have the facilities in Canada.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORM

Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Manicouagan): Mr. Speaker, today Canadians have an example of a government that listened to their representations after Bill C-105 was tabled.

A special committee of the PC caucus conveyed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration the legitimate concerns expressed by Canadians. The committee members also made specific recommendations not only on the amendments proposed in the bill but also on several other points concerning the administration of unemployment insurance.

The minister listened to the committee and took its recommendations into account. That is why we have tabled the new Bill, C-113 which responds appropriately to the earnest representations we received.

This is the result of the serious work done by a committee of Progressive Conservative members and the open-mindedness of the minister.

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[English]

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, literally thousands of residents in my riding of York West have been attending giant sized meetings and rallies to protest the increasing amount of property taxes and particularly to protest and outcry the decision of the Ontario New Democratic government to block market value assessment.

Market value assessment would have meant that for the residents in my riding over 80 per cent of those households would have seen a reduction in their property taxes.

The New Democratic Party purports to be the party of working class Canadians and the party that suggests day in and day out it is prepared to reform the system. The blockage of market value assessment by the New Demo-