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external affairs have given any indication that prior to making this decision they will hold full hearings into this drastic change in Canadian foreign policy.

Once again, and I cannot stress strongly enough how important this is, I urge the Prime Minister to hold off making his decision until we have had an opportunity to fully explore and discuss the pros and cons of Canada becoming a full and active member of the Organization of American States.

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SIX NATIONS RESERVE

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, the residents of the Six Nations reserve are facing a crisis in their community.

Over 1,200 elementary school-age children of Six Nations have not been able to start school this year due to unsafe and unhealthy conditions at the school facilities. These include: asbestos in the schools, failure to meet fire code standards, failure to meet safety standards, inoperable and unsafe windows and doors, unsafe water and drainage systems, and inadequate washroom facilities.

It is unacceptable that the federal government which does an annual assessment of schools and which has declared each year since 1985 that the safety and health standards are deficient does nothing to improve these conditions and, indeed, allows Six Nations' children to attend schools slated for demolition.

The federal government has breached its responsibility to Six Nations. The government is neglecting basic human rights.

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PATENT ACT

Mr. John E. Cole (York—Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, on October 1, fundamental changes to modernize Canada's Patent Act which were passed by Parliament in November, 1987, came into effect. The new act is an important element of this government's program to boost science and technology and to make Canada a strong competitor internationally.

As we all know, keeping abreast of new technology is critical to business success here at home and in the global market-place. That is why these changes were

specifically designed to speed the transfer of technological information to the Canadian business community, thereby encouraging innovation and increasing productivity.

Among the big winners will be small and medium-sized businesses which do not have the capacity to conduct their own research and development. The new act will more quickly put the latest technologies from around the world at their fingertips.

We have also taken important steps in the interest of Canadian inventors. On October 2, the day after the new Patent Act came into effect, Canada ratified the Patent Co-operation Treaty. This treaty provides Canadian innovators with the means to more effectively protect their inventions abroad.

Finally, in the years ahead, this government intends to build on the changes to Canada's new Patent Act with the multi-year program to automate the patent office. Eventually, companies across Canada will have direct access to the largest collection of technological information in the country, the Canada Patent office.

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NATIVE CHILD CARE

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, during the first week of August the Ministers of Indian Affairs, National Health and Welfare and the Prime Minister received a copy of the Assembly of First Nations inquiry into native child care. To date the only response they have had from the Tory government is silence.

This study, funded by a grant from the Child Care Initiative Fund, found less than 70 child care centres operating in the 1,000 First Nations communities. Most, if not all, are understaffed and/or ill-equipped to meet the needs of native children.

Up until the day of the infamous budget leak, native leaders were assured that the money for the native child care initiative, \$60 million, was not in jeopardy. It had been approved by Treasury Board. It was separate from the Tories child care initiative. Native leaders were dismayed to learn that this government made a conscious decision not to fund child care services for their children.

While \$60 million does not meet the demand for native child care services, they feel it is a first step, a sign of a commitment.