

*Oral Questions***NATIONAL DISEASE CONTROL LABORATORY**

**Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The decision to locate the National Disease Control Laboratory in Winnipeg has been badly handled right from the beginning. In fact, without being unkind, I could say that it has been botched.

On July 19, 1989, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicated that the laboratory would be situated at a site near the mint. On September 29 I received a letter from the Minister of National Health and Welfare indicating that the site had not yet been selected. On October 13 I received a letter from the same minister indicating that the site location would be the mint. On October 20, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicated that that location could be changed again in Winnipeg. What is going on here? Could we get some clear, concise accurate information with regard to how this is going to be handled? Where is it going to be located?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, I can understand the hon. member's disappointment in the fact that under his Liberal government no lab was put into Winnipeg, but under this government and under the leadership of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources this initiative has been put forth.

All I can say is that I know the provincial government officials have recently voiced some concern with municipal officials about the location of the site. When the final decision is made it will be announced. The only thing that the government wanted to indicate is that if officials, either at the provincial or municipal level, would show some concern and voice some opinion on where the site should be located, the government would obviously listen to them. That is all that this is about.

• (1200)

**Mr. Duhamel:** Mr. Speaker, I had indicated that I had a letter from the Minister of National Health and Welfare that stated that a decision had been taken. Now this minister tells me that it has not been taken. I really do wonder now whether or not they know what they are doing.

[*Translation*]

My supplementary is directed to the same Minister. Will the initial announcement of an investment of over \$90 million be maintained by this Government? And if the Government intends to scale down its investment, could it perhaps tell us what the new amount, the new figures will be?

**Mr. Charest:** Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat in French what I told the Hon. Member in English, namely that our Government is delighted to be able to support the plan for a laboratory in Winnipeg, which is being spear-headed by my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who has defended this project with considerable zeal. There have been speculations and discussions, and various opinions have been expressed regarding the location of the laboratory, which is not surprising, Mr. Speaker. Every time the federal Government initiates a project of this scope, we have the same problem. What we are seeing in Winnipeg is not unusual. In any case, the government has expressed its intention to announce its decision as soon as possible. Meanwhile, if provincial or municipal authorities have anything to say, let them say it! We are ready to listen.

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[*English*]

**NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD**

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The entire history of Canadian wealth is one of exploitation of natural resources seized from the aboriginal peoples who first lived here. Those aboriginal peoples have never been fully or even fairly compensated. We now have one last major chance to get it right.

Because the NEB decision on Arctic gas brushes aside the request of the Dene-Métis Negotiations Secretariat to withhold approval until their land claims are fully settled, and because that decision rejects the request of virtually all northern peoples for specific training and employment programs as a condition of the export licences, will the minister advise the Governor in Council to suspend the NEB decision until these conditions are met and until the wishes of all the territorial aboriginal peoples are fully taken into account and honoured?