

S. O. 31

Are we looking at a trend? Is cross-border or same-day shopping running out of steam? To me, it is too early to tell. Yes, this is welcome news, but one month does not constitute a trend.

Like my local retailers, I will reserve judgement and will anxiously await reports from Statistics Canada in the ensuing months. I know we will all be working toward maintaining this important trend.

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JOB TRAINING

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration talks about living up to commitments already made on section 26 fee payers option funding.

The minister is not keeping his commitments to provide training. Thousands of workers who have spent hours in meetings with CEIC counsellors on planning and training programs, who have received verbal assurances that they will be able to go for training, are now being told in light of new restrictions to this training support program, they will not be able to receive funding.

Even though the minister constantly emphasizes the importance of training, his actions speak to the contrary.

I call upon the minister to reallocate funds from within the UI portfolio to provide for all the training needs of all unemployed workers.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the Government of Canada would like the public to believe, Canada has not taken a leadership role on items at the earth summit such as climate change, biodiversity, post-summit funding, or the dumping of radioactive waste in the oceans.

Instead of caving in to pressures by the United States administration, the Canadian government should take the lead. With Japan and certain European nations it should pledge to negotiate after Rio the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent; ensure an

agreement on biodiversity; protect the oceans from radioactive dumping; ratify the Law of the Sea; and take steps at home and abroad to establish sustainable fishery, forestry, agriculture, trade, energy and waste management practices for generations to come.

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MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS MONTH

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, May has been designated as Multiple Sclerosis Month by the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada to highlight the concerns of those who live with this disease, their families and their caregivers.

Multiple sclerosis is the most common disease of the central nervous system affecting young people in Canada.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada supports excellence in research into the cause, prevention, treatment and cure of MS through more than 100 local chapters in communities across the country. Volunteers provide valuable services to Canadians affected by this terribly debilitating disease.

I take the opportunity now of recognizing and saluting the volunteers and the members of the MS Society of Canada. I encourage my colleagues and all citizens to support the carnation fundraising campaign which supports the work of this most worth-while society.

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OLDMAN RIVER DAM

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, reports are out that the Federal Environment Review Panel has recommended the Oldman River Dam in southern Alberta be shut down.

We are told that the panel's report said the Alberta government did not do enough to protect fish habitat and preserve the lands of the Peigan Band.

The provincial government is not the only government that stands condemned. The federal government failed to do a proper environmental assessment in the first place. It has damaged the credibility of the environmental process and has compromised many Albertans on both sides of the issue.