

Trent has the longest established native studies program in Canada. Many students from the NWT have already studied in that program and other programs at Trent University.

This new agreement formalizes two-way co-operation. I congratulate those involved and look forward to working with the member for Nunatsiag on projects related to the agreement.

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GUN CONTROL

Ms. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, on November 21 my colleague, the member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys, spoke eloquently in the House about the importance of gun control to women.

He pointed out that a woman is shot to death every five days in Canada, half of those by a partner, 78 per cent with legally owned weapons.

I believe that most members of Parliament want to see an end to violence against women and yet offhand comments in the House and elsewhere call into question our commitment. As the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice spoke on that day, another member, like a little boy playing with a pretend gun, said: "pow, pow, pow".

Such comments are a tragic betrayal of the hopes of women for a better and safer country.

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[Translation]

LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie, BQ): Mr. Speaker, after hours of anguish, we learned with tremendous relief that Lucien Bouchard was out of danger. We now hope that he can rest and recover at his own rate.

Speaking for the parliamentary wing of the Bloc Québécois, I want to thank everybody and the members of this House for their fantastic messages of support and encouragement.

I also want to express our admiration for the Saint-Luc Hospital medical team, for its unbelievable expertise and dedication. Finally, on behalf of all of us, I want to stress the courage and composure of his wife, Audrey, who stood by his side every minute of this terrible tragedy, surrounding him with her loving presence. She, too, deserves all our admiration.

[English]

S. O. 31

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, Canada must stop the folly of regional policy. The Liberals continue their borrowing ways and the pork barrel rolls on and on. It is time to jump over the barrel.

Canada could learn from experiences around the world where these programs have failed miserably. The government knows regional development programs are doomed to fail, yet the practice continues.

The finance minister's budget will be quite telling. Will it be business as usual or will the minister heed the Reform message? Western economic diversification has not diversified the western economy. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is not creating opportunity. The Federal Office of Regional Development is not developing regions in Quebec.

Since their inception, these agencies impoverished the Canadian taxpayer to the tune of about \$1 billion a year. It is time to end the folly of regional policy.

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● (1410)

[Translation]

LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Mr. Patrick Gagnon (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Leader of the Opposition a speedy recovery.

Setting aside partisan rhetoric and the constitutional differences of opinion that oppose us, all my colleagues from the Liberal Party join me in telling the Leader of the Opposition that he is in our thoughts as he goes through what must certainly be the most difficult time of his life. We also wish his wife, children and family the courage to see him through this ordeal.

The words of support that flood in from all parts testify to the great parliamentary qualities of the Leader of the Opposition.

On behalf of all Canadians, I wish for the speedy return of the Leader of the Opposition among us, here in this House.

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[English]

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the anniversary of the Montreal massacre.