

Canadian Museum of Oceanography

because not all Canadians have the same opportunity to travel.

In Atlantic Canada, we live by the sea. The sea is the pinnacle of our lifestyle. The obvious place for the jewel of the museum system that does focus on the ocean, it seems to me unquestionably is Atlantic Canada. I humbly suggest that Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, one of the most beautiful towns in Canada, would be the ideal place to implement this otherwise excellent idea put forward by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Vanier.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Marie Gibeau (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the arguments of my hon. colleagues in favour of adding another museum to the National Capital region of Canada, in this case a museum of oceanography. We can readily understand the advantages of this plan, especially with regard to Canada's history and present-day environmental and ecological issues.

As shown in a federal document published in May 1988, *Challenges and Choices: Federal policy and program proposals for Canadian museums*, museums have fundamental importance for Canadian society. Serving the collective memory of the nation, they are symbols of national identity and pride, centres of creativity and learning, places of magic and enjoyment.

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In short, small town community museums or major center multidisciplinary institutions are important in Canada, for they serve to preserve certain aspects of the world's human and natural history for the enlightenment of present and future generations. The activities of our national museums and the Museums Assistance Program which benefit Canada generally confirm the Canadian Government's commitment to this important component of our cultural life.

We are about to officially open in Hull the new Canadian Museum of Civilization. The new National Gallery of Canada opened its doors last Spring to a concert of universal praise and the National Aviation Museum has just completed phase I of its relocation project in Ottawa East.

Moreover, new facilities for the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Aviation have been announced and the construction work should begin within a few months.

Yet, I question the advisability of a proposal seeking the Canadian Government's help for another major heritage establishment in the Ottawa-Hull region which is already properly served, as everyone knows, by four national museums and their ancillary out-buildings.

In the area of heritage museums, my Hon. friends should not overlook the fact that several very worthy and valuable initiatives have been taken in various parts of our country which are not so well provided for in that respect as the Ottawa-Hull area. I should like to emphasize the fact that Quebec has only 90 museums, while Ontario has 265, nearly three times more, and British Columbia 126.

However, the official opening in Hull of the splendid new Canadian Museum of Civilization which will take place this month indicates a will to rectify this inequality.

Elsewhere in Quebec, however, creative and hard working people are impatiently waiting and anxiously hoping for a positive reply from the Canadian Government which would help them realize their heritage projects.

Several of these projects for which there is no funding available at this time would be just as important for the cultural development of our country as a Canadian museum of oceanography, because they would meet likewise real needs as far as education opportunity, community enlightenment and tourist attraction are concerned.

While we are considering new initiatives, however exciting and important, let me remind you that Québec still does not have a great science and technology museum. Why? Because we can not find the money for such a project even though serious feasibility studies completed in 1986 recommend it. It is unfortunate that there is no such museum in Québec, especially since we are living in an era of rapid and inevitable changes when we should show and even celebrate scientific and technological accomplishments in order to develop our scientific knowledge and that of our children.