

Routine Proceedings

make no changes in the law that would sanction or allow the aiding or abetting of suicide or active or passive euthanasia.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. John Bryden (Hamilton—Wentworth, Lib.): Madam Speaker, the second petition from the constituents of Hamilton—Wentworth calls upon Parliament to put an end to the discriminatory treatment of gay and lesbian citizens and their familial relationships by amending federal legislation that currently allows unequal treatment, including an amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Madam Speaker, the third petition calls for Parliament to not amend the human rights code, the Canadian Human Rights Act or the charter of rights and freedoms in any way which would tend to indicate societal approval of same sex relationships or of homosexuality, including amending the human rights code to include in the prohibited grounds of discrimination the undefined phrase sexual orientation.

MINING

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of the citizens of the great communities of Logan Lake, Kamloops, Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Merritt and Savona. There are hundreds of names on this petition.

The people point out that Canada's mining industry is a mainstay of employment in over 150 communities across Canada, an important contributor to Canada's gross domestic product in total exports and a cornerstone of our economic future. They point out that the industry has proposed a 10 point plan of action which would enhance the mining industry of Canada.

They are calling upon Parliament to take any action that will increase employment in this sector, promote exploration, rebuild Canada's mineral reserves, sustain mining communities and essentially keep mining in Canada.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 46 and 128.

[Text]

Question No. 46—Mr. Chatters:

With respect to government funding of Indian bands, tribal councils and aboriginal/Metis organizations, (a) how many are in a deficit situation, (b) for each of them, what is the amount (i) received in the last fiscal year, (ii) of their current deficit, (iii) they will receive for the current fiscal year?

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): I am informed by the Departments of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Canadian Heritage as follows:

In so far as the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, DIAND, is concerned:

(a) For the year ended March 31, 1993, 159 Indian bands, tribal councils and aboriginal organizations are in a deficit position. 1-2

(b) With respect to the names and deficit situation of Indian bands, tribal councils and aboriginal organizations, this information is confidential third party financial information under section 20(1)(b) of the Access to Information Act and cannot be released.

1 DIAND does not fund Metis organizations. Please refer to the answer by Canadian Heritage.

2 DIAND determines a recipient's deficit position by applying an indicator of whether the recipient's cumulative deficit is greater than 8 per cent of its total revenues, one month's cashflow. Statistics are collected on this basis.

In so far as the Department of Canadian Heritage is concerned:

(a) Based on the 1992-93 audited financial statements available—48 per cent were available—27 organizations were in a deficit situation.

(b) With respect to the name and deficit situation of these organizations, this information is confidential third party financial information under section 20(1)(b) of the Access to Information Act and cannot be released.

Question No. 128—Mr. Simmons:

What action will be taken on the recommendation made by the Auditor General in his 1994 annual report that the "Ice Services Branch must ensure that its contingency plans can be put into effect quickly and successfully" in the event of systems malfunction or communications failure so as to avert any possible "rerouting or disruption of ship traffic in and out of Canadian ports or, at worst, loss of life and property?"

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Data collection buoys are stationed so that in the event of an emergency they can back each other up. These buoys are equipped with information transmission devices which ensure transmittal of all necessary information. The buoys and equipment have been designed and are situated so that, short of several stations failing at once, the ice services program will be maintained.

A complete failure of all the ice program systems at once is highly unlikely. In the event of a major catastrophe, we have an agreement with the U.S. National Ice Centre to provide essential ice information to our clients until our normal operations can be resumed. We can do the same for the U.S. We developed this backup plan over the past year and it will be tested shortly.