

word "Canada". In fact, there is nothing in the lyrics to signify the song is about Canada. It could be about any country in the world or if it were still national, a great VIA Rail commercial.

It was the Minister of Communications who organized the contest to choose this song and provided the \$10,000 award. I wonder if the minister would agree to have the word "Canada" inserted in the lyrics before July 1, Canada's birthday.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you, Mr. Speaker, and everyone in the House, and indeed all Canadians a very happy Canada Day.

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[Translation]

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY WEEK

Mr. Ricardo Lopez (Châteauguay): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. colleague from Sarnia—Lambton did yesterday, I want to stress the importance of this seventh annual Occupational Health and Safety Week, which continues until this coming Saturday, June 27.

We must not seek a competitive edge and increased productivity at the expense of the health and safety of our workers. They are our most precious resource. We must be as inventive and vigilant in protecting our employees as in preserving other vital interests. Health and safety also influence the level of prosperity and quality of life achieved by Canadians.

Labour Canada has the mandate to develop progressive policies to ensure that workers and managers carry out their occupational health and safety obligations toward each other. The Minister of Labour met with his provincial and territorial counterparts two months ago to look at the possibility of further harmonizing Canadian legislation in this area. All agreed action was urgently needed and will be paying closer attention to this national issue.

As members of Parliament, we too should exercise our influence to support any initiative aimed at improving regulations dealing for instance with building safety, dangerous substances or the handling and storage of materials. On the occasion of the Occupational Health and Safety Week—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time is up.

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SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE DAY

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, a very popular French singer, Yves Duteil, was saying in his song *La langue de chez nous*, that French is "a melodious language, with wonderful words which flow through history".

On the eve of Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, French-speaking people have good reasons to be proud. French Canadians are no longer alone in celebrating their national day. They are now joined by a growing number of francophiles like me whose mother tongue is not French. We had the good fortune of learning it and sharing it with our families.

We celebrate with pride this Canadian heritage. This is why I wish to all my friends and constituents, and all Quebecers, a merry and festive Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day.

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[English]

ATLANTIC SALMON

Mr. J.W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): While there appears to be broad and instinctive support in Canada for the concept of native self-government, there are a great many Canadians who are concerned about what that concept will ultimately mean in terms of practical applications.

Nowhere do these concerns exist more currently than among those who are committed to the conservation, indeed the preservation, of the Atlantic salmon. This magnificent resource has been declining under serious pressure by all users for many years. Despite conservation measures on all sides which have been introduced recently, the continued use of gill-nets by many native people constitutes a serious ongoing threat to the salmon's future.

Surely, the fundamental principle of self-government is one of responsibility and self-control. It is in that context that I call upon native fishermen to consider their own interests and obligations with respect to the Atlantic salmon and to voluntarily abandon gill-netting as some bands have already done in favour of a less destructive method of exercising their fishing rights.