

Henrietta Edwards was a resident of Fort Macleod and was also a central figure in organizing the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Together with three other women from Alberta, these leaders established the right of women to serve in the Senate of Canada.

The first woman appointed from Alberta to the other place was Senator Martha Bielish, recently retired, who was appointed by the forward looking Progressive Conservative government in 1979.

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### HEALTH

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, the need to train physicians from the aboriginal community resulted in the establishment in 1979 of the special premedical studies program at the University of Manitoba.

Fiscal contribution to this program was 60 per cent from the federal government until it cancelled the agreement last March 31. Federal support has since been nil, contradicting the assurance conveyed by the Minister of National Health and Welfare last August 9 to the people in charge of the program.

The Manitoba government has now given notice it would not renew the contract beyond the end of this academic year and therefore recruitment of new students would be put on hold. This is a pity since the success rate of this program has been high. It is ironic since presently other medical schools are trying to set up similar models.

I therefore urge this government to take action now, keep its word and not proceed to dismantle this program but instead re-establish a long-term federal-provincial agreement in the interest not only of our aboriginal peoples but of all Canadians.

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[Translation]

### THE SENATE

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, in today's press, we read that yesterday the Liberal senators lost the first round in their fight against the GST, when their

court challenge to the appointment of the latest senator from New Brunswick by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was rejected.

According to Mr. Justice Nicholson McRae of the Ontario Court, the Constitution gave the Prime Minister the authority to designate more senators from New Brunswick than the number of members that province has in the House of Commons.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberal senators and the Liberal Party of Canada should tell Canadians today, quite frankly, who is going to pay the court costs. Canadian tax payers, Mr. Speaker?

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[English]

### TRANSPORTATION

**Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, this month marks the sixth anniversary of a tragic plane crash in the community of Fort Franklin in the western arctic which claimed seven lives. My constituents held a memorial feast on October 9.

• (1410)

The end of this month also marks the last day that the federal government will provide weather and communications services for air travel through Fort Franklin. For six years the residents of the community have been pleading with three ministers of transportation, including the Deputy Prime Minister, to upgrade aviation services for the sake of safety. And what does this government do? It deletes the service altogether.

In many remote communities in my riding air carriers have refused flights including emergencies and medivacs because of the dangerous conditions resulting from insufficient radio, weather, and runway condition reports provided by Transport Canada.

I am not exaggerating. People's lives are at stake. The review of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board of the 1984 fatal accident determined the plane crash was avoidable, had there been qualified weather reporting and communication services.

Will the minister accept my invitation of October 1—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret the hon. member's time has expired.