

*Routine Proceedings**[English]*

I also have the honour, Madam Speaker, to present the same petition on behalf of our Lady of Fatima Seniors Club who again feel that the tax will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle-income Canadians. We humbly ask Parliament to reject the goods and services tax.

**Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau):** Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure once again today to stand pursuant to Standing Order 36 and present this petition on behalf of the residents of South Porcupine who humbly pray and call upon Parliament to ensure that there is no taxation on goods and services such as loans, the arts and other non-luxury items and to scrap the entire GST as it is proposed by the government.

• (1110)

## NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 36 to present a petition in the name of 600 Canadians who are concerned about the present negotiations at the National Arts Centre with its orchestra and who hope that parties will go back to the table and negotiate in good faith.

The petitioners pray that we consider the National Arts Centre orchestra an excellent, world-class one that has brought fame to Canada and its capital city. They ask, as a matter of priority, to ensure that the National Arts Centre maintain this orchestra at its current size and standard of excellence and ensure that sound cultural credentials be the main criterion for any new appointments to the National Arts Centre Board of Trustees. I deposit this petition with pleasure.

## VIA RAIL

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have the honour and privilege to present petitions signed by 132 Canadians in the communities of Thunder Bay, Ignace, Nanaimo, South Gillies, Kenora, and a number of other areas across the country.

The petitioners are all in support of the continuation of rail passenger service in this country. They point out that this government has refused to provide VIA with the necessary support to fully realize its potential to develop the kind of national passenger rail network that Canadians want and deserve.

I just want to say that although they were not there at the transport committee this morning, I know that they will be very pleased that we are going to hold public hearings into VIA Rail.

*[Translation]*

## PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Madam Speaker, I have two petitions. One is signed by a large number of residents in my riding, by constituents who humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the new goods and services tax because it does not meet the criteria set by this Government when it made its proposal for a new sales tax. It is a hidden tax, it is unfair and it applies across the board to goods and services. Your petitioners believe that the tax is not a good tax and that it should be rejected.

*[English]*

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Madam Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present the concern of 60 Canadians who have signed this petition, and it has been duly certified by the clerk.

They are concerned that this new tax will be hidden from Canadians and will be applied to virtually everything they buy. They are particularly concerned with the onerous burden it will cause on small business.

They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

## VIA RAIL

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, I rise also to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36. It is a petition calling on Parliament to maintain the existing VIA Rail network, to upgrade the VIA equipment, and to guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its mandate to provide passenger rail service across our country.

This petition is signed by people in the lower mainland, from Vancouver, New Westminster, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Delta and the Vancouver region.

## DAIRY INDUSTRY

**Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to table a petition signed by 2,400 people in the great constituency of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.