

Routine Proceedings

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition on behalf of 83 constituents from the city of Calgary who petition this House in memory of Ryan Garrioch, the 13-year old who was stabbed to death in my riding some few weeks ago.

His parents are with us today. They have circulated a petition across the country that already has 150,000 signatures requesting that Parliament revise the laws of Canada to replace the Young Offenders Act with an updated juvenile delinquents act with a lowered maximum age of 13 years.

COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have two petitions today, pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The first petition is from residents of the province of Ontario. They are petitioning the Government of Canada to rescind its decision with regard to the Court Challenges Program and call upon the Government of Canada to reinstate this program forthwith, thereby giving Canadians the opportunity to make legal interventions on behalf of minority groups and disability groups across this country.

The second petition pursuant to Standing Order 36, is signed by residents from the great province of Nova Scotia, in particular from Sydney and Church Point, Nova Scotia. They too call upon the Government of Canada to rescind its decision with regard to the Court Challenges Program, thereby reinstating this very worthwhile program which has enabled Canadians, particularly disabled Canadians and minority groups to petition and to make legal interventions.

RURAL POST OFFICES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of 175 residents in the town of Sheho in my riding of Yorkton—Melville who are facing the closure of their post office.

The petition reads: "Whereas our national postal service is an essential link between rural residents and our friends, our families and business contacts; and whereas rural post offices are not only the heart of rural communities, but often the only federal presence; and whereas Canada Post and the federal government are closing rural post offices across the country; and whereas this is unfair to rural communities and unnecessary given

Canada Post's annual profit statements; wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament"—and this is the key part—"to ensure that the Canada Post Office in Sheho, Saskatchewan, remains intact with a permanent postmaster or postmistress and staff and appropriate personnel".

This is a very important issue to 175 people in a small village in my riding.

NATIONAL REFERENDUM

Mr. Al Horning (Okanagan Centre): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, it is an honour to present a petition with 63 names from constituents of my riding of Okanagan Centre.

The petitioners are calling upon Parliament to enact legislation providing for a referendum of the people binding upon Parliament to accept or reject constitutional amendments proposed by the government and also to enact legislation providing for the acceptance or rejection of the proposed amendments to be determined by the majority vote of the total votes cast in the whole of Canada, together with a majority vote in the majority of provinces with the territories being given the status of a single province.

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in offering signatures in support of a petition that was explained earlier today, that the majority of Canadians support equal treatment of criminal offenders, but with legislated age shelters from criminal law for very young offenders.

• (1030)

I am pleased to have been asked to present these petitions to the House of Commons today. They are totalling up in the hundreds of thousands and are at 150,000 already. I am sure there will be support from all members of Parliament in seeing something done about this.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my first petition deals with petitioners from Nova Scotia who ask that the goods and services tax on books and reading materials be removed. They point out that there has been no such tax on books and reading materials since the founding of the nation. They believe it is contrary to democratic principles and objectives such as enhanced competitiveness and increased productivity.