

*S. O. 31***FEDNOR**

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, since 1987, the federal government through a regional program called FEDNOR has created a total of 474 projects worth \$127 million, with \$36.2 million from the federal government, and created over 3,000 jobs.

In my hand today I have hundreds of letters endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce, town councils, residents and business people urging that this program continue.

I have yet to hear from the other side, from the member for Sudbury who has a regional office there, from the member for Thunder Bay who has an office there, or from the member for Sault Ste. Marie who has an office there, about whether or not they support FEDNOR.

It is a program that was brought together by northern Ontarians for northern Ontarians to develop the north. We need FEDNOR.

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**SHABBAT ZACHOR**

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, this year's commemoration of Shabbat Zachor, the sabbath of remembrance and prayer for the Jewish community of Syria, will be held on March 14 in synagogues across Canada.

On that day, not only Jews but all Canadians are reminded of the oppressive treatment of 4,300 Syrian Jews, including surveillance by Syrian secret police, economic restrictions and denial of basic human rights such as the right to vote, freedom of assembly, freedom from arbitrated tension and the right to emigrate, in contravention of the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

The plight of two brothers, Selim and Eli Swed, serving six and a half year sentences after unfair trials, is particularly grave. Recently members of this House and the Senate from all parties joined to form the Canadian Parliamentary Friendship Group for Syrian Jewry.

As vice-chair of this group, I join with my colleagues in commemorating Shabbat Zachor, and in strongly urging the Syrian government to release the Swed brothers and ensure that at last there is full respect for the fundamental human rights of all Syrian Jews, including the right to emigrate.

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**REFORM PARTY**

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake):** Mr. Speaker, the Ides of March are not yet upon us, but I, like the soothsayer, want to warn all Canadian senior citizens that Preston Manning and his retreads want to benefit from you when you die. That's right folks. Just call up some Reform Party office and you will be given the name of an insurance agent who will assist in a peaceful way, especially if you are aged and ill. They will transfer your life insurance policy directly to the Reform Party instead of your loved ones.

Preston then will likely send you a beautiful letter stating that when the time comes you will be dearly missed but heaven is waiting. Signed with anticipation, Preston.

P.S. Have you any older relatives we could contact? God bless.

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**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK**

**Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands):** Mr. Speaker, this is International Women's Week. We should be celebrating the advancement of women. Instead, this government is continuing its shameful record of contempt concerning Canadian women.

This week we have been debating a budget which tells working women they do not deserve retraining by cutting the Canadian Jobs Strategy by another \$100 million; circumvents the Human Rights Tribunal and the Federal Court by reneging on a billion dollars of pay equity payments; reneges on the government's promise to promote equality rights by killing the Court Challenges Program; kills family allowances in favour of a targeted benefit which does nothing for families on social assistance, many of whom are headed by women; condemns more women and their children to homelessness by eliminating co-op housing. It has also reneged on its promise of child care.