

*Oral Questions***WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES**

## ARRIVAL OF OLYMPIC FLAME IN CANADA

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, today in St. John's the Olympic Flame began its long journey across Canada, to arrive in Calgary next February to signal the opening of the Calgary Winter Olympics.

This journey through Canada's cities, towns and villages will give all Canadians a chance to participate in this great event. While our hopes and our support will be riding with our elite Olympic athletes as they train and ultimately compete against the world's best, this torch relay will give ordinary Canadians—whether they are athletes themselves or, just like the rest of us, proud Canadians—an opportunity to share the spotlight.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the organizers of this event, and especially to congratulate the thousands of participants and volunteers whose efforts in this relay will truly make the Olympics the kind of success that all Canadians want.

To our Olympic athletes, let me say that our best wishes are with you as you go into your final months of training. We know we will be proud of you.

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[Translation]

**TRADE**

## CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF OPPOSITION

**Mr. Guy Ricard (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, the Free Trade Agreement covers an innovative range of disciplines such as telecommunications, computer science, tourism, architecture and engineering, which provide a wide range of services.

Canada and Quebec are net importers of services, especially in engineering. Lavalin in Montreal, for instance, is known the world over for its specialized engineering projects.

However, opening up markets for services is not enough. There must be free trade in services.

Today, communications and management consulting firms in Quebec are asked by companies to coordinate their product planning, production and distribution.

The two Opposition Parties claim that the Free Trade Agreement is worthless and should be scrapped.

Why are they denying professionals in Quebec a chance to take advantage of an additional market of 250 million customers? Why are they denying Quebecers a slice of the same pie Ontario is eating? Isn't Quebec part of Canada too?

[English]

**EDUCATION**

## POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION—CREATION OF NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ADVOCATED

**Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, this morning this caucus met with the Canadian Federation of Students. A top priority of the Canadian Federation of Students in its policy area is the creation of a national advisory council on post-secondary education.

This is supported also by the Universities Association, by the Community Colleges Association, by the Canadian Teachers Federation, and by a wide variety of the business community. Indeed, it was a clarion call from the post-secondary education conference in Saskatoon.

In view of the clear body of opinion across the country, is it not possible for the Government to create an ongoing vehicle for the consideration of post-secondary education, preserving provincial jurisdiction but also recognizing the Canadian challenge and the Canadian need?

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[Translation]

**TAX REFORM**

## BANKS' RECOMMENDATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday, following the tabling of the report of the Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, the Minister stated that before any changes were made in the White Paper on Tax Reform, the banks would have to be consulted. Mr. MacIntosh, President of the Canadian Banking Association, announced yesterday that he would ignore the recommendation by the Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. So the Minister has his answer.

Will the Minister endorse the position taken by the banks or will he defend the interests of Canadians and ensure that the private sector pays its fair share of the tax burden?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite clear that the objective and the direction of the White Paper is to increase the taxes that are paid by the banks, the insurance companies, and by the trust companies. The White Paper points out that they are not paying their fair share. I believe the effective tax rate is about 14.8 per cent federally, relative to the average of approximately 18.6 per cent or 19 per cent. The White Paper proposals are to get that average tax rate up into the 21 per cent range. That is the