

pay tribute to this rural and small town regiment who earned distinguished recognition for their loyal service to Canada during the Second World War.

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### DISASTERS

**Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today in this House to extend my sympathies on behalf of the people of New Brunswick to the families of the Thanksgiving Day accident in Cormier Village.

New Brunswickers were shocked to learn of the tragedy which struck the tiny rural community this past weekend. The Leger and McGraw family reunion is not unlike hundreds of such celebrations which take place in small towns and villages across this country where Canadians come together to share in and give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon them in the past year.

The tragic incident in Cormier Village serves to remind us all of the fragility of life, and I know I speak for all members of Parliament when I say that our prayers are with these families now and in the coming days.

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### PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 7, Saskatchewan MLA Doug Anguish, from the constituency The Battlefords, and I held a public hearing into the proposed goods and services tax. We listened to the thoughts of our community and we were appalled at what we heard. The impact of the tax will be enormous on the people of northwest Saskatchewan.

We listened to briefs presented by 14 individuals and groups over a five and a half hour period. Every brief presented, including ones from the merchant's association, farm groups and the voluntary sector, opposed the goods and services tax and asked that we relay their message to the finance minister.

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I am now writing a report based on those hearings and will be submitting it in the near future. I ask the Minister of Finance to listen to the people of Canada and to withdraw the GST.

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### NATIONAL PARKS

**Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians from sea to sea are concerned about our environment. One of the most important ways of protecting our environment is through our national parks system. Alberta's national parks are among the most magnificent environmental reserves in the world.

It is an honour and a great privilege to represent a riding that has been named after one of Alberta's five national parks. Elk Island National Park is home to thousands of birds and animals including trumpeter swans, beavers, moose, elk, deer and bison.

The Minister of the Environment is committed to preserving our environment. Through the Canadian Parks Service Fund, Elk Island will receive \$675,000 for essential facilities and services at campsites, interpretive exhibits, elk handling facilities and other major improvements. This support for Elk Island National Park is solid evidence that the Government of Canada is committed to protecting and preserving our environment.

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### MINING

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, there is great concern in Canada's uranium mining and processing industry. The Government of Canada has proposed a plan whereby the Atomic Energy Control Board would provide its services to the industry on a cost recovery basis. This will have a serious impact on the workers, communities and companies whose livelihoods depend on a viable uranium mining industry.

There is little question that the Atomic Energy Control Board provides services which are essential in ensuring that proper standards of health and safety in the uranium mining sector are maintained. Nevertheless, these services are generally of benefit to Canadians as a whole, so taxing the industry directly for these services does not fairly reflect where the benefits are felt.