

of peace and well-being in a world that is so often indifferent to the fate of the disadvantaged.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a Canadian. I am proud to belong to the same country as this man with heart, Jean Vanier, a great Canadian. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of his work, and I hope that this extremely modest man will, for a long time yet, continue to prove the incredible power of love.

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[English]

THE HANDICAPPED

NATIONAL ACCESS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Chuck Cook (North Vancouver): Mr. Speaker, this year National Access Awareness Week will be held from June 4 to June 10. This week gives us an opportunity to step back and reflect on the lives of 3.4 million Canadians, one out of every seven citizens in Canada, who have disabilities.

What disabled persons want is to participate in community life as fully as all other Canadians. They want equality and reasonable access to facilities and services.

Thousands of Canadians have decided to work together to improve conditions for people with disabilities. Their goal is to remove the barriers that prevent disabled persons from being fully independent and reduce their opportunities to become actively involved in community life. The work accomplished by the various committees at the provincial and community levels has been tremendous, and the many activities they have planned reach far beyond the bounds of this particular week.

Rick Hansen is just one of these thousands of Canadians who are striving to help the disabled. Rick is both a distinguished Canadian and a gifted athlete who, through his world tour and his work with the community, has served as an example to all of us. He is in Ottawa this week to help make all Canadians aware not only of Access Awareness Week but also of the potential of all disabled Canadians.

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I call on all Members present to recognize the work of Rick Hansen and all those other Canadians who will make next week possible. Mr. Hansen and his charming wife have joined us today in the gallery.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTION OF TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, a little over a month ago, the Commissioner of Official Languages tabled his annual report in this House. Some of the conclusions of this report, I hope, have got Hon. Members and their constituents thinking about the state of our official languages.

It is our responsibility to do everything in our power so that these two languages can develop and citizens can use them as much as they wish.

As Mr. Fortier said: "Everyone has the right to remain unilingual if he wishes. But I believe that we should leave our children a country where a better knowledge of our two official languages will be an asset that will enable us to communicate better and will help us overcome our two solitudes."

Mr. Speaker, these words of wisdom seem to have been forgotten by some of our provincial governments. According to the findings of this same report, it usually takes a legal decision or substantial federal assistance for them to do something to develop the other official language.

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[English]

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

PROSECUTION OF JOURNALIST

Mr. Steve Butland (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, in this past month the House has witnessed not only leaks in the Budget but also leaks in the Government's judgment and credibility. With the statement yesterday by the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley—Hants (Mr. Nowlan) that the RCMP erred in charging television reporter Doug Small, we are witnessing leaks in the Government's solidarity as well.