

found them in Meech Lake, and I urge my hon. friend to strongly defend Meech Lake and endorse it across western Canada.

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• (1500)

ENVIRONMENT

GRANTS TO BUILD SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. In municipalities across Canada children and their families are denied access to our public beaches because of pollution caused in many cases by sewage discharge.

In Newfoundland and Nova Scotia raw sewage is being dumped into the Atlantic Ocean. Here in Ottawa-Carleton, sewage is polluting our rivers. In Hamilton the sewage is polluting the harbour.

Given that the Minister is aware of a \$200 million grant given to Nova Scotia to build a sewage treatment facility in Halifax, is the Minister and this Government prepared to make a similar commitment to other cities across Canada?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the question of municipal infrastructure and the problems of maintaining it are well known and the solution is well known too. We all know that the price of water in Canada is the cause of the problem and that Canadians do not pay as much for water as they should. If Canadians paid the same for water as our American friends, we would have no problem maintaining sewage and water systems in Canada. The municipalities would have all the money they would need. So the municipalities and the provinces must fulfill their responsibilities in this area.

[*English*]

ROLE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, historically the federal Government has played a role that goes back to 1938 as a partner working with the provinces and

the municipalities to build and upgrade infrastructure across the country.

Will this Government move today to resume its traditional role and stop the rapid decay of our cities and towns?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the federal Government recognizes its responsibility for technology. We are quite prepared to support the municipalities and the provinces in the area of water purification, with research funds and considerable assistance from the federal Government. But responsibility for the environment must be shared. The provinces claim relative autonomy for the environment: they are right, within their jurisdiction. The federal Government must discharge its own responsibilities, but the provinces must also discharge theirs.

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[*English*]

HEALTH

CANCER STATISTICS FOR SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I want to bring to the Minister's attention a health crisis in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Cancer statistics from the Minister's own Department now show that the alarming rate of cancer mortality in Sydney, Nova Scotia, first noticed among Dosco coke oven workers, has now spilled out and is confirmed among the entire city population at a rate of 76.12 per cent above the Canadian norm. What measures has the Minister taken to deal with this life and death situation?

Will he agree now to take the lead and launch an immediate study and plan of action to clean up the tar ponds and the whole mess that clearly threatens the lives of workers and residents alike?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member raising the question. I will gladly take it as notice and be in touch with provincial authorities as well.