

On their behalf, I call on the Minister of Veterans Affairs to reconsider this regrettable decision to relocate.

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PARKS CANADA

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I would have risen last week had I been here, to join with the Secretary of State for Canada, the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, and others calling upon the minister responsible for Parks Canada to immediately rescind the policy that excludes those who are not white Caucasian males from participating in historical animations at Parks Canada sites, in particular at the Halifax Citadel.

One appreciates Parks Canada's commitment to accurate historical re-enactment, but surely it is a misguided interpretation of the concept to suggest that the ability to act should be assessed on the basis of the same discriminatory guidelines that existed in the British army a century and a half ago. Surely it is more appropriate to apply the values of 1990 and the employment practices they imply.

I would suggest that unless Parks Canada can arrange to bring back the original Highlanders and artillery men, they should recognize that substitutes are at best actors and that they should be fairly chosen.

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COMMUNITY AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, the week of March 25 to 31 has been proclaimed Community Awareness Week in Prince Edward Island.

This week allows individuals in their communities to reflect upon the importance of voluntary organizations and to recognize their significance.

Volunteer activity in my province is part of our way of life. This is why I believe our communities flourish. There are over 200 volunteer residents who serve on community councils in my riding of Malpeque.

Moreover, there are over 400 organizations, clubs and associations on the Island that promote volunteer activity and community awareness.

Oral Questions

Groups such as industrial commissions, community advisory boards, recreation and service organizations, to name a few, all share in creating communities that are unique.

I know that all members will join with me in commending my province for recognizing the services of those individuals and organizations during Community Awareness Week.

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STATUS OF WOMEN

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, women in Newfoundland, who have had 100 per cent of the core funding of their seven women's centres cut, are still occupying Secretary of State offices in Newfoundland. They were there yesterday, all night, and they are still there. Women in Vancouver are holding a solidarity protest on the west coast. They demand, and the New Democrats demand, that core funding to all women's centres be reinstated immediately. They demand an immediate meeting with the Secretary of State and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women.

Why do women in this country have to occupy government offices day and night, from sea to sea, in an attempt to be listened to by this government? And why is the Tory government still ignoring them?

When will the Secretary of State meet with these women? When will the Minister responsible for the Status of Women meet with these women? When will this government stop trying to silence the voices of women in this country?

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FISCAL POLICY

Mr. Douglas Young (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The Prime Minister recently said that interest rates in this country would be going down. The finance minister in his budget stated clearly that the rate would be reduced during this year. However, yesterday, the Bank of Canada Governor in his annual report indicated that he was totally committed to his high interest rate policy.