

• (1410)

The Government of Pakistan should take steps to assure maximum protection and full human rights for Christian minorities. Canada enjoys a good relationship with Pakistan and we want this to be continued. The best way is to ensure there are no religious and human rights violations of its minorities.

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GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Hon. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to the Greek community in Canada as it prepares today to celebrate Greek Independence Day.

The roughly 350,000 Canadians of Greek descent are proud to celebrate that day in 1821 when their ancestors rose against the Ottoman empire, which had held a stranglehold on their homeland since 1453.

The Greek national consciousness went through a period of reawakening, led by the poets, scholars, writers, and revolutionary leaders of the day.

The 1821 revolt in Moldavia and the Peloponnesus inaugurated a decade of revolution and civil war in Greece. Most of the population picked up arms, while the commercial fleets of Greek merchants and islanders built a navy.

With independence achieved, surely no nationality is more in tune with the passion for freedom than the Greeks. It is indeed an honour and a privilege that so many of them have chosen Canada as their home.

We are the better for them and we wish them all a happy Greek Independence Day.

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[Translation]

NDP GOVERNMENT IN ONTARIO

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Once more, the NDP government in Ontario breaks one of its promises. This time, it is education.

After raising tuition fees, cutting bursaries and reducing funding for school-boards and universities, the NDP is now attacking second language teaching in Ontario.

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The provincial education minister announced yesterday in Ottawa Centre, in my riding, and I quote: "We will have to soft-pedal French-language services in favour of other, more pressing needs".

My colleague from Ottawa—Vanier, Jean-Robert Gauthier, made the following point, and I quote: "There should be only one class of students in Canada. By denying Ontario's francophone minority access to education from grade one to university, the NDP is creating two classes of students and putting the seal of approval on linguistic discrimination".

The NDP government is also planning cuts in the budget for the Ontario Office of Francophone Affairs.

This is one more attack by the government on Ontario's francophone population. The NDP has demonstrated that protecting the French language is not a priority.

I want to join my Liberal colleagues in condemning this attack by the NDP on French language education in Ontario.

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[English]

NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to remind the House that March is National Kidney Month in Canada. Fourteen thousand Canadians and their families live with kidney disease.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is a national volunteer organization dedicated to improving their health and quality of life. It funds research and clinical education, provides patient services to those living with kidney disorders, advocates for access to high quality health care and promotes awareness and commitment to organ donation.

Incidentally, the first kidney transplant in Canada was performed in 1958. Such innovative life-saving techniques were made possible in large measure as a result of research funded by the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

This March drive is the foundation's major source of funding. This year 90,000 volunteers will try to raise \$5 million.