

During the Lithuanian crisis of spring 1990, the Opposition repeatedly used Question Period to press the government to act in Lithuania's favour,²⁶ particularly by providing medical assistance to the blockaded republic.²⁷ It also called for diplomatic recognition of Lithuania²⁸, as well as for Canada to raise the issue in international institutions such as the CSCE.²⁹ External Affairs Minister Joe Clark consulted members of the Canadian Lithuanian community on possible Canadian responses.³⁰ On 30 April 1990, Lithuanian Prime Minister Prunskiene attended Parliament from the Gallery.³¹

There has also been committee activity on the Baltic issue. A three-party committee visited Lithuania during its March elections, sponsored by the Canadian Lithuanian community.³² The government later consulted with the group regarding Lithuanian independence.³³

This committee formed the nucleus of a parliamentary Committee for the Baltic States, comprising Bill Blaikie (NDP), Pauline Browes (PC), Jesse Flis (Liberal), and David Kilgour (PC/Ind), to

serve as a forum for discussion and interaction between Parliamentarians, the Canadian government and the three Baltic communities...[to] act as liaison between concerned Canadians and the Canadian government...[and to] concentrate on urging the Canadian government to take whatever action is [necessary] to facilitate the independence of Lithuania, to urge the Soviet Union to negotiate a just settlement for the independence of Lithuania and to raise public and Parliamentary awareness as [to] the complexities of the Baltic situation.³⁴

²⁶ *Commons Debates*, 14 March 1990, p. 9269; 19 March 1990, p. 9456; and 26 March 1990, pp. 9750-9751.

²⁷ *Commons Debates*, 25 May 1990, p. 11886; and 14 June 1990, p. 12675.

²⁸ *Commons Debates*, 3 April 1990, p. 10128; and 4 April 1990, p. 10173.

²⁹ *Commons Debates*, 8 May 1990, p. 1128; and 30 April 1990, p. 10791.

³⁰ *Commons Debates*, 27 March 1990, pp. 9826-9827.

³¹ *Commons Debates*, 30 April 1990, p. 10787.

³² *Commons Debates*, 6 March 1990, p. 8868.

³³ *Commons Debates*, 22 March 1990, p. 9640.

³⁴ Jesse Flis, MP. *Press Release*, 3 April 1990.