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very important. I therefore ask the CRTC and Keith Spicer to consider this issue seriously. Canadians are entitled to expect that our national networks will provide quality, unbiased information and report the facts.

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[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Mr. Speaker, today I challenge the Canada Post Corporation to abandon its policy of closing all rural Canadian post offices.

Under the corporation's natural opportunities policy, all rural post offices are slated for closure when the natural opportunity of retirement, resignation or death of a postmaster occurs.

This policy is seriously flawed and short-sighted. It does not allow for the examination of the particular situation of a community. When a natural opportunity presents itself, the corporation moves and closes the post office.

[Translation]

Canada Post announced that it would close the post office in Pointe-Verte, in my riding of Restigouche—Chaleur. The corporation is still going ahead with this disastrous policy.

I oppose this policy and the closure of the post office in Pointe-Verte. I urge the government to order Canada Post to abandon forthwith its policy of closing post offices.

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec—Est): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform you that an organization in my riding, the *Société de coopération pour le développement international* (SOCODEVI), has developed several original initiatives for International Development Week, an activity sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency.

To help Canadians understand the issues of development and international co-operation, SOCODEVI has

done various things to inform the public and raise awareness in the riding of Québec—Est and in several other regions of Quebec.

Also, with the co-operation of the Agropur co-operative, a message on International Development Week is being carried throughout February on more than seven million milk cartons all over Quebec.

This initiative shows the interest that private organizations have in working closely with international development groups to provide a better future for all.

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[English]

TORONTO ECONOMY

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in the past two years over 100,000 jobs have been lost in metro Toronto, many of them never to return. In addition millions of square metres of office space sit empty. Almost \$200 million in property taxes are due by companies that have gone bankrupt.

Tomorrow at the economic summit metro Chair Tonks and the six mayors are likely to ask Ottawa to declare Toronto an international banking centre like Vancouver and Montreal, to remove the federal freeze on transfer payments to Ontario, to invest in research and development for the advancement of rapid transit technology, to help redevelop the railway lands to enable urban intensification in the city, to clean up the polluted Toronto harbour from toxic contamination and hopefully to improve the aging sewer infrastructure.

We urge this government to help kick-start the metro economy. When Toronto thrives, Canada thrives. When Toronto suffers, Canada suffers.

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[Translation]

MINING

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, MSV Resources of the Corpomin group announced yesterday that it had reached an agreement in principle with Westminer, a mining company, whereby MSV would buy the Copper Rand and Portage mines and the processing plant in Chibougamau from Westminer.