

S. O. 31

WATER QUALITY

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, water is Canada's most valuable resource. Improving the quality of water is one of Canada's most pressing issues.

Lakes and rivers are damaged by air pollution. In many cities rivers are used as sinks for dumping waste. Under-ground water is polluted by pesticides and other toxic chemicals.

Seven years ago the Pearse inquiry recommended a comprehensive water policy for Canada. Seven years have gone by and still the government has not produced a much needed water policy for Canada.

• (1410)

We urge the government to pay attention to how water quality impacts on public health and the economy.

Canadians expect action from the provinces and the municipalities, but the initial step must be taken by Ottawa where the political will is lacking.

Will the government wake up after seven years of inaction? Will the Minister of the Environment discharge his responsibilities on water on behalf of all Canadians?

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[*Translation*]

CHRISTMAS SEALS CAMPAIGN

Mr. Allan Koury (Hochelaga—Maisonneuve): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Lung Association's annual Christmas seals campaign is now under way.

The Canadian Lung Association was the first national volunteer organization. It was founded in 1900 to fight tuberculosis, which was then a major health problem. Since then the association has attacked lung cancer, asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, in particular.

We all know Christmas seals, but we may not all be aware that this campaign is the lung association's main source of funds. Every year, some 11 million seals are sent to five million homes. The funds collected are used for basic activities: research, education, services, patient care and the health promotion campaign.

I congratulate the Lung Association and I hope that its Christmas seals campaign is a great success.

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[*English*]

EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance's edict that Canadians who quit their jobs or are fired for cause is one of the most vicious decisions ever made by a Government of Canada.

At best, it says work or starve. At worst, it violates the basic democratic and legal principle that a Canadian citizen is innocent until proven guilty.

A company can dump pollutants into our oceans and be fined a mere \$2,000 after due process. A Canadian under the new proposals of the government who quits his or her job or is summarily fired is in reality being subjected to a fine of from \$7,242 to \$21,300 without due process, without the right to defend the case before the penalty is imposed.

I call upon the government and the minister to reconsider this vicious proposal.

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MISSISSAUGA YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga West): For the past 10 years the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee of Mississauga has provided a forum for young people to address issues concerning their future and provide input to all levels of government. As well, members of the Mississauga Youth Advisory Committee are active participants in projects throughout the city of Mississauga.

In recent years the committee has fostered discussions on racism and discrimination, the environment and youth crime. Members of the committee assist in Earth Day celebrations and Canada Day festivities. As well, they have been active supporters of Our Place Peel, Mississauga's only youth shelter.

During this 10th anniversary year, the Mississauga Youth Advisory Committee sponsored a successful youth conference. They talked about drug abuse among youth, as well as issues relating to the future of Canada.