

[English]

CANADA POST CORPORATION**FUNDY-ROYAL RURAL POST OFFICES—ANNOUNCED
REDUCTIONS IN SERVICE**

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, several small rural post offices in Fundy-Royal and throughout Canada have been advised that their hours of operation will be reduced. In some cases the reductions have come in the form of closures all day Saturday and Wednesday afternoon. The announcement has caused considerable concern to the small communities. Postal services are, for many people, a critical and vital part of their personal and business concerns.

The people of Fundy-Royal understand that the Post Office Corporation is committed to providing efficient and effective service while attempting to whittle away its massive debt. However, there is a general fear that rural service is being sacrificed in the effort. In the past few years rural communities have witnessed a steady deterioration of services, most particularly the elimination of Saturday delivery. They do not want to see their service further reduced.

Closure of post offices on Saturday eliminates the only opportunity a great many patrons have for using postal facilities. Reduced hours of operation place additional restrictions on the accessibility of rural residents to this essential service. The post office is the lifeblood of many small and rural communities, and such cut-backs are always sorely and deeply felt.

I urge the Postmaster General and his officials to study carefully the effects of these closures on the affected communities, and recommend that the services and hours of operation previously provided to these patrons be maintained.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**LOCAL AND REGIONAL FRENCH PROGRAMMING OUTSIDE
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, last week, the Fédération des francophones hors Québec asked the federal Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) to intervene and ensure that local and regional programming at the CBC French network outside Quebec would not be cut as part of the budgetary cutbacks planned by the Minister of Finance.

I hope the Minister of Communications supports the position taken by the Fédération, Mr. Speaker. The CBC French network's radio and television programs are sometimes the only source of information in French for most francophone communities outside Quebec.

It is absolutely vital that the Minister of Communication immediately inform the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that French local and regional programming outside Quebec is an inviolable part of the CBC's mandate.

S.O. 21

● (1410)

AGRICULTURE**IMPORTANCE OF AID TO FARMERS**

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil-Papineau): In Quebec today, Mr. Speaker, the Union of Agricultural Producers is celebrating its 60 years of farm activism. I should like to emphasize the untiring efforts of thousands of volunteers who have worked for over half a century to defend our farmers' interests.

If I may, Mr. Speaker, I should like to remind the House briefly of a number of claims made by Quebec farmers: a greater involvement of the Farm Credit Corporation in financing; interest rates not exceeding 10 per cent; a long term dairy policy reflecting production costs; programs oriented toward young farmers; a reassessment of the deregulation plan; the renewal of federal-provincial agreements concerning the development of privately-owned forests; an increased support for the marketing of new products such as sheep production.

Mr. Speaker, the farmers' claims have been denied for 15 years. Our government must help farmers to prosper. Only in this way will Right Hon. Brian Mulroney's commitment to make Canada a truly agricultural superpower really come true.

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[English]

TOURISM**IMPACT OF BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS**

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) and, in particular, the Minister of State for Tourism (Mr. McMillan), to change the regressive actions announced in the economic statement by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson). We in this Party were amazed to learn that the minister brought in a reduction of \$200 million to the IRDIA Program. In particular, he has savaged the tourism industry by making projects under IRDIA ineligible for tourism. This will have a great effect on a lot of small tourist operators right across the country, in particular in those poorer regions of Canada which have based their small economies on the tourism industry.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, that some of this will be taken up by provincial and federal agreements on tourism, but the small operator in Atlantic Canada, in Quebec or western Canada, does not have any access whatsoever to dollars under the IRDIA Program. I urge the Minister of State for Tourism, and in particular the minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, to change these regressive policies and replace them with what existed previously.