

*Routine Proceedings*

## MEECH LAKE ACCORD

**Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River):** Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition signed by students at the University of Calgary located in the riding of Calgary West.

The signatories are over 200 young men and women who care a great deal about the nature and the future of our country. They are asking Parliament to rescind its endorsement of the Meech Lake Accord, to sign a new agreement that will address the concerns of all regions, in fact to unify, not divide Canada, and to provide for popular ratification of all future constitutional amendments.

I know that Parliament will appreciate young people trying to do something positive for Canada.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby):** Mr. Speaker, I also rise under Standing Order 36 to present a petition from residents of British Columbia who are very disappointed in this government's action in cutting parental leave benefits for adoptive parents in the UI legislation. They feel that the 15 weeks of adoptive benefits that we previously had were more in keeping with what adoptive parents need, and that a cut to 10 weeks does not adequately cover the needs of adoptive parents. They ask the government to reconsider and rescind this discriminatory and regressive measure. I am pleased to present this petition on their behalf. It is signed by 50 residents of British Columbia.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, am delighted to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 on behalf of a number of people from Kamloops, British Columbia, who are also concerned about the cuts that the government has made for adoptive parents from 15 weeks to 10 weeks. The feeling is that this is a very regressive step. They are asking the government to reconsider this matter to encourage people who have adopted children to provide that very quality time at the beginning of the relationship.

## PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, on another matter, again from Kamloops, British Columbia, I have a whole list of constituents who are depressed

with the fact that the government seems to be so callous in the imposition of this goods and services tax. They are calling upon the government to see what this is going to do, particularly to those people living in the regions of Canada, and to go back to the drawing board and start over with some real tax reform.

## VIA RAIL

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I have a third petition regarding VIA Rail. Again, it is from western Canada.

Westerners are pointing out that they believe that the government's decision to curtail and reduce VIA Rail service across Canada is not a terribly thoughtful act. They are pointing out the environmental benefits of passenger rail service and are asking the government not only not to curtail VIA Rail, but in fact to invest and modernize VIA Rail, to encourage more people to take the train than at present.

## AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of a number of producers from western Canada, farmers who are concerned about the direction that this government is taking with respect to agriculture in this country, particularly with respect to its dismantling of the Canadian Wheat Board and its removal of oats from the Canadian Wheat Board.

This petition calls for the government to reinstate oats under the Canadian Wheat Board and to give oats and barley the same protection under the Canadian Wheat Board Act that wheat presently has.

## PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I rise with 12 petitions in hand from all parts of western Canada, northern British Columbia, Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, my riding of Mission—Coquitlam, Calgary, other parts of Alberta and from a number of communities in Ontario. The petitioners are appalled at the introduction of a goods and services tax that provides and ensures an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations, while imposing even further taxes on average income earners. Pursuant to Section 36, I would like to present this petition.