

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Tony Ianno (Trinity—Spadina, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present four petitions on behalf of 162 citizens, many of whom are members of my constituency of Trinity—Spadina.

The petitioners call on the Government of Canada to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act so as to protect individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

On behalf of my constituents I humbly submit these petitions.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have three petitions to present on behalf of constituents.

The first petition deals with palliative care and the decriminalization of assisted suicide.

RIGHTS OF GRANDPARENTS

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the second petition deals with the rights of grandparents.

JUSTICE

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the third petition deals with returning convicted persons to jail.

TAXATION

Mr. Paul Szabo (Mississauga South, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36 I present a petition which has been circulating across Canada. This particular petition comes from the Cold Lake, Alberta area.

The petitioners draw to the attention of the House that managing the family home and caring for preschool children is an honourable profession which has not been recognized for its value to our society. They also state that the Income Tax Act discriminates against families who make the choice to provide care in the home for preschool children, the disabled, the chronically ill, or the aged.

The petitioners therefore pray and call on Parliament to pursue initiatives to eliminate tax discrimination against families who decide to provide care in the home for preschool children, the disabled, the chronically ill, or the aged.

MINING INDUSTRY

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to present a petition on behalf of a few hundred residents from Kamloops, Logan Lake, Fraser Lake, Endako,

Routine Proceedings

Salmon Arm, Sorrento, Burns Lake, Fort Fraser, Prince George, Vanderhoof, Vernon and Barrière.

The petitioners point out that the mining industry is a mainstay of employment in over 150 communities across Canada and is an important contributor to our country's gross domestic product. Its total exports are a cornerstone of our economic future. The petitioners simply point out to Parliament that the Canadian Mineral Industry Federation has proposed a 10-point plan of action. They are asking the Government of Canada to take action on these recommendations to ensure that we rebuild Canada's mineral reserves.

DANGEROUS OFFENDERS

Mr. Nelson Riis (Kamloops, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I have a second petition to present which has been signed by a number of residents of the central interior of British Columbia.

The petitioners point out that Canadians, mainly women and children, are becoming increasingly fearful of walking on our streets and in our neighbourhoods. They believe that many violent and sex offenders are being paroled prematurely, are being released without proper treatment and rehabilitation, and a whole number of other issues.

The petitioners ask that the House of Commons and the Minister of Justice take whatever steps are necessary to amend Canada's Criminal Code and parole system to ensure that safety and peace return to our neighbourhoods.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Peter Milliken (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Question No. 176 will be answered today and I would ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

Question No. 176—**Mr. Harper (Calgary west):**

With regard to the multiple cheques issued by the government to individuals within a short period of time, for example OAS, CPP, civil and military service pensions, (a) what consideration has been given to combining all of the cheques sent in a month to an individual into a single payment, (b) how much does it cost to issue and mail each individual cheque and (c) has the possibility of issuing a single cheque to married couples been considered?

Hon. David Dingwall (Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Lib.): Public Works and Government Services Canada is continuously looking at ways of improving service delivery and reducing the costs of cheque production and distribution, from the consolidation of cheque processing sites from 11 to 4, which will save \$4.8 million annually after implementation, to increased use of direct deposit.