
CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Mr. B. ... very few remarks before I have the minister take the floor. I know he has a limited amount of time. The proceedings hereafter will only take a few minutes.

You will know that I am not David MacDonald, who is on the agenda. Unfortunately, David is tied up in the constitutional committee out west. He sends his apologies.

I want to tell you that David was very instrumental in getting this event off the ground. Without his initial support there is no way our committee, working through the agricultural committees, could have staged an environmental forum. He took the position that it was a good idea, that in fact the environmental issues covered all aspects of life in Canada, and that indeed it was not unusual that the environmental committee would lead.

We also of course received great support both from the Speaker of the House and from the leaders of the House. They had to make the special orders to allow this to happen.

Before I go on, I want to thank the staff in my own office, my committee staff, the researchers, the clerks, the whole House staff, who have all worked so well to make this happen. Many new things have occurred. In fact, maybe many of the advantages of what has happened will be in the proceedings that will be held here today in the new committee structure.

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I want to thank the colleagues sitting around the table, so many of you in and out as we do our other duties, for keeping the meetings on a non-partisan basis. Even some of the partisan things were said on a non-partisan basis. I think that it fair to say this morning

Agriculture

Energy, Mines and Resources

Environment

Forestry and Fisheries

Health and Welfare, Social Affairs,
Seniors and the Status of Women

Industry, Science and Technology,
Regional and Northern Development

Labour, Employment and Immigration

Transport

The benefits in the long term of this will be seen through committee work, because it is just a part of what the regular committees do every day in their study of their particular issue in the environmental field. As I said before, maybe other long-term

Before I turn the floor over to the minister, I want to say that an important and fair thing is going on, a very informative affair, in Room 200 in the West Block. It will continue until 6