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can look ahead for a better future if we ensure sound water management.

Much has been done already. At the federal level, agreements with the United States are contributing to protection against the ravages of industrial pollution. In many of our communities, urban and rural, programs have been enacted in recent years to undo the damage caused and to clean some of our lakes, rivers and canals.

We must do more. It is up to all of us.

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● (1410)

REFUGEES

CRITICISM OF PROVISIONS OF BILL C-55

Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, recent public opinion polls on refugee policy show that Canadians are maintaining their traditional open-mindedness.

Most believe that Canada should continue to accept refugees in numbers appropriate to our ability to assist them to establish themselves and their families in our country.

Polls also indicate that Canadians want the Government to deal with the problems created by the backlog in our outmoded refugee determination process. But is the Government's Bill C-55 the right response? The Bill proposes pre-selection at our borders, a system which some suspect as being aimed more at finding reasons to send refugees elsewhere than at assessing the legitimacy of refugee claims.

The Bill proposes establishing a list of so-called safe countries for this purpose, but it does not explain on what criteria the list is to be set up, how quickly it can be revised in response to changing world events, or how the Government can guarantee safety in another country.

Clearing the backlog will, in itself, discourage abuse of Canada's refugee determination process and make it easier to serve and assist genuine refugees. Canadians, who were the proud recipients of the United Nations Nansen Medal for their enlightened approach to the world refugee crisis, must think twice about Bill C-55.

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MUNICIPALITIES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, on Sunday last delegates from across Canada began arriving in Ottawa to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Fiftieth Annual Conference which ends today.

Over 900 delegates representing 402 municipalities are attending the conference celebrating the theme "A golden past and a brilliant future". They have come from as far away and as diverse places as the District of West Vancouver in the West, St. John's in the East, and, of course, Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

The delegates are addressing important municipal issues, ranging from liability insurance to water infrastructure, to privatization in municipal government.

We congratulate these delegates on their commitment to their communities and their country. They and their predecessors have travelled to similar conferences over the past 50 years to discuss municipal issues, initiate ideas and to build on those ideas. These are the people who have led Canadian municipalities to a golden past. We welcome them to Ottawa and encourage them in building a brilliant future.

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FISHERIES

CREATION OF SPORT FISHING CORRIDOR IN RIVERS INLET AREA OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of the House to a serious matter. It is the creation of an exclusive sport fishing corridor in the Rivers Inlet area, a previous commercial fishing area.

This action was unilaterally taken by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, contrary to the recommendation of the Central Coast Advisory Board.

This sets a dangerous precedent and process under way, where one or two local individuals can override the wishes of the majority of the community and the established advisory boards. I call on the Minister to revoke the sport fishing corridor in the Rivers Inlet area and request the Central Coast Advisory Board, with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to work out an acceptable fishing plan for the area.

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[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

TRIBUTE TO RIGHT HON. PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): In 1534, Mr. Speaker, European explorer Jacques Cartier left Saint-Malo in France and sailed across the Atlantic on his way to become the storied discoverer of Canada. Soon after, French Europeans settlers were joined by English Europeans. It took only a few centuries for the descendants of these two great peoples to cross the whole Canadian continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific to create a huge new country whose population swelled with the arrival of many nationals from other countries.