

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that this debate is over and that all tendencies, all political groups that must insure bilingualism across Canada—that they will mind their own business and make sure that French-speaking and English-speaking people across Canada have access to federal services in their own language. When it is perfect at the federal level, we can teach provincial governments what to do.

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● (1405)

[English]

HOUSING

SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION IN TORONTO

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, the affordable housing crisis in Toronto has become a serious concern for many middle and low-income Torontonians. Home ownership is fast becoming impossible for families without two incomes. Finding reasonable rental accommodation has become an endless and frustrating experience.

Single-income families, low-income earners, senior citizens, and others on fixed incomes, have been hard hit by the shortage of affordable housing. The higher rents demanded are often paid at the expense of other necessities such as food and clothing.

The situation in Toronto is fast becoming intolerable for those who cannot afford to pay the price demanded for basic accommodation.

I urge the Government of Canada to use every means at its disposal to impress upon the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Ministry of Housing the need to take immediate action to provide affordable housing in Toronto.

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SPORTS

BEST EVER WINTER SPORTS PROGRAM—HIGH PERFORMANCE FUNDING

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport (Mr. Jelinek) announced the Government's replacement for the Best Ever Winter Sports Program. I am relieved that the Minister has decided to continue the program. I am also happy that he is beginning to adopt the New Democrat approach of focusing on grass roots development. This has always been the mainstay of our sports policy.

However, at \$32 million over five years the program has not seen a real increase in funds over the previous program. The difference simply accounts for inflation. If the Minister wants to change the focus and direct more funds toward increasing

participation in winter sports, it means that there will have to be a corresponding decline in high performance funding.

Our recent experience with the Calgary Olympics has demonstrated not only that high performance funding is effective and necessary, but that we still have a long way to go before we are consistently competitive with the world's best. It also demonstrated the value that Canadians place on sports, and the pride they feel in the success of our athletes.

Because of the increasing emphasis on sport development, especially in the wake of the Calgary Olympics, I will be asking the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare to undertake a complete review of all national sport and fitness funding programs. I would like to see the committee travel to the various regions of the country in order to allow those who are involved in the delivery of sport programs at a local level to participate in the review.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

ABANDONMENT OF FREIGHT LINE SERVICE TO WESTERN NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Gerald Comeau (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, my constituents were shocked to learn this weekend that Canadian Pacific Railway had announced its intention to abandon freight line service to western Nova Scotia.

Rather than promoting service to customers, CPR has allowed the service to deteriorate in order to justify abandoning communities which it has served since 1868. This was the oldest section of railway in the CPR system.

Transportation is the economic lifeline of Atlantic Canada. We need transportation links to keep our businesses competitive and in order to attract new businesses to establish in our communities.

I strongly oppose this abandonment. This is why I will fight to retain our services.

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CRIMINAL CODE

PORNOGRAPHY—REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BILL C-54

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-54 is an amendment to the Criminal Code which would have the effect of making virtually any depiction of sexuality illegal under the Criminal Code. I urge the Government to withdraw the Bill. Many other Members have done so.

Recently the Government indicated that the Bill had a low priority. I would like the Government to make it clear that the Bill will not be reintroduced and will not be proceeded with.