

## S. O. 31

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The question is on the amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. members:** No.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

**Some hon. members:** Yea.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. members:** Nay.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** In my opinion the yeas have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Call in the members.

*During the ringing of the bells:*

## SUSPENSION OF SITTING

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Pursuant to Standing Order 45(5)(a), the division stands deferred until seven o'clock p.m. later this day. Therefore, I will suspend the sitting of the House until two o'clock this day.

The sitting of the House was suspended at 1.40 p.m.

## SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[Translation]

## COMMUNITY RADIO

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, it seems that every time there is a budget cut, social and cultural programs are the first to suffer. What is happening to the subsidy program for community radio stations is no exception.

The Department of the Secretary of State's community radio stations assistance program, designed to establish French-language community stations in minority and Acadian communities, is the only source of federal funding on which these stations can draw for capital investment. This year's funds have been exhausted, which means that community radio stations in my riding *la radio de l'Épinette noire* and *la radio communautaire Kapnord Inc.* will not be able to develop at the same rate or may have to close down altogether.

Acadian and French-language minority communities are increasingly threatened by assimilation. The people in my riding feel that community radio is the best way for these communities to counter this threat. Community radio stations have made it their objective to reduce assimilation by giving French-speaking communities in Northern Ontario a chance to hear programs that reflect their local values.

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[English]

## INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate International Human Rights Day, the 42nd anniversary of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As a Canadian, I am proud of this country's past record on human rights issues. We are all proud. However, recently this record has fallen into some disrepute. In October, the UN human rights committee unanimously condemned Canada for failing to live up to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Our record with respect to native peoples and refugee claimants came under particular fire from the UN.

The Mulroney government has failed to introduce long promised changes to the Human Rights Act here at home to protect gays and lesbians and disabled people against discrimination.

The government cut off funding without explanation for an independent human rights conference of equality seeking groups held each November for the past three years under the Court Challenges Program. Instead, it has organized a conference that is going on here in Ottawa at the moment by invitation only.