

*S. O. 31*

er of the year. It is the artistic excellence exemplified by Jan Arden that typifies the superior calibre of art in Canada. The future success for Canadian artists is boundless.

Another group bound for success hails from Newfoundland, a province that has produced more than its fair share of Canadian stars. Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland is a theatre company trying to raise funds to take its production to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh.

Instead of seeking financial support from the government it has focused its attention on raising funds from the corporate sector. David Somers, a spokesperson for the company, said: "I am not under the impression that anybody owes us anything as actors or theatre people. It is entirely up to the artistic community to ensure its own survival. Businesses have been funding plays since Shakespeare's time and probably before".

With an attitude like that we know the group will be a success. This is a proud day for Newfoundlanders, Calgarians and all Canadians from St. John's to Victoria.

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**RED CROSS**

**Ms. Paddy Torsney (Burlington, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians are proud to celebrate Red Cross Month this March. For nearly a century the Canadian Red Cross Society has been working hard to prevent and alleviate human suffering across Canada and around the world.

The Red Cross has a distinguished history of helping those most in need by providing emergency relief to foreign countries devastated by war or natural disasters, helping victims of house fires and other tragedies, teaching prevention and safety through first aid and water safety programs, and ensuring an adequate supply of blood for all Canadians.

[Translation]

Last year, Fitness Canada provided \$95,000 for water safety services and \$51,000 for fitness programs for seniors.

[English]

Please join me in recognizing the contribution of the two million Canadian volunteers who regularly donate blood and support the programs and services of the Canadian Red Cross. We all wish you a very successful Red Cross Month.

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**NATIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Mrs. Bonnie Hickey (St. John's East, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work and dedication of the organizers of the 14th Annual National Women's Hockey Championship. It took place this past weekend in Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

The winning team from Quebec is deserving of the title of national champion. It emerged on top after three days of intense and high calibre competition, although I do not think it competed against a Newfoundland team.

Women's hockey has seen remarkable growth over the past decade. Today over 15,000 girls and women play the sport on a competitive basis, adding every year to the talent pool that has given Canada three world championship titles.

We can now look forward to the 1998 winter Olympic games when we will have the opportunity to cheer the Canadian women's hockey team since women's hockey has now been added to the Olympic games schedule.

Congratulations to all those involved with this year's national championships in P.E.I.

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● (1405)

**GOVERNMENT SPENDING**

**Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, it is easy to tell the end of the fiscal year is upon us. Furniture trucks have been lining up at government offices all across the land as officials try to spend every last cent in their budgets before April 1. In my riding of Hillsborough, as elsewhere, the furniture trucks arrived on the weekend to deliver the goods at various government offices.

This would be all well and good if they were spending their own money. However, they are spending the tax dollars of every single Canadian. When a family is finding it difficult to make ends meet it cuts expenses and delays buying things. The government is having difficulty making ends meet and it also should delay the purchase of such things as furniture. Taxpayers have had enough of this wasting of money every year in March madness.

As we saw in this morning's *Ottawa Citizen*, the National Capital Commission spent \$3 million on new furniture and over \$300,000 on new telephone equipment. The people of Hillsborough and the rest of Canada want to see this amount of government waste ended.

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[Translation]

**WORLD THEATRE DAY**

**Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate World Theatre Day. In Quebec the event will be marked by performances and plays, which the public is encouraged to attend in droves.

On this day we want to stress the importance of the theatre and the people in it, who give life on stage to plays that move us to