

[*Translation*]

ISOLATED COMMUNITY STATUS

Mr. Guy St-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, Mayor Jacques Bérubé, speaking on behalf of the people of Chapais, has written to the Minister of Finance of Canada, urging him to let the town keep its status of isolated post. The loss of these tax benefits will inevitably and tragically contribute to the exodus of workers to the south.

Chapais has no government services as such. Its residents must travel long distances by car to obtain special services or specialized care which are mostly available in Chicoutimi, 378 kilometres away or Quebec City, 524 kilometres away.

The Quebec government has set the southernmost boundary of Quebec's northern region at the 49th parallel.

Mr. Speaker, life in the north is harsh, isolated and expensive. We have very little compared to the south, and we are producers rather than consumers.

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[*English*]

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, in commemorating human rights day our government earlier in the day indicated a desire to match deeds with our words on the subject of human rights.

The new Government of India with a new Prime Minister disposed to respecting religious freedoms in the Punjab and elsewhere in the Indian subcontinent gives us such an opportunity. V. P. Singh, the Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy, has taken steps to heal political wounds emanating from religious persecutions.

Thousands have died since the attack on the Golden Temple in 1984. Police brutality evidenced by the so-called encounter killings, systematic rape of defenceless women in the Punjab, political persecutions, arrests, and torture in jails must come to an end. Our government should exert moral pressure to enhance V. P. Singh's initiatives and also provide tangible evidence of support

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by establishing a permanent diplomatic presence in the Punjab.

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CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS

Mr. Pat Sobeski (Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, the Council of Canadian Polish Congress is holding important deliberations in Ottawa today and this weekend.

The council consists of division presidents and presidents of central organizations and has an important voice in the affairs of the Canadian Polish Congress.

Poles have thrived in Canada and we have contributed our own distinctive colour to the multicultural quilt of Canadian society. The 400,000 Canadians of Polish origin have also kept a special place in their hearts for Poland, as all Canadians witnessed during Mr. Walesa's recent visit to Canada.

It is my deepest hope that as eastern Europe is alive with joy and hope and great expectations, we recognize Poland as a key part of that bright new future.

May the friendship between Canada and Poland continue to develop and promote opportunities for Canadian business to channel our expertise and assist Poland on its courageous course toward a market-oriented economy.

Again, congratulations to the Canadian Polish Congress.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, at least one in ten is beaten by the man she lives with; one woman in four is sexually assaulted or abused; a woman is raped in Canada every 17 minutes. For women, violence and the threat of violence is an everyday occurrence. Both as children and as adults women are sexually abused and assaulted in their homes and in their communities. They are the victims of crime in the streets. They are subject to harassment in their places of work. They are degraded through violent pornography that perpetuates lies about women.

The horrifying massacre of 14 young women in Montreal was an extreme manifestation of violence against women. I know that we all grieve together. Members of this House must concern themselves seriously with the sexist and violent attitudes in our society, with the