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throughout the country. It announced a unilateral cease-fire in one region, and state of emergency regulations have been relaxed.

The violence in Central America has been rooted in political and economic injustice. If the Arias' peace plan succeeds, it will be an important first step in correcting that injustice and helping the people of Central America to rebuild.

Canadians will not only wish to extend congratulations to President Arias, but they will want the Canadian Government to play an important part in helping the peace plan succeed.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ACID RAIN—NOVA SCOTIA URGED TO SIGN FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT**

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, environmentalists across Canada are delighted with New Brunswick's recent decision to sign the joint agreement to reduce acid rain. This commitment means six of Canada's seven polluting provinces have signed an agreement with the federal Government to cut back allowable sulphur dioxide emissions.

Unfortunately, one province is preventing this country from showing solidarity in acid rain abatement. I have invited the Premier of Nova Scotia to appear before the Special Committee on Acid Rain to discuss the inclusion of his province in the Canadian agreement. It is imperative that Premier John Buchanan join the other First Ministers in waging war against acid precipitation.

The potent coal lobby in the United States is quick to point a crooked finger at the lack of provincial co-operation in Canada, and it will continue to do so until all provinces have signed. Without the Nova Scotia Premier's signature on the dotted line, we are hamstrung. I urge Nova Scotia to share in the wisdom shown by the other six provinces. It is patently unfair to the people of Canada to be shackled by our own. Canada must be, and appear to be, united in its effort to reduce our own emissions while expecting the United States to respond in kind.

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[*Translation*]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**NEED FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, last night, I witnessed a tragic sight. I saw more than 200 people who had

travelled for hours by bus to come and talk some sense into their federal Government. I saw men and women, young and not so young, who had to sleep in the gymnasium at the Polyvalente de l'Île in Hull, because in Ottawa they have a Government that will not listen to reason. These people had to get organized, and they held meetings that were attended by 5,000 people. They are now here to ask the Government, not for hand-outs, but for a chance to have jobs like so many other Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Matane came here proudly to ask the Government to meet its commitments, to consider the needs of their region and to let them and their children work and prosper in their own region, to which they are very much attached, and to ensure that they will have a sound economy and steady, paying jobs. These people are to be commended, and the Government should be ashamed of letting things get to the point where people have to put on a show of strength.

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• (1405)

[*English*]

ETHNIC AFFAIRS**ANNUAL MEETING OF CHINESE CANADIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL**

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, this weekend I attended the annual conference of the Chinese Canadian National Council in Toronto. The council, which represents Chinese Canadians in 28 cities across the country, was established in 1980 to protest the inaccuracies and racist overtones of the nationally televised W-5 broadcast called "Campus Giveaway".

Since then the council has focused on many other issues including family reunification, employment equity, women's and minority rights.

A major concern of the council is redress for the head tax and the Chinese Exclusion Act. Between 1885 and 1923 Canada imposed a head tax of up to \$500 on all Chinese immigrants. Ironically, during the same period our Government was providing financial assistance and incentives to other immigrants. In 1923 the House passed the Chinese Immigration (Exclusion) Act which prohibited, among others, illiterates, diseased persons, beggars and vagrants, idiots and epileptics, and persons of Chinese origin from entering Canada. No wonder the Chinese Canadian National Council is asking for an apology and compensation.

This is an issue which all of us should bear in mind as Commonwealth leaders meet in Vancouver to discuss human rights.