

Routine Proceedings

The petitioners are concerned that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has historically been a key element in the government's commitment to cultural integrity and national unity. They are calling on Parliament to ensure that CBC programming remains intact and that local programming in Atlantic Canada is maintained, particularly, a program which is near and dear to our hearts in Atlantic Canada, called *Land and Sea*, which has consistently over 20 years celebrated the special nature of the Atlantic region.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Madam Speaker, I have three groups of petitions to submit today. The first one is from a number of residents in my constituency of Okanagan—Shuswap and the communities of Lumby, Enderby, Falkland and Vernon in particular.

These petitioners are very concerned about the recent reductions in RCMP services, not only in our community, but essentially in all communities in British Columbia and, in fact, right across Canada.

They are urging the government to consider restoring proper funding to the RCMP so that it can fulfil its mandate and role and provide a visible police force for communities across British Columbia and to re-examine the decision to force the provinces to either increase funding for the RCMP, which is in many cases much more than the communities can afford, or face the decrease in services and the closing of detachments as has already occurred.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Madam Speaker, the second group of petitions is from residents, I might add, right from one end of British Columbia to the other. This group of petitioners, about 709 names, are urging the Minister of Communications and this government to consult with all affected parties, specifically those citizens living outside of Canada's urban areas, who will be impacted severely by the possible deregulation of long distance telephone services.

They are urging the Minister of Communications to hold local hearings in the smaller communities through-

out the province before deciding the fate of Canada's telecommunications system.

That is on behalf of residents throughout the province of British Columbia in regard to the UNITEL application for long distance services.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. Lyle Dean MacWilliam (Okanagan—Shuswap): Madam Speaker, the last petition is from a number of citizens also throughout the province of British Columbia who are protesting the recent cutbacks in CBC services, the recent reduction of \$108 million in funding to the CBC and the loss of 1,100 jobs, and the reduction or closure of regional television stations.

They are asking the government to reconsider its priorities in terms of this decreased funding for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

AIR CANADA

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, I have a series of petitions signed principally by residents of the city of Edmonton, but as well by residents of other centres in Alberta, duly authorized by the clerk, pursuant to Standing Order 36.

The petitioners note that over 200 Air Canada employees at the Edmonton International Airport and Edmonton reservation office will be losing their jobs because of cutbacks by Air Canada in its expenditures on employment.

They note that the affected employees provide services that are essential to Air Canada passengers in Alberta and, therefore, call upon Parliament to express its profound opposition to the further centralization and retrenchment of its regional services by Air Canada, our former national air carrier, as they note, and urges the Parliament and the federal government to request Air Canada to revoke the proposed lay-offs.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 448, 472 and 481.