

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

NATIVE AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Madam Speaker, next week has been declared Native Awareness Week. Several departments will be participating in the event this year which will be sponsored by the Canada Department of Agriculture.

This initiative complements the federal native work force participation initiative. It is designed to increase an awareness of and promote the contribution of natives in the Public Service. In doing so, it will promote more harmonious and productive exchanges between natives and non-natives.

On behalf of the Minister and the Minister of State for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I am pleased to highlight and support this event. I commend the Department of Agriculture for its initiative and all participating departments for their co-operation.

Let me take this opportunity to recall that our government has taken several initiatives in recent years to ensure that natives take their rightful place not only in the work force but also in Canadian society. These include the native agenda, the royal commission on aboriginal peoples, and the integration of aboriginals in the constitutional discussions.

However today I want above all to pay tribute to our aboriginal community for its increasingly important contribution to our work force and our common heritage.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. David Berger (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Madam Speaker, I rise to draw the attention of the House to the mortal danger menacing Canada's science and technology infrastructure.

Yes, it is none other than the dreaded techno-punching terminator, alias the Prime Minister. Nothing has escaped his scourge of devastation and destruction: Nobel prize winning labs at the National Research Council, industrial research and research on the environment, alternative energy and health care, the Science Council, and now our very ability to gather and analyse research and development statistics.

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What message does this send to Canadians? Does this imply that the results of the prosperity initiative are in and science and technology does not play a central role?

As for science and technology statistics, both the quantity and the quality of the data are at risk, especially quality. We need a government that will demonstrate in deed as well as in words that science and technology are critical in addressing the economic, social and cultural challenges facing Canadians.

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VOYAGEURS 92

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Madam Speaker, several weeks ago the Secretary of State announced a program called Voyageurs 92 intended to allow members of Parliament to twin their ridings and give 125 young people in each riding a chance to visit another part of Canada.

I would like to thank the minister for doing that. I would also like to thank the corporate sponsors, especially Air Canada, for making this exchange program possible.

In Halton—Peel the concept has been embraced enthusiastically by the eight secondary schools located therein. The Voyageurs program in my riding under the direction of committee chairman Alf Spence was quickly over-subscribed and now has a growing waiting list.

The students look forward to learning about a new part of Canada. They believe that as more Canadians experience the beauty and majesty of their country any thoughts of it breaking apart will certainly melt away like the spring snow.

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BREAST CANCER

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the government to implement a focused systematic program to examine in detail breast cancer research, education, early detection, and treatment.

It is astounding that this year one in nine Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. The rates are up substantially from 20 years ago. In 1991 alone 5,000 women lost their lives through breast cancer and