

Routine Proceedings

tance of sustainable development as a touchstone to guide action by all parties in the forestry sector.

The Bloc Québécois has tabled a dissenting opinion for the following reasons. First, because the federal government intends to adopt a centralist approach in order to mediate a problem concentrated in one province. Second, since the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes the provinces' jurisdiction over the development, conservation and management of forestry resources, any action by the federal government would require a prior mandate from the provinces.

Bloc Québécois MPs nevertheless consider that it is their responsibility to promote the interests of Quebec and the provinces in certain areas, particularly federal-provincial agreements, the rights of aboriginal peoples, the national certification process, and Canada's international forest strategy.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. Richard Bélisle (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The committee held two meetings to examine chapter 5 of the 1993 Annual Report of the Auditor General with regard to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, specifically the Northern Cod Adjustment and Recovery Program.

The committee is concerned that all government programs include proper financial controls. It is also of the belief that full scrutiny and approval, by Parliament, of the programs for which it allocates funds, is a vital component of financial management and control. In the case of the Northern Cod Adjustment and Recovery Program, these needs were not met fully.

Now that the program has ended, the committee strongly believes that some valuable lessons have been learned from it. These lessons have considerable relevance for the development and implementation of future programs, and ultimately for the way in which Parliament conducts its affairs.

It is out of concern that the kinds of problems experienced by NCARP be either averted or diminished in the future that the committee makes its report and recommendations. Pursuant to Standing Order 109, the committee asks that the government table a comprehensive response to this report.

[English]

HEALTH

Hon. Roger Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the first report of the Standing Committee on Health entitled "Towards Zero Consumption, Generic Packaging of Tobacco Products".

Pursuant to Standing Order 109 the committee requests that the government table a comprehensive response within 150 days.

• (1010)

[Translation]

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that the Bloc Québécois, the Official Opposition, has tabled a dissenting minority report that the Standing Committee on Health has agreed to attach to the majority report tabled by my colleague from Burin—St. George's.

It is important to recall that the members of the Bloc Québécois are in favour of implementing true measures designed to protect public health and improve the health of Quebecers and Canadians. We feel that the Standing Committee on Health, despite its best efforts, does not have the tools required to argue conclusively for plain packaging of tobacco products.

While the federal health department's own study is ongoing and will not be completed before the end of the year, introducing plain tobacco packaging is not justified by any testimony that was given before the Standing Committee on Health. What is more, serious concerns were raised about violations of Canada's international trade obligations under the free trade agreement and NAFTA, about substantial losses of direct and indirect jobs and finally about counterfeiting, smuggling and marketing.

The report presented by the members of the Bloc Québécois sets out our concerns over plain packaging of tobacco products and the issues involved in a true public health policy. We are favourable to any measure that is effective, efficient, sustainable and consistent with the government's obligations with respect to the industry, workers and domestic and international trade. Neutral packaging simply does not meet these requirements, as far as we can tell.

[English]

Mr. Martin (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, if there is unanimous consent, I would like to spend a minute addressing this if I may.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to have the spokesman of the Reform Party speak with respect to this committee report?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

The Deputy Speaker: There is no unanimous consent.

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[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to lay upon the table the 6th report of the standing committee on human resources, concerning the date the committee's report on the review of social