

Tabling of Documents

the Government's response to the following seven petitions: Nos. 331-386 to 331-389, inclusive, and 331-413 to 331-415, inclusive.

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[English]

WAYS AND MEANS

TABLING OF NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 84(1), I wish to table in both official languages a notice of a Ways and Means motion to amend the Customs Tariff Act, and pursuant to Standing Order 84(2) I request that an Order of the Day be designated for its consideration.

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**GRASSY NARROWS AND ISLINGTON INDIAN BANDS
MERCURY POLLUTION CLAIMS SETTLEMENT**

TABLING OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table in both official languages copies of a Memorandum of Agreement between Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario, the Islington Indian Band, the Grassy Narrows Indian Band, Great Lakes Forest Products Limited and Reed Incorporated.

This Memorandum of Agreement establishes the terms of a settlement between the Parties for claims arising from the mercury pollution of the Wabigoon and English Rivers.

TABLING OF ESCROW AGREEMENT

Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I also table an Escrow Agreement, dated as of December 16, 1985, between Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario, Great Lakes Forest Products Limited, Reed Incorporated and the National Trust Company.

The terms of this Escrow Agreement were approved of and consented to by the Grassy Narrows Indian Band, the Islington Indian Band and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada.

Hon. Members have been given notice of the intent to introduce a Bill to approve, give affect to and declare valid these agreements.

IMMIGRATION

REFUGEE DETERMINATION SYSTEM

Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this Government, I welcome this opportunity to announce to the Members of this House and to all Canadians the details of the proposed new refugee determination system for Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Government has the honour of announcing to the Members of this House, and to all Canadians, a new refugee determination process.

[English]

There is agreement that claims to refugee status should be treated fairly, humanely and expeditiously. I want to assure you today, Mr. Speaker, that this Government has given very careful consideration to all the views expressed by refugee aid groups, church groups and ethnic organizations across the country. These groups help to identify those who need our assistance, they sponsor about one-quarter of the flow of refugees to Canada and they are invaluable in helping refugees integrate into Canadian society.

I want to state also that the Government is indebted to the invaluable contributions of Rabbi Gunther Plaut and the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration. I believe that all those who have studied the system and proposed reforms will see reflections of their ideas in the model I am proposing today.

The refugee determination process, like the definition of a refugee itself, is dynamic and evolving. I do not see these measures as the end of the journey we have travelled together, but they are steps in the right direction.

[Translation]

As a Canadian, I am proud of our humanitarian tradition. Over one half million refugees have settled in Canada since World War II.

[English]

As a Canadian, I know we can proud of our tradition of humanitarianism. More than a half million refugees have settled in Canada since the Second World War. For the past six years, over 125,000 refugees and designated class immigrants have found new homes in Canada. Thousands of others have been helped by humanitarian measures developed to deal with special unexpected circumstances in the volatile world in which we live.

The new refugee determination system will continue this humanitarian tradition of our nation, Canada. In a time of restraint, our Government is allocating substantial new resources to the system. Over the years, however, all levels of Government will be saving millions because nothing could be more expensive, or less effective, than our present