

## S.O. 31

As the Speaker may recall, last April, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I urged the government to consider this sponsorship. The Prime Minister's press announcement states: "The quality of human society is in large measure reflected in the priority attached to child health, education and nourishment."

Given the recent report of the Canadian Child Health Institute showing the high levels of infant mortality among poor Canadian children and the unacceptable poor health of Canada's native children, given that 40 per cent of food bank users in Canada are children, given the government's cuts in transfer payments to the provinces for health and education, and given the lack of a national child care program, I would hope that our representatives attending this conference could take this opportunity to develop concrete solutions to our problems regarding children, so that we can meet the Prime Minister's commitment to children in Canada.

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[Translation]

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES

**Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Manicouagan):** Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to two athletes from Sept-Îles who turned in outstanding performances at the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. Guillaume Leblanc, who won a gold medal in the 30-kilometre walk, was born and grew up in Sept-Îles. The people of Sept-Îles saw him train there for many years. Roger Côté won the bronze medal for judo in his category, a reward for the many hours of training and hard work. The men and women of Sept-Îles are proud of their success and I ask all hon. members to join me in paying them well-deserved tribute.

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[English]

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Mr. J.W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, we see increasing evidence every day of the welcome and important participation of women in the public affairs of Canada, a reality which has been inadequately recognized for far too long.

In no community has this advancing role by women been so clearly demonstrated than in my own constituency of Fredericton—York—Sunbury, where at this very time three different women are leading national Canadian organizations devoted to significant public purposes.

Mrs. Doreen Kissick is President of the National Council of Women of Canada, so called the Parliament of Women, which was founded almost 100 years ago by an Act of this House in 1893. Annually, that organization presents a comprehensive submission to our government, not just on women's issues, but on a broad range of public concerns for all Canadians.

Mrs. Joan McFarland is President of the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women, which is a national body to promote learning opportunities at all levels for women in Canada, and having networks in every province and every territory.

Mrs. Flora Dell is National Chair of the Canadian Hunger Foundation, which pursues the cause against poverty both in this country and throughout the world.

In recognizing the contribution of these three women today, I not only want to share pride that their roots spring from Fredericton and New Brunswick, but also to pay tribute and to remind this House about the broader role which they represent for women working everywhere in Canada as full and equal partners in the affairs of our nation.

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## HEALTH CARE

**Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North):** A month ago the headline in Frances Russell's *Winnipeg Free Press* column warned, and I quote: "Ottawa is killing medicare, quietly and deliberately."

In 1986, this government capped its financial contribution to health care at 2 percentage points below the growth in the economy, and in 1989 the government further lowered the ceiling to 3 percentage points.

With this current trend, it will not be long before this government ceases to pay a single cent for medicare.

Simultaneously, this government is continuing its assault on the education of our youth. President Claude Lajeunesse of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, warns that universities will suffer if Ottawa makes further cuts to transfer payments to any of