HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

45th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

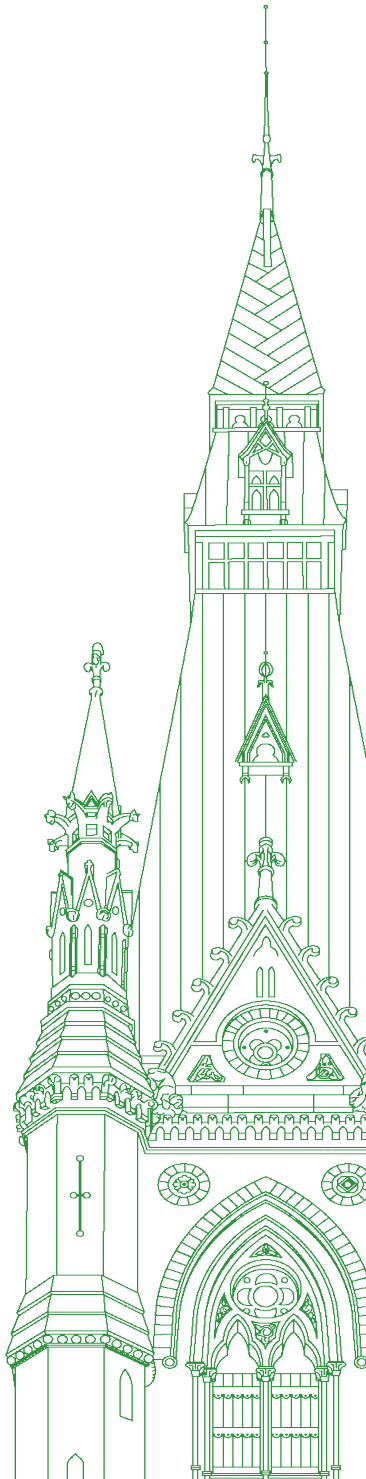
House of Commons Debates

Official Report

(Hansard)

Volume 152 No. 159

Friday, October 30, 2026



Speaker: The Honourable Francis Scarpaleggia

CONTENTS

(Table of Contents appears at back of this issue.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 30, 2026

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayer

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

● (1000)

[*English*]

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING SAFEGUARDS ACT

Hon. Sean Fraser (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Lib.) moved that Bill C-41, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying) and to make related amendments to other Acts, be read the second time and referred to a committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, today I have the extraordinary privilege of commencing debate on the medical assistance in dying safeguards act. Medical assistance in dying is a deeply personal and highly complex issue for many Canadians. Many of us have experiences with the issue that have helped inform our perspectives. In some cases, we will hear the most heart-wrenching experiences a family can live through, dealing with the extraordinary loss of the ones they hold closest. In other circumstances, through the pain, we will hear some of the most heartwarming stories of how medical assistance in dying minimized the suffering of someone a family cares about and how it provided an element of closure through a time of great uncertainty and pain.

[*Translation*]

This is not an easy topic. Many families are contributing to this important national discussion by sharing their perspectives. There are some heart-rending examples, such as when someone loses a loved one. There are also other stories that show how important it is to protect families' ability to exercise some control in very difficult circumstances.

[*English*]

I recognize, as we go through this debate, that unanimity does not exist on an issue as sensitive as medical assistance in dying. There are different people who will agree or disagree with my point of view, but they hold those views reasonably and often for profound personal reasons. Although there is a range of opinions on a given issue, it is incumbent, in my view, on the Government of Canada to advance this agenda on the basis of what we believe is right and what we believe will best protect people who are vulnerable and who are living with irreversible illnesses, and, at the same time, to give agency to those who are suffering by providing them with some choice in how they transition away from this mortal world.

Over the course of my remarks, I want to have a conversation about the history of this important issue in Canada and address squarely the two central issues that are the theme of the legislation we are debating, namely circumstances where medical assistance in dying is sought on the basis of mental illness as the sole underlying medical condition and the separate issue of advance requests for people who are diagnosed with an irreversible illness and may lose the capacity to provide consent. The changes we are debating today have been the subject of extensive study, debate in Parliament and legal challenges before the courts, and we have confidence that through the process of engagement, we have established the position we believe will best serve the interests of Canadians.

[*Translation*]

I will begin by providing some background on this very important issue.

● (1005)

[*English*]

It has been a little more than a decade since medical assistance in dying was first the subject of, initially, a legal challenge that spurred legislative change. This created a framework in Canada that provided for the possibility of medical assistance in dying where a person's death was reasonably foreseeable and where they were living with intolerable suffering as a result of a serious and incurable disease.

After the legislation was adopted in the chamber in 2016, we saw subsequent challenges that made their way through the legal system in the country. That changed the limitations that existed in the legislation at the time to expand medical assistance in dying to people who did not have the imminent threat of death but nevertheless were living with an intolerable level of suffering and whose condition was irreversible. The House took action to respond to those legal challenges, which has created today's framework, a framework where someone may have access to medical assistance in dying when, in the opinion of medical professionals, they are living with an irreversible illness that is causing them to suffer intolerably.

There are two issues that have been injected into the debates in Parliament over the course of this trend and that continue to be the subject of significant legal disagreement. Those issues relate to mental illness and advance requests. I would like to start with a discussion on the issue of mental illness when it comes to medical assistance in dying.

I want to recognize the extraordinary challenges that people living with mental illness experience every day. We do not wish to diminish those experiences one iota as we have this important conversation. We wanted to ensure that we had a full and robust process to understand the different considerations that Parliament ought to consider as we make a decision on the future of medical assistance in dying when it comes to mental illness as the sole underlying medical condition.

As a result of the last debate in Parliament about five years ago, there was an exclusion of medical assistance in dying for cases involving solely mental illness. It was subject to a timeline that is set to expire in March of next year. Without action, this timeline will elapse, and the protections that are currently in place will evaporate.

In order to fully understand the consequences of such a decision and the considerations that should inform the next steps, Parliament struck a joint committee between the House of Commons and the Senate to study specifically this issue. I want to thank members of that committee for the work they have done. They did not necessarily share identical points of view, but they nevertheless contributed to an important conversation.

In a parallel way, my office engaged with experts, organizations and advocates to understand the perspectives of those who are living with irreversible conditions, and also to understand the perspectives of those who want to protect against people making a decision because the condition they are living with, though it may not be irreversible, is incredibly difficult. Through these conversations, we have determined that the best path forward is to maintain the exclusion for medical assistance in dying where mental illness is the sole underlying medical condition that would justify access to this health service. This is not a decision we take lightly, but we believe it is the right one. This process of debate will continue over the course of the coming weeks in Parliament and will hopefully provide some certainty in this conversation going forward.

The reasons cited in the report, which were reflected in our engagement over the course of the summer in particular, include some real concerns from the medical profession about a lack of consensus when it comes to the irremediable nature of mental illness. We have also heard clearly from Canadians the serious discomfort they hold in circumstances where they have inadequate access to mental health services at a community level, as we engage in a conversation about medical assistance in dying for people who would benefit from those services.

I want to recognize this profound suffering and demonstrate our willingness to work with provinces and territories to help improve the quality of services that are offered at a ground level, but at this point in time, we believe the correct approach is to maintain the exclusion that exists in the Criminal Code on an indefinite basis.

● (1010)

[*Translation*]

This is a really important conversation. People who are living with mental illness need support from their community and from the government, whether it be federal or provincial. However, after examining this issue, the government has decided to change the rule to avoid the circumstances that would come into effect next year.

[*English*]

Again, we are confident, from the process of engagement, that the right thing to do in the circumstance is maintain the exclusion indefinitely.

There is a separate key issue that has been central to debates in Parliament, academic study and public advocacy. This involves a conversation about the issue of advance requests. They concern a circumstance where a person is diagnosed with an irreversible illness that will cause extraordinary suffering and sadly will, at a certain point in time, predictably diminish the person's capacity to provide informed consent about something as important as life and death.

We have talked to patients who have been diagnosed early with one such condition. I am thinking in particular of the people I have discussed this issue with who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. The pain that they experience personally is one part of the equation on their mind. They fear that they will lose themselves, cease to know their families or potentially become violent toward the ones they love or the ones who provide them care, consequences that they do not wish to live with. They want to recognize who they are at the time of their passing. This is a choice that we wish to provide to Canadians who wish to make that decision for themselves.

We will be taking steps to allow for safeguards that would create the ability for people to provide consent while they still have the capacity to do so upon certain conditions that will develop as they approach the end of their life. This is a difficult conversation, but it is a difficult conversation for people who receive this diagnosis with or without the presence of medical assistance in dying. What we aim to do is reduce pain and suffering and reduce the difficulty that people experience by providing some agency to a person who feels like they have lost it as a result of their health concerns.

In order to protect those who are diagnosed with such illnesses and are considering access to medical assistance in dying, I want to reassure this House that the conditions that are required for medical assistance in dying more broadly will continue to apply and that we will introduce new safeguards in this legislation and by working with provinces. Specifically, we will maintain the requirement that the condition of intolerable suffering, the irremediable nature of a disease and the advanced state of decline are all present in the opinion of medical professionals.

I want to take a moment to address some pieces of misinformation that I have seen online and in public conversations since we made the announcement of the direction in which we would be moving.

There is some concern that a person who is content or happy, despite the fact they may be living with a serious illness, would somehow be subjected to MAID. In some instances, this misinformation would suggest they are subjected to MAID without their consent. Nothing could be further from the truth. By maintaining the requirement that there be intolerable suffering agreed upon by multiple medical professionals, there is no possibility that a person who is living peacefully or happily and is not suffering intolerably would somehow have access to medical assistance in dying.

In addition to these conditions, we would introduce new safeguards in the Criminal Code to help offer protections to Canadians. They would include the requirement that there be two medical assessors who independently arrive at the conclusion that the conditions outlined in an advance request are met, as well as the conditions required by the Criminal Code.

We would also require that the process be the subject of provincial legislation that governs how services are actually administered in provincial health care systems. We would specifically require in this legislation that the provincial legislation create a repository to store and maintain the advance requests that are made, allow people to make changes to the conditions included in those advance requests and, importantly, provide the ability for an individual to revoke their consent at any point in time, which would end the efficacy of the advance request that was previously put in place.

In addition, we would create new rules that would add additional safeguards, including specifically where there may be ambiguity from a person who may be approaching the end of their life as to whether they continue to provide consent to medical assistance in dying. Where there is any doubt in the view of either of the medical professionals who are mandated to take part in the process, a mandatory waiting period of 30 days would be put in place to ensure the opportunity to revisit this important conversation.

● (1015)

[*Translation*]

There is a major concern with regard to advance requests in the case of people who are living with a mental illness that not only causes them suffering but also impairs their capacity to give consent when they are unwell. We need to create a new rule to ensure that people who want to make a choice to avoid the consequences of their illness can do so. This is a choice based on their values. These people want to be able to end their lives to spare themselves and their families the consequences of the illness.

The existing conditions for MAID will be maintained. However, we are adding other safeguards to protect people who are more vulnerable, because such protection is sometimes necessary.

[*English*]

It is important to understand that we would not be creating today a new system of health policy decisions or new rules that consider the administration of medical assistance in dying as much as we shifting the criminal liability that will attach to medical service providers who participate in medical assistance in dying. With these protections we would be putting in place, we would ensure that the doctors who are seeking to respect the wishes of their patients at the end of their lives are no longer considered criminals under Canada's criminal law.

I should say that this exercise has been one that has created a great deal of respect for Canadian democracy in myself, my office and many of the parliamentarians who I have spoken to. We have, over the course of more than a decade, been able to engage with the legal system, the House of Commons and the Senate through parliamentary debates and joint studies between the two houses of Parliament, and with the ability of ordinary citizens to have access to the courts where they feel their rights have been infringed. This is a sign that democracy may work well as we sort through an issue in which there may not be unanimity or consensus but nevertheless allows us to arrive at decisions based on reasons, science, facts and evidence.

We have made this decision to move forward, but it will inevitably create an opportunity for the provinces to continue this conversation as they determine whether they will create a new framework for the provision of medical assistance in dying, in particular on the issue of advance requests. I am confident that we have taken the time to understand these issues and the reasons as to why we have put forward these new proposals. I look forward to seeing a new regime put in place that will help protect against some of the worst consequences of illnesses that people are living with in this country.

I would like to draw the House's attention, as I conclude, to certain comments I have seen in the public since the introduction of this legislation, including those from the family of Andrew Reid, who at 56 was diagnosed with a rare form of young-onset Alzheimer's called posterior cortical atrophy. Patients with this condition will lose their sight and their ability to walk. Andrew's wife Karina has become his caregiver. She said that grief is the ultimate form of love. Two years ago, Andrew sought MAID and was approved. She said that to be able to control his life, especially in what was coming up next, was extremely important, which is why they are supportive of this new legislation. Andrew said that he went into tears when he heard about the legislation and described it as a gift.

I would like to conclude with this. This is not the only circumstance where this request has been put to me. There are friends of mine who have been through this process. There was one who I spoke to a few weeks ago who lost her husband under similar circumstances who himself experienced what it was like to have a parent cease to remember that he was her family. By creating agency for people to make decisions about how they will transition from this world when they live with incurable illnesses, we can do right by families who are going through the most difficult period of their lives.

● (1020)

[*Translation*]

It was a pleasure to take part in today's debate.

[*English*]

Leslyn Lewis (Haldimand—Norfolk, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his speech and the tone of his speech. There are so many people in Canada who are very interested in this subject.

When I was a lawyer, I often had to take people's directives, when doing a will, of what they wanted if they ended up in a situation where there was no prospect of recovery, they were on life support and their life was completely diminished. They set those standards, and it was very clear to a practitioner what those standards were.

My question for the minister is, what happens when those standards are not there? Who is the arbiter of a person's life? Who makes those decisions, whether a person can live or die at that particular time, when they do not have the capacity to do that?

Hon. Sean Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. colleague's question gets to the crux of the very issue that is the subject of the debate around advance requests today.

The answer to her question, as to who decides, is the patient themselves. The issue that we are trying to solve is the fact that there is a person who may have wishes, who would be eligible for medical assistance in dying based purely on the physical harm that they are suffering, the intolerable suffering, the irreversible nature of their illness and the advanced state of decline, but who will lose the capacity to make a decision for themselves to receive a service for which they would otherwise be eligible.

The policy solution that we are advancing allows that person to outline, with a great degree of specificity, the very conditions under which they would wish to have access to medical assistance in dying. In addition to that person specifically having the opportunity to provide consent under certain conditions, those conditions would need to be agreed upon by the medical professionals who are assessing access to medical assistance in dying overall. This is all about consent for the individual themselves.

[*Translation*]

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, we in the Bloc Québécois have a major concern. We fear that the Canadian law will become more restrictive than the existing law in Quebec. As members know, Quebec is a leader in this area.

I would like to draw the minister's attention to the fact that, under the Quebec law, an assessment is made to determine whether a person's suffering is intolerable before MAID is permitted. The federal law states that MAID will not be provided if a person's suffering can be relieved through reasonable means. The previous question was about who will make this decision. The Bloc Québécois is very concerned about who will make this decision.

Is the minister open to sitting down with our critic to further examine this issue and make the necessary amendments to the bill?

Hon. Sean Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I will definitely need to continue this discussion with my colleague from the Bloc Québécois, because I disagree with the substance of his comments and need to provide further clarification.

I do not believe the law currently in force in Quebec needs to be amended, since there is no conflict. What is more, the new bill includes the words "intolerable suffering", which is essentially the same thing. If some clarification is needed, I would be very happy to discuss that, because it is essential to collaborate with the province that offers these services. I think there are opportunities to clarify some of the details to ensure that the bill does not conflict with the legislation in la belle province.

● (1025)

[*English*]

Hon. Darren Fisher (Dartmouth—Cole Harbour, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the minister for bringing forward this legislation.

Many years ago, I delivered a speech in this House on Audrey Parker, and it was by far the most difficult thing I have ever had to do in my 11 years in the House of Commons.

My question to the minister is, how did stories of great Canadians like Audrey Parker, and the minister mentioned a couple others in his speech, and the impact that MAID had for them influence the outcome of this legislation that he is bringing forward today?

Hon. Sean Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I remember very well the speech that the member gave about Audrey Parker. In fact, it was one of the first occasions I heard debate in the House on the issue of advance requests, and I remember, through tears, his ability to deliver something so impassioned that it moved me.

I have had the opportunity to sit down with families who have been through experiences with medical assistance in dying and people who wished they had access to it. In one instance, I had the opportunity to sit at the kitchen table with a man, who is no longer with us, who explained to me what it was like to see his mother who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's cease to know that he was her son. He, sadly, was diagnosed with the same condition. He asked me, should I ever have the opportunity before I found myself in this position, to consider advancing changes to the laws to provide certainty for him that he would not subject his children to the same pain that he lived through.

These stories change us as people. They cause us to look at issues from a perspective that we did not experience ourselves, but this places upon us the weight of the responsibility for a decision that is seriously about life and death. As such, to the member's point, the stories are how people experienced these laws, and they are absolutely everything, as they communicate the importance of these issues.

[*Translation*]

Marilène Gill (Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the Association québécoise pour le droit de mourir dans la dignité has raised a number of concerns about the bill, including the permanent exclusion from eligibility on the basis of a mental illness alone. I would like to know how the minister would respond to this organization's concerns.

Hon. Sean Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I have had many conversations on the issue of mental health as the sole basis for authorizing medical assistance in dying. Following these conversations, I reflected on the issue. I do not think there is unanimity on whether mental illness is irremediable.

I have also had many conversations with people who have no access to mental health care services in their community. I have listened to different points of view. I want to make sure that care services are available in communities before the government considers moving forward with the bill in the way that the member suggests. In my view, respecting the opinions of the people who need to use these services is essential; they have a lot of questions about the nature of mental illness.

[*English*]

I take seriously those perspectives. I thought deeply about it, and in the presence of a lack of consensus on the irremediable nature of mental illnesses and a lack of mental health services in communities, we have determined that maintaining the existing exclusion on an indeterminate basis is the correct path forward.

Ziad Aboultaif (Edmonton Manning, CPC): Mr. Speaker, today I remember a friend of mine, Alex Tsang, who accessed the system three years ago, and it was a very difficult moment for him and his family. I visited with him at his place hours before he went to take the procedure. The question remains in the mind of all Canadians, and that is about justice, when it comes to this important bill that we have been visiting over and over since 2016. I have been here for 11 years.

The question to the minister is this: How can we ensure for vulnerable Canadians, veterans and others with mental illness, that this new legislation would provide that justice that they are looking for?

● (1030)

Hon. Sean Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I express my condolences on the loss of a friend. It is an experience I have shared with a friend of my own who, shortly before he passed, knowing when it would take place, had the opportunity to welcome us for one final time, to tell stories, to share jokes and to even have a shot of whisky days before he passed. It provided a level of closure for him and for his friends, including me.

It is hard to discuss death in the context of justice, because it does not feel just when a person falls ill. It does not feel just when they must pass before their time, but we must turn our minds to the justice angle that would protect people against harms that may result, should a procedure be granted without proper protections in place.

Ensuring that we insist upon diseases being irremediable, ensuring that there is intolerable suffering and ensuring there are multiple medical assessors who agree on the conditions that must be met before a procedure can be offered, are all baked into the law. In addition, we would be creating a system that would allow people to revoke their consent or change their conditions at any point in time. This is an important conversation. I see I have run out of time, but I thank the member sincerely for his question.

[*Translation*]

Stéphane Lauzon (Argenteuil—Papineau—Des Collines, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, this is an extremely controversial issue. It is an issue I have discussed around my kitchen table. It was difficult to reach a consensus between my wife and my three daughters. As the minister has said on several occasions, these were difficult decisions.

Can the minister tell us how important it is to introduce a bill like this for Canadians who have difficult decisions to make?

Hon. Sean Fraser: Mr. Speaker, the member is right; not everyone shares the same point of view. That is why we have created options for people living with a permanent and incurable condition. Partners do not necessarily have to share the same perspective, because one person's choice may differ from another's. For me, it is essential to create opportunities for everyone to have their own perspective.

[*English*]

I know that not everyone is in agreement, but in the face of a lack of consensus, we believe we have found the correct path forward that will offer protections for the vulnerable and agency for the sick.

Costas Menegakis (Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to Bill C-41, the medical assistance in dying safeguards act, undoubtedly a matter of profound moral weight and a subject that touches on the core of our humanity, our duty of care and our responsibilities as legislators. Few issues before this House demand as much solemn reflection, unyielding principle and careful constitutional stewardship as medical assistance in dying.

Our core priority as Conservatives has been clear from day one and will continue to be about protecting vulnerable Canadians and ensuring that robust, clear and uncompromised safeguards are in place surrounding consent and patient safety. Canadians must be able to trust that any decision regarding MAID is strictly voluntary, fully informed and completely free of pressure, subtle coercion or undue influence from any outside source. However, as we examine the current trajectory of MAID expansion and the legislative proposals before us surrounding advance requests, serious legal, ethical and practical questions arise. These are questions that we, as elected representatives of the people, cannot afford to sweep aside or ignore for the sake of political convenience.

Allowing individual provinces and territories to decide independently on whether to permit advance requests risks creating a deeply confusing, fractured patchwork of systems across Canada. I do not want to digress, but we can point to many examples that speak to exactly that, where we have mayhem when too many people and too many jurisdictions have control over similar things. Quite often, it is not in the national interest and not in the interest of Canadians.

Back to this legislation, such fragmentation would only serve to increase inequity in MAID access, while simultaneously weakening standardized oversight. Canadians deserve the same baseline protections and safety guarantees, regardless of the province or territory in which they reside. Leaving essential aspects of advance requests to a mosaic of provincial legislation raises deeply concerning prospects of inconsistent safeguards across our country.

Furthermore, the proposed decriminalization of advance requests introduces deeply contested legal and ethical considerations that our legal framework is ill prepared to manage. Advance euthanasia requests would introduce heightened and unprecedented risks for both patients and health care providers, including the irreversible and devastating risk of wrongful death. Consider the fundamental, irreconcilable challenge of consent. How can consent be truly protected when a person can no longer communicate their current living wishes? A decision taken and recorded years or even decades earlier in a legal document may not reflect how that same individual feels today. Human circumstances change, perspectives shift, and human resilience in the face of hardship often surprises us.

Advance MAID requests must not be allowed to remain valid indefinitely without mandatory regular review, renewal and re-evaluation. Equally dangerous is the reality that under this proposed advance request model, health care practitioners would effectively be forced to substitute their own subjective judgment to determine whether a patient's suffering has become intolerable at a time when the patient can no longer express how they actually feel.

● (1035)

No Canadian should ever receive MAID because someone else, whether a doctor, a family member, a bureaucrat, a politician or anyone else, believes their suffering has become unbearable. Disability, dependence or declining health should never be treated as proof or justification that a person's life is no longer worth living. Our legal safeguards must explicitly protect vulnerable Canadians from ageist or discriminatory assumptions about their quality of life. If there is ever any doubt about whether someone is actively refusing MAID, their life must come first if they express reluctance in any way. A simple 30-day waiting period is no substitute for a thorough independent assessment when genuine uncertainty exists. Parliament must be fully satisfied that safeguards can reliably protect people who are no longer able to speak up or advocate for themselves.

We must also directly confront the broader scope of MAID's expansion into health care domains where safety cannot be guaranteed. Canadian legal and health care systems are simply not equipped to respond safely to the expansion of MAID where mental illness is the sole underlying medical condition. For years, Conservatives have stood firm on this critical point, advocating for caution and medical responsibility. I am pleased that the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying finally aligned itself with Conservative leadership in recognizing that mental illness as the sole underlying condition should be indefinitely paused. Maintaining that exclusion explicitly recognizes the significant unresolved safety concerns surrounding these complex clinical cases.

My colleague the Conservative member of Parliament for Cloverdale—Langley City took concrete legislative action on this issue by introducing a private member's bill, Bill C-218. Her bill would have amended the Criminal Code to permanently repeal the scheduled expansion of the MAID program for mental illness as the sole underlying condition. Unfortunately, and for reasons very difficult to defend, the Liberals voted against it. We must ensure that our national laws offer treatment, comprehensive psychiatric support, compassion and hope to those facing severe mental health struggles instead of an administrative avenue to simply end their lives.

To restore trust and ensure strict accountability across the entire medical system, Conservatives have consistently advocated for stronger federal monitoring and comprehensive public reporting. We need minimum national standards for MAID oversight, updated clinical guidance, training for practitioners and an urgent, thorough review of the effectiveness and real-world enforceability of current safeguards. To that end, Canada should establish an independent national MAID oversight commission modelled after Quebec's framework to review individual cases, monitor strict compliance with legal standards and publish detailed annual reports for the Canadian public.

At the absolute heart of the debate is a basic moral promise that no Canadian should ever feel that MAID is their only available option because they cannot access proper medical care, affordable housing or adequate social support. Vulnerable Canadians deserve real care, robust protection and genuine hope. They should never be offered MAID as a tragic substitute for basic social and medical support that their governments have failed to provide. Governments must prioritize and ensure meaningful, universal access to high-quality palliative care, disability supports, specialized housing and mental health services in every community across this country.

Our laws reflect our core social values. When citizens are at their most vulnerable, such as when they are sick, aging, living with disabilities or facing severe personal hardship, they need to know that their country values their existence and that we stand by them. Let us ensure that our national legislation upholds human dignity, strengthens national safeguards and unequivocally puts the protection of human life first.

● (1040)

Hon. Judy A. Sgro (Humber River—Black Creek, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, a lot of thought went into my colleague's comments. I think we all share the same objectives, which is why this particular legislation is being brought forward, so that at this particular time, people who are suffering from mental illness would not have access to MAID. Part of the additions in this proposed legislation are to make sure there are other areas where we can put in further protections for people.

None of us want to see anybody denied their rights as a Canadian. We want to ensure they not only have the maximum amount of protection necessary, but also receive the services. In the last couple of years, there has been a lot of emphasis put on mental health, finally. A lot of funds have gone to the provinces. A lot more help is available, but it is still not enough. I would hope that people suffering from mental illness would not have to look to MAID any time, not now or ever in the future, because they could get access to the kind of health care they need.

I would like my colleague to comment on what he thinks is adequate health care when it comes to mental health.

Costas Menegakis: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's question was very thoughtful. We welcome the exclusion of mental illness as the sole underlying condition, but serious questions still remain. That addresses the first part of the member's question.

On the second part, I think it is incumbent upon the government, and upon all of us as legislators, to ensure the proper health professionals, social services and housing, all of the issues that are important to fundamental dignity and life for all Canadians, are available to them. We need to focus on improving those services rather than having an easy out where someone can opt for MAID. We are playing with a very deep moral, ethical and, in some cases, religious issue here. It is much more important that we focus on providing adequate services to people rather than legislation such as this.

● (1045)

[*Translation*]

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that medical assistance in dying must be properly regulated. Everyone agrees on that. It must not be administered haphazardly, regardless of the circumstances. However, most of the conditions that this federal legislation seeks to establish are related to health care, and health care falls under the jurisdiction of the provinces and Quebec.

Does my colleague agree that the federal framework should allow for the provision of medical assistance in dying under the Criminal Code and leave it to the provinces and Quebec to then define the details?

[*English*]

Costas Menegakis: Mr. Speaker, it is a slippery slope when we start passing on our responsibility as federal legislators and including more and more legislative bodies across the country to have the provinces to weigh in and have jurisdiction over something as important as this, especially the specific details of this particular legislation.

We have seen other matters of jurisdiction across the country that have been disseminated down to the provinces, and we have seen how that has not worked effectively. This is something of profound moral interest to all Canadians, and I do not believe in including provinces, giving them additional responsibilities and having them weigh in on this without clear federal oversight. The things that need to be addressed in this particular legislation should be passed on to the provinces.

Ziad Aboultaif (Edmonton Manning, CPC): Mr. Speaker, my colleague mentioned Bill C-218, which sought justice and protection for people with mental illness from the expansion of this bill. If he does not mind, I wonder if he could elaborate on what he meant by that and why the bill was necessary to protect vulnerable Canadians.

Costas Menegakis: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for sharing a very personal and passionate story about his personal experience with a close friend of his who he had to unfortunately say goodbye to. It is something that touched him profoundly and he shared it with us here in the House.

Mental illness is a big subject. It encompasses a whole bunch of different people who have mental illness for a whole variety of reasons, and there is a process to get through that. To give them the option of MAID at a time when they are at the lowest in their lives, when they feel there is no future for them, whether it is health-related or otherwise, makes absolutely no sense. Excluding it from the legislation through the legislation my colleague put forward in the House was mandatory and needed. Unfortunately, the government voted against it.

Hon. Kevin Lamoureux (Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to quote an article that was written by Stefanie Green, who is the main practitioner and founding president of the Canadian Association of MAiD Assessors and Providers.

It reads:

> As a practitioner...I can tell you that...if I can tell someone they are eligible for an assisted death, regardless of if they ever pursue one or not, I see their suffering reduced. Rather than feeling helpless, they become empowered with choice. And in that remarkable moment, I watch them almost immediately stop focusing on how they are going to die, which is something they have been so fearful of, and begin to concentrate instead on how they plan to live for the time they have remaining.

I am just wondering if the member could provide his thoughts on that particular quote.

● (1050)

Costas Menegakis: Mr. Speaker, Bill C-41 is before us. I think it is incumbent upon us to discuss it in full detail in the context of what it means for people who are at the end of their life or who are very close to people who are at the end of their lives. I think we need to carefully examine this piece of legislation. We need to consult medical professionals, legal experts, families, veterans and people living with disabilities and listen to them. We need to bring it to committee, discuss it, discuss it here in the House and propose amendments. The government has not been forthcoming in welcoming amendments from other parties in the House. With legislation like this, I think it is important that the government listens to not only what its members think, but also what other people think as well.

We are the voice of the people in the House. We should listen to the experts who give us advice and make this legislation as strong and as foolproof as possible, because we are talking about the most important thing for all of us, which is life.

Branden Leslie (Portage—Lisgar, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that this is a difficult subject. Many of us, if not all of us, have had a loved one who has struggled with mental illness or aging challenges such as dementia. My concern is trying to understand whether or not these safeguards are going to be enough in this law.

My colleague just pointed out the importance of life. I am curious about his thoughts on how best we go about ensuring that the government is willing to listen to those experts and help us understand what the necessary safeguards are to make sure the rules in place are actually achieving their intended results.

Costas Menegakis: Mr. Speaker, our party, the Conservative Party, has advocated for stronger federal monitoring and public reporting. I want to thank the member for his question because it gives me an opportunity to say that I think we should all believe that there should be minimum national standards for MAID oversight. We should have updated guidance and training and a review of effectiveness and enforceability of current MAID safeguards. This needs to be ongoing. It needs to be serious. We need to look at it and ensure that oversight is there, and that we absolutely, at all times, ensure that the person has their choice up to the very last second. This legislation, for example, would allow someone to make a decision decades earlier, but decades later, they may have changed their mind. We cannot go by that. Safeguards are very important in ensuring that we preserve the will of the person whose life is at stake.

[*Translation*]

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to seek the unanimous consent of the House to share my time with my highly esteemed colleague from Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Yves Perron: Mr. Speaker, there are two issues in this bill. There is the issue of granting access for patients with a serious, recurring and incurable mental illness, and there is the issue of granting access with advance requests. We are disappointed with the denial of access on the basis of a mental illness, because we think that excluding a whole group from the outset, regardless of how their cases might be analyzed, may be unconstitutional. In fact, we do not just think that is the case; we are quite certain. That really concerns us. How can we vote in favour of a bill when we know that it will be struck down as unconstitutional? The problem is that it will be found to be unconstitutional five, six, seven or eight years from now. In the meantime, people who are already vulnerable, people who already have no money and no resources will experience untold suffering. They will have to pay legal fees, organize a campaign and spend an incredible amount of time on legal proceedings. I do not think that is right.

I would remind members entering the House for oral question period that some members are giving speeches. I would appreciate it if they could keep it down, because this is a serious matter that needs to be discussed with care. When we hear members speaking loudly, as is the case right now—

● (1055)

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): I will interrupt the member for a moment to call the House to order.

[*English*]

The hon. member is right. There is a growing amount of noise. I would ask members to try to keep the side conversations to a minimum.

[*Translation*]

Everyone should be able to hear what the hon. member has to say.

The hon. whip of the Bloc Québécois.

Yves Perron: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, this is a serious and important issue, so we have to discuss it with care. That is why I would like my colleagues to quiet down in the House.

I will pick up where I left off. We are certain that disqualifying people for MAID on the grounds of mental illness from the outset will be ruled unconstitutional. These individuals will be forced to personally take legal action against the government, like Ms. Gladu and Mr. Truchon had to do. It is appalling.

People need to understand exactly what we mean by mental illness. I heard members saying earlier that we all have loved ones who have had mental health issues. That is true, but that is not the kind of mental health problems we are talking about here. It is actually clearly described in the legislation. We are talking about intolerable suffering and incurable illness. We are talking about suffering that cannot be relieved. It does exist. No one here is a psychiatrist. No one here can say, beyond all reasonable doubt, that cases like this do not exist.

The number of cases like these are limited, because they are exceptions, so it makes no sense to shut the door completely. Access to MAID is not going to be rubber-stamped and provided straightaway to anyone who asks. An extensive process is involved. In Quebec, it is actually very carefully regulated.

That takes care of the first part on expanded access to MAID.

I will now move on to the second part, which concerns advance requests.

On October 7, when the minister announced his intentions, we were delighted. I am guessing that the government members were happy to see Bloc Québécois members' enthusiastic response to this announcement. To be honest, that does not happen very often, especially with a majority government.

However, after analyzing the bill, we have some major concerns. I asked the minister about that earlier. I was pleased that he promised to speak with our critic, the hon. member for Montcalm, who knows the issue inside and out after spending countless hours studying it. He does more than make speeches; he talks to people on the ground. He has an incredible network, and he will be able to tell the minister what people on the ground are thinking.

I hope that we will come up with something that makes sense. Our concern with the current wording is that the federal law would be more restrictive than Quebec's law. For the time being, the Criminal Code takes precedence over Quebec's laws. We are working on that. If the Criminal Code were to become more restrictive, Quebec's laws would have to be amended accordingly. It is because of this type of thing that the Quebec nation hopes to one day be able to manage its own affairs in its own parliament. There is the issue of language, but that is not all. We are increasingly convinced by the examples we see on a daily basis that this would be the right thing to do.

Our chief concern is that Quebec's criterion is whether the suffering is considered to be tolerable. However, the federal law says that the criterion is whether relief can be provided through reasonable means.

I will stop here and continue after oral question period.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): I thank the member. He will have four minutes to finish his speech after oral question period.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

● (1100)

[*English*]

WORLD SPINE DAY

Maggie Chi (Don Valley North, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, October 16 is World Spine Day, and health care professionals and policy-makers around the world raise awareness about the importance of spinal health and the prevention of spinal pain and disability. Healthy habits such as staying active, responsible lifting and safe work conditions help people look after their spine.

In my riding of Don Valley North, we are fortunate to be home to the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. For over 80 years, the CMCC has been a leader in chiropractic education, training generations of health care professionals who serve communities across Canada and around the world.

On World Spine Day, I want to recognize the faculty and students at CMCC, and all people working to help Canadians stay healthy and pain-free.

* * *

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mel Arnold (Kamloops—Shuswap—Central Rockies, CPC): Mr. Speaker, as poppies bloom on lapels across the nation, we are reminded of the people who have sacrificed everything so that we can live free.

From the Boer War in 1899 through the first and second world wars, the Korean War, the Gulf War and the war in Afghanistan, and in peacetime, Canada's women and men in uniform have given everything and carried immense burdens for all of us. Recent tragedies, such as the loss in Wainwright, underscore the ongoing depth of their sacrifices.

I am reminded of my own grandfather Jesse Pullin, who served in the First World War for Britain and, after immigrating to Canada, returned and served for Canada in the Second World War. He came back with shrapnel and other wounds, but in all the years I knew him, he never spoke of the battles and atrocities he saw or the hardships endured.

Many carried and carry similar physical wounds and deep emotional scars. We must not forget what they have given for our peace. On Remembrance Day, and every day, we will remember them.

* * *

WHITBY ELECTIONS

Ryan Turnbull (Whitby, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, public service is not an easy path. It means putting one's name forward, opening oneself up to scrutiny, and devoting countless hours to improving the lives of others. Those who choose to serve do so because they care deeply about their community and the people who call it home.

Today, I want to congratulate the newly elected members of Whitby town council, and the mayor-elect, Elizabeth Roy, on her re-election. I am very excited to continue our work together to help Whitby thrive. As Whitby continues to grow, Mayor Roy and council will play an important role in helping our community seize new opportunities, while preserving the quality of life that makes Whitby such a great place to live, work and raise a family.

I also want to thank every candidate who stepped forward in the election. Regardless of the outcome, Whitby is stronger because of their willingness to serve. I thank them for their commitment to Whitby.

* * *

PATRICK STEWART

Shuvaloy Majumdar (Calgary Heritage, CPC): Mr. Speaker, actor, author, domestic abuse survivor, human rights champion, men's mental health advocate, husband, father and a good and decent man, Sir Patrick Stewart died this past Wednesday at age 86.

Born in a Yorkshire mill town in 1940 to a home shadowed by his father's violence, he left school at age 15. A teacher put Shakespeare in his hand, and the boy never let it go. He spent 16 years with the Royal Shakespeare Company, then went on to the bridge of the *Enterprise*, where Captain Picard led with reason, conviction and the will to make it so. He was then Professor Xavier, whose school called the outcast gifted. When the pandemic closed our doors, he read us a sonnet a day.

He had a career of adventures, moral quandaries, debates, moments of mourning and moments of reflection. For millions of people, his brilliant, commanding performances brought smiles, tears and the courage to dream boldly. In uncertain times with new frontiers, I am reminded how “Encounter at Farpoint” ends: “Let's see what's out there. Engage!”

I thank Sir Patrick Stewart. May he rest in peace.

* * *

[*Translation*]

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Stéphane Lauzon (Argenteuil—Papineau—Des Collines, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of visiting the skilled trades fair in Gatineau, where I was able to see the rich, diverse range of trades taught in our region. Having been a trades instructor myself, I know how important it is to pass on know-how and give young people the skills they need to build their future.

Vocational training is more than just an educational path. It is a driver of economic development and prosperity for our regions and for Canada. Our businesses and industries need skilled, competent and passionate workers. Building Canada strong also means recognizing the value of skilled trades and investing in those who practise them.

Today, I would like to tip my hat to the teachers, training centres and students who are helping to shape our future, because Canada's strength lies first and foremost in the talent and expertise of Canadians.

* * *

● (1105)

[*English*]

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MANITOBA

Branden Leslie (Portage—Lisgar, CPC): Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, Milt Reimer began sewing snowmobile gear in his basement in Morris, Manitoba. This fall, the company he founded, FXR Racing, will surpass $1 billion in lifetime sales.

Milt knew the sport. A motocross racer and former powersports dealer, he saw what others had missed. Riders needed clothing that was lighter, better fitting and built to perform in the cold, so he set out to make it himself. Still headquartered in Oak Bluff, Manitoba, FXR is Canada's leading powersports apparel brand, the category leader in snowmobile gear, and one of North America's top motocross brands. Its products are sold in more than 60 countries through more than 1,000 dealers. FXR employs more than 135 Canadians and supports more than 9,000 athletes from grassroots racers to world champions.

The first billion dollars took 30 years and represents three decades of dedication, ingenuity and passion for Milt and the entire FXR team. This is Manitoba entrepreneurship at its finest. On behalf of the House, I congratulate Milt Reimer and everyone at FXR. Manitoba is proud of them.

* * *

OTTAWA MUSLIM WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Yasir Naqvi (Ottawa Centre, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to stand today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization, founded in the aftermath of 9/11. Fifty women in Ottawa came together to build bridges between communities of different faiths and to tackle fear and hate directed at the Muslim community. Today, the group's membership has grown to include both women and men from many different faith backgrounds, who continue to work tirelessly for respect and understanding between communities. Their famous Festival of Friendship Dinner is an event that is a must-attend in Ottawa.

I want to give special thanks to Auntie Nazira Tareen, who is the force behind the Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization. It is so difficult to say no to Auntie Nazira, because she is out there building community every single day.

I want to extend my heartiest congratulations on behalf of all of us to the Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization on its 25th anniversary.

* * *

EDMONTON FOOD DRIVE

Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible annual Edmonton food drive, organized by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This massive undertaking brought together 43 local congregations and thousands of volunteers from across 16 communities. Volunteers delivered 300,000 donation bags to local doorsteps and, on September 19, collected the community's response.

Together they gathered nearly 400,000 pounds of food for Edmonton's food bank and those of surrounding communities. This triumph was made possible by many families; sponsors such as Purolator, Grimshaw Trucking and JustServe; and, with a special shout-out, the coordinator, Chantelle McMullin. I want to give special thanks again to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and all the volunteers. They have shown once again why Edmonton is known as the city of champions.

[*Translation*]

MASKINONGÉ RCM

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, today, I want to acknowledge the election of Charline Plante, mayor of Saint-Élie-de-Caxton, as reeve of Maskinongé regional county municipality, or RCM. Her wealth of experience and profound dedication to public service will make her a top-notch regional leader, sure to have a major impact on the Maskinongé RCM's growth and prosperity. Mr. Steeve Boulanger, mayor of Yamachiche, will serve as acting reeve, and the people of Maskinongé will undoubtedly benefit from the new energy he brings along.

I also want to thank the outgoing reeve, Réjean Carle, mayor of Sainte-Ursule, for his dedicated service. While carrying out his duty to the common good with pride and determination, his selflessness never faltered. In closing, I would also like to thank Yvon Deshaies, mayor of Louiseville, for his devoted service as acting reeve.

The people thank them for their loyal service.

* * *

PRESCOTT-RUSSELL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Giovanna Mingarelli (Prescott—Russell—Cumberland, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Prescott-Russell Community Development Corporation.

For 40 years, this wonderful organization has embodied the values that are the strength of our region: hard work, mutual support and a commitment to building a stronger, more prosperous community together. Over these 40 years, countless businesses, volunteer initiatives and community projects have been launched and have flourished thanks to its leadership and support, contributing to the growth and prosperity of our region. I am proud to be able to count on such a remarkable organization serving the people of Prescott—Russell.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to its success over the years for their dedication and commitment. Happy 40th anniversary.

* * *

● (1110)

[*English*]

GEORGE MASSEY CROSSING

Dan Albas (Okanagan Lake West—South Kelowna, CPC): Mr. Speaker, British Columbians have waited long enough for a new George Massey crossing. For commuters travelling between Delta and Richmond, families heading for the ferry and truckers moving goods through one of Canada's most important trade corridors, the Massey bottleneck means more time sitting in traffic.

This summer, the Liberal government committed up to $3 billion to replace this aging crossing. Last week, British Columbians voted for change. They elected a new Conservative government, and premier-designate Lorne Doerkson has committed to building a new, 10-lane George Massey bridge. With a December 1 funding deadline approaching, there is no excuse for uncertainty. That $3 billion was promised to British Columbians, not to the NDP and not to one particular design. This crossing matters to commuters, our Pacific gateway and getting goods to market.

The election changed the government. It did not change the traffic, the trade bottleneck or the need for a new crossing. British Columbians have spent enough time waiting in traffic and waiting on governments. Let us respect their vote, honour the $3-billion commitment and get this built.

* * *

RANJIT SARIN

Brendan Hanley (Yukon, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it was family who brought Ranjit Sarin to the Yukon and family who lovingly surrounded him when he passed on last spring. However, it was service and dedication to the community that led most Yukoners to know him so well.

As an active Rotarian and a member of Yukon's Golden Age Society, Ranjit never stopped working for the well-being of seniors. Indeed, his decades of service earned him the Governor General's Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers in 2023. As president of the Vimy Heritage Housing Society, Ranjit was a passionate visionary for accessible seniors housing, a dream sadly yet to be realized.

Ranjit's high standards and expectations applied to himself no less than anyone around him. Indeed, in a call just a few days before he died, he began as always with, “Hello, MP. It's your favourite constituent again.”

Ranjit Sarin lived what Yukoners cherish: engagement, community and generosity. I thank Ranjit for his dedication to the Yukon. May we who lead remember that in a life marked by joy and service, he truly lived life to the full.

* * *

AFFORDABILITY

Helena Konanz (Similkameen—South Okanagan—West Kootenay, CPC): Mr. Speaker, in response to the Liberals' inflationary spending, the Bank of Canada this week raised interest rates for the first time in three years. This interest rate hike will hit residents in the communities that I represent hard. This increase directly affects mortgage rates. They will go up.

I represent one of the eldest ridings in Canada, with many fixed-income seniors already juggling mortgages, credit lines and the need to drive to medical appointments. We are already seeing seniors who used to donate to food banks now standing in line at food banks.

The Liberals are ignoring the fact that this affordability crunch is getting worse, with benefits and savings struggling to keep up and seniors just trying to afford to put food on the table.

* * *

[*Translation*]

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING PARENTS

Steeve Lavoie (Beauport—Limoilou, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to pay tribute to two outstanding people, my mother and my father.

Together, they raised seven children and welcomed 24 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. They worked hard their whole lives on our family dairy farm, while also taking care of many acres of woodlot and a maple grove. Despite all the work they had to do, they still always found time to get involved in their community.

My mother was a true pioneer for women. She served for over 26 years on the board of directors of an insurance company in the 1980s and 1990s, where she was the only woman. Meanwhile, my father spent over 20 years of his life serving as a municipal councillor. They had seven children, a dairy farm and a maple grove, and they still found time to get involved in their community.

Thank you Mom and Dad for your sacrifices and love. Most of all, thank you for helping me to become the man I am today.

I love you.

* * *

[*English*]

AFFORDABILITY

Jeff Kibble (Cowichan—Malahat—Langford, CPC): Mr. Speaker, families in Cowichan—Malahat—Langford and across Vancouver Island are working hard, but the bills keep growing. Parents worry about the grocery checkout. Seniors go without because their pensions cannot cover the basics.

The Bank of Canada now forecasts 2027 inflation at 3.1%, up from 2% in the July report. This means mortgage payments will go up and prices will rise faster, on top of the already high cost of living Canadians face. Unless wages and pensions keep pace, their money will buy less food and cover fewer necessities.

The people on Vancouver Island need breathing room. They deserve decisions that serve all Canadians rather than the political interests of the Prime Minister and his favoured few.

I will keep fighting for lower costs, responsible spending and honest answers. The people of Cowichan—Malahat—Langford have entrusted me to stand up for them. I will honour that trust every day. I call on the government to do the same.

* * *

● (1115)

AFFORDABILITY

Hon. Kevin Lamoureux (Winnipeg North, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, 18 months ago, Canadians elected a new Prime Minister with a new government. From day one, the issue of affordability has been important not only to the Prime Minister, but to every Liberal member of this caucus.

At the end of the day, actions speak louder than words. What members will see is that we brought forward programs such as the national food program for our schools, which feeds 400,000 children. The Conservatives said no to that. We brought forward the national dental care program, which provides dental services for seniors on fixed incomes. The Conservatives said no to that.

Somewhere within that caucus is a small fraction of Progressive Conservatives. We need those Conservatives to stand up, start speaking on behalf of Canadians and get rid of the far right.

ORAL QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

FINANCE

Luc Berthold (Mégantic—L'Érable—Lotbinière, CPC): Mr. Speaker, this was a bad week for the Liberal government and the Prime Minister, but it was even worse for Canadian families.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer is projecting a $733-billion increase in government borrowing over the next five years. Inflation is rising, food prices are up and the Bank of Canada is raising interest rates, which is going to have a serious impact on young homeowners who are already struggling to pay their mortgages. The Prime Minister's elaborate speeches may help the Liberals avoid facing what is really happening, but families are paying the price.

When will the Liberals get their spending under control and save families money?

[*English*]

Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, nothing could be further from the truth than what the member utters in the House. Conservatives like to try to instill doubt. There is no denying that Canada has the strongest fiscal position in the G7. We have the lowest net debt-to-GDP ratio and the highest second quarter growth in the G7. That is well-recognized.

We are using that strength to focus on what we can control to counteract the headwinds that the country faces. We have seen record numbers in new business investment and foreign direct investment, and further domestic commitments, reaching nearly half a trillion dollars. We have seen the highest level of non-U.S. trade and much—

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): The hon. member for Mégantic—L'Érable—Lotbinière.

* * *

[*Translation*]

THE ECONOMY

Luc Berthold (Mégantic—L'Érable—Lotbinière, CPC): Mr. Speaker, my Liberal colleague does not seem to know what is actually happening on the ground.

Can I tell him one thing that people have no control over, that families have no control over? The cost of groceries. When they get to the cash register, they have no control over how much things will cost. They have to pay whatever it costs. Inflation has just gone up. The Bank of Canada is saying that it is going to be even higher next year, and families are the ones paying the price. While the Liberals are talking about the big things they are doing across the country, Canadians are the ones paying the price.

I have a question. Next week, will the Prime Minister present a budget that will inflate spending or one that will save Canadians money?

Daniel Gobeil (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his question.

I do not know where he has been these last few months when our government was making decisions to make life more affordable for Canadians. The Canada groceries and essentials benefit, tax breaks on fuel and diesel and the Canadian dental care plan are all measures that help Canadians and Quebeckers every day.

That is just the beginning. The upcoming budget will continue to focus on affordability.

* * *

[*English*]

FINANCE

Philip Lawrence (Northumberland—Clarke, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Bank of Canada raised its interest rates for the first time since 2023. The government is claiming that inflation and interest rates are like the weather and are completely beyond its control, but we know that is not the truth. We know that sovereign debt accelerates inflation.

Canada now spends more on interest than it does on health care or on the military. The interest rate hike means that millions of Canadians will be forced to the financial brink.

Will the government commit to achieving its own fiscal anchor of a declining deficit-to-GDP ratio?

Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Conservatives this Halloween are handing out tricks and calling them treats. Nobody is fooled by this.

Let me ask the members opposite to tell us how feeding hungry kids is inflationary, tell us how investing in our defence capabilities is inflationary and tell us how cutting taxes on income, housing and fuel is inflationary. Maybe they need a basic economics tutorial over in the Conservative caucus. It is clear that their leader has no economic credentials. If they need a lesson, please let us know.

● (1120)

Philip Lawrence (Northumberland—Clarke, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Governor of the Bank of Canada was quite clear: He has raised interest rates because of increasing inflationary pressure. All experts agree that expansive fiscal policy accelerates inflation. In effect, the Governor of the Bank of Canada is hitting the brakes hard while the Minister of Finance continues to accelerate faster and faster.

Will the minister commit to some fiscal restraint in the upcoming budget so that Canadians are not pushed over the inflationary cliff?

Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is not news to us that the country is facing headwinds and that Canadians are being impacted. That is exactly why we stepped up with a plan to support them.

We introduced the groceries and essentials benefit, and it delivered 12 million Canadians a cheque to help with the cost of living. We cut taxes on new business investment and saw an immediate spike of 8.9% in activity. We rapidly signed 20 new trade and security agreements, and we saw the highest level of non-U.S. trade this last summer. We streamlined permitting processes, and we have seen more jobs and shovels in the ground. Those are the results of this government.

* * *

PENSIONS

Sandra Cobena (Newmarket—Aurora, CPC): Mr. Speaker, there is something very dangerous about how the Prime Minister is defending the outrageous amount of debt he has taken on. He says that it is not so bad because of Canada's net debt position, but what he does not tell Canadians is that that calculation subtracts over $1 trillion of Canadians' pension assets.

I have a very simple question for the Prime Minister: Does he intend to use Canadians' pensions to pay his Liberal debt, yes or no?

Hon. John Zerucelli (Secretary of State (Labour), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, that is not true. Do members want to know what is dangerous? What is dangerous is the Conservative Party leader's advice to Canadians about how to manage inflation. What did he say to Canadians? He said they can opt out of inflation by buying Bitcoin. After they bought Bitcoin, Bitcoin divided by half its value.

Then the Conservatives voted against every affordability measure that this government has put forth, like child care, dental care and the groceries and essentials benefit. They voted against them. They claim they are for affordability, but they are not.

Sandra Cobena (Newmarket—Aurora, CPC): Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister has no intention of touching Canadians' pension funds, then why does his government use those very same pension assets to make Canada's debt look smaller? He cannot have it both ways. Either he intends to use the pensions to repay his debt, or those savings are not available to repay it.

Why is he using Canadians' retirement savings to assure Canadians about the national debt? When will the Prime Minister stop hiding behind pensions and tell them how he intends to repay the debt?

Hon. John Zerucelli (Secretary of State (Labour), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, is the Conservative Party's official position on inflation to buy Bitcoin, yes or no?

Canada has the best fiscal position in the G7. We have a AAA credit rating. What does that allow us to do? That allows us to invest in this country. It allows us to build projects in the national interest using Canadian lumber, Canadian steel and Canadian unionized workers.

We are going to continue to build this country. I hope the Conservatives get on board.

* * *

[*Translation*]

PARKS CANADA

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, we stand in solidarity with Parks Canada workers. According to the union, it is no longer 500 positions, as the government claimed last week, but 742 positions that will be cut. These are good regional jobs, including in La Mauricie National Park. All of this is being done to save $145 million, even as the Prime Minister gave away $150 million in free park passes for his Canada strong agenda since taking office.

Does his idea of a strong Canada involve firing over 700 people to cover his own spending?

Yasir Naqvi (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and to the Secretary of State (International Development), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we thank our federal public servants for their dedication, and we deeply appreciate the critical role they play in ensuring our safety and protecting Canadians and our environment.

We must continue to protect nature and the environment while strengthening Canada's emergency preparedness. While we are streamlining expenditures, those priorities will not be compromised. All the changes we are making are aimed at strengthening the system that Canadians rely on.

● (1125)

Alexis Deschênes (Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine—Listuguj, BQ): Mr. Speaker, staff cuts at Parks Canada are an insult to the history of the Gaspé Peninsula: Ninety-five full-time workers are facing possible layoffs in Forillon and Restigouche. These parks are vital to our tourism industry. The insult is all the more egregious considering that 225 Forillon families were expropriated to create the park, causing wounds that have yet to heal. Imagine, Liberals expropriated these people only for other Liberals to come along and cut jobs and services.

Is the government going to reverse this reprehensible decision?

Yasir Naqvi (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and to the Secretary of State (International Development), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Parks Canada is currently modernizing its programs and services to ensure their long-term sustainability and provide the best value to Canadians.

This transition period will result in adjustments. Parks Canada will continue to deliver on its mandate for conservation, visitor services and the protection of sites under its care. Parks Canada will continue to work with its partners, including those in the Gaspé, to advance initiatives that are important to the region, particularly the project—

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): The hon. member for Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan.

Marilène Gill (Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the job cuts at Parks Canada will transform our protected areas. Imagine no longer having park wardens in the Mingan Archipelago. The closest ones will be 650 kilometres away. No one will be there to protect nature or stop poaching. Our hearts go out to the workers who are devastated by this news. They deserve transparency and time, not the Prime Minister's bulldozer. The government needs to stop taking this penny-wise and pound-foolish approach, just to save a few bucks on the backs of these folks.

Will he stop this injustice?

[*English*]

Yasir Naqvi (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and to the Secretary of State (International Development), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Parks Canada is going through a process of modernization. We are making sure that the services provided by Parks Canada are available for all Canadians. That is why we will continue to make sure that Parks Canada remains viable.

It is an important part of our institution. It is something that, all across the country, we get to enjoy. We will make sure that Parks Canada remains a source of pride for all Canadians.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Stephanie Kusie (Calgary Midnapore, CPC): Mr. Speaker, Canada's trade agreement with the EU was signed 10 years ago by the Conservatives, yet under this Liberal government, nine nations have to be ratified into the agreement, and that includes both France and Poland, two nations the Prime Minister has engaged with heavily.

Why is the Prime Minister so fixated upon associate membership when he should be focusing on getting the other nine nations to ratify the agreement so we can get our Canadian beef and pork to the European market?

Yasir Naqvi (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and to the Secretary of State (International Development), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member opposite for this very important question, because in the last 10 years since we signed the free trade agreement with Europe, the trade between our two economies has grown by 75%. In fact, trade with France has gone up 63%, trade with Italy is up 77%, and trade with Poland is up 110%. Imagine what more we can do when we have a deeper alliance with Europe, which the Prime Minister is working on as we speak.

Stephanie Kusie (Calgary Midnapore, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government is failing on trade. It has been reported that Canada will face a carbon tariff next year from the European Union, which will affect up to three billion dollars' worth of Canadian exports, yet the Prime Minister is fixated on this associate membership, trying to distract Canadians from the pain he has caused them.

When the summit concludes today with the EU, will the Prime Minister announce that he has fixed the potential carbon tariff, or will he announce that he is going to raise the Liberal industrial carbon tax to compensate for the new European Union tariff?

Yasir Naqvi (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and to the Secretary of State (International Development), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, what we are focused on is making sure that we diversify trade for all Canadians and that we create opportunities for Canadian companies to be able to do business all around the world. The European Union is the second-largest economy in the world, and having a deeper, closer relationship with the European Union is going to mean more business for Canadian businesses and more jobs for Canadians. That is our focus. We will continue to build those relationships so that we can create good opportunities for Canadian businesses and for Canadian workers.

* * *

FINANCE

Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West, CPC): Mr. Speaker, in September 2025, the Prime Minister stood in the House and stated, "We are going to have a declining level of debt", yet the Parliamentary Budget Officer is projecting debt to climb from $1.5 trillion to $2.3 trillion over the next four years.

Would the Prime Minister like to explain how debt going from $1.5 trillion to $2.3 trillion is, in his own words, a declining level of debt, or is he using the same math that he used to conclude that affordability is the best it has been in a decade?

● (1130)

Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, this Halloween, Conservatives are doing their very best to try to spook Canadians, but Canadians know that Canada has the strongest fiscal position in the G7. We have a stable democracy and a government that cares about them, a government that is investing in them, is supporting them through affordability challenges, is investing in a stronger economy, is diversifying trade and is laser focused on building the strongest, most resilient economy in the G7.

All this member can do is cast doubt on that plan. Every moment of every day in the House, that is all we hear from the Conservatives. When will they start celebrating all that Canada has to offer?

Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West, CPC): Mr. Speaker, also casting doubt on their plan is the Bank of Canada. The Bank of Canada's monetary policy report states that there is slack in the labour market. It states that businesses have excess capacity. Normally, this would lead to lower interest rates, yet the Bank of Canada increased interest rates due to persistent inflation.

The Prime Minister says the Liberals will focus on what they can control. Will the Prime Minister focus on what he can control, his inflationary spending binge, and do what he promised and deliver a declining level of debt?

Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives are always short on details. They keep saying that somehow government spending and investments in the Canadian economy are inflationary, but they never indicate what specifically is inflationary about that spending. Is it inflationary to feed hungry children? Is it inflationary to cut taxes for 22 million Canadians on their income? Is it inflationary to help with the cost of fuel? Is it inflationary to invest in our defence or get major projects built in this country? What is inflationary about those investments in a growing, prosperous Canadian economy?

Dan Muys (Flamborough—Glanbrook—Brant North, CPC): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are paying more at the grocery store and more to keep a roof over their heads. This week the Bank of Canada raised interest rates, meaning higher mortgage payments for families. Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Budget Officer projects annual interest on the federal debt will reach $83 billion by 2031, more than health transfers and more than defence. Debt is rising, interest rates are rising, and Canadians are out of money.

With Halloween tomorrow, will the Liberals admit that their costly spending plan is all trick and no treat?

Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we finally got a Halloween reference in there out of the Conservatives, but they are truly trying to spook Canadians every single day. They simply cannot back up their claims, though, and they do not seem to understand economics. It is not the case that inflation is being driven by the federal government. Everybody out there in the real world knows that inflation is being driven by a U.S. trade war that was not started by the Government of Canada and conflicts in the Middle East, which were not started by Canada. Those are the true causes, and the Conservatives cannot fool anybody.

[*Translation*]

Gabriel Hardy (Montmorency—Charlevoix, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Bank of Canada raised its interest rate for the first time in three years. What does that mean for Canadians? It means that borrowing is more expensive, mortgages are more expensive and, once again, the financial pressure on families is increasing.

Meanwhile, our economy is growing at half the rate of the U.S. economy. In fact, it is even worse than that. We rank 13th in the G20 for growth, just ahead of South Africa. Despite all this, the Liberals are imposing ever more taxes, regulations and bureaucratic roadblocks to developing our resources.

When will the government see that in order to bring down the cost of living, it needs to stop holding back proponents who want to develop our country's resources?

Carlos Leitão (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is rather unfortunate that our friends, when quoting reports and statistics, do not bother to read the reports they are quoting.

For example, with regard to the Bank of Canada, it is true that interest rates were raised because inflation was high. Why is inflation high? It is driven by energy prices. It is entirely the result of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and oil prices.

That is the issue. We have no control over those factors. What we can control is public investment, which is necessary to accelerate growth.

Gabriel Hardy (Montmorency—Charlevoix, CPC): Mr. Speaker, this week, three different reports have confirmed that our economy is slowing, that groceries cost a fortune for ordinary people and that people are struggling to make ends meet.

It is clear what Canada needs to do to get its economy back on track: reduce regulatory and bureaucratic barriers; allow businesses to grow, particularly in the domestic market; focus on improving productivity; develop our resources, especially our energy resources; accelerate project approvals; and reduce federal taxes on fuel, including diesel.

These are all Conservative measures that are within the Liberals' control. Have the Liberals included them in their next budget?

● (1135)

Carlos Leitão (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, members will have to wait a few more days for the next budget. We are not about to start revealing what is or is not in the budget.

What I will say is that our plan is precisely to speed up major infrastructure projects. For Quebec, that means building ships at the Davie shipyard. Closer to our friend, the major project is Churchill Falls.

I am surprised that our Conservative and Bloc Québécois friends never talk about North America's largest hydroelectric project, Churchill Falls. The federal government has been directly involved, and this project will go ahead.

* * *

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, many were wondering why the federal government was favouring Alberta for the development of artificial intelligence and energy-intensive data centres. Radio-Canada confirmed it this morning: It is to sell gas. Internal documents, including some from the Prime Minister's immediate entourage, confirm that it is Ottawa's intention for these highly polluting data centres to be powered by Alberta natural gas. The development of artificial intelligence is a strategy for expanding the fossil fuel industry.

This is the worst-case scenario from a climate perspective. How can the Liberals support this?

Karim Bardeesy (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, on the contrary, we are very invested in the artificial intelligence sector in Quebec, especially in Montreal. We are working with the famous researcher, Yoshua Bengio to accelerate responsible AI. This is a very important initiative. It is something that connects us with Europe and it is something that will help Canadians and Quebeckers gain more confidence in artificial intelligence.

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, the Liberals have never informed Canadians that they intend to use the development of artificial intelligence data centres as a means of selling more fossil fuels. They have secretly decided to favour polluting fossil fuels to power these energy-guzzling data centres. This undermines efforts to meet our climate targets and turns pollution into a business model.

Like Greenpeace, the Bloc Québécois is calling for a moratorium in order to take the time to properly assess the impact of this strategy. Will the government hit the pause button?

Madeleine Chenette (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages and to the Secretary of State (Sport), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am truly astonished that the Bloc Québécois is downplaying the impact we are having in the field of AI. We have incredible resources in the field of artificial intelligence in Quebec, with Mila, plus an entire ecosystem that we are currently actively developing in partnership with other countries, including the European Union. We also have the major Churchill Falls project, which ensures that we are investing in clean energy.

This will greatly improve things for Quebec and for Canada as a whole.

* * *

[*English*]

ETHICS

Michael Cooper (St. Albert—Sturgeon River, CPC): Mr. Speaker, this week at committee, it was revealed that the Ethics Commissioner has been left in the dark regarding the administration of the Prime Minister's ethics screen. Decisions around the invocation of the screen are being made entirely in secret by the Prime Minister's top two advisers. Records of these decisions are not being shared with the commissioner, meaning that the commissioner has no idea if the Prime Minister is in fact being screened out of decisions where he has a conflict of interest.

Why are these records being withheld from the commissioner?

Hon. Kevin Lamoureux (Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is frankly really and truly quite shameful the way in which the Conservative Party wants to continue the character assassination of the Prime Minister. At the end of the day, the Prime Minister is focused, as the government is, on building a stronger and healthier Canada, a Canada that works for all.

The Conservatives need to get out of the gutter and start recognizing the many positive things that are happening as a direct result of this government and this Prime Minister reaching out and building that stronger and healthier economy. It is time to step up—

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): The hon. member for St. Albert—Sturgeon River.

Michael Cooper (St. Albert—Sturgeon River, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Commissioner ordered the Prime Minister to set up an ethics screen because of his vast conflicts with Brookfield. The Prime Minister's Office claims that for the purpose of transparency, every time a conflict is flagged, an analysis is done and it is documented, except there is zero transparency. These records are not public and they are not being shared with the commissioner. Meanwhile, billions of dollars have flowed to Brookfield.

Why the secrecy? Again, why are these records being withheld from the commissioner?

● (1140)

Hon. Kevin Lamoureux (Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, when the member worked with Stephen Harper, the rules we have were established, and the Prime Minister today is following the same rules as Stephen Harper. The biggest difference is that the Conservatives tend to want to be in the gutter consistently with character assassination, when we have a Prime Minister who is doing a fine job of representing Canadians and building a healthier and stronger economy. It is time that the Conservatives start providing action on the many initiatives, whether it is on the issue of affordability or building that—

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): The hon. member for The Eastern Peninsulas.

Oral Questions

THE ECONOMY

Jonathan Rowe (The Eastern Peninsulas, CPC): Mr. Speaker, while families across Canada are struggling to put food on their table, the Prime Minister has no problem putting food on his table, most of which we cannot pronounce: truffle risotto, veal blanquette, entrecôte beef with demi-glace sauce, sea bass fillet and desserts like crème brûlée to top of it all off. This adds up to the low price of $175,000.

How does the Prime Minister have the nerve to stick this bill to hard-working Canadians?

Hon. Kevin Lamoureux (Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we see the silliness coming from the Conservative Party. Let me give the member a tangible example. Let us think of my home province of Manitoba: Under the national school program, 29,000 children are being fed in schools. Across Canada, it is 400,000. This Prime Minister is the one who made it a permanent program. On the other hand, the member who just posed the question voted against that. Shame on the Conservative Party of Canada.

Jonathan Rowe (The Eastern Peninsulas, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I have heard this all before. This is not the first time that the Liberals wasted over $175,000 and gave the same shameful excuse for inflight catering. The reality is this trip cost hard-working taxpayers $300 for each meal for each person.

Does the silver spoon, Bay Street banker Prime Minister really think that Canadians have the luxury of spending $300 on a meal? Quite frankly, I have had no one in my family ever be able to dream of paying $300 for a meal.

Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, what is quite extraordinary is that it probably took the member a week to come up with that question. The reality is he should be talking about Churchill Falls and Bay du Nord. He should be talking about investments in the Atlantic fisheries fund, things that impact Atlantic Canadians in terms of job and affordability. We are building Canada up in Atlantic Canada, taking the lead. It is time that he and other folks on that side, especially in their Atlantic caucus, join us.

* * *

[*Translation*]

NEWS MEDIA INDUSTRY

Gaétan Malette (Kapuskasing—Timmins—Mushkegowuk, CPC): Mr. Speaker, when a storm shuts down roads in Hearst or Kapuskasing, people rely on their local radio stations, like Épinette noire or La voix d'chez nous, to stay informed. However, nobody in Ottawa seems to be listening. In the last budget, Ottawa spent $78 million on advertising, but only 3% of that was allocated to local radio stations in Canada.

Without spending another penny, what is the government waiting for to redistribute part of its advertising budget to these radio stations, which are essential to Canada's small communities?

Madeleine Chenette (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages and to the Secretary of State (Sport), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, access to fact-based information from coast to coast to coast is essential for keeping Canadians informed. Canadians deserve access to factual information that reflects our communities, our stories and our values.

We continue to support strong and independent newsrooms. Across the country, and especially when dealing with disinformation, our local media and radio stations matter a lot. We are supporting them and we will continue to do so.

* * *

[*English*]

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING

Hon. Judy A. Sgro (Humber River—Black Creek, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, throughout the spring, the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying heard from witnesses who included doctors, psychiatrists and many patient groups. Their testimony confirmed that provinces and territories were not ready for medical assistance in dying to be offered in cases where mental illness was the sole underlying condition.

Can the parliamentary secretary tell us how this perspective is reflected in the medical assistance in dying safeguards act?

Maggie Chi (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for Humber River—Black Creek for her thoughtful perspective and contributions to this very important subject. Our government will always support our provincial and territorial partners in developing and delivering health care, including end-of-life care. That is why the MAID safeguards act reflects what we have heard and why it would ensure that mental illness cannot be the sole underlying condition for someone requesting medical assistance in dying.

MAID is a deeply personal issue for many Canadians and we want to ensure that we have protection in place for our most vulnerable people.

* * *

● (1145)

THE ECONOMY

Ziad Aboultaif (Edmonton Manning, CPC): Mr. Speaker, in March, 2.4 million Canadians had to rely on the food bank. The Bank of Canada expects prices to rise through next year. This is an out-of-touch government. Excessive taxation and rising energy costs are making it worse for Canadians. Conservatives would lower costs at the grocery store by scrapping all federal taxes on diesel sales until at least next Canada Day.

Why would the government not adopt our plan?

Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it always shocks me in the House when Conservatives pretend to care about people at food banks, when they vote against every single measure that would take people out of those food banks. When we wanted to feed hungry kids in school, which was the top ask of Food Banks Canada for many years, we implemented a national school food program, which feeds 400,000 kids at school. That literally takes kids out of food bank lineups. What did the Conservatives do? They said no, then they called the program garbage in the House. They should be ashamed of themselves for mentioning—

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): The hon. member for Prince Albert.

Randy Hoback (Prince Albert, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Governor of the Bank of Canada projects that rising energy and shipping costs will drive up grocery prices this coming year. With food bank usage at record levels and household budgets already stretched, families cannot afford another increase at the checkout line.

Will the Liberal government reverse its course and adopt our Conservative plan to scrap the federal taxes on diesel, which would help bring down the cost of food?

Hon. John Zerucelli (Secretary of State (Labour), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we cut taxes on gas and diesel, and the Conservatives voted against it. This week, the Conservatives have been talking about food banks. They come in the House of Commons and talk about food banks, yet they actually do not listen to Food Banks Canada, the organization responsible for food banks. Here is what it said: "For people relying on food banks, this program [the groceries and essentials benefit, which the Conservatives voted against] will provide direct assistance to low-income households to help cover...costs such as food, rent, or childcare, as we have called for."

Mel Arnold (Kamloops—Shuswap—Central Rockies, CPC): Mr. Speaker, months ago, Food Banks Canada reported that food bank demand reached 2.3 million visits in March. Liberal inflation has only made things worse. In Salmon Arm, my hometown, the food bank now serves 500 clients per month. Many are families, meaning the number could be 7% to 10% of a small city relying on the food bank. Will the government adopt our Conservative plan to lower the cost in grocery stores by scrapping all federal taxes on diesel sales until at least Canada Day 2027?

Hon. Sean Fraser (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I sincerely appreciate the hon. member's concern for the ability of families to put food on the table, but it betrays the perspective that the Conservative Party has demonstrated in this House with its voting record over the last number of years.

Let us think about the groceries and essentials benefit that we put forward that is going to put almost $1,900 on the table for a family of four, which the Conservatives voted against. Let us think about the middle-class tax cut that we put forward to save money for 22 million Canadians, which they voted against. Let us think about the national school food program, which is actually feeding hungry children in our communities today, which they did not just vote against but called garbage on the floor of the House of Commons.

Scott Anderson (Vernon—Lake Country—Monashee, CPC): Mr. Speaker, in British Columbia alone, food banks recorded more than 250,000 visits in March, up 14% in one year. The hon. member across the aisle mentioned children. Over 75,000 of those were children. Diesel drives up the cost of growing, transporting and delivering food, putting even more pressure on grocery bills across Canada.

Why will the Liberal government not adopt our Conservative plan to scrap all federal taxes on diesel until at least Canada Day 2027 and give Canadians some relief?

Jennifer McKelvie (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we have been working hard on housing affordability to bring down rents and the cost to buy a home. I would like to point out that in British Columbia, we have made meaningful progress. We have committed 1,100 homes in B.C. through Build Canada Homes. We are investing more than $5 billion in housing-enabling infrastructure. We are working with the province to bring down development charges. In addition, I would like to point out that we have 116 purpose-built rental homes under way in Burnaby, 349 at UBC and the Burke Mountain Community Centre in Coquitlam is under construction.

There is lots under way. We care about affordability.

* * *

● (1150)

FINANCE

Chak Au (Richmond Centre—Marpole, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister promised to spend less. Instead, the PBO projects another $730 billion in borrowing over five years. By 2031, the federal debt will approach $40,000 per Canadian, with annual interest equivalent to $8,000 per family. Canadians are paying more, getting less and falling further behind.

Will the Liberal government finally cut deficit spending and adopt our Conservative plan to lower costs for all Canadians?

Ryan Turnbull (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance and National Revenue and to the Secretary of State (Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, every single day, this government works our hardest to leverage the fiscal strength that Canada has to invest in the things that Canadians need: jobs for the future, wages that outpace inflation, and higher productivity and growth in the economy. While doing that, we have also enhanced our social safety net with things like the groceries and essentials benefit, tax cuts and the national school food program. We continue to do that work every day because we know that is what builds a stronger Canada.

Canadians need a government that supports them.

Dane Lloyd (Parkland, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the Bank of Canada just raised its interest rate for the first time in three years, hitting Canadians with higher mortgage and borrowing costs at a time when families are already struggling to make ends meet. The cost of fuel, food and homes keeps rising. Families are already going further into debt each month just to make ends meet, and now they have to pay higher interest. We know that inflation and interest are rising due to the Liberal government's massive deficit spending.

Why will the Prime Minister not stop his inflationary spending and his taxes that are driving up the cost for struggling Canadians?

Jennifer McKelvie (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we care deeply about housing affordability, and that is why we are working with the provinces to build infrastructure that allows them to build new homes. That drives down the cost to purchase for new homeowners.

However, we are not stopping there. We are working with Build Canada Homes. We have 19,000 units under way across the country, and this is ensuring that whether people rent or buy, there is a home for them.

Dane Lloyd (Parkland, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the gap in this country between the haves and the have-nots is growing wider and wider. Liberal inflationary spending and taxes are driving up the cost of living for those who are struggling and padding the pockets of the wealthiest. Canadian families are already the most indebted in the G7. With rising inflation and interest rates, they will now have to pay more for their mortgage, car payments and line of credit. Every single dollar that the Liberal government borrows makes every dollar that Canadians have to borrow more expensive.

When will the Prime Minister finally get his spending under control so that Canadians can afford to pay their bills?

Corey Hogan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, of course, that is not how any of that works. If we look at the Bank of Canada's report, it says the inflation is driven by global energy prices. It is undeniable.

However, there is good news in my home province of Alberta. There are 67,000 new jobs since the start of the year. We are seeing record production of oil and gas. We are seeing record diesel production up 16%. That is how we tackle affordability. We are making Alberta strong. We are making Canada strong.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Dan Albas (Okanagan Lake West—South Kelowna, CPC): Mr. Speaker, airlines should not be able to swap out an airplane and make passengers' rights disappear right along with it. This week, CBC News *Go Public*'s special investigation exposed passengers being denied compensation after Air Canada swapped their aircraft and blamed the cancellations on safety-related maintenance.

Parliament gave the power to close this loophole in 2023. Three years later, the Liberals still have not finished the job. How much longer should passengers have to wait? Will the minister close this loophole and immediately get this regulation into effect?

Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, Canada's air passenger protection rules are designed to protect passengers while recognizing that safety must always come first. Airlines are responsible for making operational and safety decisions and applying regulations appropriately. We expect airlines to apply the rules responsibly and provide passengers with clear, accurate information about flight delays and cancellations.

* * *

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Scott Reid (Lanark—Frontenac, CPC): Mr. Speaker, Kingston's new mayor had this to say about Alto: “I question the wisdom of spending enormous amounts of money creating a...high-speed system while the...rail network we already have has been allowed to deteriorate.” She is right. The PBO estimates that extending Alto to Kingston would add between $4 billion and $6 billion to the cost of this already bloated project. The extra mileage, plus the extra stop, would add 20 minutes to every Montreal-to-Toronto trip on this supposedly fast train.

Kingston does not want Alto. The rest of us do not want Alto. Why do we not just cancel Alto altogether?

● (1155)

Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it has been said time and again, because it is true, that this project is generational and transformative.

Let us talk about the numbers: boosting the GDP by up to $35 billion and creating 52,000 jobs. This is not to mention that the environmental footprint is much lower with trains. It is also connecting rural, connecting urban and creating community wealth.

That is what we are about on this side. We would like the Conservatives to join us.

* * *

[*Translation*]

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING

Louis Villeneuve (Brome—Missisquoi, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, when Canadians are diagnosed with an incurable illness, many wish to make decisions about their future care while they are still able to make the decisions themselves. This week, our government introduced Bill C-41, the medical assistance in dying safeguards act, which would allow adults to request medical assistance in dying in advance, subject to strict safeguards.

Can the Minister of Justice explain to the House what this bill does to support these people and their families?

Hon. Sean Fraser (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for the question and for his work on this very important file.

When someone is diagnosed with an incurable illness, it is very hard on them and their entire family. Under this bill, a person could make an advance request while they are still able to decide for themselves. This will ensure that their wishes are honoured later on. There will be strict safeguards at every stage. The provinces will decide whether to offer this option, and we will work with them.

* * *

[*English*]

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Billy Morin (Edmonton Northwest, CPC): Mr. Speaker, Conservatives believe in self-determination and first nations deciding their own paths for themselves. At Monday's first ministers' meeting, first nations helped determine the agenda on economic partnership, land, and treaty rights, but the Prime Minister could not focus on that important conversation and instead resorted to speculation about abolishing the Indian Act, which was not the focus of the first nations' agenda.

Why is the Prime Minister now inviting the uncertainty and division that comes with resurrecting the Liberal Indian Act white paper of 1969?

Ginette Lavack (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Indian Act has a long and harmful legacy of colonization, racism and discrimination, with lasting impacts on first nation individuals, families and communities. The discussions underscore the importance of continuing to strengthen the relationship between Canada and first nations, one that is grounded in respect for first nations' self-determination, laws and inherent rights. Fundamentally, our focus remains on how our relationship can be strengthened with first nations on a nation-to-nation basis.

Billy Morin (Edmonton Northwest, CPC): Mr. Speaker, after 11 years of Liberal reconciliation rhetoric, how can anybody trust the 1969 white paper-musing Prime Minister, who delays legislation for any interests other than his own and ignores court rulings that require him to uphold the government's commitments?

On Bill S-2, he is demanding that elders sign a five-year non-disclosure agreement because he does not trust the supposed partners in reconciliation. On safe drinking water, he still has not passed legislation the Liberals promised in 2022 and is still fighting them in court.

How can international partners trust the Prime Minister when he cannot even fulfill Canada's treaties with first peoples here at home?

Ginette Lavack (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, to be clear, any process about how we move beyond the Indian Act must be first nations-led. It has to be co-developed with rights holders.

First nations are diverse. They have distinct histories, they have treaties and they have governance structures that we have to respect. Their voices have to guide this process and decisions about what comes next.

We are committed to working in partnership with first nations to chart a path forward together that respects their rights, reflects the priorities they bring forward and supports their self-determination.

* * *

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Kurt Holman (London—Fanshawe, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I tried the simulator at the Diamond Flight Centre in London, which has sat idle for over a year thanks to Liberal delays at Transport Canada. This vital training tool prepares young Canadians for high-demand pilot jobs, allowing them to practise life-saving emergencies, the exact skills training needed to fill the growing pilot shortage, yet Liberal red tape leaves it gathering dust while costs mount.

The equipment and students are ready, except the Liberal government stands in the way. When will the minister end this Liberal bottleneck so that the Diamond Flight Centre can train the next generation of pilots?

Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, when we think about transport, what we are doing within the ministry and within the department is build up our human capital and investment, whether it is in the aviation sector, the rail sector or the port sector. When we look at the level and depth of what we are doing, as I said before to one of the last questions, I wish the members opposite would join us.

* * *

● (1200)

PUBLIC SAFETY

Marie-France Lalonde (Orléans, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the government unveiled our new national security plan, the first comprehensive update of its kind in more than 20 years. At a time of increasing geopolitical instability, foreign interference, cyber-threats and economic uncertainty, this strategy will help ensure that Canada is prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Can the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety tell the House why this landmark strategy is important for the country?

Jacques Ramsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for Orléans. She has always been a strong voice for making Canada and the world a safer place.

The world is changing rapidly, and our government is ensuring that Canada is prepared to meet evolving challenges at home and abroad. “The Plan for a Stronger Canada” sets out a comprehensive whole-of-government approach to strengthening our national security. It will strengthen our economy, build stronger international partnerships, modernize our military and intelligence capabilities, and protect Canadians from criminal and national security threats.

* * *

IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP

Hon. Michelle Rempel Garner (Calgary Nose Hill, CPC): Mr. Speaker, Albertans now need proof of citizenship to receive or renew their driver's licence and health cards, so some now need a citizenship certificate issued by the federal government. However, Liberal Bill C-3, which Conservatives opposed, has created a massive processing backlog despite the Liberals saying that this would never happen.

With Liberal Bill C-3, processing wait times have ballooned to 33 months, mostly from non-residents. Will the minister prioritize processing for Albertans, or will she continue to leave them at the back of a long line behind non-residents?

Peter Fragiskatos (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the government's introduction of Bill C-3 last year was in response to a court decision, a very important court decision, and the committee responsible for immigration collaborated in a constructive way, I would say. I know the Conservatives opposed the fundamental tenets of that bill, but we did respond in a very good way to the court decision.

The point raised by the member is one the government continues to be aware of and work on. Going forward, I would call attention to the Conservative record on this, not just with respect to Bill C-3, but in general on immigration. They are all over—

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): The hon. member for Winnipeg Centre.

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Leah Gazan (Winnipeg Centre, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the Liberals are fast-tracking indigenous human rights violations in Bill C-39 while refusing to pass Bill S-2, in an attempt to keep sexism and racism in the Indian Act. Their bait-and-switch is to say, "Hey, look over here; we are pledging to abolish the Indian Act." First nations have seen this playbook before, used with the white paper and handed down by Harper.

Will the government stop the bait-and-switch in the House today, withdraw Bill C-39 and pass Bill S-2 without delay, or do they want to see another Idle No More?

Mike Kelloway (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the many questions on this topic.

The reality is that this legislation is not about changing standards; it is about changing processes. That is a key distinction in this legislation. We take on a special duty. Our special duty is to focus on the duty to consult, but deeper than that, the reality is that projects from coast to coast to coast not only need first nations buy-in but need first nations partnerships.

* * *

PARKS CANADA

Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP): Mr. Speaker, Parks Canada employees from coast to coast to coast are reeling. Two-thirds of them have received notices that their job is on the line and that they should either quit now or wait to be fired later. This puts at risk the statutory responsibility of the minister and the government to maintain our parks for future generations, all to save $145 million. In another category, $2 billion, without batting an eye, goes to U.S. fully owned General Dynamics for military spending.

Can the minister defend that she is looking after the statutory responsibility to protect our parks?

Yasir Naqvi (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and to the Secretary of State (International Development), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier in question period, Parks Canada is currently modernizing its programs and services to provide the best value to Canadians and to ensure their long-term sustainability. This transition period will result in adjustments. Parks Canada will continue to deliver on its mandate for conservation, for visitor services and for the protection of its assigned places.

We all know how important Parks Canada is to all of us and, in fact, to all of our communities. In my riding of Ottawa Centre, we have the Rideau Canal, which is maintained by Parks Canada. These are important assets that we will continue to maintain.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

● (1205)

[*English*]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

FINANCE

Hon. Karina Gould (Burlington, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present, in both official languages the sixth report of the Standing Committee on Finance in relation to Bill C-31, a second act to implement certain provisions of the budget, tabled in Parliament on November 4, 2025.

The committee has studied the bill and has decided to report the bill back to the House with amendments.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Arielle Kayabaga (London West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussion among the parties, and if you seek it, I think you will find unanimous consent for the following motion:

> That, notwithstanding any standing order or usual practice of the House, on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, following Private Members' Business, the House shall continue to sit until midnight for the sole purpose of debating Bill C-41, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying) and to make related amendments to other Acts, provided that, during the proceedings on the said bill, no quorum calls, dilatory motions or requests for unanimous consent shall be received by the Chair, except for a unanimous consent motion to see the clock.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): All those opposed to the hon. member's moving the motion will please say nay.

It is agreed.

The House has heard the terms of the motion. All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

(Motion agreed to)

* * *

PETITIONS

HOUSING

Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to rise virtually today to present a petition from numerous citizens in my own riding of Saanich—Gulf Islands.

As we all know, across the country, Canadians are deeply concerned about the unaffordability of housing and about homelessness. As the petitioners point out, these are twin national crises. They have a root cause in the financialization of housing, which inflates real estate prices and, of course, has been driven by more and more corporate ownership of housing instead of Canadians' owning their own homes.

At the root of this, the petitioners ask us to look at the real estate investment trusts that are buying up housing units and flipping them to market units. I will summarize the petition, because the petitioners have put in a lot of very strong arguments about why they believe Parliament should act. They are calling on the Government of Canada to redefine affordable housing using updated formulas to better reflect the real costs, and to create regulations to control the excess profiteering by corporations buying up and flipping affordable housing.

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Leah Gazan (Winnipeg Centre, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I have four petitions to present today.

The first petition was signed by many individuals, calling on the government to implement statutory funding for a missing children community support fund so indigenous-led work to locate missing children and unmarked graves continues. It also calls on the government to implement statutory funding for survivor groups and healing and cultural services for first nations, Inuit and Red River Métis families. Last, it calls on the government to ensure these programs remain indigenous-led and survivor-centred, consistent with UNDRIP and the TRC's 94 calls to action.

We know that Indian residential schools were operated in Canada from 1831 until 1997. Over 150,000 first nations, Inuit and Red River Métis children attended them. We know that this work needs to continue, and I hope the government responds in a timely fashion.

● (1210)

LIPEDEMA

Leah Gazan (Winnipeg Centre, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the second petition I wish to present was raised by individuals who are calling on the Government of Canada to formally recognize, at the federal level, lipedema as a distinct and serious women's health condition.

The petitioners want to include lipedema in the scope of the national women's health strategy under Bill S-243. They also want to see support for the development of national clinical guidance, education and data collection related to lipedema, and collaborative work with provinces, territories, clinicians and patient organizations, including Lipedema Canada, to address the systemic gaps in diagnosis and care. They want the government, as soon as possible, to take all necessary measures for this to occur.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Leah Gazan (Winnipeg Centre, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the third petition I would like to present is about closing loopholes. The petitioners recognize that the NDP tried to pass a bill to end loopholes, which was presented and voted down by the government.

The petitioners call on the Government of Canada to impose a full and immediate, enforceable two-way arms embargo on Israel, including closing the loophole that allows Canadian military goods and components to reach Israel through the United States without adequate Canadian oversight.

They also call on Canada to end direct and indirect arms exports to Israel; close the U.S. loophole for military components, dual-use goods and parts used in weapon systems; suspend imports from Israel's weapons manufacturers; publish transparent reporting on all military goods imported, transferred, brokered or routed through third countries; and create penalties for companies that evade arms control obligations.

WORKERS' RIGHTS

Leah Gazan (Winnipeg Centre, NDP): Mr. Speaker, this final petition is from Alberta's teachers.

The petitioners are concerned about the erasure of collective bargaining and human rights in Canada. They call on the government to annul or repeal any future provincial legislation that restricts through the use of the notwithstanding clause workers' rights to strike and collectively bargain, and to affirm the federal government's responsibility to uphold the Charter of Rights across Canada.

IRAN

Anthony Housefather (Mount Royal, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to present a petition, signed by 1,723 Canadians, related to the Iranian regime, which is a state sponsor of terrorism. We have designated the IRGC and Hamas as terrorist organizations, but U.S. prosecutors have alleged that a senior Kata'ib Hezbollah commander coordinated terrorist plots targeting North America, including an alleged plot against the U.S. consulate in Toronto and a synagogue in Toronto. We know that across the world, Iran is fomenting hate against Iranians in the diaspora, against Jews and against many other groups. Everyone has the right to live safely in Canada.

This week, I had the opportunity to welcome groups of Iranian Canadians and Jewish Canadians here in Ottawa, and this petition is fulfilling one of their requests. We are asking the government to initiate a formal review of Kata'ib Hezbollah under the Criminal Code and, if the applicable legal criteria are met, to list them as a terrorist entity in Canada.

* * *

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Hon. Kevin Lamoureux (Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all questions be allowed to stand, please.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[*For text of questions and responses, see Written Questions website*]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING SAFEGUARDS ACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion that Bill C-41, An Act to amend the Criminal Code and An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying) and to make related amendments to other Acts, be read the second time and referred to a committee.

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I will come back to what I was saying earlier, when things were a bit chaotic in the House. Bill C-41, on medical assistance in dying, is extremely important. This is a subject that must be handled with care and seriousness. It must be addressed conscientiously. The bill addresses two aspects: mental illness and advance requests.

I will begin by talking about mental illness. To postpone implementation indefinitely is, in effect, to cancel it altogether. There are people who are suffering immensely. There may not be many people who are eligible, but they do exist. In effect, we are telling those people that they are being abandoned. Why are they being abandoned? It is because the federal government is always playing catch-up with the courts on these sensitive issues and lacks the political courage to act.

This is a complex and sensitive issue. That is why we must be careful. I will give an example. Why has the government not already asked the Supreme Court for an opinion on whether the bill we are about to vote on is constitutional? All the government has to do is ask. If that is not done and this bill is passed as is, it means that these people are considered too vulnerable to exercise informed judgment, but not so vulnerable that they should not be forced to hire a lawyer and sue to do what the government itself refuses to do.

The government has a duty to protect its citizens in different types of circumstances, including these circumstances. Of course, this needs to be regulated carefully, but the rights of every individual must also be respected. That is the issue that concerns us the most.

I would remind members that the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying, established by the House of Commons and the Senate, recommended that medical assistance in dying and advance requests be authorized under the Criminal Code so as not to encroach upon the jurisdictions of the provinces and Quebec. The committee further recommended that all aspects relating to care be defined and developed by the Government of Quebec and the provincial governments. We are well aware that not every province is at the same stage and that, once again, Quebec is ahead in this area because it is fundamentally a social issue. That is an observation of a general trend, not a judgment. Nevertheless, we must respect these areas of jurisdiction. We must ensure that the wording of the Criminal Code does not unduly restrict the application of Quebec's laws. That is our main request.

I was pleased to hear the minister, in response to the question I asked earlier this morning, extend an invitation and open the door to a meeting with our critic, who I believe is one of the country's leading experts on these issues. We hope that this meeting will take place in a conscientious spirit and with a genuine willingness to engage.

Concerning advance requests, it is important to keep in mind that the Criminal Code takes precedence over Quebec legislation. We exist in a federation—for now, in any event—so the conditions should not be too restrictive. I will repeat the question I raised this morning. Quebec's legislation uses the criterion of conditions considered intolerable, while the federal legislation says that advance requests do not apply if the suffering can be relieved through reasonable means. What does “reasonable means” mean? Who gets to decide whether the means are reasonable, if the patient is incapacitated? That is the crux of the issue. The patient is the one who should make that decision, not caregivers, who might be tempted to interpret the legislation according to their own personal values. I know it is not an easy task. Making such decisions must weigh heavily on the assessment panel. Their task is extremely serious and grave, but it is important not to lose sight of the person's wishes.

That is why it is important to sit down and get this right. We are again disappointed by the bulldozer approach the Liberals are taking. We are being asked to rush this bill through. We got the report back in April, but this bill is only being introduced now, in late October. We are told that this is urgent.

Can we carry out our work conscientiously and in a non-partisan manner for once? Fundamental issues like this one must be dealt with conscientiously.

● (1215)

Jacques Ramsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Berthier—Maskinongé, and I also thank our colleague, the member for Montcalm, for taking part in the committee's work.

My hon. colleague said that eligibility is closed “indefinitely”. I would like to remind him that a new bill can always be introduced later on. Nothing is ever closed indefinitely. He said that our party lacks political courage, but sometimes, ramming legislation down people's throats is not the best way to move forward. Based on my conversations with some of the physicians who provide MAID, I can assure him that a lot of people, even in Quebec, would be upset if MAID was offered to people with a mental illness.

That said, I want to ask my colleague his opinion of the trusted third person mentioned in Quebec's legislation. We know there are problems with trusted third persons often being inadequately advised. Is there anything in our federal bill that might be appropriate?

● (1220)

Yves Perron: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for his question and for listening. He clearly paid close attention to both parts of my speech. I am pleased that he agrees with me that we should not rush this bill through. I trust that he will work within his party to ensure that we take the time necessary to do this properly. That is my understanding.

What I was emphasizing in my remarks is that it is important to make sure that the federal law does not interfere with the application of Quebec's law. That is important. Provincial and Quebec legislation must have the flexibility to reflect their own societal choices, and the health care aspect is part of that. Health care falls within the jurisdiction of the provinces and Quebec. That was what I was getting at.

My colleague mentioned trusted third persons. All of that is already covered by Quebec law. There is a risk that the federal Parliament will step in and override this. We know that the federal law will take precedence. There is a danger that it could be more restrictive.

[*English*]

Michael Cooper (St. Albert—Sturgeon River, CPC): Mr. Speaker, on the question of mental illness and MAID, I sat on all of the special joint committees in this Parliament and in the last Parliament. In the last Parliament, 17 chairs of psychiatry wrote to the Minister of Justice calling on the minister to delay implementation of MAID where mental illness is the sole underlying condition. Today, if there is a consensus among experts, among psychiatrists, it is to not move ahead with this.

On a question of life and death involving some of the most vulnerable persons in Canadian society, I would put it to the hon. member that moving ahead with this, lacking consensus among leading psychiatrists and other experts, would be reckless.

[*Translation*]

Yves Perron: Mr. Speaker, I could not disagree more. It would be reckless to not take care of these vulnerable people. We do agree on one thing, and that is on this very point. I will quote a paragraph from one of the reports of the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying:

> While most of the details relating to advance requests fall to the provinces and territories since they are primarily responsible for healthcare, the Criminal Code would still need to be amended to allow advance requests, and the committee supports amending the Criminal Code in that manner.

The committee seemed to agree. I do not think that is what my colleague meant earlier. I know these are sensitive issues. I would like to go back to my previous comments about political courage. What I mean by that is that we need to be proactive so that people are not forced to sue. Why should we not collectively decide that the government should seek an opinion from the Supreme Court? If the bill passes in its current form, will it be constitutional? We in the Bloc do not think so.

Louis Villeneuve (Brome—Missisquoi, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I care a lot about this, and I hear what the member is saying.

There is currently a lack of clinical consensus, and there are gaps in access to mental health care. That concerns me, but does my colleague not agree that we should still be careful in how we move forward with this bill?

Yves Perron: Mr. Speaker, yes, obviously, we need to be very careful. That is why I am saying that we need to take our time and not rush to vote on this bill. We need to make sure that it does not infringe on the provincial and Quebec laws. That is important. I think it is a matter of fundamental respect. Perhaps we need the courts to clarify some of the substantive issues. Is it right to exclude everyone who has a mental illness right off the bat? I am not a psychiatrist. Perhaps someone in the House is, but I do not know because I do not know all of my colleagues' professions. Let us ask the Supreme Court to rule on this so that we know what direction to take.

Marilène Gill (Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his speech. I will of course continue in a similar vein.

I also want to thank my colleague, the member for Montcalm, for all the thoughtful and empathetic work he has put into this, because that is what is needed on this kind of bill. We are talking about human suffering. He has done comprehensive and rigorous work on MAID over the past seven years. I know for a fact that he made a significant contribution to all the legislation that we have discussed and passed since then. I say “since then” because, obviously, this is an ongoing discussion.

There is one criticism I have for the government, and I am sure many will agree with me. The report was tabled in the spring, the government introduced the bill, and now it is urging the House to pass the bill fast, even though we have been talking about this issue for years. This may be a new way of doing things, now that the government has a majority. The government may not be as interested in hearing what the opposition on the other side of the House thinks. However, majority government or not, I think we should take the time to study bills like this one, which, as I said, deals with human suffering. This issue is a very human issue. We should take the time to go further, instead of imposing something and saying that it is this or nothing. That is more or less what is happening.

One of the first things I would like to discuss about the bill is its constitutionality. We are being asked to take a position on a bill that is basically twofold: the issue of permanently excluding mental disorders from the legislation and the whole issue of advance requests for MAID.

When we know that this is discriminatory or, to keep things hypothetical—despite knowing for a fact that it is discriminatory—when we suspect that discrimination is involved, we have to determine whether the bill is constitutional. Voting for something unconstitutional would not advance the cause of people who are suffering. The government has had years to seek an opinion on the matter from the Supreme Court, but it has not done so. To me, that is irresponsible. It should seek the court's opinion so we do not end up needing to repeat the same work again or forcing people in pain to prove that they deserve access to certain end-of-life services.

That is one of the first points I want to make. I am not saying that it outweighs the others on substance, but on form, at least. We are already up against a problem here, and the government is trying to impose a solution without even knowing whether it is constitutional. Furthermore, no proposal is being made to divide the bill and, for instance, introduce one bill that we could vote on and seek an opinion for the other.

We will now move on to the bill's two purposes.

The first is the matter of shelving the bill indefinitely or perhaps even permanently. I heard a member opposite say that the bill was not necessarily being shelved permanently and that we could maybe come back to it one day. Unlike him, I would say that we should strike while the iron is hot, because there are people who are still suffering right now. There are people who are suffering who are being excluded from the legislation. I spoke about discrimination earlier. They are being excluded, and we need to discuss that now. Just because a discussion is difficult and just because there are differences of opinion does not mean that we should put off having these difficult and demanding debates. It is difficult because it is a matter of beliefs. It is an emotional issue. There are, of course, various schools of thought on the matter, but the fact remains that these decisions must be reasonable, rigorous and science-based.

As my colleague said several times, no one here is a psychiatrist. We need to hear from everyone. Even during the committee study, I do not think that we heard from everyone. We did not hear from people who are struggling with mental health issues and who are currently excluded from the bill. We heard from other witnesses. If we want our work to be completely objective and we really want to deliberate responsibly, then we need to hear from everyone.

● (1225)

Perhaps, first and foremost, we should be listening to those who may wish to request MAID at some point, regardless of whether that request is ultimately granted. In Quebec, we believe that every individual has the right to choose for themselves what constitutes a healthy and dignified life. That is one thing. I get the impression that the reluctance to ask difficult questions stems from preconceived notions. That is why it is important to conduct an objective study and to engage directly with those affected in order to better understand the issue.

What I heard earlier astonishes me. It shows me exactly where we have landed in certain aspects of the debate. We are talking about access to mental health care. That needs to be improved. However, I see that a sort of calculation is being made, and the assumption is that greater access to mental health care will mean less need for MAID. That alone tells me that the very premise of what MAID is has not been understood. That is a huge issue. I believe we need to talk about that, particularly given that we are dealing with stereotypes and preconceived notions here.

People think that someone is going to walk into a doctor's office and say that they are depressed, that they are having dark thoughts and suicidal ideations, so they want MAID. I have heard that before in the House. I am paraphrasing, those are not the exact words, but we can certainly find that in the Hansard.

That is where things stand, to a certain extent, so we must not stop discussing this. At worst, let us split the bill, because there are people who are suffering. We want the advance requests to move forward, but we also need to resolve this issue. We cannot hide behind the excuse that it is too difficult and that we cannot address it.

The second point is in fact the issue of advance requests. My colleague from Berthier—Maskinongé talked about it already. Advance requests are available only in Quebec. What we in the Bloc Québécois fear is that the federal law, which takes precedence, will be more restrictive than what already exists in Quebec.

We want the laws to be harmonized. My concern is that the government may not agree with what Quebec is doing now. Why would the government not use terms that have already proven effective in Quebec and with which the members of the Bloc Québécois and Quebeckers in general agree? In any case, 80% of Quebec's population agrees with MAID and advance requests. We have a strong consensus. Let us just say that the percentage of people who support this is higher than the percentage of voters who supported the government in the last election.

In short, people agree and they are open to the idea, but we do not want to lose out. We do not want the federal government to set us back or cause more people to suffer. I am also thinking about doctors. What will they do?

Through the Criminal Code, the federal government will have the power to dictate what Quebec does. It would restrict what is permitted to less than what we currently have. This is truly a huge concern for us. The minister said earlier, in response to my colleague from Berthier—Maskinongé, that he was ready to talk. Well, my colleague from Montcalm has raised this matter several times. He has already brought it up. I think we need to take the time to discuss this. We cannot be steamrolled into rushing this discussion. We need to see what will be done so we can ensure that we are properly defending our constituents. As I said, we do not want to go backwards.

● (1230)

I would like to make one final point. This addresses a concern that one of my opposition colleagues raised earlier. He said that doctors did not agree and that there was a medical consensus. However, the Collège des médecins du Québec agrees that a blanket ban should not be considered. Everyone in Quebec is ready to have this discussion. We in the Bloc Québécois are ready to have this discussion so that certain individuals with mental health disorders can benefit from this measure. Again, this does not apply to everybody. There needs to be a discussion.

I urge all members of the House to show the utmost compassion, to strive to set aside their biases and to get informed. We are talking about science here. The people on whom our health care system depends are fully capable of telling us what could be done in this case.

I hope that the bill will respect Quebec and, of course, respect those who are suffering.

● (1235)

Jacques Ramsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan very much. Earlier, I asked her colleague a question about the trusted third person, which is a feature of Quebec's law, but I did not have time to elaborate.

One of the things this bill requires is that, at the moment when MAID is provided, the patient's suffering must be enduring and intolerable. It is not clear whether mental suffering would count. It does under Quebec's law, because the trusted third person could say, for example, that their relative needs it and does not want to live with that suffering.

I would like to hear my colleague's thoughts on the trusted third person concept, which is not present in—

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): The hon. member for Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan.

Marilène Gill: Mr. Speaker, since we are talking about things that the members opposite consider to be vague and uncertain, I will let the Quebec National Assembly have that discussion.

I think the Bloc Québécois has been quite clear. The first thing that we are calling for is not to exclude people with mental health issues. We are asking to debate that issue. We are also asking that the federal framework not be more restrictive than Quebec's framework. That is what we are calling for right now.

Luc Berthold (Mégantic—L'Érable—Lotbinière, CPC): Mr. Speaker, this debate is always very important, and both voters and members of the various parties always provide a lot of food for thought. We do not all share the same views on medical assistance in dying.

One thing that I find very troubling when it comes to mental illness is the unfortunate shortage of mental health care services in Quebec and Canada. I will not get into my own experiences, but I have to say that it is extremely difficult to get access to specialists and treatment, and that can discourage people from seeking care that might actually help them.

I think that perhaps we are not ready to allow access to MAID for reasons of mental illness because we have not put a system in place that gives people access to care if they need it. I would like to hear my colleague's thoughts on that. That is a problem, and I think that we need to have answers in that regard before taking a position on this issue.

Marilène Gill: Mr. Speaker, I was just talking about empathy. Some issues are painful and resonate differently with each and every one of us. We need to be open to others and to the many different stories we encounter.

I have often heard the issue framed in terms of access to health care. I would not want that expression to be reduced to a caricature. We see it in our society: There is a hierarchy of suffering. Physical suffering is recognized, but when it comes to psychological suffering, people question whether it is real, even if they may have legitimate reasons for doing so. We do not have access to another person's thoughts. In fact, I certainly hope no one has access to mine. We cannot see inside a person's mind, and that can indeed make things difficult. It is not something tangible. We are dealing with something intangible. Sometimes, we find it hard to understand. Nevertheless, these debates need to happen.

We are not talking here about someone in crisis. The health care system takes charge of people in crisis. A person cannot request medical assistance in dying while in crisis or while in need of services. However, I agree with my colleague that we need to have this discussion in order to help the people who can be helped.

Yves Perron (Berthier—Maskinongé, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for her speech, which was, frankly, highly eloquent and exceptionally clear on the importance of addressing this issue and not shying away from difficult questions. Of course, we need to improve access to mental health care. I think we all agree on that. Beyond that, however, can we stop avoiding the issue and denying access to this group of people who are suffering?

I would like my colleague to elaborate on the potentially highly unconstitutional nature of the bill currently before us.

Marilène Gill: Mr. Speaker, the government said earlier, through some of its members, that it would be willing to resume the discussion at some point. If we are to resume the discussion, it should immediately ask the Supreme Court for an opinion on whether this is constitutional or not. That will ensure that we can continue the discussion very quickly.

● (1240)

Jacques Ramsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I will be sharing my time with my colleague from Argenteuil—Papineau—Des Collines.

I rise today to give voice to the people of La Prairie—Atateken, many of whom have spoken to me about this bill. I also do so as a physician who was closely involved with medical assistance in dying in my medical practice.

This bill touches on one of the most intimate questions a society can ask itself: How do we wish to accompany people at the end of their lives, and above all, how do we respect their wishes when they are no longer able to express them?

Through Bill C-41, the government is proposing to allow advance requests for MAID. A person diagnosed with a serious and incurable illness leading to incapacity, such as Alzheimer's disease, could give their consent in advance, while they are still of sound mind, to receive this care at a later date. Let me start by saying that I welcome this step forward.

For many Quebeckers, this has been a long-awaited development. Quebec did not wait, as the National Assembly of Quebec adopted an advance request system, and those affected can now submit such an application to the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec. They do so with the help of their doctor or specialized nurse practitioner, and they themselves describe the symptoms of their illness that they would consider intolerable.

This system exists, but it is currently on shaky ground. The Criminal Code does not yet permit advance requests. The Attorney General of Quebec has asked the director of criminal and penal prosecutions to issue a directive: It is not in the interests of justice to bring charges in these circumstances. Our doctors and nurses act in good faith, but without the legal certainty that only the Criminal Code can provide. Bill C-41 corrects this situation. That is its first and greatest merit.

That said, supporting a bill does not mean giving up on improving it, quite the contrary. This is a serious matter and we have a duty to get it right. I would therefore like to share a few thoughts with my colleagues for our work in committee.

First, I want to talk about consistency across the provinces. The bill establishes minimum federal requirements and then leaves it to each province to decide whether to enact legislation allowing advance requests. Health care falls within provincial jurisdiction, and Quebec is, quite rightly, keen to retain its own model. However, we must be clear-eyed about the risks involved. Alberta has already passed legislation prohibiting advance requests. The Minister of Justice himself has acknowledged that greater consistency across the country may eventually emerge, but that process could take months, or even years.

Dignity With Dying Canada goes further. According to the organization, this approach effectively gives each province a veto over access to advance requests. If every province develops its own forms, rules and procedures, we risk creating a veritable Tower of Babel. What will happen if someone has signed a request in Candiac and then moves to Ottawa to be closer to family? That could very well be my situation. I therefore propose that the committee examine the possibility of establishing a common framework, namely a set of core elements that any province choosing to allow advance requests should include. This is not about imposing a single model, but about ensuring that individuals have a basic level of protection and clarity, regardless of where they live.

There is also the role of trusted third parties. I talked about it a little earlier. In Quebec, an individual may designate one or two trusted third persons. These loved ones have a specific responsibility: to notify the care team when they believe that the signs set out in the advance request have in fact appeared or that the person is suffering intolerably. This is an essential part of the process. An advance request can sit in a registry for years. Without someone to bring it to the care team's attention, it could easily be overlooked, yet the national requirements set out in Bill C-41 make no mention of this role. In my view, it should form part of the common framework, and its responsibilities should be clearly defined. Indeed, it must be said that those responsibilities are not even clearly defined in Quebec's legislation. Every trusted third person should know exactly what their responsibilities will be when the time comes to provide medical assistance in dying.

We should also think about people who have no one, such as isolated seniors with no close family. The Quebec system states that, in the absence of a trusted third person, the health care team takes over. I respectfully submit that this is an avenue worth pursuing.

● (1245)

Third, there is the 30-day rule. The bill rightly provides that a clear refusal, expressed through words, sounds or gestures, renders the request invalid, but it also provides that, in cases of doubt, the assistance cannot be administered and a minimum period of 30 days must then elapse.

The Quebec legislation is just as firm on the principle: “Any refusal...must be respected and it is prohibited to disregard it in any manner.” It also recognizes a clinical reality. In a person with advanced dementia, resistance to care is often a symptom of the disease itself. That is why it leaves it to the professional's judgment to determine whether it is a genuine refusal. I am concerned that an automatic, repeated, endless delay could prolong the suffering that the person initially wanted to avoid through their advance request. It could also expose health care professionals to pressure from loved ones who oppose MAID. I hope the committee will examine this provision carefully and consider how it aligns with the Quebec legislation.

Fourth, and this is my main point, suffering is a condition for accessing end-of-life care. For a standard request, the Criminal Code recognizes physical or psychological suffering that is intolerable to the person and that cannot be alleviated under conditions the person deems acceptable. For an advance request, Bill C-41 instead requires practitioners to determine that the suffering “cannot be relieved through reasonable means”.

Consider the person writing their request. What they often fear most is not so much physical pain as the loss of self: no longer recognizing those they love, being entirely dependent on others. The committee will have to consider how much weight to give to what the person themselves defined as intolerable when they were, in fact, in full possession of their faculties. I dare say that this should carry as much weight as a third-party assessment, one fraught with pitfalls, in the case of a person with dementia. After all, if we wait long enough, it is possible that the person with dementia will no longer even be able to express their sadness, let alone their suffering.

Lastly, and incidentally, there is one question we too often overlook: organ donation. In Quebec, a growing number of people who receive medical assistance in dying also choose to donate their organs. In 2022, close to 15% of Quebec organ donors had used medical assistance in dying. It is an act of tremendous generosity that gives meaning to a difficult moment, but the process relies on consent being provided by the individual themselves after a period of reflection.

What happens in the case of someone who makes an advance request? Once they become incapacitated, they can no longer take these steps. That is why it is important to address the issue at the very time the advance request is being prepared and to confirm whether the individual would like to donate their organs when the time comes to receive medical assistance in dying.

Behind each of the bill's clauses are families and people. People in La Prairie, Saint-Constant and Kahnawake have all seen a relative slowly die, and have promised themselves to never put their loved ones through the same experience. Their request to us is simple: that their wishes be respected.

Bill C-41 moves us closer to this goal. We must work together in committee to ensure that it fully achieves it.

Luc Berthold (Mégantic—L'Érable—Lotbinière, CPC): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, MAID is a sensitive issue that matters to people. There are a lot of different opinions on the subject. Quebec has already taken action with regard to advance requests.

I wanted to know whether the federal government has made sure that Bill C-41 is consistent with Quebec's legislation on advance requests, so that we do not have to reopen the debate after the bill is passed and so that we have some guidance in case amendments need to be made to the bill in committee.

I would like to hear what my colleague has to say about that.

● (1250)

Jacques Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I spoke as a doctor. I am not a legal expert, so I will let them be the ones to ensure that the two pieces of legislation are consistent.

However, as I said, there are issues that will need to be resolved, such as the assessment of suffering. Since I do not have much time to respond, I will just focus on that. It is not clear how suffering is assessed at the time MAID is administered, so Quebec will have to make adjustments to its legislation or clarify its guidelines in that regard.

Alexis Deschênes (Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine—Listuguj, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for his informed contribution to the debate. He raised the idea of proposing a national framework to guide how advance requests are submitted. As my other colleague in the official opposition said, Quebec already has legislation on advance requests. My concern, and I would appreciate some reassurance in this regard, is that the federal government is going to encroach once again on a jurisdiction that truly belongs to Quebec, and that jurisdiction is health care.

Jacques Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I mentioned a common or basic framework. Within this common framework, I think that each province could choose to provide medical assistance in dying in a manner that reflects its own approach and particular circumstances. That said, I consider it important to ensure that someone who submits a request for medical assistance in Vancouver receives a response to their request after moving to Montreal, or vice versa. To me, that seems a simple matter of common sense. I am confident that, within Canada, we can agree on such a framework without encroaching on each other's jurisdictions.

Louis Villeneuve (Brome—Missisquoi, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my colleague is a doctor. We know there are serious concerns that remain about the ability to assess cases safely and consistently. From his perspective, how would the current bill ensure that these people are properly protected?

Jacques Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from my colleague from Brome—Missisquoi, who takes a great interest in this issue. I would say that we are taking a very important step forward with Bill C-41, particularly in authorizing advance requests. We know that demographic realities compel us to act. More and more people are living longer and, unfortunately, will be incapacitated and experience dementia. It is a matter of respect, I believe, to think about these people today, to plan ahead and to give them the opportunity to decide in advance the level of suffering they are willing to endure before receiving MAID.

Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP): Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I am truly happy, but it is hard to be happy given the subject of a bill like this. I support this bill, and I want to thank the government for finally allowing advance requests.

[*English*]

I hear it from my constituents all the time, and other Canadians, when somebody has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and they know their capacity to ask for this will come to an end soon. I am very relieved, but I do think we will have to return to the question of mental health issues and medical assistance in dying.

Does the hon. member know when we might be returning to that subject once Bill C-41 is passed?

[*Translation*]

Jacques Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that all parliamentarians support this bill in some way. As I said, Bill C-41 does close the door on some things, but we can always revisit those issues later in another bill. I think that we are better off waiting until we have more support from society at large rather than trying to force a bill down Canadians' throats when they still have so many concerns.

I think that we will have to take that step one day. I hope it will be sooner rather than later. That is my humble opinion.

● (1255)

Stéphane Lauzon (Argenteuil—Papineau—Des Collines, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I would like to thank my colleague from La Prairie—Atateken for his excellent speech and his commitment to this issue. Since arriving here, he has immersed himself in the issue of medical assistance in dying. Today, we are seeing positive results.

Parliament established the Canadian framework for medical assistance in dying in 2016. I was here at the time. Since then, Canadians have been engaged in an ongoing, compassionate dialogue on this issue. It is something I have discussed around the kitchen table with my family. Since 2016, it has been a topic that comes up regularly.

While this issue can divide families around the dinner table, it can also divide members of this House. It is not an easy issue. Nevertheless, it is one that deserves serious consideration. I am proud to support my government's approach. Today, I will focus primarily on how we can recognize and place appropriate limits on certain actions related to decisions about medical assistance in dying.

I recall that we recognized at the time that there were some very complex issues that would need to be examined further. That is exactly what Parliament did. One of those sensitive issues was the possibility of allowing MAID based on an advance request. The court ruling has brought the issue of MAID before us once again. As my colleague made clear at the end of his last response, there is more work to be done.

We can start drafting the legislation and refine it over time. There is no unanimous consensus on mental illness at the moment. It is important to note that advance requests for MAID are not currently permitted under the Criminal Code, because a person must be capable of providing consent immediately prior to the administration of MAID.

Quebec has served as a model for us. Contrary to what the Bloc Québécois sometimes says, specifically that we are using this bill as a bulldozer, we are actually working together to move the bill forward. The Bloc Québécois should be proud to tell us that Quebec is a model. It is a model for us, a model for Canada, a model for drafting Canada's medical assistance in dying legislation.

We recognize that people with dementia can live for many years with this disease and that, depending on how the disease progresses, they can continue to enjoy a good quality of life and participate in meaningful activities. For some people, it is especially important to maintain their autonomy when it comes to decisions about their future health care. The decision is made now. When someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer's or dementia, they are fully aware of the decisions they are making. Today, thanks to technology, the disease can be detected more quickly. Patients can find out what lies ahead. They can understand how their condition will deteriorate and how fast it will happen. People are thinking about the care they wish to receive at the end of their lives.

Decisions about the future are made now. This may include the option to choose medical assistance in dying, even in circumstances where the person would have lost the capacity to consent by the time they become eligible to receive MAID. That is the major change introduced by the bill. I believe that Bill C-41 will allow people diagnosed with a condition that will result in a loss of capacity to submit an advance request for MAID. The eligibility criteria and safeguards must be established in the Criminal Code. This has to be clear at the national level.

As my colleague so aptly put it, this is an incredibly important step to take before referring the bill to committee. A great deal will happen in committee. Thousands of witnesses have given evidence since 2016, when the entire legislative framework was overhauled, and now the committee will hear more.

It is important to recognize that the provinces and territories are responsible for delivering health care services. The bill will also require provinces and territories that choose to allow advance requests to enact legislation setting out how this would work in practice.

● (1300)

My colleague was clear on this point. In his response to the Bloc Québécois, he made it clear that governments will have to adapt to the bill. We are establishing a national framework. Nothing in this world is perfect, but this bill provides an excellent foundation for adapting MAID legislation across the provinces and territories. This approach reflects the division of responsibilities and respect for jurisdictional boundaries. Responsibility is shared across Canada. The federal government establishes the criminal law framework, while the provinces and territories are responsible for the delivery of health care.

In the case of requests for MAID, the federal legal framework proposes to create eligibility criteria and safeguards that practitioners must adhere to. The provincial and territorial laws would specify how MAID based on an advance request could be safely administered, by establishing the terms governing how requests are stored and accessed by health care professionals. In addition, these laws would have to establish specific rules governing the submission, modification and possible withdrawal of advance requests by individuals who change their mind. That aspect has been made clear; it was mentioned by the minister in his opening speech. I think he placed a lot of emphasis on the fact that people have the right to reconsider at any time.

This approach is rooted in years of parliamentary studies and public dialogue on this issue. We have been talking about MAID for several years now. In its 2023 report, the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying recommended that the Government of Canada amend the Criminal Code to allow for advance requests for MAID following a diagnosis of a serious and incurable medical condition leading to incapacity.

Then came all the definitions, the testimony, the public consultations and the digital consultations. Thousands of consultations were held. From November 2024 to February 2025, the government launched a national conversation on advance requests, during which thousands of people from across the country made their voices heard through an online public survey, public opinion polls and virtual round table discussions.

Nearly 46,000 Canadians completed the online survey, and 69% said they supported advance requests for people diagnosed with a serious and incurable condition resulting in a loss of decision-making capacity. More recent surveys show even greater support for advance requests. For example, a 2025 survey found that 84% of Canadians support the right of people in this situation to make an advance request.

During the national conversation, participants pointed out the importance of being able to make decisions about their future health needs and maintaining control over their final moments. At the round tables, we heard testimony from people who had gone through such experiences and from family caregivers. They described the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made when a person might lose the ability to consent to MAID as their illness progresses. For those with conditions like dementia, this can create an impossible choice: receive MAID sooner than they would like, while they are still able to provide consent, or wait and risk losing that option.

Although participants expressed strong support for advance requests in principle, they also emphasized the need to ensure that this is implemented safely.

Health care professionals pointed out the challenges associated with assessing suffering when a person has lost their decision-making capacity. They also explained how difficult it is to determine eligibility for MAID when the conditions described in the advance request do not exactly match the person's current situation.

In closing, this is an extremely sensitive issue, and I am sure that the committee will do its job and come back to the House with a sound decision.

● (1305)

Luc Berthold (Mégantic—L'Érable—Lotbinière, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I will ask the same question I asked my colleague earlier because it is very important. Quebec has already passed its own legislation on advance requests. There is apparently a backlog of nearly 3,000 advance requests in Quebec right now, but not one has been carried out because the Criminal Code still prohibits advance requests.

Has the government ensured that Quebec's existing law is consistent with Bill C-41, so that we do not have to debate this again at a later date, or does the government intend to introduce amendments to Bill C-41 in committee instead?

Stéphane Lauzon: Mr. Speaker, Quebec has been a model, an example to follow, when it comes to advance requests for MAID. Evidently, the framework we have presented, which I hope will be passed by a strong majority in the House, is a national, general framework. The provinces and territories will need to adapt it as they see fit. We commend Quebec on the work it has done so far, and we are ready to work together to lay a solid foundation with all the provinces and territories.

Alexis Deschênes (Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine—Listuguj, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his contribution. I want to reassure him that we in the Bloc Québécois are absolutely proud of Quebec. Our problem is that we sometimes find that Canada is slowing down our progress, and that is the case with advance requests for medical assistance in dying. Quebec adopted legislation on this in 2023, but now we have to wait for a bill to amend the Criminal Code before we can move forward. We are indeed proud, but we would just like the federal government to stop holding us back.

Can my colleague elaborate on the common core, the national framework, in the context of advance requests in Bill C-41? We want to ensure that there is no encroachment and that Quebec is allowed to govern itself as it sees fit within its areas of jurisdiction.

Stéphane Lauzon: Mr. Speaker, my colleague from the Bloc Québécois is talking out of both sides of his mouth. What we have heard in the Bloc Québécois's speeches is that we want to move too fast, that we want to bulldoze our way through this. In reality, we want to get this right, but the Bloc members are also telling us that we are not moving fast enough to pass bills that uphold Quebec's rights. They are contradicting themselves. We are advocating for collaboration. That means working with the Province of Quebec to ensure that the 3,000 pending requests are respected.

Louis Villeneuve (Brome—Missisquoi, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the Bloc Québécois member. We on the government side are very proud of Quebec, and we are especially proud because we have 44 members from Quebec.

I would like to ask my colleague a question. How will our bill provide certainty and reassurance to the loved ones of people with these illnesses, the very individuals who will have to stand up and declare that their loved one is no longer able to make decisions for themselves?

Stéphane Lauzon: Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent question. That is precisely what Bill C-41 aims to do: protect vulnerable individuals and uphold their right to make decisions while they are still capable of doing so, even if they may later be affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia. It also helps to raise awareness among family members and physicians. They must be prepared to make the decision when the time comes to provide MAID. That is precisely what Bill C-41 sets out today.

[*English*]

Hon. Kevin Lamoureux (Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the member could provide his thoughts on the debate that will take place on this legislation and how part of that debate should include things such as hospice and palliative care. I would ask for his thoughts on those important issues.

[*Translation*]

Stéphane Lauzon: Mr. Speaker, over the course of the 46,000 consultations, including public consultations and round tables, other health-related topics came up over and over, including mental illness and mental health care. The health minister clearly told us that one of the things people are calling for is to expand mental health services in order to meet all of society's needs, which includes medical assistance in dying.

● (1310)

[*English*]

Michael Barrett (Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands—Rideau Lakes, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I will be sharing my time this afternoon.

Bill C-41 is a profound and deeply personal issue, I think, to everyone who will consider it, and everyone who has intervened on it today approaches it from different life experiences, different backgrounds and different beliefs.

Today, I am approaching this from my perspective as a Roman Catholic. I am guided by my faith and my belief in the inherent dignity and value of human life from conception to natural death. The dignity that every person has is not diminished by suffering or by illness. Their dignity is not diminished by disability or by their dependence on others. It is through that understanding of dignity that I approach this, and my concern for the compassion and care of others.

I recognize that the serious suffering, which is probably unimaginable to any of us, that leads some people to consider MAID is at the heart of why this issue was ever brought to the attention of legislators. Those who support MAID may do so out of compassion and respect for the individual autonomy of those who are suffering. Certainly, suffering is not something we should seek, celebrate or ignore. I think we have a responsibility to relieve suffering where we can, but suffering, again, does not diminish the dignity of a person who is experiencing it, and it does not make their life any less valuable.

In this legislation, the provision of MAID for mental illness as the sole underlying medical condition has been excluded. With the difficulty in determining the irremediability of a psychological condition, that is a positive change. I am certainly supportive of that exclusion being included in this legislation. We need to make sure that there is access to treatment for people who are suffering with mental illness. We also need to make sure they have timely access to treatment.

● (1315)

In recent years, we have heard about veterans who have approached Veterans Affairs Canada for care in response to injuries and illnesses related to their service to Canada. It is so difficult to imagine that the testimony concerning this that Canadians heard at the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs described things that could have happened here. Veterans, in multiple cases, who were seeking that care were offered MAID instead of receiving treatment, a benefit they are entitled to by virtue of their service to Canada, which they offered with unlimited liability. That is a specific phrase, the “unlimited liability” that our veterans serve our country with. It means they can be put in harm's way, leading to their death, in service to Canada.

When they leave the service, what is our liability to them? Certainly, we owe them the care for conditions arising from their service. Has Canada done a great job in taking care of our veterans? No, it has not. Is that problem unique to any period of time? No, it is not, but it is incumbent on us now to do better, to get it right and to take care of our veterans, who served us with unlimited liability.

The testimony we heard at committee was, of course, that some of these veterans were offered MAID, not care, but death. That is hard to imagine. We will hear in some of the speeches from some of my colleagues that there are not sufficient safeguards for Canadians, for people who are suffering, for people who are considering their condition in the future and considering an advance directive. There are not sufficient safeguards. What I want to raise for the government's and the minister's consideration is what protections there are for veterans approaching the government for care for those service-related injuries and illnesses. They should never be encouraged to end their lives.

There is, I think, a departmental directive that veterans affairs employees are supposed to no longer offer medical assistance in dying to our veterans. I think that for an issue as grave as this, the opportunity that is afforded to us in crafting the legislation, because we have to get it right, is to make sure there is independent and sufficient oversight but also legal protections, which would bring legal consequences for anyone who was to offer MAID to a veteran seeking care for an illness or injury arising from their service. That is not the role of Veterans Affairs Canada.

This is not an easy conversation for any of us to have. I think we all know someone who has spent their final days, weeks, months or, in some cases, years not just in a diminished capacity but suffering. It is a hard conversation to have. It is one that we are having, and I appreciate the need to be respectful of one another in engaging in this, because we are all coming at it from different perspectives.

In finding the balance, should this law come to pass, to make sure there are sufficient safeguards for everyone, I have highlighted, in particular, some of the safeguards that could be considered for veterans. I encourage the promotion of the dignity of all people. I think something we can agree on, in a conversation where there will be disagreement, is that we need to look out for each other, especially the most vulnerable among us. It is with that view that I have offered this intervention, and I will take questions on that. Hopefully, we can get this right if and when it moves to committee.

● (1320)

Hon. Kevin Lamoureux (Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as I reflect on the many debates that have taken place in the House of Commons in regard to medical assistance in dying, one thing that really needs to be talked about as part of this discussion is how health care professionals, family members and the facilities out there all come together to support a loved one. I think of things like hospice care. I believe we need to do more on hospice care. I think we can do better in terms of palliative care in different facilities.

I am wondering if the member had the opportunity to reflect on those types of issues, because they all feed together with medical assistance in dying.

Michael Barrett: Mr. Speaker, we have among us in our hospices and among those who provide palliative care some of the most compassionate and most important people. I aspire to have the strength to care for people when they are at their worst in the way that these people do. We need to do more to make sure that we have the resources to provide dignified and sufficient care for people, and I think hospice and palliative care are two places to do that.

[*Translation*]

Alexis Deschênes (Gaspésie—Les Îles-de-la-Madeleine—Listuguj, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his contribution to this debate.

At the beginning of his speech, he said that a person's dignity is not diminished by their suffering or by their dependence on others. Should that not be a personal choice? Should we not trust each individual to decide where to draw the line in terms of when their dignity is at risk?

My colleague's personal position is entirely valid. However, there are those who think differently and who want to be able to use medical assistance in dying to end their lives when they feel that, by a certain point, they will be experiencing so much suffering that they would no longer be themselves.

Can my colleague understand that position?

[*English*]

Michael Barrett: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what I infer from the hon. member's comments to be his respect and advocacy for the individual autonomy of every person.

While I arrive at this debate informed by my beliefs, I would offer in reply that the opportunity we have with this bill is to provide safeguards for individuals who exercise that choice, which is legal in this country. We must make sure that there is no coercion, that it is always informed, that there is proper oversight, that when someone has made that choice, they have done so freely without interference and were of sound mind and judgment at the time, and that there are always safeguards in place to protect vulnerable people when they are in their most vulnerable moments.

Ziad Aboultaif (Edmonton Manning, CPC): Mr. Speaker, the current legislation has failed to protect Canadians with mental health and some veterans. Why does the government need to listen this time and make sure that protection is there for vulnerable Canadians?

● (1325)

Michael Barrett: Mr. Speaker, I will go back to the example I offered about veterans. We have seen demonstrated the failure of existing legislation to safeguard against abuses. I cannot think of anyone who is more vulnerable than someone living with an operational stress injury like PTSD after serving our country. They seek help, have the courage to call for help from the government they served, and then they are offered MAID.

We need to make sure there are legal protections and independent review. This is just one of many examples of where we need to make sure there are sufficient guardrails. This is truly too important for us not to get right.

Philip Lawrence (Northumberland—Clarke, CPC): Mr. Speaker, I want to start my speech by congratulating all members of the House for the debate so far. I have been here observing it. I thought the member for Winnipeg North had an excellent question about hospice. The Bloc Québécois members talked about a very difficult subject in a sensitive manner. I am not sure if Canadians are always proud of us in the House, but I definitely think they could be this afternoon and morning with this important debate.

This debate is quite frankly overdue and necessary. Like I said, I commend members in the House again for the compassionate way in which we have been able to have a dialogue, with many members I am sure having many different opinions.

In addition to Bill C-41 and the content in it, a general discussion about MAID is important, regardless of where, I might add, someone is on the issue and whether they are an advocate or believe there should be additional safeguards.

Canada is about to hit the highest rate of medically assisted dying in the developed world. In 2024, we were number two in the world, next to the Netherlands. We were at about 5.1% of total deaths. I do not believe we have a national number yet for 2025, and if someone wants to interject, I am happy to take it, but for Ontario in 2025, the rate was 7.3%. We are creeping up to about 10% of total deaths being done by medical assistance in dying. I do not believe this was a number that was projected or that we thought would occur at the time that the legislation was initially passed.

Numbers do not always tell the whole story. In fact, they rarely do, but data points can point us in the right direction. Regardless of where someone is on the issue, I think we need to have a discussion, especially as MAID creeps up closer and closer to 10% of total deaths in Canada.

On to the substance of the legislation, one of the more troubling elements that has occurred since 2019, when I was first elected, is the potential inclusion of mental illness as the sole reason for accessing medical assistance in dying. This is challenging not because mental illness is not as real as a physical illness. It very much is. In fact, I would say 100% is. The challenge is that with some mental illnesses, it is very difficult, according to the experts and the practitioners, to fully understand the impacts of certain mental illnesses. What we would never, ever want to see is that there was a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

I think most people in here, regardless of the suffering if in fact it was for a finite amount of time, would want to be there in supporting people to get through to the other side of that. If it is possible to get to a point where someone can once again enjoy living and the suffering is no longer overwhelming, I am sure the vast majority of Canadians would want to see the community and health practitioners helping a person get through it.

Once again, I would like to commend the House on a thoughtful dialogue. I thank the House for allowing me to contribute to it.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

● (1330)

[*English*]

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACT

(Bill S-212. On the Order: Private Members' Business:)

March 12, 2026 — Braedon Clark (Sackville—Bedford— Preston) — Second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Health of Bill S-212, An Act respecting a national strategy for children and youth in Canada.

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): The hon. member for Sackville—Bedford—Preston is not present to move the item as announced in today's Notice Paper. Pursuant to Standing Order 94, since this is the second time this item is not dealt with on the date established by the order of precedence, the item will be dropped from the Order Paper.

(Order discharged and item dropped from Order Paper)

The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater): It being 1:31 p.m., the House stands adjourned until Monday at 11 a.m., pursuant to Standing Order 24(1).

(The House adjourned at 1:31 p.m.)

CONTENTS

Friday, October 30, 2026

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Medical Assistance in Dying Safeguards Act
Fraser ... 11059
Bill C-41. Second reading ... 11059
Lewis (Haldimand—Norfolk) ... 11062
Perron ... 11062
Fisher ... 11062
Gill (Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan) ... 11062
Aboultaif ... 11063
Lauzon ... 11063
Menegakis ... 11063
Sgro ... 11064
Perron ... 11065
Aboultaif ... 11065
Lamoureux ... 11065
Leslie ... 11066
Perron ... 11066

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

World Spine Day
Chi ... 11067

Remembrance Day
Arnold ... 11067

Whitby Elections
Turnbull ... 11067

Patrick Stewart
Majumdar ... 11067

Vocational Training
Lauzon ... 11068

Entrepreneurship in Manitoba
Leslie ... 11068

Ottawa Muslim Women's Organization
Naqvi ... 11068

Edmonton Food Drive
McCauley ... 11068

Maskinongé RCM
Perron ... 11069

Prescott-Russell Community Development Corporation
Mingarelli ... 11069

George Massey Crossing
Albas ... 11069

Ranjit Sarin
Hanley ... 11069

Affordability
Konanz ... 11069

Tribute to Outstanding Parents
Lavoie ... 11070

Affordability
Kibble ... 11070

Affordability
Lamoureux ... 11070

ORAL QUESTIONS

Finance
Berthold ... 11070
Turnbull ... 11070

The Economy
Berthold ... 11071
Gobeil ... 11071

Finance
Lawrence ... 11071
Turnbull ... 11071
Lawrence ... 11071
Turnbull ... 11071

Pensions
Cobena ... 11071
Zerucelli ... 11071
Cobena ... 11072
Zerucelli ... 11072

Parks Canada
Perron ... 11072
Naqvi ... 11072
Deschênes ... 11072
Naqvi ... 11072
Gill (Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan) ... 11072
Naqvi ... 11072

International Trade
Kusie ... 11072
Naqvi ... 11073
Kusie ... 11073
Naqvi ... 11073

Finance
McCauley ... 11073
Turnbull ... 11073
McCauley ... 11073
Turnbull ... 11073
Muys ... 11073
Turnbull ... 11074
Hardy ... 11074
Leitão ... 11074
Hardy ... 11074
Leitão ... 11074

Artificial Intelligence
Perron ... 11074
Bardeesy ... 11074
Perron ... 11074
Chenette ... 11074

Ethics
Cooper ... 11075
Lamoureux ... 11075
Cooper ... 11075
Lamoureux ... 11075

The Economy
Rowe ... 11075
Lamoureux ... 11075
Rowe ... 11075
Kelloway ... 11075

News Media Industry
Malette (Kapuskasing—Timmins—Mushkegowuk) ... 11075
Chenette ... 11076

Medical Assistance in Dying
Sgro ... 11076
Chi ... 11076

The Economy
Aboultaif ... 11076
Turnbull ... 11076
Hoback ... 11076
Zerucelli ... 11076
Arnold ... 11076
Fraser ... 11076
Anderson ... 11077
McKelvie ... 11077

Finance
Au ... 11077
Turnbull ... 11077
Lloyd ... 11077
McKelvie ... 11077
Lloyd ... 11077
Hogan ... 11077

Air Transportation
Albas ... 11078
Kelloway ... 11078

Rail Transportation
Reid ... 11078
Kelloway ... 11078

Medical Assistance in Dying
Villeneuve ... 11078
Fraser ... 11078

Indigenous Affairs
Morin ... 11078
Lavack ... 11078
Morin ... 11079
Lavack ... 11079

Air Transportation
Holman ... 11079
Kelloway ... 11079

Public Safety
Lalonde ... 11079
Ramsay ... 11079

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Rempel Garner ... 11079
Fragiskatos ... 11079

Indigenous Affairs
Gazan ... 11080
Kelloway ... 11080

Parks Canada
May ... 11080
Naqvi ... 11080

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

Committees of the House

Finance
Gould ... 11080

Business of the House
Kayabaga ... 11080
Motion ... 11080
(Motion agreed to) ... 11080

Petitions

Housing
May ... 11080

Indigenous Affairs
Gazan ... 11081

Lipedema
Gazan ... 11081

International Trade
Gazan ... 11081

Workers' Rights
Gazan ... 11081

Iran
Housefather ... 11081

Questions on the Order Paper
Lamoureux ... 11081

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

Medical Assistance in Dying Safeguards Act
Bill C-41. Second reading ... 11082
Perron ... 11082
Ramsay ... 11082
Cooper ... 11083
Villeneuve ... 11083
Gill (Côte-Nord—Kawawachikamach—Nitassinan) ... 11083

Ramsay 11085
Berthold 11085
Perron 11085
Ramsay 11085
Berthold 11087
Deschênes 11087
Villeneuve 11087
May 11087
Lauzon 11087
Berthold 11089
Deschênes 11089
Villeneuve 11089
Lamoureux 11089
Barrett 11089
Lamoureux 11090
Deschênes 11091
Aboultaif 11091
Lawrence 11091

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

National Strategy for Children and Youth Act
(Bill S-212. On the Order: Private Members' Business:) 11092
The Assistant Deputy Speaker (John Nater) 11092
(Order discharged and item dropped from Order Paper) 11092

Published under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Commons

SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

The proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees are hereby made available to provide greater public access. The parliamentary privilege of the House of Commons to control the publication and broadcast of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees is nonetheless reserved. All copyrights therein are also reserved.

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the Copyright Act. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the Copyright Act.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

Also available on the House of Commons website at the following address: https://www.ourcommons.ca

Publié en conformité de l'autorité du Président de la Chambre des communes

PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

Les délibérations de la Chambre des communes et de ses comités sont mises à la disposition du public pour mieux le renseigner. La Chambre conserve néanmoins son privilège parlementaire de contrôler la publication et la diffusion des délibérations et elle possède tous les droits d'auteur sur celles-ci.

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la Loi sur le droit d'auteur. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre des communes.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la Loi sur le droit d'auteur.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

Aussi disponible sur le site Web de la Chambre des communes à l'adresse suivante : https://www.noscommunes.ca