

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Main topics & highlights:

- fight against ISIS; atrocities being committed against Yazidi women; calls for the government to accept Yazidi refugees under the joint sponsorship program
- military procurement; reports that the government will buy Boeing Super Hornet fighter jets; criticism that the government broke a promise to hold an open and transparent process for replacing the CF-18s; opposition questions about true existence of a "capability gap"
- criticism of the changes made to the Air Canada Public Participation Act in Bill C-10 and allegations of a "secret deal" with Air Canada
- tax evasion and avoidance; calls for a full investigation to be launched into the KPMG schemes devised to shelter wealthy
 individuals from taxes and divorce settlement and alimony payments
- First Nations' access to safe drinking water; findings of the report by Human Rights Watch on the situation in communities with boil water advisories and the impacts on health; questions about government action to address the urgent needs on these reserves
- electoral reform; opposition calls for a national referendum on the question of changes to Canada's electoral system
- supply management; calls for immediate government action on imports of diafiltered milk to support Canada's dairy industry
- access to justice; government funding to the provinces for legal aid programs
- affordable housing; calls for government action to address the housing crisis in places like Vancouver and Toronto
- energy sector; concerns about the environmental assessment review process put in place by the government
- · calls for funding for the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission and protection of Canada's recreational fishing industry
- Syrian refugee initiative; difficulties for refugees in accessing language training; calls for greater resources for refugee resettlement programs
- Canada Day 2016 celebrations in the National Capital Region
- calls for action by the government on the child abduction case of the Azar children
- Softwood Lumber Agreement; concerns about the absence of a new agreement with the United States and the impact on jobs in the forestry sector
- Parliamentarians' access to military bases; reversal of previous policies requiring ministerial approval
- state of Canada's manufacturing sector

Questions & Responses:

refugee joint sponsorship program

Rona Ambrose (Sturgeon River—Parkland, Conservative) reminded that on International Women's Day she had asked the PM if he would take action to help Yazidi girls who are forced to be sex slaves by ISIS, by ensuring that they are placed in the joint sponsorship program to come to Canada. Noted that yesterday, Canadians learned that another 19 Yazidi girls were burned alive for refusing to become sex slaves to ISIS terrorists. Emphasized that she is still waiting for an answer on this question and wanted to know why the Liberals are turning a blind eye to the atrocities being committed to these girls.

Hon. John McCallum (Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship) assured that the Liberals are not in fact turning a blind eye to this, and that the government's acceptance of refugees is based on those who are the most vulnerable – which is determined by the UN irrespective of religion. Pointed out that in seven short months the government admitted twice as many refugees as the previous government had in a whole year.

fight against ISIS

Rona Ambrose (Sturgeon River—Parkland, Conservative) pointed out that one of the PM's first actions in office was to withdraw



Canada's CF-18s from the fight against ISIS, but is now citing an urgent need to replace jets that they do not even use. Wondered what could be more urgent than protecting vulnerable people from the atrocities of genocide, and what exactly the PM will use the jets for if not for that.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) answered that the government is committed to supporting the mission in Iraq and Syria, and that Canadian troops are doing wonderful work with training. Related that he had just received a brief from the counter-ISIL mission that progress is being made.

military procurement

Rona Ambrose (Sturgeon River—Parkland, Conservative) noted that under the previous Liberal "decade of darkness" the government had refused to buy any new jets, troops had to beg for rides because the government refused to buy any new heavy-lift airplanes, and CAF members had been sent into the desert with green uniforms. Declared that the Conservative government had put an end to this, but any time that government bought new equipment the Liberals had opposed it. Added that the Liberals are now choosing politics over the best equipment for Canada's troops. Wondered why anyone would place trust in the Liberals given their record on the matter.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) countered that the previous Conservative government had cut over \$3 billion from the procurement budget. Stressed that the government is committed to ensuring the right equipment for CAF troops.

military procurement

Hon. Denis Lebel (Lac-Saint-Jean, Conservative) recalled that during the election campaign, the PM had promised an open and transparent process to buy the CF-18 fighter jet replacements. Wanted to know how the 40 Members from Quebec on the government benches can agree to imperil aerospace jobs in greater Montreal, and asked if there will be a call for tender and that those Members will stand up for Quebec's aerospace industry.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) again expressed the government's commitment to replacing the CF-18s. Declared that no decision on the matter has yet been made, but that a thorough analysis on this will be done – followed by an announcement in the House.

military procurement

Hon. Denis Lebel (Lac-Saint-Jean, Conservative) continued that the PM had expressed doubt about the capacity of the F-35, when 185 of these aircraft are already in service and 11 of Canada's allies use them – including Australia, the US, Japan, the UK, and Italy. Asked if the PM is calling the judgment of Canada's allies into question.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) informed that the F-35 has interim operability right now – and is not at full operational capability. Pledged that the government will go through a thorough process to replace Canada's fighter jets and will ensure that he and his officials take the time to make this right.

ACPPA (Bill C-10)

Hon. Thomas Mulcair (Outremont, Leader of the New Democratic Party) noted that Manitoba had joined Quebec and many other Canadians in condemning Bill C-10. Added that the recent Liberal nomination to the Senate Andre Pratt had stated that there appears to be a deal with Air Canada where "they are threatening if they do not get what they want." Wanted to know what is in the secret deal with Air Canada and why Senator Pratt is stating that if the threat of lawsuit is not removed that the deal will fall through.

Hon. Marc Garneau (Minister of Transport) denied that there was any such deal – that the modifications to the ACPPA were initiated to clear up the possibility of future litigation because the Quebec and Manitoba governments had an arrangement with Air Canada to drop litigation. Added that the government thought it necessary to give Air Canada a more level playing field, since it must compete with other commercial, domestic and international airlines.

ACPPA (Bill C-10)

Hon. Thomas Mulcair (Outremont, Leader of the New Democratic Party) Reiterated that Senator Pratt is making clear that he has knowledge of a deal, and asked if the minister will state that there is no such deal with Air Canada.



Hon. Marc Garneau (Minister of Transport) answered that there is no such deal.

tax evasion

Hon. Thomas Mulcair (Outremont, Leader of the New Democratic Party) spoke about problems with very wealthy Canadians using offshore tax scams to avoid paying their due taxes, noting that KPMG had wined and dined with CRA officials and received an amnesty deal for tax cheats with no penalties. Asked why the government believes that wealthy tax evaders and their accountants should be above the law.

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier (Minister of National Revenue) responded that the government is continuing its investigations of taxpayers who were identified under the KPMG scheme, and that this is currently before the courts. Assured that nobody is sheltered from obligations.

military procurement

Hon. Thomas Mulcair (Outremont, Leader of the New Democratic Party) Reminded that the Liberals had stated that they would cancel the F-35 program, but now are going to sole-source the next jet fighter. Asked what the difference is between the F-35 and the new jet fighter if the problem is sole-sourcing.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) reiterated that the government is committed to replacing the fighter jets, but that no decision has been made at this time.

military procurement

James Bezan (Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman, Conservative) noted that the Liberals had parked Canada's fighter jets on the sidelines soon after coming to office, and are now inventing a non-existent capability gap for them. Quoted the RCAF commander as stating that the CF-18s have the capability to get the job done until 2025. Wondered if the minister is claiming that the RCAF commander is lying.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) answered that all service chiefs need to get the jobs done with the resources they have, but stressed that the government is risk managing a gap between NORAD and NATO commitments at this time.

military procurement

James Bezan (Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman, Conservative) argued that the only real gap that exists is a credibility gap for the Liberals. Noted that the flaws in the Liberal decision to sole-source were brought up by the former head of procurement for National Defence who had stated that it is not good for the men and woment in uniform, the taxpayer or industrial benefits – and that if proceeded with, it will cost thousands of Canadians their jobs. Wanted to know when the PM will put the interests of troops, taxpayers and Canadian workers ahead of Liberal party interests.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) insisted that the capability gap is real and also applies to supply ships, for which interim measures need to be taken. Declared that the government will replace Canada's fighter jets before any capability gaps get too large.

military procurement

Pierre Paul-Hus (Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles, Conservative) posited that the Liberals had created a problem that does not exist in order to allow it to acquire the Superhornets. Reminded that on April 14th, General Hood had stated that there are enough trained staff, personnel and money to carry out activities. Wondered if the government is claiming that the RCAF is lying by insisting there is a capability gap.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) replied that the RCAF Commander does tremendous work with the resources at his disposal, but that there is a capability gap now in terms of Canada's NORAD and NATO obligations.



military procurement

Pierre Paul-Hus (Charlesbourg—Haute-Saint-Charles, Conservative) cited a National Post article reporting statements of a former officer and pilot of the RCAF, who claimed that there is no reason to rush the replacement of the CF-18 and there is enough time to hold an open competition to choose the best aircraft for the CAF. Wanted to know where the capability gap came from, and if it was part of Boeing's sales pitch.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) reiterated that no decision on this matter has been made, and that when a decision is made it will be reported to Canadians and the House.

military procurement

Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West, Conservative) objected that first the government had refused to provide a ballpark timeline for the jet fighter replacement process, and now it is clear that the Liberals are sole-sourcing the Superhornet. Noted that the International Business Times reports that Canada ordering a Superhornet will create thousands of jobs – in the U.S. Asked why the minister had misled Parliament when he was planning to sole-source and create thousands of jobs south of the border.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) repeated that no decision has been made on replacing the CF-18s.

military procurement

Hon. Steven Blaney (Bellechasse—Les Etchemins—Lévis, Conservative) referred to the Liberals' promise to immediately launch an open and competitive process for the replacement of the CF-18s during the election, and lamented that the government now wants to award a sole-source contract for billions of dollars to create jobs in the U.S. Asked the minister how many jobs will be lost in Canada with this arbitrary about-face.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) explained that the government wants to ensure that the CAF personnel have the right equipment to do their jobs and that Canadian industry also benefits. Declared that the government will initiate an appropriate evaluation and will announce that to the House.

drinking water in First Nations communities

Romeo Saganash (Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou, NDP) remarked that a day prior, Human Rights Watch had tabled a scathing report on access to drinking water in Aboriginal communities. Noted that the organization sees this as a direct result of discrimination against First Nations in Canada, as there is no regulation and a flagrant lack of oversight. Stressed that the health of these populations has been compromised and that this is an attack on their human rights. Asked what the government's plan is to put an end to this inhumane crisis that has dragged on for far too long.

Hon. Carolyn Bennett (Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs) agreed that there is an urgent need to solve the problem with respect to drinking water on many reserves, and related that the government is examining the report to determine the best way to work with First Nations and take into account the specific recommendations that the report contains.

drinking water in First Nations communities

Charlie Angus (Timmins—James Bay, NDP) also referred to the Human Rights Watch report on the systemic water crisis on Indigenous reserves, noting that not only are families getting sick or suffering from bacterial infections but people have even died from mercury poisoning at sites like Grassy Narrows that should have been cleaned up years ago. Reminded that the PM had made a personal commitment to clean drinking water in every single community within five years, but that government documents show the Liberals are not even going to get close to that target because they are short-changing their commitment by billions. Wanted to know why the government is continuing the shameful legacy of leaving Indigenous families at risk.

Hon. Carolyn Bennett (Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs) asserted that the government will deliver on its commitment to no boil-water advisories within the next five years. Emphasized that there were historic investments in Budget 2016 to appoint \$2 billion to improve in this area, and acknowledged that the government needs to do more with supervision regulation.

electoral reform

Scott Reid (Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston, Conservative) quoted the PM as having states yesterday that the Conservatives are



the only ones pushing for a referendum on electoral reform. Cited a poll showing that 73% of Canadians want a referendum, as any consultation process is different than the actual yes or no decision. Asked if the PM will agree to hold a referendum for a yes or no decision when a legislative proposal is finally made by the government on electoral reform.

Hon. Maryam Monsef (Minister of Democratic Institutions) reminded that yesterday, the House had voted in favour of establishing an all-party committee on electoral reform to study options available, reach out to those who are often marginalized and come back with a proposal. Posited that this committee will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner, as it was created in this spirit.

electoral reform

Alain Rayes (Richmond—Arthabaska, Conservative) remarked that the PM feels that electoral reform is too complex to let the population express its view, and yet all other countries employ referenda for questions as complex as the separation or union of nations. Wondered if the Liberals think that Canada's population is less intelligent than that of other nations, and if he will commit to a referendum on the issue.

Hon. Maryam Monsef (Minister of Democratic Institutions) responded that an overwhelming majority of Canadians had voted for electoral reform in the last election, and that the government is ensuring that the conversation continues on modernizing democratic institutions – and that cooperation between parties is possible.

electoral reform

Blake Richards (Banff—Airdrie, Conservative) posited that the PM's remarks about an electoral reform question being too complex to put to a referendum shows that he thinks either that Canadians will not understand these choices or that he does not think Canadians deserve to make them. Observed that the PM seems to think that the only opinion that matters is his own, and asked why the PM will not let Canadians decide on a fundamental issue for their democracy through a referendum.

Hon. Maryam Monsef (Minister of Democratic Institutions) explained that it is out of a great respect for Canadians and Canadian institutions that the PM committed to bringing together an all-party committee to reach out to Canadians and hear from them what values and reforms they would like reflected in their democratic institutions. Pledged that it is in the spirit of respect and cooperation that the government will continue this work.

electoral reform

Hon. Jason Kenney (Calgary Midnapore, Conservative) argued that the minister does not respect the millions of Canadian voters who would like to have a say on how they elect their representatives to Parliament. Disagreed with limiting consultation to the few hundred people who show up as hand-picked witnesses, and asked why the minister would not heed the wisdom of 73% of Canadians who believe that Parliament should allow the voters to decide instead of politicians.

Hon. Maryam Monsef (Minister of Democratic Institutions) answered that the government is counting on the wisdom of Canadians, such as Indigenous persons, women, people in rural and remote communities – and is looking forward to 9 parties bringing forward the names of individuals they would like represented on the committee so that the committee can begin its work.

supply management / diafiltered milk

Ruth Ellen Brosseau (Berthier—Maskinongé, NDP) stressed that the government had promised to solve the problem of diafiltered milk, but have dragged their feet on this issue. Posited that the government does not want to upset the Americans, but remarked that sooner or later the Liberals will have to walk the talk by fully supporting supply management – unless they want to let the Americans call the shots. Wanted to know why the government is protecting American farmers rather than Canadian farmers.

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food) related that the government is working on finding a sustainable solution for this important issue. Noted that he had met in the past month with dairy producers and processors across the country, and that the government will use this information to support a solution for the dairy industry. Added that the government supports supply management and always has.

supply management / diafiltered milk

Ruth Ellen Brosseau (Berthier—Maskinongé, NDP) protested that the government is failing to protect supply management and Ca-



nadian dairy farmers, and that Canada has rules on diafiltered milk but that the government is not applying them. Emphasized that Canadian dairy farmers are losing money from this and that the Liberals have refused to fix this problem. Argued that farmers do not need more consultations – that the government simply needs to act. Wondered when the government will stand up on these trade issues and defend Canadian dairy farmers.

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food) reiterated that he had met with dairy producers and processors, who understand that the government fully supports supply management – as not all Members of the House do. Stressed that the government will find a long-term sustainable solution so that there is a strong dairy industry under the supply management system.

access to justice

Marco Mendicino (Eglinton—Lawrence, Liberal) noted the calls by advocates for more legal aid funding by the federal government which is vital to protect vulnerable persons, youth, and persons at risk of incarceration and is also vital to the operation of an efficient and effective justice system. In addition, it is also vital for access to justice. Asked the minister what is being done to protect the Charter rights of Canadians, even when they cannot afford a lawyer.

Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould (Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Canada) pointed to the commitments by the government to increasing access to justice including funding for legal aid programs. This is why \$88 million was committed in Budget 2016 and added that this morning an additional \$30 million annually was committed to the provinces and territories to ensure that the justice system is modernized and maintains a culture of rights.

Ministerial conflict-of-interest guidelines

Mark Strahl (Chilliwack—Hope, Conservative) referred to the new appointment of the Government House Leader as the Fisheries minister, but added that the guidelines of the Conflict of Interest commissioner leave him unable to participate on many important files. Asked if Irving Shipyards has completed the warranty work on the mid-shore patrol ships to the satisfaction on the Coast Guard. Wondered who might answer since the Fisheries minister cannot.

Hon. Judy Foote (Minister of Public Services and Procurement) stated that the work being done in Halifax is on the combat ships not the Coast Guard ships, which is being done by Seaspan in Vancouver. There is no conflict on behalf of the fisheries minister.

Ministerial conflict-of-interest guidelines

Mark Strahl (Chilliwack—Hope, Conservative) next turned to the issue of Atlantic Salmon and the fact that they are in jeopardy and noted that the minister also finds himself in a conflict on this file as the Irvings are involved in the Atlantic Salmon Federation and on the ministers advisory panel on Atlantic Salmon. Again asked for comment and wondered who will deal with this file.

Hon. Dominic Leblanc (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons) was pleased to answer a question on Atlantic Salmon and stated that the government is committed to the conservation and protection of Atlantic Salmon, as the industry is important to Canadians and to people all over the world who come to visit Canada's pristine rivers in places like New Brunswick.

Great Lakes Fisheries Commission

Larry Miller (Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound, Conservative) pointed to the establishment of the Great Lakes Commission in 1955 on a fixed cost share basis and added that the U.S. has consistently increased annual funding to the Commission. In Budget 2016, the Liberals failed to support the work of the commission which includes work to address the issue of invasive species. Called for action to ensure that Canada pays its fair share.

Hon. Dominic Leblanc (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons) succinctly answered in the affirmative and acknowledged the work of the member on the issue of invasive species. Suggested that the Parliamentary Secretary to the PM will probably have significant news on this file in the next 48 hours.

Great Lakes Fisheries Commission

Larry Miller (Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound, Conservative) continued that more than ever the Commission needs to have the tools to protect the Great Lakes fisheries. Remarked that recently a commercial fisherman in QC reeled in a 29 kg Asian carp from the St. Lawrence. Stressed that the result will be devastating if this species enters the Great Lakes in any significant number. Asked why the



government has failed to protect the \$8.3 billion dollar recreational fishing industry in Canada.

Hon. Dominic Leblanc (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons) pointed to his commitment to work with provincial partners and with the U.S. to address the important challenges of invasive species. In particular, work is ongoing with staff in the province of Quebec in respect to the work on the capture of carp in the St. Lawrence. Again suggested that very good news is coming.

Affordable housing

Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway, NDP) recalled the election promise by the government to make it easier for Canadians to find affordable housing. However with housing prices up by 30% in Toronto since 2014 and 37% in Vancouver just this year, the government has only announced a study and has made it harder for middle income Canadians to get a mortgage. Stated that the CMHC changes target the wrong buyers. Asked when there will be real action on this crisis.

Hon. Bill Morneau (Minister of Finance) noted that the government recognizes the challenge to people in Vancouver and Toronto with respect to the housing markets. Recalled the actions taken in December which moved some rules around down payments for expensive homes. All evidence is being looked on the issues that impact that market in order to take informed actions and keep the market strong.

energy sector / environmental review processes

Kennedy Stewart (Burnaby South, NDP) recalled the election promise by the Liberals to fix the broken review by the NEB on the Kinder Morgan pipeline, but instead the government just added a smokescreen to the "Conservative review process". Commented on the visit to Ottawa by Vancouver mayor Gregor Robertson and First Nations leaders to raise the alarm on this flawed process. Asked if the PM is going to dismiss their concerns as easily as he broke the promise to B.C. residents on the Kinder Morgan review.

Hon. Jim Carr (Minister of Natural Resources) recalled that on January 27 he announced with the Environment minister a new set of rules in order to re-establish some confidence in the regulatory system which was broken for 10 years. A panel of 3 distinguished Canadians will hear concerns and comments from mayors and indigenous communities so that at the end of the line people will say they have confidence in the regulatory process.

Syrian refugee initiative

Hon. Michelle Rempel (Calgary Nose Hill, Conservative) remarked that the Liberal campaign platform stated that the Syrian refugee initiative would cost 250 million, but total costs to date are nearing a billion. Yet refugees are not receiving language training, are having difficulty finding employment, and are living in sub-par apartments. Support groups are also struggling. Asked why a comprehensive plan has not been developed to help refugees.

Hon. John McCallum (Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship) expressed pride in the work done by the government on refugees, including admitting 46,000 refugees in 7 months which is twice as many as the Conservatives admitted in a whole year. Also noted the re-establishment of health benefits for refugees which had been abolished and the spending of hundreds of millions to help refugees, including on language training.

Syrian refugee initiative

Hon. Michelle Rempel (Calgary Nose Hill, Conservative) stated that officials have not been able to indicate how many refugees are unemployed or how many are using food banks. Continued that food banks across the country are raising concern about food bank use, costs are escalating for the government, and the one-year of federal funding for refugees is set to expire. Asked when the minister will admit that he has no plan and no costing to support refugees.

Hon. John McCallum (Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship) replied that in terms of achievements, 99% of all refugees are now in permanent housing. While no numbers are available on employment or language training, as this takes longer, much is being invested and much progress is being made on language training. Work is ongoing with employers to get jobs for the refugees. All fronts are being worked on.



Syrian refugee initiative

Harold Albrecht (Kitchener—Conestoga, Conservative) commented on the \$70,000 raised by a church in his riding to privately sponsor a Syrian refugee family. The family passed all health and security checks in February, but is still waiting to come to Canada. All that has been received is a from letter from the PM. Asked for comment.

Hon. John McCallum (Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship) reiterated that 46,000 Syrian refugees had been approved and admitted in 7 months. In view of the enormous generosity of Canadians, the government has been unable to keep up with the pace for requests for sponsorships. This is why a commitment has been made to bring in all refugees who applications were received by March 1 and why more officials have been sent out in to the field.

Canada Day 2016

David McGuinty (Ottawa South, Liberal) noted that this year is the 149th anniversary of Confederation and asked the minister to update the House on what activities are planned in the national capital region for Canada Day.

Hon. Mélanie Joly (Minister of Canadian Heritage) there will be many celebrations in the Ottawa area on July 1 with iconic Canadian artists performing. Invited all Canadians from coast to coast to join people in Ottawa, but if they can't, they can watch the celebrations on CBC/RadioCanada.

foreign child abductions

Michael Cooper (St. Albert—Edmonton, Conservative) commented on the length of time since the Azar children were abducted by their father and added that it is known they are in Iran. Asked when the government will demand that Iran safety return these 4 Canadian children.

Pamela Goldsmith-Jones (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs) stressed that the safety and well being of these children is a priority for the government and noted that the PM had met with Mrs. Azar and reiterated this. The PS for consular affairs in in frequent communication with Mrs. Azar and is doing all he can as work continues at home and abroad to ensure the children's safe return.

Softwood Lumber Agreement

Karine Trudel (Jonquière, NDP) stated that the Kenagami plant has to shut down for 11 days because of the 18% export tax on super calendared paper. Also pointed to the looming softwood lumber trade war with the U.S. and the thousands of jobs that are stake. Stressed that there are only 10 days left in the time set by the government to report on this trade issue. Asked if the PM will keep his word and do something.

David Lametti (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade) noted that the government is very concerned by what the U.S. is doing. Pointed to regular contact with U.S. counterparts and with provincial counterparts. Commented that a bi-national task force is being created under Chapter 19 of NAFTA and that they will be working with Washington to create a WTO panel.

access to military bases

Matt DeCourcey (Fredericton, Liberal) recalled the restricted access to Parliamentarians at military basis under the previous government with the requirement of ministerial approval in order to visit. Asked the minister of national defence to update the House on actions taken to improve access of Parliamentarians to military bases.

Hon. Harjit Sajjan (Minister of National Defence) was pleased to announce that the policy of the previous government has been reversed. MPs and Senators no longer require ministerial approval to visit a military establishment. Requests are now only subject to the discretion of the base commander or the commanding officer.

manufacturing sector

Alex Nuttall (Barrie—Springwater—Oro-Medonte, Conservative) remarked that Canada has lost over 51,000 manufacturing jobs and has fallen to 10th place in the world in business competitiveness. Output is dropping, unemployment is rising and the current approach is not working. Asked when the government will take actions to help the sector.



Greg Fergus (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development) responded that the government is committed to providing an innovation agenda to help grow the economy and to create prosperity. Work will be taking place with all members of the House by shortly announcing the innovation agenda. Noted that they will be taking a look at different aspects of where Canada's economy should be – whether this be the clean tech sector, incubators, or the manufacturing sector. Expressed that they are also looking forward to receiving the committee's report from the study of the sector as well.

Energy East

Monique Pauzé (Repentigny, Bloc Québécois) pointed to the statement by a former CIBC chief economist that the Energy East pipeline made no economic sense. Also last week, the Parkland Institute released findings that Canada cannot expand oil and gas production and keep its GHG reduction targets without destroying other sectors of the economy. One of the following will lose out: economy, environment, or the oil sands. In the spirit of all the talk of electoral reform, asked the government to rank the order that these three things should be sacrificed in.

Hon. Jim Carr (Minister of Natural Resources) stressed the government's belief that economic growth and environmental sustainability go hand in hand. When these project are assessed all aspects of their consequences on jobs for Canadians and on the environment are examined. Energy East is not yet before the regulator, but when it is, there will be much opportunity for members opposite to make submissions on economic growth and economic sustainability.