

Parliament Hill report



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Halton-Peel

our society, and a lot of what is on is trash. Surely we can have better programming — shows that do not debase, or insult, or suggest that violence is either glorified or acceptable.

If you agree, then let's help get those million signatures and urge the federal government to review the situation. Copies of Virginie's letter and her petition are in my office — you can sign it there, or I will send or fax you one. We're also looking for volunteers, who will take the petition to corner stores, social groups, your workplace or wherever people gather. Call if you would like to assist us: (416) 873-4673 or toll free, 1-800-668-4322.

A few days ago the feds announced the purchase of 50 high-tech helicopters for the military, search-and-rescue-, maritime patrol and drug enforcement. As usual the deal was controversial.

Critics said we should keep patching up 30-year-old Sea King and Labrador helicopters instead of

spending the money on new ones. But those of us who think we should have a military believe the men and women who serve, deserve to get the tools needed to do the job.

In any case, the media got it wrong. The same amount of money is going to be spent in Ontario as Quebec — roughly \$900-million in each province. Most of that will go to contractors like Paramex Electronics and E.H. Industries.

Other contracts are being given to 25 Ontario companies, including: Lockheed Canada (Toronto), for communication and electronic support; Canadian Marconi (Kanata) for stores management systems; Computing Devices (Nepean), for sonar acoustic processors; Andrew Canada (Whitby) for radar antennas; Exco Technologies (Scarborough) for shafts and radar components; and Fleet Aerospace (Fort Erie) for aircraft structures.

The program will stretch over 13 years and give Canada equipment to take us well into the next century. The benefits will spread equally around the country, and give a \$4-billion boost to the economy. If that's controversial, let's have more of it.

Now Virginie Lariviere is 13 years old and lives in St. Polycarpe, Quebec.

Last March 7, her 11-year-old sister, Marie-Eve, was robbed, sexually assaulted, then murdered.

"My sister was delicate, always smiling, artistic, intelligent; a writer and an actor," Virginie says. "She had a promising future, then, nothing. Now she exists only in our hearts."

She had decided that the relentless images of violence that we see every day on television contribute to the degradation of society, and actually encourages the same kind of activity.

"It is certain that if together we make a commitment to boycott this violence, and propose to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to pass a law that would force television to reduce gradually the violent content of television programming, in 10 years this violence would disappear on our screens."

So now Virginie has a petition, and is trying to get a million signatures by the end of October. The petition reads: "We have read Virginie's letter and we share her sorrow. We are making a personal commitment to do our part to stop violence on television, and we would like the government to pass a law as Virginie proposes."

I know about this girl and her struggles because last week her Member of Parliament, Jean-Marc Robitaille, wrote me asking if people in our community would help. Jean-Marc and I have worked together on committees and other projects in Ottawa. We first met after the election four years ago, when he spoke no English and I spoke no French. Now we are able to understand each other.

I agree with Virginie Lariviere that television is a powerful force in



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