

provinces were rounded up and crowded into British ships to be scattered among the 13 colonies to the south. Many died at sea. The rest were dropped off with nothing to sustain them at arbitrary points along the coast. Families were divided. Some were absorbed into the future American melting pot. Others made it to the Catholic Spanish colony of Louisiana, where they created what is known today as the Cajun culture. Those that escaped to Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island suffered a second expulsion in 1758 when the British captured those French holdings. Over the years, many Acadians made their way back, searching to reunite with their families. One group spent seven years in internment camps in England, then were shipped to France, where they couldn't adjust to the rigid European system, and finally, after 20 years in exile, returned to their homeland.

C'est principalement la détermination, le courage et la résilience qui ont formé le caractère de notre peuple. Aujourd'hui, nous reconnaissons les épreuves, les souffrances et les torts faits aux Acadiens et aux Acadiennes lors du Grand dérangement de 1755 jusqu'en 1762.

It's mainly determination, courage and resilience which have given the character of our people. Today, we recognize the ordeals, suffering and harm experienced by the Acadians during the Great Upheaval from 1755 to 1762.

Il y a deux semaines, nous avons eu l'honneur d'avoir un représentant de la communauté autochtone ici à l'Assemblée législative. Collectivement, nous avons honoré les soldats autochtones. Plus de 50% des hommes autochtones ont servi lors de la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Les Autochtones n'ont jamais été reconnus pour leur contribution. Ils ont bien défendu le Canada. Plusieurs ont perdu la vie. À leur retour au Canada, ils n'avaient pas même le droit de voter. Ils ne recevaient pas les mêmes prestations que les autres vétérans du Canada.

Two weeks ago, we had the honour of having a representative of the Aboriginal community here in the Legislative Assembly. Collectively, we honoured Aboriginal soldiers. More than 50% of Aboriginal men served in the Second

World War, but the Aboriginals were never recognized for their contribution. They defended Canada well and several lost their lives, but they didn't even have the right to vote upon their return to Canada. They did not even receive the same benefits as other Canadian veterans.

Il y a 400 ans, les Autochtones ont joué un rôle humanitaire auprès de la population acadienne qui venait d'arriver. Les hivers étaient durs et les Acadiens n'étaient pas acclimatés, arrivant de la France.

Four hundred years ago, when the Acadian population arrived, Aboriginals provided them humanitarian help. The winters were harsh and Acadians were not used to the climate, having arrived from France.

Aboriginals, and more particularly, the Mi'kmaq, were extremely humanitarian, neighbourly and helpful to Acadians. Winters were hard and long compared to the European climates. That is why we Acadians still today have a bond with the Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island, and the same is evident in the other Maritime provinces. The Mi'kmaq were successful in helping some Acadian families hide, and this explains why a few families escaped deportation.

Last year, we celebrated the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Acadians on the North American continent. This event was very successful. Many Acadians searched for their roots. Acadians from around the world celebrated their culture.

The Acadian population has made strides on Prince Edward Island. Traditionally, every family supported themselves by farming or fishing or a combination of both. It is only in the early 19th century that other business ventures came about. Today, there is an Acadian Chamber of Commerce. This has been a tremendous accomplishment. In my opinion, this gesture has officially placed a seal of confidence within the Acadian business community. The Acadian business community has earned and maintains its place within the Island business community. The Acadian Business Chamber of Commerce has realized that a business relationship with the entire Island business community is mutually beneficial.

The same can be said with the cultural

sector and every other sector of our community. Music and dance has been a tradition from day one in the Acadian community - that is, from 400 years ago. Through the years, a lot of these cultural activities have happened in the form of kitchen parties, but this has evolved. Recently, and certainly since 20 years ago, we have seen such an evolution. Individual artists, along with groups like Angèle Arsenault, like Barachois, like Eddie and Armand Arsenault, have been instrumental in promoting culture and managed to commercialize their talents, and also managed to promote Prince Edward Island as well.

Évidemment, des artistes comme Angèle Arsenault et Barachois ont motivé nos gens et ils se sont développés professionnellement. Un autre pionnier est monsieur Paul D. Gallant, maintenant un résident du Cap-Breton. Il a joué un rôle instrumental pour encourager nos gens à se devancer et à développer leurs talents artistiques.

Evidently, artists like Angèle Arsenault and Barachois have motivated our people and they have developed professionally. Another pioneer is Mr. Paul D. Gallant, now a resident of Cape Breton. He was instrumental in encouraging our people to advance and develop their artistic talents.

In closing - and I realize there are other members that wish to speak to this resolution - I want to state that I am proud to second this resolution. This resolution recognizes the sufferings and hardships of the Acadians during this Great Upheaval, and also recognizes the determination of the Acadian population to move forward in forging its future and keep its place as equals living in harmony with all cultures in Prince Edward Island.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Speaker (Deighan): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to congratulate especially the seconder of this motion, the hon. Member for Evangeline-Miscouche, who is from