



CANADA

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**FIRST SESSION
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**Order Paper
and
Notice Paper**

No. 122

Thursday, June 23, 2005

QUESTION

Q-174 — June 22, 2005 — Mr. Cummins (Delta—Richmond East) —

With regard to the anthropological and historical study undertaken by Professor Alexander von Gernet for the Department of Justice entitled, *The Early History of Lobster Harvesting Among Natives and Newcomers in Atlantic Canada*, and the transfer to aboriginals in the Maritime Provinces access to lobster for food, social and ceremonial purposes (*Sparrow*) and commercial purposes (*Marshall*):

- (a) what year was identified as the year of first contact between Mi'kmaq and Europeans;
- (b) does the report find evidence or come to a conclusion that lobster was important to the Mi'kmaq prior to contact or at the time of contact with Europeans;

- (c) does the report find evidence or come to a conclusion that lobster was important to the Maliseet prior to contact or at the time of contact with Europeans;
- (d) does the report find evidence of significant lobster harvest by the Mi'kmaq during the first three centuries after contact with Europeans and, if so, what was the evidence or indication of significant harvest or reliance on the harvest of lobster;
- (e) does the report find evidence of a significant Mi'kmaq reliance on lobster as a food source prior to contact or at the time of contact with Europeans;
- (f) does the report find evidence of a significant Mi'kmaq reliance on lobster as a food source in the first three centuries after contact;
- (g) does the report conclude that either individual bands or the Mi'kmaq as a whole relied on lobster for food at this time, and, if so, which bands;
- (h) does the report conclude that there was a significant difference between the reliance of Fraser River aboriginals on salmon and that of the Mi'kmaq on lobster and, if so, what was the difference;
- (i) does the report find evidence that the Europeans were harvesting lobster immediately following contact;
- (j) which Mi'kmaq and Maliseet bands have received licences to harvest lobster for food, social and ceremonial purposes and how much was harvested in each year by each band following the Marshall decisions;
- (k) which Mi'kmaq and Maliseet bands have received licences to harvest lobster for commercial purposes and what was the amount harvested in each year by each band following the Marshall decisions;
- (l) is the decision to provide these food and commercial licences consistent with the findings of the report and, if so, in what way is it consistent with the historical evidence outlined in the report;
- (m) following a review of the report, what action did the Department of Fisheries take to revise its plan to implement the transfer of lobster licences and vessels to aboriginal organizations; and
- (n) how many licensed lobster fishermen (other than aboriginal organizations) were engaged in the public fishery in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 in (i) New Brunswick, (ii) Nova Scotia, and (iii) Prince Edward Island?