

OFFICIAL REPORT (HANSARD)

Monday, March 8th, 2010

Speaker: The Honourable Peter Milliken

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Ms. Ruby Dhalla (Brampton—Springdale, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, International Women's Day is a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of our mothers, daughters and sisters. Since Women's Day was initiated, there have been many success stories. Canada has had a female prime minister. Young women comprise almost 50% of classes in universities and women have gone on to become heads of corporations.

There is much to celebrate. However, the glass ceiling has yet to truly be broken. To ensure that we have a society in which there is true equality for all women regardless of race, religion or creed, all of us have a responsibility to do so much more. Political parties and political leadership need to inspire more women to play an active role in the political process, to participate in the advancement of the policy agenda and to become elected to political office. Their conduct, their aptitude to opening up the process and their actions are vital to moving beyond the perception that politics is just an old boys club.

Identifying, recruiting and training women and actually acting on their advice once they are in Parliament will ensure that the voices of all women are truly heard. Empowering women will empower the young generation, our future. It will give them strength, hope and inspiration.

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