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Miss News

CONSTITUENCY

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# Abbott tells students— he's against gallows

By TINA IVANY

The issue that has grabbed the attention of Canadians across the country has not escaped a Grade 11 Law class at Glenforest Secondary School.

As a matter of fact, it has so interested them that the class invited their Liberal MP, Tony Abbott, to present both his views on the subject and what, if anything, the federal government plans to do about the issue.



Addressing a Grade 11 class at Glenforest Secondary, Liberal MP Tony Abbott presented his views on the controversial subject of capital punishment.

The issue is none other than capital punishment and the question of whether it should be retained or abolished. According to student Scott Thomson, the topic has evoked an emotional controversy and it was thus fitting to have Mr. Abbott's views presented on Monday.

Taking the floor in front of what Scott described as a group "mostly in favor of retaining the law", Abbott explained why he, at present, is an abolitionist.

"I have seen no evidence," he said, "that capital punishment acts as a deterrent to the committing of murder."

"And it is because of this lack of evidence, not because of any elevated moral stand on the sacredness of human life, that I do not favor the retention of capital punishment."

Abbott admitted that, from the majority of polls and letters on the subject, he believed the majority of people favored retaining capital punishment.

"This opinion would, of course, be considered when the time comes to make a decision. But, I would have to know that that opinion is informed opinion," he said.