

*Oral Questions*

already have programs within the department to help integrate immigrant women into society.

I might also mention the Employment Equity Act that we implemented in 1986. We all know that a legislative committee has already started to review it. We can improve the law that we have had for five years. Progress is slow, but we are making progress. I concur with my colleague responsible for the status of women, who said that if we all work together, visible minorities, women, native people and the disabled will have their place in a well-balanced society.

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[English]

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COLLEGE**

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence.

Following the passage of the Emergency Preparedness Canada legislation in 1988, the then Associate Minister of National Defence announced during the election campaign that a new building would be constructed at the Emergency Preparedness College in Arnprior, Ontario.

The building was to be occupied by students from municipalities and other levels of government and organizations from all over Canada by December 1990. To date a shovel has not even been put in the ground. Why has the government not kept its commitment to this very important process of training people for crisis management?

**Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women):** Madam Speaker, my colleague the Minister of National Defence has responsibility for emergency preparedness and I will be glad to bring this to his attention.

My understanding is that in a climate of fiscal restraint all priorities need to be addressed. We have not been able to proceed with all the things we would like to be able to do. The activities we undertake at Arnprior are very important activities. The training that is provided for municipalities and people across the country will continue and I am sure will ensure that we have effective

emergency measures preparedness throughout the country.

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Madam Speaker, the Emergency Preparedness Canada Act was introduced in this House with great fanfare by the Minister of Communications when he was Minister of National Defence. The concept was reasonably well received at the time.

In view of this support and in light of the government's announcement, will the concept that the government is planning be the same and will it come forward for the college at Arnprior where thousands of Canadians are trained in crisis management? It is very important when problems arise: fires, storms, and even civil disobedience. I think this is very important for Canadian safety.

**Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister responsible for Status of Women):** Madam Speaker, I can assure my hon. colleague, yes, the government is committed to the maintenance of the high level of preparedness and training for people with respect to emergency measures.

I know, coming from British Columbia, the whole issue of earthquakes is a very important aspect of emergency measures preparedness. We passed that legislation, we have the commitment and we are following up in ensuring that it occurs.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister answering for Treasury Board.

Through Public Service 2000 the government proposes giving managers more power to contract out services. In his report, the Auditor General criticizes the sloppy management of operations and human resources in the contracting out that is already going on.

After a devastating Public Service strike brought about, by the way, by this government's policies, why is the government giving managers more powers to contract out without giving them clear, precise guidelines? Why this policy leading to conflict rather than one leading to harmony?

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Madam Speaker, as the hon. member