

develop solutions that are more effective in their communities.

I would like to mention just one example. In communities in the Shuswap area of B.C. and also in the Cowichan area of Vancouver Island, native parents and communities were trying to find out what was causing suicides among their young people. They found out that suicide was related to a whole series of family problems, resulting from the system of residential schools that the Canadian government had imposed on Indian children. The government took the children away from their parents, put them in residential schools, and when those children came back they had lost all sense of how families operate, how to parent children, and of what the relationships are between children and parents in terms of things like incest taboos or the right to discipline children. They simply did not have that ability because the residential schools had been effective in destroying it.

Some communities in British Columbia, in order to deal with the family break-ups and the suicide problem, had to put families back together again and teach Indian children the whole concept of what an Indian family was all about. In effect, that concept had been destroyed in the Indian residential school system that Parliament had imposed on them for generation after generation.

What I am saying is that the solution to these problems are going to have to come from native communities themselves. They simply cannot do it without the resources being provided to them.

The member also mentioned low levels of education. Again, we are dealing with the same problems. I have had experience teaching native children in schools on the Queen Charlotte Islands and on the west coast of Vancouver Island. I know the problems we have in co-ordinating between the public school system and the kind of education that native children are looking for and require. The public school system across Canada has failed native children and native communities. There has to be changes in that system in order to make it possible for native children to succeed in the school system and to see that the school system works for them.

The same is true in the employment area that my colleague who introduced this motion mentioned as well. I live in a community where we have a fairly high level of unemployment in the native communities of my riding. That has not always been the case. I can recall visiting

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with families on the west coast of Vancouver Island who, when the fishery and processing facilities were all located on the west coast, native people had a high level of employment in those industries. Native people were considered the best workers in the industry. They did well financially and it was only when that employment was centralized in cities like Vancouver, Prince Rupert and Victoria, that their basic employment was taken away from them.

The issue is not that native people are incapable of working or incapable of the nine to five regime as organized by European society. They are extremely capable and effective workers. The problem is that our society does not hire them. I think it is important to reflect on the fact that there is no teeth in the employment equity legislation tabled in this House. There is nothing in that legislation to require companies that come within the federal jurisdiction to employ their required quota of native workers. They simply do not do it because they are not required to do so by the full sanctions of the law.

The same is true of federal government agencies whose employment equity programs operate under Treasury Board guidelines. This government does not even enforce its own guidelines on its own agencies. As a result, according to the Commissioner of Human Rights in this country, there is only one government agency that lives up to its employment equity requirements and that is the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. All the other departments of government, including Indian and Northern Health Services and entities of government that serve native people in this country, do not live up to their employment equity guidelines and their affirmative action requirements to employ native people in their departments.

We have to impose sanctions on those organizations to make them do the job we have instructed them to do in terms of affirmative action. It simply is not being done because the political will is not being expressed by this government or this Parliament in terms of native people. That is why I think it is important to deal with the motion put forward by my colleague.

Native people in Canada are marginalized people. We live in a country which was virtually taken over by immigrants. Now, native young people see themselves in a country which they once could look at as their own and see themselves as people who are isolated and marginal-