

project. I find it terribly frustrating to discover advertisements in foreign newspapers asking for qualified workers in specialized fields to come to Canada to work. This proves that limiting post-secondary funding to the six and five program will do more harm than good.

We have just finished celebrating National Universities Week in Canada. We were told that certain institutions were considering lowering their standards in order to make universities more accessible to Canadians. As a Member of Parliament who comes from a riding where mining and mining technology play an important role in local economies, I can honestly say that cutbacks in funding to universities and colleges will hurt the industry. In order to be a world competitor on the international stage, Canadians must become world leaders in new and more efficient technologies. For years our Party has called for increased funding for research and development in Canada. For years the Government has not listened to that call and subsequently we find ourselves playing catch-up in an industry where we were once world leaders.

In the troubled iron ore industry, Canada was once a world-class, first-class exporter. We now find ourselves competing with countries such as Brazil which can ship one tonne of iron ore to the Great Lakes region of Ontario for \$10 per tonne cheaper than is the case with a firm in northern Ontario. If we are to regain and retain our lead on the world stage in mining and other sectors, we will have to increase the nation's manpower. I urge government Members to heed the words of the Hon. Member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Clark) on January 27 in this debate. As a professor at a respected university, he called upon the Government to wake up and witness the fact that underfunding is seriously affecting the type and quality of work which now takes place in the post-secondary system. Shortages of space and books in libraries across Canada are stunting the educational growth possibilities of young Canadians.

In the midst of the crisis within our educational system, what does the Government do? Instead of responding to the challenge and increasing funding to the provinces, it cuts back funding to the six and five level. On top of that, it introduces Bill C-12 with a retroactive clause to April 1, 1983. It is somewhat fitting that such a foolish move would take place on April Fools' Day. Over 700,000 Canadians of all ages are enrolled in either full or part-time studies at Canadian universities. When these men and women graduate, they will be the nation's greatest asset. They will be the ones who will need full-time positions in the high technology industries which are sprouting up across Canada. Instead of stunting their growth potential through limited and unrealistic levels of funding, the Government should be expanding the resources of post-secondary institutions.

In my riding in Ontario Bill C-12 will result in a drop in funding of \$41.7 million in 1983-84. The following year the drop will be even more significant—it will be a loss of \$92 million, the largest of any province. Surely the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. MacLaren) and his boss, the Minister

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of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), realize the serious consequences of allowing the Bill to pass.

Now is the time for the Government to look at the long-term implications of severely hurting the growth potential of the nation's young minds. As a member from northern Ontario and as a Member of this side of the House, I urge the Minister of Finance to take a second look at Bill C-12.

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-12 will escalate the crisis in post-secondary education by imposing the six and five restraints retroactively on educational funding. At a time when there are unemployed in great numbers and technological change demands higher education, young people are being deprived of access to universities and colleges across the country. Women, who are increasingly raising children on their own, are condemned to remain in low-paying job ghettos because they cannot afford university tuition fees, and support services such as daycare are usually non-existent. Our country is squandering our most valuable human resources while an unwanted generation remains at home watching television or wandering the streets hopelessly.

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The federal block system of funding education has failed. Provinces also are guilty of cutbacks. B.C. refused to pass on federal increases last year and have cut back post-secondary funding generally, and drastically. As a result, universities and colleges are cutting programs, increasing class sizes, raising tuition fees and denying many students access to education. Student aid has decreased 40 per cent this year.

Bill C-12 is encouraging an educational system which increasingly caters to a wealthy elite. We need well-educated, skilled young people to be competitive in our high technological world. Underfunding of education is forcing us backward.

I want to illustrate this with several human examples from my riding of Vancouver East. Last week I talked with a group of Italian constituents who, like many immigrants, have worked very hard and sacrificed so that their children can have an education and get ahead in life. They had two very strong concerns. Unemployment has hit most families. Even skilled trades people are having to go on unemployment insurance or work in very low paid jobs. Many need retraining as their skills become obsolete, but training programs are not available for middle-aged workers. These people are more worried about their children who cannot afford university tuition fees and must remain unemployed.

This puts great stress on families. One father wondered what would happen to his son who wants to be a mechanic. There is a two-year waiting list. Even then, he is not sure of getting on it. Meanwhile, where can he get practical experience? Another had a son who graduated in urban planning, but he cannot get a job because he has not had work experience. The need for expansion of co-operative work and training experiences in our post-secondary education system is very evident as is the need for increasing adult training.