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Employment measures mark start of new long-term approach

Training and employment measures developed to meet the immediate employment needs of Canadians were announced by Employment and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy in the House of Commons on June 2. Excerpts from the statement, outlining the Government's \$137-million employment program, follow:

...In designing our employment program, we looked first at the principles that would provide the basis for specific initiatives. The first of these principles is the principle of targeting — or reaching out directly to those who traditionally receive little or no benefit from the economic growth of the country.

Native people, even in the province of Alberta, face unemployment rates of approximately 75 per cent and this situation is even more critical for native women. Handicapped people everywhere face not only the challenge of overcoming their disability, but also must contend with the invisible barriers of prejudice and ignorance that bar their entry into the labour force. Women, and particularly those who have worked tirelessly in their homes to raise families and manage households, are told that they are not wanted in the paid labour force. Whatever else we

do to ensure that all Canadians enjoy rising levels of real income, we must — and we will — give special assistance to such people....

The second principle upon which [these] measures are based is the recognition that employment must have continuing and genuine value. It should offer an unemployed worker hope for the future and contribute to his or her sense of self-worth....

The third principle reflected in these measures is recognition of the need to have the particular mix of employment measures tailored to regional needs. By this I refer not only to employment disparities or the fact that there are shortages of skilled workers in certain industries and regions, but also to the differing capabilities of regions to cope with problems in their respective labour markets....

Job development

First, we are introducing four specific job creation programs to meet special employment needs:

- *Canada community development projects* — A major new program is being implemented to further national and regional priorities in such areas as fisheries enhancement, energy conservation, tourism development and community restoration. In addition to providing valuable work experience, this program will contribute to the development of an expanded employment base. More than \$100 million will be committed across Canada to such projects this winter and next year, with special emphasis in areas of high unemployment. This program also gives us the flexibility to respond to emerging employment problems caused by industrial dislocation, or major emergency events such as the fires and drought in the West.

- *New technology employment program*



Lloyd Axworthy

One hundred-and-thirty-four years ago today... The first telegraph line in Canada, operated by Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Electro-Magnetic Telegraph Company, was opened.