

Adjournment Debate

women and child care. Women will shout as long as they try to justify this decision. We should be ending violence against women with public money and not funding more high-tech ways to commit it.

A government representative will shortly rise to justify the government's actions on violence against women. We do not want to hear how many communities the panel on violence has visited and we do not want to hear about more initiatives for research. We want to hear that the \$1 million cut to the women's program has been restored and there will be no further cuts. We want to hear that the Court Challenges Program will be re-established. We want to hear that the cap is lifted from the Canada Assistance Plan and shelters for battered women will be fully funded again.

Canadian women want to hear that the recommendations of the *War Against Women* report and the panel's interim report will be put into effect soon. These recommendations include adequate long-term funding for advocacy and services for women. They include mandatory training for judges and all criminal justice and law enforcement officials on issues of violence against women and women's equality.

We want to hear that abusive men will be removed from the home rather than forcing the abused woman and her children to run for their lives. We want to hear that every child will receive a thorough education about his or her rights and responsibilities, about equality and about violence prevention.

We want to hear some concrete measures to promote women's economic equality so that women faced with abuse have a real choice to leave. We want to hear that these specific steps will be taken to make women and children safe, give them self-esteem and new lives and prevent further abuse. In short, we want to see a comprehensive program to achieve economic and social justice for Canadian women.

Mr. Lee Richardson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question again asked by the hon. member.

I am quite proud and honoured to speak on this government's record in addressing the challenge of violence against women. As the hon. member knows and has indicated in her opening remarks, in August 1991 we

established the Canadian panel on violence against women. The panel's final report and a national action plan are expected to be released in about a month.

The government has not waited for the panel report to move ahead on this issue. We are working on several fronts, including research and education, laws to deter offenders, prevention and assistance to victims, to name a few and be specific as the hon. member requested.

The \$136 million family violence initiative has funded over 1,300 projects since 1986. In the past two years over half the projects have been related to violence against women. Some of the money has been earmarked for new emergency and interim housing units.

Violence against women is a part of a larger societal problem of violence we are addressing. This year the Minister of Communications announced a five-point strategy to reduce media violence, including a code of ethics on television violence. The Minister of Justice is consulting Canadians to develop a national strategy on community safety and crime prevention that will look at the root causes for violence in society, an idea that is in keeping with the panel's philosophy.

As well, we have introduced legislation to deter offenders. The proposed criminal harassment legislation regarding stalking will hopefully be law before the end of this session. The rape shield law was passed last year and new regulations to tighten parole for sexual and other offenders now exist.

These initiatives are a testimony to my government's commitment to achieving zero tolerance of violence against women in Canada.

HOUSING

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, have you ever visited Tsulquate, Rae Lakes, Repulse Bay, Lac La Ronge, Tadule, Bearskin Lake, Chisasibi, Davis Inlet or Gabriel Housing project? What do they all have in common? They are all on and off reserve native communities and housing projects. Some are in remote areas of Canada, some in rural areas of Canada and some in urban Canada. They are just a few of the thousands and thousands of similar communities and urban housing projects for natives across our entire country.